

New American Monument

To Honor

GEORGE WASHINGTON

Brigham H. Roberts Makes Timely Suggestion

That the Point Where the West Grew Out of the East

Be Made a National Park, With Great New Monument

At the Forks of the Ohio, Where the Six Indian Nations Fought Back the Westward American Advance, Where Great Britain Sought to Hold Control and Where the French Fought Washington.

Luckily the Point of Land Has No Build-
ings to Remove, No Private Ownership to
Outbid, and Is in the Hands of a Patriotic
Society at Liberty to Turn It Over to the
Nation.

AMERICA, for the "man
that was raised on a
farm," is soon to build
a great monument on
the "farm which raised
a man." Lincoln will be given,
at the time of the 100th anniversary
of his birth, a tribute in enduring stone
expressive of how tenderly the world is
coming to feel of "its most gentle
memory."

A background of history enlightens
any nation. The monuments erected
call the younger generation to see what
an inheritance they gained from the
elder. Brigham H. Roberts of Salt
Lake City, once standing at the forks
of two great rivers, where they flow
together to make the great Ohio, saw
there the need of still one more great
American monument, as broad in its
appeal as is American sentiment.

Who of all the sculptors can build in
stone the sentiment, "Westward the
Course of Empire Takes its Way?"

Where had the west its beginning?

Where was the heart of the move-
ment out of which 13 seaboard colonies
became a Nation?

Go back of the days of railroads, and
look to Virginia, the mother of states
as well as the mother of presidents.
Then you find a condition which is yet
to be fully recognized, and which in-
tertwines the name of Washington as
colorfully as do the events of the
which he fought to overcome Cornwallis.

A monument to Washington on a na-
tional park to be made at the very
forks of the Allegheny and Monongahela
rivers, which will preserve, with
Pittsburg for a background, the spot
through which the west grew out of
the east, and where first the Indians,
then the French, and then the British
contested the rights of Americans to
pass, is the thing which B. H. Roberts
suggests. In the February issue of
the Mutual Improvement Era the sug-
gestion took the form of a formal
drawing up of the proposition. Copies
of the magazine bound in vellum have
been sent to the Mayor of Pittsburg,
the governor of Pennsylvania, the con-
gressional delegation from that state,
and commercial bodies located within
it.

It is still too early to expect replies.
To men in Salt Lake versed in national
history, the appeal of the case is vivid
and direct. The much neglected his-
torical spot is the place to which Wash-
ington went on his first military mis-
sion, and it was to notify the French
occupants that they were not welcome,
he carrying his commission from the
governor of Virginia. Since the first
pioneers passed that way over the old
wagonroad leading west, a nation has
grown up powerful even in such a bar-
ren waste as Salt Lake valley was pic-
tured in the old chronicles. That a spot
of this hostile western soil should point
back along the way that the western
fathers made their route past the out-
posts of the east, to designate the spot
where the great gateway of the west
deserves a national monument is fitting
and timely today, when we celebrate
the birthday of the Father of his Country.

Mr. Roberts, standing on the point
of land where the mighty waters meet,

wrote as follows of the opportunities
they seemed to present to him:

POETIC SITE.

You have read Moore's "Meeting of
the Waters?" If not, then do so, for
it is one of that much neglected poet's
most pleasing descriptive, sentimental
soul who has visited the "Sweet Vale
of Avoca," at the point where the clear
streams of Avon and Avoca meet, be-
tween Rashdrum and Arklow, in the
County of Wicklow, Ireland. It is 20
years since the writer stood upon the
hill that overlooks the scene of Moore's
poem, and in silence acquiesced in the
charms of the spot, celebrated by the
Irish poet; though, unlike the poet, the
writer was alone at the time, and the
added charm of friendly companionship
was not there to increase the interest
"that nature had shed o'er the scene;"
so that, in his case, it was nature's
"soft magic of atmosphere and hill" that
constituted the vale's chief charms.

The writer was reminded of this 20-
year-ago visit to the vale of Avoca,
with its "meeting of the waters," as he
recently stood under the shadow of
Washington Heights, near Pittsburg,
and saw a mightier "Meeting of the
Waters" than would be possible in Ire-
land, since it was an American meet-
ing of rivers, and not an Irish meeting
of brooks.

