## **SUE BURTON**

## Virtue a Lily, but Pennyroyal Being Practical

—Culpeper's Complete Herbal, 1653

Boiled and drank, provokes women's courses.

Rundled, bitter purple herb.

Grows big by the wayside (run-by-the-ground,

flee-away). Here in Suffolk trapped in gardens.

With vinegar, abates the marks of blows about the eyes.

Helps the cold griefs of the joints.

Carminative. Diaphoretic. Also called witch weed.

Ought not to be taken if pregnant.

Squaw mint, stinking balm.

Weeks of icy rain, hay moldering in the fields.

Oh, to be you, cousin, running wild all the way to London.