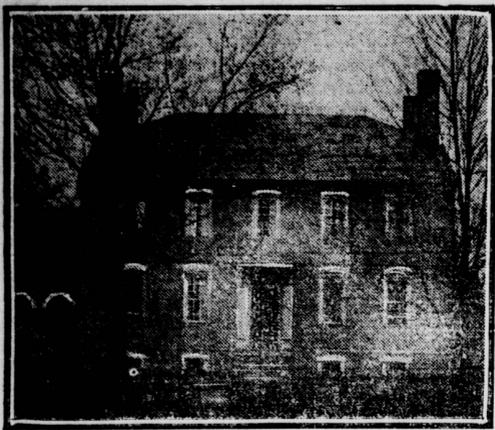


DOWN AROUND G. WASHINGTON'S OLD HOME



"KENMORE," HOME AT FREDERICKSBURG OF BETTIE WASHINGTON'S FAVORITE SISTER. HE BUILT IT FOR HER AND FURLONGED A SOLDIER TO DO THE INTERIOR DECORATIONS.

Special Correspondence to The Press
BY GILSON GARDNER

FREDERICKSBURG, Va., Feb. 22.—Is George Washington a myth, or did he really live? And, if so, how about the cherry tree and the hatchet?

In this part of the country there are all kinds of evidences that G. Washington actually happened. There are houses and relics and collateral descendants lying around on all sides. There is his mother's house, and the one George built for his favorite sister, and one on the spot where another house used to be in which George was a boy. And there is a monument to his mother and a rock on which she sat, and the hotel where George stopped,

one being an own cousin, a Miss Thornton; and all wives had children. In order to complicate the matter of lineage George adopted his favorite niece, Miss Custis, and had her marry his favorite secretary, Colonel Lewis. Then it was arranged that a swarm of descendants should descend from George's aunt (who was likewise his god-mother), Mildred Washington. Numerous descendants of the half-brothers have the family name of Washington, but are not so closely related to George as other descendants, as those of his own sister Bettie. She lived in Fredericksburg, near her mother, and it is from this Washington that H. Lewis Wallace, candidate for mayor, is descended.



H. LEWIS WALLACE
Nearest in line of Washington's Collateral Descendants

George had no direct descendants, but of collateral descendants he had an offspring like Abraham. He had some half-brothers. It was one of these who built Mt. Vernon and named it after the British admiral under whom he was serving. And these half-brothers married and were given in marriage until nearly everybody in Westmoreland county, Charles county and most of the other counties in Virginia is some kind of a nephew of the Father of his Country. Brother Sam Washington had five wives,

and even the chair in which mother was sitting when told about George's election as first president of the United States. And last, but not least, there is an actual descendant of Sister Bettie running for mayor of Fredericksburg. The people of Fredericksburg profess to see a striking resemblance between this member of the fifth generation and his historic granduncle as he was when dubbed by General Braddock "that beardless boy." George came to Fredericksburg to live when 11 years of age, and a considerable part of his young manhood was also spent in this vicinity; hence these parts are the setting for those stories, like the one pertaining to the cherry tree, and that other, that he threw a sovereign across the Rappahannock. A less accurate version of the latter story has George throwing a silver dollar across the Potomac—a fiction which former Secretary Everts tried to justify by the claim that a dollar went farther

lived. This place, built in 1749, is in the heart of Fredericksburg's residence section, and only a step from the house which for many years was occupied by Mary Washington, mother of the four Washington brothers and of Bettie. One of the interesting evidences that George Washington is not a myth is the record of his becoming



WHERE THIS LATER-BUILT HOUSE STANDS WAS WASHINGTON'S BOYHOOD HOME. HERE IS WHERE THE HATCHET-TREE INCIDENT IS SAID TO HAVE TAKEN PLACE.

