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WASHINGTON'S LAST HOURS

GEN. GEORGE WASHINGTON died December 14, 1799, at his seat, "Mount Vernon." His body was placed in the old family vault on the estate three days subsequently. For many years there were memorial services in churches on the anniversary of his death, but it passes now unnoticed—the happier anniversary—his natal day—being alone remembered. Recently I was one of a party chatting at a gentleman's house, in which there were three noted physicians and surgeons of the city. The conversation drifted to the subject of Washington's death and its causes, ultimate and immediate, the sum total of which was interesting, but rather sensational as shaped by

bed appeared to be in perfect health, excepting the cold and hoarseness, which he, the deceased, considered trifling, and which he made light of, as he would never take anything to carry off a cold, always observing, 'Let it go as it came.' In the morning he was no better, being 'stopped up' and his throat sore. His family was surprised and worried; and here is where the doctor began his nefarious malpractice, as I will show by intelligent teachers of the practice of medicine. Let us follow his procedure and practice:

"1. A mixture of molasses, vinegar and butter was given him to gargle.
"2. The artery in his forearm was opened, and the patient bled and a half pint of blood taken.

his life's blood gone, and he was a victim of phlebotomy. He bled to death; and then the District Attorney would expatiate on the horrors of the case and ask for a verdict in accord with the evidence he would produce, and so forth, until I seem to be now awakening from a horrid nightmare while I think of it. How a man in the vigor of his manhood, with every possibility of his living a score of years more at end—dying a violent death—by the criminal ignorance of his physicians, least, had been hurried to his untimely after a single day's illness."

The doctor ceased speaking, but no one dissented from his opinion, and shortly we separated. Whether the others ever again thought of the imaginary homicide case the doctor had drawn, it made quite an impression on me, and "Washington was bled to death." "Washington died a victim of malpractice," runs in my head yet.

General Washington's private secretary, Tobias Lear, made notes of the occurrences of the last illness of his chief, writing them on the Sunday following his death, which occurred Saturday night, December 14, between the hours of 10 and 11. He states that the General on Thursday, 12th, rode out to his farms about 10 o'clock and did not return home till past 3 o'clock. Soon after he went out the weather became very bad, rain and hail and snow falling alternately, with a cold wind. When he came in his neck appeared to be wet and snow was hanging on his hair. He went to dinner without changing his clothes. In the evening he appeared as well as usual. On Friday, the 13th, a heavy fall of snow took place, which prevented the General from riding out. Anyway, he caught a slight cold and buried himself in his study, when he wrote his last letter.

His principal physician in attendance was Dr. Cruik, an old friend and ex-army surgeon. He was assisted in his heroic treatment of the patient by Dr. Gustavus R. Brown, of Port Tobacco, Md., and Dr. Dick; so there were plenty of medical talent present in the sick room. On the last day the General made a brave struggle with death, for at 8 o'clock in the morning he got up and was dressed and sat by the fire for two hours, and at 5 o'clock in the afternoon he sat by the fire for an hour, but was too weak to talk, so what he himself thought of his treatment has not come down to us.

On Sunday, December 15, the coffin was ordered from Alexandria, the measurement of the body sent being:

In length, six feet three and one-half inches exact.
Across the shoulders, one foot nine inches exact.
Across the elbows, two feet one inch exact.

Mr. Lear says he paid Dr. Dick and Dr. Brown \$40 each for their services, "which sum Dr. Cruik advised as very proper."

About 12 o'clock Saturday night the body was taken down stairs and laid out in the large room, and on Tuesday was placed in the coffin—a mahogany one, lined with lead—and on Wednesday, 18th, at 3 p. m., the interment took place, with modest military and Masonic ceremonies. On Monday "measures were taken to make provision for the refreshment of a large number of people," and after depositing the body in the vault, "all then returned to the house and partook of some refreshment, the remains of the provision were distributed among the blacks."

Washington was not buried with the military honors due his rank, nor was the funeral attended by any representative of the Government. Seven colonels acted as pall bearers, and "the friends of the family" were its neighbors. The Rev. Mr. and Mrs. Davis

read the Episcopal burial service, and the Masons performed their ceremonies, so, aside from the slight display of the Alexandria militia, the funeral was that of an unostentatious person.

AT WASHINGTON'S HEADQUARTERS RICHMOND.



Very well known are the buildings of Philadelphia, Germantown and vicinity which have associations with General George Washington. Less familiar is the "Washington's Headquarters House," the oldest building in Richmond, Va., and sometimes called the Old Stone House. This was built in 1737, according to local authorities, and is said to have often sheltered Patrick Henry, George Washington, Jefferson, Monroe and Madison, besides the Marquis de Lafayette and others who were prominent in the early struggles to achieve liberty for this Nation. The Headquarters House stands on Main street, between Nineteenth and Twentieth streets.

