

three times, his first wife was Ann Plater, his second, Agnes Buchanan Freeland, and his third, Sarah Norfleet Freeland.

Among those who were buried elsewhere and subsequently removed to this spot was Commodore Beverly Kennon, United States Navy, who met with a tragic end, being killed by the explosion of a cannon on board of the United States steam warship *Princeton*, February 28, 1844. He was interred first at the Congressional Cemetery, and on April 18, 1874, was removed to Oak Hill.

In a prominent position in front of the mortuary chapel is the tomb of John Howard Paine, the author of "Home Sweet Home." He died April 1, 1852, at the United States consulate in Tunis, Africa, and his ashes were doomed for many years to lie in a strange land. On June 8, 1893, the one hundredth anniversary of his birth, they were deposited in this tomb with fitting honors.

The Honorable Samuel Sprigg, nineteenth governor of the State of Maryland, originally buried in St. Barnabas churchyard, about five miles from Upper Marlborough, is another of those whose remains have been transferred to Oak Hill.

Among the local families who constituted society in those days were the Custises, the Lingans, the Peters, the Forrests, the Keys and the Platers, most of whom were related by marriage and had their homes on the heights of Georgetown. Among these homes were "Rosedale," "Woodley" and "Greenwood," where Col. Uriah Forrest, Phillip Barton Key and Col. Thomas Plater, respectively, dispensed hospitality. Mrs. Forrest and Mrs. Key were daughters of Hon. George Plater, sixth Governor of Maryland, and sisters of Col. Thomas Plater of Greenwood. On the latter place, a little more than a stone's throw from the quaint brick dwelling, is all that remains of the family burying ground. Besides the stone coping which indicates the

existence of a subterranean vault, there are scattered bits of marble, a foot stone marked "W. H. R.," and one tombstone with a legible inscription, which tells the pathetic story of one who, with everything to live for, was cut off in the flower of her youth. This was Mrs. Ann Peter, the first wife of George Peter, celebrated in her day as one of the lovely daughters of Colonel Plater and his wife, Martha, and known in the Capital society as the "beauty." She died in 1814, in the twenty-third year of her age, leaving no children. Maj. George Peter survived her nearly fifty years, and contracted successively two other marriages, as has been already mentioned, so that the name of Peter is in no immediate danger of becoming extinct.

Colonel Plater's wife, Martha, also a very beautiful woman, was the sister of Gen. James Maccubbin Lingan, a veteran of the Revolutionary war, who met his death at the hands of the Baltimore mob, in 1812. The General held a part interest in the *Federal Republican*, a newspaper edited by Alexander Contee Hanson and others and published in Baltimore, where the Democratic party was strongly in the majority. The opposition of this paper to the Madison war-policy of 1812 drew upon the editors and owners the fury of the mob, who first destroyed the building where the paper was printed, and about a month afterward, when General Lingan and his partners had succeeded in circulating another issue, attacked the house where they were prepared to defend their property. To escape the excesses of the mob, they surrendered to the civil authorities, who offered them the protection of the jail for the night. The building was carelessly guarded, the mob broke in, and the scenes that followed were as horrible in their brutality and cruelty as any depicted on the gruesome pages of the French Revolution.

Though many of his friends were left for dead upon the floor of the jail, General Lingan alone was killed outright.

His body was buried secretly,—the condition exacted by the ringleaders before surrendering it,—and it was not until some time afterwards that his relatives had it removed to Georgetown and quietly buried in a grave on his own farm “Harlem.” Here, many years later, his wife was laid by his side and still later, an infant grandson. During the civil war the whole field was used as a camping ground and all signs of an inclosure disappeared, but in 1874 or 1875, the grandchildren of General Lingan had an iron fence placed around the graves. These are now to be found at the back of a laborer’s cottage on the Foxhall Road and are to be identified by the name “Lingan” on the iron gate of the inclosure.

In spite of the secrecy which attended the disposal of his body, General Lingan’s memory was honored by a stately funeral. On September 1, a little more than a month after his death—during which the wounds and bruises of his friends and colleagues had time to heal—an immense concourse of people, too large for any church to hold, moved in procession to Parrott’s Woods, now known as Oak Hill Cemetery, in the following order:

Marshals on horseback; four clergymen of different denominations; Committee of Arrangements; Mr. Custis of Arlington, orator of the day; Music; Captain Stull’s Rifle Corps, commanded by Lieutenant Kurtz; eight venerable pall-bearers with white scarfs; hearse with the horses clad in mourning; Mr. George Lingan, the General’s son, chief mourner; the General’s horse in mourning, led by a groom; family and relatives of the deceased in coaches; the wounded veteran, Major Musgrove, who survived the midnight massacre in which his brother soldier fell, bearing the General’s sword, and supported by two heroes of the Revolution; Mr. Hanson, and other survivors of the band who defended the liberty of the press; veteran band of the Revolution; strangers of distinction; citizens from the counties of Montgomery, Baltimore, Frederick, Charles, Prince George’s and St. Mary’s, and from the cities of Georgetown, Washington and Alexandria; marshals on horseback; Captain Peter’s troop of horse commanded by Lieut. John S. Williams.

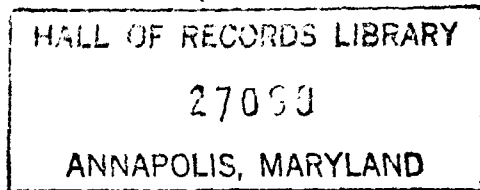
The orator of the day, spoken of above, was George Wash-

ington Custis, grandson of Mrs. Martha Washington. He was born at Mount Airy, Prince George's county, Md., the seat of his grandfather Benedict Calvert, on April 30, 1781, and died in 1857. His grave and that of his wife, Mary Lee Custis, who was a Miss Fitzhugh of Virginia, lie at Arlington under a tree, near a woodland path, apart from the soldiers' graves. According to the inscription on her tombstone she was born April 22, 1782, and died April 23, 1853. He was the seventh child of John Park Custis and Eleanor (Calvert) his wife, being only a few months old when his father died from camp fever, contracted while acting as General Washington's aid-de-camp at the siege of Yorktown. He was adopted by the latter and lived at Mount Vernon until his grandmother Washington's death, in 1802, when he built Arlington House. His daughter, Mary Randolph, was the wife of the Confederate hero, Gen. Robert E. Lee, and they lived at Arlington, which has since become the National Cemetery.

It is said that this estate passed into the hands of the government through confiscation at the time of the civil war. As a matter of fact, it was appropriated for taxes, but when Robert E. Lee's son was old enough to claim his Custis inheritance, the accident of his being the son of a "rebel" could not be made to interfere with his right as a citizen, and it was decreed that he should receive a compensation for his land over and above the amount of the taxes for which it had been taken. Uncle Sam's version of the case stands on record in the entrance hall of the old mansion, where two bronze tablets supplement the history of the tract.

Back of St. Alban's church in the Cathedral Close, on the heights above Georgetown, are two old-time tombstones mounted on brick foundations and inclosed by an iron railing. These stones, which were brought here in 1898 from the old burying ground at Croom, cover the remains of the

**HISTORIC GRAVES
OF MARYLAND AND THE
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**



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