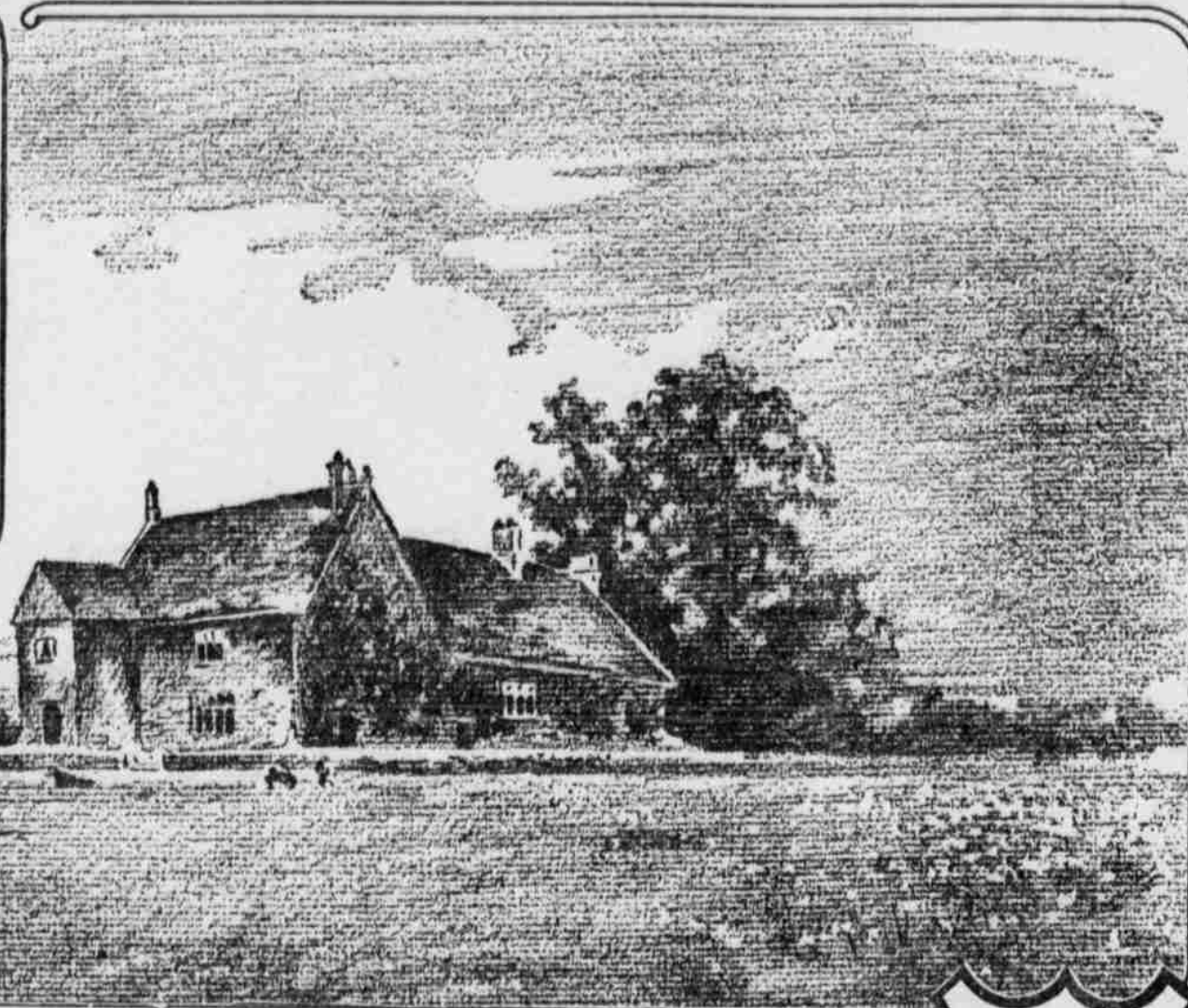


AT THE ENGLISH HOME OF THE WASHINGTON FAMILY

Sulgrave Manor, in Northamptonshire, is preserved as a peace memorial between Great Britain and the United States. Here is an interesting story of the historical place



Home of Washington's Ancestors

In a quiet, rural neighborhood, where the farmhouses are quaint, and antiquated, stands Sulgrave Manor, the one-time English home of the Washington family. The manor never really saw George Washington or his father, or even his grandfather, but the Washington family possessed and occupied it during most of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. It is still possible to distinguish over the main entrance to the old building the heraldic device of stars and stripes which Washington accepted as his own coat of arms, and which is commonly regarded as the origin of the American flag.

