

Washington's Real Name

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PROF. BERNARD J. CIGRAND

HE real name of the first president of the United States was not Washington. His baptismal name was George, and he was born February 22 in the year 1732. The old colony of Virginia was his birthplace, but the true name of his male ancestors was not Washington. This may seem a sweeping statement in the light of generally accepted history, but careful research has established beyond doubt that the ancestor of the family from which came the Father of our Country was named William De Herburn. The key to this apparent paradox lies in the fact that, in common with many noblemen and monarchs of Europe, the first president possessed an estate name and a real, or family name, the latter being known as the patronymic, or paternal name.

The first Washingtons were of French, and not English, origin, and were numbered among the powerful knights of the northern portion of France. When the Duke of Normandy conceived the ambition of becoming King of England he called to his aid the Catholics of France, and among those who responded to his appeal was an ancestor of George Washington. The duke gathered his soldiers about him and announced that by right and promise he deserved and intended to be the new King of England. His spirited address had the desired effect and the knights and their vassals thronged to the standard until there was soon gathered under the leadership of William, Duke of Normandy, the greatest army France had ever mustered, ready for the field and thirsting for the glories of conquest. Among the many banners thrown to the breeze appeared the shield of the multi-great-grandfather of our own George Washington. His name was William De Herburn. The 60,000 followers of the duke set sail in 3,000 vessels of war for the English coast and landed without opposition, because of the English King Harold's conflict with the Norwegians in another part of his invaded domains. On October 14, 1066, the rival armies met, and on the field of Hastings took place one of the most terrific battles in the history

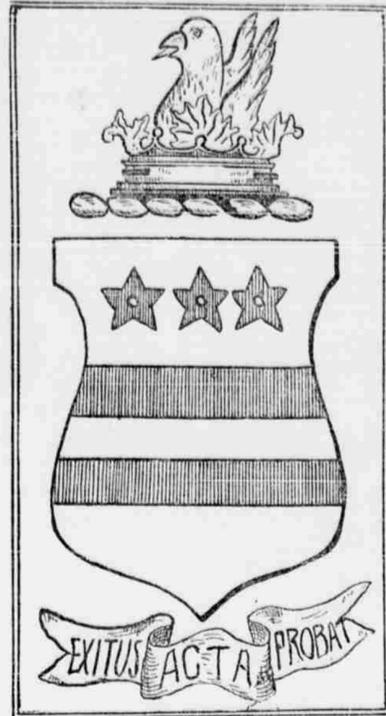
well as an accurate record of the biographical and heraldic character of the new or French proprietors. And in this last seemingly unnecessary entry appears the statement that the brave, ever reliable knight, Sir William De Herburn, for military service to William I, be granted with feudal rights and power the extensive estate known as Wessington, and henceforth said Sir Knight shall be known as Sir William De Washington; but he shall still be a vassal of the bishop and his hereditary demanition shall continue to be, Arms: Argent, two bars gules (red); in chief, three mullets of the second. Crest: A raven with wings endorsed proper, issuing out of a ducal coronet or (gold).

As a further demonstration of the importance of the De Herburns, or "Wessingtons," history furnishes the information that the estate in question was under the command of the Bishop of Durham, and situated in a locality exposed to the attack of the Scots of northern England. On this border there was constant warfare, and the king naturally selected the bravest and most warlike of his adherents to hold lands in the disputed district. For nine years this country between Durham and York was laid waste, and for ten years it was practically a desert, no man having the courage to attempt cultivation of the blasted fields or inhabit the ruined towns. One hundred thousand people died in this debatable strip of land, and there, where actual hostilities ever reigned, the De Herburns, or Wessingtons, were stationed. This record of the great family is absolutely authentic in every detail, having been proved by minute research and personal visits to the locality where its members were lords of the soil—a task which embraced fifteen years of heraldic investigation.

Later the estate known as Wessington was spelled and entered officially as Wessington, the proprietors assuming the same name. Then it was recorded as Washington, and a natural change of the owner's name in accordance with that of his land followed. The proprietors became known as William, John, Lawrence, Robert and Nicholas De Washington. Finally the heraldic shields

and French prefix of "De" was dropped, and the modern spelling of W-a-s-h-i-n-g-t-o-n prevailed. The Washingtons were very prominent in the military as well as the civic phases of English life. In the days of Henry VIII, when that monarch was in conflict with the pope of Rome, Lawrence Washington sided with the king, and the latter confiscated the monasteries, convents and churches of the Roman Catholic church, giving to this Washington the Sulgrave estate, where for over a century the Washington family ruled supreme. A decline in their fortunes then appears to have taken place, for in 1629, the year the Pilgrims set sail for America, the Washingtons were practically driven from the Sulgrave estate to take up residence at Brighton with minor manors and holdings. The loss of the hundreds of acres of rich meadows and harvest fields was in a measure counteracted by the marriage of a Sir William Washington to a sister of George Villiers, Duke of Buckingham. This union brought about new alliances and affiliations which made Washingtons possible in America, and ultimately led to the rearing of George Washington to be the military leader of the colonies and eventually our first chief executive.

