

The Romantic Ingham Rose

by Lynne Belluscio

It couldn't have been a worse summer to transplant three fragile rose bushes into the LeRoy House gardens, but we have nurtured these three green plants, trying to keep them watered and free from little green worms that like to eat the leaves. In spite of the hot, dry weather, two buds appeared last week and we have two delicate white blossoms on our Ingham roses.

Back in 1993, we ordered fifteen Ingham Roses from the Antique Rose Emporium in Texas. The roses that we planted at the LeRoy House did not survive the winter. Martha Davis' roses survived a few years, but as far as I know all the Ingham Roses died.

At one time, in the 1800s, the Ingham University campus was filled with glorious white blossoms. Alida Randall, an Ingham student, painted a cluster of the white roses, which she labeled LeMarc. The portrait of Emily Ingham, painted by her husband Phineas Staunton, shows a small white blossom on her dress. And Ingham alumna, Elizabeth Allen Olmsted, whose portrait is in the front hall of LeRoy House, wears a white Ingham Rose on her dress.

Inside the front door of the LeRoy Union Free School building on Trigon Park is a large brass plaque dedicated to Marietta and Emily Ingham. Waving around the outside edge of the plaque are vines of the Ingham Rose. I am pretty sure the LeMarc Rose pictured by



Alida Randall is the LeMarque Rose offered by the Antique Rose Emporium. The LaMarque Rose is a double blossom, white rose with a touch of lemon in the center. It is a vigorous climber, often reaching 12 to 20 feet. It is a hybrid of the Blush Noisette and the Park Yellow Tea Scented China Rose and it is listed as being introduced in 1830 by Marechal.

It was named for General LaMarque, who I discovered was a French commander during the Napoleonic Wars and served under Napoleon. LaMarque was born in 1770 and was killed in 1832. His funeral sparked the Parisian Rebellion of 1832 which was the

basis for the uprising depicted in Victor Hugo's novel, *Les Misérables*. So the Ingham Rose, known as the LaMarque Rose has a very romantic history.

We know that the rose is primarily a southern variety and may not be hardy this far north. When I first read various Ingham journals, I thought that the rose bushes climbed along the outside of the greenhouse. Now I wonder

if they were growing inside the greenhouse. So this winter, we will carefully protect our little green rose bushes and hope we can encourage them to appear next year. If you are interested in seeing our two little white blossoms, they are in the herb garden near the iron arbor. We want to thank Donna Barefoot for buying them for the LeRoy gardens.

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