In the summer of 1911 the suggestion was made by a prominent member of the British Peace committee that the historical property should be purchased and dedicated as a memorial to the peaceful relations existing between the two countries during the past century, the dedication to be one of the features of the international celebrations in 1914. This idea immediately met with popular favor. The British committee acquired the property, and dedicated it to peace between England and the United States.

The manor has been made into a Hall of Records, where matter pertaining to Anglo-American unity is kept. It is understood that a lecture chair soon will be supplied by the purchasers and that James Bryce, ex-ambassador to the United States, will be its first occupant.

Charming Old Place.

The manor is a charming piece of old architecture, gray with the rains, frost and sunshine of 300 years. The house stands at the eastern extremity of the village of Sulgrave, in Northamptonshire, and it is approached from the west by a pretty green croft, separated from the almost encircling road by a hedge.

To the right of the gable end of the manor is a low stone wall with a larch gate, facing a small court, partly paved and partly in grass. From the courtyard the house is entered by a handsome old stone doorway, above which a little attic projects from a tiled roof. The fine old Tudor doorway is surmounted by a shield containing the Washington coat of arms, which three centuries have somewhat robbed of its original sharpness, but which is still unmistakable.

What a fortune had that shield of a private English gentleman—to become the most notable blazon of all the world! Strange to think that this little obscure stone coat of arms in a secluded Northamptonshire village should be the original of so much—should still be extant. As strange to think of the contrast between the torpid and monotonous rustic life surrounding it for so many generations with the rush and roar of existence in our great republic.

There is very little doubt that the three stars and the three stripes furnished the idea for the American flag. In the flag, as in the original, the stars signify divine influence guiding the bearer in the right way, while the bars denote one who sets the bar of conscience and religion against wicked temptations and evil desires. The colors, red and white, seem to follow also; the red meaning military bravery and fortitude; the white peace and sincerity.

Tradition attributes the suggestion to Benjamin Franklin. Tupper is probably right when, in his "Centennial Drama," he makes Franklin say:

I proposed it to the congress.
It was the leaders old crusading blazon,
Washington's coat, his own heraldic shield,
And on the spur, when we must choose a flag
Symboling independent unity,
We and not he—all was unknown to him—
Took up his coat of arms and multiplied
And magnified it, in every way to this
Our glorious national banner.

He adds, also, some allusions to the old manor:

The Washingtons, of Wassyngton,
In County Durham, and on Sulgrave Manor,
County Northampton, bore upon their shield
Three stars atop

and for the crest
An eagle's head upspringing to the light,
The architraves of Sulgrave testify,
As sundry printed windows in the hall

At Wassyngton, this was their family coat,
And at Mount Vernon I myself have noted
An old cast-iron, scutcheoned chimney-back
Charged with that heraldry.

The old building is in an excellent state of preservation. The main hall has a fine fireplace and an oak beam ceiling. The ancient oak staircase has very beguiling twisted banisters and a fascinating secret cupboard at the intermediate landing. The drawing room is on the second floor, as was the custom in the days when it was built, and in one of the bedrooms it is said that Queen Elizabeth once slept.

The estate surrounding Sulgrave manor consists of about two hundred acres of gently rolling land, substantially all of it in full view of the manor. The ownership carries with it the lordship of the manor, "with the Rights, Royalities, Privileges and Appurtenances thereto belonging," and is subject to "a fee farm rent of 11s 6d (\$2.54) per annum."

