

Relics of GEORGE WASHINGTON

A. T. H.

By WALDOX FAWCETT



FURNITURE MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS ETC FROM MT. VERNON

HEADQUARTERS TENT OF GENERAL WASHINGTON

UNIFORM WORN BY WASHINGTON WHEN COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF THE CONTINENTAL ARMY

Present plans are carried out an effort will be made in the near future to have the United States congress appropriate funds for the purchase of one of the most interesting and most valuable collections of Washington relics extant.

Quite naturally, no doubt, the personal possessions of the savior of his country are regarded as all but sacred by a large proportion of the American public.

It is a matter of congratulation that the objects that once belonged to Washington which are of the greatest popular interest are already in the possession of Uncle Sam.

All these literally invaluable souvenirs came into the possession of the government through the purchase by act of congress in 1873 of what was known as the Lewis collection.

Until a very few years ago the relics of Washington now held by Miss Mary Lee were also on display at the national museum side by side with those owned outright by the government.

The relics may be placed permanently in the safekeeping of the federal government.

The federal authorities had taken possession of the relics soon after the outbreak of the civil war, when the union troops invaded Arlington.

When Arlington was converted into a federal army camp the captured relics were sent to the patent office at Washington for safekeeping.

The next chapter in the story of the Washington relics brings us up to the administration of the late President McKinley, to whom Miss Mary Lee applied for the restoration of the family heirlooms.

It is understood that the relics that were restored to the Lees after two score years are now stored in a building owned by a member of the family at Alexandria, Virginia.

allowed the officials of the Smithsonian Institution to continue to exhibit at the National Museum.

There are numbers of pieces of the so-called Cincinnati and Lafayette plates, as well as the gold-rimmed white china and the old blue and white earthenware.

The Lee collection is also especially rich in oddly shaped champagne and wine glasses and other cut glass table appointments for the collection of which the former widow Custis apparently had something of a fad.

Another interesting object to which Uncle Sam has a clear title is the bed-louge which was once used to fan into flame the embers in the great fireplace at Mount Vernon.

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for General Washington. Owing to the law which prohibits our presidents from receiving gifts from foreign powers the American leader never came into possession of the carpet.

It will be seen from the above resume that almost all the important relics of George Washington have gradually been gathered together in the city to which he gave his name or in the territory within a dozen miles of the seat of government.

The prominent men and women who have interested themselves in the project to have the national government acquire all of the existing memorabilia of the Father of His Country are hopeful that in time there may be turned over to the National Museum the relics now in the possession of Mrs. Beverly Kennon.

The Washington silver plate is even rarer than the china because there was less of it originally, but Mrs. Kennon has a goodly representation of this tableware, all embellished with the Washington crest.

which Louis XVI of France had made oval mirrors. Finally, Mrs. Kennon has Martha Washington's writing table and several autograph letters penned by General and Mrs. Washington.

If, as it now seems probable, the National Museum is to, in time, become the permanent depository of all the most interesting reminders of the greatest American, it is indeed matter for congratulation that this institution is shortly to have a new home calculated to enable the effectual safeguarding of all such treasures.

The new structure—the largest museum building in the world—is 542 feet in length and 350 feet in width, exclusive of projections.

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