

ARLINGTON—SACRED SHRINE OF AMERICAN DEVOTION ON MEMORIAL DAY

By ELMO SCOTT WATSON

IF THERE is one place in the United States toward which, more than to any other, the hearts of Americans turn on Memorial Day, it is Arlington national cemetery in Virginia.

There the first Memorial Day exercises were held on May 30, 1868, after Gen. John A. Logan, commander-in-chief of the Grand Army of the Republic, had issued his historic "Order No. 11," setting aside this day each year for honoring the Civil war dead. The principal speaker on this occasion was Gen. James A. Garfield, later president of the United States, and at that time was inaugurated the custom of honoring the Unknown Dead, as well as those whose names are known. For the principal ceremony at that first Memorial Day celebration was decorating with flags and flowers a monument that had been erected to the memory of 2,111 unidentified dead found on the fields of Bull Run and the route to the Rappahannock.

There, in 1921, was entombed the Unknown Soldier of the World war, to give the nation its most precious shrine.

And there, as a crowning glory, has been erected the magnificent amphitheater of classic design in which the President of the United States on each Memorial Day speaks to the nation and for the nation in paying tribute to its soldier dead.

Truly this is hallowed ground and Arlington is a hallowed name.

Rich in sentiment, Arlington is also rich in tradition and in historic association. Its story goes back to the year 1609 when Sir William Berkeley, royal governor of Virginia, "by authority of King Charles II, by the grace of God and by the discovery of John Cabot," granted to Robert Howser, a sea captain, 6,000 acres of land, including the present site of Arlington, for bringing settlers to Virginia. Howser is said to have sold his grant the very same year to the Alexander family for six hogheads of tobacco. But they do not seem to have taken advantage of what was obviously a good bargain until 1735 when John and Gerald Alexander asserted title under the grant made 66 years previously and their title was sustained.

On Christmas day of 1778 Gerald Alexander sold two tracts on the Potomac to a certain John Parke Custis. One of these tracts, embracing 1,100 acres and including the present national cemetery, brought 11,000 pounds sterling in Virginia currency.

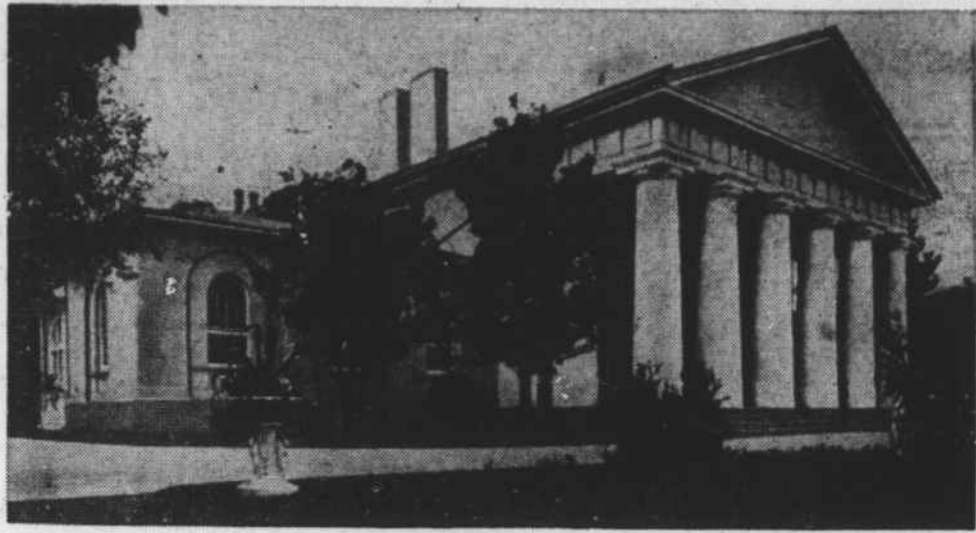
John Parke Custis was the son of Col. Daniel Parke Custis who had married seventeen-year-old Martha Dandridge, the reigning belle of Williamsburg, then the leading city in the Old Dominion. Daniel Parke Custis died in the spring of 1757, leaving besides his widow and their two children, John Parke Custis and Martha Parke Custis, an estate valued at more than \$100,000.

