

# THE GADSDEN HOUSE: LANDMARK IN AMERICAN HISTORY

The **Medical Leech Museum** and **Gadsden House Antiques** are housed in the historic Gadsden House, one of the finest examples in America of a brick single house of the Federal Period. Part of the ground floor is available for viewing.

The Gadsden House was built in 1800 by the Revolutionary War hero **General Christopher Gadsden** (1724-1805) for his daughter Mary.

Gen. Gadsden is best known for designing in 1775 the Revolutionary flag, called the 'Gadsden' or



'Rattlesnake' flag which bears the motto **'DON'T TREAD ON ME'**. This flag became 'the most popular symbol of the American Revolution' and predates the 'Stars and Stripes'

adopted as the official American flag in 1777. If you look closely you will see the rattlesnake on each of the main gates at the front. Christopher Gadsden's grandson James Gadsden (b. 1788) negotiated the **GADSDEN PURCHASE** in 1853.

The Gadsden House was also the residence of **Dr Benjamin Bonneau Simons** for about 20 years until he died in 1844. Dr. Simons was a Huguenot from Charleston who became known as 'the leading surgeon of the South'. Dr. Simons was one of the first doctors in America to pioneer Jenner's vaccine against smallpox.

Unlike a number of brick buildings in Charleston, the Gadsden House survived the Charleston **Earthquake of 1886**, the most destructive earthquake in the United States until the San Francisco earthquake in 1906! In September 1989 the Gadsden House suffered damage by Hurricane Hugo, another chapter to a remarkable building!.

# MEDICAL LEECH MUSEUM

sponsored by BIOPHARM  
*Suppliers of Medicinal Leeches since 1812*



*'Leech Finders' George Walker, 1814*

## THE WORLD'S ONLY LIVING LEECH EXPERIENCE!

Most people have heard that these bloodsucking worms were once commonly used by doctors in the 'olden days', but very few people have actually seen a leech. Now is your opportunity to see live leeches for yourself!

Come learn about leeches! Where do they live? Do they all feed on blood? How do they breed? Why were they used so extensively in medicine? Was it all nonsense? You will be surprised!!!!

### THE GADSDEN HOUSE

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# GADSDEN HOUSE ANTIQUES



The Gadsden House

## MEDICAL AND RELATED ANTIQUES

Affiliated with the Medical Leech Museum is the truly unique Gadsden House Antiques which specializes in medical and related antiques of the 18th and 19th Centuries. Colonial and Civil War period antiques represent a natural extension of the Medical Leech Museum, but there is something for all antique lovers, including royal commemoratives, invalid feeders, sterling, books, golfing antiques, and more.

## HOURS

The **Medical Leech Museum** and **Gadsden House Antiques** are open every Thursday and Friday from 9:30 to 4:30. Admission charge to Leech Museum. Admission to Antique Shop is free.



**FINE ART AT ITS BEST,  
BUT NOT FOR THE SQUEAMISH!**



Leech jar

The **Medical Leech Museum** uses the fascinating medicinal leech to trace the social history of medicine from the days of the barber-surgeon to modern times. Since the pre-Roman period the surgeon was also the barber and his universal treatment was bloodletting. The unusually high standard of decorative arts displayed in this world unique museum is a pleasant surprise to all visitors. Exhibits range from live leeches to paintings and porcelains as well as to bloodletting instruments. The oldest items in the Leech Museum are Etruscan bronze 'leech brooches' from 9th Century B.C.!!

On display is a unique collection of delightful 17th-19th century caricatures with bloodletting and leeching themes. For lovers of modern art come see Max Ernst's collage 'Here come the Leech Charmers'. The Leech Museum contains many fine ceramics from around the world, including the world's largest public collection of exquisite 19th Century leech jars. Also on display is an unequaled collection of bleeding and barber's bowls dating from the 17th Century. These include Chinese and Japanese export, Dutch and English delftware, faience, maiolica and Staffordshire. The collection encompasses a highly informative selection of ceramic styles and techniques, including lusterware, salt-glaze, tin-glaze, pearlware, stoneware, etc. A veritable history of ceramics!

**WORLD'S ONLY  
ATTRACTION DEVOTED TO THE  
HISTORY OF BLOODLETTING!!**

In the 'olden days' leeching was only one form of bloodletting. Come learn how George Washington was literally bled to death!!!! How the 'mad' King George III was also treated by bloodletting!!!! Other famous personalities include Napoleon and Stalin.



'Breathing a Vein!' James Gillray, 1804

**WHY DO OVER 1000  
HOSPITALS USE LEECHES IN  
MODERN SURGERY?!**

Most people are unaware that these bloodsucking worms are used *every day* in hospitals throughout America for microsurgery. Thousands of people owe their re-attached fingers, toes, scalps, noses, etc, to the lowly leech. With all our modern drugs the leech still cannot be replaced to restore venous congestion. Come learn why the leech is still making history in state-of-the-art hospitals. You will be amazed!!!!!!

**UNIQUE EXPERIENCE!**

**LEECHES, ANTIQUES AND  
CHARLESTON HISTORY**

**18th AND 19th CENTURY  
MEDICAL ART AT ITS BEST**

VIDEO INTRODUCTION

LIVE LEECHES

LEECHES IN MODERN SURGERY

HISTORY OF BLOODLETTING

HISTORY OF CERAMICS

UNIQUE ANTIQUE SHOP

ARCHITECTURE AND HISTORY OF  
THE GADSDEN HOUSE

