



WASHINGTON

FIRST IN AMERICAN HEARTS.

It is impossible at this day to add anything of a new character to the account of men and events of a hundred years and more ago, for the field of history, in so far as it relates to the American revolution and the men who were representative in its accomplishment, has been well explored and voluminously expounded by hundreds of men equal to the task. Nor is there a school child of 10 years in all this country, who has not written his essay on these same men and events, so that their history is in-burned in the minds of all Americans. Yet this is one of the hopeful signs of the disposition of a great people towards those who called its nation into existence. And of the leader of all those courageous men, the one who before all others carried to an astonishing and successful achievement the herculean labors of bringing victorious a handful of ragged and untrained soldiers through the darkness of a struggle with one of the most powerful countries on earth, certainly nothing now needs be said.

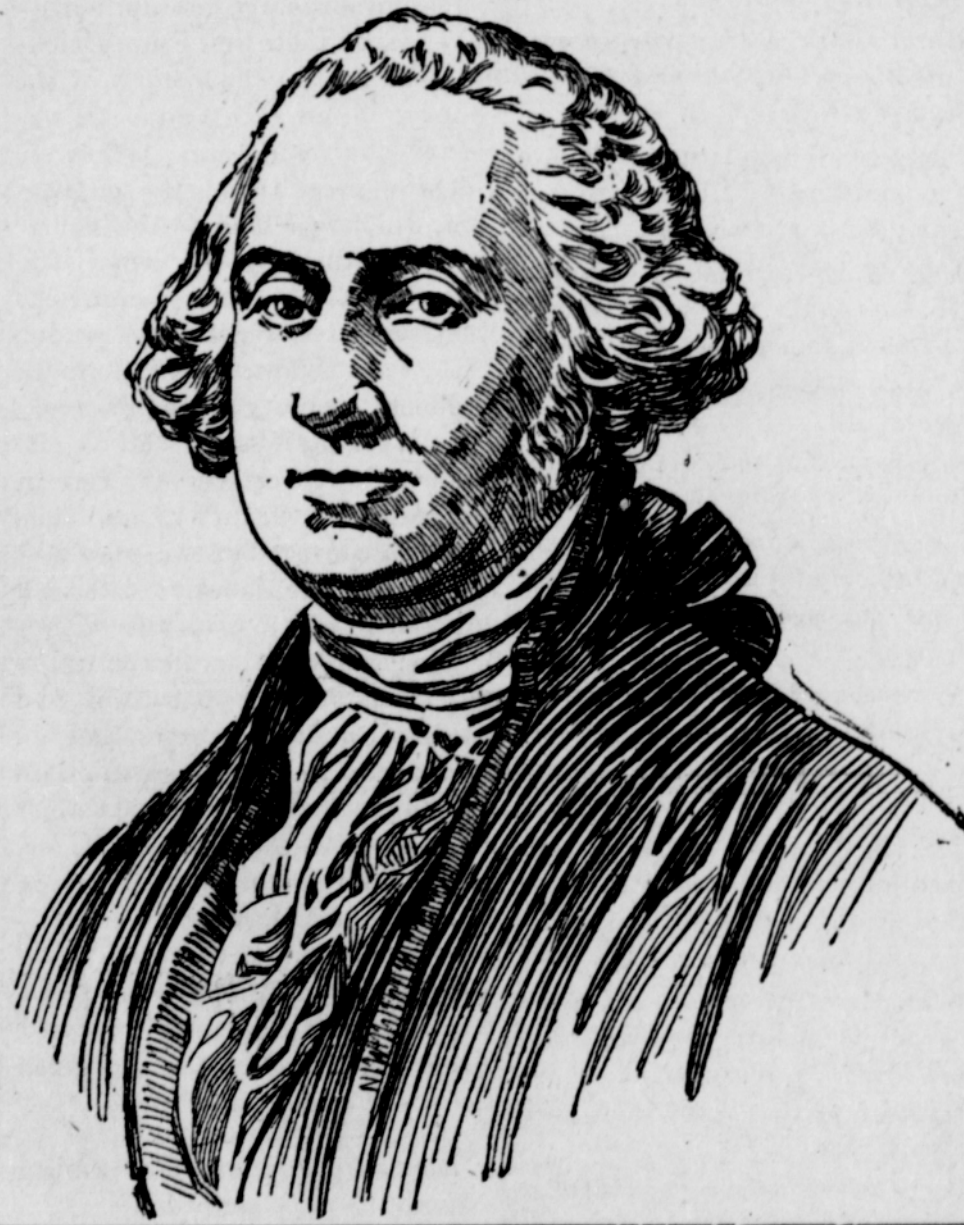
As a young man, Washington was probably no less flippant and worldly than hundreds of others in the colonies. His manners, which have been thought extraordinary in their courtliness, were probably not the slightest bit more so than those of the majority of his acquaintances. He was not free from the faults of men of his time. He was accustomed to methodical exactness from his experience on his mother's plantation and to her he no doubt owed many of the traits which afterwards stood him in such good stead. From his school teachers, William Hobby, who was also the church sexton, and Thomas Williams, he learned to read and to write as well as to understand the art of computation. The latter of the two also gave him the rudiments of surveying which served as much as any other one thing to develop him into the general of the American forces. For it was on account of his knowledge of this science that he spent three of his years of early manhood in the wilds of the forests, running lines, determining levels, fixing boundaries. His wages at this time were sufficient to enable him to purchase large pieces of that trackless wilderness bordering on streams, which were afterwards of great value, thus developing his insight and shrewdness as a business man. But the lessons that he learned from that rugged nature in the solitary hours, were priceless, and the constitution that was hardened by his life in the woods enabled him in after years to endure untold strains of exposure and suffering, to rescue Braddock after that general's defeat by the French, to conceive the crossing of the Delaware on that bleak and cheerless December night, to undergo Valley Forge and to emerge from them all, the modest, self-contained, reserved gentleman. It was because of his knowledge of the ways of the forest that he was sent on that seemingly needless errand to warn the French off English territory in the winter of 1753-54, on which he acquitted himself well and learned his first lessons in practical warfare. The next year he was chosen to go with Braddock on his ill-fated expedition against the French. Here it was that Washington learned for the first time, that Americans were of just as good stuff as Englishmen, that they could fight just as bravely as the seasoned veterans of the mother country. For it was through the efforts of the "bush-whacking" Virginians that Braddock's force escaped entire destruction. The colonists knew better than did Braddock that the evolutions of the parade ground were of no avail in the sort of warfare in which they were at that time engaged. The physical strain undergone by Washington at this time was extraordinary. From the ninth to the sixteenth of that July, he had little sleep, walking and riding, sometimes all night long through the forest, and succeeding in bringing up some support for Braddock's retreating army. He was then 25 years old. In the course of that one expedition he had seen enough to give him an unconquerable faith in the valor and abilities of his fellow colonists. This faith, it may have been, that so upheld him through the dark hours of defeat and intrigue, when his army well nigh perished from lack of food and clothing.

