

Stories of Washington.

Residents of Alexandria Always Delight in Narrating Them.

I HAVE been for some time gathering bits of queer gossip and tradition about George Washington. A large number of his papers are on file in the State Department at Washington. The National Museum has one of the largest collections of Washington in existence. Alexandria is full of unpublished traditions of George Washington. I spent a couple of days there some time ago, and though I found no one living who had ever seen Washington, I got a fairly good idea of him from the stories concerning him which have been handed down from father to son. Mount Vernon is only nine miles from Alexandria. Washington got the most of his supplies at Alexandria. He went there to vote, and until a few years ago the little office in which he did business there still stood. It was at Alexandria that Washington met General Braddock, and with him started out on that disastrous campaign. His last review of troops was made from the steps of an Alexandria hotel about a year before his death, and when I last visited the town I was offered a mahogany bed which had stood in this hotel and on which, it was said, Washington had slept many a time.

How Washington Really Looked.
From the traditions of Alexandria, and from any other sources, I have tried to make up in my mind's eye a picture of George Washington as he really was. He was exceedingly tall, and, when young, quite slender. He had enormous hands and feet. His boots were No. 13 and his ordinary walking shoes No. 12. He was a man of muscle. During his service in the army he weighed 200 pounds, and was so strong that he could lift his tent with one hand, although it usually required the strength of two men to place it on the camp wagon. I mean, of course, when it was folded up and wrapped around the poles. Washington could hold a musket with one hand and fire it. He was a good shot and a good swordsman. The pictures of the father of his country make one think that Washington was a brunette. His face is dark and somber. The truth is he had a skin like an Irish baby, and his hair was almost red. He had a broad chest, but not a full one.

His voice was not strong, and during his last days he had a hacking cough. His eyes were cold gray, and it is said that he seldom smiled, although there is reason to believe that he had considerable humor about him. His nose was prominent. He was particular as to his appearance and fastidious in dress. He wore plain clothes and always kept himself well shaven, acting as his own barber.

Knocked Washington Down.
Washington was an eminently fair man. He had a quick temper, but as a rule he kept it under control. Sometimes, however, it got the best of him. This was the case once in Alexandria. One of the county officers told me the story as we stood on the second floor of the market house in Alexandria and looked down at the open court within it, which is now filled with hundreds of booths where the farmers bring their products for sale on market days. "It was on that spot," said the officer, "Washington was knocked down by Lieutenant Payne. Payne was a candidate for the Legislature against Fairfax, of Alexandria. Washington supported Fairfax, and when he met Payne here, he made a remark that Payne considered an insult, and Payne knocked him down. The story

Washington's Headquarters While Directing Survey of Washington City, 1791.



was like lightning through the town the Colonel Washington was killed, and some of his troops who were stationed at Alexandria rushed in and would have made short work of Payne had Washington not prevented them. He pointed to his black eye and told them that this was a personal matter and that he knew how to handle it. Every one thought that this meant a duel. The next day Payne got a note from Washington asking him to come to the hotel. He expected a duel, but went. Washington, however, was in an amiable mood. He felt that he had been in the wrong and said, "Mr. Payne, I was wrong yesterday, but if you have sufficient satisfaction, let us be friends." There was a decanter of wine and two glasses on the table which Washington had ordered to smooth over the quarrel. The two drank together and became such strong friends after that that Payne was one of the pallbearers at Washington's funeral.

Washington as a Drinking Man.
Every one drank in the days of Washington, and the father of his country always had wine upon his table. I have nowhere seen it stated that he ever drank to excess, although he usually consumed five glasses of Madeira wine at a dinner. During his youth he was a very fair politician, and among the items of his election expenses when he was a candidate for the house of burgesses of Virginia were a hoghead and a barrel of whisky, thirty-five gallons of wine and forty-three gallons of beer.

George Washington was simple in his tastes, and during his youth he was a hearty eater, but was not particular as to what he had. He wanted plain food and plenty of it. During his later years he ate very little. His breakfast at Mount Vernon was

of corn cakes, honey and tea, with possibly an egg, and after that he ate no more till dinner. He kept, however, a good table, and usually had friends with him. I have a book written by Maclay, which gives his experiences when he was in the United States Senate at the time Washington was President. Maclay dined with Washington a number of times, and scattered through his diary are bits of gossip about Washington. At two of the dinners he describes Washington as amusing himself between the courses by playing the devil's tattoo upon the table with his fork. At another time he says: "The President kept a fork in his hand when the cloth was taken away. I thought it was for the purpose of picking nuts. He ate no nuts, but played with the fork, striking on the edge of the table with it."

