

**Places Washington Visited in Charles County,  
Md. and Prince George's County, Md.**

**By  
Caleb Clarke Magruder**

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Left - Saturday Nov. Arthur B. Betkins  
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**PRINCE GEORGE'S GEORGE  
WASHINGTON BI-CENTEN-  
NIAL COMMITTEE**

In accordance with the general policy of naming a committee for each County in Maryland to arrange for celebrations incident to the bicentennial of George Washington's birth, F. Alexis Shriver, State Chairman of the Maryland Commission on "County Celebrations, Routes and Houses," named the following committee for Prince George's: W. Worthington Bowie, Hal B. Clagett, C. C. Magruder, M. Hampton Magruder, Charles C. Marbury, Judge Joseph C. Mattingly, Kent R. Mullikin, Mrs. Clarence M. Roberts, Senator L. G. Sasscer and Mrs. Frank Scrivener.

The County Committee met and organized by the election of C. C. Magruder, Chairman; Charles C. Marbury, Secretary; and Kent R. Mullikin, Treasurer; with the following committee chairmen: W. Worthington Bowie, churches; Hal B. Clagett, arrangements; M. Hampton Magruder, finance; Charles C. Marbury, memorial trees, historical markers and tablets; Judge Joseph C. Mattingly, historical research; Kent R. Mullikin, schools; Mrs. Clarence M. Roberts, patriotic societies; Senator L. G. Sasscer, publicity; Mrs. Frank Scrivener, women's clubs.

It is the purpose of the Maryland Commission to unite with the United States Bi-Centennial Commission to make these exercises wider in scope and more elaborate in character than any celebration ever held in the United States, and to begin them on Washington's birthday, February 22, and to continue them until Thanksgiving Day, November 24th—nine months of nation-wide celebrations in many different ways as a national awakening in tribute to the memory of "The Father of his Country."

Washington visited Prince George's more often than any other county in Maryland on his journeys North and South during the Revolution, during his Presidency and afterward as a private citizen.

His diaries, account books and letters prove that he visited Bladensburg, Marlborough, Piesataway and Queen Anne's; such old taverns as Rhode's Tavern, Beltsville, and Van Horne's Tavern, Vansville; St. Barnabas' Church, Leeland, and St. John's Church, Broad Creek; "Montpelier," "Northampton," "Melwood," "Mt. Lubentia," where he was entertained with Robert Eden, the last Royal Governor of Maryland; by the Rev. Jonathan Boucher, Rector of St. Barnabas; "Mt. Airy," when at the marriage of Nelly Calvert, granddaughter of Charles, Fifth Lord Baltimore, and John Parke Custis, and on other occasions; and "Warburton Manor," now the site of Fort Washington. The last was the home of William Digges, concerning which Dr. Albert Bushnell Hart, official historian of the United States Bi-Centennial Commission, is the writer's authority for adding, that Washington visited there more often than at any other private home anywhere.

The committee has in mind the appropriate marking of all known places visited by Washington, but it is realized that there are possibly unknown places which it is desired to have brought to their attention.

Trustworthy tradition that Washington visited them fortified with credible evidence, will be considered, by which means places not now so identified may be revealed as historical spots because of their association with Washington.

It is also desired to interest patriotic societies, clubs, municipalities and organizations with the largest measure of interest to be aroused in our school children, each to do his bit in honoring the memory of the man who did most to make us a free and independent nation.

The committee will hereafter be enlarged in its personnel so that all sections of the County will be more fully represented, and thus work with a hearty cooperation toward the success of Prince George's in our nation-wide effort to evidence appreciation of George Washington.

**BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION  
BEGUN LAST MONDAY**

Launched with epochal tribute in which President Hoover joined with millions of his fellow citizens of high and low degree, the Nation on Monday last was embarked on the nine-month observance of the 200th anniversary of the birth of George Washington, which will reach into every corner of this land and extend across the seas wherever the American flag flies.

"The true eulogy of Washington is this mighty Nation," President Hoover said in an address before a joint session of Congress which marked the opening of the Bicentennial.

It is that thought that will be the keynote as through the year this country in reverence, reflects its origin and finally, upon Thanksgiving Day, writes fitting end to this homage with a prayer of reconsecration to the ideals for which Washington stood.

**MAPS SHOWING WASHINGTON'S  
VISITS TO MARYLAND NOW  
AVAILABLE**

The Maryland Commission for the celebration of the 200th anniversary of the birth of George Washington has prepared a map of the State of Maryland, showing all the roads over which George Washington traveled through this State, and ninety separate places at which he is known to have stopped.

This map which was prepared by Mr. J. Spence Howard, has added to it a short account of each of the ninety places visited by Washington, with the dates of his visits and other information, compiled from his diaries and other authentic sources by J. Alexis Shriver, of Bel Air, Chairman of the Committee of County Celebrations, Roads and Houses.

The map, which comes from the press of A. Hoen & Co., is printed in colors, and is a valuable historical record of the 127 trips made by State of Maryland, which State he visited a greater number of times over a longer period of his life (50 years, from 1748 to 1798) than any other of the thirteen original States, except of course his home State, Virginia.

2500 of these maps have been taken by Professor Albert S. Cook, State Superintendent of Public Schools, and will be sent to every school in the State. 1,000 have also been taken by Dr. David E. Weglein, Superintendent of Schools of Baltimore City, to be distributed among the Baltimore schools. 10,000 of these maps have been printed and are now ready for distribution. They may be had by applying to: J. Alexis Shriver, Chairman of Committee on County Celebrations, Roads and Houses, Belair, Md. (Send 10 cents for expenses of mailing.)

**ARCHBISHOP PLANS FOR  
BICENTENNIAL**

Archbishop Michael J. Curley has issued a pastoral letter to the clergy and laity of his diocese, urging participation in church and school in the Bicentennial ceremonies. The letter recounts the great deeds of individual Catholics and of Catholic countries in helping this Republic to win its independence, and the friendship that existed between Washington and Catholics.

Bishop John Carroll, the first Catholic Bishop in America (a native of Upper Marlboro), and the founder of Georgetown College, was a friend of Washington and at his death paid him notable tribute in an address in his cathedral. This incident is referred to by Archbishop Curley, whose letter concludes with these words:

"Now, therefore, 132 years after the then citizens of Baltimore heard Bishop John Carroll give expression to his affection and reverence for Washington, whose like we shall scarcely ever see again, your archbishop, who has no hesitation in saying that he yields to no man in his respect and esteem of the Father of his Country, respectfully requests you to comply with the following directions:

In every Catholic school of the Archdiocese the life story of George Washington, already known in general to our children, is to be retold in summarized form. A picture of our first President shall occupy a place of honor in each building and on a day to be selected by the school superior, suitable exercises shall be held in memory of our illustrious hero. For all of this program the permission and consent of the Superintendent of Schools may be presumed.

In every parish Church of the Archdiocese on a Sunday during this year set aside for the purpose by the pastor, the faithful shall be reminded of the blessings of freedom, civil and religious, which came to us with the happy outcome of the revolution. Under God we have much for which gratitude is due Washington, whom without exaggeration we may consider as God's instrument in effecting the welcome change from conditions in 1750 to those of 1932.

Catholic organizations and societies, religious and fraternal, are requested to co-operate with all civic plans for the celebration of the Washington bicentennial.

On a day to be named later, the Catholics of the Archdiocese will be invited to attend an Archdiocesan Celebration in the stadium of the Catholic University in memory of Washington."

## RIVERDALE

A pageant portraying important events in the life of George Washington will be presented the evenings of March 15 and 16 in the auditorium of the University of Maryland, College Park, under the auspices of the Woman's Club of Riverdale. This will be the most elaborate portion of the Bicentennial celebration by the club, under the chairmanship of Mrs. William Parvin Starr. Mrs. Alfred Manning, director, has chosen the following cast from talent in this and adjacent communities. Dr. P. F. Brookens will impersonate George Washington and Mrs. Edward Hislop will be Martha Washington; Mrs. Nina Plozet, Nellie Custis, and Robert Baldwin will act as Washington when a boy. Others of the cast are Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Spencer, Mrs. Arthur Linn, Mrs. Luther Munson, Miss Dorothy Ballinger, Miss Frances Breerwood, Mr. and Mrs. Milton D. Campbell, Mrs. Ruby Lockridge, Miss Sue Campbell, Miss Mabel Wackerman, Miss Marion Blaisdell, Gerald Munson, Vernon Powers, Ralph Powers, James Rogers and Prof. Louis Goodyear. Minuet dancers will be Peggy Starr, Lois Linn, Isabella Hamilton, Deloras Plozet, Sylvan Waldman, Betty Galt Edith Brechbill and Evelyn Sullivan. Others are Noble Gwings, jr; Garland Smith, Robert Kneessl, Arthur Linn, Walter Vollberg, John Ballinger, Raymond Wilson, Elizabeth Powers, Betty Brookens, Lillie Lee Greeley, James Boyer and Muller Boyer. An added feature will be the Manning Choral Ensemble, which will furnish musical numbers throughout the program.

