

WASHINGTONIANA, 1923

By JOHN DICKINSON SHERMAN

GEORGE WASHINGTON was the Father of His Country. And don't you forget it! If you do, you will feel lonesome. For the American people haven't forgotten it and are not forgetting it. On the contrary the American people are getting to think more and more of George Washington with every succeeding year. They are trying to get a clearer mental vision of George. For a time George was too great and good and perfect to be true. Now the people are trying to visualize George as a regular fellow.

For example, William Roscoe Thayer has just brought out "George Washington," intended to be the definite one-volume biography of Washington. Mr. Thayer's purpose as expressed in his preface has been to give a sketch of George Washington's life and acts, which should disclose "the human residue" which he felt sure must persist in Washington's character. "No other great man in history," he says, "has had to live down such a mass of absurdities and deliberate false inventions," including the picture of an imaginary Father of His Country amusing himself with a fictitious cherry tree and hatchet. In short, the author has written his book to help those who complain that they cannot find a flesh and blood man in the George Washington of historians. He expresses the confident hope that those who read this biography will no longer consider George Washington the most illusive of historic personages.

Here's the way "Campion" in the Chicago Tribune's "Line o' Type or Two" puts it:

"O Clio! Muse of buried time,
What trick is this you play,
Who sing to us in prose or rhyme
The hero born today?"

"Your blazing torch athwart the gloom
Lights up our noble dead,
Your record snatches from the tomb
The lives our heroes led."

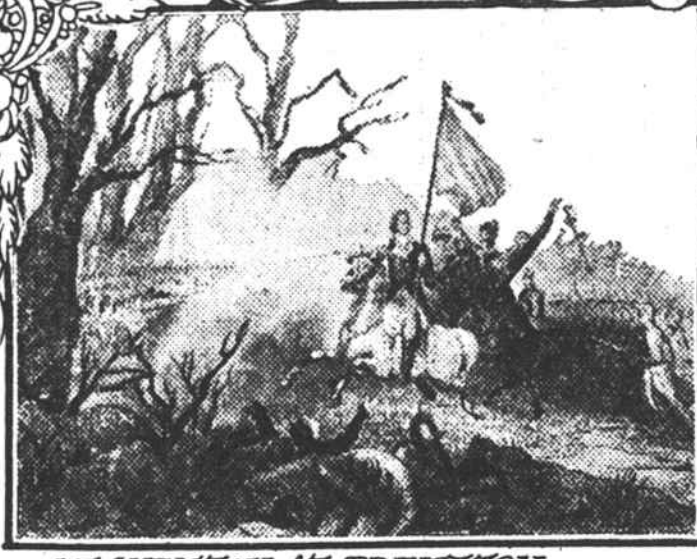
"You show us Jackson, crude and bold,
Impetuous, quick to fight,
Sworn foe of caste and graft and gold—



ARTHUR DAWSON AND NEW STUART WASHINGTON



WASHINGTON AS COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF



WASHINGTON AT PRINCETON

A man, or wrong or right.
"You show us Grant in gain and loss,
His early waning star,
The gold that gleamed amid the dross,
Purged by the fires of war."
"You show us Lincoln, calm in strife,
With homely mien and jest,
The shambling gait, the kindly life,
The freedom of the West."
"But when we seek on history's scroll
The Father of the free,
The name that leads our muster-roll,
We ask, "Can this be he?"
"We see a demigod of old,
Grim, faultless and serene,
Olympian grandeur stern and cold,
A god from the machine."
"Oh lead him down from heights above
And set his feet on earth,
To show his sons the man they love
In weakness and in worth."

Photographs reproduced herewith show Arthur Dawson, official portrait painter at the United States Military academy at West Point, and the original Gilbert Stuart bust portrait of George Washington, which he discovered by accident in an unnoticed corner of the Washington and Lee University, Lee Memorial chapel at Lexington, Va., last summer. The portrait is painted on the peculiar "twilled" wood panel used by Stuart and was discovered by Mr. Dawson while looking over the paintings in the chapel. It is estimated by art experts to be worth from \$75,000 to \$100,000 and is pronounced the finest Stuart in America at the present time. It has been in the Washington and Lee university for many years, but until Mr. Dawson's discovery, its true value was unknown. Records fall to show where the picture came from. The panel measures 25 by 30 inches.

