

Some of the Homes of the Father of His Country; No Other American Has Ever Had Half as Many



All the dwellings ever occupied by George Washington were still in existence they would constitute a Valhalla of which latter day Americans might well be proud. Unfortunately some of them have not survived the century which has elapsed since the "greatest of all Americans" went the way of all flesh. Many of them remain, however, especially among those which Washington used as headquarters during his campaigns. Some of them have been borne away piecemeal, lovingly and with an almost justifiable vandalism, by those who value such monuments as mementoes of the former presence of one so revered above all his fellows.

The house in which George Washington was born, burned to the ground when the future first president was three years of age and the family took shelter in a rude cabin hastily erected on the site until a new home could be selected. This earliest abiding place of the great Virginian was at Wakefield, in Westmoreland county, and until recent years the two brick chimneys—all that remained from the sudden conflagration which made the Washingtons homeless—were still standing. At the present, however, hardly a brick can be found after diligent searching—the relic hunter has been thorough and the site has almost reverted to its original condition.

Fortunately for the Washingtons, they soon had another home. They owned another estate, in Stafford county, opposite Fredericksburg, and as soon as they could right themselves they removed to it and lived in a house which was the exact counterpart of the one that burned. They lived there until the father, Augustine Washington, died, and for some time afterward—until George went to live with his elder half brother Lawrence, who had inherited Mount Vernon from his father and was living on that fine estate the happy go lucky life of a Virginia planter.

The Washingtons were not rich at this time, but they were in very comfortable circumstances and had rich friends. Lawrence was a great favorite, and Lord Fairfax was his constant associate. The eccentric nobleman was so attached to genial "Larry" that he went out of his way, and gladly, to do something for his young half brother. George made his home at Mount Vernon and shared in the general prosperity which came through the friendship of Fairfax, being employed to survey the latter's estates and paid well for doing it.

At the death of Lawrence Washington, Mount Vernon became the property of his younger brother. The latter proceeded without delay to put the estate in order and had just about done so when the colony sent him to negotiate with the troublesome French and Indians. When he returned he was appointed aid to Braddock and distinguished himself in that general's rather disappointing campaign. Then he returned to his estate, married Mrs. Martha Custis and prepared to settle down for the remainder of his life at beautiful Mount Vernon.

But fate would not have it so. After a few years of happiness and great prosperity, at the close of which he had become the most conspicuous person in the colony of Virginia, and also one of the richest, he was called to assume the command of the army with which the colonies were about to begin the organized struggle for freedom. During the six years following he had more temporary lodgings than any general, ancient or modern, who has made his way into history.

On Jan. 23, 1775, Washington left Philadelphia on horseback and journeyed in that fashion to Cambridge, Mass., to join the patriot army. The first house he occupied was a large, gable roofed dwelling built in 1726 and used as the official residence of the principals of Harvard college. For 120 years the mansion was occupied by successive presidents of the institution. After several weeks Washington removed to the Craigie house, afterward the home of Longfellow and occupied by the daughter of the poet at the present time. Here Mrs. Washington joined him and her sunny and dignified presence lent a charm to the mansion which time has not effaced.

Early in the spring the headquarters were removed to New York and the Washingtons went to live in a house in Pearl street, opposite Cedar. Mrs. Washington did not like the house or the neighborhood, and they soon removed to the Mortimer house, which was one of the most pretentious residences in America at the time. It was known as Richmond Hill and was situated on the corner of Varick and Hudson streets. Later on it became the city residence of Aaron Burr. Here the Washingtons remained until after the evacuation, in September, going then to the Roger Morris place, three miles north of Harlem.

After this and until the cessation of hostilities, Washington found shelter beneath more than half a hundred roof trees. Mrs. Washington went back to Mount Vernon to await the result of the problematical struggle. From Harlem the commander in chief went to White Plains, Westchester county, New York, where he lived in a house which is still in a good state of preservation. In a few weeks he crossed the Hudson river into New Jersey and occupied the house of Peter Zabriskie at Hackensack. All through the dreary days of that melancholy retreat across New Jersey he lived in camp, but early in December he established himself in the Barclay house at Morrisville, Pa., opposite Trenton, which is there still.

