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Revolution, and this influenced a change in gardening as well.

George Washington, who was adamant about keeping his garden at Mount Vernon organized and well maintained, refused to have any form of British plant in his garden.

It is likely that George Washington used gardening as a form of escapism to help take his mind off the stress caused by the Revolutionary War.

Ideas such as those rose in relation to the revolutionary ideas, and during the Revolutionary War, changed to adopt a sense of independence in everyday life.

The most popular crops at the time were timber and tobacco.

The Founding Fathers' gardening movement influenced the commoners to adopt the same ideas, which helped lead to gardens that integrated fruits, vegetables and flowers all in the same area.

"The Founding Fathers recognized the importance of native plants," said Griffith, and these native plants were of the highest exported goods from America to Britain. "They were insatiable in their desire for these plants."

Hunting beautiful and exotic plants was a widespread practice among both the British and Americans.

After America and France agreed on the Louisiana Purchase, President Thomas Jefferson sent Lewis and Clark west to explore the newly acquired land.

Lewis and Clark would discover various new plants and bring them back to Jefferson, and he would use the plants that he liked in his garden, proving the importance of having rare and unknown flowers as a status symbol.



Photo by Lowell Nicholson
Annette Hoppgood of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Although the flowers were used as a symbol of status at the time, people like the Father of the Constitution, James Madison, would realize the adverse effects that the tobacco crop had on the land.

Tobacco crops would deplete the soil around it, and instead of correctly taking care of the crops and soil, farmers slashed and burned the surrounding forests, destroying the natural land.

Griffith explained the ways Madison pleaded against this and pushed for the practice of better techniques that would help conserve the natural land.

The revolutionary practices of the Founding Fathers helped to influence ideas of being more conservative with the land.

A push was made to better farming practices and appreciate the environment, which helped form ideas that environmentalists still implement and discuss the

importance of to date.

"I think there's a big movement with people and the importance of farm-to-table foods," said Griffith on gardening and farming. "There's a recognition of the environment and the damage done to it, and it's important to try to preserve it."

Also in the meeting, DAR members brought in essential items that reminded them of the influential women in their lives.

These items were displayed with brief descriptions telling why the item was important and what it represented about the woman that it expressed.

This was a way to honor those women and recognize the role of women in everyone's lives for the celebration of Women's History Month.

The Old Unicorn Trail Chapter DAR enjoys membership in both Towns and Union counties.