

# THE SOUTH CAROLINA HISTORICAL MAGAZINE

APRIL 1963

VOLUME 64

NUMBER 2



COPYRIGHT 1963 BY

THE SOUTH CAROLINA HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
CHARLESTON, S. C.

## CONTENTS

PAGE

Edward Rutledge to His Son, August 2, 1796 .....	65
The Diary of John Hamilton Cornish, 1846-1860 .....	73
Correspondence between Alexander Garden, M.D., and the Royal Society of Arts .....	86
Middleton Correspondence, 1861-1865 .....	95
The Sams Family of South Carolina .....	105
Marriage and Death Notices from the City Gazette of Charleston, 1827 .....	114
Notes and Reviews .....	117

CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN  
ALEXANDER GARDEN, M.D., AND THE ROYAL SOCIETY  
OF ARTS

Edited by JOSEPH I. WARING, M.D.

(Continued from January)

*Dr. Garden to Mr. Henry Baker*

[April 1757]

I come now to your Letter from the Society, to which I shall beg leave to make such Answers as I can.

In the first place, I beg leave to return my hearty and unfeigned Thanks to the Society for this Honour they do me in putting any Esteem upon the few Thoughts which I had the pleasure to Communicate to them. Their Commands will always give me Pleasure and I only wish I had Influence enough with some of our Planters here to excite them to put any of their Proposals to the Tryal. Since the Receipt of yours I have done all in my Power to push them on to make Tryal of some other of our Herbs, and now I have formed an association of some of them to make several Tryals this Summer of which I hope to be able to give the Society good Accounts by the End of the Year. I have wrote Mr. Whitworth fully on this Head and sent him a Copy of our advertisement for that purpose.

You propose the Cultivation of Logwood, Brazil, Fustic, Sanders, Woad, Madder, Tumeric, etc. Every Planter here will readily cultivate anything that will give him Returns equal to *Rice* or *Indigo*, but unless the Returns were superior or equal, he receives any proposal with great coolness and indifference, and after all that can be said to him on that Head, he will obstinately continue in his old Way. The Culture of *Indigo* is something uncertain and depends greatly on the Seasons, so that a Commodity that would be more certain and less liable to be hurt by our Sun or excessive Rains, even tho' it bore a lower Price would be well relished by them—or any Commodity the Culture or Preparation of which would take up but little Time and few Hands. Of this Number would be Logwood, Brazil, Fustic, Sanders, and that Species of Copra which I mentioned before. As to the four first articles the only Difficulty would be the procuring of Seeds and knowing the proper Soil, exposure and Culture of them; for I readily imagine it would be an easy Matter

Should it be duly paid, I hope, by the helping of God, to be even with the world before the close of another year.

My field of Labour is very peculiar, but I have not been without some cheering tokens from time to time, that my labours have been blessed to the good of souls. The Lord be praised. . . .

*(To be continued)*

to get any of the Planters to try those Things which required few of their Hands or little Labour.

As to the last Article, I mean the [Copio?] or Yellow Dye, it wants nothing but a Market for Consumption to excite them to make large Quantities of it. The plant grows here like a Common Weed and it is very rich and succulent and would produce abundantly. I shall have some made this Year and send to the Society for their opinion of it, but I am afraid it will interfere with Madder and Woad which being Commodities of Great Britain may prevent the Encouragement of our Yellow Dye; and for the same reason I don't imagine the Legislature would Countenance the Culture of either Madder or Woad in America, or if they did so I imagine it would turn to any account. But I may be mistaken in this for I only speak on the Supposition that all the Madder and Woad which is consumed in England is raised and cultivated there.

However if a fine Yellow Dye will bear any tolerable Rise in Respect of Indigo, I think I may assure the Society that we can easily induce the Planters to cultivate and prepare it.

As you desired I tried the Effects of the *Prickly pear* in Colouring the Urine. A few Days after receiving your Letter I went down to one of the Islands and gathered some of the Fruit and gave four of the Pears to a child of 3 Years of Age and six pears to one of 5 Years of Age. Next Morning I examined both their Urine and it appeared of a very lively red Colour, as if *Faint Wine* had been mixed with clear Water. The Eldest's Urine was the deepest Coloured but of a Darker look. The Youngest's (who naturally always made pale clear Urine) was of a more lively and beautiful Red. Next day I gave six to a Negro Wench, who gave Suck and strictly forbid her to suckle her child for six or eight Hours, and then upon taking some of her Milk in a TeaCup and putting it by for some Hours, the Cream had a reddish lustre tho' it was very faint. I was led into this last experiment from an observation which I made on the Milk of Cows who had fed in an Indigo Field. The Indigo had not only tinged their Urine Blue but the Cream of their Milk was of a most beautiful Blue and it had a radiated appearance from the Centre. (is not this a proof of the Dye being the Oil of the plant) The Milk underneath was as clear and white as usual.