I refer to the meeting of the Monon-
gahela and Allegheny rivers immedi-
ately below the most westerly point of
the city of Pittsburg. The first stream
comes from the south but turns wester-
ly, on striking the height of land on
which the modern city of Pittsburg
stands. The second stream flows from
the northeast, but meanderingly sweeps
westward on striking the opposite side
of the height of land before referred to,
and meeting the Monongahela they to-
gether form the Ohio, which, in the na-
tive American language, whence it
comes, means "Beautiful river"—a
name surely appropriate for this one
of America's noblest streams. On the
left bank of the Ohio, at least for some
distance below Pittsburg, the wooded
bluffs, broken here and there by deep
cut, rise majestically from the
river's brink; the right bank is less ma-
jestic in appearance, but at some points
scarcely less beautiful.

MOST HISTORICAL SPOT.

The point of land which overlooks
this American meeting of the waters,
and marks the most westerly point of
the city of Pittsburg, is one of Ameri-
ca's most historical spots, and it might
be added, one of America's most
neglected historical spots. Here
stands the only remaining monu-
ment of British occupancy of territory
within the United States, west of the
Allegheny mountains. It is the little
stone and brick redoubt of old Fort
Pitt, built by Col. Bouquet in 1764. It
is a five-sided building, not more than
18x18 feet in diameter. It has two floors
and in each story has a square oak
log running entirely round the build-
ing, with loop holes at intervals which
commanded all the approaches to old
Fort Pitt.

It was during the great Indian up-
rising, planned by Pontiac, the noted
chief of the Ottawas, that Col. Bou-
quet, marching under orders from
Gen. Amherst, reached Fort Pitt and
relieved it from the five days attack
made upon it by a large force of In-
dians. The attack upon the little gar-
rison—numbering but 350 men—was
most determined. The Indians ap-
proached the fort on the night of the
27th of July, 1764, crawling under the
banks of the two rivers, the Monon-
gahela and Allegheny, digging holes
with their knives, in which they were
completely sheltered from the fire of
the fort. "On one side," says a reli-
able description of the circumstance,
"the entire bank was lined with these
burrows, from which the Indians shot
volleys of bullets, arrows and fire-
arrows into the fort. The yelling was
terrible, and the women and children
in the crowded barracks clung to each
other in abject terror. This attack

lasted five days. On the 1st of August
the Indians heard the rumor of Col.
Bouquet's approach, which caused them
to move on, and so the tired garrison
was relieved."

On the 6th of August, Bouquet en-
countered the Indians at Bushy Run,
about 25 miles east of Fort Pitt. The
battle raged for two days, but the En-
glish officer won a complete victory;
though he lost 8 officers and 115 men.
On the 10th of August he arrived at
Fort Pitt, but his force was not suf-
ficient to warrant his pursuit of the
savages further into the west at that
time. It was during his stay at Fort
Pitt, after his rescue of it, that he
erected the block house in question. The
colonel observed that the most which
surrounded the fortifications was per-
fectly dry when the rivers were low,
so that the Indians "could crawl up
the ditch and shoot any guard or sol-
dier who might show his head above
the parapet." It was to prevent this
that Col. Bouquet ordered the block
house erected.

CIVILIZATION'S CONTESTS.

But this Pittsburg Point is associ-
ated with events of much more impor-
tance than incidents connected with
this Indian war, however thrilling the
latter may be. It was here that two
quite distinct civilizations met in their
struggle for the possession of the in-
terior of America. France early saw
the natural strategic point of the
"Forks of the Ohio," and designed
making it one of a chain of forts ex-
tending from Niagara to the Missis-
sippi, following the Ohio. The work of
building this line of forts attracted
the attention of the British authorities
in the American colonies. Especially
did it attract the attention of Gov.
Dinwiddie, of Virginia, an intrepid old
Scotchman, little likely to submit
quietly to what he regarded as the in-
vasion of his sovereign's dominion.
England, it must be remembered, laid
claim to all countries conquered by the

Troquois Indians, or Five Nations, who,
by the treaty of Utrecht, had been
accounted British subjects. To claim
title to the lands over which the de-
pendants of the Five Nations ranged,
was practically to claim all the lands
between the Allegheny mountains and
the Mississippi, and northward to the
lakes, as also between Ottawa and
Lake Huron, north of the lakes, leav-
ing nothing to France but the
Province of Quebec. On the
other hand France claimed the
whole of the American continent ex-
cept the narrow strip of sea coast
eastward of the Allegheny mountains.
Whatever concessions she had been
forced into making by the treaties of
Utrecht (1713) and Aix-la-Chapelle
(1748) she repudiated, and planned to
take possession of what she regarded
as her own by the erection of the af-
fore-said line of forts. Seeing the territory
of his king invaded by this fort build-
ing policy of the French, Governor Din-
widdie resolved to send formal protest
to those actually engaged in such work,
and call upon them to desist. In pur-
suance of this resolution he dispatched
a certain young Virginian, then known
to fame only as the best all-round
athlete in Virginia, and a brother to
Lawrence Washington, who had the
distinction of having been educated in
England, and who was also a stock-
holder in the trading companies doing
business with the Indians as far west
as the Ohio.

