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## BENJAMIN YOE MORRISON

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Word of the death of Benjamin Yoe Morrison at Pass Christian, Miss., on January 24, 1966, came as a shock to members of the American Daffodil Society who were among his many friends in the world of horticulture.

"B. Y.", as he was affectionately known, was born in Atlanta, Ga., in 1891. He earned his Bachelor of Science degree from the University of California in 1913 and two years later the degree of Master of Landscape Architecture from Harvard University. Then followed a Sheldon Traveling Fellowship which made it possible for him to spend time in the Orient. While there he studied Japanese art and horticulture.

Following a brief period of employment after his return to this country Mr. Morrison entered the army and during World War I served in the Camp Planning Division of the War Department. In 1920 he joined the United States Department of Agriculture where he became assistant to Dr. David Fairchild in the Office of Plant Exploration and Introduction. The many years of his government service which followed were in the same organization. In the latter part of his career he was its director.

During the years of his employment with the government he planned and brought into being the U. S. National Arboretum in the Northeast corner of the District of Columbia. At that same time he had many other personal horticultural interests including iris, azaleas, and daffodils. His enthusiasm led him into an azalea breeding project for the development of cultivars suited to the conditions of the Middle Atlantic Region. From the thousands of seedlings that resulted, something over 400 "Glenn Dale" hybrids were named and introduced to the nursery trade.

Mr. Morrison's enthusiasm for daffodils developed in the early 1920's and resulted in a voluminous personal correspondence with the famous daffodil raisers of the time, including the Brodie of Brodie, P. D. Williams, Guy L. Wilson, Barr, Bath, Chapman, Donard, Richardson, and Watts. From these men he imported the latest novelties and his private garden served to educate the gardeners of the Washington, D. C., metropolitan area concerning the best things of the genus *Narcissus*. Indirectly, his enthusiasm for daffodils brought about daffodil shows, and later the creation of the Washington Daffodil Society, which in turn was followed in 1954 by the American Daffodil Society, a national organization.

In the early 1920s he was largely responsible for the founding of

what is now the American Horticultural Society. He served it both as director and president, and for 30 years was editor of the *National Horticultural Magazine*. Upon his retirement in 1950 he returned to the South, where he continued with his azalea breeding and his work with daffodils suited to the warmer climate of the southern states.

Mr. Morrison received many honors, including the Liberty Hyde Bailey Medal of the American Horticultural Society, the Arthur Hoyt Scott Medal and Award of Swarthmore College, the Barr Memorial Cup, and the Gold Medal of the American Daffodil Society. He also was a fellow of the Royal Horticultural Society, a vice president of the same organization, and a member of the Washington Academy of Sciences.

The writer first had the privilege of meeting Mr. Morrison in 1946, and through the years had a most cordial relationship with him.

—WILLIS H. WHEELER