



*Forgotten*  
Mercer Hall - Columbia, Tennessee  
Photo by Dan Hardison

## The Garden Lost

*Dan Hardison*

From another place in time  
and a noble man of God  
behind a house stately and proud  
a garden can be found.

Beneath a canopy of trees,  
through a maze of encircling shrubs,  
walkways of brick are lined  
with urns, planters, and pots.

A pond and a gazebo,  
benches for rest and reflection,  
all about are statues  
with St. Francis keeping watch.

Much thought and work went into this space -  
its design and intent is clear.  
But flowers have long been absent here -  
weeds and vines now occupy this place.

Walking through what was a garden  
overgrown and all but forgotten -  
one can imagine what once had been  
and what could be again.