This marriage brought the Washington family into direct domestic social and court relationship with the prominent and powerful favorite of the then reigning monarch, and political circumstances destined the Washingtons to espouse the cause of the king, rather than the ideal of the Commons—Oliver Cromwell. The Washingtons performed heroic services for the king, but when Cromwell proved victorious and seized the reins of government, they found England to be no longer a safe dwelling place. Prison sentences, exile and death was



Washington's True Coat-of-Arms.

the unhappy lot of the royalists, or King's Cavaliers; and rather than bow to one whom they looked upon as a usurper, many of the Washingtons fled to foreign lands. John and Lawrence, brothers, came to Virginia, the former being the grandfather of George Washington, the first president of the United States.

Among the distinguished Washingtons who escaped persecution by flight from England was one whose identity genealogists long sought vainly to verify—the brother of General Washington's great grandfather. This Washington's name was James, and he fled to Rotterdam, Holland, where in 1650 he wedded Clara Vander Lant, daughter of the mayor of the port. From this union was derived the present Dutch and German Washingtons, a sturdy folk who adapted themselves to the governments under which they have held and are at present holding official positions of high station. One of these German Washingtons offered his services in a military capacity to the United States consul at Frankfurt-on-Main in 1862. He expressed himself as anxious to enlist in the Union army, and presented the consul with a verified genealogical chart prepared from the records of the Dutch government. This gentleman was Baron De Washington. This statement has been certified by William W. Murphy, consul at that point, and attested by the Honorable Frederick Kapp, of New York City, who was visiting in Germany and wrote a letter in which the circumstances were fully described.

The original correspondence and data in my possession relating to the Dutch and German Washingtons prove the baron to have been a direct lineal

of this honor, and possibly because he deemed that sufficient respect had not been shown to one of such noted ancestry, he did not emigrate to the United States. However, before the interview was closed, he deposited with the American consul a certified genealogical chart on which the following appears:

"Baron De Washington is a direct descendant of the ancient and honorable Washington family of England, the earliest emigrant to Holland being James Washington, one of the four brothers of Stuart sympathizers (Charles I. James came to Holland in 1650, his two brothers emigrated to Virginia, and the third brother remained in England, where he was serving as a divine).

This remarkable bit of genealogical history gives the earliest and most authentic record of the Dutch and German Washingtons, of which there are many and of whom the church records abound in entries of marriages, births and deaths. Further investigation brings to light the fact that this earliest Dutch emigrant, James, was married in the English church of Rotterdam, all of which tends to corroborate that he was of English training. Baron De Washington was born in 1833, and his brother Max married the Duchess of Oldenburg and in this way became connected with one of the oldest sovereign families of Europe. The House of Oldenburg is the prime branch of the Holstein-Gottorp stock, which has given emperors to Russia and Kings to Denmark, and is prominently related to the present King of England, George V. And Jacob Washington was first lieutenant of the Dutch navy in 1815, this branch being related to the wealthy banking firm, Cornelius L. Keurenour of The Hague. Upwards of seventy-five Washingtons are numbered among the inhabitants of Holland and Bavaria. Hence the Washingtons, in the farthest genealogical tracings, hail from France. We next find them in England and then in Holland and Bavaria.

Regarding the Washington coat-of-arms some odd discoveries have also come to light. Quite contrary to our American belief the Washington shield does not contain "stars and stripes," notwithstanding that more than a thousand books and as many more published articles so proclaim it. The facts are that the Washington shield contains "bars and mullets (spurs of knights' boots)." A red (gules) shield with a single

white (silver) bar charged with three mullets.

A red shield with a white bar upon which are three cinquefoils, also red.

A red shield with two bars white, in chief three martlets.

A shield of four bars, white and red, three mullets.

A shield in green, a lion rampant in white, within a border gobneted white and blue.

These constituted the heraldic arms of all Washington people as recorded in the English College of Heralds. Washington was fond of genealogical investigations, and in the College of Heralds can be seen a score or more of pages he wrote at various times in his eager search after family arms and crests. He was proud of his heraldic ancestors, and this family estimate is well expressed in the frequency with which he blazoned the Washington shields upon his choice tokens and valuables.