a Mason. Fredericksburg lodge No. 4 has been in existence since 1752 and in the vaults are the original documents showing that George was initiated as a Mason on the 4th of November, 1752; he passed to fellow craft March 3, 1753, and was raised to a master Mason Aug. 4, 1753. The entrance on the journal reads as follows: "4th August, 1753, which day the lodge being present, transactions of the evening are: George Washington, raised Mason; Thos. James entered an apprentice." Another interesting bit of corroboration as to the existence of such a person as George Washington is the will made by his mother. This interesting document is still

part of the records to be seen at the Fredericksburg city hall. Few people see any of these historical treasures, however, as only men of strong physique are able to endure the bed and board of Fredericksburg's one hotel. The will, after the solemn introduction, refers as follows to the Father of his Country: "Imprimis: I give to my son, General George Washington, all land in Accokeek run, in the county of Stafford, and also my negro boy George, to him and his heirs forever. Also my best bed, bedstead and Virginia cloth curtains (the same that stands in my best bedroom), my quilted blue and white quilt and my best dressing glass."

RAILROADS VS. RIVERS

Special Correspondence to The Press.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 22.—Congress will be subjected to a series of lectures this session at the hands of the committee on rivers and harbors which is preparing to advocate the annual appropriation of \$50,000,000 for river and harbor improvement. Chairman Theodore E. Burton will be spokesman.

The committee will offer no river and harbor bill this session. It will content itself with exploiting its pet project. Incidentally it will urge the enactment of a law prohibiting railroad companies from owning or controlling steamboat lines on the inland rivers, and thus controlling the freight traffic while reaping at the same time the benefits of river improvement.

There are approximately 25,000 miles of navigable waterways in the United States. The 11 larger rivers have a navigable mileage of 5,000 miles, and in every bit of

this territory the railroads have been compelled to reduce freight rates. Where they are without waterway competition the railroads charge what they please and make no concessions.

The railroads' freight rate from St. Louis to Selmer, Falcon, Ramer and Guys, Tenn., is 90 cents a hundred pounds, the distance ranging from 296 to 308 miles. The rate from St. Louis to New Orleans, 708 miles, is 90 cents. There is waterway competition to New Orleans; the Tennessee towns are 150 miles from the Mississippi river.

The through railroad rate from New York to Salt Lake City is higher than the New York-San Francisco rate, despite the fact that the ocean steamer competition must go round the Horn. Annually, when the lake steamer lines suspend because of the ice, the Atlantic seaboard rate from Chicago takes a jump upward.

Scared to Death of Mince Pie

Special Correspondence to The Press
WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 22.—Theodore Sutro, lawyer, tunneler, reformer, author, anti-prohibition-



THEODORE SUTRO

ist and orator, has no use for mince pie. He said so the other day before the house committee on the judiciary when anti-saloon measures and movements were under discussion. "Dyspeptics," said Mr. Sutro, "made so by eating mince pie and drinking ice water, are responsible for fully as many murders as those who drink to excess."

He also declared that prohibition did not prohibit, and that drinking was not the only intemperance of the American people. He appeared as the president of the German-American Alliance of New York.

SONS TO CELEBRATE

Spokane Sons of the American Revolution will meet tonight at the Spokane hotel to celebrate the annual banquet in honor of Washington.

JAPS RAISE DUTY

TOKIO, Feb. 22.—The house of peers today passed a bill exempting from duty all articles sent from other countries to Japan for the exhibition in 1912.

BULL WOULDN'T BE ASSESSED

Jack Snyder, ex-councilman, deputy assessor, reports a miraculous escape from an angry bull on a farm on the Medical Lake road. Snyder and his assessing partner, Jack Atkins, were walking along and decided to survey the farm. They did not make a preliminary survey of the bull. They walked right into the ranch and then both turned simultaneously and hiked right out again, as the bull bellowed and followed by the rest of the herd, came on the run.

Atkins used to be at the psychological moment, and vaulted the 10 strand barbed wire fence. Snyder could not reach the fence in time, even if he were as able a vaulter as his companion, so he sought the top of a sapling and stayed there until the bull got disgusted with waiting and went to the other end of the field. Then Snyder slid down, tore his trousers and joined his partner again. Neither man is accused of having worn anything red.