A George Washington Fish Story.
Washington, at this time, had some trouble in keeping up his establishment. When the Revolutionary War closed he had plenty of land, but little money. He had exhausted his private fortune during the war, and he had to borrow enough to take him to New York to be inaugurated as President. The result was he was quite careful of his expenses, and would not tolerate extravagance. An instance of this kind occurred one day when he found the first shad of the season on his table. The President

MARTHA WASHINGTON.



was very fond of fish, and when the shad was brought into the dining room his nostrils dilated as the savory odor struck them, and he asked: "What fish is that?" "A shad," replied the steward, excitedly; "a very fine shad. I knew your excellency was extravagantly fond of this fish, and was so fortunate as to procure this one in the market. It was the only one, sir, and the first of the season."

"But the price, man? The price?" The price? demanded Washington, sternly. "Three—three—three dollars," stammered the steward. "Take it away! Take it away!" said Washington. "It shall never be said that my table sets such an example of luxury and extravagance."

And so the \$3 fish was taken from the table, to be devoured by the servants. **The Richest Man of His Time.**
As the years went on Washington's lands increased in value, and when he died he was one of the richest men of his time. He owned lands and stock and negroes, and his estates amounted to thousands of acres. He had houses in Alexandria and property in Washington. He had valuable lands near the present site of Pittsburgh. He was throughout his life a money maker, and I was told at Alexandria that when he was a boy he got \$5 a day and upward for his surveying. He put his surplus money into lands, and an advertisement in a Baltimore paper of 1773 states that he had 20,000 acres of land for sale on the Ohio River. His will, which is now kept about twenty miles from Washington, in the safe of the old Court House at Fairfax, Va., gives a detailed statement of every article he possessed down to the calves and sheep. His personal estate was then put down at \$52,000, and this included a vast

WASHINGTON'S HOME, MOUNT VERNON.



An Unusual Picture, Showing the Impressive Portion of the Mansion Turned Away From the River. From a Hitherto Unpublished Photograph by George R. King. —Christian Endeavor World.

amount of tobacco, large numbers of cattle, sheep and horses, nearly all of which he willed to his wife. This will is now kept in a wooden box, the top of which is covered with glass. It was torn in two some time ago by some careless sightseer, and since then no one has been allowed to handle it. The account books which are kept here in the State Department show that Washington was very careful about keeping a record of his expenditures. He put down everything, and among other items you see here and there the amounts which he lost at cards. In April, 1772, he lost \$100 in this way at the house of Rev. Bosscher, and a little further on there is an item stating "Paid for toddy for self, Walker and others, at a little jamboree near the Drummond Lake, five pounds." During the time he was candidate for the house of burgesses of Virginia, when he bought the whisky above spoken of, his losses at cards and at the horse races are frequent. The curious thing about his accounts is that there was almost always a deficiency at the end of the year which he could not account for. This made no difference, however, with his starting a new year with a fresh account, for one item at this time is as follows: "By cash, either lost, stole or neglected to charge, 144 pounds, 8 shillings and 11 pence." In other words, he was short that year over \$700.

Economical, But Not Stingy.
Through his letters now owned by the Government one may see here and there certain correspondence which shows that he was very hard up at times. In 1785 he wrote that he could get no wheat on credit, and that he had no cash to pay for it. Three years later he urges a man to

approach the subject of harvesting in the pre-eminence value of the leaves. These contain from seventy-five to eighty per cent. of the protein of the whole plant, that valuable compound that goes to produce milk and meat. It has been estimated that a ton of properly cured alfalfa leaves is equal in protein to 2800 pounds of wheat bran; and when it is also estimated by careful observers that the loss of leaves in harvesting, even under favorable circumstances, ranges from fifteen to thirty per cent. or more, it is readily seen that the harvesting is an important part in alfalfa hay-making. —From Coburn's "The Book of Alfalfa."