Congress has passed a joint resolution as follows:

"Whereas, by a joint resolution of the senate and house of representatives, approved March 4, 1844, the sword of George Washington and the staff of Benjamin Franklin were accepted in the name of the nation as gifts from Samuel T. Washington and deposited for safe-keeping in the Department of State; and

"Whereas, by a joint resolution of the senate and house of representatives, approved February 28, 1855, the sword of Andrew Jackson was accepted in the name of the nation as a gift from the family of Gen. Robert Armstrong and deposited for safe-keeping in the Department of State; and

"Whereas it is represented by the secretary of state that he has no appropriate place for the exhibition of these relics: Therefore be it

"Resolved, etc., That the secretary of state be, and he is hereby, authorized to transfer the said relics to the custody of the secretary of the Smithsonian Institution for safe-keeping and exhibition in the National museum."

The resolution accepting the Washington sword and Franklin staff was passed by both houses on the same day. The proceedings in the house were especially impressive, many senators and diplomats being present. The speech of presentation was delivered by Representative George W. Summers of Virginia. The part of his address referring to the Washington sword contains the following interesting information concerning the weapon carried so long by the Father of His Country:

Mr. Summers—Mr. Speaker, I rise for the purpose of discharging an office not connected with the ordinary business of a legislative assembly. Yet, in asking permission to interrupt, for a moment, the regular order of parliamentary proceedings, I cannot doubt that the proposition which I have to submit will prove as gratifying as it may be unusual.

Mr. Samuel T. Washington, a citizen of Kanawha county, in the commonwealth of Virginia, and one of my constituents, has honored me with the commission of presenting, in his name and on his behalf, to the congress of the United States, and through that body to the people of the United States, two most interesting and valuable relics connected with the past history of our country and with men whose achievements, both in the field and in the cabinet, best illustrate and adorn our annals. One is the sword worn by George Washington, first as a colonel in the colonial service of Virginia in Forbes' campaign against the French and Indians, and afterwards during the whole period of the War of Independence as commander in chief of the American army.

It is a plain cutleau, or hanger, with a green hilt and silver guard. On the upper ward of the scabbard is engraved "J. Bailey; Fishkill." It is accompanied by a buckskin belt, which is secured by a silver buckle and clasp, whereon are engraved the letters "G. W." and the figures "1757." These are all of the plainest workmanship, but substantial and in keeping with the man and with the times to which they belonged.

The history of this sword is perfectly authentic, and leaves no shadow of doubt as to its identity. The last will and testament of George Washington, bearing date on the ninth day of February, 1799, contains, among a great variety of bequests, the following clause: "To each of my nephews, William Augustine Washington, George Lewis, George Steploe Washington, Bushrod Washington, and Samuel Washington, I give one of the swords or cutleaux of which I may die possessed; and they are to choose in the order they are named. These swords are accompanied with an injunction not to unsheathe them for the purpose of shedding blood, except it be for self-defense or in defense of their country and its rights; and, in the latter case, to keep them unsheathed and prefer falling with

them in their hands to the relinquishment thereof."

In the distribution of the swords, hereby devised, among the five nephews therein enumerated, the one now presented fell to the lot of Samuel Washington, the devisee last named in the clause of the will which I have just read.

This gentleman, who died a few years since, in the county of Kanawha, and who was the father of Samuel T. Washington, the donor, I knew well. I have often seen this sword in his possession, and received from him the following account of the manner in which it became his property, in the division made among the devisees:

He said that he knew it to have been the side arm of General Washington during the Revolutionary war—not that used on occasions of parade and review, but the constant service sword of the great chief—that he had himself seen General Washington wear this identical sword—he presumed for the last time—when, in 1794, he reviewed the Virginia and Maryland forces, then concentrated at Cumberland, under the command of Gen. Lee, and destined to co-operate with the Pennsylvania and New Jersey troops, then assembled at Bedford, in suppressing what has been called "the whisky insurrection."

General Washington was at that time president of the United States, and, as such, was commander in chief of the army. It is known that it was his intention to lead the army in person on that occasion, had he found it necessary; and he went to Bedford and Cumberland prepared for that event. The condition of things did not require it, and he returned to his civil duties at Philadelphia.

