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# Perennial herb garden at Erland Lee Home

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By Henry J. Down

Four years ago, a herb garden was planted at the Erland Lee (Museum) Home, as a gift from outgoing FWIO Board Directors.

In pioneer days, the herb garden was the responsibility of the housewife. She used the herbs for cooking, for perfumes and for medicines.

The herbs planted at the Lee are perennial herbs, requiring very little care. They die down in winter and the tops may then be removed. The roots need no protection and growth restarts in the spring.

Here are the herbs included in the bed, and their respective uses. If you are at the Lee this summer, take a look at the selection.

Spearmint and Apple Mint — used to add flavor to vegetables, such as peas, and chewed for the taste/freshen breath.

Lemon Balm — leaves used for flavor.

Costmary, or Bible Leaf — the leaves used for flavor, and as a Bible marker.

Chives — used as a mild onion.



*Pictured above is Mr. Down and part of the perennial herb bed at the Erland Lee (Museum) Home, Stoney Creek.*

Thyme — used to flavor meats.

Horehound — for flavoring candy, especially for sore throat lozenges.

Bergamot — for flavor.

English and Grey Lavender — flowers are dried and used to scent clothes cupboards.

Marjoram — for flavor.

Sage — used with meats.

Tansy — used for protection against moths.

**Mr. Down is the herb gardener for the Erland Lee (Museum) Home.**

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## *This Poor Old Planet*

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*The following poem was written especially for the January meeting of the Salem-Nilestown Women's Institute.*

If you think about it, we must confess,  
We're getting the world in an awful mess;  
There's only so much earth and so much blue sky,  
If we don't be careful, many things will just die.

There's throw-away this and there's throw-away that,  
To please the citizen of today who is a splendid brat;  
And they pitch it here and they pitch it there,  
And they know in their hearts, it just isn't fair.

They cut acres of trees to make the paper you read,  
When tomorrow it will be oxygen that they need;  
So much cut and destroyed for so little use,  
And this dear old earth can only stand so much abuse.

So we all agree there's far too much pollution,  
But it's up to you and I to find the solution;  
Take a good look at all the things you don't need,  
And you buy them because of some huckster's cold greed.

So it's our sacred duty to the children unborn,  
To inherit a world not all shaven and shorn;  
So say to your merchant we've just had enough,  
It's time folks learned to recycle the stuff.

**Bernard Hann,  
R. R. #3, Lambeth**