Washington had no idea, even when the colonies were being greatly roused over the injustice of their treatment by England, that the end would be war. He did not desire war. And it was only when there was no other way to decide the momentous question of principle that he set his heart on hostilities. The courage of the man in accepting the position

of commander-in-chief which was offered to him by the assembly was sublime. The mother country could send hundreds of thousands of trained soldiers against the colonists; her ships ruled the seas. On the other hand, the colonists were a few thousands, undisciplined in any warfare except that against the Indians; their resources were comparatively insignificant. It seems as if there could have been but one outcome. But Washington modestly undertook the task, refusing first any money remuneration for the services he might render. And then his sagacity as a commander began to display itself. Quietly did he collect stores and ammunition and prepare for the struggle. The retreats which he managed in the following years were almost as inspiring as the victories he planned. His must be a waiting game to a great extent, and how well he played it history tells. He compelled England to recognize the trouble as more than a mere insurrection and secured thus the rights of civilized warfare.

How great the odds were against Gen. Washington can never be rightly estimated. Time and again was his army on the point of dissolving away. There were many true hearts in the Congress; but there were many, also, who still leaned a little towards England, fearing that the new order of things would never be successful. There was only a half-hearted support for the commander-in-chief. Jealousy inspired officers to scheme against him. Money was often scarce and sometimes not to be had. His men were sometimes without food, barefooted, and half clothed. Through all these trying years Gen. Washington had to rely mainly on himself. His volume of correspondence was enormous. Thousands of letters did he write, urging Congress, the governors, the influential men of the colonies to take this or that step, to raise men or money, to help on the work.

GEORGE WASHINGTON.



He was the revolution. Almost always he had perfect control of his temper, which was by no means mild, and over his passions and his positive, aggressive spirit. But sometimes the overwhelming injustice of his treatment by Congress must have been a sore temptation to him. And when he watched the intrepid Hamilton dash on to victory in the redoubts at Yorktown he must have felt the weight of the heavy burden he was bearing rise from his great heart so that it beat the faster, for he knew that should Cornwallis surrender the war would probably result victoriously for the American arms.