This Summer I shall make further Tryals on the leaves of the *Opuntia*.

As to the Money which the Society transmitted to Messrs. Beaufaine and Bull if you send an order on them to me I shall forthwith send it over, but before that, they may object to me as having no right to receive it from them.

I have spoke to many of the planters about getting me specimens of all their different Woods and as soon as I can procure them I will carefully transmit.

If our Indians remain quiet, we will soon have our back country well settled and then we may have great hopes of the Currant Grapes or Zante Grapes succeeding well, but till then I am afraid it will never turn to that account that the Society would wish in Consequence of their giving a Premium. The Lands about 150 Miles back are mostly of a very rich and fertile Nature lying upon Marble or Rocky Foundations, so that here the Vines would certainly thrive well. I find now from Experience that in the Low Settlements the Roots of most of the Cultivated Vines penetrate down to brackish Water which is very soon come at, and nigh the Sea our wells give nothing else but Brackish Water. When their Roots get to the Water the Fruit immediately dwindles and always looks blasted.

The only Person that I can learn ever made Salt Petre here was a Dutch Lady called Mrs. Welshuyson: She died about two Years ago and I have not been able exactly to learn her Method. I have made Inquiry about Mr. Stephens but I find he never made any here or attempted it. He is here just now and is shewing the Method of making Potash which Method he was formerly taught by a German or Dutchman who lives here.

Had I executed my Journey last Summer over the Mountains, I might have been able to have given the Society some Accounts of the Mineral productions of the Apalachagan Hills, but the Arrival of our new Governour, put a stop to our intended Journey and we were all recalled after we had advanced about 260 miles. This Blasted all my Prospects.

If I had any Plants or Seed of the Date Palm or Mango I would willingly try them, but I'm afraid our Winter is too Cold for them tho' our Summer is as Hot as anywhere in the World.

A few years may make me more capable to throw in my Mite in assisting to forward these and such like Things here if the French let us alone, but just now we seem to have great Reason to dread their Intentions in making a Descent on Georgia or Carolina, and what the Consequences may be God only knows. I remain with great Esteem Yo[ur, *etc.*]

*Alexander Garden to Society*

So. Carolina, May 1, 1757

Dr. Sir

It is some months since I had the pleasure of your obliging favor of the 23 August, and which I long since took an opportunity of acknowledging, tho not in that full way which I could have written. When I wrote you per Capt. Coats in January, I then took the Liberty of enclosing a letter to Mr. Whitworth and directed a parcel of seeds for him to their Care. I was induced to do this as I knew your close friendship, and as I do not know how to have directed for Mr. Whitworth himself in London. I hope the settings came safe to hand and I beg that you would be kind enough to forgive me in creating you such trouble, as my reasons were such as I have mentioned.

I must now return my unfeigned thanks to the Society for the honour they do me in receiving kindly any thoughts that I may have given them, on such articles as appeared to me to promise fair for succeeding here, if more Encouragement and Care were bestowed on them. At the same time I can't help being very uneasy at the little regard which has hitherto been paid here to your offers and generous assistance. But to what to attribute it I shall not take upon me to determine, tho' I am afraid a proper disinterested diligence was not used in urging many of the Planters to attend to the advantages arising from the propagation of such trees on one side, and on the other, the Planters have for these four years last past been so [intimate] with Indigo that unless things were calmly, assiduously, and [industriously] recommended to them, nothing else but Indigo, Indigo should be heard of. The annual amount of our Exports, have risen within these five years last, about 190000 £ Stel. This is almost Incredible; and yet when I tell you that this year we have exported already upwards of seven hundred thousand wt. of Indigo, and that five years ago, we did not export 5000 weight, you'll readily accredit it—our other exports are rather risen than fallen notwithstanding of this. This view of our prodigious increased crops of Indigo, will at once satisfy you how it happens that the Planters are backward in going upon anything else unless such articles could be proposed as would either require less labour or give greater returns. The Value of labour here has just risen in proportion as the Value of Indigo has risen and its quantity increased. This last Summer many of the planters made 30 £ Str. of every negroe slave which they employed in the Field; some made 20 £ Str. and most made £ 15 St. which is indeed a great deal, and what scarce any article but Indigo at its present price could give. That I might be able to give