An Historic Marriage.

A little more than a year later a young officer in the Virginia colonial troops, who had distinguished himself at Braddock's defeat, came a-wooing the Widow Custis. His name was George Washington and he and Martha Dandridge Custis were married on January 6, 1759. Washington grew passionately fond of his two step-children and when Martha Parke Custis died on June 19, 1773, at the age of seventeen he was almost heart-broken. Meanwhile her brother, John Parke Custis, had become deeply smitten with the charms of Miss Eleanor Calvert, second daughter of Benedict Calvert of Mount Alry, Md., a descendant of Lord Baltimore. His marriage took place in February, 1774.

At the beginning of the Revolution young Custis promptly offered his services to his country and as an aide to Washington he served with distinction down to the siege of Yorktown. There, however, he contracted camp fever and before the surrender took place he was forced to leave his post. He was removed to the home of his uncle, Colonel Bassett, at Eltham where he died on November 5, 1781, leaving his young widow and four small children.

This second blow was almost as great a one to Washington as the death of Martha Parke Custis had been. He immediately adopted as his own the two younger children, Eleanor Parke Custis and George Washington Parke Custis, who were taken to Mount Vernon and placed in the care of Mrs. Lund Washing-



Arlington House, Built by George Washington Parke Custis on His Estate, Now Arlington National Cemetery.

ton, whose husband was managing the general's property at that place. When permanent peace came and Washington again took up his residence at Mount Vernon he and Mrs. Washington assumed intimate and active care of the two children, who proved of much comfort to them in their declining years.

Why Named "Arlington"

In 1796, what are now the Arlington lands were allotted by the court to the legal representatives of John Parke Custis who had died testate. By the law of primogeniture the estate descended to Washington's namesake, George Washington Parke Custis. It was G. W. P. Custis who named it Arlington, after the Custis ancestral home in Northampton county on the eastern shore of Virginia.

George Washington Parke Custis had an interesting career. From the time he was six months old until the death of his grandmother, Martha Washington, on May 22, 1802,



George Washington Parke Custis

he was continually under her guidance and influence or under the instruction of his famous adopted father.

Perhaps no other American boy ever had better advantages offered him than young Custis had in his day. As a child he met all of the great men who had taken part in the American Revolution, and when Washington became President he was taken with him to live in New York and later to Philadelphia. In both places he frequently came in contact with the builders of the republic, as well as the most cultured and retired element with which the first President continually surrounded himself.

He was educated along the most practical lines in the best schools of his day, forming the foundation for his subsequent taste for art and literature, and equipping him as well for the speaker's platform, which he delighted in filling in after years.

Following the death of his grandmother, he made his home for two years with his sister, who had married Maj. Lawrence Lewis. In 1802, in anticipation of his own marriage to Mary Lee Fitzhugh he began building Arlington mansion, or Lee mansion, as it later was called. To this house, designed after the Temple of Theseus in Athens, Greece, he brought his sixteen-year-old bride in 1804 and for the next half century the "Sage of Arlington," as he became known, was a leading figure in the life of the national capital. There were few men of note whom he did not know and few men who did not know him. He was popular with the people of Washington for whose entertainment he generously threw the grounds of his estate open. They were glad to take advantage of his hospitality even though he was regarded as something of an eccentric character.

Relics of the Washingtons

Arlington house became the repository of a large and interesting collection of relics of the Washingtons which were given to him by his dotting grandmother, or fell to his lot in the final division of the household goods or which he purchased from less affluent possessors. These included among other things the bed in which Washington died and the tent which had sheltered him during the Revolution. The latter was often pitched on the Arlington lawn for the awe and admiration of residents of Georgetown and Washington who were

ferried across the Potomac to attend the annual sheep-shearing festivals which Custis held, since the breeding of merino sheep was one of his hobbies. A barbecue was the reward of those who attended these festivals and "an oration by Custis was the penalty"—at least, that is the way one of his descendants put it.

