

Washington's Travels



Wakefield; a Restoration of the Birthplace of George Washington.

(Prepared by National Geographic Society, Washington, D. C.)—WNU Service.

GEORGE WASHINGTON, soldier statesman, has eclipsed George Washington, the traveler—yet as a traveler, and as a geographer who gained his information at first hand, the Father of His Country earned the right to another "first."

Many places Washington visited have been unaware of the fact; other places where he is reputed to have "stopped" or "spent the night" are far from the verified records of his travels. This information developed when the map makers of the National Geographic Society started on the extensive research task—research consuming more than a year—to record all of Washington's journeys on a single map.

Thorough checks was made of the diaries of Washington, of the contemporary accounts of his travels, and in many cases personal visits had to be made to places, and dusty courthouse files scanned, because of places that have changed names, or have their names duplicated.

The compilation of this information shows that George Washington traveled over a larger area than any other official of his time. His travels extended from the heart of Georgia to Kittery, Maine. Westward, he went to the vicinity of Lake Erie, in Pennsylvania; to the neighborhood of Point Pleasant, in West Virginia, and to Gallipolis, Ohio.

Of three sea voyages Washington made, one was to foreign soil, Barbados. But the most amazing aspect of his travels, perhaps, are his journeys on horseback—journeys ranging from Virginia to Fort Le Boeuf, and from Mount Vernon to Boston. However, so far as records show, he did not visit the birthplace of his mother, Epping Forest.

Long Horseback Trips. Washington's horseback trips were often arduous. He was known to average 35 miles a day for periods of more than a week. Once he rode 500 miles in 16 days. That trip was from Cumberland, Md., to Williamsburg, Va., and two days of the 16 were "time out" waiting for an armed escort. He carried the pay for Braddock's army in his saddlebags.

Horses often broke under the strain, when public duty called Washington to move with dispatch. For instance, when riding to join General Braddock, upon reaching the vicinity of what is now Charles Town, W. Va., he reported that he killed one horse outright and had rendered the three others he had brought along unfit for service.

When there was no urgency of public business his horses fared better. After his trip to his western lands in 1784, during which he had twice crossed the Appalachians and had been so far from civilization that he could get no corn for his horse (and nothing or only boiled corn for himself), he sets down with satisfaction that he had traveled 680 miles between the first day of September and the fourth day of October, on the same horses.

Washington's geographic instincts began to develop on this early trip. The trough of the south branch of the Potomac, where many years later President Grover Cleveland fished for bass, he described as "(a) couple of ledges of Mountain Impassable running side and side together for above seven or eight miles and ye River down between them." He adds: "You must Ride Round ye back of ye Mountain for to get below them."

With boyish zest Washington ate his evening meal on Friday, April 8.

"We camped this Night in ye Woods near a Wild Meadow where was a Stack of Hay after we had Pitched our Tent and made a very Large Fire we pull'd out our Knapsack in order to Recruit ourselves every (one) was his own Cook our Spits was Forked Sticks our Plates was a Large Chip as for Dishes we had none."

Good Pay, Small Expense.

A letter written to a friend while on one of the several other surveying trips he made to the waters of the Shenandoah, the Cacapon, and the South Branch in 1749, 1750, 1751, and 1752 indicates it was the good pay that reconciled young Washington to the hardships of a surveyor's life. Therein he says that he had not slept above three or four nights in a bed, but after walking all day he lay down "before the fire upon a Little Hay Straw Fodder or bairakin which even is to be had with Man Wife and Children like a parcel of Dogs or Cats & happy he that gets the Berth nearest the fire there's nothing would make

It pass of tolerably but a good Reward a Dubbleloon (\$7.16%) is my constant gain every Day that the Weather Will permit my going out and some time Six Pistoles (\$21.50)."

