

# WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY

## INCIDENTS FROM HIS LIFE

### 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.



(From Leslie's Monthly.)  
THE BIRTHPLACE OF WASHINGTON, WESTMORELAND COUNTY, VIRGINIA. (The house is no longer standing, but its site is marked by an appropriate monument.)

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

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.

Matha 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 suspense was relieved by the messages he

If you please, you may laud George up to the skies, As the man who won battles and never told lies. You may tell of his virtues in story and song; How he carefully sifted the right from the wrong; Of his wisdom in council, his bravery in war; How he drove the grim British away from our shore; You may cherish forever his hat and his sword, And up to the skies our brave Washington laud. Long, long may we hold him an example to youth, For honesty, temperance, courage and truth.

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 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 mother's house. She was told that the hero of the times, the man whom all the country was praising, was at the door. But whatever he was to others

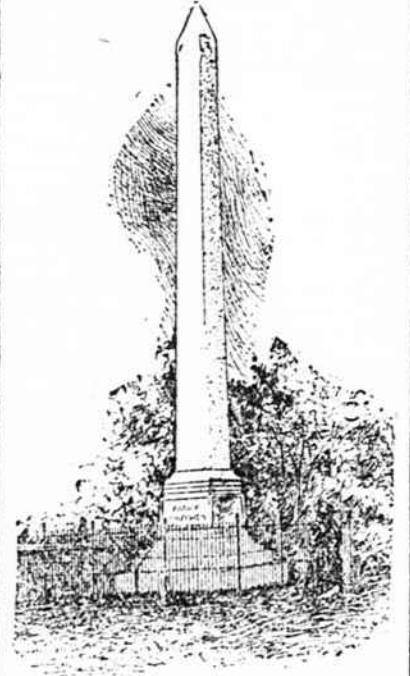


GENERAL WASHINGTON AND HIS AGED MOTHER.

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

he was still her boy, and in a moment she had folded him in a warm embrace, such as she used to give him when as a little fellow he climbed into her lap. Again she called him by the fond names she had used in his childhood, and though she marked the furrows which his struggles had traced deep in his face, her every thought was of him, not of the name he had won, 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



MONUMENT TO MARY, MOTHER OF WASHINGTON, AT FREDERICKSBURG.

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 Washing-

Around him stood a group of English officers, hardly less showy in their trappings, together with members of the Legislature and other civilians. When the bride entered the coach, which was bright with the Washington colors of red and white, and drawn by six horses guided by black postilions in livery, the bridegroom did not enter with her. There was his favorite horse, with his tall body servant holding the reins and waiting for him to mount. When Washington mounted the richly caparisoned charger he rode by the side of the bridal coach, closely followed by a cortege of gentlemen on horseback."

#### 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 be-

#### Where Honor is Due

While we gaze with delight on a structure so grand, Let us honor the builder who drew out the plan, And added, through years of infinite care, Small stone upon stone, firmly fixing them there; And though this may be but a girl's point of view, Let us give credit where it is certainly due, And pluck from his laurels one leaf for another, So three cheers for our George, and four for his mother.

came the property of her daughter, Miss Margaretta H. Baker. Miss Baker's uncle (her mother's brother), Mr. Williamson, is still living at St. Michael'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.

"He Never Slopped Over." George Washington, George Washington, A modest man were you, You never let your fancy run To frivolous ado, You seldom held processions grand For love of mere display; You only sought to help your land And went your simple way. George Washington, George Washington, Though dignified of mien, You never thought that it was fun To make a medley scene, You'd shiver in your honored grave If you could somehow view The way well-meaning men behave In celebrating you. —Washington Star

New Century Resolution. Resolved, That I, —, of —, will do my best to make life sunny to those around me; that I will keep the irritation out of my voice, if I cannot wholly root it from my mind; that I will look on the bright side of the "trying" people with whom I live, and try to show them my own bright side; that I will take no notice of petty things which will go wrong, and try to be contented with the condition in which I am placed. Also, Resolved, That I will not be discouraged if I fracture my resolution, but will do my best to mend it and go on as at first. —Philadelphia Record.

