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Archives of American Gardens

The Garden Club of America Collection - Alice Lockwood's Lecture American Gardens of the Northern States

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foot of the slope. When he visited England, like William Penn, his thoughts turned constantly to his home in the New World, and he sent back many a slip to beautify his flower beds.

The garden consists of three long parallel paths, intersected by a single cross-path, all bordered with flowering plants and shrubs. At the time it was laid out it must have been an unusual garden for Massachusetts, and now though it may seem simple to us, the fact that it has survived with little change to the present day, gives it added interest.

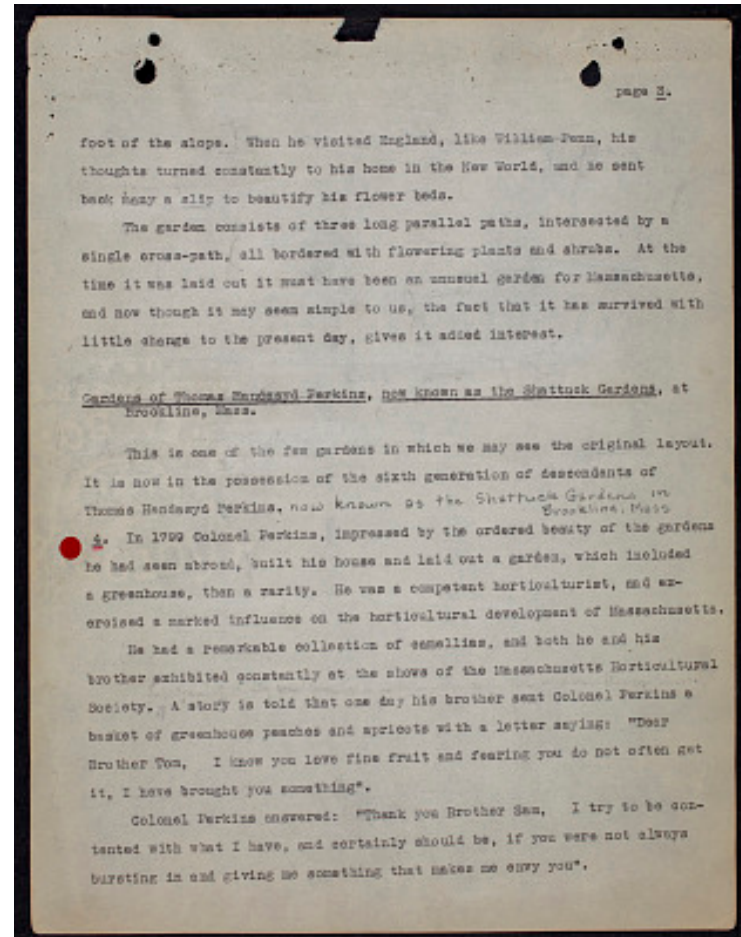
Gardens of Thomas Handasyd Perkins, now known as the Shattuck Gardens, at Brookline, Mass.

This is one of the few gardens in which we may see the original layout. It is now in the possession of the sixth generation of descendants of Thomas Handasyd Perkins. [^][now known as the Shattuck Gardens in Brookline, Mass]

4. In 1799 Colonel Perkins, impressed by the ordered beauty of the gardens he had seen abroad, built his house and laid out a garden, which included a greenhouse, then a rarity. He was a competent horticulturist, and exercised a marked influence on the horticultural development of Massachusetts.

He had a remarkable collection of camellias, and both he and his brother exhibited constantly at the shows of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society. A story is told that one day his brother sent Colonel Perkins a basket of greenhouse peaches and apricots with a letter saying: "Dear Brother Tom, I know you love fine fruit and fearing you do not often get it, I have brought you something".

Colonel Perkins answered: "Thank you Brother Sam, I try to be contented with what I have, and certainly should be, if you were not always bursting in and giving me something that makes me envy you".



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