

# FOR AND ABOUT THE WOMEN FOLKS

## How Women Saved Mt. Vernon.

**I**F THERE is one action above all others for which the women of America can feel proud it is the preservation of the home of Washington. How Mt. Vernon was saved as a monument to patriotism is an interesting story, for it was through the formation of the oldest patriotic association of women now in existence in the United States that this historic spot was preserved to posterity.

Upon the death of George Washington, in 1799, a life interest in the estate passed to his wife, writes Katherine Louise Smith in the Housekeeper. From her it fell to various Washington relatives until, in 1855, John Augustine Washington, Jr., found himself in possession of an historic place which he was unable to keep in a proper state of repair. With the consent of his family he endeavored to effect its permanent preservation by selling it to the United States government, and, failing in this, offered it to the commonwealth of Virginia. It was at this crisis that Ann Pamela Cunningham of South Carolina determined that the tomb of Washington must be preserved as a permanent shrine of patriotism.

Accordingly she organized the Mt. Vernon Ladies' association and appointed vice regents in the various states to aid in the work. Contributions to a fund to buy the property were solicited, and soon every section of the country became interested. Thousands of school children gave pennies. Edward Everett presented the immense proceeds of his lecture on "Washington," societies donated funds and Mount Vernon was saved to the nation. In 1890 over 200 acres of the estate, including the wharf, tomb and mansion, were purchased by the association for \$200,000. As the society was formed for the sole purpose of acquiring Mount Vernon the estate can never pass from its possession, and is owned by it, though Virginia retains a supervision over it. Since Miss Cunningham's death the office of regent has passed through various hands until today it is held by Mrs. Justine Van Rensselaer Townsend of New York, who is ably aided by vice regents from twenty-nine states.

## Oldest Woman Physician.

**D**R. AMELIA WILKES LINES, the oldest practicing woman physician in the world, both in age and period of practice, celebrated her 80th birthday recently in her quaint, old-fashioned home at 285 Washington street, Brooklyn. She presided all the afternoon at a reception at which were present four generations of her descendants and about 200 old friends, patients, their children and grandchildren.

"Why did I study medicine?" she said. "Ah, I am too old to tell that. It was a great many years ago—half a century. One can forget many little things in half a century."

The bright smile in her keen, deep set, blue eyes was understood when the story was learned. It is a sacred subject with the pioneer woman physician.

Mrs. Lines was born on the Isle of Wight, November 21, 1823, on the country estate of her father, Sir William Wilkes. She was one of thirteen children, and she centered her affection on her eldest brother, William. When she was still a child her brother entered the navy as a surgeon. When she was about 12 years old, Mrs. Lines came to America to visit some of her father's relatives in Painesville, O.

She took up her residence in America at the death of her father.

When Mrs. Lines was 16 years old her favorite brother died and was buried at sea. When the division of his property was made she asked only for the medical library, instruments and diplomas of her brother. After returning to the United States with these treasures she devoted much of her time to reading the books. The diplomas, from the University of Paris, the University of Heidelberg, The National College and the University of London, she framed and hung in her library. With such surroundings she naturally became interested in medicine.

In 1842 she was married to Dr. T. T. Lines in Painesville, O. Two years later they came to New York. Mrs. Lines had continued her independent study of medicine and worked much with her husband. In 1850 it was suggested that she attend a medical college. The bare suggestion of such a thing astounded the president and faculty of the National College of Amsterdam, which has since passed out of existence. However, as Mrs. Lines was young and pretty and the wife of a well known physician, she was finally admitted to the classes, after passing an examination in which she led over eleven men out of fifteen. In 1853 she obtained a license to practice in the state of New York, the first granted to a woman in that state.

## Home-Made Rugs in Favor.

**A** DOMESTIC accomplishment of aid lung syne is being revived in the art of making rugs. There is often a place in the home for such a rug, where a handsome one would be out of place. Furthermore, a home-made rug that is artistic and serves its purpose is preferable to an inartistic and cheap store rug. Even the homely, braided rug may be turned into an effective floor covering for the bathroom, bedroom or dining-room of the summer cottage or the city apartment.