Washington's Many Pews.

It is hardly conceivable that George Washington could have remained the richest man in America had he paid rent for all the church pews accredited to him. Scarcely a village that had a church in his day but points with pride now to the Washington family pew. It is true, however, that he had much need of the invocation of spiritual grace, for when he lost control of a temper, never very mild, as he did at Trenton and other places, he was quite capable of swearing a volley of good, round oaths, says a Pittsburgh paper.

By the way, is a man morally responsible for profanity, say, occasioned under stress of great excitement, such as may occur while commanding troops in battle? One of the purest and most devout men we ever knew was a Baptist deacon, who was a lieutenant-colonel in the Civil War, who always went into battle praying, and who prayed fervently when the battle was over, but who lost his religion absolutely while the battle was on, and would swear as loud and as fiercely as any trooper in Flanders. The man's sincerity could not be questioned, for most men prayed when he stopped praying and lopped praying when he started.

A Washington Letter.

A firm of tobacco manufacturers in Bristol, England, has a letter from George Washington to the firm 150 years ago, while the Father of His Country was a grower of tobacco. It runs as follows: "Virginia, 25th November, 1759.—Gentlemen.—Some time this week I expect to get on board the 'Cary' for your house fifty hogheads of tobacco of my own and Jno. Parke Custis's, which please to insure in the usual manner. I shall also by the same ship send you ten or twelve hogheads more if I can get them on board in time; but this, I believe, will be impracticable, if Captain Tulman uses that dispatch in loading which he now has in his power to do. I am, gentlemen, your most obedient, humble servant, G. Washington."

SOUTHERN FARM NOTES.

TOPICS OF INTEREST TO THE PLANTER, STOCKMAN AND TRUCK GROWER.

Feeding the Dairy Cow.

There are two common mistakes made in feeding cows; first, not feeding liberally enough; second, feeding a ration not properly balanced. It has been found by experiment that about sixty per cent. of what a cow can eat is necessary to merely maintain her without producing any milk or gaining in weight. This being true, it is evident that it is not economy to feed only a little more than this sixty per cent. needed to keep up the cow's body.

Below are given balanced rations that will furnish the materials necessary to produce milk in about the right proportions. By the term "rations" is meant the feed for twenty-four hours. If a cow will not give a good flow of milk in the early part of the milking period when fed a liberal amount of these rations, it indicates that she is not adapted by nature to be a dairy animal, and should be disposed of. The amounts given are considered about right for a cow giving from twenty to twenty-five pounds of milk per day. For heavy milkers these rations are to be increased and reduced for lighter milkers. In making up these rations it is designed that the cow be given practically all of the roughness she will eat and then sufficient grain is added to furnish the necessary amount of digestible material.

1. Clover hay, twenty pounds; bran, five pounds; corn, six to eight pounds.
2. Clover hay, twenty pounds, oats, four to five pounds; corn, six to eight pounds.
3. Clover hay, twenty pounds; corn and cob meal, eight to ten pounds; gluten or cottonseed meal, two pounds.
4. Alfalfa or cowpea hay, fifteen to twenty pounds; corn, nine to twelve pounds.
5. Alfalfa or cowpea hay, ten pounds; corn stover, ten pounds; corn, eight to ten pounds, and bran, two pounds.—Professor C. H. Eckels, of Missouri Agricultural College.

Roughness For Beef Making.

During the past winter an interesting experiment with sixty head of beef cattle was conducted at the Experiment Station. The twenty cattle fed silage made an average gain of 1.46 pound per head per day; the twenty cattle fed timothy hay, 1.10 pound per head per day, and the twenty cattle fed shredded corn stover, .97 pound per head per day. There was thus a difference of one-third to one-half pound of gain per head per day in favor of the silage fed cattle. The silage fed cattle finished off the best and showed more quality than the others, and in any discriminating market would have brought a considerably higher price. The strong prejudice against using silage for the winter feeding of beef cattle is hard to understand, for it has been fully demonstrated that silage fed cattle will kill out quite as well as the dry fed cattle, and the meat is, generally speaking, of superior quality. Whereas, the silage was all eaten up, 13.5 of the stover and 4.16 per cent. of the hay was wasted. The gains show that the cattle fed were not of a satisfactory quality. In previous experiments a pound of gain has been made for a consumption of three to four pounds of grain. The silage fed cattle in this test consumed 6.54 pounds of grain for a pound of gain; the stover fed cattle 11.18 pounds, or about twice as much, and the hay fed cattle 8.99 pounds, or 2.45 pounds more per head than the silage fed cattle. With better bred animals fed in previous experiments, the average gain per head per day has often been 2.18 pounds through the six months' feeding period, which again testifies to the unsatisfactory quality of the animals fed in this test.—Andrew M. Soule, Director, Virginia Experiment Station, Blacksburg.

