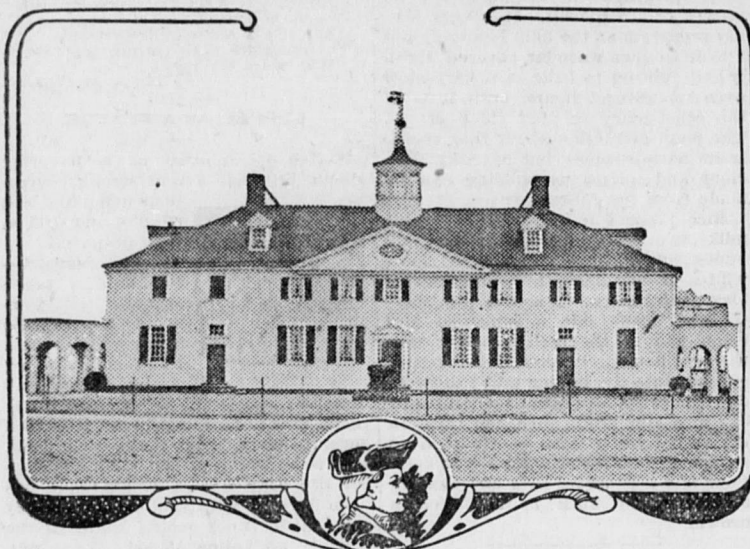


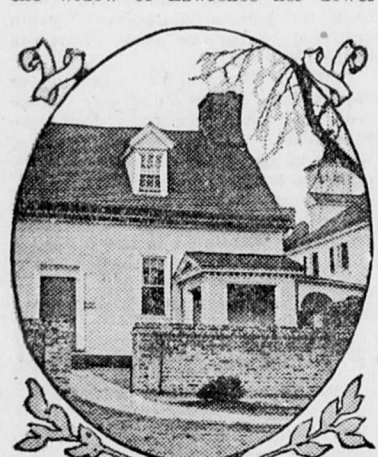
HISTORIC MOUNT VERNON

Mansion Which Is the Shrine of All Americans Was Built for Lawrence Washington, Half-Brother of George—Has Frequently Been Repainted and Additions Made—As It Is Today.



REAR VIEW OF HISTORIC MOUNT VERNON.

WHILE George Washington's half-brother, young Lawrence Washington, was absent from home, the father rebuilt a house at Mount Vernon for him, and this now forms the central part of the mansion. On his return, Lawrence brought to the home his young bride, the beautiful Miss Fairfax, daughter of his neighbor, Colonel Fairfax of Belvoir, an adjoining estate. Lawrence called the place Mount Vernon in honor of his English friend, Lord Vernon, under whom he had served in the navy.



Old Kitchen of Mount Vernon.

Shortly after the death of Lawrence Washington, his daughter Sarah died without heirs, and the Mount Vernon estate passed by will into the hands of General Washington. In order to acquire full title, he purchased from the widow of Lawrence her dower rights.

Henceforth he was sole owner of the estate; an estate which had been in the family since its acquisition by grant in 1670, and which remained in the family until sold in 1858 by John Augustine Washington to the Ladies' Mount Vernon association.

These facts, which shed some interesting light on the early history of Mount Vernon, were obtained by Mr. Callahan after constant study of the old official records of the courts and vestry books of the counties in this part of Virginia. They establish beyond all doubt the truth which is that the central part of the Mount Vernon mansion was built by General Washington's father, that General Washington lived there for two years when a baby, and that his father built what is now the most conspicuous landmark on the place—the old barn.

Visitors to Mount Vernon during the past few months have had opportunity to witness the interesting work of re-roofing Washington's old home, the historic mansion wherein he died. It is learned that this is the fourth time the roof has been shingled, the other dates being 1742, 1785 and 1860. In each instance the material selected and used was the best cypress shingles.