The method of making braided and drawn-in rugs is well known. A little skill, a careful eye, and a great deal of patience are necessary, however, to work a pattern, for, of course, there can be no design to work from.

The woman who contemplates making a cotton rug should save all her old dimity gowns, which are usually relegated to the rag bag. Even the unworn portions of sheets which have fulfilled their destiny are useful for this purpose. Then, when the cloth is finally torn in strips, sewed and wound in a firm ball, the next step is to start the rug.

There is everything in making a good beginning. To assure this, the rows of strands to be braided are fastened to a board with gilt thumb tacks, which are easily removed afterward. The worker proceeds to braid the strands until each one hangs from the board like a school girl's braid. When the latter is finished the ends are fastened and sewed together. Afterward the braids are joined with the over and over stitch.

Sometimes the braids run crosswise instead of lengthwise, and sometimes they are joined in a circle. Quite often, too, a design is carried out in star, cross or some floral pattern.

It is quite the fashion for good housewives to dye their old sheets and faded gowns, as did their grandmothers, but without all the fuss and trouble. Beautiful results are obtained by dyeing with a decoction of tea set with copperas. Other less ambitious mortals are mildly extrava-

gant and purchase the colors they wish to use in carrying out designs. The expense is so trifling that it is really the cheapest way, after all.

All sorts of color schemes may be carried out, but one of the prettiest ones showed a delft blue and white pattern, which was just the thing for the delft blue bedroom. The fringe on the ends was made by leaving about six inches of each strand, which was knotted when the rug was finished.

A drawn-in rug, which is the round and round braid was in red and white, with a touch of yellow. This is an excellent way to use up odds and ends of cotton or woolen materials.

Another pretty rug displayed by a woman who has the craze, is made of bias folds on a plain background. The latter is of burlap and the folds were red, put on in a bowknot pattern. The sewing machine attachment was brought into requisition for this purpose.

A rug with blue denim foundation had a braided center, which was in oblong about fourteen by thirty-six. The color scheme of this was solid navy blue. Bias folds, about half an inch wide, were placed around the center, oblong also, until the rug was covered. These were of red French flannel, tacked in position with navy blue linen thread, in a star stitch.

Another rug was cross stitched. The foundation was of olive green burlap and it was cross stitched in red, blue and orange in a Persian pattern. It was padded and lined with red flannel, which extended about two inches all about the edge. It was planked, shell pattern, and a daisy was cross stitched in each shell.

Rugs crocheted in afghan stitch are also to be seen. These are made of odds and ends of materials in both cotton and wool, and are crocheted in twelve-inch strips with a large wooden hook. The strips are sewed together in a simple cross stitch design.

## Frisks of Fashion.

One of the season's novelties is ribbon with a gold effect.

Light-toned velvets are much in demand for ball gowns.

Ribbons will be extensively used for millinery purposes this spring.

Included among the ornaments for spring hats are large gilt and silver plaques.

Brittany embroidery adorns some of the collar and cuff sets so much in vogue.

For spring and summer the waist of Persian lawn will take precedence in the cotton group.

Popular patterns for buckles are the butterfly, Grecian head, ivy leaf with medallion, and Louis XVI. designs.

A new combination for belt buckles and jewelry specialties is that of colored iridescent enamels with light silver or gold.

Green will figure conspicuously in the millinery for the coming season and hats have already appeared adorned with shades of yellow and orange artistically blended.

A beautiful diamond ornament in the Louis XVI. style, made to attach to the front of a neck ribbon, consists of three baskets of fruits joined together by festoons of flowers and foliage. The design is Parisian.

The usual hatchets are out for Washington's birthday, small ones being sold by the dozen for decorating menu cards.

"I never told a lie" are the words on one of the larger hatchets, which is a bon-bon box.

