

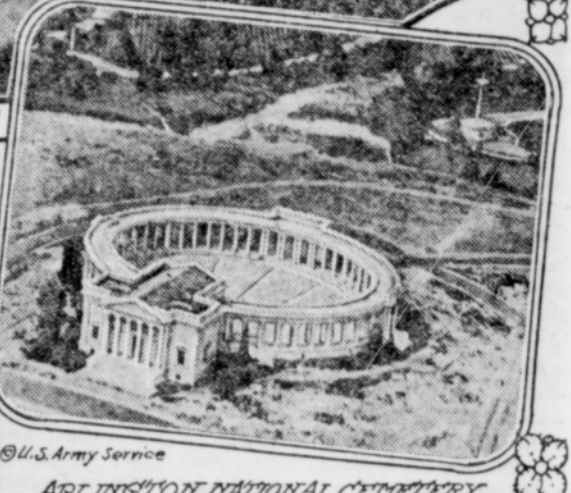
IF L'ENFANT COULD RETURN—



L'ENFANT'S GRAVE IN ARLINGTON



WASHINGTON, ABOUT 1800



ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY

By JOHN DICKINSON SHERMAN

OULD L'Enfant return; could he revisit this earth after a hundred years—often one feels that Clotho, Lachesis and Atropos owe it to some men to let them leave for a brief moment "that bourn whence no traveler returns" to see the outcome of their work on earth.

And if Maj. Pierre Charles L'Enfant, artist, engineer, architect, soldier of the American Revolution and intimate of Washington and Lafayette could revisit us, no such return would seem to have more dramatic possibilities. For it was this brilliant and temperamental Frenchman who planned the capital city of the United States of America, apparently destined to be the most beautiful city of earth. Yet he died broken, discredited and embittered, believing his great work doomed to certain failure. For generations his remains lay in an unmarked and unknown grave. Indeed half a stick of nonpareil will contain his whole career as commonly set forth in an encyclopedia:

L'Enfant, Charles Pierre—Born in Paris in 1755; studied engineering, architecture and art and was a lieutenant in French army; 1777, came with Lafayette and entered Colonial army; 1779, promoted to captaincy in engineers; 1779, wounded at Savannah; May, 1780, taken prisoner at Charleston and exchanged in November; assigned to engineering on General Washington's staff; 1783, commissioned brevet major; designed badge of the Society of the Cincinnati; laid out Washington; declined professorship of engineering at West Point; died June 14, 1825.

So runs the brief notation. Let us read between the lines.

General Washington noted the young Frenchman's efficiency, had him commissioned major of engineers and took him into his official family. Washington as President used him on government work in New York and Philadelphia. When Congress in July of 1790 passed an act establishing the "permanent seat of government of the United States" and turning over direction of the job to the President, L'Enfant wrote Washington, saying in part:

The late determination of Congress to lay the foundation of a city which is to become the capital of this vast empire offers so great an occasion of acquiring reputation to whomsoever may be appointed to conduct the execution of the business that your excellency will not be surprised that my ambition and the desire I have of becoming a useful citizen should lead me to wish to share in the undertaking. The plan should be drawn on such a scale as to leave room for the aggrandizement and embellishment which the increase of the wealth of the nation will permit it to pursue at any period, however remote.

President Washington, under the act, appointed three commissioners:

Gen. Thomas Johnson and Daniel Carroll of Maryland and Dr. David Stuart of Virginia, September 8, 1791, these commissioners, with Thomas Jefferson, secretary of state, and James Madison, met and named the territory "Columbia" and the city "Washington." They also approved L'Enfant's plan. But when the commissioners asked for the final draft that they might have engraved and published L'Enfant made emphatic refusal on the ground that speculators would use it to purchase the best locations in his "vistas and architectural squares and raise huddles of shanties which would permanently disfigure the city."

The commissioners had no means of raising money except by the sale of lots. They carried the situation to President Washington. So before long Secretary Jefferson wrote to Major L'Enfant that the President, "having received necessary evidence" of his refusal to accept or obey orders issued by the commissioners of the federal territory, had instructed him to say, "your services are at an end." L'Enfant hastened to see Washington, but found the President's decision final.

Now the real George Washington had considerable temperament of his own, the popular conception of his character to the contrary notwithstanding. He was dominant and impatient by nature and had a fierce temper. But he had himself under perfect control. An illuminating paragraph concerning Washington's attitude toward the "artistic temperament" is found in his letter to the commissioners of November 20, 1791: Men who possess talents which fit them for peculiar purposes are almost invariably under the influence of untoward dispositions, or a sottish pride, or possessed of some other disqualification by which they plague all those with whom they are concerned, but I did not expect to meet with such perverseness in Major L'Enfant as his late conduct exhibited.

