

WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY

INCIDENTS OF HER LIFE AS A MOTHER

GEORGE WASHINGTON was accustomed to say that for everything he was and had and did he was indebted to his mother. Martha Washington, who shared his life, is a familiar character, but Mary Washington, the mother, is comparatively an unknown woman.

Portrait painters were not numerous in the early days, and not a picture was left of the mother of Washington. She is described, however, as having been of medium height, with a rounded, matronly figure, and having a clearly marked face, strong and firm, which that of her son is said to have resembled. Indeed, there were those who said that her rugged features were more like those of a man than a woman.

George was the oldest of six children, and he was only twelve years of age when his father died and Mary Washington was compelled to assume the duties of both father and mother. The family was dwelling near Fredericksburg at the time, for the birthplace of George had been destroyed by fire and a new house built near the Rappahannock. Mrs. Washington was kind in her manner, but not demonstrative. There was a devout religious atmosphere in the home.

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The style of living was almost severe in its simplicity. This was a part of her faith, for in after years, when the problem of existence was happily solved and she might have had a share in what was considered luxury for the times, she still maintained the quiet and simplicity of her early life. Strong, true, decided, Lafayette described her as being a mother who belonged to the type of earlier days like the Spartan or the Roman, rather than to the women of her own times. And George's half-brother, Lawrence, for Mary Ball was the second wife of Augustine Washington, was accustomed to say that in all his life he had never met a woman of whom he stood more in awe or whom he more deeply respected than Mary Washington.

The care of the estate was left to Mrs. Washington by her husband, and like the prudent woman that she was, she looked well to the ways of her household. In an old-fashioned open chaise she used to drive to her little farm near Fredericksburg. She rode about the fields, inspected her crops and buildings and insisted upon the men whom she employed doing exactly what she told them. It is recorded that one time one of her agents had ventured to follow his own judgment instead of her directions. She rebuked him sharply, saying: "I command you, there is nothing left for you but to obey." In the duties of



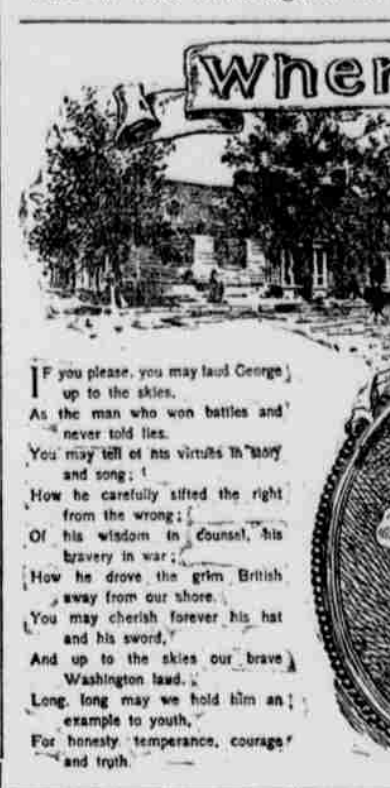
GENERAL WASHINGTON AND HIS AGED MOTHER.

the home and care of her lands the time passed, and at last her son was appointed Commander-in-Chief of the armies of the newly-born nation. Her love and counsels had aided him thus far.

Martha Washington could in a measure share in some of the camp experiences of her husband, but Mary, the mother, must be kept in quiet and seclusion more appropriate to her age. Near Fredericksburg the General found a nice protected and secluded place for her, and from time to time her

pense was relieved by the messages he sent her. One incident in particular is recalled. It was after the battle of Trenton, and the hearts of all the patriots had been stirred to fresh courage. The men who brought her word were loud in their praises of her son, and their praises were just, but Mary Washington received the message calmly, although she did not attempt to conceal her pleasure while she disclaimed all the plaudits of her son.

When the word was brought to her



MONUMENT TO MARY, MOTHER OF WASHINGTON, AT FREDERICKSBURG.

country!" Then she said: "I am not surprised at what George has done, for he was always a very good boy." Alone, except with his friend Lafayette, without horses or attendants, the great commander came back to his



WHEN WASHINGTON WAS A BOY

Portrait That Must Have Been Made About the Time He Cut Down the Cherry Tree.

