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WHITE HOUSE WEDDINGS



HERE can be little doubt
that the wedding of Miss
Alice Roosevelt and Rep-
resentative Nicholas
Longworth, will prove
the most brilliant event

in the history of the White House. A
number of nuptial ceremonies have been
held in the historic Presidential Mansion
during the century that this famous home
has focused the attention of the Ameri-
can people, but none have approached in
significance or universal public interest,
the event which will draw the eyes of
the world to the first residence of Ameri-
ca next week.

The first wedding in the White House
took place in 1820, during the adminis-
tration of President Monroe, when Miss
Todd, a relative of Mrs. Monroe, was mar-
ried to Mr. John G. Jackson, a congress-
man from Virginia. The "President's
House" had been refurnished shortly be-
fore this, and the new silver service,
which had been purchased in Paris, and
the new furniture for the East Room
having but recently arrived, were objects
of special interest.

The most famous early wedding in the
White House took place on January 31,
1842, when Elizabeth, the third daughter
of President and Mrs. Tyler, was married
in the East Room to Mr. William Waller,
of Williamsburg, Va. The bride was only
19 years of age, and is described in most
historical records as surpassingly beauti-
ful. It had been the intention of the
family to have the wedding quiet and
private, but this was found to be impos-
sible, owing to the general interest in a
White House wedding. Accordingly, the
list of invited guests was extended to in-
clude Mrs. Dolly Madison, the members
of the President's Cabinet and their
wives, and the ministers of foreign coun-
tries, together with the ladies of their
households.

The sister of the bride, writing of the
event to a friend, says: "Lizzie looked
surpassingly lovely in her wedding dress
and long blonde-lace veil; her face liter-
ally covered with blushes and dimples."
Daniel Webster was one of the guests,
and when one of the bridesmaids whis-
pered to him her surprise that Lizzie
Tyler should be willing to relinquish
the position of White House belle to pre-
side over a quiet Virginia home, the
great statesman laughingly, quoted the
lines: "Love rules the court, the camp,
the grove, and love is heaven and heaven
is love." Mrs. Tyler, wife of the Presi-
dent, who was an invalid, was downstairs
on the occasion of the wedding, but it
was the only occasion during her life in
Washington when she was present at a
large gathering. It is an interesting
coincidence that the oldest son of this
White House bride was, during the Civil
War, married to the youngest sister of
President Jefferson Davis, in the White
House of the Confederacy, at Richmond.

President Tyler's first wife died at the
White House, and he remarried while
yet serving as President. However, Miss
Julia Gardiner, his bride, was desirous of

avoiding any undue demonstration, and
the ceremony was performed quietly in
New York city. Nevertheless, the bridal
party returned to the White House im-
mediately after the wedding, and a grand
reception was held in lieu of the usual
wedding festivities. It was the first
instance of the marriage of a president
of the United States, and a great interest
was manifested not only in Washington,
but in all sections of the country.

The sons of the nation's presidents
have, in only a few instances, wedded
while their fathers were serving as chief
magistrate. John Adams, Jr., son of the
President of that name, however, mar-
ried in Washington during his father's
administration, to Miss Helen, his moth-
er's niece, and history records that the
dignified President Adams danced the
Virginia reel at the wedding. Col. Abra-
ham Van Buren led Miss Angelica Single-
ton, of South Carolina, to the altar
during his father's occupancy of the
White House, and whereas the ceremony
was not performed at the Presidential
Mansion, the young people journeyed
thither immediately afterwards, and a
great reception was held in their honor.

The second wedding in which a daugh-
ter of the White House was the bride
was that of Nelly Grant. It was an event
only rivaled by the fourthcoming mar-
riage of Miss Alice Roosevelt as a topic
of national and international interest.
Miss Grant, the delight of her father's
heart, was aged 19 at the time of her
marriage, exactly the same age as Miss
Tyler, whose wedding is mentioned
above. Miss Roosevelt, the third mem-
ber of this interesting trio, will be just
22 years of age at the time of her wed-
ding.

It may be of further interest to note
that Algernon Charles Frederick Sartoris
was 23 years of age when he married
Miss Grant, whereas Representative
Nicholas Longworth, who has won the
heart and hand of Alice Roosevelt, is 36
years of age. The Grant-Sartoris wed-
ding took place on May 21, 1874, and as
the only daughter of the household the
idolized Nelly was showered with at-
tentions. More than 200 guests were in-
vited to the wedding, including leading
officers of the Army and Navy and
diplomats.

The ceremony was performed in the
East Room, where it is expected Miss
Alice Roosevelt will be married, and Miss
Grant was gowned in white satin with a
long bridal veil which completely envel-
oped her. There were 18 bridesmaids,
all gowned alike in every particular in
white corded silk, with overdress of white
illusion. Col. Fred Grant was best man
and Rev. O. H. Tiffany performed the
ceremony.

Near kin of several presidents or their
wives have enjoyed the distinction of
White House weddings. During the ad-
ministration of General Jackson, for in-
stance, two of his nieces—Miss Eastern
and Miss Polk, of Tennessee—were mar-
ried at the Executive Mansion. During
(Concluded on page eleven.)

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