The Riverdale unit of the County Rescue Squad will operate one of the first-aid stations along public highways during the Bicentennial. This will be principally for the accommodation of tourists. Through the cooperation of Dr. A. H. Wells, the station will be in the local drug store. Town Officer Daniel Herzog will be in general charge, and he announces that other members of the unit, who will alternate in keeping the station open both day and night, are Herbert Hetterley, Guy M. Baker, Hugo Vollberg and Town Officer W. Acton, who is now completing classes in first aid.

Girl Scout Troop No. 9, under the leadership of Mrs. L. E. Kreider, met Monday afternoon in the local school.

The Woman's Club met Tuesday evening at the home of Mrs. Luther

## THE HYATTSVILLE INDEPENDENT

FRIDAY, FEB. 26, 1932

Under the auspices of the Woman's Civic Club of Riverdale an elm tree was planted Monday afternoon near the banks of the Northeast Branch here at Jefferson avenue in memory of George Washington. Mrs. Eva C. E. Chase was in charge.

## THE HYATTSVILLE INDEPENDENT HYATTSVILLE INDEPEN

County Treasurer Brice Bowle, Dr. C. P. Close and W. F. Mulligan were named delegates to the Prince George's County Taxpayers' Association at the last meeting of the Beltsville Grange. As part of the grange's Bicentennial celebration the 4-H Girls' Glee Club of Beltsville, attired in Colonial costumes, gave several musical numbers.

The Prince George's County Committee of the Maryland George Washington Bicentennial Celebration

"Washington attended work at St. Nicholas with some other members of the church on September 8, 1772, in the church building which preceded (immediately) the present structure. This is one of the first TRAGIC EVENTS in the history of the church to have appropriately noted."

It is earnestly hoped that every member and friend of St. Nicholas Church will make a special effort to attend this service and by so doing to insure the attendance of all other members and friends from far and near.

*Hyattsville Independent*  
July 26, 1932

## A MOST AMBITIOUS MAP

Shows Roads Traveled by Washington

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(Send 10c for expense of mailing.)

RURAL SCHOOLS TO RENDER  
BICENTENNIAL PROGRAM

The rural schools of Prince George's County will give a Bicentennial Program at the Ritchie Coliseum, College Park, on Thursday, May 12, beginning at 9:30 A. M.

Thirty-nine schools, including about 1500 children, will participate in songs, dances and sketches portraying the life of George Washington. Everyone is invited to attend.

The usual athletic meet will be held at College Park the afternoon of the same day.

The program for the Bicentennial exercises will be as follows:

Introduction—"Father of the Land We Love."

Epoch I. (Washington's Early Childhood. Sketch)—"Swing Low, Sweet Chariot"; "Soldier Boy".

Epoch II. (His Early Manhood. Sketch)—"By the Waters of Minnetonka"; "Indian War Dance"; "Folk Dance".

Epoch III. (The Struggle for Freedom. Sketch)—"Battle Cry of Freedom"; "London Bridge Is Falling Down". (Great Britain was losing ground); "Yankee Doodle" (A song of derision turned to one of triumph); "Hurrah for the Flag" (A new government—a new flag).

Epoch IV. (A Few Years at His Beloved Mt. Vernon. Sketch)—The Minuet; Virginia Reel; Trees.

Epoch V. (Not King, but President. Sketch)—"Hail Columbia"; "Taps. The Passing"; "Mt. Vernon Bells".

Epoch VI. (The Ship Sails on. Sketch)—"Columbia, the Gem of the Ocean"; "Salute to the Flag. Song"; "Flag Salute"; "Star Spangled Banner".

Finale—"Stars and Stripes Forever", (in memory of John Philip Sousa).

ST. BARNABAS' CHURCH, LEE-  
LAND

In connection with the two hundredth anniversary of the Birthday of George Washington which is now being celebrated throughout the nation, a special patriotic service in his honor will be held in St. Barnabas' Church, Leeland, on Sunday morning, April 24th, at 11 o'clock.

It is particularly fitting that St. Barnabas' Church should pay tribute to his memory inasmuch as there are only two of our churches in Prince George's County in which he worshiped, St. Barnabas' Church, Leeland being one and St. John's Church, Broad Creek, the other.

Quoting from a letter received from C. C. Magruder, Chairman of the Prince George's County Committee of the Maryland George Washington Bi-Centennial Commission:

"Washington attended service at St. Barnabas' with Robert Eden, Governor of Maryland, on September 6, 1772, in the church building which preceded (immediately) the present structure. This is one of the HISTORIC SPOTS our Committee hopes to have appropriately marked."

It is earnestly hoped that every member and friend of St. Barnabas' Church will make a special effort to attend this service and by advertising it secure the attendance of all other members and friends from far and near.

Bicentennial Fete Plans  
To Be Discussed Saturday

College Park, Md., Feb. 9—Plans for the Washington Bicentennial Celebration will be discussed at the quarterly meeting of the Prince George's Pomona Grange, which will be held here Saturday afternoon in the University of Maryland auditorium. Student Grange of the university will be the host organization.

J. Alex Shirver, of Belair, Md., State Bicentennial chairman, will discuss plans for the State celebration, while C. C. Magruder, Prince George's county chairman, will tell of the places Washington visited in this county.

Another speaker will be Raymond W. Bellamy, Federal director of employment for Maryland, who will discuss unemployment conditions in the State.

The addresses will be made at the afternoon session, starting at 2 o'clock, which will be open to the public. Other features will include a solo by Miss Edna Souder and recitations and songs by Student Grange members.

A business session will be held by Pomona Grange, starting at 10 A. M.

Mrs. Ella Q. Nalley, of Mount Rainier, lecturer of Pomona Grange, has arranged the program.

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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1932

## GEORGE WASHINGTON IN PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

Mr. Editor:

I want to request space in your paper for the publication of a series of articles on George Washington's numerous visits to Prince George's County for a period of time extending over forty-seven years—from 1751 to 1798.

I wish thereby to present the reasons for such visits, the towns, villages and stage taverns at which he was refreshed, the people he met, the private homes he visited, the churches he attended, the sports and recreations he enjoyed, and even the roads over which he traveled on these many occasions, all now become historic because of their association with him.

And lastly, I would that I might in some small measure, at least, incline our people to feel such a sense of intimacy and high regard for this illustrious Virginian—our neighbor, whose home at Mt. Vernon was just over the River from our Piscataway—for what he was, and for what he brought, so that our conscious appreciative gratitude will prompt us to reverence him as the great exemplar in man, the dauntless in battle, the wise and prudent in statecraft, and the model in Christian citizenship.

These data are, in the main, the gemmer from his diaries, with many gaps between entries therein, from his account books, always meticulously kept, from his "Writings", by Jared Sparks, the historian, from Worthington C. Ford, George Washington: Colonial Traveler, by Dr. J. O. Fitzpatrick, compiler of his diaries, Captain H. A. Baldrige, U. S. N., The Maryland Gazette (Annapolis) with other sources all of which are officially relied upon as authentic information along the lines of their several approaches toward the treatment of the great assemblage of remarkable qualities possessed by this truly extraordinarily many-sided man.

C. C. MAGRUDER.

Washington was first in Prince George's County in August of 1751, when he entered an item of expense, "Enroute to Annapolis, Maryland," where he most probably went to consult with Daniel Wolstenholme, a merchant who operated a range of warehouses on the banks of the Severn in connection with his West Indian trade relations, and was familiar with climatic conditions there, with the view of accompanying his tubercular half-brother, Lawrence Washington, to Barbadoes, hoping for his recovery.

Lawrence failed to recuperate, went on to Bermuda, when George returned to Virginia, without deriving benefit and died shortly after his return to Mt. Vernon.

Lawrence's ill health was directly traceable to his military service in the Expedition to Cartagena, sometimes known as The War of Jenkins' Ear. He was Captain of a Company of Virginian volunteers who sailed from Annapolis September 16, 1740, under the Naval command of Admiral Edward Vernon, and who very creditably led a detachment in a successful assault on the Castle of Boca Chica, one of the forts defending Cartagena, in which a battery was taken. But so stout was the resistance of the Spaniards that the American and British soldiers engaged were held in check until the coming of the rainy season which bred noxious fevers growing into a pestilence which caused a decimation of the attacking force and ended in the complete failure of the expedition.

Out of Lawrence Washington's contact with Admiral Vernon at Cartagena sprang a friendship and admiration which prompted him to give the latter's name to his home plantation—Mt. Vernon.

According to the terms of Lawrence's will, which was admitted to probate in 1752, Mt. Vernon became the property of his only surviving child, and upon her death, a few months later, Mt. Vernon passed into the possession of George Washington.

While there is no proof to guide us as to the route taken by Washington on this visit to Annapolis, it was most probably through Bladensburg, the most direct way, for Washington had not at that time made the acquaintance of the friends which prompted him to crisscross the county on subsequent visits to Annapolis for the purpose of social indulgence.

His return to Mt. Vernon was, also, most probably by way of Bladensburg, for the reasons above cited, and he thus completed his second visit to Prince George's.

Washington's third entry into Prince George's was occasioned by a conflict of authority between officers holding Colonial and Royal commissions, the latter almost defiantly refusing to take orders from the former, regardless of their superior rank.