Two weeks later the American army moved inland and the battles of Trenton and Princeton were fought. Several houses in the vicinity of these operations in that vicinity, which included the battle of Germantown, Washington lived in a dozen or more houses, most of which have been replaced by others. The old house at Valley Forge is still in a fair state of preservation, as are the lodging places of the chief officers and the headquarters of the army.

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and a beautiful dwelling belonging to the Van Cortlandts. Shortly afterward he removed to the Applebee place, about three miles and a half from the present village of Dobbs Ferry. This house stood on an elevation which to this day is called Washington's hill. The house has been destroyed. On Aug. 30 the busy man was again in Philadelphia living at the house of Robert Morris. He remained there until the early autumn of the following year, when he realized that the time had come for him to move southward. He chose Williamsburg, Va., as a halting point and became domiciled in the house of Chancellor Wythe. This dwelling, still intact, is a large two story brick structure facing a long green common and shaded by enormous trees. It has sheltered a host of celebrities in its day, its designer and builder being George Wythe, a signer of the Declaration and for more than twenty years sole chancellor of Virginia. For many years it was the home of Governor Page and in later times sheltered the Harrison

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Andre and the initial details of the attempted betrayal were arranged. The property was confiscated by the state and sold.

On Aug. 24, 1780, headquarters were at Liberty Pole tavern, which stood about two miles back from the Palisades, on the site of the present town of Englewood, N. J. After going to various New Jersey points near the New York line Washington returned to the Robinson house, going thence to Tappan. The scene of Andre's execution and remaining several days in an old stone building built by a retired West Indian trader in 1760. Thence the commander went again to Peekness, N. J., and lived for a month at his old quarters in the comfortable Dey mansion. Late in the autumn he returned to his former quarters at New Windsor, N. Y., and settled down for the winter.

He did not move from New Windsor until June 25. On that day he joined the army camped at Peekskill on the Hudson. Here he made his home in

WON GOLD MEDAL AND APPPOINTMENT

Gold medals for the two best orations delivered in the Washington birthday contest held yesterday afternoon at the Salt Lake High school were awarded to Scott Lynn, a senior who was also notified yesterday of his appointment to Annapolis, and to Miss Winifred Dyer, daughter of the late Frank Dyer.

The medal won by Scott Lynn was offered by the Sons of the American Revolution, and was awarded by a committee consisting of Charles Baldwin, John D. Spencer and W. L. Brown, President Fred A. Hale making the presentation speech. Miss Dyer's medal was offered by the Daughters of the American Revolution, Mrs. A. J. Gorham, Mrs. Ira H. Lewis and Miss Katharine Williams comprising the committee on award. The presentation speech was made by Mrs. Robert Welles Fisher, state registrar of the Spirit of Liberty chapter.

The patriotic exercises at the school opened at 2 o'clock in the main assembly room. There were eight members of the senior class contesting, and their efforts were so nearly on a par as far as merit was concerned that it was not until the judges returned their decision that the audience could pick a winner. Mr. Lynn's subject was "Patriotism, the Old and the New," while that of Miss Dyer was "Three Revolutionary Heroes."

The exercises opened with the singing of "America" by the audience. Francis Letchfield then followed with the first of the orations, dealing with the national heroes under the heading of "Lost We Forget." Lucy Nichols, spoke next in "A Servant of America," which she characterized Benjamin Franklin in his work for the republic.

Frank King, a southern boy, spoke next on "A Tribute to the Confederacy" in which he called attention to the sterling qualities of the southern manhood. Jennie Gray chose "Unknown Heroes" as her subject, and told of brave deeds of the heroic class, which have gone unremembered. George Roberts spoke on "Our Navy," telling of its growth from the years since the Revolution, and of its present strength.

Following the announcement of the decision by the judges, the assembly adjourned after the giving of a number of High school yell.

STOLEN PROPERTY FOUND.
John Birch, a coal miner from Scotland, reported to the police this morning that a telescope belonging to him had been stolen

from the Valley House, where he is staying. Soon after his complaint reached headquarters, a telephone message was received to the effect that two grips and an assortment of wearing apparel were found scattered around the vicinity of the Seventeenth ward meeting