Scientific Forestry.
A Consular report comes from Germany which shows that scientific forestry is a practical and money-making proposition. It is stated that the German Empire has nearly 35,000,000 acres of forests, of which forty per cent. belongs to the State. German forestry methods have resulted in raising the average yield of wood per acre from twenty-two cubic feet in 1830, to sixty-five cubic feet in 1904. During the same period it has trebled the proportion of the sawed timber secured from the average cut. In fifty-four years it increased the money returned from an average acre of forests sevenfold, yet to-day, the German forests are in better condition than ever before. —Farmers' Home Journal.

Feeding Frosted Corn.
Untimely severe frosts sometimes damage the corn crop so that its marketable value is considerably lowered, but in this event, as in other cases, the hog comes to the rescue. Soft corn is considered excellent for swine, and especially for the young; in fact, many breeders believe they can obtain better gains from soft corn than with the sound, hard grain. In soft corn the maturing of the grain has been checked, thereby arresting the development of the starch content or fat-producing element. When used it is advisable to add, for finishing, some corn that is well matured. Immature corn that is frozen and even somewhat soured may be fed to hogs, but if there is on hand a greater quantity in that condition than can be used on the farm before warm weather sets in it should be disposed of while the weather is cold. Ordinarily it may be used in cold weather without danger, but it should not be carried over into the warm season, as it will ferment and become unfit for use. —From Coburn's "Swine in America."

The Shoulders of the Horse.
Coming now to what is meant by "harness" shoulders in a saddle, the term is more or less erroneous for the reason that the position of the shoulders should be oblique in harness as well as in saddle horses. Those who use the term mean to convey the idea that the shoulders are more or less upright and the withers more or less thick and meaty. This formation, as already detailed, presupposes a short neck and a stilted way of going, both of which are very bad faults in a saddle. A certain amount of jerk-and-alam action may go with straight shoulders, but all the most accurate actors in the high-stepping classes have possessed sloping shoulders; indeed, a very decided slope is necessary to enable any horse to show the correct sort of action, which may be described as that the fore foot should apparently be following the circumference of a rolling wheel. Forest King was the greatest actor we have ever had in this country. Any one who remembers the act of his shoulders will grasp the point sought to be made instantly, when it is stated that the truest and best action is never associated with straight shoulders. At that, however, much straighter shoulders will do for ordinary harness uses than for the saddle, for in the leather they have not to sustain the superimposed weight of the rider. Hence the application—or rather misapplication—of the term "harness" in describing or discussing the shoulders of saddle horses. —Breeder's Gazette.

Hard Milkers.
Dr. David Roberts, the Wisconsin State Veterinarian, writes us on this subject: "A cow or heifer with a nice, large, well developed udder with four good size teats placed equally upon same, seems like a source of pleasure, providing that they are easy milkers, but the same sort of a cow or heifer being termed as a hard milker is as a rule a source of annoyance, especially to those who do the milking. Owing to the fact that a cow or heifer is a nice, easy milker, they are usually milked out clean at each milking. In this way they are enabled to

keep up their regular flow of milk, while on the other hand if they be hard milkers the milk becomes discouraged and impatient, and fails to draw out the natural quantity. The cow or heifer will then soon show the effects of this by drying up on her milk. In this way many a valuable cow has become practically worthless as a milk producer. Hard milking in cows or heifers can be positively overcome in a short period of time and in a very economical way, not by the use of the milking tube, but by the use of the teat plug. The teat should be washed with an antiseptic solution, the teat plug should be dipped in a like solution, then in a little ointment and passed into the point of the teat, and being self-retaining, should be permitted to remain in the teat from one milking to another. In this manner hard milking can be made a thing of the past.