L'Enfant never did hand over his completed plan. He kept it hidden till the day of his death. L'Enfant's discharge became effective March 1, 1792. The President appointed Andrew Ellcott in his place. Ellcott produced a plan in close imitation of L'Enfant's. It was published and widely circulated. The commissioners went on with their work.

President Washington directed the commissioners to recompense L'Enfant for his work. The commissioners deposited to his credit 500 British guineas (more than \$2,500) and notified him that they had deeded him a lot "near the president's house." He indignantly declined both money and lot. He conceived himself mistreated—sacrificed to the greed of speculators. He saw the fading of his dream of a beautiful city.

L'Enfant returned to Philadelphia and did some architectural work. In the War of 1812 he was appointed to construct Fort Washington on the Potomac. After this L'Enfant lived chiefly with his friend Dudley Digges, Esq., at his fine mansion house, Chellum Castle, near Bladensburg. He haunted the halls of Congress, importuning representatives and senators for "adequate compensation for his services."

As to his success with Congress there are several stories. One is that Congress never gave him a cent. Another is that in 1800 he filed a claim for \$35,000 and was finally granted \$2,500, which was seized by a creditor. A third is that in addition to the grant of \$2,500 he was in 1810 given \$600.05, with interest from March 1, 1792.

L'Enfant died at the age of seventy. Apparently he had no relatives. It is said there is no authentic portrait of him in existence. Certainly his death caused no public concern. He was buried under a cedar tree at Chellum Castle. And for just 84 years his unmarked grave was left to the care of nature.

Along about 1900 Washington had another "renaissance," under congressional auspices. Somebody hunted up the original L'Enfant plan—and lo! It was by far the best. So Congress, as far as possible, unscrambled the scrambled L'Enfant eggs and went back to his plan. It was also decided to make public recognition of L'Enfant's genius and services.

L'Enfant's remains, located after long search, were taken April 28, 1909, to the rotunda of the capitol at Washington. There they lay in state, as have the remains of presidents who have died in office and those of the "Unknown Soldier." President Taft and Jules Jusserand, the French ambassador, headed the dignitaries who attended the services. The funeral cortege made its way up Pennsylvania avenue and on to Arlington, the national cemetery. Interment was made on a prominent knoll in front of the Washington-Lee mansion. In 1911 was dedicated the memorial herewith shown.

Today new plans have been made for the beautification of Washington. A magnificent memorial bridge, typifying the complete union of the North and South, will cross the Potomac. An ornate highway will lead from the capitol, by way of the Lincoln Memorial and past the L'Enfant memorial, to the amphitheater in Arlington.

So if Maj. Pierre Charles L'Enfant about the year 1935 could roll away the memorial above him and from his vantage point near the "Unknown Soldier" look out upon the magnificent vista ending in the permanent seat of government he planned for the United States of America—

brothers to guard them. Other legends say that Briareus was one of the giants that attacked Olympus; he was buried alive under Mount Aetna as a punishment. According to Homer, this giant was called Briareus by the gods, and Aegeon by men.—Kansas City Times.

Ancient American Town

The marvelous archeological discoveries of Pueblo Grande in Nevada have been followed by the discovery of another ancient American city in the same state at the head of Forty-

Mile canyon and about thirty miles east of Beatty. A great deal of very interesting pottery has been revealed and some of it promises to be quite as valuable as that found at Pueblo Grande. W. M. Harrington, who is conducting the investigation, says it is his opinion that the city flourished 2,000 years ago and had been in existence for at least 1,000 years before that. Eighteen tombs have been uncovered and from them have been taken a number of pieces of jewelry or cut pearl and turquoise.

Mythological Hero

In Greek mythology, Briareus was a giant with 100 arms and 50 heads. He was the son of Uranus and Gaia, and had two brothers, Gyges and Cottus, giants also. According to the most ancient tradition, Briareus and his brothers conquered the Titans when they made war upon the gods, and secured the victory to Jupiter, who thereupon thrust the Titans into Tartarus and appointed Briareus and his

Rides Fish to Shore

After Taming It

Birmingham, Ala.—H. O. Bernard, secretary-treasurer of the Southern Pipe and Foundry company of Birmingham, claims he is the only experienced fish rider on the gulf.

Mr. Bernard with three companions is spending a vacation at Panama City, Fla. According to the story he and his companions tell they were driving along St. Andrew's bay when they spied a fish six feet long which had been stranded behind a reef by the receding tide. Mr. Bernard plunged into the water after the fish. After a struggle Mr. Bernard tamed the fish and rode it safely to the shore.