When the articles of capitulation were signed at Ft. Mifflin, July 3, 1776, the name of a Royalist commissioned captain preceded that of Colonel Washington, with the result that he resigned his commission and returned to Mt. Vernon.

General Edward Braddock having reached Williamsburg on his march toward Ft. Duquesne his aid-de-camp wrote Washington that his general "will be very glad of your company in his family." Being eager for a military career Washington signified his desire to reenter the service, whereupon Braddock appointed him an aid-de-camp, subject to no orders other than those of the general commanding.

In 1755 Governor Dinwiddie appointed him Colonel of a Virginian regiment and Commander-in-chief of all such forces already raised or to be raised.

When Washington arrived at Ft. Cumberland, following the fall of Braddock in the preceding spring, he was quite openly defied by John Dagworthy of Annapolis, the holder of a Royal commission as Captain of a Maryland Company, and the situation was further complicated because of the Fort's location in Maryland.

In order to settle the question of military precedence Washington obtained the consent of Governor Dinwiddie to present the subject for a final decision to Governor Shirley of Massachusetts who had been appointed Commander-in-chief of all forces in America following Braddock's defeat and death.

Washington therefore started a one-thousand mile horseback ride to and from Boston by way of Bladensburg on February 4, 1756, according to an entry in his account book, and after receiving an order from Shir-

ley giving him the certified military precedence desired, he left Boston and reached Annapolis on the 24th day of March, 1756, "and next morning set off for Virginia," and again, most probably, by way of Bladensburg, thus completing his fourth entry into Prince George's.

(To be continued).

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FRIDAY, MARCH 4th, 1932

## GEORGE WASHINGTON IN PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

(Part Two)

Washington's fifth entrance into Prince George's was on February 15, 1757, as evidenced from a news note in the Maryland Gazette (Annapolis), reading: "Monday last, Col. George Washington and Capt. Stewart came hither from Virginia on their way to the Northward," having reached Annapolis via Marlborough and Queen Anne, and while at Annapolis Washington renewed his acquaintance with Daniel Wilstenholme whom he had consulted concerning his trip to Barbadoes with his tubercular half-brother, Lawrence Washington, in 1751.

This was the second time Washington went North, going to Philadelphia to confer with Lord Loudoun, recently placed in charge of American affairs, who had called a council of Southern Governors for the purpose of considering military conditions in their respective colonies, at which council Washington created a most favorable impression.

Washington's return, his sixth visit to Prince George's, was through Annapolis, as shown by the correspondence of Governor Sharpe, and most probably by Queen Anne and Marlborough, the route last previously taken on April 1, 1757.

Washington went for the seventh time into Prince George's in August or September, 1761. The particulars of this trip are not known, except that he noted an item of expense at Marlborough and another with Jonas Green at Annapolis. The latter was the editor and publisher of the Maryland Gazette, and in 1763 printed "Bacon's Laws of Maryland," the earliest compilation of all laws passed to that date.

Washington's return to Mt. Vernon is not recorded, but most probably, also, it was by the Queen Anne-Marlborough route, thus completing his eighth trip through Prince George's.

Washington's ninth visit to Prince George's was a purely social one, for on June 8, 1769, accompanied by Mrs. Washington and "Patsy" Custis, his familiar name for his step-daughter, Eleanor Parke Custis, he visited Warburton Manor and returned to Mt. Vernon the same afternoon.

Warburton Manor was the home of William Digges, grandson of Edward Digges, Royal Governor of Virginia, 1656-'68, who was the son of Sir Dudley Digges of Chilham Castle, England.

It was patented to Dr. Luke Barber, October 25, 1661, for 1200 acres of land, and upon resurvey to Charles Digges, father of the above mentioned William, October 26, 1733, for 1137 acres.

It is now the site of Fort Washington (designed by L'Enfant), taken by the British in 1814, with no vestige of the Manor House standing, but the shell of an out-building—probably the ice-house—may still be seen.

Washington's tenth trip into Prince George's was for the purpose of attending the races at Annapolis; accordingly he dined at Warburton Manor, September 21, 1771, and then went on to Melwood, the home of Ignatius Digges, brother of William Digges of Warburton Manor, where he remained for the night and left for Annapolis the next morning.

Melwood Park, containing 1050 acres of land, was patented to Robert Carville, May 1, 1672. It was the first burial place of Thomas Slin Lee, Prince Georgian born, second and seventh State Governor of Maryland, who married Ignatius Digges' daughter, Mary. His remains now rest in Mt. Carmel Cemetery, Marlborough.

Melwood was visited by the British General officers, among them Admiral Cockburn, who subsequently conveyed Napoleon Bonaparte as a prisoner to St. Helena, after leaving Marlborough on their march to the Battle of Bladensburg in the War of 1812.

While in Annapolis, Washington spent some time with the Rev. Jonathan Boucher, then Rector of St. Anne's Church, who had conducted a boys' school in Virginia which had been attended by "Jackie" (John Parke) Custis, and when he moved to Annapolis Jackie continued his schooling there and also boarded with him.

It would appear that "Jackie" was inclined to be a bit wild, if one is to judge him by a letter Washington wrote to Mr. Boucher in 1770, in which occurs: "His mind (is) a good deal released from study, and more than ever turned to dogs, horses, and guns; indeed upon dress and equipage, which till of late, he has discovered little inclination of giving into. I must beg the favor of you, therefore, to keep him close to those useful branches of learning which he ought now to be acquainted with, and as much as possible under your own eye. Without these, I fear he will too soon think himself above control, and be not much the better for the extraordinary expense attending his living in Annapolis. . . . The time of life he is now advancing into requires the most friendly aid and counsel (especially in such a place as Annapolis); otherwise, the warmth of his own passions, assisted by the bad example of other youth, may prompt him to actions derogatory of virtue and that innocence of manners which one could wish to preserve him in; for which reason I

would beg leave to request that he may not be suffered to sleep from under your own roof unless it be at such places as you are sure he can have no bad examples set him; nor allow him to be rambling about of nights in company with those who do not care how debauched and vicious his conduct may be. . . . I have his well being much at heart and should be sorry to see him fall into any vice or evil course which there is a possibility of restraining him from."

Mr. Boucher's response to the above, with regard to "Jackie's" surroundings in Annapolis read: "I must confess to you, I never did in my life know a youth so exceedingly indolent, or so surprisingly voluptuous: one would suppose nature had intended him for some Asiatic prince."

Washington was ever zealous and Boucher was too censorious—Jackie was in love.

When the acid test came, he died of a malignant fever contracted in camp during the siege of Yorktown, and was buried in a forgotten grave which has quite recently been accidentally discovered.

Washington remained in Annapolis until October 1, 1771, when on returning to Mt. Vernon he dined in Marlborough, probably reached by way of Queen Anne, with several friends, among them Mr. Randolph, subsequently Attorney-General of Virginia, and Jackie Custis, thus completing his eleventh trip into Prince George's.

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FRIDAY, MARCH 11th, 1932

## GEORGE WASHINGTON IN PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

(Part III)

Washington's twelfth visit to Prince George's County was for the purpose of dining at Warburton Manor, December 9, 1771, where William Digges, the host, also had as guests, Governor Robert Eden, Benedict Calvert of Mt. Airy, Mayor Fleming of Virginia, Rev. Jonathan Boucher, Rector of St. Anne's Church, Annapolis, and George Digges, son of William, who succeeded to the ownership of Warburton Manor upon the death of his father in 1783.

All of the gentlemen named, except William Digges, returned with Washington to Mt. Vernon, where they remained until December 13, 1771, when Washington, for the thirteenth time, entered Prince George's County accompanied by his guests, as above named, going to Warburton Manor for dinner before separating to leave for their respective homes.

Robert Eden, Duke of Aucland, married Caroline Calvert, sister of Frederick, Sixth and last Lord Baltimore, and succeeded Horatio Sharpe as Governor of Maryland in 1768. He was a popular executive until the outbreak of the Revolution when his loyalty to the Crown made it advisable to hastily embark for England following the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 1776.

Upon arrival there he was made Baron of Baltimore and since both of these titles were created hereditary they are borne by his great-grandson, Sir Timothy Eden, who, with his Maryland born wife, now resides at Windlestone, England.

Governor Eden returned to Maryland at the close of the Revolution and died in Annapolis in 1784. Because of war passions, not then subsided, and the further fear of possible desecration of his remains, they were secretly buried within the chancel of St. Margaret's Church, just over the Severn from Annapolis, which church was destroyed by fire in 1823, thus obliterating all traces of his grave which was soon forgotten, and its location remained unknown for upward of one hundred and fifty years.

Owing to his zeal for historical subjects the possibility of its discovery appealed to Daniel R. Randall of Annapolis who interested the Society of Colonial Wars in the State of Maryland with the result that the Governor's remains were located, reinterred in St. Anne's Church yard, Annapolis, and a sarcophagus strongly inscribed placed over them in 1926.

Washington was in Prince George's County for the fourteenth time on September 3, 1772, when he and Mrs. Washington, with Nellie and Jackie Custis left Mt. Vernon for a visit to the Rev. Jonathan Boucher. They took breakfast at Warburton Manor and reached Mt. Lubentia, where Mr. Boucher then resided, in time for dinner with Governor Eden and Benedict Calvert and his daughters, Elizabeth and Eleanor, the latter of whom became the wife of Jackie Custis on February 3, 1774. They remained for dinner the following day, after which the Calverts left for Mt. Airy, and on the next day, it being Sunday, Washington attended services at St. Barnabas' Church (Leland) "going with Governor Eden in his phaeton."