WASHINGTON'S VISIT.

It was in December, 1753, that young
George Washington, in company with
a few frontiersmen, appeared at Fort
Le Boeuf and presented Governor Din-
widdie's protest against French in-
vasion of lands "so notoriously known to
belong to Great Britain." The French
commander, St. Pierre, received the
young Virginian courteously, as he
was bound to do, and prepared a polite
answer to Governor Dinwiddie's com-
munication, informing him that he was
but a soldier carrying out the orders

of his superiors, but promised to for-
ward his letter to the Marquis Du-
quesne, and await his orders.

Returning from Fort Le Boeuf, Wash-
ington passed the "Forks of the Ohio,"
and being struck with the locality as
a strategic point of great value in the
struggle then pending between France
and Great Britain, he recommended, on
his return to Virginia, the building of
a British fort there. The recommenda-
tion was acted upon and Captain Wil-
son Trent, a commissioned officer in
the British army, but formerly an En-
glish Indian trader of the better class,
was dispatched with a company of
backwoodsmen to build the proposed
fort.

Meantime, Governor Dinwiddie was
exerting himself to raise the necessary
troops and munitions of war to garr-
son the fort. He appealed to the other
colonies for aid, but as the lands
invaded belonged either to Virginia or
to Pennsylvania—to which was then
not quite certain—the other colonies
were not disposed to vote money and
men to defend them. Aside from the
troops raised in Virginia and Pennsylv-
ania, the utmost help Governor Din-
widdie could obtain was the promise
of three or four hundred men from
North Carolina, two companies from
New York, and one from South Caro-
lina. The troops from Virginia were
to be commanded by Joshua Fry, with
Washington second in command. Cap-
tain Trent, anxious to obtain a prom-
inent position in the expedition then
forming, withdrew from the Forks of
the Ohio, leaving the building of Fort
Pitt in the hands of Ensign Ward and
forty men while he hastened to Vir-
ginia to join Washington.

FRENCH ATTACK.

The French, meanwhile, were close
observers of these movements of their
English enemies, and learning of the
weakness of the British garrison at
the "Forks of the Ohio" they descend-
ed the Allegheny river in a force 1,500
strong, landed before Fort Pitt, plant-

ed their cannon and demanded its sur-
render. Ensign Ward promptly com-
plied with the demand and was per-
mitted to withdraw with all his men.
The unfinished English fort was soon
demolished, and one near by, but closer
to the Allegheny river than Fort Pitt,
was erected by the French and named
Fort Duquesne.

Of the subsequent movements be-
tween the French and British for pos-
session of the Forks of the Ohio, I can-
not write in detail. It must suffice me
to say, in brief, that they involved the
forward movement of the Virginia
troops under Washington shortly after
the abandonment of Fort Pitt by En-
sign Ward, and his obtaining a tem-
porary advantage over the French in
the defeat of their forces under Coulon
de Jumonville (killed in the engage-
ment); of his own retreat before a su-
perior force of French and Indians to
Great Meadows, where he capitulated
to Coulon de Villiers; of the Braddock
expedition of 1755, rendered disastrous
by the arrogance and stupidity of the
British general, who insisted on fight-
ing Indians and French frontiersmen
exactly in the same form as he would
have fought Prussian armies in Europe;
the awful battle in which he was so
overwhelmingly defeated that the en-
gagement took on the nature of a mas-
sacre of the English troops, was fought
some eight miles east of the Forks of
the Ohio. With the defeat of Braddock
the efforts to take Fort Duquesne were
at an end for some three years.

BRITISH EXPEDITION.

At the close of that interval, however,
another British expedition was formed
for the capture of Fort Duquesne, un-
der Grig. Gen. Forbes and Col. Bou-
quet, a young Swiss officer in the ser-
vice of the British. This expedition,
though sustaining some slight reverses,
drove the French to such extremities
that they themselves blew up Fort
Duquesne and retired from the Forks
of the Ohio.

On the arrival of Gen. Forbes at that
point, "he hastily built a stockade
around the soldiers' huts and traders'
cabins which, in honor of England's
great prime minister and America's
friend, he named 'Pittsburgh.'" Sixty
days later came the royal mandate,
through this same prime minister, to
the colonial authorities and the com-
mander-in-chief of his majesty's forces
in North America "To lose no time in
concerning the proposed and speediest
means for completely restoring, if pos-
sible, the ruins of Fort Duquesne to a
defensible and respectable state, or for
erecting another in the place of it of
sufficient strength and every way ade-
quate to the great importance of the
several objects of maintaining his ma-
jesty's subjects in the undisputed pos-
session of the Ohio."

