

rec'd  
Nov. 21/23

BOX 69  
BEAUFORT  
SOUTH CAROLINA

Nov 18/23

Dear Mr. Deane. -

You are very kind to  
have looked up mother's horticultural  
specimens, and reported on them so fully.  
You see I came home earlier than usual  
this year and so found flowers in my garden  
that I had never seen before. I was well  
acquainted with the leaves of the Nerines  
and had often thought of rooting them  
out because I had never seen them blossom.  
But here they were the middle of September  
full of stalks of most lovely soft red



flowers. My sister-in-law told me that  
having seen them in a florist's window  
in Boston she had enquired the name  
and been told they were "maime lilies".  
It was some time before an inspiration  
occurred to me and I thought me that  
the florist might have meant "nerine".  
So I looked up nerines in Bailey and  
found out all about 'em, and had the  
pleasure of telling other gardeners in  
Braintree the name of their "pretties,"  
as the mountain people say.

A friend who has lived long in Japan  
contributed this interesting list about the  
nerines. She says they are there called  
"dead lilies" because the last night



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in August everyone who has lost a friend or relative makes a buoy a little carved wooden boat, fills it with flowers, usually naries because they are then in full bloom, puts a lighted candle aboard, and as soon as it is dark sets ~~the~~ it a-sailing down the river to the sea with all the other little boats in memory of departed souls. She says it is a lovely sight to look down on the river and see all the tiny lights being borne along to the sea.



We've just had a most beautiful ride to see the autumn color and it is as good as Schellburn. The sweet gums are all colors, the birches are bright gold, tupelos brilliant crimson and swampy maples red. The scrub oaks are at their best now in the pine barrens before the frost has dulled their deep red. I don't know when I've found autumn color more exciting. Oh, I had another treat of foliage in the North Carolina Mountains a few weeks ago when the chestnuts were yellow and the tulip trees like pointed yellow flames all over the mountain sides and the sourwoods



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rich crimson. Some compensation  
for not having seen the maples in  
the Stony Pasture after they had turned.

Best wishes to you for a pleasant  
winter, and my best to Miss Brown,  
please.

Cordially yours -

Abel W. Christensen

Nov. 18, 1923.



Christensen, Abby W. 1923. "Christensen, Abby W. (Winnie) Nov. 18, 1923."  
*Walter Deane correspondence*

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