Traveling expenses were low in those days. Virginia had a law that rates for accommodations in each county should be fixed by the court thereof, and that any keeper of an ordinary not observing these rates should be heavily fined, half the fine going to the informer. The Augusta county court order book shows that a hot dinner cost 9 pence; a cold meal, 6 pence; lodging, with clean sheets, 3½ pence; twenty-four-hour stabling and fodder for a horse, 6 pence; and corn or oats, per gallon, 6 pence. When it is remembered that the Virginia shilling was worth 16½ cents of our money, we see that a hot dinner cost 12½ cents and other service in proportion.

From Staunton, Washington rode to Fredericksburg by way of Charlottesville, making the 114-mile journey in three days and still being fit enough to play billiards the evening he arrived.

On Wednesday, February 4, 1756, Washington set out for Boston to lay a case of military precedence before Gen. William Shirley, commander in chief of the British forces in America. He reached Philadelphia the following Sunday, and took five or six days to look around the city.

He apparently made the 90 intervening miles to New York in two days. And what must the New York of that day have meant to the young Virginian, who had spent the last three years mostly in the primeval forests or fighting French and Indians on the savage frontiers!

A Visit to New York.

There was the "Microcosm" to visit described at the time as a world in miniature, which took 22 years to build. Washington's enthusiasm for it is written in his accounts, for on two separate occasions he enters items "for treatz. Ladies to ye Microcosm." There was also a route to Mrs. Baron's, and tips to the servants in the household of Beverley Robinson, son of the speaker of the Virginia house of burgesses. The young officer was always punctilious in tipping the servants in households where he was entertained, and equally so in entering these items in his account books—two traits that have aided a great deal in tracing his travels.

Two days before he was twenty-four years old he set out on the last leg of his journey to Boston, and the "Pennsylvania Gazette" carried the news that "Colonel Washington, of Virginia, but last from Philadelphia, left this city (New York) for Boston."

On his way to Boston he stopped with a Mr. Malbone, in Rhode Island. He entered a tip for the latter's servants of £4 and another item of £5 for a broken bowl.

In Boston he stopped at Cromwell's Head tavern. He saw General Shirley, who decided the question of command at Fort Cumberland in his favor; visited a man of war in the harbor, lost some money at cards at the governor's house, and then set off for Virginia. But at the governor's he had met such people as John Adams, and made a deep impression by his recital of conditions in western Virginia, Maryland and Pennsylvania. Unconsciously he again was playing into the hands of destiny, for John Adams was one of those who 19 years later joined with Thomas Johnson of Maryland in making him commander in chief of the American forces.

Survey of the Frontier.

Another interesting phase of Washington's travels began when he determined to make a personal survey of the frontier with a view to establishing a chain of forts at the important passes, in the hope of damming the Indian tribe behind the Allegheny divide.

During the French and Indian war days, villages and towns near the frontier had not yet begun to take shape, except in the case of county seats. Places were known as "John Smith's Plantation," "William Scott's Mill," "Tasker Toshi's Fort," "Big Lick," etc. The changing ownerships of five generations, together with the substitution of bridges for fords, have obliterated these names from map and memory alike.

It was necessary, therefore, to go patiently through scores of massive land-grant books, dozens of old deeds books, and all the survey records that have survived, in order to find out where the early settlers lived.

MELANCHOLY STATE SOLVED BY DOCTOR

Due to Lack of Bromine in Blood, He Declares.

Berlin, Germany.—Melancholy, that mental state which so far has baffled psychiatrists, is due simply to lack of bromine in the blood, according to an astounding statement which the noted specialist for internal diseases, Prof. Hermann Zondek, recently made before the medical society here.

Professor Zondek, who was Stresemann's physician, lately has studied the chemical composition of the blood of mentally diseased patients. In every case, he found that whenever the bromine percentage in the blood fell below average, symptoms of melancholy were detected.

On the strength of this discovery, Professor Zondek undertook to cure patients afflicted with melancholy by injecting small quantities of bromine into their blood. This cure, he announced, proved very efficient.

Melancholy, a frequent mental affliction, is also termed "circular insanity" because the patient's symptoms form a cycle, in which periods of apathy and despair alternate with a normal and even abnormally joyous mood.