A short historical review of the construction and alteration of this old dwelling may be worth notice, as few among the many visitors happen upon information on the subject. The central portion of the present building was erected in 1742-3 for Maj. Lawrence Washington, who named it the Mount Vernon "Villa," out of respect for Admiral Edward Vernon of the British navy, under whom he had been serving in South America. This modest cottage, or villa, consisted of four rooms on the ground floor, with bedrooms and an unfinished attic above.

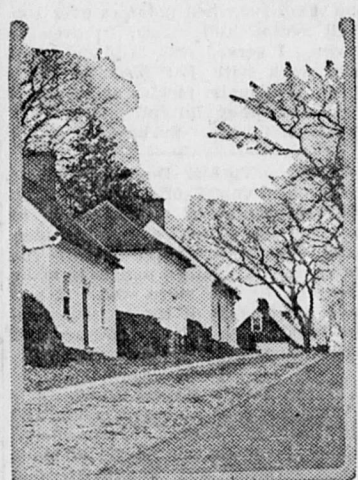
At the death of Lawrence Washington, 1752, the property fell to the ownership of his half-brother, George, who, in 1775, added to the attractiveness of the interior by paneling the hall and dining room decorated in stucco. After the revolution Washington's increased fame attracted to Mount Vernon such a horde of guests it was found a difficult problem to entertain them comfortably in the limited number of rooms at his disposal.

This he did in 1785, by adding a spacious banquet hall at one end and a library and bedroom at the other. The pitch of the room was changed, and dormer windows arranged to make the attic available for sleeping apartments, these improvements resulting in an 18-room house, which thereafter was dignified by the term "mansion." In changing the roof a large quantity of the original shingles (of 1743), though considerably weather worn on the exposed surfaces, were found good enough to use again by turning them over. This evidence of Washington's resourcefulness has recently come to light by the temporary uncovering of a portion of the east portico roof, which for the better shedding of rain, had been slightly changed in 1860, revealing a few courses of the shingles of 1743 and 1785. These mute reminders of the past are now again sealed from view and so protected as to remain intact as long as the mansion shall endure.

When the Mount Vernon Ladies' association came into possession of the homestead the mansion was empty. Unceasing effort has been and is being made to recover the original things, but they are widely scattered and held by people who are reluctant to give them up. From time to time, however, some of the old pieces are offered for sale, but as a general rule, the prices asked are almost prohibitive. The government purchased a number of Washington relics many years ago. Among the present collection at Mount Vernon are many pieces of furniture of contemporaneous interest which have been accepted temporarily to fill vacancies in the various rooms, but as rapidly as original Washington articles are secured the non-original are eliminated.

Until recently the owners have had nothing definite to guide them respecting what the rooms formerly contained, but there has now been found the inventory made by the appraisers of Washington's effects shortly after he died. This important document will be of inestimable assistance in accurately refurnishing the mansion.

Studying Mount Vernon from the viewpoint of a casual visitor, it is difficult to conceive of a more charming spot.



Outbuildings on Estate.

The perpetuation is attributable to the management and devotion of the Ladies' association. The founder of this remarkable body was Miss Ann Pamela Cunningham.

Why Washington Was Not a Signer.

At the time the Declaration of Independence was given to the world, Washington was at the head of the patriot army in New York state, trying hard to keep Lord Howe and his British soldiers from capturing the state; and that is why his name does not appear among the signers of the immortal document. It is pretty certain that had he been conveniently near he would have been asked to put his name at the head of the list.

Duty Intrusted to Americans.

The preservation of the sacred fire of liberty, and the destiny of the republican model of government are justly considered as deeply, perhaps finally, staked on the experiment intrusted to the hands of the American people. —George Washington: Inaugural Address.

SORCERERS TAKE TOLL

Collect \$750,000 a Year From Koreans for Services.

Interesting Report Made to Uncle Sam's Museum Regarding People's Warfare Against Evil Demons.

A fascinating report has been made to Uncle Sam's National Museum at Washington by Dr. I. M. Casanowicz on the sorcery of Korea. He describes the superstitions of the people regarding evil demons, which they believe constantly beset them. The Koreans believe the air, their dwellings, the forests—in short, every thing and every place—is the abiding place of spirits. These spirits are all evil and have for their sole purpose the annoyance of the people of the earth. All bad luck, all illness, all privation and hardship is due to the malevolence of the demons.