On the following morning Washington and Boucher drove with Governor Eden to Northampton, the Sprigg home, for a friendly call, and then proceeded on to Mt. Airy for dinner, where they were found by Ignatius Digges and members of his family, who left after that meal, the others remaining until morning, when Governor Eden returned to Annapolis, and on the next day Washington, Boucher, Calvert and his daughters drove to Melwood where they met others assembled for dinner. Mr. Boucher then went on to Mt. Lubentia and Mr. Calvert to Annapolis, Washington remaining at Melwood until the 11th of the month when he dined at Warburton Manor and reached Mt. Vernon the same afternoon.

The Reverend Jonathan Boucher had a rather checkered career in America. He was born in Blencogo, Cumberland, England, in 1738, and was in Virginia as a private tutor in 1759, returning to England in 1762 for admission to holy orders, there being no Episcopal Bishop in America at that time.

He had charges in Virginia, the Carolinas and Annapolis before becoming rector of St. Barnabas', Queen Anne Parish, where he was inducted as such in the fall of 1771, as evidenced by a letter written by him to his old preceptor, then in Scotland:

"Prince George's County,  
Patuxent River, Md.  
July the 10th, 1772."

In which letter he wrote he had not previously written "owing to my having to move early in the winter. \* \* \* \* \* The Parish I now hold. \* \* \* \* \* I am looking around me for a plantation \* \* \* \* \*"

He subsequently wrote of his parsonage in Queen Anne Parish: "I took a very tolerable house (for in Maryland few parishes had any glebe) of a Captain Magruder in the centre of the parish which my boys called Castle Magruder." This reference to his boys indicates that he continued to tutor to a few of them after becoming rector of St. Barnabas'.

Enock Magruder, styled Captain in Church and county records of the time, and Meek (Wade) his wife, on July 2, 1779, conveyed to their son, Dennis Magruder, "Part of Norway being part of Largo, whereon my dwelling house now stands, and lands adjoining, Long Green, Northampton, Kettering, Addition to Kettering, Magruder's Addition to Kettering and Addition to Westphalia, all in the fork of the Southwest and Western branches of Patuxent River,

This description serves to completely identify "Castle Magruder" as the home known as Mt. Lubentia, now owned and occupied by a descendant of the said Dennis Magruder.

Shortly following his induction Mr. Boucher married Eleanor Addison of Oxon Hill, the first of three wives, who died childless. In 1774 King's College, now Columbia University, New York, conferred upon him an honorary A. M. degree, and at that time he enjoyed considerable popularity among the most prominent people of the Colony, but the storm-clouds of the Revolution, then foregathering, were destined to break upon him with full force because of his loyalty to his King which he had the moral and the physical courage to proclaim—to his everlasting credit, be it said—so that he was forced to leave the Colony, accompanied by his wife, the former Eleanor Addison, and he reached England on October 20, 1775.

Soon thereafter he was given the living of Epsom, his patron, the Rev. John Parkhurst, saying he was moved to make "the appointment because Mr. Boucher had distinguished himself in America during the Revolution by his loyalty and by teaching the unsophisticated doctrines of the Church of England to a set of rebellious schismatics at the hazard of his life." He afterward became Vicar of Epsom, and dying in 1804 was buried near that city and a very fulsome eulogy inscribed upon his tomb.

In his autobiography, entitled "Reminiscences of an American Loyalist," edited by a grandson and published in 1925, Mr. Boucher describes an incident connecting these "rebellious schismatics" when he was surrounded by a number of armed men, led by Osborn Sprigg, who told him he should not preach loyalty to King George from the pulpit of St. Barnabas', to which he replied, that the pulpit was his own and that they could only keep him out by taking his life. "And so at the proper time, with my sermon in one hand and a loaded pistol in the other, like Nehemiah, I prepared to ascend the steps of the pulpit," when he was grabbed from behind by David Cranford of Marlborough, who thus sought to protect him, saying on his word of honor, that a number of men had been picked out to fire on him if he dared to preach that day, and thus prevailed upon him to leave the pulpit."

But on the Sunday following the above incident, which was on Thursday, according to Mr. Boucher, he again sought to ascend his pulpit when his foes pressed about him so that he felt that his life was in danger, and to protect which he seized Osborn Sprigg by the collar, holding a cocked pistol in the other hand, and assured him that if the crowd became violent toward him that he would blow his (Sprigg's) brains out, and thus holding him as a shield he walked to his horse which he mounted and rode away, there being played on the drums meanwhile, at Sprigg's command, the Rogue's March.

And he further wrote in his autobiography, that for more than six months before leaving for England he preached "with a pair of loaded pistols lying on the cushion."



Washington did not attend services in the present St. Barnabas' Church, as the contract entered into with Christopher Lowndes for the erection of same specified that it was "to be completed on or before the last day of August A. D., 1774."

This church stands on "Part of a tract of land called 'Something \* \* \*'" and the Parish Record of St. Barnabas' also reads: "This day (June 2, 1761) James Beck laid out two acres of land for the use of the Parish (on which land the Parish Church stands) and Edward Digges executed a deed for it," so that the present structure is the third within this parish dating from 1705.

Northampton was patented to Thomas Sprigg for 1000 acres on March 1, 1673. He was a native of Northamptonshire, England, who settled in Northampton County, Virginia, subsequently acquiring land in Calvert County (now Prince George's) to which he gave the name Northampton and erected a home thereon in 1704, which was destroyed by fire March 17, 1909. When the British reached Oak Grove on their way to the battlefield of Bladensburg in the War of 1812, a part of the army turned left, marched to Northampton, where they invaded the wine cellar, and pushing on took Fort Washington and then forced Alexandria to pay an indemnity.

Anticipating the march of the British very near to St. Barnabas' and fearing possible theft by marauders this is most probably the occasion on which Gustavus Hesselius' altar painting of the Last Supper, painted in 1722, was removed from the church for safekeeping and never returned. In some unexplained way it was carried to Georgetown, sold at auction in 1848, and purchased by a gentleman who bequeathed it to his daughter, and it is now privately owned.

Northampton was the home of Samuel Sprigg, Governor of Maryland, 1819-1822, and is now owned by Albert Kirby Fairfax, Lord Fairfax and 12th Baron of Cameron, the only American-born member of the English House of Lords.

Largo was patented for 1031 acres by Captain Ninian Beall April 1, 1686. He was later promoted to a Colonelcy, made Commander-in-chief of Provincial forces of Maryland, and in 1699 was voted an "Act of Gratuity" by the General Assembly of Maryland, "In grateful recognition of his services upon all incursions of neighboring Indians."

C. C. MAGRUDER.

(To be continued.)

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FRIDAY, MARCH 18th, 1932

## GEORGE WASHINGTON IN PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

### (PART IV)

We last parted with Washington at Mt. Vernon on the 11th of September, 1772, after a round of social visits at Warburton Manor, Mt. Lubentia, Northampton, Melwood and Mt. Airy, concerning which, at the latter home, he entered in his Cash Memorandum Book, "To cash won at cards at Mr. Calvert's 10s"—\$2.50.

The lure of the races at Annapolis caused Washington to enter Prince George's for the fifteenth time en route thereto, October 4, 1772, when he and Jackie Custis spent the night at Mt. Lubentia with Mr. Boucher and reached Annapolis the next day in time for dinner with the Jockey Club. The races were the height of the social season at Annapolis and were usually followed by attendance at a theatre or a ball.

There Washington remained until the 10th, when, after dining with Charles Carroll of Carrollton, he turned homeward the next morning, taking breakfast at Mt. Lubentia, and thence on to Mt. Vernon, thus having been in Prince George's for the sixteenth time. As evidence of his indulgence in the attractions of the Capital City, I shall quote from his Account Book some entries of expenditures upon that occasion:

"By tickets to the plays there \$5.00  
By same to the ball \$3.00  
By same to cash lost on races \$6.50"

Washington's seventeenth visit to Prince George's was on December 21, 1772, when, with Mrs. Washington and visiting friends, he crossed the Potomac to Warburton Manor and remained over night with the Digges family.

His eighteenth entrance into Prince George's was on March 23, 1773, when he dined at Warburton Manor with William Digges, his son George, Governor Eden, Benedict Calvert and Jackie Custis, the latter with George Digges returning with him to Mt. Vernon.

The following day Washington was in Prince George's for the nineteenth time, when, accompanied by Jackie Custis and George Digges, he went again to Warburton Manor where they remained until the 29th, when George Digges and Daniel Dulany were his breakfast guests.

The Dulanys, Daniel and Daniel, Jr., father and son, were admittedly the most brilliant lawyers and distinguished statesmen in Maryland. The former, though guilty of no overt act during the Revolution, never quite forgot his allegiance to the Mother Country, while Dulany, junior, remained a loyalist, and leaving for England during the struggle suffered the forfeiture of his property which was sold for \$400,000 and promptly confiscated by the State.

