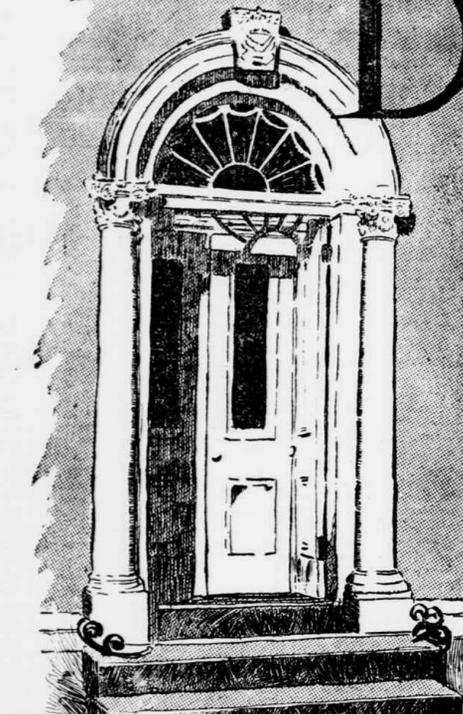


OLD WASHINGTON DOORWAYS



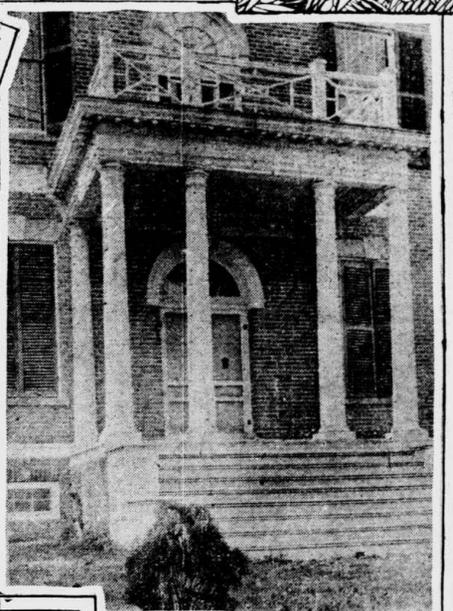
YOUNG HOUSE



VAN NESS HOUSE



POHICK CHURCH



WOODLAWN MANSION



THE CHAMBERLAIN



OCTAGON HOUSE

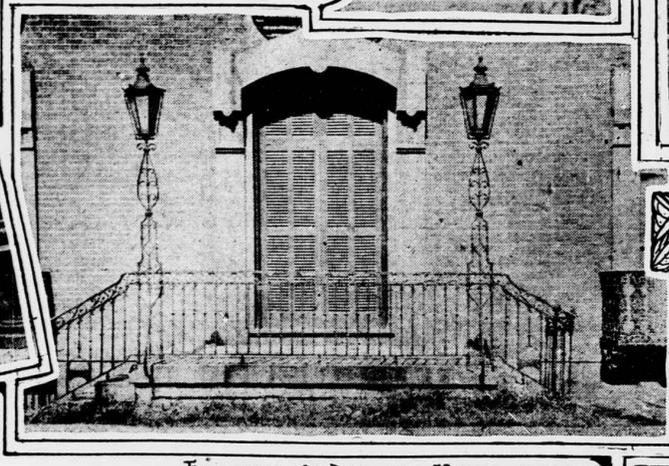


IN OLD DUMFRIES



WHEAT ROW

GUNSTON HALL



ENTRANCE OF DECATUR HOUSE



CARLYLE HOUSE

When this resolution, adopted by the crown governors of the colonies and the British general became public a large number of people gathered in Alexandria and held a meeting in the old courthouse nearly opposite the Carlyle House. George Washington was in the chair. The meeting resolved "That taxation and representation are in their nature inseparable, and that there is nothing to warrant the belief that the colonists will not contribute to the expense of defending the empire."

John Carlyle, who became Col. John Carlyle, and George Washington were friends, Carlyle having married Sallie Fairfax of Belvoir and Lawrence Washington (George's half-brother) having married her sister, Anne Fairfax.

One of these pictures shows the doorway of an ancient house at Dumfries, Va., where Washington often stopped on his travels between his home at Mount Vernon and his mother's home in Fredericksburg, as well as between Mount Vernon and Williamsburg.

