

It is with much diffidence and doubt that I have ventured to construct my story in a past age, fearing lest I should give a modern coloring to everything. But, while the book is not designed to teach history, I have carefully consulted good authorities in regard to those parts which are historical.

Captain Molly has her recognized place in the Revolution, but my leading characters are entirely imaginary. Still, I hope the reader may not find them such pale shadows that their joys, sorrows, and temptations will appear mere sickly fancies, but rather the reflex of genuine human experiences. They have become so real and dear to me that I part with them very reluctantly.

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