

Fort Necessity and Fort Frederick



Capt. George Washington

By ELMO SCOTT WATSON

OF the least interesting of all the celebrations held during this, the Washington bi-centennial year, was the dedication last month of a stockaded fort in a mountain meadow near Uniontown, Pa., as a national shrine to the Father of His Country. For this little fort, consisting only of a log cabin circled by a log stockade, was Fort Necessity, where on July 3, 1754, George Washington began the military career which was to place his name among those of the great captains of all time and where, as the famous Voltaire expressed it, was fired the "cannon shot in the woods of America which set all Europe ablaze."

The affair at Fort Necessity had its origins in the clash between the British and the French for the control of the interior of the North American continent. To make good her claim to the Mississippi and Ohio valleys and to check the westward expansion of English settlement beyond the Alleghenies, the French had erected a fort at Presque Isle, now Erie, Pa., had built Fort Le Boeuf on French creek and had also seized the British trading post of Venango.

In 1753 Gov. Robert Dinwiddie of Virginia selected George Washington, then only twenty-one years old, for the difficult task of demanding that the French cease their encroachments upon "British soil." When Washington returned with the information that the French had no intention of giving up their forts, Dinwiddie decided upon more drastic action. Late in 1753 he sent a party of men under Captain Trent to build a fort at the Forks of the Ohio, where Pittsburgh now stands, and to hold it against any attacks which the French might make.

Both North Carolina and the home government had promised aid to the expedition, but when no troops had arrived by the last day of March, 1754, Dinwiddie ordered Washington and his 300 Virginians to proceed to the Ohio, "there to help Captain Trent build forts and to defend the possessions of his majesty against the attempts and hostilities of the French."

Meantime Trent's little company of 33 men had commenced a stockade at the Forks. But in April, a force of French and Indians arrived on the scene and made them prisoners. They were promptly released and allowed to return home without harm. Washington, coming to their aid, met the returning fort builders at Will's Creek, near the present city of Cumberland, Md.

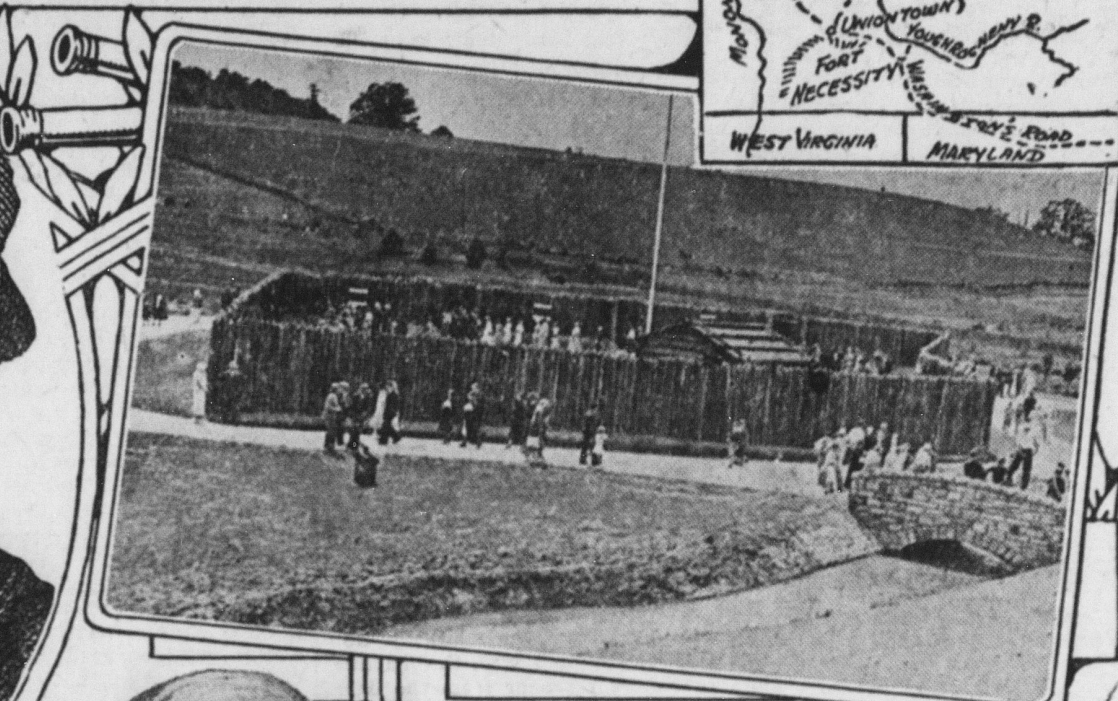
By this time the French had extended Trent's work and pushed it to a rapid completion, calling their stronghold Fort Duquesne. Here had been gathered a considerable force of Canadians, French regulars and Indian allies, a detachment from which, led by Coulon de Jumonville, scouted Washington's advance. On May 28, at the head of a scouting party, Washington stumbled upon the small French scouting party. The Virginians immediately fired upon the French. Ten were killed, one wounded and 21 taken prisoner. Among the French dead was Jumonville.