They have two classes of persons to exercise these spirits. One is composed of men called Pansus, the other of women called Mutangs.

The Pansus are necessarily blind men. The Koreans share with other peoples the belief that persons deprived of sight are given familiar spirits which enable them to see with an inward eye more than the normal person can envision. The Mutangs are outcasts. These women belong to the lowest stratum of Korean society, and although despised socially to the extent that they are not even permitted to enter cities, they are feared and respected because of their powers.

These women go into their business because they declare they feel a call. They usually pair with the Pansus men, sorcerers and sorceresses going about together. Their chief business consists in healing the sick. The report says that the people of Korea pay these exorcists annually approximately \$750,000 for their services.

The blind Pansus are believed to have attained a mastery over the evil spirits and therefore can control them. The Mutangs have influence with them because they are reputed to be on friendly terms with the spirits and can cajole and wheedle them. Between the Pansus and the Mutangs the people feel confident of salvation from bodily evils.

The National Museum has come into possession, through the agency of W. W. Rockhill, formerly minister to China, of some of the costumes and paraphernalia worn by Mutangs at their incantations. They are extremely rich. These women go to the houses of sick persons and there sing and dance for hours on end until the evil spirits depart from the afflicted one. Their attendants beat constantly upon drums shaped like hour glasses.

STOCK OF POTATOES SHORT

Uncle Sam Finds That Supply on Hand for Market Is Far Below That of Previous Years.

Supplies of potatoes on hand January 1, 1917, for market in 19 important northern potato-growing states, were estimated by Uncle Sam's bureau of crop estimates to be about 44 per cent smaller than a year ago, 65 per cent smaller than two years ago, and 54 per cent smaller than the average holdings on January 1 of the preceding five years.

If, for the purpose of comparison, the estimates in percentages of marketable stocks of potatoes on hand January 1 be applied to the estimates of total production, it shows, in the 19 states included (which produced 61 per cent of the total 1916 crop, and 66 per cent of the 1915 crop), a total of 59,988,000 bushels on January 1, 1917, compared with 106,225,000 a year ago, 160,554,000 two years ago, and 129,941,000 bushels the average holdings of the preceding five years on January 1.

Awful Thought.

Favorite foods that mother used to make were the topic of conversation at the boarding house table. After numerous interchanges came a lull. Then a callow youth whom bashfulness usually kept silent broke it with this bombshell:

"D-d-d-did any of you ever eat sauerkraut with whipped cream on it?"

Uncle Sam's Soldiers of Sea Are Expert Riflemen

Declarations that since the days of frontier life have passed Americans are no longer entitled to their former fame as riflemen are completely refuted by statistics, say officers of Uncle Sam's marines. These officers recently compiled data showing that splendid shooting qualities are still characteristic of American troops.

More than 73 per cent of the 6,141 members of the United States Marine corps who fired during 1916, on the 14 marine corps rifle ranges, are qualified skilled riflemen, according to the table just compiled. Of these sea-soldiers, 921, or 15 per cent, are expert riflemen; 1,044, or 17 per cent, are sharpshooters, and 2,518, or 41 per cent, are marksmen.

It is doubtful if Leatherstocking himself could outshoot them, say the marines.

UNWELCOME PLANT ARRIVALS BARRED

Uncle Sam Spends Thousands of Dollars to Keep Out One Little Moth Egg.

QUARANTINE IS MAINTAINED

Bars Are Put Up Against Infested Cotton From Egypt, Diseased Potatoes, Trees, Shrubs and Other Plants.

Although it may seem ridiculous to spend thousands of dollars annually to prevent one little moth egg that could pass through the eye of a cambric needle from entering the country, Uncle Sam is employing the machinery of the department of agriculture, state, treasury and post office to keep out that little pest, the pink cotton boll-worm.

The same agencies are united to exclude by quarantine diseased potatoes, trees, shrubs and plants, and in so doing are accomplishing far more than one would think toward holding down the cost of living.