SHOCK MAKES TEARS STREAM

On account of being shocked, Frank J. Fuller, of E1411 Sixteenth av., a Washington Water Power Co. conductor, wept for several hours following the accident. Fuller was examining the motor of car 66 on the Hilliard line on Front av. between Stevens and Washington sts. The force of the shock threw him to the floor of the vehicle. He was unable to move or speak, but only wept. He was taken to Coroner Wittler's office and finally was able to talk between gasps but continued to weep. Fuller said he did not know what caused him to weep. The physician explained that the shock to Fuller's nervous system caused hysteria. He is not dangerously injured.

The Press, 25 cents a month.



KICK ON OILROAD RECOVERS \$500 FROM CITY

Contractor H. L. Lillienthal's "oilroad" paving invention was "kicked" last night at a meeting of 35 property owners in the city commissioners' rooms. They met to remonstrate against paving Washington st. between Second and Eighth avs. They are against Lillienthal's "oilroad" and desire asphalt paving.

City Engineer Ralston reported that the cost per lineal foot for "oilroad" paving would be \$6.60, a moderate cost compared with other streets to be paved. A committee of C. J. Kemp, D. Mihills and M. J. Phelan was appointed to circulate a new petition asking for the improvement. Estimates were asked on the cost of brick paving.

LECTURES ON MINING

The next lecture in the educational course being delivered by Prof. Francis Thomson under the auspices of the Jenkins Institute of the Y. M. C. A. will be delivered Feb. 28 at 8 p. m. The subject is "Common mistakes and fallacies in mining work." Prof. Thomson is head of the department of mines at the state college and his lectures at the Y. M. C. A. have been instituted with a view to stimulating interest in mining and metallurgical study. No admission charge, the association issuing course tickets to those likely to be interested in the subjects treated.

JAP GETS COLLEGE DEGREE

The Washington State college at Pullman has conferred its first degree upon a Jap. The latter is Ibei Yamauchi, who has taken the master degree in civil engineering. He came to the state college from the imperial agricultural college of Japan. Having finished his education here, he will now go back to a paying position in his native country.

CHURCH SERVICES

First Baptist church, City temple, Second av. and Lincoln st.—"God's responsibility for the world's sin," and "What a man got for asking questions," will be Dr. Oliver VanOsdel's subjects at 10:30 a. m. and 7:30 p. m. Bible school at noon. Young people's meeting 8:30 p. m. Prayer meeting Wednesday evening.

Pacific av. Christian church, A. C. Downing, pastor—Subject morning service, "Pure Heart." Evening service, "The Real Life." Vincent M. E., corner Main and Lincoln—Dr. C. O. Kimball's theme at the morning hour, 10:30, will be "The Sixth Commandment, or the Law Against Murder." Some interesting questions will be discussed such as: Was the law of retaliation harsher than our criminal laws today? Who is guilty of murder under mob rule? And in war? And in duels? Is capital punishment murder? Who is responsible for murder committed by a drunk man? Is newspaper cartooning and other forms of persecution murder? Who killed Admiral Sampson? Are landlords and factory bosses murderers? Sunday school, 12:15. Epworth league 6:15. "Down in Water st." will be the subject of an address by W. J. Clark, scientific lecturer, at the church Sunday evening at 7:30. Mr. Clark was an intimate friend of Col. Haey, successor to Jerry McAuley in charge of the celebrated Five Points mission in New York, and he will give an interesting account of the great work there.

Swedish M. E., corner Third and Washington, Rev. John A. Willman, pastor—Sunday school 10 a. m., service at 11. Young people's meeting 7 p. m. The evening sermon will be preached at 7:45 by Presiding Elder U. F. Hawk.

For Afternoon

A handsome afternoon costume is in deep mauve cloth, with waistcoat of deep purple lines. Dull cop-



per buttons are set in a double line down the front; lines of purple velvet form cuffs, collar and mandarin edges.

UNVEIL BUST OF WASHINGTON

A beautiful bust of Washington in bronze was unveiled and presented to the public library last night by Spokane chapter Daughters of the Revolution. About 200 were present. Supt. J. A. Torney, of the library board, accepted the bust and spoke on "The Educational Value of Art." Mayor Moore spoke on "Patriotism."

The bronze bust is by Banchini, an Italian sculptor, and was made from the only life mask ever taken of Washington. The pedestal was designed by Mrs. L. R. Strittesky, of this city.

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