Feeding Dairy Cows.

The Kentucky Experiment Station has published a superior bulletin entitled, "Feeding Dairy Cows." It gives the result of experiments that affect various dairy questions, and is summarized as follows:

1. Select cows of dairy type. While pure bred dairy animals will bring a higher price, they will also tend more to reproduce the dairy type, and are therefore recommended.
2. Take a strict account of the cost of milk and butter from each individual cow of the herd, so that the unprofitable ones may be culled out.
3. Exercise and pure air are very essential to the best results from milk cows, but exposure to severe weather, especially cold rains, should be avoided.
4. Feed to get the largest amount of milk with profit. The yield of milk and thereby the yield of butter, is greatly influenced by the amount and character of the feed, the percentage of fat remaining fairly constant.
5. Increase the amount and the length of the season of pastures, for

they represent profitable gains in dairying.

6. Good roughness is essential in dairying, and the more palatable these foods may be, the more of the higher priced grain feeds they will replace. Of our coarse feeds grass, corn silage, alfalfa and clover hay rank high.

7. Study the profits in grain feeding in order to avoid giving more grain than the value of the resulting increased yield. Our leading grain ration is a combination of ground corn and bran. This ration may under some circumstances be bettered or cheapened by the addition of certain by-products of cereal and oil mills.

Grow Rape For Pasture.

Rape is not used as much in the South as it should be. It would afford succulent pasture throughout the cooler portion of the year in the pie belt and would be of great help to stock—especially sheep. Experiments by Professor Craig at the Iowa Experiment Station show that one acre of well grown rape is worth 2000 pounds of the mixture of two-thirds corn and one-third shorts by weight. The experiments were carried on for two years with two lots of pigs. One lot grazed the rape and received the grain mixture, while the other received only the grain. For producing gain in hogs one acre of rape is worth forty-six bushels of corn. Professor Craig adds that the hogs receiving the rape were ~~thinner~~ and made more rapid gains from a heavy feeding of grain after being removed from the rape, than did those that had received grain only.

They were unusually strong and active on their legs after having been fed grain for twelve weeks. Twenty-eight hogs, averaging 210 pounds when rape feeding ended, were pen fed twelve weeks on grain, at the end of which time they averaged 340 pounds. This is a gain of a little over a pound and a half per day for three months.

The rice farmer cannot hope to produce forty-six bushels of corn regularly per acre. But he can grow rape and one acre of rape is worth forty-six bushels of corn for hog feed. More rape will mean more hogs, cheaper hogs, healthier hogs, much more profit from hogs.

Burn Weed Seeds.

Someone who knew what he was talking about said, "Destroy a weevil while it is in the egg. If he had been talking about weeds, no doubt he would have said, 'Destroy weeds while they are in the seed.' At this season there is spare time that should be used in cleaning the farm of weeds. They are along the levees and fences. They are in almost every neglected corner of the farm. Many of them have thousands of seeds for each one.

To permit them to remain standing, so that every passing wind can scatter and spread the seed, is to sit idly by and watch the trouble growing, trouble that could now be easily turned aside. During the dry weather a wagon and team could be used to haul straw from the stack to weed patches. By placing a foundation of straw on a dry place and piling the weeds on it, fire will soon destroy all the seeds. Care must be used not to shatter the seeds on the land. Some of the weeds have dropped part or all of their seeds; but in case of doubt use the fire cure. It never fails to accomplish its purpose.

Objection may be raised that this work will require some time. Do not give that objection too much weight. Time is not very valuable on most farms just now, and an energetic workman can dispose of many noxious weeds in a short time. In any case, there is more time now to destroy seeds than there will be during the busy season.

Feeding Hogs For Profit.

A series of experiments by the Missouri Agricultural College show that farmers who fatten hogs this fall will add nearly fifty per cent. to the value of their corn by feeding linseed meal with it in proportion by weight of five parts corn to one part meal. That is to say, corn worth thirty cents per bushel when fed alone, is worth forty-five to forty-eight cents when fed with linseed meal. For this purpose the corn may be ground or shelled.

