



Washington at Valley Forge.
—From the Painting by Chappell.

Glory of
George Washington's
Wedding Day

JANUARY 6, 1759 (new style) dawned clear, crisp and glistening over New Kent County. As the rosy light of the coming day flooded the earth nature awoke with one movement. There was a fluttering of wings and the sweet songs of the redbirds and the orioles rose on the air as the pretty feathered creatures flitted from boxwood hedge to magnolia or the tall, swaying poplars, then darted off into the woods to join in the grand matin song which was rising from the thousands of little throats to the accompaniment of rustling leaves and the soft tread of other children of nature.

As the sun rose higher it touched the weather vane on the steeple of old St. Peter's, in Williamsburg, shedding scintillating rays athwart the little edifice; it flooded the great plantations along the Pamunkey River and shed an extra glint of brightness on those of Colonel John Dandridge and "The White House," the magnificent home of the widow Custis, a few miles distant.

And why this unusual flutter and bustle and donning of fine raiment? The greatest social function Virginia had ever witnessed and one which was destined to go down in the annals of history was to take place that day. Colonel George Washington, of the adjoining county, the highly esteemed young officer, who had just returned from a successful military campaign, and had taken his seat as a member of the House of Burgesses, was to come over from his home in Mount Vernon to wed the beautiful and wealthy widow daughter of Colonel John Dandridge, Martha Dandridge Custis.

As the day advanced there was a perceptible movement toward St. Peter's Church, in Williamsburg, the little edifice built in 1703 at a cost of 146,000 pounds of tobacco. The bell in the belfry was ringing as the gentry, the quality and the nobility of the capital and surrounding country drew near. Chaises resplendent in bright-lined trappings and drawn by fours, with postilion riders, coming from all directions deposited wedding guests at the church door.

Tall, straight, with dark brown hair and gray eyes, young Washington,



WASHINGTON AS A BRIDEGROOM.

who was then in the twenty-seventh year of his age, made a handsome and imposing bridegroom. He was clothed in a suit of blue cloth, the coat lined with red silk and ornamented with silver trimmings. His waistcoat was of white satin, embroidered, and gold buckles were on his shoes and at his knees, and his hair was powdered. A straight dress sword hung by his side. He was every inch the soldier in civilian dress as he approached the altar with military bearing.

The Rev. Mr. Mossum, in full canonicals, stepped to the chancel rail. On a sweet June day, ten years previously, this reverend gentleman had stood at the same chancel rail, awaiting the same lady whom everybody present was now awaiting. Then, at the age of seventeen, she became the bride of Daniel Parke Custis, who had lived but seven years thereafter.

As the marriage ceremony proceeded the earnest gray eyes of Washington never left her face. The spell that had come over this young Mars when, on a hurried dispatch trip, he had stopped to dine at Major Chamberlayne's and had been smitten by the charms of this lady, who was one of the guests, had not departed.

Had Colonel Washington been capable of comprehending a description of his bride's costume as afterward told by a woman who was present he would have learned that her gown was of heavy corded silk, with threads of silver interwoven through it; that the overkirt was looped back with fine

white-satin ribbons brocaded in leaf pattern, disclosing a white satin quilted petticoat; that her shoes were of white satin, dainty, high-heeled affairs and with diamond buckles; that rich point lace finished the neck of her gown and hung from her sleeves, and that loops of pearls decked her powdered hair. Indeed, she was altogether a lovely sight, and the three bridesmaids who accompanied her were most happy to be attendant upon such a lovely creature.

