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THEODOSIA AND BROOKGREEN BY MAUDE WADDELL

Theodosia Burr is a name that will live forever in American History and the romance and tragedy of her life and death will intrigue countless generations of school children to come. And with her name and story forever intertwined is the beauty and story of one of the finest gifts the great State of South Carolina has ever received,- The exquisite Brookgreen Gardens on the coast near Georgetown, the gift of Mr. and Mrs. Archer M. Huntington of New York. Art, History, beauty, sculpture, all a holy place, a Sanctuary where no one of God's "lesser Children", His dear creatures may be killed or in any way mistreated, - this is Brookgreen.

The connection with the lovely tragic Theodosia is that Brookgreen Gardens and Sanctuary embrace her home, the beautiful Oaks Plantation, and her kinsman's plantation, Brookgreen Plantation, and several others of the famous old Southern seats of noted South Carolinians. This great gift of Mr. and Mrs. Huntington to the State of South Carolina comprises about ten thousand acres and lies between the great Waccamaw River and the sea. This magnificent outlay, which is thrown open to every one who wishes to enter without respect to race or creed, is totally free of cost, and being on U. S. Highway No. 17 is visited by people from all over the world and nationally fronts upon a great artery of traffic from Maine to Florida.

Theodosia Burr was the wife of Governor Joseph Alston, called "Joseph of the Oaks", famous and heroic Governor of

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South Carolina during the War of 1812, and was the daughter of Aaron Burr of New York. She was a beautiful young woman with a classic profile who attracted many friends and admirers and she was a loyal and obedient and devoted daughter to her father. Her mother being dead, she lived in New York with her father, the latter being fashionable and well-off but surrounded by bitter political enemies. It was a day of implicit obedience to parents and the young and beautiful Theodosia had the misfortune, so the legend runs, of falling desperately in love with a man of whom her father did not approve. Needless to say the combination of deep filial love Theodosia had for her father and the strict obedience expected of children was a combination not to be withstood and Theodosia's love affair was broken up.

About this time the handsome, dashing and aristocratic Governor Joseph Alston, called "Joseph of the Oaks", after his plantation home on the coast of his native State, came along in his glittering coach attended by his retinue, and meeting Aaron Burr and falling in love with the beautiful Theodosia, asked her hand in marriage. Just such a marriage suited her father to perfection and Theodosia became the bride of Governor Alston of South Carolina.

This was along the early Eighteen hundreds for Governor Joseph Alston (there were tow Governors, Alston of South Carolina) was the great and distinguished Governors of the State during the war of 1812. One child, Aaron Burr Alston, was born to Governor Alston and his wife, but tragedy stalked poor Theodosia, for the little boy died at the early age of ten years.

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This grief was more than Theodosia could bear and her health began to fail. It was thought that a sea voyage might benefit her, so she planned to go to New York on a Sailing Vessel "THE PATRIOT" to visit her father. This was while her husband was governor and the war of 1812 was in progress. It is said that Aaron Burr walked the dock all night in New York awaiting his daughter's arrival. But "The PATRIOT" never made port and to this day no one knows the fate of Theodosia or the vessel. One of the best known and most widely spread legends, said to have been confessed in his dying hours by a participant, was that the pirates off North Carolina coast captured the vessel and blindfolded Theodosia and made her "walk the plank" at sea. Other legends- There is also a story of a picture that was washed up that was known to have been on the vessel, and another legend says that one of the fearful storms that have given Cape Hatteras the name "The Graveyard of the Atlantic" arose and that the vessel went down. Through generations past, people have been speculating as to what really happened and they will be in years to come.

The Brookgreen Gardens and Sanctuary will be forever linked with this part of the Southern History, because, besides embracing the Oaks Plantation, Theodosia's home, and taking its name from the adjoining plantation, Brookgreen, the home of another member of the famous Alston family, some of whom spell the name with two Ls and some with one, there are yet included in this great sanctuary of some 10,000 acres, other

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noted places, A sacred spot within this sacred spot is the old and beautiful Alston Cemetery where Governor Alston, who folded his hands in death with grief, after his duties to his country were done, lies side by side with his son, Aaron Burr Alston, both commemorated with beautiful marble tombs.

The Brookgreen Gardens being free of cost to all who wish to enter, people from all over the world come. Recently a group of visitors from India, wearing their native dress, were among those who enjoyed the Gardens. About fifteen miles north of Georgetown, on the coast of South Carolina, these gardens are a brilliant spot on United States Highway Number 17, the great main artery connecting Maine and Florida.