

# **The Eight Founding Clubs of The Garden Club of Virginia**

## **Featuring the Garden Club of Norfolk**

Excerpts from Follow the Green Arrow I

In the search for the perfect title several husbands made recommendations with tongue in and out of cheek. The husband of a former president suggested, "In the beginning, there was The Garden Club of Virginia," adding, "Well, I'll tell you one thing of them, there shall be no end!" In appreciation for the certainty of his second statement, we'll use his first and start with: In the beginning, there were eight garden clubs that came together in 1920 to found the GCV. What they were and what they had done, they brought to this formation council. Their early years are of interest. So in the order of their founding dates let's see how they began and how they continued to 1920.

NORFOLK is next chronologically. So to Tidewater and the birth of this club on February 24, 1915, at the home of Mrs. Frederick Killam. She became its first president, serving four years. (All through the histories of the member clubs the one who calls the group together invariably becomes the first president.)

In 1917 the club held its first flower show and continued to have one each year, the earlier ones being flower, fruit, and vegetable shows. This same year civic planting began at the Norfolk General Hospital and Mount Sinai, no longer in existence. Shortly after, the club planted at the Cavalier Sunken Gardens at Virginia Beach and at the old Country Club.

Norfolk early displayed a talent for what is now called "Image Making." When the members decided that the dogwood should be "The Floral Emblem of the Old Dominion," they took the necessary steps to see that the Virginia Assembly made it official. Of course, this was done on March 6, 1918.