

**A BRIEF MEMOIR OF THE LIFE  
AND WRITINGS OF THE LATE  
LIEUTENANT-COLONEL  
WILLIAM MARTIN LEAKE**

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A Brief Memoir of the Life and Writings of the Late Lieutenant-Colonel William Martin Leake  
by John Howard Marsden

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**JOHN HOWARD MARSDEN**

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A  
B R I E F M E M O I R,  
OF THE  
L I F E A N D W R I T I N G S  
OF THE L A T E  
L I E U T E N A N T - C O L O N E L  
W I L L I A M M A R T I N L E A K E,  
D. C. L., F. R. S., &c. &c.

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“ \* \* \* \* \* His memory will be cherished with respect as long as Greece enjoys independence and Greeks have any knowledge of literature; not only as the great scholar and geographer, but as the first and steadiest champion of Grecian liberty.”

*From a Letter written at Athens by G. Finley, Esq.*

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L O N D O N :  
P R I N T E D B Y W H I T T I N G H A M A N D W I L K I N S ,  
T O O K S C O U R T , C H A N C E R Y L A N E .

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F O R P R I V A T E C I R C U L A T I O N O N L Y .

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1864.

Pr 2112.13

1864. Mar. 29

copy of

the author  
of Cambridge, England.

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THE FOLLOWING

MEMOIR,

DRAWN UP IN ACCORDANCE WITH A REQUEST MADE BY THE LATE  
MRS. WILLIAM MARTIN LEAKE FROM ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS IN HER POSSESSION  
IS RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED

TO

THE SENATE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE.

TO WHICH UNIVERSITY

COLONEL LEAKE GAVE A SPECIAL PREFERENCE

OVER CERTAIN OTHER INSTITUTIONS OF A LIKE CHARACTER

IN A VERY IMPORTANT CLAUSE OF HIS WILL.

JOHN HOWARD MARSDEN.

GREAT OAKLEY, January 13, 1864.

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M E M O I R

OF

THE LIFE

OF

WILLIAM MARTIN LEAKE.

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL WILLIAM MARTIN LEAKE was the second son of John Martin Leake, a commissioner for auditing the public accounts, by Mary the daughter of Peter Calvert, of Hadham. He was born in Bolton Row, May Fair, London, on January 14th, 1777.

At this period the Martin family had borne the name of Leake conjointly with their own for something more than half a century. In the year 1721, Captain Stephen Martin, of the Royal Navy, succeeded to certain estates devised to him by his brother-in-law and comrade in arms Admiral Sir John Leake, and he assumed the name and arms of the Leake family by royal warrant. In the victory over the French fleet at La Hogue, Captain Martin, serving at that time in Admiral Leake's ship the Eagle as first lieutenant, headed a successful attack made upon one of the enemy's largest ships by boats, and was severely wounded. The important services of Admiral Leake, in the relief of Gibraltar and Barcelona, and in the capture of Sardinia and other islands in the Mediterranean, occupy a very honourable position in the naval annals of the reign of Queen Anne.

Stephen Martin Leake, the eldest son of Captain Martin, was Colonel William Martin Leake's grandfather. He held the office of Garter King at Arms, and was the author of several valuable works upon heraldry. He wrote also a treatise upon English money, and a life of his kinsman the Admiral. In the number of his descendants now living are his grandson, Stephen Martin Leake, of Thorpe Hall in Essex, the present representative of the family, and Dr. James Prince Lee, the present Bishop of Manchester.

William Martin Leake, the subject of this memoir, received his professional education in the Royal Military Academy at Woolwich. Among his fellow-students he selected as his companions those who, like himself, were animated by a spirit of generous emulation, and with one of them, the late General Sir Howard Douglas, he formed a life-long friendship, which continued with feelings of unabated attachment on both sides for a period of nearly seventy years.

In the year 1794, having received his commission as a second lieutenant in the Royal Regiment of Artillery, he was ordered to the West Indies, and he spent there the next four years, which he was accustomed to speak of as the least satisfactory part of his life. When quartered in Antigua, he wrote to his friends at home who had expressed their wish to receive a journal of his proceedings for a week, assuring them that if he were only to send a journal of any one single day in the week, they might take it as a continuous journal for the whole year round. Thus far, at least, the active-minded geographer of classical Greece was altogether out of his element.

In the year 1799, being now Captain Leake, he was appointed to a mission to Constantinople, for the purpose of instructing the Turkish troops in the use and practice of artillery; and he thus entered upon the scene of his future labours. In a bloody engagement, which had recently taken

place upon the coast of Egypt with the French troops under Buonaparte, the Turks had shown a considerable amount of courage, but they were greatly wanting in discipline: and it was thought advisable that competent English officers should be sent out to assist them. In this number Captain Leake was included, although he had scarcely completed his twenty-third year; and in company with Brigadier-General Koehler, Major Fletcher of the Royal Engineers, and sundry others, he proceeded from Constantinople to join the army on the coast of Egypt, under the command of the Grand Vizier, on January 19th, 1800. They traversed Asia Minor in a south-easterly direction to Kelenderis, the ancient Celenderis, on the coast of Cilicia: and, crossing over to Cyprus, they landed at Tzerina on February 11th. The following account of this journey is taken from a letter written by Captain Leake to his father a few days after their landing:—

Larneca, Cyprus, 17th February 1800.

“ An express dispatch by Sir Sydney Smith affords me a very little time only to acquaint you with my proceedings since writing last.

“ On the 15th of last month I received directions from General Koehler to hold myself in readiness to proceed with him to the army of the Grand Vizier. As it was conceived that our presence there was required immediately, it was resolved that we should travel on horseback, in the dress of Tatar couriers, and by the route which has been opened for them only since the Vizier's army has been in Syria. We were furnished by the Porte with a *firman*, or order, of the Grand Seignior, directing our being provided with reliefs of horses at the different posts, and also with a Janizary and a Tatar who were acquainted with the road. Our party consisted of the General, Major Fletcher, myself, Mr. Pink, our draughtsman, and Mr.