Mr. Samuel Washington held the commission of a captain at that time himself, and served in that campaign.

He was anxious to obtain this particular sword, and preferred it to all others, among which was the ornamented and costly present from the great Frederick.

At the time of the division among the nephews, without intimating what his preference was, he jokingly remarked, "that, inasmuch as he was the only one of them who had participated in military service, they ought to permit him to take choice." This suggestion was met in the same spirit in which it was made; and the choice being awarded him, he chose this, the plainest and intrinsically the least valuable of any, simply because it was "the battle sword."

I am also in possession of the most satisfactory evidence, furnished by Col. George Washington of Georgetown, the nearest male relative of General Washington now living, as to the identity of this sword. His information was derived from his father, William Augustine Washington, the devisee first named in the clause of the will which I have read, from his uncle the late Judge Bushrod Washington, of the Supreme court, and Maj. Lawrence Lewis, the acting executor of General Washington's will; all of whom concurred in the statement that the true service sword was that selected by Capt. Samuel Washington.

MANY PROOFS OF ACTIVE BUSINESS

LOADING OF REVENUE FREIGHT SET NEW RECORDS FOR THE SEASON.

SECURITIES SHOW STRENGTH

Optimism Continues to be the Dominating Factor in Financial Markets.

New York.—Optimism over the domestic situation continued to be the dominating factor in the financial markets of the past week. Securities showed much strength and the prevailing impression in Wall street was that the upward movement largely reflected the reports on increased industrial activity and the satisfactory annual financial returns which are now being published.

Meanwhile there was a tendency to feel less anxiety over the foreign situation, which distinct satisfaction was expressed over the encouraging progress made in coming to an agreement with Great Britain in the matter of funding that country's debt to the United States.

Many proofs of active business are available. For one thing loadings of revenue freight by the railroads continue to set new records for this season of the year. In the week ended January 27th, some 871,000 cars of freight were loaded, this figure exceeding the total for the same week a year ago by 131,000 cars and that in the comparable week of 1920 by 68,000 cars. The gains are distributed, furthermore, among the various classes of traffic, thus emphasizing the general character of the improvement.

Foreign Commerce of U. S. Increases.

Washington.—The foreign commerce of the United States increased more than 4,000,000 tons in 1922 as compared with 1921, but the tonnage carried in American ships decreased from 49 per cent of the total in 1921 to 47 1/2 per cent in 1922, while in the overseas general cargo trade, less than one-third of the tonnage was carried under the American flag, according to a survey made public by the shipping board.

The percentage given as the totals for the two years, it is explained, "reach their present proportions because they include our enormous traffic in bulk petroleum" and "our trade with nearby countries, which is practically coastwise" in both of which American ships predominate.

"That we make any showing in the overseas commerce at all," continues the report, "is due almost entirely to the fact that the shipping board maintains in world service a number of vessels at public expense. For 1922 privately owned American vessels carried 7.76 per cent of our overseas tonnage."

Americans Seek Tobacco Control.

New York.—American financiers are negotiating with the French government for a monopoly on the manufacture and distribution of tobacco in France, the Evening Mail asserts.

The deal was reported to involve \$300,000,000 of which \$25,000,000 would be paid upon conclusion of the agreement. James B. Duke, George J. Whalen and Thomas Fortune Ryan were said to be the men interested.

"Fruit" Turns Out to be Liquor.

New York.—Federal agents seized 350 crates of Florida "oranges" destined for Boston, in the Bronx freight yards of the New York, New Haven and Hartford railroad. The "fruit" proved to be bottled whiskey with a prohibition value of \$30,000. The liquor cases were hidden by crates of genuine fruit.

State enforcement officers said they had been tipped when the shipment left Florida to be re-routed here for Boston.

Bandit is Shot and Killed.

Santiago, P. I.—Ronquello, the noted bandit who has been sought for killing Junco Andres Borromeo last month, was shot and killed by a platoon of constabulary who surrounded a house in Cavite province, where Ronquello was hiding.

Twenty-five of the constabulary surrounded the house and began firing from all sides. Nearly 1000 shots were fired.

Finally one of the constables crawled under the house and fired up through the floor, killing Ronquello.

Fishing Sloop Was Lost.