The news of this encounter was carried to Fort Duquesne and its commander immediately sent out a force under Coulon de Villiers, a brother of Jumonville, to attack the English. Washington withdrew to Great Meadows, where he erected a fort. Although the place was unfit for defense, being surrounded on three sides by higher ground, which was heavily forested and afforded good shelter from which the enemy could fire down upon the defenders of the fort, Washington's force was so weakened by lack of ammunition and other supplies, that he considered it impracticable to retreat further. Hence the name of Fort Necessity as indicative of his desperate plight.

A contemporary account of what followed has been discovered recently in the Charleston (S. C.) public library in a copy of the South Carolina Gazette for August 22, 1754, which reads as follows:

"Williamsburg, Va., July 19.—On Wednesday last arrived in town, Col. George Washington and Capt. James Mackay, who gave the following account to his honor the governor, of the late action between them and the French, at the Great Meadows in the western part of this dominion.

"The third of this Instant July, about 9 o'clock, we received intelligence that the French, having been reinforced with 700 recruits, had left Monongahela and were in full march with 900 men to attack us. Upon this, as our numbers were so unequal (our whole force not ex-



The Reconstructed Fort Necessity



Gen. Braddock

ceeding 300), we prepared for our defense in the best manner we could, by throwing up a small entrenchment, which we had not time to perfect before our sentinel gave notice, about 11 o'clock, of their approach, by firing his piece, which he did, at the enemy, and, as we learned afterward, killed three of their men, on which they began to fire upon us, at about 600 yards distance, but without effect; we immediately called all our men to their arms and drew up in order before our trenches, but as we looked upon this distant fire of the enemy only as an artifice to intimidate, or draw our fire from us, we waited their nearer approach before we returned their salute.

"They then advanced in a very irregular manner to another point of woods, about 60 yards off, and from thence made a second discharge; upon which, finding they had no intention of attacking us in the open field, we retired into our trenches and still reserved our fire, as we expected from their great superiority of numbers that they would endeavor to force our trenches, but, finding they did not seem to intend this either, the colonel gave orders to fire, which was done with great alacrity and undauntedness.

"We continued this unequal fight, with an enemy sheltered behind the trees, ourselves without shelter, in trenches full of water, in a settled rain, and the enemy galling us on all sides incessantly from the woods till 8 o'clock at night, when the French called to parley. From the great improbability that such a vastly superior force and possessed of such an advantage would offer a parley first, we suspected a deceit and therefore refused to consent that they should come among us; on which they desired us to send an officer to them and engage their parole for his safety. We then sent Captain Van Braam and Mr. Peyronne to receive their proposals, which they did, and about midnight we agreed that each side should retire without molestation, they back to their fort at Monongahela, and we to Will's Creek; that we should march away with all the honors of war and with all our stores, effects and baggage. Accordingly, the next morning, with our drums beating and our colors flying, we began our march in good order, with our stores, etc., in convoy; but we were interrupted by the arrival of a reinforcement of 100 Indians among the French, who were hardly restrained from attacking us and did us considerable damage by pilfering our baggage.