It is necessary to supplement corn in some such manner owing to the fact that it is deficient in protein, one of the essential elements of pork production. This substance is found in every tissue of the body and is the principal element of lean meat. Corn furnishes the mineral matter for the bones and the starch, sugar and fat. The production of fat and the maintenance of the animal body, but it does not furnish the protein essential to the tissues. It becomes necessary, therefore, to supply this through some other food.

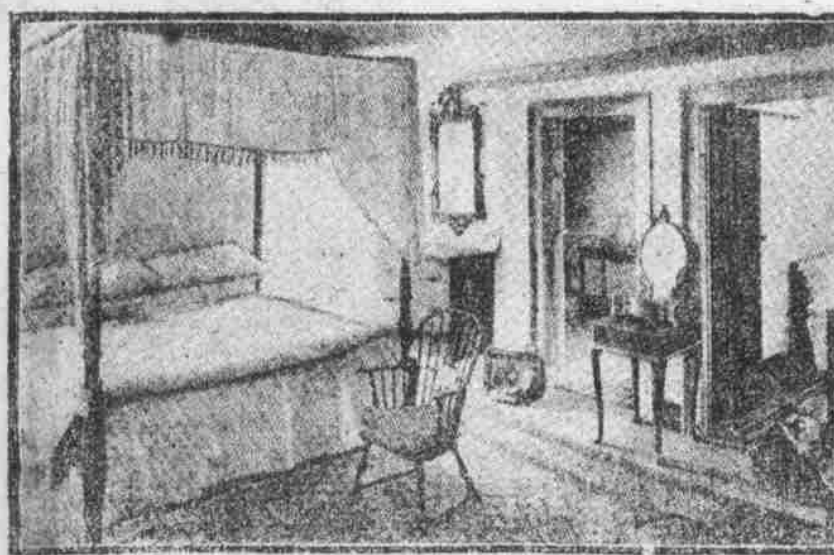


WASHINGTON DELIVERING HIS INAUGURAL ADDRESS FROM THE OLD CITY HALL, NEW YORK, APRIL, 1789.

the views of the gentlemen learned in medical practice, for the keynote was "Washington's death was a plain case of homicide."

"Yes, I cannot view it otherwise. Washington's death was nothing less than homicide, and were I to treat a patient as Washington was treated, I would not be surprised to be brought before a Coroner's Jury or even a Grand Jury and have a true bill of criminal malpractice made out against me. The only mitigating circumstances in my favor in the case would be unintentional wrong-doing and ig-

- "3. Throat bathed externally with a liniment.
- "4. His feet soaked in hot water.
- "5. A blister of cantharidis put on his throat.
- "6. More blood taken from him, and a blister administered.
- "7. Inhaled hot vinegar vapor.
- "8. Gargle of sage tea and vinegar given.
- "9. More blood taken; 11 o'clock a. m.
- "10. More blood taken; 3 o'clock p. m. Ran slowly and very thick.
- "11. Calomel and tartar emetic given; 4 p. m.



THE BED IN WHICH WASHINGTON DIED.

norance of my profession. I can easily imagine District Attorney Graham, with his great chest tones, outlining the case to a jury on my trial: 'Here was a man of remarkable sturdy, robust build, of massive frame, in height six feet three and one-half inches, weighing over 200 pounds, only sixty-eight years old, without an hereditary disease, coming of a long-lived family of farmers; in every way large, powerful and healthy—'

"No, not perfectly healthy," interrupted someone. "He lost his teeth early; had a troublesome abscess in his jaw bone and was subject to lumbago and rheumatism."

"Well, generally in perfect health; who caught a cold by being out in a sleetstorm in which no alarming symptoms were developed, and only evinced itself by hoarseness and difficulty of breathing through his nostrils. You all know what kind of a 'cold' I have in mind. The deceased's private secretary, who will give you a clear understanding of what happened in his knowledge and presence, will state that Washington on retiring to

"Patient at 4.30 was so weak he asked for his two wills. Destroyed one and said: 'I find I am going.'"

"At 5.30 p. m. the patient said to the doctor, 'I feel myself going. You had better not take any more trouble about me, but let me go off quietly. I cannot last long.' The great, strong man was exhausted by the frequent draughts of his blood, and felt 'blue.'"

"12. Blisters applied to his legs, 8 p. m.

"From this time he appeared to breathe with less difficulty than he had done, as his secretary will state; but nothing was done to counteract the effects of the loss of so much blood, and at 10 p. m. he said: 'I am going. Have me decently buried, and do not let my body be put into the vault in less than two days after I am dead. Do you understand me?' he asked the secretary, who replied he did, and the great man uttered his last words: 'Tis well,' and died a few minutes afterwards.

"About ten minutes before he expired his breathing became much easier, but he was exhausted, his vitality