This portrait was given by Washington to his old friend, Captain Venamon, with whose family he was intimate. Captain Venamon died seventy-five years ago, and was buried at Marcus Hook, Delaware County, Pennsylvania, about fifteen miles south of Philadelphia. The family homestead is still to be seen there. After the Captain's death the picture passed into the hands of his wife, who bequeathed it to her niece, Maria Venamon Williamson, who in turn left it to her daughter, who was named after the Venamon family. This daughter married a Mr. Baker, and died about seven years ago. The picture then became the property of her daughter, Miss Margaretta H. Baker. Miss Baker's uncle (her mother's brother), Mr. Williamson, is still living at St. Mich-

and we are told that in that interview between mother and son she said not one word of his fame or glory.

Washington had just been elected the first President of the United States, but before he accepted the high office he went once more to see his mother, who was suffering at the time from an acute disease. The story of the interview is simple yet almost sublime. "The people, madam," said Washington, "have been pleased, with the most flattering unanimity, to elect me to the Chief Magistracy of the United States, but before I can assume the functions of that office I have come to bid you an affectionate farewell. So soon as the public business can be disposed of I shall hasten to Virginia, and—"

He could say no more, but the mother, strong even in her weakness, replied: "You will see me no more. My great age and the disease that is rapidly approaching my vitals, warn me that I am not long for this world. I trust in God, I am somewhat prepared for a better. But go, George, fulfill the high destinies which heaven appears to assign to you; go, my son, and may heaven's and your mother's blessing be with you always."

Before the President's return to Virginia Mary Washington had passed away at the ripe age of eighty-five. A monument at Fredericksburg marked the place where all that was mortal was placed.

ael's, Md. He is now seventy-one years of age. His wife is also living with him. Mr. Williamson remembers that the picture was given by

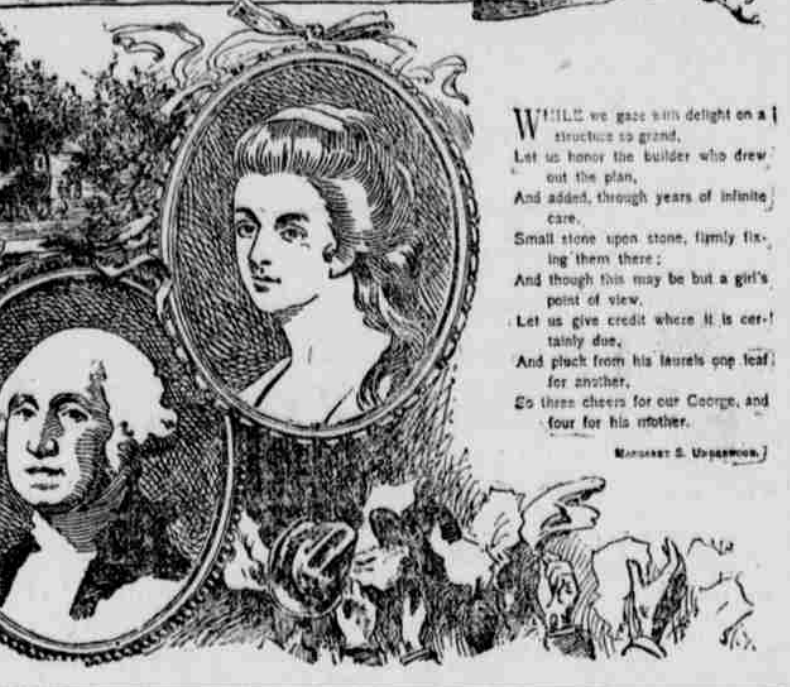
Mrs. Venamon to his mother, Maria Venamon Williamson, who gave it to her own daughter.

Sayings of Washington.

Observe good faith and justice toward all nations and cultivate peace and harmony with all.

My anxious recollections, my sympathetic feelings and my best wishes are irresistibly attracted wheresoever

Where Honor is Due



that Cornwallis had surrendered at Yorktown she lifted her hands toward heaven, but without a tear, and speaking calmly, she said: "Thank God! War will now be ended, and peace, independence and happiness bless our

country!" Then she said: "I am not surprised at what George has done, for he was always a very good boy." Alone, except with his friend Lafayette, without horses or attendants, the great commander came back to his

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FARM TOPICS

A Cause of Scours.

It is an old maxim among those who raise calves that any milk not fit for the farmer's table is unfit for the calf. Sour or very cold milk will cause scours, and any filth in the milk will invariably show its effects in the condition of the calf.

Care of Farm Implements.