The "general staff" which conducts the defense against plant disease is known as the federal horticultural board and is composed of five high officials of appropriate bureaus of the department of agriculture.

All along the fertile valley of the Nile, where the luxuriant Egyptian cotton grows, planters are more worried over the ruinous work of the pink boll-worm in their cotton fields than they are over the greater devastation of the European war.

The pink boll-worm was taken to Egypt from India, where its wretched family billions are still leaving their baleful impress.

While the annual yield of American Sea Island cotton, the best in the world, is by no means enough to make all the spool cotton, automobile tires and other textiles requiring a grade better than that of ordinary upland cotton, it is somewhat surprising to learn that 300,000 bales of Egyptian cotton contaminated by the pink boll-worm are imported with impunity to the United States.

Every Bale Disinfected.

This was made possible by a system of fumigation originated by the board and worked out on a commercial scale by its experts, by which every bale is disinfected before distribution.

The cotton—a couple of hundred bales at a time—is placed in a great horizontal cylinder of heavy structural steel, hermetically sealed and then the air is pumped out until there is almost a vacuum within. Hydrocyanic acid gas is then admitted, and although the bales are compressed before shipment until they are almost as hard as blocks of wood, it penetrates the cotton so that all animal life, including boll-worms in every stage, becomes extinct in less than an hour and the cotton can be sent without possibility of spreading infection to any mill for manufacture.

There are only four of these fumigating tanks in the country, one at each of the four ports of entry for cotton—New York, Newark, N. J.; Boston and San Francisco.

Although privately operated, these tanks are under the closest of government inspection. The bales must be left in the receiving chambers a certain time; the poisonous gas must be of a positive strength; the appliances and chemicals tested and every precaution must be taken to evacuate the gas without risk of life to the men operating the plant.

One shipment of the infested cotton seed—and it is believed to be the only one—is known to have entered this country, and that was before the quarantine was established. This lot was taken to Arizona, where a state quarantine was detected and the whole lot burned. It is believed that the pink pest has not succeeded in running the blockade.

Guard Potato Crop.

One of the most pressing matters now under the board's attention is the oversight of potatoes coming into the country to make up the 60,000,000-bushel shortage in the American crop. Naturally, our Canadian neighbor wishes to share in the high prices, and his crop is wanted here; but the board says: "No diseased stock may be entered."

Accordingly, this working plan has been agreed upon between the two countries; Canada may send potatoes free from injurious disease and insect pests to ports of entry designated by this country. On arrival the tubers are examined by federal inspectors, and if found to be infected are returned to the consignors at their expense. Potatoes are coming into the country in such quantities that, although in the main they are all right, carloads are sent back almost every day.

Another thing which the board is fighting is the importation of any nursery stock which carries the white pine blister rust, a tree disease destructive of both ornamental and forest pines.

Cotton seed, except from some parts of Mexico; the seed of alligator pears from Mexico and Central America, living canes of sugar, all citrus nursery stock, all Indian corn or maize from oriental countries and some less important plant products may not be imported at all, because each is likely to carry some disease which thus far has not broken out in our native plants.

FAIRFAX COURT HOUSE

In This Ancient Building the Wills of George and Martha Washington, Restored to Almost Their Original Perfection, Are Carefully Preserved—Both Have Passed Through Many Vicissitudes.



GEORGE WASHINGTON'S will was signed at Mount Vernon July 9, 1799, five months before his death. From beginning to end it gives evidence of the firm hand and clear mind of its maker. It contains many legal phrases, but it was not written under the instruction of a lawyer, and there is reason to believe that nobody was consulted in its construction.

Modern skill has rescued the document from dilapidation and impending destruction and has assured to all Americans the opportunity to read it exactly as it was written. It was filed for probate in the year 1800 in the court house of Fairfax county, Virginia, in which Mount Vernon is situated. In the intervening 116 years it has undergone vicissitudes, including much miscellaneous manhandling and one removal and concealment.