Sulgrave Manor is the place in England most closely associated with the name of Washington, and yet it is true that George Washington himself attached little importance to this fact. In the early days of the American republic, ancestry was despised much more than is now the case. In 1788 George Washington refused to accept the dedication of a book on heraldry because a portion of the community were:

"Clamorously endeavoring to propagate an idea that those whom they wished invidiously to designate by the name 'well-born' were meditating in the first instance to distinguish themselves from their compatriots and to wrest the dearest privileges from the bulk of the people."

But the ability to trace one's ancestors has a greater value in this country today than it had in the days of the first president. Washington knew very little about his own forefathers. When he was asked about them by the Garter King-of-Arms, he said the first of his family in Virginia had come from one of the northern counties in England, possibly Yorkshire or Lancashire, or even farther north. Later there was considerable dispute about the root of the family tree from which he was descended, and it was finally agreed by genealogists that the Washingtons of Sulgrave and Brighton did actually spring from the Washingtons in Warton, Lancashire, a place on the Westmoreland border.

Several generations of Washingtons of Warton are recorded, and one of these was the father of Laurence Washington, mayor of Northampton in 1532 and 1545. He seems to have taken up his residence at Sulgrave, though members of his family continued to remain at Warton for several generations. This Laurence Washington had for mother the daughter of Robert Kytson of Hengrave in Suffolk. This proved a matter of very considerable importance in their history, because it brought them into connection with the Spencers of Althrop and Wormleighton, through the marriage of Sir Thomas Kytson's daughter, Catherine, to Sir John Spencer of Wormleighton, whose grandson, Sir Robert Spencer, was created Baron Spencer of Wormleighton in 1603.

In the process of time the Washingtons of Sulgrave appear to have got into financial difficulties. Laurence Washington entered the wool trade, perhaps induced to do so by the fact that Lord Spencer was one of the great flock-masters of his day. This Laurence acquired considerable riches in the wool trade. In 1539 he became possessed of the Manor of Sulgrave for the sum of three hundred and twenty-one pounds, fourteen shillings, and subsequently he purchased additional property.

Sundial With Washington Arms.

He had many sons, of whom the oldest was Robert, the ancestor of George Washington. He succeeded his father in 1585, when he was of the age of forty, but he does not seem to have been so prosperous as his father. Yet it appears that he was able to send both his sons, Christopher and William, to Oriel college, Oxford, where they were in 1588, the year of the great armada. Robert's oldest was named Laurence, probably after the mayor of Northampton, and in 1610 Robert, in agreement with his son, agreed to sell Sulgrave to their cousin, Laurence Makepeace. The second Laurence Washington then removed to Brington, near Northampton, his father perhaps going with him, though the latter was buried in the family vault at Sulgrave. Laurence Washington had seventeen children, two of whom rose

to high positions
and were knighted
—Sir William Washington
of Packington in 1622 and Sir
John Washington of
Thrapston in 1623.

The old church of St. Mary's, where the Washington family worshiped for years, is near the old manor, and is in a good state of preservation. It forms a point of considerable interest containing, as it does, three memorial brasses on the gray stone slab put down in memory of Laurence Washington and his family. These brasses consist of Laurence Washington's effigy, a shield bearing the Washington arms, and the following inscription:

"Here lyeth buried ye bodys of Laurence Washington, Gent., & Anne his wyf by whom he had issue liij sons and ij daughters wo laurence Dyed ye . . . day . . . ano 15 . . . & Anne Deceased the vj of October ano Dni 1564."

Apparently Laurence Washington, great-great-grandfather of George Washington, devised this monument as a memorial to his wife, leaving the date of his own death blank to be filled in after his death. This, however, has never been done.

Two other records of the Washingtons are found in the village of Brington. In this little township, not far distant from Northampton, stands the house to which the family moved from Sulgrave. It was in this house that Robert Washington died in 1622; and in the yard, engraved upon a sundial, is found the Washington coat of arms.

In the Church of All Saints, near at hand, where Robert Washington is buried, an inscription reads as follows:

"Here lies interred ye bodies of Elizab Washington, widow, who changed this life for immortality ye 19th day of March, 1622. As also ye body of Robert Washington, Gent., her late husband second sonne of Robert Washington of Solgrave in ye County of North, Esqr., who deposed this life ye 10th of March, 1622, after they lived lovingly together."