A Marconigraph is the latest thing in valentines. It (the valentine) is a telegraphic blank with a sea view at the top, and written on the lower lines is an affectionate message to "My Valentine."

An odd little chatelaine purse is small, straight across the top, and rounded at the lower part. It is a tiny thing, with a leather handle and hook to fasten into the belt. In the center of the front of the small purse is a watch.

One of the prettiest things in a matinee

jacket is made with plaited chiffon for a foundation, this covered with rather wide ruffles of a handsome lace. The sleeves reach only to the elbow. The jacket is finished at the neck with a bow and ends of the plaited chiffon.

One of the smartest of automobile hoods is of a tan leather, shirred around the edge with a short ruffle extending beyond and a flat bow of the leather on the top. There is no cape to this, and a little strap fastens it at one side under the chin.

Modified rough rider hats are those with the wide rims and soft crowns dented in around the sides. These are finished with leather bands, the two ends fastened with a narrower thong of leather at the side. The hats come in light shades and white.

Fancy umbrella handles are sufficiently costly to have leather cases as handsome as those for jewels. One of these is particularly effective. The design of the handle is a graceful maiden, with her hands clasped, forming an arch over her head. The case in which she stands is tall and round, with doors opening in the front like those of a leather clock case. At the maiden's feet, forming a sunburst around her, are set the points for the ends of the parasol or umbrella ribs.

## What Women Are Doing.

The oldest woman college graduate in Massachusetts, if not in New England, is Dr. Sophronia Fletcher of Cambridge, who recently celebrated her ninety-fifth birthday.

Miss Mary Hamilton, daughter of Rev. Charles Hamilton, bishop of the Church of England, diocese of Ottawa, Canada, has entered a dramatic school in New York to qualify for the stage.

Mrs. Mary Tredway, friend and companion of the late Queen Victoria, has just died at Morristown, N. J. Her father was royal physician to the family of George IV and to Victoria after her accession to the throne.

The dowager empress of China has become wildly enthusiastic on the subject of motor cars. She has recently received several cars through a German firm, and these have pleased her so much that she has placed an order for no fewer than fifty cars, of all sizes and makes, with Herr Valentin, a Berlin trader, who is now in China.

London is just now greatly interested in a mysterious beauty specialist, whose testimony is that the English girl has the greatest possibilities, being far and above the girls of other nations. This authority says that it is because English girls play hockey and tennis and hunt and swim and walk and live so much in the open air that they look so well and keep young and are generally such good material for a "beautifier" to work upon.

Miss Nellie T. Burke of Wilkesbarre has applied for membership in the International Association of Machinists. Inasmuch as she is the first woman to apply the local officers are puzzled as to what will be the result. Business Agent Galligan will forward the application to headquarters. Miss Burke is a skilled machinist and is employed at the Wilkesbarre lace mills, where she mends broken looms. She has been doing the work for several years. She was recently offered an excellent position as machinist in a Philadelphia factory.

One of the survivors of the Clallam steamboat disaster tells a touching story of a young girl passenger. The survivor says this girl stood beside the place where the boats were hung and held babies and wrapped them up as best she could before handing them back to their mothers. She had words of cheer and quiet for every one, calmed the fear-crazed women, rebuked the too anxious men, left the boat last of the women, and was found the next day, clinging to the side of an overturned boat, dead, but with her face wearing an expression of calm and dignity to the end.

When the reigning duchess of Manchester was Miss Zimmerman of Cincinnati she took the doctor's prescriptions and they generally did her good. Now that she is a very great lady, indeed, she has taken to Buddhism and has employed a mahatma as her medical attendant. Of course, she would have none but the best, so she imported a Hindoo mahatma to guide her in obeying the Buddhist laws of health. His name is Agamya Guru Paramahansa, a great man among his tribe. The first thing he did was to cut down the duke's daily allowance of wine to the starvation limit of four goblets a day.