Edgartown, Mass.—Wreckage washed ashore on Naushon Island, in Vineyard sound, and found by a searching party proved that the fishing sloop Natalie, missing for several weeks, was lost with all hands aboard.

Fisher folk here were of the opinion that the Natalie was rammed by a larger ship in the sound. The Natalie left Newport for Edgartown on January 24. The men believed lost are Skipper Patrick Kelley, and the crew of three men, all of Edgartown.

CONDENSED NEWS FROM THE OLD NORTH STATE

SHORT NOTES OF INTEREST TO CAROLINIANS.

Greensboro.—At the regular meeting of the Greensboro Rotary Club, Paul Schenck, of this city, was endorsed for the position of metropolitan president of the Rotary district embracing North and South Carolina. Chapel Hill.—Closing of application for correspondence study students of the University of North Carolina has been set for April 1, as announced by officials of the extension division.

Charlotte.—The Tax Inflation Corporation held a meeting here, which unanimously opposed bond issues for either railroad or boat lines. About a hundred were present at the meeting from every section of the State.

Wilson.—On account of the spell of bad weather rendering county roads almost impassable, that date for closing the tobacco market has been postponed. The Wilson Tobacco Board met from February 9 to Friday, February 16.

Rocky Mount.—Members of the Fourth District Medical Society composed of five or six counties, met in an immediate session of the state to be the guests of the North Carolina Medical Society at a meeting held here February 13, at which an announcement was made by Dr. W. Kinlaw.

High Point.—The High Point Water Plan company sent application to the department of state in Raleigh to change in its charter, allowing the company to increase its capital stock from \$50,000 to \$150,000. The application also asked that the company be allowed to change its official name from the High Point Morris Water Plan company to the High Point Water Plan Bank.

New Bern.—A big cut in the value of the fire area that was to have been acquired by the city for use as a public park is called for by resolutions passed by the board of city men given out recently. The fire area is reduced approximately 25 per cent and allows negro owners to retain their property on this point.

Sanford.—Day by day the receipts of Sanford are climbing upward, according to Postmaster W. Gilliam, and in every other way Sanford is growing bigger and better. The receipts in January were 10 per cent larger than those of the same month in 1922. The Sanford postoffice is fitted with \$9.36 per capita of savings certificates during the past year, while the general average for the state is 7 cents per capita.

Wadesboro.—The Baptists of this city are contemplating the erection of a new church edifice, the present building being entirely inadequate to the needs of the congregation. The new structure will combine artistic design with commodious utility. It is well known when the new church building will be erected.

Roxboro.—Roxboro held a meeting recently in the interest of a building and loan association. There were invited for the occasion the following speakers: Gen. B. S. Royster, Mayor John Hester and Tom Harris, all of Oxford, and Major L. P. McLeod of Durham.

Wadesboro.—The women of this county are making an enviable record in the matter of marketing home produced products. Quite recently a large amount of money has in this way been brought into the county. The provisions, such as chickens, eggs, butter, have found a ready market.

Whiteville.—Erastus Huggins was charged with the murder of Peter Dudley, plead guilty to murder of the second degree and was immediately sentenced to the state penitentiary for twenty years. Huggins' son, Walter Walton Creech, held in connection with the murder, were exonerated by a jury.

Ayden.—Rev. R. I. Corbett has moved up his pastorate at Snow Hill and accepted a call to the Winterville Baptist Church. He will in the future divide his time between Ayden and Winterville, preaching here two Sunday evenings and the same in Winterville.

Asheville.—Definite assurance of the proposed Asheville Club for women will soon be under construction was given during the regular meeting of the City Federation of Women's Clubs, at which the president, Mrs. Charles A. Webb, presided.

Wilmington.—A memorial tablet to Miss Amy Bradley, the founder of the Tileston School, was unveiled in the school auditorium. Charles C. Courbourn delivered the address of the occasion, ably eulogizing the life and ideals of the beloved teacher.

Fayetteville.—Dr. M. L. Smart, a prominent physician of this city, died in a local hospital, after suffering in health for several years. Dr. Smart was a native of Rowan county, coming here from Salisbury about 25 years ago.

Wadesboro.—The board of directors of the Wade Manufacturing company have elected the following officers for their new mill: W. P. Wilson, president; T. C. Cox, vice president; W. Henry Liles, secretary and treasurer. All of the officers are prominent and successful business men.