Gold and Gilt.
Professor Fraser, of the Illinois Agricultural College, makes a plain difference in "Gold" and "Gilt," the names of two cows on the college farm. He says: "They were brought up alike on a farm near Elgin, Ill., and obtained their early education in the same herd of 100 cows. Here at the university, with the very same surroundings and equal opportunities, they have drifted apart in character, and their progress has been in opposite directions. It is no difference of hide, or horns, or temper; it is not that one is wild and the other a pet. It is not a difference of beauty or intelligence, but solely a difference in the way they have worked, a difference in the money they have earned for the owner. All the milk of these cows has been weighed and tested for three years. A record has been kept of every pound of feed consumed by each animal, both summer and winter. Each year Gold produced on the average 11,390 pounds of milk, containing 405 pounds of butter fat, but during the same time Gilt averaged only 3330 pounds of milk, with 133 pounds of butter fat. These cows were both cared for in the same way; they were given the same kind of feed and allowed to eat all they wanted. Gold ate one-half more than Gilt, but produced three times as much milk. Equal amounts of feed made in the one case 188 pounds of butter fat and in the other 109 pounds. The one cow produced nearly twice as much as the other from exactly the same feed in kind and amount. Counting the butter fat at twenty-three cents per pound and taking out the exact cost of feed in each case, the one cow brought in a profit of \$34.59, while the other lacked \$5.62 of paying for her board at market prices of feed each year. This comparison, exact and complete, for three years, and including the record of both milk and feed, means a great deal more than a single year's comparison or one in which it is necessary to introduce an estimate. It would be gratifying, indeed, if it could be truthfully said that these two records are extreme and exceptional, and therefore do not stand for any general condition of the dairy business. But the very opposite is true. Disappearance of Lakes. Whether the globe on which we dwell is gradually drying up or not is a question that has been much debated. Recent discoveries in central Asia have been regarded by some as favoring an affirmative answer, but others have replied that the observed phenomena are simply periodic changes. Dr. Walser, of Zurich, champions the affirmative view on the ground that a great number of European lakes have certainly disappeared within the last 250 years. The canton of Zurich, for example, had 149 lakes a quarter of a century ago, and only seventy-six to-day. He believes that a similar tendency to disappearance has affected the lakes of Germany and Russia.—Youth's Companion.

Neatly Hit Off.
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The Farm

Protection of Cows.

Far better to rig up a pine-brush shed than to let the cows or calves shiver during a bitter cold night in the lee of an old straw stack. When storms are brewing see that all the stock is safe and warm. Then you can go to bed satisfied and sleep. Either feed your stock well or sell it; don't have anything lean, hungry, cold and sore-eyed. —Farmers' Home Journal.

Sod Basins For Trees.

The landscape gardeners of one of New York City's parkways have devised an attractive way of protecting the base of tree-trunks by arranging a square border of sod, two feet wide, around each one of the trees bordering the boulevard. In this way the soil between the border and the tree-trunk may always be kept loose, allowing the moisture of rains to soak into the ground and nourish the roots. Were it not for this sod basin the gravel path, coming close to the tree, would, in time, become firmly trodden down, causing the tree to suffer accordingly. The idea is one that could be adopted elsewhere to good advantage.

Harvesting Alfalfa.

The first point to accentuate as we approach the subject of harvesting is the pre-eminence value of the leaves. These contain from seventy-five to eighty per cent. of the protein of the whole plant, that valuable compound that goes to produce milk and meat. It has been estimated that a ton of properly cured alfalfa leaves is equal in protein to 2800 pounds of wheat bran; and when it is also estimated by careful observers that the loss of leaves in harvesting, even under favorable circumstances, ranges from fifteen to thirty per cent. or more, it is readily seen that the harvesting is an important part in alfalfa hay-making. —From Coburn's "The Book of Alfalfa."

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NEWS OF PENNSYLVANIA

Pays Penalty.

Allenstown.—George N. Schaeffer, of the Schuylkill county farmer, who killed Leopold Ermann, of Philadelphia, on November 18, 1908, was hanged in the corridor of the jail here.

The trap was sprung by James Van Hise, of Jersey City, New Jersey's official hangman, who used his own scaffold, and who was assisted by his brother-in-law, Edward Donham. Schaeffer was pronounced dead in eight minutes, his neck having been broken. The body was cut down in fifteen minutes.

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Woman Detective Wins.

Pittsburg.—Amusing the court with the recital of her experience as a scullery maid, Mrs. Jennie Jamison, an agent of the State Pure Food Commission, through her testimony was instrumental in convicting for the second time Jesse M. Bowers, charged with selling oleomargarine.

