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Contributed by Nancy LaPlante

THE BRIDAL BUZZ

My daughter Charlotte and her fiancé Luke were married at the Tidewater Inn this past Friday! Our families enjoyed almost a week-long celebration leading up to their wedding as for most of our guests this was a destination wedding. Being in this wedding mindset, I began thinking about the origins of wedding flowers, why we have certain arrangements and bouquets for example, and I was able to find some interesting history.

There is some cultural evidence of floral use in weddings during the earliest recorded historical period in Egypt, Greece and Rome. The bride's bouquet has its roots in ancient times. In Ancient Rome, brides carried or wore flower garlands, believing that flowers signify new beginnings, fidelity and hope of fertility. In the Middle Ages, strong-smelling herbs and spices were thought to ward off and drive away evil spirits, bad luck, and overall ill health. During the Victorian era flowers became part of the wedding bouquet, a tradition that continues today.



The modern version of the bridal bouquet was popularized by Queen Victoria; when she married Prince Albert she carried a tussie-mussie, a tiny round clutch of flowers in a filigree holder filled with moss and orange blossom.

In Victorian times, couples often sent different flowers as a way of expressing their love. Flowers became a part of wedding ceremonies because of this romantic association, with many brides carefully choosing flowers for the sentiment they represent. These bridal bouquets in the past often became the bride's signature flower for life, however today more brides seem to focus on selecting flowers for the beauty of their colors, fragrance and shape.



My daughter chose flowers to match her color scheme of white, pink, and green. The bridesmaids wore sage colored gowns and I wore an emerald green gown. Since Charlotte and Luke were married in the gardens at

the Tidewater Inn there was no need to add flowers here, which was not only a cost savings but more importantly a stunning backdrop. The day was perfect, the weather was beautiful, and the birds sang in the garden as the ceremony began. I like to think they were welcoming us there and wishing the newly married couple a lifetime of happiness!