Farm implements do not wear out so much as they rust out. Plows, cultivators, harrows, etc., that are left in the open air usually end their usefulness in one season instead of lasting for several years. A mower or binder that is not kept perfectly dry will be almost useless when desired for use. There should be a place for every machine or tool, and each should be examined before spring. Every blade should be sharp, and oil should be now applied freely to all implements.

A Tool Carrier and Holder.

The cut shows a long box, to which handles have been nailed and an old wheelbarrow wheel added. Into this go small tools, hoes, shovels, etc., together with fertilizer and any small articles needed, and all wheeled to

A TOOL BOX FOR FIELD WORK.

the garden or field, where crops are being planted. The top of this box can be made watertight. It can then be left in the field with the tools in it until the work is done.—American Agriculturist.

The Silo and Silage Corn.

We have nothing more economical or that makes better silage than the tub silo. The staves should be about six inches wide. The edges need not be beveled, but they should be straight. Woven wire makes the best hoops. The silo should be watertight except at the door. In preparing the ground for corn, it should be cultivated in a way that it will not bake down hard. It should be loose and light at the time of planting. I prefer to do the most of the cultivation after planting. I would harrow light soils soon after plowing. Corn needs plenty of sunshine, so I would plant it thinly. The distance apart depends on the variety planted. As soon as you can see the rows started the cultivator. Frequent cultivation is an important factor in making the crop. Seal the silo with oat chaff, first putting on building paper. If the corn is so dry that it does not contain seventy-five per cent. water, the silage will be improved by adding water when filling the silo.—I. P. Roberts, of Cornell Experiment Station.

Starting Early Potatoes.

The plan tested at the Rhode Island stations of sprouting seed potatoes in trays so that they would be fairly grown, or as large as they usually are at the first hoeing, when they were set in the field, seems to be so simple and to have so increased the yield, as well as given an earlier crop, that we cannot refrain from mentioning it again, in the hope that some of our readers will try it. They used trays three and three quarter feet long and one and a half feet wide, a convenient size for one man to handle, and holding about a bushel each when they were spread out. The sides of the trays were but about an inch high, and the bottom was of laths placed an inch apart. Then these were placed on a rack so as to leave eight or nine inches between them, and that placed so as to give each tray air and sunshine above and below, in a room only moderately warm. Thus they had on each piece a strong vigorous sprout three or four inches high when ready to set them out and they found that the increase in yield at the time they were ready for digging or when first fit to sell was twenty-seven per cent. over those kept in a cool cellar and planted in the open ground, while when fully mature the gain was forty per cent. with more large potatoes.

Exhaustion of Soils.

The exhaustion of soils is largely influenced also by the period of ripeness of a crop at the time of harvesting. Those plants that are cut in the green stage, or while in flower, are largely composed of water, and therefore exhaust the soil but little; but from the time when the seed begins to form until full maturity of the plants the whole system of nourishment is changed. In the effort of perfecting its seed the plant takes from the stalks and roots the juices which it had secreted and sends them upward to nourish the seed, both the stalks and roots becoming dry as the plant eliminates the moisture after depositing the solid material in the seeds. When a crop matures before it is harvested it therefore takes up more of the mineral matter of the soil than when the plants are green, and when a crop is cut while the seeds are just forming (the milky stage) the stalks and leaves are then more nourishing as food for stock, because the mineral matter intended for the seeds is arrested in the stalks. The same rule applies to crops intended to be plowed under, which is that the nearer their approach to maturity without perfecting the seed the greater the benefit imparted to the soil. No law can be made for rotation, but that the farmer must vary his crops and adapt his farm to them, instead of attempting to grow crops on soils not suited therefor, is admitted by all who have had experience.—Philadelphia Record.

KEYSTONE STATE NEWS CONDENSED

PENSIONS GRANTED.

College Student's Exciting Encounter with Wildcat—Death of "Drummer Boy of Shiloh," George W. Brintnall.

The following pensions were granted last week: John W. Kern, Blair's Mills, \$14; Harrison Fridley, Rockton, \$8; Stephen M. Conklin, Prosperity, \$12; James H. Jones, Scottsdale, \$8; William M. Duke, Rural Valley, \$8; Amos Hinderliter, Brookville, \$14; William H. Kelly, Speelman, \$10; George W. Diez, Rousseville, \$8; Mary J. Wolfe, Cochran Mills, \$8; Eliza Cousins, Dec, \$8; Mary E. Morrow, Linesville, \$8.