Laurence Washington, grandson of the Laurence of Sulgrave, died in 1616, and is also buried here.

Unfortunately little of the village of Sulgrave as it was in the days of the Washingtons now remains. A disastrous fire in 1675 swept the village, and only a relic may be seen here and there in an ancient house. Most of the streets are set with neat brick houses. Coming toward the Church of All Saints, one might fancy oneself in the business center of some minor New England city, but with rather less of glare and noise, and the community held in a certain abeyance by the presence of the old church.

In dedicating the manor as a memorial to the peaceful relations existing between the two great English-speaking nations during a century, the British committee has created a permanent memorial of permanent interest.

First to Die for Liberty

It would be difficult to say who was the first man killed in the Revolutionary war. The spirit of revolt prevailed and some collisions between the people and British soldiers occurred before the war actually began. The battle of Concord occurred more than a year before the Declaration of Independence, but there was bloodshed before the battle of Concord. One of the earliest of these collisions was the so-called Boston massacre, March 5, 1770, in which British soldiers fired upon citizens, killing three and wounding eight. The first to fall in this affray was Crispus Attucks, a mulatto. The first man killed in the battle of Concord, April 19, 1775, was Capt. Isaac Davis of the Massachusetts "minute men." In the battle of Concord the Americans lost 93 killed, wounded and missing, but no complete list of names was preserved.

Kindness is the true wealth of the mind and I beg you to keep it in your heart as a priceless treasure.—Giusti.

CLAIMS HIGH HONOR

Lovers of Old Yeocomico Church Claim Washington Was Christened There.

MANY residents of Westmoreland county, Virginia, who are descended from colonial families, assert that Washington was christened in old Yeocomico church, one of the quaintest and most interesting of the old churches of America. They have no record evidence to offer in support of their contention, for the registers of the parish during the colonial period were destroyed in the Revolutionary war, and for proof of the great honor claimed for that church they can only point to a local tradition that he was christened in "old Yeocomico," and to an ancient letter bearing on the subject. However, traditions, or at least those of Virginia, are not to be brushed lightly aside, and in the absence of authentic record evidence are at least worthy of consideration in arriving at a conclusion as to any doubtful matter of history.

Old Yeocomico church, a quaint relic of colonial Virginia, is built in the form of a cross or a hexagon. Its solid walls have weathered the storms of two centuries, and it has suffered the devastation of three wars. It was a favorite camping place of soldiers of the Revolution, of the War of 1812,



Old Yeocomico Church.

and of the Civil war. Some of the soldiers, according to tradition, stabled their horses in the building, used the marble font as a horse trough, and also as a punch bowl, and the communion table as a butcher's block.

It is described in detail by Bishop Meade in his "Old Churches and Families of Virginia." This quaint, peaceful country church is situated in a grove of fine old oak trees near Yeocomico creek, an estuary of the lower Potomac river. While only a few miles from the river, the church is a great many miles distant from a railroad and is far from a town or village. As a consequence of its comparative inaccessibility but few visitors from the outside world cross its historic portals.

In part of the wall of the church are the initials "R. L." and figures "1706," evidently referring to Richard Lee, whose wealth contributed to the erection of the church. Other curious symbols appear on the exterior of this venerable place of worship. These objects, together with the beautiful marble font still used for christening embryos Washingtons, the quaint windows and communion table, the sundial bearing date of 1717, the old iron dipper in the nearby spring, and the gallery for slaves and carriage drivers are intensely interesting. All three quaint and curious objects and many others not mentioned, apart from the tradition that George Washington was christened within the walls of "Old Yeocomico," make this one of the most noteworthy of the old churches of America.

When visited a few years ago by the writer service was generally conducted in the church in daylight and rarely at night, owing to a lack of lighting apparatus. When evening service was held members of the congregation brought oil lamps from their homes, and these lamps, set on shelves in each high-backed pew, furnished the necessary light to enable the service, just as in the days before the Revolutionary war.

