

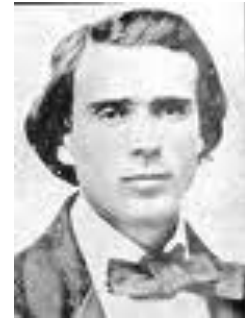
Who's in a Name?

David Williams, Master Gardener

You may have several plants in your landscape named for him. He was a prolific observer, diarist, explorer, and plant collector in early 1800s, and this is the only known photo of him. Do you know who he is?

- George Englemann?
- Charles Parry?
- Josiah Gregg?

If you chose **Josiah Gregg (1806-1850)**, you're **right!** He was sick till he was 23 and he died at 44. But in those intervening 21 years he packed a lot of adventure and achievement. He was a trader on the Santa Fe Trail for 10 years and from his detailed observations wrote very engaging descriptions of the animal, plant, and Indian life in his trail history, ***Commerce of the Prairies***, which was published in 1844 (it's available on Amazon and well worth reading.) After obtaining a medical degree in 1845, he traveled extensively in Texas and Mexico, and was a guide and interpreter for the U.S. Army during the Mexican-American War. It was during this time that he collected hundreds of plant specimens and sent them to George Engelmann and other prominent botanists of that time. His last venture was to the gold fields of California. On his rugged return from discovering Humboldt Bay near present day Eureka, the sick and exhausted Gregg fell from his horse and died unceremoniously in the hills near Clear Lake, California. For his plant collecting efforts, dozens of southwestern plants contain his name. You may have some of the plants below in your yard.



**Josiah Gregg,
Circa 1843,
Daguerreotype**

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| • Autumn Sage | <i>Salvia greggii</i> |
| • Trailing Indigo Bush | <i>Dalea greggii</i> |
| • Catclaw Acacia | <i>Acacia(now Senegalia) greggii</i> |
| • Gregg's Mist Flower | <i>Coniclinium greggii</i> |
| • Queen of the Night Cactus | <i>Peniocereus greggii</i> |
| • Little Leaf Ash | <i>Fraxinus greggii</i> |

George Engelmann (1809-1884)

A German-American physician and botanist who was very active in collecting and describing the flora of the western United States and

northern Mexico. He spent most of his adult life in the St. Louis area where he practiced medicine and pursued his avid interest in botany. Josiah Gregg sent him hundreds of plant specimens in the 1840s from his travels in Texas and Mexico and was rewarded with his name being used in many of them. In fact, Engelmann named the *Peniocereus* cactus for Josiah Gregg. In retirement, he dedicated all of his time to botany and helped found the precursor organization to the



George Engelmann Missouri Botanical Garden. He was a fascinating man and eminent scientist of the 19th century. Several native plants are named for him, including:

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------|
| • Engelmann Spruce | <i>Picea engelmannii</i> |
| • Apache Pine | <i>Pinus engelmannii</i> |
| • Engelmann's Prickly-pear | <i>Opuntia engelmannii</i> |
| • Englemann's Hedgehog | <i>Echinocereus engelmannii</i> |

Charles Parry (1823-1890)



Charles C. Parry

A British-American botanist and mountaineer who traveled extensively in the western United States. He studied medicine and botany at Columbia University, where Engelmann was one of his instructors. Parry joined the [United States and Mexican Boundary Survey](#) (1848–1855) as [surgeon](#) and botanist, and made large plant collections along the [U.S.-Mexico border](#) in [California](#), and later in [Colorado](#), [Utah](#) and

other western states. While on three trips to Colorado in the 1860s he climbed many peaks and was the first to measure their elevations with a barometer. He became an expert in Alpine plants. He named four Rocky Mountain peaks for his mentors Asa Gray, John Torrey, George Engelmann, and his wife Eva. He was an internationally recognized giant of botany in the 19th century.

Some plants in our area named for Parry are:

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| • Parry's Agave | <i>Agave parryi</i> |
| • Parry's Penstemon | <i>Penstemon parryi</i> |
| • Parry's Sage | <i>Salvia parryi</i> |

References:

- *Commerce of the Prairies: The Journal of a Santa Fe Trader*. Josiah Gregg. 1933. Southwest Press, Dallas Texas
- *Josiah Gregg and His Vision of the Early West*. Paul Horgan. 1941. Farrar, Straus, Giroux, New York, NY.
- [George Engelmann Wikipedia Link](#)
- [*Charles Christopher Parry - King of Colorado Botany* \(ISBN 0-87081-431-1 University Press of Colorado\)](#)



COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE & LIFE SCIENCES

Cooperative
Extension

Pima County -Master Gardener Program

05-2016