Although he was one of the wealthiest men of his day, Custis was often hard pressed for ready cash. On one occasion he asked the bank to defer payment of a note for \$85 and in 1831 he applied to the Bank of the United States for a loan of \$12,000 in order to finance a trip to France. There he proposed to go to obtain from Lafayette all of his Revolutionary war papers and his personal recollections of Washington for a book on "The Private Memoirs of the Life and Character of Washington" which Custis proposed to write.

Besides aspiring to be the biographer of his adopted father, Custis also had ambitions as a painter, a poet and a playwright. As the latter he wrote such productions as "Launch of Columbia, or 'Our Blue Jackets Forever,'" "National Dream of Pocahontas, of the First Settlers of Virginia," and an opera called "The Railroad." "Pocahontas" was played in Charleston and Columbia, S. C., and "The Railroad" was produced at the Old National theater in Washington and also ran for seven nights in Baltimore.

Writer of Melodrama

"Pocahontas" was criticized as being too melodramatic and Custis wrote to a friend: "Melodrama is all the go now, and even in historical plays you must sprinkle show and pageant and things to please the senses as well as the judgment. . . . The play is in London in the hands of Washington Irving and John Howard Payne, who will under their able auspices bring it out on the London stage. If successful there, why, I may be considered here as something of a dramatist."

But if Custis never became known as "something of a dramatist," he is remembered for many other reasons. One of them is the fact that it was in his mansion on June 30, 1831, that his only daughter, Mary Ann Randolph Custis, was married to a young lieutenant in the engineers

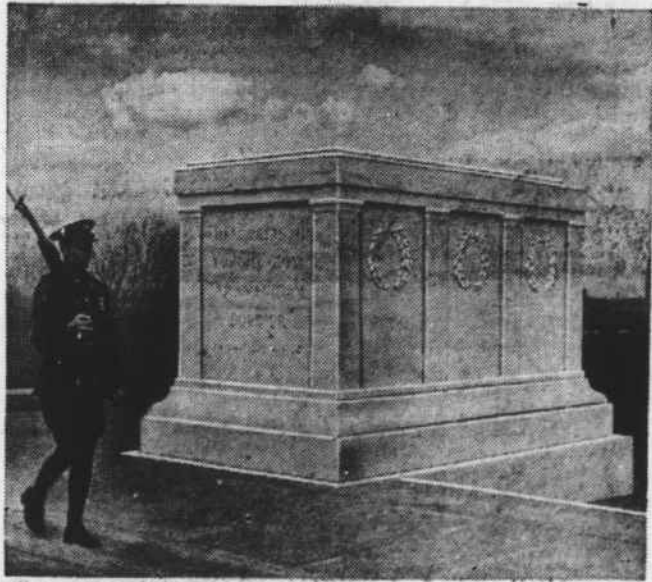
go with his state when it left the Union, although it meant the sacrifice of everything which he held dear. On April 22, 1861, Colonel and Mrs. Lee left Arlington for Richmond, where he immediately entered the military service, first of Virginia and later of the Confederacy. From the date of their departure Arlington was occupied only by servants and soon afterwards a force of Union troops commanded by Colonel Helstzelman took charge of it.

First Burials

After the first battle of Bull Run, McDowell's army entrenched itself on Arlington Heights; the mansion was occupied by officers, soldiers were encamped on its grounds and two strong forts were built there for the defense of Washington. After the battles of the Wilderness, Quartermaster Gen. M. C. Meigs ordered burial at Arlington for all soldiers dying in the military hospitals in and around Washington. The official records of such burials begin with May 13, 1864, so Arlington has been a burial place of soldier dead for nearly three-quarters of a century. When the bodies of the unknown soldier dead, buried between the Potomac and the Rappahannock, were reinterred in Arlington it brought the total of Civil war burials there to 16,000.