Except for a period following the disestablishment of the Church of England as the state church of Virginia, Yeocomico church has been in continuous use since 1706 by the Episcopalians as a place of worship. For several years after the Revolution the church was used by other sects, during which time, it is said, the blind Presbyterian preacher, Rev. Mr. Wadell, made famous by the eloquent description of William Wirt, displayed on one occasion his fervid oratory. Here also the great but little known Scotch clergyman and educator, Rev. Archibald Campbell, the man who taught Washington, Madison, Monroe, John Marshall and other Virginia youths, who were born in and lived in the "northern neck" of Virginia, and wrote their names high on the scroll of fame, occasionally preached.

The Spirit of WASHINGTON

By FRANK EMERICH



George Washington

With all the world at war and we at peace,
Thy spirit guide us, who didst first declare
Against th' entanglement,
th' insidious snares,
Or foreign ties that draw us from our
esse.
Thy searching wisdom need we sore to-day
As world strife threatens to extend its
sway.

Thy mighty name, thy mem'ry well-lov'd
Inspire our leaders, that the path may
clear,
Dark places yield to light, that dangers
near
May vanish, by thine own great spirit
mov'd:
That this remain a refuge land serene,
That naught its course from honor'd
peace may wean.

Thou wast, indeed, in war a man of
might
Thyself, when arm'd in Freedom's pro-
cious cause,
But war to thee was hateful—thou didst
pause
And abate the thy sword when vict'ry
crow'd the right.
In peace, at last, was won thy greatest
fame,
For peace a blessed land doth praise thy
name.

Now harried nations cast their envious
eyes
Upon the plenty and the blessings rare
Which Providence hath granted for its
share
Unto this country, father whom we prize,
And, covetous of our contented life,
Seek to embroil us in unholy strife.

Since thou wast friend of ev'ry folk and
land,
But lov'd thine own and unto it didst
give
All of thyself, that honor'd it might live
And for oppress'd humanity e'er stand,
Now may throughout this troubled, tur-
moil'd earth
Thy high example give to peace new
birth.

SUFFERING AT VALLEY FORGE

General Washington and His Little Army Encamped There One Hundred and Thirty-Nine Years Ago.

General Howe, having sailed forth from Philadelphia, where he had established his headquarters, several times during the early part of December to give battle to General Washington, but finding the latter's forces were too formidable, Howe finally decided to go into winter quarters in Philadelphia on December 9, and Washington, seeing that the campaign on the part of Howe would hardly be resumed before spring, and not having an army formidable enough for attack, decided to go into winter quarters himself. He selected Valley Forge, about thirty miles northwest of Philadelphia. Washington and his army arrived there on December 11, 1777, and at once began the erection of huts. They were arranged in streets, giving the place the appearance of a city.

Although the winter was intensely cold, the men were obliged to work at the buildings, with nothing to support life but flour mixed with water, which they baked into cakes at the open fires. The horses died of starvation by the hundreds, and the men were obliged to haul their provisions and firewood. Sicknes spread rapidly. "The unfortunate soldiers," wrote Lafayette in after years, "were in want of everything; they had neither coats, hats, shirts nor shoes; their feet and their legs froze until they became black, and amputation was frequently necessary."

It was when the army at Valley Forge was at its worst condition Baron Steuben, an accomplished Prussian officer, arrived in this country, and went to the camp. He set to work and as fast as possible brought order out of chaos.

Hero's Tributes.

Lincoln said of Washington: "Washington is the mightiest name on earth, long since the mightiest in the cause of civil liberty, still mightiest in moral reformation. On that name a eulogy is expected. It cannot be. To add brightness to the sun or glory to the name of Washington is alike impossible; we none attempt it. In solemn awe pronounce the name, and in naked, deathless splendor, leave it shining on."

Season for Reflection.

At a season like this it is good to turn back to the hour of the nation's birth and lay our garlands on the tomb of him who made this republic possible by his possession of just those qualities of patience and magnanimity and hope which most we need in view of the difficulties and perils of the present hour.