the Society a just and true idea of a slave's labour, I have procured the within estimate, very carefully made out, and it has been examined and approved by some of our best judges here. The Planters business after he buys a slave is to clear him as soon as he possibly can, that is to make the slave's labour pay the price which his master payed for him; because the longer he is of doing that, the greater risque does he run, of being a loser by his purchase, either from Death, the *Doctor's Bills, Taxes*, or greater expenses in food and clothing. Now it is certain he will naturally employ him about the cultivation of that article, which requires the least labour to manufacture for market, and when manufactured will give the greatest return in Value. *Dyes* of one kind or other are the most promising articles to produce this Effect, and the Experience of Indigo would incline the Planters to hearken to something of this sort, sooner than anything else. But as the Cultivation and manufacture of them takes up and employs but one season of the year, i.e. from March to Sept. we may readily imagine that the Planters would joyfully attend to the most promising proposals for successfully employing the intermediate time from Sept. round thro the Winter to March again. For this reason the articles of *Potash*, Salt Petre, and Paper bids fairest to be attended with success, the articles of *Common Blown Salt* and *Myrtle Wax* might be added. The proper method of manufacturing the two first commodities is the great [desideration] here, for hitherto we knew no method of making *Potash* here but what some of the German Palatine transports taught, which is reckoned tedious and hapensure. Its the same as what Mr. Stephens practised who learned it from a German here some years ago. Mr. Stephens has lately shown his method here. As to the article of different dyes, it is more than probable that many, different from Indigo and of equal Value, might be procured from vegetables. As I had occasion to mention this subject last year to one of your most worthy Vice Presidents Mr. Whitworth he was good enough to show the proposal some countenance and in the Answer which he did me the honour to send me, he proposes a good plan for instituting an association of Gentlemen in most of the Colonies in order to make trial of their Various vegetables, and to relate the Success to such a number of Gentlemen in London, as would agree to take the trouble to examine the value of the Various specimens sent them; and if they found any that had a prospect of being made useful, to recommend them to the generosity of your worthy Society for Encouragement at their first setting out. This I judged to be a most beneficial proposal, and whereupon receiving Mr. Whitworth's letter I spoke to and engaged some of our most public spirited Gentlemen to become



promoters of such a Laudable undertaking. We accordingly made an association and published our proposed design and an invitation to the Country Planters to correspond with us in town on the success of trials made on such vegetables as we should from time to time recommend to them. I have wrote Mr. Whitworth by this vessel and sent him a copy of our advertisement which he will no Doubt communicate to you, but as I send a Copy of this Letter to you by another vessel (in case of capture) I shall then enclose a Copy to you. We were obliged to make use of the Society's name in order to have greater weight with the people, but we hope the Society will forgive us for taking that freedom as our design is the public good for which the Society we know is always anxious. This will take some time to be brought to any head but I'm resolved for myself to spare neither time nor pains and I'm hopeful that by constant assiduity we may at length fall on some proper article for your Society to introduce, for the most that we can do will be only to present such to you. Mr. Whitworth will more fully inform you of our design and intent and to him or Mr. Ellis I beg leave to refer you. Now, as to the answer to your inquiries. As to the first viz. Whether would not the juice of the fruit of the *Prickly Pear* produce a red coloured Dye? I think it would. My reasons are because when taken into an animal body, it will tinge all the Excretions with a very pretty red colour, the same as Madder or as Indigo will do with their peculiar colours. Indigo makes the urine of Cattle of a Beautiful blue, and the cream of the milk of such cows as have fed on it. The *Prickly Pear* which I gave to two children tinged their Urine very bright red, and it gave a reddish lustre to the Cream of a negroe wenche's milk to whom I gave six pears to eat. I received your letter only in November so that I could not get such a quantity of the fruit at that season as I could have earlier, Else I should have tried more Experiments, but I shall make such trials and Essays this Summer as will enable me to satisfy the Society fully about this matter. If this succeeds, I imagine Bermuda will be the best place for making this Commodity, for they have such a kind of the *Prickly Pear* as produces prodigious quantities of fruit, insomuch that the Common Sailors often bring them here for markett. As to the *Zante Grapes* and Date Plum, I believe they will both do well here, I have wrote Mr. Baker fully on this head in answer to a Letter of his sent me by order of the Society and I beg leave to refer you to him, who will shew you what I have wrote on that head. As to proper persons for the patronizing and adjudicating such premiums as the Society may in their generosity offer for the future to this province, I should beg leave to recommend John Rattray

and George Austin Esqs. They are both men of interest and both have the public good and interest much at heart, and are besides, two of the People's representatives in the house of assembly, all which would contribute much to give them weight with the People. If any additional assistance could be of any use, I should most readily agree to be joined to them, but I'm afraid that thro a kind partiality to me you lay too great a stress on my poor share of merit. All that I contend for, is merely a disinterested inclination to be of some little service in Society.