Mr. Bernard is having the fish mounted as complete proof that his tale is truthful.

FAITH HIS AID IN HEROIC DEED

Negro "Talked to God" While Risking Life.

Kansas City, Mo.—John Payne, six-foot negro laborer employed at the Liberty Memorial, believes his faith in God alone gave him the strength to perform a deed, akin to heroism, at the shaft recently in a violent wind-storm.

W. B. Beam, superintendent of the stone work at the memorial, told the story.

One of the great steel cables on the scaffolding was torn loose in the storm. There was danger it would mar the surface of the shaft.

Mr. Beam decided it was too dangerous for him to venture down a rope ladder to the scaffolding to secure the cable. John had followed him to the top.

"Let me go," offered Payne.

He climbed slowly over the ledge, 180 feet in the air, and down the rope, 30 feet, to the scaffold. There he secured the cable and dragged himself back up the swinging rope ladder. The wind was so strong he had to keep his face almost against the side of the shaft in order to get his breath. The trip took about six minutes. Mr. Beam, waiting at the top, said it seemed like an hour.

"John, I am sure glad you're back," he told Payne.

"Mr. Beam," John said, "if it hadn't been for my religion, I wouldn't be back. Yes, sir, it took all my faith. I talked to Him all the way down and I talked to Him all the way back. And He let me get back."

Ohio Game Preserves

Cover 93,515 Acres

Columbus, Ohio.—Ohio soon will have more than 100,000 acres of land used as game refuges and will take rank with the leading states of the Union in providing sanctuaries for wild life.

At present, refuge land totals 33,515 acres, and this will be augmented by the establishment of preserves in Jefferson and Columbiana counties, under legislation enacted by the last general assembly.

The largest of the tracts is the Roosevelt refuge, which includes 18,000 acres. The total number of refuges in the state is 102.

In addition, the department of fish and game operates a pheasant farm at Wellington and a fish hatchery at London.

D. C. Thompson, chief game warden, has completed plans to establish a miniature zoo at the Roosevelt refuge. By July 1, more than fifty cages to house native fur-bearing animals and birds will have been completed and the zoo will be thrown open to sight-seers.

Mother Saves 3 Children, Killed by Street Car

New York.—Deliberately sacrificing her own life to save those of three of her eight children, Mrs. Lena Tartar, forty-six years old, of Brooklyn, was mortally injured when she flung the children from the tracks of a street car on the Canarsie Shore line. The mother stood fast and the car mowed her down.

Mrs. Tartar was leading the children, Tessie, five years old; Isadore, eight, and Hyman, six, across the tracks when she glanced up and saw the car almost upon them. Swinging a child from each arm and pushing Isadore, she flung them from the tracks. Tessie failed to clear the car and was struck by the edge of the platform, suffering a fracture of the skull and possible internal injuries.

Mrs. Tartar stood still in the tracks and the car struck her. Her skull was fractured and she died on the way to the hospital.

Tries Five Times to Burn Schoolhouse in Revenge

Glendale, Cal.—Because Glendale barbers drew the color line and refused to trim his hair, Jesse Riley, a negro truck driver, tried five times to burn down the Doran street schoolhouse here, according to police. Burning down the schoolhouse was his idea of a fitting revenge on the community at large, officers said he explained. The five fires caused damage estimated at \$12,500. Riley is in jail awaiting arraignment on a charge of arson.

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Job for a Contortionist

Sam, a janitor in an uptown apartment, boasted of being somewhat of a philanthropist, but seemed short on judgment. In his one small room, he shared his bed, and board (such as it was) with a friend, who professed to be out of work, and penniless. When he suddenly discovered that the "friend" had had a job all the time, and was simply using him as an easy mark, Sam's indignation knew no bounds. He called the miscreant on the telephone and yelled loudly: "From now on, big boy, you can eat yourself and sleep yourself."—Indianapolis News.

His Probable Fate

"The mules run away yiste'dy and throwed my baby, Rowdy, out, and the wheel run smack over his head," in the crossroads store announced Gap Johnson of Rumpus Ridge. "Hurt him much?" asked an acquaintance. "Only just tollable, but it widened his mouth out right sharply and like to have squashed his head plumb out of shape. I swear, I believe he's dead shore to go to the legislature when he grows up."—Kansas City Times.

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High Hat Stuff

Rastus—They's a lot of vice versa in this heb publication, Sambo—What do you mean, vice versa?
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