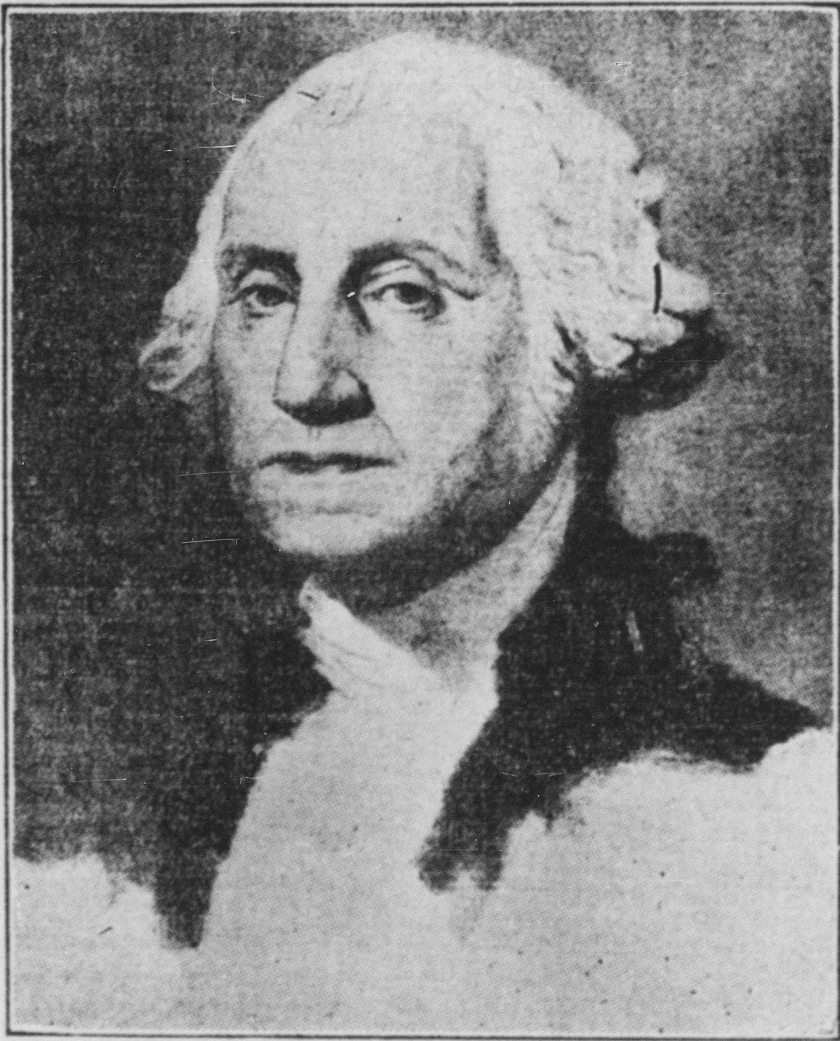
With the ending of the prayer of the Rev. Mr. Mossum, the long and happy married life of George and Martha Washington commenced. The bridal procession that left St.

home of the bride, "The White House," on the Pamunkey.

And such a feast and frolic at "The White House!" As the wedding party turned into the boxwood-lined lane the Custis and Dandridge slaves were present to salute the bride and the new master, and long before the bride's coach had reached the door two beautiful children, John Parke and Martha Parke Custis, had run out to welcome their foster father, a foster father who proved himself to be to these little ones all that a real father could be in tender care and guardianship.

The mansion within was decked with flowers and garlands of greenery; there were music and feasting and Colonel John Dandridge, enthusiastically happy over his new son-in-law, dipped often into the great punch bowl and drank to the health of the bride and bridegroom. There were wedding presents, the most munificent one, perhaps, not being visible, the \$100,000 which by law of marriage passed to Washington from his wife's estate, and which, with his own wealth and landed possessions, made him one of the wealthiest men in Virginia.

George Washington's Age. That historians have all erred in their reckoning of George Washington's age seems to have been pretty conclusively proved by W. K. Preston, an antiquary of Hartsville, Pa. "Reckoning time," said Mr. Preston recently, "as we now reckon it, Washington was born on February 22, 1732, and he was not quite sixty-seven years old when he died, instead of sixty-eight, as commonly accepted. For he was born on February 11, 1732, as the date was given at that time, says the Philadelphia Record. Where English rule ex-



GEORGE WASHINGTON.

Peter's on that day has never since been equalled in Virginia.

Then came an incident which was not calculated to cut any figure in the great wedding ceremony, but which, nevertheless, was of much consequence to a humble personage present. The proudest and happiest moment in the life of Bishop, his body servant, had come. During the ceremony Bishop, in a brand new suit of scarlet, had stood on the steps holding Colonel Washington's horse, the magnificent animal which General Braddock had bequeathed to Washington upon his death. The horse was now richly caparisoned.

Both Bishop and his charge well deserved their gay trappings, for they had each been instrumental in the wooing of the Colonel to Major Chamberlayne's house, and Bishop in making his young master as attractive in appearance as only a well-trained body servant knows how. As Bishop led the Colonel's horse forward, he was the proudest slave in all Virginia.

Washington then took his place be-



MARTHA WASHINGTON AS A BRIDE.

side the coach, and a cortege of officers and gentry, who had already mounted, drew around. Other guests entered coaches. With the crackling of whips and the prodding of servants' heels into horses' flanks, the gay cavalcade started on its way toward the

tended then the year began with March 25, so Washington was born a short time before the end of the year 1732. By act of Parliament, in 1751, the Gregorian calendar was adopted and the beginning of the year was changed from March 25 to January 1. This change went into effect in 1752. September 2 was followed by September 14, and 1752, having begun with March 25 and ended with December 31, would have been not quite ten months long. In this year Washington had no birthday. February 22, 1753, was what would have been February 22, 1752, had not the beginning of the year been changed. On February 22, 1753, Washington, then, was twenty years old. When, therefore, on December 14, 1799, he died, he was not sixty-seven years and ten months old, as the historians carelessly state, but he was a little less than sixty-seven years old."

George Washington's Map.

The original map made by George Washington in 1775 of the lands on the Great Kanawha River, West Virginia, granted to him by the British Government in 1763 for his services in the Braddock expedition, is now in the possession of the Library of Congress. The map is about two by five feet, and is entirely in the handwriting of Washington. The margin is filled with notes, also in Washington's handwriting, describing the boundary marks set by Washington, and different features of the tract.