James H. Holmes, Jr., is now the hero of State College because of a hand-to-hand fight in the woods with a monster wildcat, in which Holmes came off victorious. Holmes checked the animal to death. The cat weighed 23 pounds, was 16 inches high and 32 inches in length. Aside from a few scratches Holmes escaped without injury. He will have the cat mounted.

A coal boom has struck the southern part of Washington county. In East Bethlehem township a new coal field has been recently opened up by the Clyde Coal Company, of Pittsburg. The company is putting out about 8,000 bushels of coal daily. A big electric plant is being built in connection with the plant.

George W. Brintnall, who died at Lancaster Friday, was one of the famous soldiers of the Rebellion. When scarcely more than 15 years of age he enlisted as a drummer boy. At the battle of Shiloh he displayed remarkable coolness and bravery and was afterward known by the sobriquet "The Drummer Boy of Shiloh."

In his cell in the Luzerne county jail Ralph White, an aged farmer, convicted of murder in the second degree, hung himself with a sheet. The prisoner, in a quarrel at Sweet Valley, opened fire on his three nephews. Joseph was instantly killed, and another nephew was mortally wounded. White was sentenced to 15 years in the penitentiary.

The German Alsen-Portland Cement Company, of Hamburg, has just acquired possession of the Charles Mann property, near Nazareth, and the water rights connected with it. The property is an old Moravian landmark, and around it hangs much interesting history of the early Moravian emigrants to America.

A 14-year-old girl was married at Wilkesbarre to a 27-year-old man, and he signed a contract agreeing to let her live with her parents until she is 30. The bride was Mary Jane Reager, of Plymouth township, and the bridegroom Nicholas Burkhardt, a prosperous young butcher.

General orders have been issued from the headquarters of the National Guard of Pennsylvania, announcing the appointment of Col. W. Fred Reynolds, of Bellefonte, as an aide on Gov. Stone's staff, to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Col. George A. Huber, of Philadelphia.

John J. Carter, president of the Titusville board of school controllers, presented the school children of the city with what is familiarly called the "ball grounds." The gift consists of five acres in the eastern part of the city and is to be used as a field for athletics.

The oldest woman in Meadville, Mrs. Mary Smith, Wednesday celebrated her 97th birthday in good health. She is quite active and reads the daily papers. She is a native of Massachusetts and has two children living.

Armed with a search warrant, Uniontown officers found several hundred dollars' worth of goods stolen in recent robberies and arrested Charles Henderson, and another negro, who will be charged with burglary.

The employees of W. K. Strick & Co.'s coal mine at Niverton, struck Monday against the discharge of 89 union miners. Two Polish interpreters were arrested, charged with threatening the lives of the superintendent and others.

The grinding mill of the Rand power works at Fairchance, Fayette county, was destroyed by fire. A large quantity of nitrate of soda and charcoal were burned. The loss is about \$200,000.

W. B. Duff, a wealthy oil man of Washington, has completed the purchase of the James Harbison farm in White township, adjoining Beaver Falls, for a fair ground.

At New Castle leaking gasoline in a car he was unloading saturated the clothing of Benjamin Ball. When he went to a stove to take fire and he was horribly burned. He will probably die.

At New Castle, Edward Mobley is thought to be dying from the effects of burns received by being struck by a lighted lamp thrown by Joseph Davis. The latter is in jail.

Two cases of smallpox have developed in the Bristoria oil field, Greene county. Both are quarantined. These are the first cases of smallpox in Greene county in 34 years.

Andrew Kendor, a crippled Hungarian, who lives at Coalbrook, Fayette county, is missing, and it is feared he has frozen to death.

Mrs. Mary Rapp Hampton, who shook hands with Lafayette, died at her home in Phoenixville, Sunday, at the age of 101 years.

John Fetko's 6-year-old son Charles, near Hastings, was found frozen to death. He had fallen into an old coal shaft.

Joseph Lawrence was convicted at Greensburg of illegal liquor selling and sentenced to pay a fine of \$500 and stand committed.

The opera house at McDonald was partly burned. A church fair was in progress at the time. A number were slightly hurt, but none seriously.

Nearly 50 cases of typhoid fever have been traced to the water from a spring in the Third ward, Bradford.

Matsa Evanyans and Jacob Seoff, the two Russians burned in the powder explosion near Irwin, are both dead from the effects of their wounds.

John Campbell, formerly of the T. Pennsylvania regiment had his ground off by a train at Greensburg.

The First National Bank of New York is suing that city for \$5,500,000 claim grows out of the Blevins.

The unfurling of the flag is a feature in the history of New Zealand.