

PACIFIC

("Maggie", unknown Hybrid Perpetual)

This rose has been in Bermuda for a very long time. It is said to have been given to Bermudian sea captain Samuel Conyers Nelmes (1777-1867) by a French sea captain whom he assisted while on a voyage in the Pacific Ocean. Nelmes planted the rose in the garden of his daughter, Mrs. J. C. Lightbourn, at Grasmere, Riddell's Bay. Captain Nelmes was an ancestor of the founding President of the B.R.S., Mrs. Laura Pattisson. Originally this rose was known as the "Cabbage Rose". Visiting rosarians have agreed it is probably a Hybrid Perpetual and recently it has been established that the same rose is known as "Maggie" in the United States. Bermuda rosarians have also seen it in Fiji and in several Caribbean islands. In India a similar rose is called "Kakinada Red".

It is a slow-growing awkward bush that often puts out long canes which can be trained to climb or can be pegged down. The foliage is a dull dark green, easily recognizable. The clusters of very fragrant 4in.(10cm) velvety blooms are produced continuously on short stems and are a dark shade of crimson, although the colour can vary from deep pink to crimson according to location and weather.

DNA comparison studies performed by Professor Anne Bruneau of the Montreal Botanic Garden have revealed that "Pacific" and "Maggie" are genetically the same, for the markers tested. Further studies will have to be performed with a wider selection of samples.