As for the process by which Arlington became a national cemetery, it came about in this way: In 1862, by act of congress, a property tax was levied in all the states for the conduct of the war. This tax totaled \$92 for the Arlington property, and, since it was unpaid, the property was ordered sold on January 11, 1864. The government was empowered to bid the property in and to use it for educational and military purposes. The price paid was \$20,800.

In 1877 George Washington Custis Lee brought suit in circuit court for the ejectment of persons living on the estate. The federal government had rented out parcels of land to small farmers, while on one corner of the property a village of nearly 1,000 persons had grown up. Lee won his case in the lower court, and in 1882 the Supreme court upheld the verdict. The government then had made itself a party to the suit, and following the handing



The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington.

down of the Supreme court decision, it agreed to pay Lee the \$150,000 he asked as a compromise. This sum was appropriated by congress and turned over to Lee.

After the close of the Civil war Arlington house, or the Lee mansion as it became known because of its association with the great leader of the Lost Cause, remained a deserted mansion. In recent years, however, it has been restored and completely furnished with original pieces of furniture, or faithful reproductions of them and contemporary articles so that a visit to it takes one back to the days when the "Sage of Arlington" ruled there and gave the hand of his daughter in marriage to the man who was destined to become one of the greatest captains of all time.

It was at Arlington that Lee made his momentous decision to

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The Arithmetic Test—

In this test, ten oral arithmetic problems are given. Read each one carefully and see how quickly you can find the answers. Do not use pencil and paper.

1. Add 8 1/2, 4 1/2, 3 1/2, 6 1/2.
2. A person has \$5,000 in the bank. He withdraws 25% of it. How much money does he withdraw?
3. A gallon of gasoline costs eight cents. How much does twelve quarts cost?
4. Change 13/8 to a whole or mixed number.
5. A caravan traveling eight miles a day goes thirty-six miles. How long did it take?
6. What Arabic numeral corresponds with the Roman MCXII?
7. A suite of furniture costs \$90. The company allows 2% discount for cash. How much will the company receive on a cash sale?
8. A person has \$5,000 in the bank. He withdraws 25% of it. How much money remains in the bank?
9. A horse can run a mile in two minutes. Using that basis, how fast can he run one mile and a quarter?
10. Change 2,222 into Roman numerals.

Answers

1. 22 1/2.
2. \$1,250.
3. 54 cents.
4. 1 5/8.
5. Four and a half days.
6. 1,111.
7. \$78.40.
8. \$3,750.
9. Two and a half minutes.
10. MMCCXXII.

All Around the House

Never leave fish, unless salted, soaking in water. Too long soaking removes the flavor and makes the fish flabby.

When any portion of a velvet gown is crushed from pressure, hold the part over a basin of hot water, the wrong side next to the water. The pile will soon be restored.

A saucerful of quicklime placed in a damp closet or cupboard, will absorb all dampness.

A teaspoonful of mixed pickle spices tied in a small bag and added to the water in which fish, ham or tongue is boiled, will add a very pleasing flavor.

When sandpapering surfaces that are to be painted, the work is made much easier if sandpaper is folded over a small block of wood.

Do not allow bread to rise too high before putting into the oven if you wish to have a fine grained bread.

Always make it your business to keep your larder supplied with about a dozen cans of soups, meats and fruits. When an unexpected guest arrives for lunch, you will then be able to serve a good meal.

To keep bath enamel in good condition, always put in a little cold water first. Exceedingly hot water is likely to make it crack and peel off.

To prevent halibut falling to pieces while boiling, wrap in cheesecloth and simmer in boiling water. About 30 minutes' time is required to boil two and a half or three pounds of halibut.

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Wolf Is Member of Dog Team; Huskies Make Him Behave

Rev. Father O'Dwyer of North Bay, Ont., a Sault diocese missionary, uses a wolf in the dog team that pulls his sled.

Snarls at the priest from the wolf invariably are silenced by the team leader, who administers a proficient beating. The wolf's night howls, however, often bring other wolves uncomfortably close, the missionary says.

THE SHOP SHOWS A PROFIT



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