# THE VOTE COUNTED

Congress Officially Declares McKinley Elected.

LAST ACT IN ELECTORAL DRAMA.

Some Applause When Maryland's Vote Was Announced — Joint Session of Congress.

Washington, D. C., Special.—The ceremony of counting the electoral vote for President and Vice President cast at the election last fall took place in the hall of the House of Representatives at 1 o'clock Wednesday, at a joint session of the House and Senate. The method of counting the vote is described with great detail by the statute and was followed literally. Great crowds thronged the galleries. At 12:45 p. m., proceedings in the House were suspended and five rows of seats upon the right of the hall were vacated for the members of the Senate. At one minute of 1 o'clock the President pro tem. and members of the Senate were announced. The members of the House rose to receive them while page boys carrying the caskets in which the electoral returns were deposited took them to the clerk's desk. Senator Frye, president pro tem. of the Senate, ascended the rostrum and took his place at the right of Speaker Henderson, to preside over the joint session. Immediately below Speaker Henderson and Senator Frye, at the clerk's desk, were the tellers of the two houses, Senators Chandler, of New Hampshire, and Caffery, of Louisiana, and Representatives Grosvenor of Ohio, and Richardson, of Tennessee, flanked on either hand by the Secretary of the Senate, Mr. Bennett, and the Clerk of the House, Mr. McDowell. Senator Frye rapped for order and announced the object of the session. Formal portions of the certificates, except in the case of Arkansas, were omitted. This exception was because one of the electors had been absent and the Governor had appointed a substitute. The certificate was not challenged, however.

Senator Chandler read, in extenso, the certificate of the vote of Alabama giving 11 votes for Wm. Jennings Bryan of Nebraska, for President, and 11 votes for Adlai E. Stevenson, of Illinois, for Vice President. General Grosvenor announced that Colorado has cast four votes for Wm. Jennings Bryan, of Nebraska, for President and 4 for Theodore Roosevelt, of New York, for Vice President. "Oh no," shouted Mr. Richardson, one of the Democratic tellers, while the assemblage burst into laughter. Mr. Grosvenor corrected the error and the announcement of the vote of the several States then proceeded in alphabetical order.

When Maryland's eight votes were announced for McKinley and Roosevelt there was slight applause. Another ripple of applause followed the announcement of Nebraska's vote. It fell to the lot of Mr. Grosvenor to announce the vote of the President's own State of Ohio, but its announcement created no demonstration. On concluding the list the tellers formally ascertained the totals.

Senator Chandler announced the total number of votes cast as 447, of which Wm. McKinley, of Ohio, received for President of the United States 292; Wm. J. Bryan, of Nebraska, 155, and of which Theodore Roosevelt, of New York, received for Vice President 292, and Adlai E. Stevenson 155.

Thereupon Senator Frye proclaimed the state of the vote as delivered to him. This announcement of the state of the vote by the President of the Senate, said he, is by law, a sufficient declaration that Wm. McKinley, of the State of Ohio, is elected President of the United States, and that Theodore Roosevelt, of the State of New York, is elected Vice President, each for the term beginning March 4, 1901, and will be entered together with a list of the votes on the journals of the Senate and House of Representatives."

Telegraphic Briefs. A public school principal in New Orleans says that the ability to decipher more or less obscure handwriting quickly and accurately is, in his opinion, one of the best possible tests of general intelligence. He uses it quite frequently in his school, without letting the pupil suspect what he is after.

The State of Oregon has issued warrants for over \$100,000 within a year past for bounties for predatory wild animals killed within its limits. The bounty is paid on scalps of coyotes, wildcats, mountain lions, panthers, cougars, gray wolves and timber wolves.

A St. Petersburg dispatch says that official advices from the governor of Baku, the scene of the recent naphtha fires, says that the total loss of life was 17 and that the loss of property will not exceed 1,200,000 rubles.

The London Court Circular announces King Edward's decision that the court presentations during the reign of Queen Victoria, will hold good for the present reign.