Very few Washington people ever find their way to Dumfries, though it is only a few miles from this city. It was a considerable city in its day, but its day was long ago. It flourished a hundred years before the city of Washington was platted. Walking through the fields there today you come upon a mound of broken brick and mortar, and by inquiry or otherwise you learn "the Dumfries Theater stood here" or "the Bank of Dumfries stood here" or "the market house stood here," etc.

Dumfries is on Quantico creek about five miles above where the creek empties into the Potomac. It lies five miles off a railroad.

Naval Training.
For two years in succession the navy has averaged three collisions and groundings in a fortnight or seventy-eight in a year. Apparently we have here a weak spot in the navy. What is its cause? It has been frequently urged that in training our young officers we trust far too much to shore study, and there are high authorities who declare that even sea training in a steamship is far inferior to that of a sailing ship. The full discussion of such points must be left to experts, but it seems to be time that public opinion insisted on a thorough inquiry into the effects of our present method.

EVENTS that loom large in the nation's past are often called to mind by contemplation of the doorways of historic houses. One of the historic portals of Washington is that of the Decatur house on Lafayette square. Commodore Decatur of fame won in the Barbary wars and the second war with England lived and died there.

Capt. James Barron commanded the frigate Chesapeake, which was overhauled by the British frigate Leopard and compelled to give up certain of her crew claimed by the British as deserters and as British subjects. This was one of the causes of the war of 1812. Barron was found guilty of neglect of duty and was suspended from the navy. Decatur was a member of the court-martial. Barron left the United States and did not return until after the war with England. He sought restoration to his rank, and this was opposed by Decatur. It was this which resulted, after much correspondence between Barron and Decatur, in the duel at Bladensburg, March 22, 1820. Both men fell at the first fire. Decatur was conveyed to his house on Lafayette square and died at 10:45 in the night after the duel. He was buried in Washington, but in 1844 his remains were exhumed and reinterred in St. Peter's churchyard, Philadelphia. Barron recovered from his wound.

Another interesting doorway is that of the Van Ness house. In the seventeenth century among the men who appreciated the opportunity for trade with the Indians and the increasing European population of the Potomac valley were many Scotchmen. Scotch traders were the first whites to settle on the site of Washington city. When the federal commissioners opened negotiation for the purchase of the land on which Washington was laid out, they met with obstinate opposition from Davy Burns, a Scotch-American descended from these pioneer settlers. He was finally induced to permit streets to be surveyed through his

land. His farm embraced the western part of the city, and the White House and State, War and Navy building stand, it is said by local antiquarians, not far from Burns' cottage. He had a fair daughter, Marta.

When the second session of the Sixth Congress convened at Washington, in 1800, one of its members was John Van Ness of New York. He courted Marta Burns, and they were married. Near the Burns cottage he built a great house—the finest in the federal city, and in its day one of the imposing houses of the country. After his term as representative in Congress expired he took up his residence in Washington and with his wife led the fashions of the town. He became mayor of the city. His wife founded an orphan asylum, which still flourishes. The house suffered neglect for half a century, passed through various hands, and two or three years ago it, and the grounds around it, were bought by George Washington University, which designed to group its buildings there, but the plan was changed.

The doorway of Chamberlain's brings up many reflections. This was a national house of mirth for many years. Statesmen, politicians, journalists, government officers, diplomats and lobbyists drank, played poker, told rare stories, concocted deals, plotted and made laws and history under the roof of this place.

One of the pictures shows the doorway of the Octagon House, so called from its design. It was built by Maj. Tayloe of Virginia. After the White House had been gutted by fire set by the British invaders in 1814, and after the return to Washington of President Madison and his household, the Octagon House was occupied as the Executive Mansion until repairs to the White House had been completed. It is now occupied as headquarters by the American Institute of Architects.

Near Washington are many historic door-

ways. There, as an example, is Pohick Church. The long and honorable life story of this church is interwoven with the history of Virginia, the American colonies and the United States. It was the place of prayer of two of the leading spirits of the American revolution—George Washington and George Mason. In this old church sat members of the great Fairfax family, who inadvertently taught the commons of Virginia that a king could do wrong. It would seem no exaggeration to say that the congregation of Pohick Church did more than many "greater churches and as much as any other church in the new world to promote the thought of liberty, force a severance from Great Britain and carry the American revolution to success.