Melancholia is known as a more benign form of mental disease than dementia and paranoia, which constitute other important groups of mental ailments.

While these latter forms of insanity are usually incurable and require continual treatment in institutions, melancholia usually improved under treatment so much that even return to mental normalcy is often attainable, although the possibility of a relapse remains even in successful cases.

The discovery of Zondek has led psychiatrists to hope that from now on a more effective and radical treatment than that hitherto applied will be available.

Airway Lighting Has Become Exact Science

Chicago.—Illumination engineers have conquered numerous unique problems in the lighting of airways over which the mail-passenger planes now fly 40,000 miles nightly.

At present there are four classes of lighting equipment for aviation: Lighting at terminals, lighting at emergency fields, lighting between emergency fields—commonly referred to as beacon lighting, and course markers—usually called "blinkers."

The average cost of all these forms of light is \$315 a mile. There are about 18,000 miles of airways lighted in the United States. Airway improvement, development and lighting is an activity of the Department of Commerce.

The little blinkers, which in some places mark the course at three-mile intervals, cost \$750 each, while the 24-inch revolving beacons between emergency landing fields represent an outlay of \$2,000 each.

The expense of lighting the emergency fields themselves averages about \$5,000 each.

Soviet Plans Olympiad Five-Year Plan Fete

Moscow.—The Olympic games in California will be rivaled by a Red "Spartakiad" in Moscow early in August to which labor sports organizations all over the world are being invited.

Ten thousand foreign sportsmen are being expected by the National Council of Physical Culture. The Soviet participants will reach 50,000.

A special stadium, with a seating capacity of 120,000, must be built before August to accommodate the Spartakiad.

This international sports festival is being summoned to celebrate the achievement of the five year plan in four years. There will be a great deal of demonstrating and mass pageantry to drive home the magnitude of Soviet industrial and cultural progress and the alleged collapse of capitalist economy through the world.

Negro Letter Carrier Hopes to Fly Atlantic

Philadelphia.—The Ace of Ethiopia has a rival. Lincoln Payne, Philadelphia negro letter carrier, has announced that he hopes to fly the Atlantic. Payne, who served in the Three Hundred and Sixty-eighth Infantry in France, learned to fly at a local field. He owns a small plane, which he said he is sure will carry him across the Atlantic. He holds a private pilot's license.

Dog Has 13 Puppies

Kelso, Wash.—N. E. Taylor thinks his shepherd dog's litter of 13 puppies is a record.

Electric "Eyes" to Guard Lift Riders

Pittsburgh, Pa.—Electric "eyes" will guard users of elevators in Rockefeller Center, New York. Light beams are to be projected across elevator entrances in such a way any person intercepting them will cast a shadow on a photo-electric cell.

The cell controls operation of the doors and the falling shadow will keep them open or shoot them back if they have started to close when a passenger is stepping in or out of the car.

Banish Insomnia With Brisk Two-Mile Sprint?

If it were possible to put it in operation, a two-mile run before going to bed would cure any case of insomnia, asserts a writer in the St. Louis Globe-Democrat. "That, we suspect, is all there is to sleeplessness—lack of outdoor exercise. Have you ever heard of an insomniac farmer? We don't believe the remedy for insomnia that we suggest will ever be adopted. The exact period of the day when one suffers from that demonic affliction is too often in the wee small hours: and to arise and—though fully clad—to sprint lightly through the darkened streets would surely put the police on one's track; perhaps with sirens. What a curious pageant that would be.

Insomnia likes to enter your bonjour in the stillly watches of the night like the cowered figure of Death, and as unwelcome, too. He takes his seat upon one's chest and there remains for hours, sometimes till daylight; and when he is gone, you are so aggravated, you don't want to sleep. All the intruder has left you as a reminder is an all-day grouch—or at least until noon when like morning clouds it may disperse.

Two-mile runs, day or night, in the city are next to impossible. What would people say!