Through all of a century he who ran so far as Fairfax court house might read at his leisure and with his own hands manipulate the original document and at his pleasure thumb and fumble it, with only a court attendant near to see that the will was not carried away, wholesale or piecemeal. One of the pages of the will bears mute testimony to the success of some unknown enthusiastic relic hunter who tore off and carried away one corner.

At the beginning of the Civil war the will was taken to Richmond, and there securely hidden. It was returned to Fairfax court house when peace had been restored. The same case was not taken of the will of Martha Washington, on file in the same court house, and it was carried off by a Union soldier and was for a time in the possession of the late J. Pierpont Morgan. After a suit had been begun to secure its restoration to Virginia and Fairfax county, it was returned to the court house.

The decades that have passed since the filing of General Washington's will, the journey to and from Richmond, the careless if affectionate handling to which the precious manuscript was subjected did not tend to its preservation. Finally it became a thing of rags and tatters. Its custodians, with the best intentions, added to its peril of early and complete obliteration by persistently folding it lengthwise, following the original fold of the clerk of 1800.

In charge of the repair section of the manuscript division is William Berwick, said to be the greatest living expert in the restoration of old manuscripts. To him was given the task of restoring the immortal document. Impressed with a desire to preserve the tremendously important and interesting relic, Mr. Berwick has accomplished something very like a miracle. Although the work was begun by Mr. Berwick in 1910 it was but recently completed. The restorer, working odd days and intervals sometimes widely apart, needed much time to bring the manuscript to its present form.

As soon as he finished with the will of General Washington he began the restoration of the will of Martha Washington, returned by Mr. Morgan to Fairfax county. The elder Mr. Morgan having had the Martha Washington will in his possession, and having bound and preserved it carefully, it was in much better condition than that of the first president and gave Mr. Berwick far less trouble. Further, it contains but eight pages.

Notwithstanding Mr. Morgan's care of Martha Washington's will, the Virginians apparently are yet somewhat resentful that the document was kept from them so long. The text of the inscription over Martha Washington's will in Fairfax court house is as follows:

"The original last will and testament of Mrs. Martha Washington. It is dated March 4, 1802, and was admitted to probate by the county court of Fairfax June 21, 1802, and was restored to its present form in the year

1916 by William Berwick, under the supervision of James M. Love, F. W. Richardson and R. Walton Moore, a committee appointed by the circuit court, the judge of which was J. B. T. Thornton. The will was stolen from Fairfax court house during the Civil war and returned to the office 1915 after litigation in the Supreme court of the United States."

Both wills now are in steel cases, sunk in concrete, thoroughly protected against fire and thieves, as they are hermetically sealed. They are placed in the west wall of the court house at Fairfax. The cases have glass fronts, two pages of each will being exposed to view through the glass fronts. Velvet curtains are drawn over these fronts when the documents are not on exhibition, shutting out the destructive rays of the light.

Thanks to the foresight of the officials of the library of congress and the intricate and expert work of Mr. Berwick the documents as they were written are accessible to everyone. There is no charge or fee to view them. The court house in which they are kept was built in the same year that General Washington's will was probated and filed, 1800. The building and the most precious of its contents are of the same age, 116 years.

General Washington's will as restored is perfect as it came from his hand and has the few imperfections he left in it, including some occasional



Interior of Court House, Which Appears Now as It Did More Than a Century Ago.

lapses in orthography and the omission of his name at the bottom of page 23, notwithstanding the fact that he began: "In the name of God, Amen! I, George Washington of Mount Vernon, a citizen of the United States and lately president of the same, do make, ordain and declare this instrument which is written with my own hand and every page thereof subscribed with my name to be my last Will & Testament, revoking all others."

This omission may have been due to the fact that the last three words on that particular page are "City of Washington." It is easy to surmise that having just written "Washington," and engrossed in thought, the Father of his Country naturally mistook the name of the city for his own and thought that he had signed as in the preamble he undertook to do.

President Rode in State.

When Washington, as president, lived in Philadelphia, his stables contained ten coach and saddle horses in addition to the white chargers used when he went upon state occasions. He had a coachman and two grooms, who wore livery of white cloth trimmed with scarlet or orange.