Washington's twentieth visit to Prince George's was on April 12, 1773, when he and Jackie Custis were at Mt. Lubentia for dinner with Governor Eden and others, remained over night there, and in company with the Governor and Jackie was at Annapolis for dinner, where they "put up" with the Governor during the race season. His twenty-first entry into Prince George's was upon his return from the Annapolis races, which city he left on the 17th, and after dining and remaining for the night at Mt. Airy he reached Mt. Vernon for dinner, proceeding thence by way of "Piscataway Towne."

Piscataway was made a "Port Towne" in 1707, and consequently was approached by a "Rolling Road" for the purpose of conveying tobacco thereover for export to England. The name was derived from an Indian settlement thereabout when the first Maryland colonists dropped anchor at Blackstone Island, March 25, 1634. Princess Kitomagund, daughter of the Emperor of the Piscataways, was adopted, Christianized and married by the redoubtable Mistress Margaret Brent to her brother, Giles Brent, sometime Acting Governor of Maryland, from which union spring some of the best known families of the State.

Mistress Margaret was the first woman to receive a patent for land in Maryland, July 30, 1638; the first woman attorney, and the first woman to seek the right of suffrage, when, on January 21, 1647, she appeared before the General Assembly of Maryland and demanded "for herself a voice for that at the last court, the 3rd day of January, 1647, it was ordered that the said Mistress Brent was to be looked upon and received as his Lordship's attorney."

His Lordship, Governor Leonard Calvert, named Thomas Greene as his successor, pending a designated Governor, but Mistress Margaret was virtually the executive until the arrival of William Stone, and when her good offices in the management of Leonard Calvert's estate were misrepresented by Greene to Cecilius, Second Lord Baltimore, who sought to rebuke her, the General Assembly gathered on April 21, 1649, and issued the following defense and praise of her conduct, signed by the entire personnel of the Assembly that day present:

"As for Mistress Brent's undertaking and meddling with Your estate, we do verily believe, and in conscience do report, that it was better for the Colony's safety at the time and in her hands, than in any 'man's else' in the province, after Your brother's death; for the soldiers should never have treated any other with that civility and respect, and though they were even ready at several times to run into mutiny, yet she still pacified them until at last things were brought to that straight, that she must be admitted and declared Your Lordship's attorney by order of the Court, or else all must go to ruin again, and the second mischief had been doubtless far greater than the former; So that, if there had not been any sinister use made of Your Lordship's estate by her, from what was intended, and engaged for by Mr. Calvert before his death, as we verily believe there hath not, then we conceive from that time she rather deserved favor and thanks from Your Honor, for her doing so much concurring to the public safety, than to be justly liable to all those bitter invectives you have been pleased to express against her."

Washington's twenty-second visit to Prince George's was on May 1, 1773, when he was on both sides of the Potomac River at Broad Creek, where he went to learn about the run of fish in the Potomac and in Piscataway Creek.

An ardent attachment sprang up between Jackie Custis and Eleanor Calvert, which Mr. and Mrs. Washington did not approve of because of Jackie's youth and inexperience, although they were most favorably inclined toward Miss Calvert. He had previously entertained an infatuation for an Annapolis belle which was honorably declared off, but for Miss Calvert Jackie displayed a persistence and constancy which proved disturbing to his mother and Washington causing them to decide upon his being placed at a distant school.

Consequently, Washington was in Prince George's for the twenty-third time on May 10, 1773, when he and Jackie started for King's College, now Columbia University, New York. The night was spent at Mt. Airy, Washington refraining from his usual austerity to permit of a fond farewell by the enamored pair, with breakfast at Melwood and dinner at Annapolis. Jackie was duly entered as a student at King's College, and Washington returning from New York was in Prince George's for the twenty-fourth time when he spent the night of June 7, 1773, at Mt. Airy, doubtless as the bearer of letters and messages from Jackie Custis to Nelly Calvert.

Mr. and Mrs. Washington had Benedict Calvert, Elizabeth and Nelly, his daughters, for breakfast at Mt. Vernon on July 24, 1773, after which they, with Nelly Custis, dined at Warburton Manor, it being Washington's twenty-fifth time in Prince George's.

July 30, 1773, Mr. and Mrs. Washington and Nelly Custis took dinner at Mt. Airy, spent the succeeding two days there, and on the morning of August 2nd left for Melwood, where they dined, then returned to Mt. Airy for the night, dined the next day at Warburton Manor, and with his return to Mt. Vernon ended his twenty-sixth visit to Prince George's.

Washington's twenty-seventh time in Prince George's was on August 26, 1773, when he dined at Warburton Manor with Governor Eden, where, because of a heavy rainfall, he remained over night, returning to Mt. Vernon in the morning with Mrs. Jenny Digges, Miss Tracy Digges, Governor Eden, Captain Ellis, Daniel Dulany, George Digges, Benjamin Dulany and Mr. Tilghman, forming a most interesting house party, all of whom remained until the next morning.

Washington's twenty-eighth visit to Prince George's was on September 1, 1773, when he and Mrs. Washington dined at Warburton Manor. Again on September 26, 1773, Washington was in Prince George's, his twenty-ninth time, bound for the races at Annapolis where he arrived in the afternoon and lodged with Governor Eden. He remained in Annapolis until October 2, having dined meanwhile at Northampton (September 29), and dined at Marlborough, October 2, before completing his thirtieth trip into Prince George's.

C. C. MAGRUDER.

(To be continued).

? at the town house of Mr Spring!

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## GEORGE WASHINGTON IN PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

### (PART V)

When Washington placed Jackie Custis at King's College, New York, he doubtless thought to wean him from his attachment for Nelly Calvert, being apparently in no wise alive to: "Absence makes the heart grow fonder," for instead of blighting the romance in which Jackie was enmeshed in the snare of Nelly Calvert's charm it hastened its consummation, and Washington next entered Prince George's, for the thirty-first time, on February 3, 1774, when with Lund Washington, his third cousin, he "Set out after an early dinner for Mr. Calvert's to Mr. Custis' wedding, who was this evening married to Miss Nelly Calvert," a ceremony which his mother, Martha Washington, apparently did not attend.

This was doubtless a brilliant assembly when one considers the social standing of the contracting parties, the bride being the daughter of Benedict Calvert, and the granddaughter of Charles, Fifth Lord Baltimore, and the groom the only male heir of an enormously wealthy widow, now the childless wife of George Washington, with the law of primogeniture an unrepealed statute.

The ceremony was performed in the parlor of the mansion, the wedding party remaining at Mt. Airy for two days "with much company," when Washington returned to Mt. Vernon.

The marriage of Jackie Custis and Nelly Calvert—he was 19 and she was 16—proved a happy union, and it is probable that the couple remained at Mt. Airy for nearly four years, where were born their two eldest children, Eliza Parke Custis (who married Thomas Law), and Martha Parke Custis (who became the wife of Thomas Peter), before they moved, on Christmas Day of 1778, to Abington, where was born Eleanor Parke Custis, who married Lawrence Lewis, son of Washington's only sister, Betty Washington, and Fielding Lewis.

Jackie Custis splendidly made amends for his "flaming youth," for he became an aide-de-camp on Washington's staff, and, as heretofore stated, died of a camp fever, contracted in the line of duty during the Siege of Yorktown, November 5, 1781.

When Washington learned of his serious illness he rode horseback all night only to reach his bedside in time to see him die. He showed much distress, and sought to comfort the widow by assuring her of his sympathetic protection, and added: "From this moment I adopt the two younger children as my own," and it was thus that Nelly Custis and George Washington Parke Custis became known as "the children of Mt. Vernon," but the exigencies of war had made George Washington Parke Custis Maryland born, for when his father entered the military service his mother, with his three sisters, already named, left Abington for Mt. Airy where George Washington Parke Custis was born April 30, 1781.

Two years after the death of Jackie Custis, Nelly (Calvert) Custis married Dr. David Stuart by whom she became the mother of sixteen children, her brood consisting of twenty in all. Dr. Stuart, of Virginia, was one of the Commissioners appointed for the laying out of the Federal City (Washington), the others being Thomas Johnson, first State Governor of Maryland, and Daniel Carroll, of Duddington, to whom Washington was much attached and remembered in his will.

At one time the Calverts had the right of burial under the chancel of St. Thomas' Church, Croome, which right had been abrogated by its vestry when Nelly (Calvert) Custis died, September 28, 1811, but there are publications reciting that notwithstanding the prohibitive action mentioned, a grave was dug for her interment therein "at the midnight hour," and that by the light of the candles used, "The gold plate on the casket of Benedict Calvert (her father) was disclosed."

George Washington Parke Custis inherited Arlington whereon he erected the manor house and it was there he took his bride Mary Lee Fitzhugh, whose daughter, Mary Ann Randolph Custis, became the wife of the then Lieutenant Robert E. Lee, United States Army, subsequently General Robert E. Lee, Confederate States Army, through which marriage Arlington became the Lee home prior to the Civil War.