It gives me the greatest and most Sensible degree of pleasure to find by your lists the greatly increased number of the Society, and I most heartily pray for its future grandeur, and will always Esteem it my greatest honour to be able in any way to serve them.

The *design* which you sent me gives me great hopes of the young Authors becoming a useful member of Society; I should esteem it a most singular favour to have some copies of some of your young pupils, which I would endeavor to make a good use of.

While I wrote the above I entirely forgot to acknowledge the Receipt of Mr. Crisp's letter on the subject of Minerals. It's a most sensible Letter, it gave me great pleasure and instruction tho I'm afraid I can't soon put his good Rules to the trial. My intended journey over the Mountain last Summer being disappointed has robbed me of the hopes of Collecting any Rocks from these parts for some years at least. But I still fully design to visit the mountains. I remain with the greatest Esteem

Dr. Sir

Your Obligated and humble Sevt.

Alexr. Garden

*Extract from Dr. Garden to Mr. John Ellis, London.*

Charlestown, South Carolina, February 17, 1759

The Scheme of the Provincial Garden is truly noble, and has a prospect of answering a good and great End. It will no doubt be highly beneficial to the Province, and may in time be useful to Great Britain. I will most cheerfully lend my little assistance, but after talking of this matter with several Gentlemen, we all were of opinion, that if it could be recommended by your Society to the Governors Council and Assembly, it would take at once, and be carried into execution with great spirit and life; but we judged that such a thing proposed by any person here, would not have weight enough to determine them to think well of the

Scheme. For this reason I have mentioned it but to a few, because I thought if you should approve of this method, it is better that it should come at once upon them; and I am morally certain from what I know of the people, that it will be received with open Arms and great applause and the necessary Steps, such as you recommend, will immediately be taken. There seems to be a kind of Necessity to drive the dull part of Mortals to their own happiness and welfare: the task is irksome, but the reflexion of having intended and promoted a general good is the Superior reward.

Yours s.

Alex Garden

P. S. The Pistachio Nuts did not come up, but the Scemmony [Colocynth?] and Storax promise very well.

*Garden to Society*

July 14, 1759

Capt. Ball delivered me your Letter of the 25 of March. You may be sure I read with great pleasure your observations on the Method of preserving Seeds. I hope it enables me to be more useful to you in the Article of Seeds. I am just now beginning my collection for this Summer.

As to what you recommend me to plant, a publick garden is the only thing that will bring these things to bear, and that supported by our Governor and Assembly. I have already wrote you fully in that Subject. What do you think of the method I proposed?

*The Society to Alexander Garden*

London, [?], 1760

Sir

His Grace the Duke of Argyll having some time ago sent to Mr. Kinloch at Carolina some Plants of the Cork Trees for propagation his Grace would be very glad to be informed what State these Plants are now in, I am,

Sir

Your most Obed. & Hble. Servt.

Geo: Bae[?]

*For Mr. Shipley*

S.C.

July 20, 1760

It is with particular pleasure that I receive any commands from the premium Society and tho neither my Abilities or situation will permit me to render them much service, yet I hope the cheerful readiness which I shall always have to execute or comply with their commands, will shew them my willingness to contribute my mite towards the advancements of their schemes.

I received the Box of cuttings of the Currant and Toha Vine in Extream good condition. They were mostly growing, tho for want of air rather weakly. They had entirely filled the head of the Box with their young shoots. I take the liberty of mentioning this particularly that the Society may particularly know the success of that method of packing such like things up for Long Voyages.

After taking the Top of the Box off, I let them be in the shade for about Eight or Ten days to recover a little, which they did surprisingly well. I then divided them in the safest manner I could. I gave one half to the Honble. Henry Middleton Esq. and the other half to Christopher Gadsden. Esq. both of which Gentlemen promised, and I know will take particular care of them, and as one has a good garden in Town, and the other a fine garden about 12 or 14 miles up Ashley River, so from that I shall have an opportunity of knowing which will suit this Vine best.

If I could have thought of disposing of them better so as to have answered the Intention of the Society, I would have done it.

Our dreadful war that we are engaged in with the Cherokee and I'm afraid with the Westo Indians turns everybody's thought to that alone at present but I hope soon to have an opportunity of writing that we are again in peace and ready to attend to the Acts and Emoluments of Peace.

I remain with regard

Sir

Your most obdt. and hble Svt.

Alexr. Garden

P. S. As Mr. Kinloch has not been in Town since I received yours I have not been able to know whether the Cork trees flourish or not but I shall soon inform you.