The same quiet, firm, far-seeing character led him through the years of his life after he had laid down his sword. When he stepped out of the position of commander-in-chief of the victorious army, asking no reward, and quietly returned to the privacy of his own home, he foreshadowed the character of the nation he had so largely helped to make. It should be a nation of itself, not dependent on England or any other country under the globe for its customs or its policy. It was to embody principles hitherto unheard of in the annals of history. It was even in the distant future to take upon itself the yoke of a burdened and oppressed people, to free them from their oppression and to give them back their country with no thought of price or advantage. And yet this was a man.

Washington's Last Words.

Although some statements have been made by early biographers of Wash-

ington to the effect that he was bled to death by his attending physician, Dr. Craik, there was never any foundation for the accusations.

Washington was only ill two days, having exposed himself to the inclemency of the weather on Thursday, Dec. 12. He became violently ill on the following day and expired between 10 and 11 o'clock Saturday night, his death being directly due to a cold in his throat and lungs. The room in which Washington died in his Mount Vernon home is one of the most interesting portions of the colonial residence of the first President.

Washington's last words spoken to Dr. Craik were: "I am just going. Have me decently buried and do not let my body be put into the vault in less than three days after I am dead."

NEWS TRAVELED SLOWLY.

Washington Was in the Tomb Two Days Before New York Knew It.

Had George Washington lived and died at the close of the present century instead of the last his death would have been known at all four corners of the globe inside two or three hours, whereas it was not known that he had passed away for several days afterward. Even in Philadelphia, the old capital of the United States, where the Sixth Congress had just assembled, it was not known that Washington was dead until Dec. 16—two days afterward.

News traveled slowly in those days; cable, telegraph, telephone and postal facilities were an unknown quantity, and it took days and weeks to transmit information then, where seconds and minutes figure now in this rapid age of invention and improvement.

The Alexandria Times was the first newspaper to announce Washington's death, printing on Monday, Dec. 15, a single paragraph obituary, thus: "It is

our painful duty first to announce to our country and to the world the death of Gen. George Washington. This mournful event occurred last Saturday evening about 11 o'clock. On the previous night he was attacked with a violent inflammatory affliction in his throat, which in less than twenty-four hours put a period to his life."

The New York papers did not get the news of Washington's death until Dec. 19, and it was four days later when the Boston papers published their first information. President Adams issued a proclamation advising all citizens to wear crape on the left arm for thirty days and setting apart Feb. 22, Washington's birthday, as a day when special services in honor of Washington should be held.

New York paid its tribute to the departed President on Dec. 31. No carts, carriages or horseback riders were allowed in the streets through which the funeral procession passed on the way to St. Paul's Church, where Gov. Morris delivered the funeral oration and Bishop Samuel Provost conducted the religious services.

Change of Date.

Washington lost eleven days of his life in 1752, when 30 years of age, but he lived a great deal in his time and probably made them up. The first celebration of his birthday anniversary of which there is record occurred in Richmond, Va., on Feb. 11, 1782, old style. It was a feast and soul-flow day there and elsewhere until 1793, when Feb. 22 was adopted, according to the new style.

ANECDOTES OF GEN. LAWTON.

New Version of the Charge by Which El Caney Was Captured.

Some National Guard officers who served in the Spanish-American war were discussing Gen. Lawton's death and his services in Cuba. One of them told the following stories concerning his conduct at El Caney, where he wore the white helmet which was the cause of his death:

"On the morning of July 1 Gen. Lawton was sent with a force of about 5,000 men to take El Caney, while the rest of the troops were to be engaged at San Juan.

"I have seen some mention since the death of Gen. Lawton of the order sent to him by Gen. Shafter to withdraw his troops from El Caney, a proceeding which would have been disastrous to our forces, but I have never seen the statement given to me by the same staff officer. He told me that as Gen. Lawton stood directing the troops an aid from the staff of Gen. Shafter rode up and said:

"Gen. Lawton, Gen. Shafter directs you to withdraw your troops."

"At first Gen. Lawton was non-plussed; then, turning to the aid, he said: 'This is too serious an order to be received verbally, and I shall require it in writing from Gen. Shafter.' He well knew that Gen. Shafter was eight miles in the rear, and that a written order from him could not be received before the charge was ordered. This much is a matter of history, but I do not believe that the whole story has been told.

"Gen. Lawton, knowing that the aid would soon reduce the order to writing, immediately sent order to his officers to charge. The aid returned in about twenty minutes with the written order, having only retired a short distance to write, and he delivered it to Gen. Lawton just as the whole American force stormed across the field in that last desperate, successful attempt to take El Caney. When he handed the written order to the General, Lawton pointed to the charging troops and said: 'As you see, the troops have already commenced to charge. Tell Gen. Shafter that God Almighty himself could not stop them now.'