Many such instances may be noted in his heraldic watch charms, his several personal seals; the doors of his carriages; the porcelain of his dinner set; the silver ware of his liquor service; the fireplace and the mirrors; the picture frames and his library walls; his bookplate and his saddle, and practically everything upon which a family signature or shield might be engraved, painted or printed.

The illness of Sir Isaac Heard, the head of the English department of heraldry, closed the correspondence relating to Washington's eager attempt to prepare a Washington genealogy and origin and evolution of the family coat-of-arms. This interesting correspondence has never yet been scripturally reproduced, and it is to be regretted that a continuance of the investigation was disturbed by illness, since many disputed biographical problems would doubtless have been solved.

Philadelphia May 2, 1792, the third year of his presidency, and the package was sealed with the Washington family arms as is indicated in a letter which reads:

"The arms enclosed in your letter are the same that are held by the family here; though I have also seen, and have used, as you may perceive by the seal to this packet, a flying griffin for the crest."

The Washington crest, "a raven issuing from a ducal coronet, gold," was evidently given because of the sportsmanship of the early English Washingtons. In fact the crow, falcon and hawk have been for more than four hundred years the emblem of sport. The pastime of hawking was engaged in only by the wealthy and the Washingtons were noted for their love of hunting and sporting. Benson J. Lossing lent some color to the foregoing conclusion when he wrote of the English Washingtons:

"For more than two hundred years the De Wessingtons, or Washingtons, were conspiring after their kind (robber knights) fighting, hawking, carousing and gaming."

This grant of the raven was in 1500, at about the same time that hawking was at its height as a sport, for at about the same period we find that in Spain the son of Columbus attempted to prove that his father was of aristocratic and also of heraldic family in that "he was of a people who kept their own hawks." This alone, in those days, stamped the man as a falconer, as only people of high social standing were permitted by license to engage in that enjoyment; hence a raven, a falcon, a crow or a hawk on the shield or crest indicated prominence. This sporty and hunting disposition of the Washingtons was distinctly manifested in the Washingtons of Virginia, of which our first president also gave liberal expression.

There are five distinct Washington shields, but in the heraldic records they are pronounced of the same origin, as follows:

A silver (argent) shield upon which

are two red (gules) bars; in the top (chief) three red mullets (spurs of knights' boots).

A red (gules) shield with a single



Ancient Washington Shield.

white (silver) bar charged with three mullets.

A red shield with a white bar upon which are three cinquefoils, also red.

A shield of four bars, white and red, three mullets.

A shield in green, a lion rampant in white, within a border gobneted white and blue.

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The man who is doing good work is writing his name on the memory of the world. Stone monuments are only seen by a very few, no odds how high they may be built.

HAPPENINGS IN THE CITIES

New Home Secretly Furnished by Wife



INDIANAPOLIS.—To be taken into a strange home by his wife and to be told, while he admired the elegant furnishings, that he was the owner of the property, was the unusual experience the other afternoon of John E. Keller, manager of a department in a local store. Until then Mr. and Mrs. Keller resided in the Meridian flats. They now reside at 2535 Talbott avenue in a home that was chosen by Mrs. Keller and completely furnished by her without her husband's knowledge.

The clever deception used by Mrs. Keller to keep her husband ignorant of her plans to surprise him would have baffled a detective even if he had been suspicious of her intentions. The culmination of her plans so startled Mr. Keller that he declared that he felt his "brain was fuzzy."

"A short time ago," said Mr. Keller, "we decided to give up our apartment at the Meridian flats and to place our furnishings in storage that we might engage a smaller apartment. I came home one night from the store and a part of the furniture was gone. My wife informed me that she had stored the furniture in 'the nicest little place imaginable.'"

The next evening when I returned more of the furniture had been taken away and I thought nothing of it, as my wife seemed to have taken the moving of our property in charge. The following afternoon she suggested that I walk with her to Talbott avenue to inspect a home that was for rent.

"She told me to wait and that she would call at a neighbor's house for the key. When she got the key the whole family came to the porch and

smiled at me. Not understanding the situation at the time I thought they acted strangely, but said nothing about it.

"I put the key in the lock, opened the door and was surprised to see that the house was furnished.

"Look here," I said, "you've got me in bad. This house is furnished and occupied. Some one will be coming after me in a moment.

"My wife replied that there surely could not be a mistake, and continued talking to me, at the same time pushing me through the door. I felt as if I were breaking into some one's house, but what could I do?

"I glanced about the hall and saw one of the young women who is employed in my department at the store standing in one corner, smiling at me. We sat down, but I was just naturally so embarrassed that I could not find a place to put my feet and hands.