A great deal of romance is suggested by the doorway of Woodlawn mansion. It was the home of Nellie Custis after her marriage to Lawrence Lewis, the son of Betty Washington, sister of George Washington. Woodlawn, after years of splendor and generations of ruin, has been restored by later owners and is now one of the commanding examples of early American architecture. It stands on a ridge off the road that leads from Alexandria to Occoquan, and beyond and about two miles west of Mount Vernon.

Miss Annie Lewis Kelly, a descendant of the first master of Woodlawn, wrote of Woodlawn as follows:

"Woodlawn mansion has a splendid frontage and is of grand proportions. As first seen on the approach from Mount Vernon it presents an imposing appearance. Its harmony of outline and coloring is readily appreciated by the artistic eye. A beautiful park laid out in walk and square and terrace environs the house. A well-kept driveway circles through the park, approaching in a slightly rising curve the rear door of the house. A lofty and ample hall passes directly through the center of the mansion and thence out of the large, old-fashioned double front doors on a

beautiful and classic portico. This portico is supported by six large white pillars of Doric design, which gleam out in the distance as fair and white as marble.

"Maryland is seen in the distance, directly in front, a line of ethereal blue. Vessels plying up and down the broad Potomac are plainly seen from the outlook. Belvoir, the home of the Fairfaxes, and the large tract of forest land embraced in the old estate are to be seen on the right. The yellow country road below, with its sinuous windings, is the same that a century and a half ago the father of his country traveled over so often on his way to attend divine services at Pohick Church.

"There is a tradition that the plans for the construction of Woodlawn mansion were made by Gen. Washington. This, however, has been disputed, his death occurring four years before the ground was broken for its foundation."

Woodlawn was sold in 1847 by Lorenzo Lewis, a son of Nellie Custis-Lewis, to a colony of New Jersey Friends. About 1900 Paul Kester, dramatist, bought the place and lived there until two years ago he sold the property to Miss Elizabeth Sharp of Princeton, N. J.

To pass under the doorway of Gunston Hall is to recall great memories. Gunston Hall was the home and is the burial place

of George Mason, one of the republic's founders. He was the friend, neighbor and counselor of George Washington. He was an inspiration to Thomas Jefferson, James Madison and Patrick Henry.

Gunston Hall is on a ridge commanding a view of the Potomac river five miles below Mount Vernon. It was built between 1755 and 1785 and is admirably preserved. The building is eighty feet long by forty feet wide, and is built of bricks twice the size of those made in the present day, and they are put together with the most durable mortar—mortar made from oyster shells and so hard as to be proof against hammer or pick.

The portico shown in the picture is on the river front of the house, and here it was that Mason and Washington so often sat and played at draughts.

Several years after the civil war Gunston Hall, in dilapidation, was acquired by Col. Edward Daniels, and was restored. Col. Daniels came to Virginia from the north-west. He edited the Richmond Journal and once was a candidate for the House of Representatives. Mr. Daniels and President Grant were staunch friends, and during the administrations of Grant Daniels controlled the federal patronage of Virginia. Gunston Hall and part of the tract belonging to it passed under the ownership of Joseph Specht of St. Louis. The place

for several years was in charge of an overseer.

It was in the old Carlyle House in Alexandria, in 1755, that there was suggested the system of taxation which helped to bring on the American revolution. The "Congress of Alexandria" convened in the blue room of the Carlyle House April 14, 1755, John Carlyle, the owner, having tendered the use of the house to Gen. Edward Braddock, then about to undertake the reduction of the French power in the Ohio valley. Gen. Braddock had invited a number of colonial governors to confer with him. The following assembled at the Carlyle House: Gov. Dinwiddie of Virginia, Gov. Sharpe of Maryland, Gov. Morris of Pennsylvania, Gov. DeLancey of New York, Gov. Shirley of Massachusetts and Gov. Dobbs of North Carolina. After the formulation of the plan of military campaign the "Congress" resolved that "Having found it impracticable to obtain in their respective governments the proportion expected by his majesty toward defraying the expenses of his services in North America, they are unanimously of the opinion that it should be proposed to his majesty's ministry to find out some method of compelling them to do it, and of assessing the several governments in proportion to their several abilities."