"We then proceeded, but soon found it necessary to leave our baggage and stores; the great scarcity of our provisions obliged us to use the utmost expedition, and having neither wagons nor horses to transport them. The enemy had deprived us of all our creatures, by killing, in the beginning of the engagement, our horses, cattle and every living thing they could, even to the very dogs.

"The number of killed on our side was 30, and 70 wounded; among the former was Lieutenant Mercier, of Captain Mackay's independent company, a gentleman of true military worth, and whose bravery would not permit him to retire, though dangerously wounded, till a second shot disabled him and a third put an end to his life, as he was being carried to the surgeon. Our men behaved with singular intrepidity, and we determined not to ask for quarter, but with our bayonets fixed to sell our lives as dearly as possibly we could. From the numbers of the enemy, and our situation, we could not hope for victory, and from the character of those we had to encounter, we expected no mercy, but on terms that we positively resolved not to submit to. The number killed and wounded of the enemy is uncertain."

In the articles of capitulation, submitted by De Villiers which Washington signed, was one word which was to prove to be "diplomatic dynamite." It referred to the prisoners taken by Washington "dans l'assassinat du Sieur de Jumonville." The terms of capitulation were trans-



Ruins of Fort Frederick

lated to Washington by Captain Van Braam, a Dutchman who seems to have had only a sketchy knowledge of the French language. He translated that passage as "the killing" or "death" of Jumonville, whereas the French interpretation of it was "assassination." Immediately the French raised the cry of treachery on the part of the young Virginian, asserting that Jumonville had been an ambassador bearing a peaceful message to the English in regard to the dispute over the western country, just as Washington had been a similar ambassador to the French posts in 1753, and that by Washington's own admission in the articles of capitulation he had "assassinated" this peaceful messenger.

As for Washington he was most decidedly "in bad" both at home and in England because his unfortunate expedition had apparently put the English in a very bad light. The result of this fiasco and other indignities which he suffered led him finally to resign his commission and it seemed that the military career of this future great leader was ended almost at its beginning.

However, his defeat did result in the resolution of the British ministry to force matters to a crisis, so there came about the arrival of Gen. Edward Braddock in America to command the combined British and Colonial forces which were to eject the French from the Ohio valley. The result of that expedition—"the bloody business of Braddock" it has been aptly called—is too well known to be dwelt upon extensively. Even though it did result in disaster on the banks of the Monongahela that July day a year later, it was Braddock who made Washington an aide-camp on his staff and who gave him his chance to win enduring fame while Braddock was winning only defeat and death. Not far from the reconstructed Fort Necessity is the place where Braddock was buried and a part of the dedication ceremonies held at Washington's little fort last month was the visit of a military attaché to the British embassy in the National Capital to Braddock's grave, there to lay a wreath in honor of the general with whom history has dealt so harshly.

But the reconstructed Fort Necessity is not the only post connected with the stirring events in those far-off times which the American of today can visit. Near Hagerstown, Md., is Fort Frederick which is also in process of reconstruction through the efforts of the Hagerstown Chamber of Commerce, and associated with it are the names of both Braddock and Washington. It was in Frederick Town, Md., that Washington first met Braddock on May 2, 1755, and two days later arrived with him at Winchester, Va., whence they set out for Fort Cumberland (Will's Creek), Md., on the beginning of his disastrous expedition.

After the defeat of Braddock the Indian raids along the frontier of Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia became so alarming that Gov. Horatio Sharpe of Maryland asked the colonial legislature for an appropriation for a strong fort to be erected in the western part of Frederick county, which was eventually granted. Upon receiving the grant, according to the correspondence of Governor Sharpe, "I am preparing to set off for the frontier, to put this province in the best provision of defense and that the bill will permit me and construct a strong fort and block houses for the protection of the North mountain. While I was at Fort Frederick, Colonel Washington paid me a visit and informed me that he was also raising a strong fort at Winchester. We already have 200 men near and about Fort Frederick under Colonel John Dagworthy. We face the bastions and curtains with stone and shell mount on each bastion a six pounder. . . ."