"I sat there, my wife and the young woman staring at me. In a few moments I noticed that seven or eight of the young women who work in my department were in an adjoining room.

"All of them looked at me and began to look about the room. I saw a picture hanging on the wall that formerly was in my Meridian street home. I was so dazed by the series of incidents that I could hardly think, but they took a lot of pressure off my mind when I was told that I owned the place. Of course, I could not believe them at first, but after arguing for a few moments they convinced me. I was about the happiest man in Indianapolis. The home could not have pleased me more if I had planned it all myself, and just think! Moving day occurred in the experience of at least one married man without his knowing anything about it."

The change of residence made by Mr. and Mrs. Keller was on their ninth wedding anniversary.

Jilts Philosopher for Man With Money

PHILADELPHIA.—Guy Carlton Lee, widely known throughout the country as a lecturer and a philosopher, sat in the St. James hotel the other day contemplating a marriage license which he had procured, thinking he was to marry Dr. Hildegard H. Langsdorf of Carlisle, Pa.

He was taking one last look at the marriage license prior to returning it to the bureau with the notation: "Not used. She married another."

Dr. Langsdorf became the bride of John L. Ayer of Chester, Pa., a wealthy young man who doesn't have to do anything but spend his money. They were married the day before at Media after a race between the two men for the hand of the bride.

In his downcast way Lee told all about it. He said he had lost and he felt grieved.

"I love Dr. Langsdorf, dearly," he said, "and I thought she was going to marry me. She seemed to doubt it, but I wouldn't take no for an answer. I came to Philadelphia with the understanding that Dr. Langsdorf would follow me. She did. I went to the marriage license office and obtain-



ed the license. Then I met her at the train and showed it to her. She didn't say much, but I didn't see her again."

After leaving Lee, Dr. Langsdorf went directly to Chester, where she met John L. Ayer. They went to Media and got the marriage license and later married. They did not take their friends into their confidence and no person seems to know where they have gone.

The happy bridegroom, who at-manuevered Lee, has had previous experience in the matrimonial game. According to the license, he was divorced for desertion seventeen days ago in Prince George county, Md. He is 48 years old.

The bride is 34 years old and is well known as a contributor to medical journals.

Old Man Gives Pointers on Skating



DETROIT.—For the first time in 46 years, Charles Thompson, a California fruit grower, aged 72 years, put on a pair of skates, a few days ago, and caused the crowd of youngsters at the Hamtramck skating rink to gasp in wonder and astonishment at his performance.

Thompson, who lived in Detroit before the Civil war, is visiting relatives in Hamtramck, near the Holbrook school. In search of diversion, and in an attempt to discover a few of the old landmarks of their boyhood, he and his host started for a walk. About the first thing they encountered was the municipal skating rink, crowded with small boys.

"I believe that I am not too old yet to go in for that," said Thompson, stroking his flowing beard.

"Shouldn't wonder if you weren't, Charlie. Like to see you try it," said his companion.

A pair of skates were produced and Thompson put them on. He rose shakily to his feet, his knees trembling. A small boy skated up, and proffered assistance.

"Come on, Mister, I'll help you start. There! Steady now! Stroke, mister; right-left—now you're going. Gee, stroke slower; don't go so fast, you'll fall. Hey! Where are you going, anyway. I can't keep up to you. Leggo! Leggo, I say." And the small boy was left behind, gazing in astonishment at the figure eight and the "Dutch rolls" which the old man with the flowing beard cut.

After nearly an hour Thompson returned to his admiring friend.

"I can't go like I used to," he said. "My knees are a trifle wobbly and my ankles are gettin' weak for this kind of sport."

Thompson owns a large farm at Farmersville, Cal., where he raises prunes. He lived in Detroit before the Civil war and saw service on the Cumberland river during that struggle. He declared that he might give a little exhibition of fancy skating as it existed in the old days at one of the popular rinks before he returned to the west.

With 1,283 Letters He Finds Brother

MINNEAPOLIS.—To meet his brother, whom he had never seen, in order to find whom he had written 1,283 letters, addressing every man named Lundy that he learned of anywhere in the world, C. A. Lundy, 4341 Twelfth avenue S., left the other day for Ferrysville, Wis., where he will spend some time.

Twenty-five years ago John Lundy and wife and the little boy, who is now C. A. Lundy, 31 years old, came from near Lanosboro, Filmore county, Minnesota. There Mrs. Lundy died shortly after.

