

## WASHINGTON AND HIS FAVORITE CHARGER



This fine painting shows the Father of Our Country on his favorite horse. It is the well-known painting from which many equestrian statues have been copied.

### THE DATE OF WASHINGTON'S BIRTH

OLD records—what stories they can tell. Sometimes full of romance, sometimes startling in their disclosures.

It would seem that Washington's birthday, observed for so many years on February 22, was a celebration founded securely on accurate historical facts. Yet buried in the family Bible of Washington's mother and written in her own handwriting is an entry which makes one pause with surprise. There she has clearly recorded the astounding statement that George Washington was born on February 11.

Certainly no one should know more about this important event than Mrs. Washington.

There it is in black and white in her own handwriting:

George Washington, son to Augustine and Mary, his wife, was born ye 11th of February, 1732, about 10 in the morning, and was baptised the 3d of April following. Mr. Beverley Whiting and Capt. Christopher Brooks, godfathers, and Mrs. Mildred Gregory, godmother.

Family Bibles, especially in those times, were the last word in accuracy, so this statement must be accepted as indisputable.

By the latter part of the Sixteenth century the calendar year had become askew with the astronomical year. It seemed important that a readjustment be made and Pope Gregory XIII, after careful consultation with the learned men of his time, decreed that in 1582 10 days should be dropped and arranged what has since been called the Gregorian calendar. The mandate of the pope was followed that year by Spain, Portugal, Italy and France, but England would have none of it and continued on the basis of the old calendar for another century and a half.

#### Difference of Eleven Days.

By 1752 in England the discrepancy had mounted up to 11 days, and the disadvantages of two systems of dates was causing great annoyance. It was necessary to date letters going from England or her colonies to France with the days of both systems; for instance, February 11-22. So at last to avoid all this confusion England officially adopted the Gregorian calendar and decreed that 11 days be omitted in the year 1752 between September 3 and September 14.

So for Washington, his birthday in 1753 and all succeeding years fell on February 22.

But there is another record which throws light on what was probably the first public recognition of his birthday. This time the record is in his own handwriting. While commander in chief of the Continental armies, with all his other responsibilities and duties, Washington found time to keep exact records of all his expenses. These expense accounts were several years ago made available by their transfer from the Treasury department to the library of congress where they were placed with the great collection of Washington's papers there.

In one of Washington's daily expense account books there is an entry, under date of February 22, 1778, which reads:

Cash paid the 22nd Inst. to Proctor's band by the G. O. . . . .15s.

### WASHINGTON'S EXPENSE

Based on the expenses for three months in 1780, Washington figured his year's outlay at about \$25,000. When Washington became president he was unwilling to receive any money from the public treasury beyond his actual expenses. At the time his household included a secretary, an assistant secretary, three aids and eighteen servants, while a livery of sixteen horses also figured into the yearly cost.

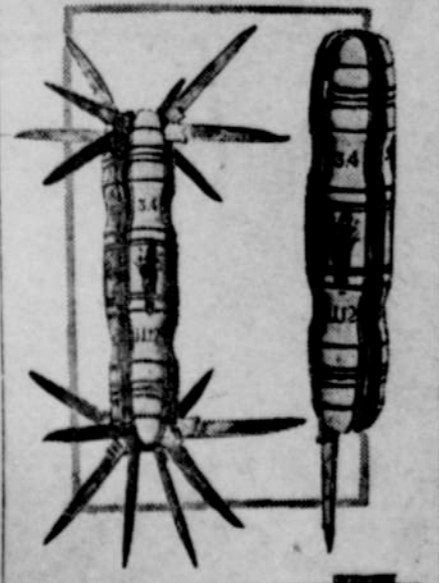
An interpretation of this brief note shows that the band of Colonel Proctor's Fourth Continental artillery apparently took it upon itself to serenade the commander in chief. This old record brings to light that Valley Forge, with all that that name means of privations and suffering, was the setting where was staged what was undoubtedly the first recognition in any public way of Washington's birthday.

#### French First to Celebrate.

There is still another record of those Revolutionary times which touches us perhaps most poignantly today. To the French is credit due for the first public celebration of Washington's birthday. It was in February, 1781, that Comte de Rochambeau, with true French spirit, declared a holiday for the French troops who were then located in Connecticut. Washington's birthday fell that year on Sunday, so the French general specified that the following Monday be set aside for the celebration of the birthday of his commander, whom he so highly esteemed.

It was another of the many evidences of the close ties between France and America which existed in Revolutionary times. It was on that memorable occasion that was first laid the foundation of our national holiday.

### WASHINGTON'S 16-BLADED KNIFE



One of the unique relics of American history still extant is the 16-bladed pocket knife which was presented to George Washington by Capt. Samuel De Wees in 1794. The many blades, it will be noted, are arranged to fold into four slots placed at right angles to each other in the handle. The knife is now the property of George De Wees of Chicago, Ill., a descendant of Captain De Wees.

### FUNDS FOR FOREST ROADS AND TRAILS

Oregon gets \$136,686 and Washington \$85,741 for cooperative road and trail projects this year, according to word from District Forester Geo. H. Cecil. Twenty-eight states in which national forests are located wholly or in part will share in the distribution during the current fiscal year of the \$1,000,000 fund appropriated by Congress. This is an annual appropriation for the construction of roads and trails within the national forests in cooperation with local authorities, according to advice recently received of the approval by the chief of the forest service and the secretary of agriculture. Alaska and Porto Rico will also share in the distribution of this fund, commonly known as the Section Eight Fund.

Last year 27 states shared in the federal moneys. Pennsylvania having been added to this year's list following the establishment of the Allegheny National Forest in that state. This particular fund is expended only under cooperative agreements with state and local authorities and should not be confused with other road-building funds expended upon roads and trails within the national forests. It is entirely separate from the 25 per cent fund which is turned directly over to the states to expend.

Following are the states and the amounts each will receive from the Section Eight Fund: Arizona, \$54,209; Arkansas, \$9,732; California, \$126,822; Colorado, \$67,537; Idaho, \$114,764; Montana, \$64,889; Nevada, \$17,164; New Mexico, \$37,945; Oregon, \$136,686; South Dakota, \$7,495; Utah, \$38,319; Washington, \$85,741; Wyoming, \$45,201. Alaska receives \$43,919.

Florida, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, Oklahoma and Porto Rico will together share in \$13,980. Alabama, Georgia, Maine, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and West Virginia will together share in \$35,597. The sum of \$100,000 is reserved for administrative and equipment expenditures and special contingencies.

## Doing a Big Business

The Store is Re-arranged and Stock Displayed for Your Convenience

We are running Sale Prices on Several Articles, and will publish some sample prices next week for your reference

Our Delivery Service is Established.

Shop in Person or Phone

## For Groceries---Best Groceries

Make This Store Your Store

# Vernonia Mercantile Co.

IN HALL & MILLS BUILDING  
"Service That Means Satisfaction"

GILLCHREST & DETROW