GAGE'S APPEARANCE.

The year following, 1764, when the In-
dians who had meanwhile rendezvoused
along the Muskingum, above what is
now known as Marietta, Ohio, again
prepared to range the British frontier,
Gen. Gage—he of the Boston schoolboy
episode—then commander-in-chief of
his majesty's forces in the American
colonies, planned two expeditions
against them; one led by Gen. Brad-
street, ordered to advance by way of
the Great Lakes; the other, led by Col.
Bouquet, to start from Fort Pitt. Both
expeditions were successful. Col. Bou-
quet pursued the savages to their new
homes on the Muskingum, refusing to
listen to parleys, until the spirit of the
native tribes was subdued and they
were ready to accept such terms
as he chose to dictate. One
of these terms was, that all
of the whites held captive by the
Indians should be brought in and
surrendered. This was acceded to,
and some 300 captives were brought
to his encampment.

PATHETIC INCIDENT.

It was a pathetic scene which at-
tended this event. Some of the cap-
tives had been held for years by the
Indians, some of them as long as
nine years. Those who had been cap-
tured in their childhood had forgot-

ten the very language of their race.
One instance is related of a mother
who recognized her child among the
captives surrendered to Col. Bouquet,
but the child gave no sign of recog-
nizing the mother, and in tears she
complained to the colonel that the
daughter she had so often sung to
sleep in her arms had forgotten her.
"Sing the song to her that you used
to sing when she was a child," said
the commander. She did so, and
"with a passionate flood of tears," the
daughter rushed to the mother's
arms.

During the period of the American
revolution, Fort Pitt played no very
important part.

After the French were driven from
the Ohio, the Pontiac rising sup-
pressed, and the American revolution
ended, Fort Pitt lost its importance as
a military post, and passed from hand
to hand, until finally Mrs. Mary E.
Schneley, granddaughter of Gen.
James O'Hara, presented Col. Bou-
quet's little stone and brick house of
old Fort Pitt to the Daughters of the
American Revolution of Allegheny
county, Penn., together with a plot of
ground measuring 100 by 90 feet, with
a passage way leading to the Pennsylv-
ania avenue 20 by 20 feet. Thus,
through the generosity of a patriotic
woman, and the Daughters of the
American Revolution, this historic
spot is preserved to the city of Pitts-
burg, to the great state of Pennsylv-
ania and to the nation.

PRESENT CONDITION.

But while one admires and com-
mends the generosity of Mrs. Schneley
and equally applauds the patriotism
of the Daughters of the American
Revolution, not only for pre-
serving this historic spot to the
city, state and nation, but for many other similar actions
that assert patriotic sentiment against
heedless carelessness of historic monu-
ments, and the encroachment of the
spirit of unpatriotic materialism, one
can but wonder at the neglect of this
historic spot by the state of Pennsylv-
ania and the United States. One
 marvels that long ere this Pennsylv-
ania's powerful delegation in the na-
tional Congress has not moved for the
nationalization of this point of land,
either through concession by the state
of Pennsylvania, or by purchase; and
the forces of the two great European
civilizations met in their conflict for
the possession of the interior of America—
an empire mightier in extent and re-
sources than both states contending for
its possession at that time. Here the
savages tribes of the land, coming up
from the Ohio valley, sought, as best
they could, to beat back the hordes of
white intruders. Why not, then, erect
here on this spot, once the outpost of
advancing civilization, a monument
that would typify this triple-sided con-
flict, and the triumph of civilization
over savagery? Let it be a group monu-
ment about an ample base. On the
north side a French group of soldiers
and Indian allies, pressing downward
along the banks of the Allegheny for
possession of the Ohio forks; on the
south side a group of British with their
American backwoods allies in resistance
of the French; on the west side, coming
up from the Ohio, an Indian group as-
serting their claims; while above these
a majestic figure of civilization, facing
and pointing westward—which would
place it fronting the Ohio—the way of
onward marching civilization.

Come, O national Congress, save this
historic outpost in the westward march
of civilization to the nation, and com-
memorate it in fitting manner—in a way
that shall be worthy of the large scale,
the vastness, on which everything in
America exists. Make it worthy of this
American "meeting of the Waters,"
worthy of the great Ohio valley, at the
head of which it will stand. Make it
worthy of our country, for which
nothing can be too great or too grand.
Let it be a monument worthy of Ameri-
ca.