Frequent Use of Words Spoken Centuries Ago

Among the oldest words in the world are the names of the numbers. When you count from one to ten you are using, with little change in their form, words that were used by ancestors who were the animal's skins as clothing and lived in the roughest of shelters. Just as the child does today, they counted on their fingers, and it seems probable that they gave each finger its own special name. Our present numbers may well be the names of these fingers.

Even when we invent new words, we often bring old ones into use without knowing it. It is only about thirty years since moving pictures came in, but as part of the name, "cinematograph," we are using one of the world's oldest words. This is equally true of words such as television, automobile, broadcasting, and quite possibly of certain slang words such as "swank."—London Tit-Bits.

Tonga Swimming Postmen

Niu-a-fu, an island of the Tonga group, is perhaps the only place in the world where mail is delivered by swimming postmen. In fair weather or foul the native postmen swim out for two miles through the shark-infested sea to deliver and collect their mail. The foremost swimmer carries a short stick, in a cleft of which rests the tiny bundle of outgoing letters. One of the steamer's crew lowers a bucket over the side, and in this the postman drops the letters. A large biscuit tin containing the ingoing mail, sealed and roped, is then dropped overboard. Dearly punting this unique mailbag in front of them the swimming postmen start back for the shore as fast as wind and tide will allow.

Defining Energy

Energy is the capacity for performing work. It may be either potential, as in the case of a body of water stored in a reservoir capable of doing work by means of a water wheel, or actual, sometimes called kinetic, which is the energy of a moving body. Potential energy may also exist as stored heat, as stored mechanical energy, as in fuel, or as electrical energy, the measure of work that they are capable of performing. Actual energy of a moving body is the work which it is capable of performing against a retarding resistance before being brought to rest and is equal to the work which must be done upon it to bring it from a state of rest to its actual velocity.

Schubert's Inspiration

Schubert's "Who Is Silvia" is one of his best known compositions of its kind. At the writing of the piece, Schubert was unquestionably in love with the name, Silvia, or his conception of her. The song was inspired by Shakespeare's "Two Gentlemen of Verona." It is said that the song inspired Arthur Sullivan to write "Orpheus and His Lute." "Who Is Silvia" was published shortly after Schubert's death, together with three songs of 1827 (later called Opus 106), which were dedicated to Marie Pachler, Schubert's kind hostess in Graz.

Boastful Phrases

The phrase, "White Man's Country" and also "God's country," are often applied to a nation or country by its sons and daughters. Not many years ago a bulletin on Australia called attention to the fact that among the white inhabitants poverty is practically unknown, the aged, infirm, and children are adequately provided for, the labor situation is satisfactory, and the territory itself offers unlimited possibility for development, exploitation, and exercise of man's ingenuity. All these things seem to make it a favored spot.

Wisdom

That which we call wisdom is no heritage from our forbears, nor can it be learned in a classroom. It is to be found in the living of life. Maturity of judgment comes when thought has been deepened by knowledge and life tempered by experience.—Grit.

PENNA. TRAPPERS FURS SOLD FOR \$800,000

Even though extremely low prices curtailed trapping activities during the past season, trappers in Pennsylvania received approximately \$800,000 the Game Commission has announced.

This amount covered the sale of 497,259 muskrats, 319,329 skunks, 117,157 opossums, 52,208 weasles,

31,092 raccoons, 13,894 minks, 5296 red foxes, 7575 gray foxes, 284 wild cats. Of the total sum, Pennsylvania fur dealers alone paid over \$390,000. The remainder was paid by dealers from out of the State.

The average price paid for muskrats amounted to 61 cents; weasles 37 cents; raccoon, \$2.34; mink, \$4.30; red foxes, \$6.30; gray foxes, \$2.59; wildcats, \$2.10.

A Cheerful Note

The Agricultural Department's estimate of the wheat crop indicates a shortage, with higher prices in view.

The hope of better prices is cheerful news to Centre County farmers, as the outlook for a good local yield is promising.

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