During the next two years, until the final capture of Fort Duquesne, Fort Frederick was a base for military supplies and a refuge for the inhabitants of that region when the red terror swept down upon them during the French and Indian war and again in 1763 when the conspiracy of Pontiac threatened to drive the hated English into the sea. The fort also played a part in the Revolution and the Civil war and now the people of Maryland hope to restore it and preserve it as a state shrine.

(© by Western Newspaper Union.)

Quick Ending Put to Plague Danger

Foot-and-Mouth Disease Is Most Effectively Handled.

Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.—WNU Service.

Effective control of the recent outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease in southern California, with prospects that the plague probably has been eradicated, is announced. The original outbreak was diagnosed on April 28, and the last infected herd was slaughtered and buried May 7. Up to June 1 the inspection forces had found no other signs of foot-and-mouth disease either in the quarantined area or surrounding territory. All infected premises have been thoroughly cleaned and disinfected and restocking has been permitted, beginning June 15. Although many of the inspectors assigned to the task of eradicating the outbreak have now returned to their regular official stations, a sufficient force has been left in the quarantined area to handle any emergency that may arise.

Veterinary officials remind live stock owners and the public of the highly infectious character of foot-and-mouth disease and of the danger that it may appear unexpectedly and spread rapidly. The seeming eradication of the disease in 10 days, however, sets a new record and is noteworthy in comparison with former outbreaks, one of which required 18 months for eradication. The shortest previous time which elapsed between the diagnosis of the disease and the disposal of the last infected herd was 31 days.

Cull Unprofitable Cows and "Stuff" Good Ones

Cows don't know anything about business cycles; and so how can they understand, when their grain is taken away and they are forced to get along on dry, short pasture, that they are expected to make just as much milk from this deficient diet as they did on a complete ration during the winter.

Even if they knew, they couldn't do much for their owner's relief, because the cow that can get along on grass alone just isn't profitable to her owner. Especially is this true in a year like 1932. For that matter, it's always a bad year for dairymen whose cows can give all the milk they're capable of giving on nothing but grass.

A cow must be able to make 300 pounds of fat a year to return her owner a worthwhile profit now. Liberal feeding of a complete ration pays with cows that can eat that. Cull the poor cows, feed the good ones better.—National Farm Journal.

Lime Brought Back His Land

Burl Johnson has proved that lime and legumes pay on Bourbon county (Kan.) soils. Mr. Johnson bought a run-down farm that would not grow alfalfa or clover and set about to improve it. He limed 13 acres four tons to the acre and spread on it 200 tons of manure.

Sweet clover was seeded in oats on this field and came on so rank that the oats could not be harvested for grain. The clover and a 40-bushel oats crop were put up for hay. Mr. Johnson says it made good hay, too.

Early the next spring 30 cows were turned into the clover and left until May 24, when the field was plowed 6 inches deep and put to corn. The corn made 60 bushels an acre, the highest yield anyone could remember on that land. Only nine acres were required to fill a silo 12 by 40 feet.

The field then was seeded to alfalfa and still is producing heavy yields.

Barley's Food Value

In South Dakota experiments, where barley and corn were compared in feeding two-year-old steers and beef calves, it was found that the barley was not quite equal to corn for either class of animals. Similar results were found in comparing barley with corn for pig feeding. The average of the experiments with ground barley and a protein supplement fed to pigs on pasture showed that barley had 86 per cent of the feeding value of corn, while for pigs in dry lot, it had 95 per cent of the feeding value of corn.—Successful Farming.

Make a Post Puller

A good post puller can be made of two by fours, bolted securely together in the form of an X. Brace the puller by nailing a crosspiece near the bottom of the two legs. To operate this device, pass a chain around the post, place the puller up next to the post, pass the chain over the crotch and attach chain to the donkey or other source of power. The puller acts as a lever and helps draw the post out of the ground.—Emmet Winkle, Allamakee county, Iowa, in Wallace's Farmer.

New Boost for Baby Beef

Baby beef often lacks marbling (mixing of fat with lean meat), which in aged cattle is associated with quality. Experiments, however, show that this lack of marbling may not be serious from the standpoint of the housewife, as the lean may absorb fat from the surrounding tissue during cooking. This absorbed fat makes the meat juicier, adds to the flavor and food value of the lean and is a partial substitute for marbling fat.—Wallace's Farmer.