Our Language.

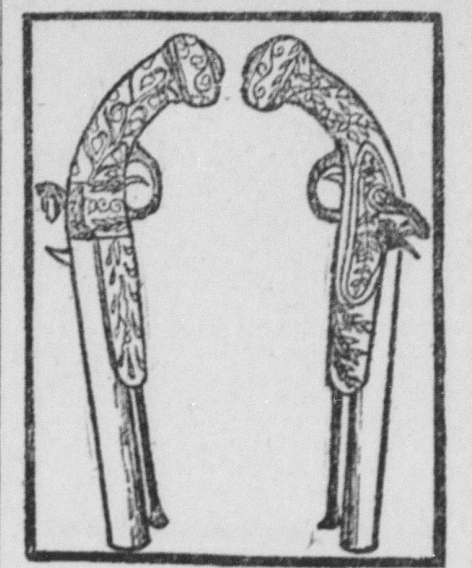


G. W.—"Yes, father, I cut it down." His Dad (grin)—"Very well. You may now proceed to cut it up."—New York American.

WASHINGTON'S :: PISTOLS

A St. Louis collector of old firearms has a picture of the George Washington pistols which have recently been made a bone of contention in the courts of Prince William County, Virginia.

This perfectly matched pair of old flintlock pistols is now in the possession of Miss Mounie Marsteller, who lives at Washington, D. C., says the St.



Louis Post-Dispatch. General Washington gave them to Mr. Dandridge, his secretary, and the grandfather of Miss Marsteller purchased them when the Dandridge effects were sold at public sale. Like the locally famous Stradivarius violin in the Garesche family of St. Louis, the Washington pistols are so highly prized that more than one member of the family desires to possess them.

Washington Wanted a Knife

Sept 7th 1779
Dear Sir
I have lost account
with you an old favorite
knife and am much distressed
for want of one—if you have
any in your store please
send me one—if you cannot
be so good as to fill one more
order, please to try to
fill it with one—on earth
two blades I should prefer,
these knives can be had.
Yours truly
G. Washington

The above letter of George Washington was photographed from the original, which hangs, in an oak frame, in the Walnut street office of Stan V. Henkels. The letter shows, for one thing, that the cutlery business was not very far advanced in 1779. Washington pleads in the letter for a two-bladed knife as he would hardly have to plead for a sixteen-bladed one were he alive now.

Statue of Washington
Given to Chicago



An equestrian statue of Washington, a replica of Daniel Chester French's creation, now on view in Paris, is to be given to Chicago by a dozen or more citizens whose names are not revealed. The statue is to cost \$12,000, and probably will be put in position at the head of Grand Boulevard at a site to be selected by the South Park Commissioners, who will furnish the pedestal. Charles L. Hutchinson announced the gift at a meeting of the Chicago Public School Art Society a few days ago. The original of the statue was presented to the French Government by the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Washington's Birthday.

A teacher in one of the primary schools of Boston asked her pupils to write a paper why Washington's Birthday was celebrated. The replies were original. Here are extracts from them: "George Washington's Birthday is celebrated because he freed the Americans; and he is a honest man, at least he was, he ain't now. He never told a lie as people say."

"George was a well brought up man." "He shop the tree down and his father ask him to gid it and he did it. He won the battle of Bunker Hill and he was a kind man."

"We celebrate George Washington's Birthday because he was honest, kind, polite and obliging."

"George Washington's Birthday is celebrated because he fought at almost every war and was at the head of the army."

"George Washington's Birthday is celebrated for his kindness and bravery. He never told a lie to his mother. He also had a good conscience."

"George Washington's Birthday is celebrated for his behavior and for his death, and his very kind hearted thoughts."



MARTHA WASHINGTON.

Washington as He Looked.

According to Captain Mercer the following describes Washington when he took his seat in the House of Burgesses in 1759:

"He is as straight as an Indian, measuring six feet two inches in his stockings and weighing 175 pounds. His head is well shaped, though not large, and is gracefully poised on a superb neck, with a large and straight, rather than a prominent nose, blue-grey, penetrating eyes, which are widely separated and overhung by heavy brows. A pleasing, benevolent, though commanding countenance, dark brown hair, features regular and placid, with all the muscles under control, with a large mouth, generally firmly closed." "Houdon's bust accords with this description."

Unsentimental.

"George Washington got a great deal of credit for not telling a lie." "Yes," answered the man who thinks that all is fair in business; "truthfulness often helps a man to get credit, but it sometimes interferes with his profits."

His Greatest Achievement.

"And now tell me," said the teacher, "what George Washington did that



made him great. I see your hand raised, Arthur. What was it?" "Crossed the Delaware standin' up, and didn't rock the boat."

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THINK OVER THIS!