

THE NEW BERN MIRROR

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WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY

New Bern, unlike many other towns, has an extra special reason to pay tribute to the Father of our Country on the anniversary of his birth.

He had occasion to visit here, and spend not only one night but two. In addition, William Williams, the only artist to paint a portrait of the first President in Masonic regalia, lived in this city and lies beneath the sod in Cedar Grove cemetery.

Among the legends, accurate or otherwise, that have grown up around Washington's memory is the exceptionally good time that he had while attending a social affair at Tryon Palace.

If the reports are true, he was called upon to imbibe a considerable amount of joy juice—not because he was an alcoholic (which he was not) but rather because a maximum number of toasts were offered in his honor. There is no indication whatsoever that he ended up under the table.

Aside from this feat of remaining perpendicular, he is said to have been quite impressed with the high quality of feminine pulchritude on hand. Then, as now, it would seem, New Bern had more than its share of lovely ladies, and G. W. wasn't blind to this pleasing fact.

More important to all Americans, of course, was the courage and the wise leadership of this gallant man. His indomitable spirit in the blood stained snow at Valley Forge was enough to distinguish him for the ages, but later as the nation's Chief Executive he steered a steady course in the stream of peaceful progress.

Our beloved land, and the world at large, has urgent need of such a man today. Times have changed, and problems have perhaps become more complex, but it is not unreasonable to assume that he would prove equal to the challenge.

Washington was neither a tin god devoid of imperfections nor a second Solomon of infallible wisdom. But, even at this late date, he measures up as a giant statesman. In our era, with statesmanship sadly lacking in most quarters, he would come in mighty handy.

SHARP DISAGREEMENT

One of the things that New Bernians will never agree on is whether it is healthier to sleep in a room with the windows open. Healthier or not, a lot of folks have no intentions of doing it.

Most of us are more concerned with being comfortable than we are with being robust, just as we eat the foods we enjoy rather than the ones that are supposed to be good for us.

This business of what to do about bedroom windows ought to be thrashed out thoroughly before every marriage. It would be a shame to have a romance evaporate because of a difference of opinion on the subject, but at least it would save a lot of squabbling to get the whole matter over with before the bride and groom ankle to the altar.

Being married to somebody who snores is hardly worse than having a mate who wants the cold air to come in when you're already on the verge of frost-bite. And, by the same token, it's exasperating to feel like you're strangling in a stuffy room, when ventilation and plenty of it is available within arm's length.

Doctors, like the rest of us, vary in their views. Some of them have said that sleeping with the windows open in cold weather isn't as beneficial as we have been led to believe.

Of interest to all of us in the coast country is the opinion of those physicians who feel that the damp air in coastal regions will do more harm than good, especially if the snoozer is bothered with bronchial trouble.

One doctor in Boston advises his patients to keep their windows closed from October to April. However, he does suggest opening windows in the day-time to give rooms a thorough airing.

Lucky are those New Bernians who don't give the matter too much thought. If you dwell on the subject long enough, you'll have no peace of mind, and then there'll be no chance for deep and dreamless sleep, regardless of what you decide to do.

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Historical Gleanings

—By—

FRANCES B. CLAYPOOLE and ELIZABETH MOORE

A LOVE LETTER THAT BECAME A WILL. Addressed to: Mrs. Richard Carter, New Bern, N. C., per post—Mr. Gerock will please to forward this letter immediately to Mr. Richard Carter's sail loft or to his home.

Edenton, February 8, 1807

My dear Anne:

This will inform you of my being in better health than when I left you. I am able to dress myself and go up and down stairs without assistance. I expected to have set off for home this day, but it is so cold and so much ice that I believe the coach will not go today. You may believe me, my dear, that my thoughts are constantly employed with you . . . I never entertained a truer affection for you in my whole life than that which now fills my bosom. Take great care of yourself, my dear. The last words in your letter to Sally gave me the greatest satisfaction. Your love, and friendship, is my greatest blessing, therefore I pray God I may be made and kept worthy of it. Give little Anne one thousand kisses for me.

Mr. Bozman and his wife have fixed a place for Chloe. You will have her ready in case they come for her before I get home, but I am in hopes to get home before they come for her.

If you should want anything before I see you, call on Mr. Mastin for fifty dollars, and in case any accident should happen to me, I have on the other side of this paper written what I wish to be done. The family all send love to you, but nothing can exceed the love I send from myself for I really believe mine gains more and more every day.

Give my best compliments to Mr. All. If he pays the attention to you I wish, I shall esteem him as a brother. Farewell, my dear, and believe me to be your sincere friend and husband.

Richard Carter.

(Other side of the paper) February 8, 1807

My dear, dear wife:

In case of my death after my just debts are paid, I will and bequeath to you the whole of my estate, real and personal, without any reserve, except at your death, I wish to be equally divided between my brother's children and our own little adopted daughter Anne Coward.

Witness my hand.

Richard Carter.

Kiss the children for me and accept millions yourself.

R. C.

Craven County Court, September Term, 1818

The foregoing paper writing purporting to be the last will of Richard Carter, deceased, was produced in Court by Anne Carter, the widow, and having no subscribing witness, and the Court being satisfied that said paper was found among the valued effects of said deceased, Francis Hawks, John S. Nelson, and Thomas H. Daves, appeared and being duly sworn, deposed that they were well acquainted with the handwriting of said deceased, having frequently seen him write, that they verily believe the signature subscribed to said paper and every part thereof was the proper hand writing of said deceased. Proved by widow, Francis Hawks,

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Village Verses

WHEN YOU'RE AWAY

It's the very same house, each table and chair,
Is bidding me welcome, but since you're not there;
I feel like a stranger, who opens a door,
And ventures where Fate never took him before.
The very same rugs are awaiting my feet,
I've found that the radio plays just as sweet;
With favorite books lined up on the shelf,
It's a wonderful chance to read by myself.
No interruptions, no work to be done,
No youngster to tuck in, no not even one;
No dishes to dry, in fact, I'm a king,
With plenty of time to do anything.
Yet, somehow, life's pleasures are lacking their thrill,
In rooms that are empty, and haunted, and still;
Homes aren't just houses, they all need the touch,
Of hands that are tireless in doing so much.
They all need the laughter of children at play,
That's why men are lonely, with loved ones away;
It's the very same house, each table and chair,
But it isn't a home, since you are not there.

—JGMCD.

John S. Nelson, Thomas H. Daves.

Attest: J. G. Stanly, Clerk of the Court.

Captain Richard Carter was Captain of a Revenue Cutter at New Bern after the Revolution. During the Revolution he was a prisoner of war with John Davis aboard a British Man of War. This John Davis, who lost his life in a very tragic way during the war, was a son of James Davis, who established the first printing press in North Carolina, in New Bern, at the foot of Broad street, in 1749, and was the first public printer.

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