Dry Bean Growers Plan Acreage Cut

Largely Reduced Percentage to Be Planted.

By L. E. CRUICKSHANK, New York College of Agriculture.—WNU Service.

Dry bean growers intend to reduce acreage about 12 per cent in 1932 as compared to 1931. New York state's reduction is about 8 per cent, or 10,000 acres, and Michigan's intended cut is about 11 per cent, or 68,000 acres. The heaviest cuts are planned in the great northern states, where Montana, Idaho and Wyoming intend to plant 26 per cent, or 63,000 acres, less than in 1931. California plans to cut 11 per cent, Colorado 10, New Mexico, 3, and other states that grow about 58,000 acres also plan a 3 per cent cut.

With yields equal to the average yield in the past ten years, a crop 14 per cent smaller than in 1931 would result. In the states which grow beans an increase of about 2 per cent might be expected, despite the reduced acreage, since the yields in these states were below average in 1931.

Take Precaution Now to Insure Against Cholera

Don't assume that pigs are not worth vaccinating against cholera this year, because of market conditions. The fact is that losses due to cholera will be felt more than ever in times like these. When pigs are vaccinated just before weaning or a few weeks after that period, the cost is relatively small. Serum and virus are cheaper than ever this season.

The important thing is to keep the pigs in a healthy condition by proper feeding and by maintaining them under reasonably sanitary conditions. Dip or spray the pigs for lice and mange before vaccination if they are infested with either one of these pests. Also keep the pigs away from the old barnyard after they have been vaccinated, as well as at other times. Get them on clean pasture and provide plenty of grain in addition, so they will continue to gain at the most rapid rate possible. Letting pigs "grow out" on a starvation ration has never paid and never will. On the contrary, let them "make hogs" of themselves as rapidly as possible.—Wallace's Farmer.

Clip Pigs' Black Teeth

Sometimes it becomes necessary to remove the little black teeth with which pigs often are born because of the injury they do themselves, their little mates, or the sow, according to E. L. Quinife, extension live stock specialist at Iowa State college.

The pigs may fight each other, especially if the litter is large and the milk supply limited. Or they may injure the teats of the sow or their own gums and lips with these fighting weapons which nature gave them.

When the pigs seem inclined to do damage, the little black teeth should be cut off with a sharp pair of tweezers or clippers. Care should be taken not to injure the gums. After the teeth are cut off the mouth should be swabbed with a weak solution of iodine. Pulling is not advisable because this practice leaves an open wound in the jaw.—Successful Farming.

Controlling Worms

No effective method of treating seed corn against either cut-worms or grub-worms has yet been found. The best control for grub-worms is crop rotation and avoiding plowing of sod in a "grub-worm year." The most practical method of cut-worm control is use of moist poisoned bait, scattered broadcast evenly over the infested area at nightfall. The following mixture will treat three acres: Thoroughly mix twenty pounds of bran with one pound of paris green. Squeeze the juice of three oranges or lemons into three and one-half gallons of water and chop the remaining pulp and peel into fine bits before adding to the mixture. Also dissolve two quarts of molasses in the liquid. Then thoroughly dampen the bran and poison with the liquid.—Wallace's Farmer.

Agricultural Squibs

Get after the flea beetles as soon as they are noticed. Bordeaux mixture and dust, nicotine and calcium arsenate are useful. These creatures work rapidly and soon make the leaves like a sieve.

Clover may be cut for seed with an ordinary mower. One with a windrow or buncher attachment can be used to good advantage. Allow the clover to partially dry and then place it in very small cocks.

As many farmers as possible should provide their own clover seed this fall. Those who cannot will be assured of known seed if they will arrange with a neighbor where they can inspect the crop while still in the field.

One of the latest of orchard practices is thinning. Those who have tried it find that it raises the quality of the crop.

Cornell cost accounts in Niagara county show that the cost of growing apples, up to picking time, was 26 per cent more in dusted orchards than in sprayed orchards.

The United States exported 2,027,523 barrels and 10,854,219 boxes of apples in 1931. The total was 1,150,380 barrels 50 years ago.