

**ANECDOTES OF THE AMERICAN
REVOLUTION, ILLUSTRATIVE OF THE
TALENTS AND VIRTUES OF
THE HEROES OF THE REVOLUTION, WHO
ACTED THE MOST CONSPICUOUS PARTS
THEREIN. VOL. I**

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Anecdotes of the American Revolution, Illustrative of the Talents and Virtues of the Heroes of the Revolution, Who Acted the Most Conspicuous Parts Therein. Vol. I by Alexander Garden

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ALEXANDER GARDEN

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PREFACE.

It was designed that this edition of Garden's Anecdotes should be accompanied by a sketch of the life of the author, and the publication of the work has been delayed in the expectation of discovering sufficient data for the performance of that design.

No probable source of information has been neglected, and no labor of investigation among the minutest narrations of Southern life has been spared in seeking information regarding Major Garden.

It is scant justice to one who has done so much to secure fame, and popular regard for others, to receive such meagre tribute to his memory. Nor has the task been rendered easier of accomplishment, by the singular fact, that while the name of Alexander Garden has few representatives in this country, no less than three remarkable and talented men who bore it, should have resided in Charleston. Incidents in the life of each, have been confusedly narrated in allusions to the others; and the dates of events which belong to one have been transferred to another.

Col. Benjamin Garden who commanded a regiment in South Carolina during the revolution is often referred to in the collections and histories, and not always by his distinctive title and name, thus adding another element of confusion to what was already so difficult.

The first Alexander Garden was a clergyman, officiating in Charleston as the commissary of the Bishop of London, a learned and pious man, who died in 1756, aged 70 years. The second Alexander Garden was eminent as a Physician, and naturalist, performing the arduous services of the first among the citizens of Charleston, and contributing by his zeal in pursuits of the last to the learning of the world for a period of more than thirty years. His death occurred at London in the year 1791, to which place he returned soon after the departure of the British from Charleston.

That Major Garden resided in Europe during the earlier period of the Revolution, whither he was sent for the purpose of obtaining an education at a college the name of which is not given, that it was by

the commands of a parent that he was prevented from taking part in the first resistance to British arms—and that as soon as age freed him from legal obligation to parental authority he returned to share in the fortunes of his countrymen, and thereby sacrificed them to his patriotism: are particulars of which he himself informs us. If Alexander Garden the physician, were that parent it would not be difficult to conjecture other reasons, than the education of his son, for the exercise of paternal authority in preventing his participation in the conflict. This gentleman so justly celebrated for his learning and scientific labors (among which was the introduction of the Virginia pink root into the *Materia Medica*) was an adherent to the British Government. To him, it is narrated by Major Garden, Lord Rawdon applied for a certificate of inability to perform military service, and the application met with a prompt refusal. This rebuff was afterwards made more emphatic by declining to sign, and boldly protesting against the presentation of a complimentary address to Lord Rawdon, designed as Garden says by many Tories.

That he would not have been solicited for his signature unless his loyalist sympathies were well known is evident. His relationship however to Major Alexander Garden has only the very unsatisfactory basis of conjecture.

But little better source could the writer of the article on Garden in the American Encyclopedia have possessed.

"Alexander Garden an officer of the American Revolution, in Lee's famous legion, died in Charleston, S. C., about 1825, at an advanced age. He was for a time aide-de-camp to Gen. Greene."

What unsafe materials for history such compilations are, may be seen when it is stated that during the year, which is thus authoritatively announced to be that of his death, Major Garden delivered an eulogium on the life and services of Gen. C. C. Pinckney, and that his second series of these anecdotes was not published until the year 1828. As Garden was precluded by non-age from military service until about the period of the formation of Lee's Legion, which was only effected in the latter part of 1780, he would have reached his sixty-fifth year in 1825, a period of life which can scarcely be termed an advanced age. He was an officer in the infantry section of Lee's Legion, and we learn from his anecdotes that he was a confidential aide-de-camp to Gen. Greene. His selections on several occasions as an eulogist of deceased members of the Society of the Cincinnati, indicates the esteem in which he was held by his comrades, as the

character of his works does his literary ability. His printed works, so far as they are known are limited to those already mentioned.

His Anecdotes have everywhere been received with gratification and perused with pleasure. The simplicity of the style of their narration, the honesty and candor of his statements, and the high toned sentiment and fervent patriotism of his sentiments, have met with universal applause.

The author of a book entitled Records of Patriotism has used the Anecdotes as texts for the several chapters of his work, and constantly speaks of them as eminent examples of devotion to a country's good.

A careful examination of the literature relating to the Revolution in the Southern Colonies, enables the reader of Garden's Anecdotes to trace the origin of them in the author's mind. This literature, so prolific in the early part of this century, of works minutely tracing the progress of the War for Liberty and Independence emanated from the minds of men who had been active and potent in that cause, and events which they narrated were familiar as the daily routine of life to a generation which had not then forgotten the forms and features of the principal actors in that great drama. It was to illustrate those events then so familiar, and to preserve minuter incidents in the lives of those noble men, that Garden collected his interesting anecdotes, only vaguely referring to other sources of information regarding them. These other collections of memorable events and incidents, then so familiar, as scarcely to need a reference to their contents, have now become so rare, and of such high price that the reader of Garden's works can seldom gratify the curiosity excited by its perusal, without consulting works found only on the shelves of a Historical Society, or of some curious and fortunate book collector.