Arlington was a part of a Royal grant from Sir William Berkeley, Governor of Virginia, to Robert Howson (a five times great grandfather of the writer), October 21, 1669, in recognition of Howson's services in inducing Colonists to come to Virginia. The grant "embraced all the land from the Great Falls of the Potomac (including the present City of Alexandria) to Greater Hunting Creek," and was known as Hunting Creek Plantation. Howson sold the entire grant of 6000 acres within a year for six hogsheads of tobacco to John Alexander and John Alexander, Jr., in which family it remained until December 25, 1778, when 1000 acres of it were sold to John Parke Custis, father of the "Master of Arlington," for \$5 per acre.

Washington was in Prince George's for the thirty-second time on April 4, 1774, when he, in company with Mrs. Washington and Mr. and Mrs. Jackie Custis, dined at Warburton Manor, the former couple returning to Mt. Vernon, while the latter went to Mt. Airy.

Washington's thirty-third visit to Prince George's is thus entered in his diary: "May 5, 1774. Set off for Mr. Calvert's. Dined and lodged there. May 6, 1774. After dinner returned home. Mr. and Mrs. Custis and Miss Calvert came home with us."

Colonial American affairs were hastening toward an epochal event. Boston harbor had been blockaded, when early in August, 1774, Washington, as a member of the Virginia Provincial Convention at Williamsburg, is reported to have said: "I will raise one thousand men, subsist them at my own expense, and march at their head to the relief of Boston."

The First Continental Congress was called to assemble in Philadelphia, September 5, 1774, in consequence of which Washington was in Prince George's for the thirty-fourth time when on August 31, 1774, with Patrick Henry, Jr., subsequently Governor of Virginia, and Edmund Pendleton, destined to become the President of the Virginia Convention which adopted the Federal Constitution, and was later First Chief Justice of Virginia, they remained over night at Marlborough, and after

breakfast the next morning at Queen Anne Towne went on to Philadelphia. Here he remained until the 27th of October, and on his return into the County, his thirty-fifth visit therein, he reached Mt. Airy for breakfast October 30, 1774.

"Queen Anne Towne" was named for Queen Anne of England who ascended the throne in 1702. It was made a "Port Town" in 1707, approached by its "Rolling Road," over which tobacco was rolled for export to England by way of the Patuxent River, and its location indicated by the "Notched" trees along the roadway.

The tavern at which Washington, Henry and Pendleton took breakfast was known as "Boyd's Tavern," said to be still standing, which was operated by a prominent family by that name from about 1695 to 1803.

C. C. MAGRUDER.

(To be continued).

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FRIDAY, APRIL 1, 1932

GEORGE WASHINGTON IN  
PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

(PART VI)

Had George Washington possessed the power of a seer to dip into the future his last recorded visit to Mt. Airy would have caused him deep regret, for he never again saw Benedict Calvert. The latter did not die until 1788, but the signing of the Declaration of Independence and the outbreak of the Revolution severed many friendly ties because of the conflicts ensuing between "Patriots" and "Loyalists", and among those of Washington's fast friends who in consequence became estranged were Benedict Calvert, Governor Robert Eden, Daniel Dulany, Jr., and Rev. Jonathan Boucher.

Mt. Airy is a part of His Lordship's Kindness, a 7000 acre tract, surveyed, February 29, 1703, for Henry Darnall, brother-in-law of Charles Calvert, Third Lord Baltimore. Within the very recent past it was gutted by fire, but has been splendidly restored by its present owner, thus meriting, and having, I am sure, the appreciative thanks of all interested in the preservation of Maryland antiquities.

When the writer was a lad he frequently visited Mt. Airy where then lived Miss Elenora Calvert, an aged spinster, and her older bachelor brother, Cecilius Calvert. Miss Elenora was a bit peculiar, said to have resulted from a blighted romance, and inclined to be a little domineering at times, on which occasions her very amiable brother was the usual victim; so that, if Miss Elenora was alone at Mt. Airy one knew that Mr. Cecilius was temporarily banished to his own house on the same plantation pending forgiveness and reintegration. She received very little company, in fact it was a mark of favor to be admitted to her presence, but she was apparently pleased with my boyish chatter, and as an especial courtesy, she on several occasions showed me her family portraits. I was too young to appreciate, or even note, their artistic merit, though I have since read, that some of them were the products of Van Dyke's brush, but well remember her calling my attention to the fact that the Lords Baltimore there appearing were all either brunettes or blonds.

an apparently perpetuated family characteristic since Miss Elenora was decidedly of the former type, though there were then "silver threads" in her otherwise raven-black hair, while her brother was a true blond. Once, while visiting her during the Christmas holidays, she offered a rare treat—watermelon—which she was wont to keep until late in the spring by applying a thin coat of paraffine and stowing in a cool place.

Mr. Cecilius was particularly fond of flowers, of which he had a pleasing variety of ordinary kinds with some of ancient reminder, and I especially recall a most beautiful pure white azalea of great size. Miss Elenora was partial to animal and bird life, making Mt. Airy a real "Land of Sanctuary" for them, and so much so that I have seen partridges running through her yards, lizzards sunning themselves on the window panes while owls slept in the ivy clinging to the manor house. She told me Mt. Airy, as it then stood, had been intended for the rear of the house, and that it had never been completed according to the original designs because of the unsettled conditions prior to the Revolution.

I do not recall any mention made by her of a "Hunting Lodge" dating back to 1642, as I have since read was built there at that time; nor can I believe that such a "Hunting Lodge" was there erected at such an early date.

If one bears in mind that the Maryland Colonists settled at St. Mary's City in 1634, and that the distance between these respective places was considerably over 100 miles, with no roads through an impenetrable virgin timber up from St. Mary's County, Charles County and into Prince George's, one cannot credit that such a distance was covered and the forest penetrated within eight years for the sole purpose of building a vantage ground for hunting.

Moreover, George Alsop, in his "A Character of the Province of Maryland," published in London in 1666, twenty-four years after 1642, plainly states that wild animals and wild fowl of every sort were so plentiful that there was sport sufficient to "keep the wolf from the door" of the several plantations, while deer were so plentiful that the settlers became satiated with venison and continued to kill them only for their skins and to prevent destruction by them of pasture lands reserved for domestic animals. Alsop wrote: "As for the wilde animals of this country, which loosely inhabits the woods in multitudes, it is impossible to give you an exact description of them all, considering the multiplicity as well as the diversity of so numerous an extent of creatures." " . . . the deer . . . more common than the rest of beasts . . . by using themselves in herds about the Christian plantations." "Their feast is the common provision the inhabitants feed on, and which through the extreme glut and plenty of it . . ." "As for the Wolves, Bears, Panthers . . . they come down near the plantations." "The Elke, the Cat of the Mountain, the Raccoon, the Fox, the Beaver, the Otto, the Possum, the Hare, the Squirrel, the Monack (Woodchuck),

the Muskrat and several others, whom I'll omit for brevity sake, inhabit . . . in several droves and troops roving the woods at their pleasure." "Fowls of all sorts . . . the Turkey, the Woodcock, the Pheasant, the Partridge, the Pigeon and others, especially Turkey, whom I have seen in whole hundreds . . ." "The Swans, the Geese and Ducks, with other waterfowl . . . arrive in millionous multitudes . . ."

All these within the range of the sportsman's gun around St. Mary's City in 1666, and a "Hunting Lodge" at Mt. Airy in 1642? I am not an iconoclast, but I have no regard for a pleasing, unctious tradition (?) which can neither survive historical investigation nor the application of a modicum of common sense.

Washington was in Prince George's County for the thirty-sixth time on the 22nd day of February, 1775—his forty-third birthday—when he and Mrs. Washington dined at Warburton Manor, the last time he was ever guest to William Digges who died in 1783, while Washington was nearing the end of his first administration as President of the United States. It is not without significance that Washington spent this natal day at Warburton Manor, for it served to emphasize his intimate friendliness for the Digges family.

Between 1769 and 1775 Washington was at Warburton Manor on fourteen different occasions—at times for the greater part of a week—and Dr. Albert B. Hart, official Historian of the United States Bicentennial Commission, is my authority for stating that Washington's visits at Warburton Manor were more frequent than at any other private home.

Their proximity, with only the Potomac flowing between, and a vista extending from Mt. Vernon to Warburton Manor, led to the arrangement of a system of signals which were flashed from either shore, thus enabling quick communication and personal contact through portage by Washington's ferry boat.

Washington was next in Prince George's, for the thirty-seventh time, on May 4, 1775, bound for Philadelphia to attend the Second Continental Congress which assembled there on the 10th of that month.

After dining at Alexandria he proceeded to Marlborough, remaining over night there and going forward to Baltimore in the morning by a new route, as evidenced by the fact that his lack of familiarity with the road prompted him on this occasion to employ a guide to show him the way.

C. C. MAGRUDER.

(To be continued).

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FRIDAY, APRIL 8th, 1932

## GEORGE WASHINGTON IN PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

### (PART VII)

When Washington remained overnight at Marlborough, on the 4th of May, 1776, on his way to the Second Continental Congress, six years elapsed before he again visited Prince George's; so that, if we desire to continue our contact with him we must recall the proceedings of this Congress, the signing of the Declaration of Independence and the progress of the Northern Campaign during the Revolution.

It is the story of the events which led to our national existence and the genesis of our national history, but it would prove a departure from "George Washington in Prince George's County."