Mrs. Jamison told of encountering Bowers at a restaurant owned by a Mr. and Mrs. Schultz. She said: "When I told Bowers that I wanted fifteen pounds he looked at me in a puzzled manner, grew white, and asked for Mr. and Mrs. Schultz. I told him they were out and he said: 'to betray me, if I thought she was going to betray me to those pure food people I would not look straight to me. I will not sell so much to her again. You know those pure food people do all kinds of things to get a fellow and I am not allowed to sell this stuff as it is colored.'" Bowers was fined \$500 with six months' imprisonment.

Three Killed.

Pittsburg.—A feud among miners which has for months terrorized the town of Midway, a mining town near here, culminated in the killing of three men, who were shot down in their own homes. Two men, who are believed to have done the shooting, have fled and members of the State Constabulary are pursuing the fugitives through the woods. The populace is aroused to fury and a lynching is not improbable if the fugitives, one of whom is John Marks, a grocer, and the other, Tony Puchy, a miner, are captured and brought to Midway.

Two Dogs Kill Forty Hens.

Mauch Chunk.—Two young dogs owned by Josiah Strohl, a farmer residing about ten miles from this place, killed forty of his laying hens in one day. The dogs, which are both young, played with the hens until all were dead.

Killed As Rescue Was Near.

Shenandoah.—The body of Florenz Karlofsky, who was entombed in Shenandoah City Colliery, was recovered. Karlofsky was alive Sunday afternoon, but perished in a second fall just when the rescuing force was within a few feet of him.

Sharon Steel Strikers Win.

Sharon.—The American Steel Foundries Company has settled differences with its molders and core-makers by granting an advance in wages. The core makers will get an increase of 25 cents a day and the molders 25 cents a day.

Cancer Victim Chokes To Death.

Lancaster.—Samuel Zinn, a wealthy contractor of Martindale, died suddenly, a victim of cancer. He was eating dinner when his throat became paralyzed and he choked to death in the presence of his family. He was fifty-seven years old.

William P. Yohn Dies In West.

Lancaster.—Word was received here of the death at Pasadena, California, of William Preston Yohn, a native of Montville, this county. He graduated from Franklin and Marshall College and the University of Pennsylvania Law School. He practiced law in Philadelphia with the firm of Simpson & Brown.

Young Conster Killed.

Shenandoah.—While John Conster, aged 14 years, was coasting at Lost Creek, a suburb, his sled struck a wooden footpath. He was thrown on his head, being killed instantly.

Woman Lawyer Leaves \$80,000.

Wilkes-Barre.—The will of Miss Laura Cannon, the well-known woman lawyer, who died from injuries sustained in an automobile accident, was probated here. She left an estate valued at \$80,000.

Joseph S. Gillard Dies.

Chester.—Joseph S. Gillard died at his home from a complication of diseases, aged 65 years. For several years he was in charge of the chipping shop at the Penn Steel Casting Company's plant. In his early days he was a school teacher.

Railroad To Aid Miners' Strike.

Pottsville.—Philadelphia & Reading Railway officials, after a conference with business men of Minersville, gave assurance that the town will be donated a new passenger station, additional train service and freight extension.

Col. William L. Nichols Dies.

Glendon.—Colonel William L. Nichols, a veteran of the Civil War, and a well-known contributor to historical periodicals, died at his home in Glendon from the result of paralysis. Colonel Nichols, who was in his eighty-first year, had been Justice of the Peace in Darby township and in Glendon borough for more than thirty years.

Drops Spark In Cap Box.

Hazleton.—A spark falling from his lamp into a box of dynamite caps, as he was taking one out to prepare for a blast, John Eckert, a Harwood miner, sustained injuries that will prove fatal.

Wilkes-Barre.—The grocery store of Miller and Boppe (Charles Eschmann's shoe store and H. Levin's wholesale liquor store in the town of Luzerne, near here, were destroyed by fire. Loss, \$40,000.

Chester.—At a meeting of the Legislative Committee of the Board of Trade a resolution was adopted urging Senators Penrose and Oliver and Congressman Butler to do all in their power to defeat the postal savings bank bill.

Goes To Sleep On Track; Dead.

Williamsport.—J. A. Casselberry, 29 years old, of Froctor, this county, while walking from Powell to Monroeville, sat down on the Susquehanna and New York Railroad to await several friends. He fell into a daze. A freight train struck him and inflicted injuries that caused his death.

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