It was to these books that Alexander Garden constantly referred in his own mind, without often noting in his work that reference, and to them his work is properly, what doubtless he intended it, a laborious collection of addenda.

These had become somewhat obscure in their allusions to characters and incidents, and none who perused Garden's anecdotes could fail of a desire for a minuter narration of those stirring events to which he only made a tantalizing reference.

The notes illustrative of this work, which are given in this edition, are the result of a minute investigation of the History of the Revolution in the South, and from a portion of an essay upon Gov. Rut-

ledge and the Carolinas during that period, now in press. If the notes shall be found to exhibit a design of depreciating the patriotism of the Carolinas in our Revolutionary struggle, it is a result produced by sad conviction after a patient study of all the sources of information within the writer's reach.

The numerous histories of the War for Independence in the South, have all been written by her citizens, whose sectional pride and ambition of local esteem, combined to warp their judgment, or induce suppression of unpopular and humiliating facts.

The sources from which these additional anecdotes have been derived, are not, however, all included in the number to which Mr. Garden had access. Since his death there have been many accessions to the Historic Literature treating of that period. Johnson's Traditions of the Revolution in the South—Caruther's Revolutionary Incidents in the old North State—Frazer's Reminiscences of Charleston—O'Neal's Biographical Sketches of the Bench and Bar of South Carolina—O'Neal's Annals of Newberry—Gibbs' Doc. His. of S. C.—Letters of Eliza Wilkinson.—Carrol's His. Collections of S. C.—S. Carolina His. Soc. Collections.—Wheeler's His. of N. C.—Fanning's narrative—and other incidental sources of information, have been consulted.

To have arranged these additions in the usual form of notes, would have interfered somewhat more with the original structure of Garden's work than the collector felt warranted in doing, and it is also due to candor that it should be said, that although the idea of some addition was conceived before the work had gone to press, yet no satisfactory plan had then suggested itself.

It is hoped that while the integrity of the original work has been faithfully preserved, yet its value has been enhanced by the additions.

T. W. FIELD.

ANECDOTES
OF THE
REVOLUTIONARY WAR

In America,

WITH
SKETCHES OF CHARACTER

OF
PERSONS THE MOST DISTINGUISHED, IN THE SOUTHERN STATES, FOR
CIVIL AND MILITARY SERVICES.

BY ALEXANDER GARDEN,

OF LEE'S PARTISAN LEGION; AID-DE-CAMP TO MAJOR GENERAL GREENE; AND
HONORARY MEMBER OF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF NEW-YORK.

"I cannot but remember such things were,"—*Shakespeare.*

CHARLESTON:
PRINTED FOR THE AUTHOR, BY A. E. MILLER,
NO. 4, BROAD-STREET.

1822.

District of South Carolina, to wit:



BE IT REMEMBERED, That on the first day of April, Anno Domini, one thousand eight hundred and twenty two, and in the forty-sixth year of the Independence of the United States of America, Major Alexander Garden deposited in this office the title of a book, the right whereof he claims, as author and proprietor, in the words following, to wit:

"Anecdotes of the Revolutionary War in America, with Sketches of Character of Persons the most Distinguished in the Southern States, for Civil and Military Services. By Alexander Garden, of Lee's Partisan Legion; Aid-de-Camp to Major General Greene; and Honorary Member of the Historical Society of New-York. — "I cannot but remember such things were."—*Shakespeare*.

In conformity with the act of Congress of the United States, entitled, "An Act for the Encouragement of Learning, by securing the Copies of Maps, Charts and Books, to the authors and proprietors of such copies, during the times therein mentioned;" and also to the Act entitled, "An Act supplementary to an Act entitled, 'An Act for the encouragement of Learning, by securing the Copies of Maps, Charts and Books, to the authors and proprietors of such copies, during the times therein mentioned,'" and extending the benefits thereof to the art of designing, engraving and etching historical and other prints."

JAMES JERVEY,

Clerk of the District of South Carolina.

TO
Maj-Gen. Charles Cotesworth Pinckney,
PRESIDENT GENERAL
OF
THE SOCIETY OF THE CINCINNATI,
TO
Maj. Gen. Thomas Pinckney,
PRESIDENT,
AND THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY
OF THE CINCINNATI IN SOUTH-CAROLINA.
IN GRATITUDE
FOR LONG EXPERIENCED TESTIMONIES
OF THEIR FAVOUR AND CORDIAL REGARD.
THIS WORK
IS AFFECTIONATELY DEDICATED,
BY THEIR BROTHER AND FRIEND
THE AUTHOR.