Washington's thirty-eighth entry into Prince George's County was on September 9, 1781, on which date he left Annapolis for Mount Vernon, where he remained until the 12th of the month, when he proceeded for Yorktown. The exact route through the County is not known, but it was most probably through Bladensburg, the usual road traveled to his Virginian home from Baltimore, which he had reached the day before from Philadelphia, whereas, when departing from Annapolis for the same objective he generally went by the Queen Anne-Marlboro-Piscataway route.

Washington's thirty-ninth time in Prince George's was on November 21, 1781, and was most probably by way of Piscataway, Marlborough and Queen Anne Towne since he was bound for Philadelphia by way of Annapolis.

With the surrender of the British Army at Yorktown the Revolution was over; the defeat of Long Island, Brandywine and Germantown, the gloom and depression of Valley Forge which tried men's souls and gripped their heartstrings were all swallowed up in the victory at Yorktown and a new nation was born.

Upon reaching Annapolis the Father of his Country and Mrs. Washington were tendered a dinner; a vote of thanks from the General Assembly of Maryland was presented to him; the town was brilliantly illuminated and the people displayed unbounded joy and gratitude.

Having bid farewell to the officers of the army in Fraunce's Tavern, New York City, now the headquarters of the General Society of the Sons of the Revolution, Washington set out to resign his commission as Commander-in-Chief of the Army to the Congress then in session in Annapolis. Coming by way of Baltimore he was met far out of the town by prominent Annapolitans who escorted him to his reserved lodgings.

Then came official calls, presentations of addresses by the city of Annapolis and the State of Maryland, a dinner by the President of the Congress and a second dinner by the Continental Congress after which artillery thundered and thirteen patriotic toasts drunk—representative of the original thirteen colonies—followed by a ball given by the General Assembly of Maryland.

"The Ancient City" records that on this day a certain hastily dispensed, "ninety-eight bottles of wine, two and a half gallons of spirits, nine pounds of sugar, a lot of limes, music and waiters, and a dozen packs of cards, at a cost of \$357; while Governor William Paca directed a public house "to furnish the people with punch and nog to the value of \$52.50; 'no inconsiderable amount in those days.'"

And now the hour—noon of December 23, 1783—has arrived for Washington's surrender of his evidence of the highest military authority in the new nation. Surrounded by his aides he enters the State House when his arrival is announced to Congress; he enters, is introduced by the Secretary and is seated while his aides group about him, among them Tench Tilghman who rode horseback from Yorktown to New York to carry the tidings of Cornwallis' surrender.

Let us visualize the picture there assembled in addition to the Congress: Washington, Jefferson, Madison and Monroe, Alexander Hamilton, Maryland's signers of the Declaration of Independence, Thomas Stone, William Paca, Samuel Chase and Charles Carroll of Carrollton, and Joshua Barney who so gallantly led his marines at the Battle of Bladensburg where he was wounded by a bullet which he carried through life.

General Mifflin, President of Congress, announces that Congress stands ready to "receive your Communication," whereupon Washington rises, approaches the Clerk's desk and delivers his famous address which may now be read upon a wall of the room in which it was made.

"The General seemed so much affected himself that everybody felt for him. He addressed Congress in a short speech, but very affecting. Many tears were shed," is a description of the historic scene as described by a lady eye-witness.

Washington then advanced and handed his commission and a copy of his address to President Mifflin who replied as the spokesman of Congress, Washington bowed and retired.

When General Washington entered the presence of Congress its membership were seated wearing their hats "in token of the sovereignty of the states they represented," but when he retired, shorn of his military powers, the majesty of the man so impressed them that they stood uncovered before the "First Citizen."

Washington's fortieth visit into Prince George's County followed the surrender of his commission, presumably by the familiar route leading through Queen Anne Towne, Marlborough and Piscataway, thence over the Potomac to Mount Vernon which he reached on the eve of Christmas day, 1783.

On January 22, 1784, Washington wrote to Charles Thompson, secretary of Congress: "If my Commission is not necessary for the files

of Congress, I should be glad to have it deposited among my papers. It may serve my grandchildren some fifty or an hundred years hence for a theme to ruminate upon if they should be contemptively disposed."

Mr. Thompson's reply, under date of February 7, 1784, reads:

"With regard to your Commission I have to inform you that previous to the recd. of your letter it had been in agitation among the members to have an order passed for returning it to you in a gold box. A motion has accordingly been made to that effect, which has been received with general approbation and referred to a committee to be drawn up in proper terms. The committee have not yet reported, but I have not the least doubt of its being returned to you in a way that will be satisfactory, and I heartily wish that this sacred deposit may be preserved by your children and children's children to the latest posterity and may prove an incentive to them to emulate the virtues of their worthy and great progenitor."

Notwithstanding Thompson's assurances that the attitude of Congress was favorable to his wishes in the matter, and that it was their intention to return the commission in a "gold box," Washington received neither, and this commission is now in our Federal Department of State.

May 1, 1784, Washington was in Philadelphia, having arrived from Mt. Vernon, doubtless going through Maryland and most probably by way of Prince George's County, which route would make his forty-first visit thereto, but the absolute proof of same is lacking from any known source, although it is known that his visit to Philadelphia was in connection with the organization of the Society of the Cincinnati, of which he was the First President.

Washington's return trip from Philadelphia was by way of Annapolis, which he left on the 21st of May, 1784, the Maryland Gazette (Annapolis), noting his departure "for his seat at Mt. Vernon," most probably by the Queen Anne Towne-Marlborough-Piscataway road, which would conclude his forty-second journey into Prince George's.

C. C. MAGRUDER.

(To be continued).

# The Enquirer-Gazette

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FRIDAY, APRIL 15th, 1932

## GEORGE WASHINGTON IN PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

(PART VIII)

Washington's forty-second journey through Prince George's, heretofore mentioned (May 21, 1781), followed a visit paid to Washington College, named in his honor, August 18, 1782, at Chestertown, Maryland, of which institution he was one of the founding benefactors, as shown by a list of contributors thereto: "His Excellency George Washington, Esq.; General and Commander-in-Chief of the Armies of the United States, as an earnest of his good-will, fifty guineas, eighty-seven pounds and ten shillings." June 24, 1789, President Washington was given the degree of L. L. D. by Washington College, the receipt of which he acknowledged July 11, 1789.

Before continuing these articles, I would like to write additionally about the Society of the Cincinnati, in which I have medially heretofore mentioned Geo. Washington as its First President. This Society, of which Lafayette was also a member, was organized June 19, 1783, with General Von Stueben presiding, at which time Captain John Sprigg Belt, a Prince Georgian of the Maryland Continental Line, became a charter member.

It was founded on patriotic lines for the perpetuation of associations formed during the Revolution, but which, nevertheless, met with violent opposition on the ground that it was antagonistic to the spirit of our institutions and a dangerous element in a republican commonwealth. Among those who voiced denunciation were John Jay, Samuel Adams, Eldridge Gerry, Benjamin Franklin, John Adams and Thomas Jefferson. So bitter became the feeling that an opposition Society—the Columbian Order—sprang up in New York in 1789, which today is known as Tammany Hall, while the Society of the Cincinnati continues to function along patriotic lines.

Having spent a fortnight visit at Mt. Vernon, Lafayette left for a journey North, and following his departure, Washington went to inspect some jointly owned lands in Pennsylvania with the view of disposing of his moiety, and then sought the most practical way to unite the Potomac and the Monongahela for the purpose of encouraging water transportation westward.

Meeting at Richmond, they left for Annapolis, and passed through Prince George's County. Washington's forty-third entrance therein, on November 29, 1784, most probably reaching their objective by way of the Piscataway-Marlborough-Queen Anne route, and this is the occasion, I will add, that tradition says they were entertained at a ball in Marlborough. Upon reaching Annapolis a ball was given in their honor by the Maryland Legislature, which body also made Lafayette a citizen of Maryland: " . . . The Marquis de la Fayette and his heirs: male forever . . . natural born citizens of this State . . ." Washington felt this was to prove their last meeting, and going with him beyond the Annapolis city limits bade him farewell in an affecting manner. That he was obsessed with this thought and therefore felt that he could the more unbosom himself and prove the inner warm heart of the outer austere man is evidenced by a letter written to Lafayette from Mt. Vernon on December 8, 1784, reading as follows: "The perigrinations of the day in which I parted from you ended at Marlborough. The next day—bad as it was—I got home before dinner. In the moment of our separation, upon the road as I traveled, and every hour since, I have felt all that love, respect and attachment for you, with which length of years, close connection, and your merits have inspired me. I often asked myself as our carriages separated, whether it was the last sight I ever should have of you." This letter proved that Washington's return to Mt. Vernon after leaving Lafayette at Annapolis was through Prince George's, by way of Marlborough, his forty-fourth time in the county, between November 29, when he reached Annapolis, and December 8, 1784, when he wrote Lafayette from Mt. Vernon.

Washington was again in Annapolis, passing through Prince George's on the 20th of December, 1784, his forty-fifth time in the county, to attend a conference as the Virginia representative, on the interstate control of Potomac River navigation, remaining until the 30th, when he returned to Mt. Vernon after his forty-sixth time in Prince George's, and most probably by Piscataway-Marlborough and Queen Anne, and the reverse way upon his return. Washington's forty-seventh time in Prince George's was to visit at Warburton Manor on June 14, 1785.

