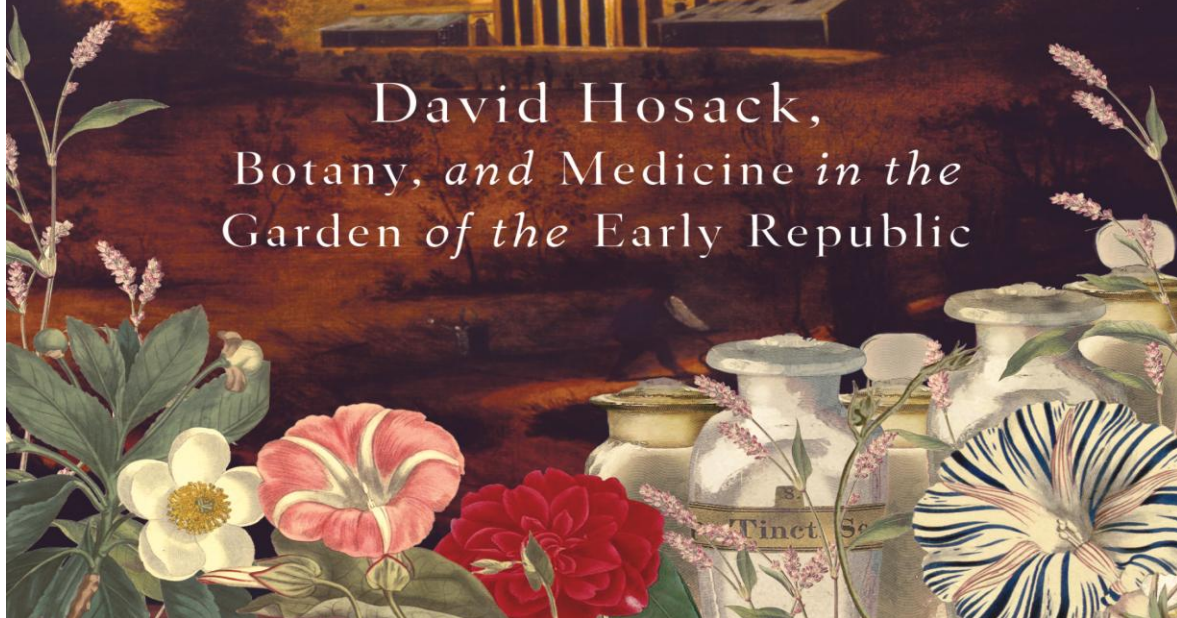


VICTORIA JOHNSON

American Eden

David Hosack,
*Botany, and Medicine in the
Garden of the Early Republic*



June 6, 2019

GCFP Board Meeting

Boalsburg, PA

"Special Edition Book Review"

Madam President:

American Eden, David Hosack, Botany and Medicine in the Garden of the Early Republic

Victoria Johnson

David Hosack was the most highly regarded doctor in New York City in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century. He was the personal physician and friend to both Aaron Burr and Alexander Hamilton and served as Hamilton's second at the famous duel between the two.

In addition to his role as a brilliant surgeon he was also a world class botanist who taught botany to medical students at Columbia University. His interest in plants evolved in part because plants seemed to be a source of effective medicines at a time when knowledge about diseases and their treatment was primitive. He created a spectacular botanic garden on the grounds of what is today Rockefeller Center.

As his interest in horticulture grew, he communicated and exchanged plants and seeds with the likes of William Bartram, Thomas Jefferson, Captain Clark of Lewis and Clark fame, the Marquis de Lafayette and Alexander von Humboldt.

The search for new plants with medicinal properties in a country largely unexplored provided an exciting and challenging adventure for Hosack and many others. This book allows us an intriguing glimpse into the dawn of our early history and modern medicine.

Submitted

Judy Warn