John Lundy married again, after a time. C. A. Lundy went to live with another family who brought him up. Starting Lundy came into the world, John Lundy died and his widow married again and became Mrs. E. Anderson. C. A. Lundy knew there had been a little child born to his father and stepmother, but his stepmother had left Minnesota and had married somewhere out of the state and he neither knew where, or what her



name had become after her second marriage. Martin Lundy is now 20 years of age.

Week after week Mr. Lundy took his letter to the postoffice, and week after week he opened replies, but from nowhere did he learn of a Lundy that was his brother until after a number of years. Then he heard of the Ferrysville man, wrote and found his brother. He ceased writing letters thereafter and has been waiting several years for an opportunity to go to Ferrysville and greet his brother in person, which opportunity came today.

Mr. Lundy may spend some time in Ferrysville before returning to Minneapolis.

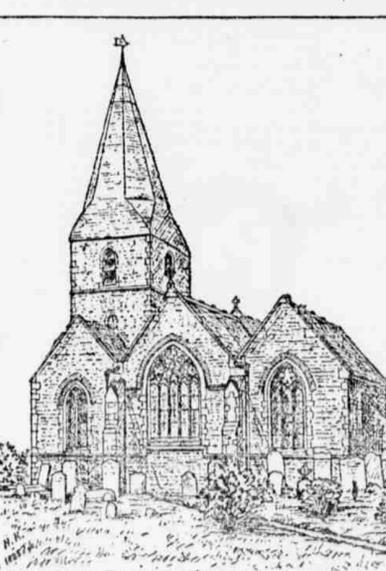


Washington's Crested Carriage.

of England. William of Normandy was the victor, and King Harold, with tens of thousands of his English, was among the slain. The victorious French marched to London, and on Christmas day they proclaimed their dashing leader "William I, Conqueror and King of England."

King William, like all his French knights, loved the French ideals of government, church and home, and infused into the old English national and domestic life all the customs of his native land. Even the English language, which William never could learn, was gradually set aside, and among the loyal French knights who assisted the Conqueror in enforcing his reforms was the distant kin of George Washington. This early ancestor of our first president was numbered among the intimates of the king, and was one of the leaders of the French Conquest. In the past, American historians, possibly because of the strong influence upon literature exercised by England, placed the Washington ancestry as beginning in that country; but careful investigation bears out the statement that the Washingtons were of definite and direct French origin. They were French both in sentiment and training, and the original name was De Herburn.

Naturally the question arises, why was the name changed, and what induced these faithful French subjects of William of Normandy to assume an English cognomen? The explanation is simple enough. William the Conqueror was a careful and far-seeing man. He realized that his usurpation of the English throne was a very radical departure in a governmental experiment, to say the least; and he was anxious to mould the people, whom he had made his vassals by dint of the strong hand, into as close duplicates of the French as possible. In other words, he strove to implant the French ideals into the English character as deeply as circumstances permitted. The complicated heraldic records found in the pages of the famous "Doomsday Book" is undoubtedly the best evidence that the King wished to make his radical campaign of permanent record, and hence a great number of men of education and ability were occupied in diligently surveying and noting all the land and water conditions of England. They also in these visitations made lengthy entries as to the original English estate owners as



Graves of Washington's Ancestors at Sulgrave, England.

descendant of the James Washington who landed in Holland in 1650. He married a Bavarian lady and held a certificate of honorable discharge in the invasion army. To obtain a commission as officer in the Federal army was his wish, but because of the inability of our consul to assure him

him." Finally, however, Detective Charles Stohert gained entrance to the place, pushed his money through the wicket and secured a list of chips and cards. He put them in his pocket and took them to police headquarters. From them he took, innumerable "finger prints," left by the unsuspecting gambling house keeper. These he compared with the finger prints in the rogue's gallery.

That evening he arrested a man on the streets and charged him with conducting a gambling house. And the

Solely By Finger Prints

New York Police Hope to Convict Gambler Who Always Kept His Face Hidden.

The New York police force is willing to admit that it can no longer identify a man by his face, but that it can identify him by his finger prints. This is the result of a new system, which, by a few thousand years before B. C., Borthol became a terror to the French

rogues. On the strength of the fingerprint they have arrested a man they know was guilty of a crime, but whose face no person concerned had seen. There was a well-known gambling house up town in which the proprietor was more effectively hidden than "the man in the iron mask." To remain in a little room, which he entered from another room. No one ever saw him; not even his employees. All business

was transacted through a little wicket, through which his voice might be heard, but his face could never be seen. When a player wanted to buy cards or chips he passed his money through the wicket and got his cards and chips—but never saw the proprietor. When he wanted to "cash in" he passed his chips through the wicket and got his money—but never saw the proprietor.

The nimble wits of the police department wanted to "pinch" that man, but they couldn't "get the goods on