"Thus the capture of El Caney was due to Gen. Lawton's perseverance under difficulties."

The following story of Gen. Lawton was told by a sergeant in the regular army, who served under Lawton in Cuba, and afterward went to Manila, being now the oldest enlisted man in the Eighth army corps: After the surrender of Santiago the General was standing in the main street of the city looking into the windows of a shop, his tall, massive form making him even more conspicuous than usual. He wore a blue shirt and campaign hat, and was without any indications of his rank. A young second lieutenant just from West Point, and so belonging to the class known in the army as "Johnny-come-lately," was walking down the street, and having a high sense of his own importance, tapped the General on the shoulder, taking him for a non-commissioned officer. As the General turned around he was addressed thus by the young officer:

"Sergeant, are you a soldier?"

"Yes, sir," replied the General.

"Then why don't you salute an officer when you see him?"

The General saluted, but with so abrupt and flippant an air that the anger of the lieutenant was aroused, and he further asked:

"Sergeant, what's your name?"

"Well," replied the General, assuming a slight drawl that was sometimes characteristic, "my name is Maj. Gen. Henry W. Lawton. What's your name?" leaving the lieutenant crestfallen and stammering out some lame apology.

News Will Spread.

"No matter how engrossing the entertainment may be, news, and especially war news, cannot be kept out of any public building," said an experienced theatrical manager. "I could give you some most striking instances from my own experience of what I say. I have seen a big audience convulsed with laughter at 9 o'clock, but through a mere whisper of a great outside calamity that circulated through the house, with almost the rapidity of telegraphy, that same audience has been both restless, universally grave of face, and absolutely inattentive to the very culminating point of fun on the stage. And the singular thing is that actors who have never left the stage have, through the medium of whispers, known all that the original messenger of evil had to tell. Mr. Spurgeon once told me that he had known this same thing precisely to occur during the course of a religious service, and when a vast congregation were on their knees. He gave me the time and place, and explained how, from the whisper of a doorkeeper, a kneeling concourse of thousands knew the whole story of a national crisis in an incredibly short time."

His New Graft.

Wickwire—Look here. This is the fourth time this morning you have been in here asking for the price of a meal. Dismal Dawson—Yes. I am the absent-minded beggar, don't ye know.—Indianapolis Press

Queer Medical Test of Death.

A recent report of experiment at the Academy of Medicine in Paris gives astonishing testimony of the virtue of rhythmical twitching of the tongue as a means of restoring life in cases of drowning or asphyxiation. Within the past few months there have been at this hospital 40 such cases of resuscitation by this one means. Some of the statements made by M. Laborde, of the Academy of Medicine, in connection with this report are of exceptional interest. In one case a drowned man was resuscitated only after three hours spent in unintermittent twitching of his tongue. Which is certainly a reminder to physicians that this remedy is one that requires patience.—N. Y. Journal.

Barnacles on Ocean Cables.

The recent investigations for cable laying in the Pacific Ocean have revealed the fact, that if not upon rock bottom, they become encrusted with seaweeds, heavy enough to break them. This is like dyspepsia, which grows until it breaks down the health. Hostetter's Stomach Bitters will cure it, as well as indigestion, liver and kidney troubles.

About 125 boiler makers, employed in four of the largest boiler making and repairing shops in Buffalo, New York, struck for a uniform scale of wages—28 cents an hour and nine hours a day.

New Map of the United States.

The Rock Island railroad is distributing among its patrons and friends, a new map of the United States. These maps are of recent revision, and are in every way up to date. They are three and one-half feet by four and one-half feet, printed on extra heavy paper and bound suitably to hang on the wall. A great many of these maps have been sent to hotels and public places, and many requests from school houses have been received and complied with.

His Slaughter of the Enemy.

An old soldier was boasting of his experience during the civil war, when he was asked:

"How many rebels did you kill during the war?"

"How many did I kill? How many did I kill?" repeated the old veteran.

"Well, I don't know exactly how many, but I killed as many of them as they did of me."—Ohio State Journal.

PIMPLES

"My wife had pimples on her face, but she has been taking CASCARETS and they have all disappeared. I had been troubled with constipation for some time, but after taking the first Cascaret I have had no trouble with this ailment. We cannot speak too highly of Cascarets."—FRED WARTMAN, 5706 Germantown Ave., Philadelphia, Pa.



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