On June 25, 1786, Washington wrote George William Fairfax, of "Belvoir", Virginia: "Being determined to make the remainder of my life easy, let the world or the affairs of it go as they may, I am not a little obliged to you for the assurance of contributing to this by procuring me a buck and doe of the best English deer; but if you have not already been at this trouble, I would, my good sir, now wish to relieve you from it, as Mr. Ogle of Maryland, has been so obliging as to present to me six fawns from his park of English deer at Belair.

Of the forest deer of this country I have also procured six, two bucks and four does. Mix these and tolerable care, I shall have a full stock for my small paddock." It will be recalled that the Southdown sheep which grazed upon the "White Lot" during the World War also came from Belair, and that there was "dropped" Gallant Fox, the famous race horse. It was the home of Benjamin Ogle, Governor of Maryland, 1798-1801. In the fall of 1902, Prince Henri de Russ XXXII, brother of William, the then Emperor of Germany, while on a good-will visit to the United States, was a guest of honor at Belair, who upon his return to Washington registered at a local hotel as "Prince Henri of Belair" in

compliment to his host, James T. Woodward, who dying in 1910 devised the estate to his nephew, the present owner, William Woodward, President of the Central-Hanover Trust Co. of New York.

In order to attend the Federal Convention which assembled in Philadelphia, to which he was a delegate from Virginia, and upon organization thereof became its President, Washington was in Prince George's, for the forty-eighth time, on May 9, 1787, when he took breakfast at Warburton Manor, dined at Richard Henderson's in Bladensburg and spent the night at Montpelier, the home of Major Thomas Snowden, "where feeling very severely a violent headache, I went to bed early," as he recorded in his recounting of his journey to Philadelphia to attend the Convention, and during which time he witnessed the marriage of Colonel John Eager Howard, Revolutionary officer and Governor of Maryland, 1788-1791, to Miss "Peggy" Chew.

The Federal Constitution having been adopted, September 17, 1787, Washington was in Prince George's for the forty-ninth time when, on September 21, 1787, he "Lodged at Major Snowden's, who was not at home," and the next morning "Breakfasted at Bladensburg . . . after an absence of four months and fourteen days." Montpelier, now the home of Hon. Breckinridge Long, is a part of Snowden's New Birmingham Manor, patented to Richard Snowden for 12,422 acres, March 22, 1735, as a resurvey on Robin Hood's Forrest and Snowden's Discovery.

Washington's fiftieth entrance into Prince George's County was on August 12, 1788, when with Colonel David Humphreys and Mr. Calvert, who were guests at Mt. Vernon, they crossed the Potomac and dined with George Digges at Warburton Manor.

Another chapter of destiny in Washington's life was about to have its opening, for early in the year of 1789 he anticipated his election as President of the United States according to the provisions of the Federal Constitution which he had helped to frame. And so, with this in view, he borrowed \$2,500 and within a few days an additional \$500; something "I never expected to be driven to—that is, to borrow money on interest", because of "short crops and other causes not entirely within my control," as he records in his metic-

ulously kept expense accounts. April 6, 1789, Washington was declared unanimously elected President by the Congress then assembled in New York, and Charles Thompson, its Secretary, was dispatched to Mt. Vernon to officially notify him. John Ward Dunsmore has painted the picture showing Thompson in the act of presenting the notification, and Washington temporarily perplexed at the responsibilities he must assume and the sacrifices he must make, with Martha Washington showing a delighted surprise and Dr. Craik, his most intimate friend and physician, beaming approval and pleasure. Washington described his home-leaving to assume the Presidency in words of regret but with a firm determination to sacrifice all for his Country: "About ten o'clock I bade adieu to Mt. Vernon, to private life, and to domestic felicity, and with a mind oppressed with more anxious and painful sensations than I have words to express, set out for New York in company with Mr. Thompson and Colonel Humphreys, with the best disposition to render service to my Country in obedience to its calls, but with less hope of answering its expectations." The Maryland Journal (Baltimore) dates his passage through Georgetown as of April 16, 1789, and his arrival in Baltimore as of the 17th, so that he probably spent the night of the 16th in Prince George's, for had he so remained nearer to Baltimore it would hardly have required until the next afternoon to reach there. Washington almost invariably went from Baltimore to Mt. Vernon by way of Bladensburg; from Annapolis to Mt. Vernon by way of Marlborough, within a single day, an easy stage, when one bears in mind that he was generally "on his way" at 5 A. M., and usually rode from twelve to fifteen miles before breakfast; so that this, Washington's fifty-first journey through Prince George's, was most probably by way of Bladensburg, his usual route to Baltimore. Before reaching there he was met by a cavalcade who escorted him into the city amid the ringing of bells and salvos of artillery, where he was presented a complimentary address and invited as honor guest to a banquet.

Washington's fifty-second time in Prince George's, his first entry therein after becoming President, April 30, 1789, was on the 10th of September, 1790, when "---- the President of the United States and his Lady, attended by their suite, arrived here (Baltimore) from Philadelphia on their way to Mt. Vernon ----." The exact route through the county is not known; but most probably by way of Bladensburg.

July 16, 1790, Washington signed the Act to erect the Federal City (Washington) for which the General Assembly of Maryland, December 23, 1788, ceded a portion of her territory—practically seven miles square—and the General Assembly of Virginia, December 3, 1789, ceded about three miles square, which later, however, was retroceded to Virginia in 1846; so that all of the present District of Columbia east of Rock Creek was carved out of Prince George's County and became the site of the capitol and the seat of Government when John Adams took up his official residence in Washington in 1800.

C. C. MAGRUDER.

(To be continued).



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## GEORGE WASHINGTON IN PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

(PART IX)

Washington was next in Prince George's, for the fifty-third time, on November 24, 1790, on which day he reached Baltimore with Mrs. Washington en route to Philadelphia, and most probably by way of Bladensburg. Leaving Philadelphia on March 21, 1791, Washington wrote in his diary: "My equipage and attendance consisted of a chariot and four horses drove in hand, a light baggage wagon and two horses, four saddle horses besides a lead one for myself—my valet de chambre, two footmen, coachman and postillion."

Washington was at Annapolis, having arrived by way of Kent County, on March 26, 1791, after "imminent danger from the unskillfulness of the hands (aboard boat), and the dullness of her sailing," thus described by him, who continuing wrote: "----- we made the mouth of the Severn River ----- but the ignorance of the people on board, with respect to the navigation of it run us aground ----- from whence with much exertion and difficulty we got off; and then, having no knowledge of the Channel and the night being immensely dark with heavy and variable squalls of wind, constant lightning and tremendous thunder, we soon got aground again ----- where finding all efforts in vain, and not knowing what might happen, till morning."

"Having lain all night in my Great Coat and Boots, in a berth not long enough for me by the head and much cramped; we found ourselves in the morning within about one mile of Annapolis, and still fast aground." Washington was within a small fraction of being six feet two inches in height. Greeted by the firing of a Presidential Salute—fifteen guns—Washington dined with General William Smallwood, attended "the Assembly," and on March 27, 1791, left Annapolis during the discharge of artillery, accompanied to South River by General Smallwood, Chancellor Hanson, William Kilty and other prominent citizens of Annapolis.

Entering Prince George's on the same day, for the fifty-fourth time, Washington "Bated at Queen Anne," and remained overnight at Bladensburg, according to tradition, at the house now known as the George Washington Inn, before going on to Mt. Vernon, by way of Georgetown, where, on March 30, 1791, he met the Commissioners he had named to

establish the Federal District: Thomas Johnson, Dr. David Stuart and Daniel Carroll of Duddington; inspected L'Enfant's plans, and decided upon the boundaries involved.

After a trip into Pennsylvania, and a night spent at "Terra Rubra," the birthplace of Francis Scott Key, en route thereto, Washington was again in Prince George's for the fifty-fifth time, on September 18, 1791, on which day he left Baltimore, according to a news note in the Maryland Journal, reading: "----- The President of the United States and his Lady arrived in Town from Philadelphia, on their way to Mount Vernon -----"; and in all probability continued their journey through Bladensburg.

Washington's fifty-sixth entrance into Prince George's can only be surmised as to exact date and route because of a letter to Alexander Hamilton, written from Mt. Vernon on October 14, 1791, in which he states that because of forgetfulness as to the day Congress would assemble he would be compelled "to accelerate my (his) journey," and a letter from him written in Philadelphia to his niece, Harriet Washington, on October 30, 1791, but it was between these dates.

Washington's next journey through Prince George's, his fifty-seventh, is also quite vague as to date and route. In a letter from Philadelphia, May 6, 1792, he wrote: "----- as that body (Congress) have resolved to rise tomorrow, and as I have determined, in case they should, to set out for Mount Vernon on the next day -----" His stay at Mt. Vernon was of short duration for he wrote Lafayette from Philadelphia June 10, 1792, in which was stated: "Soon after the rising of Congress I made a journey to Mt. Vernon, from whence I returned but a few days ago, and expect, if nothing of a public nature should occur to detain me here, to go there again some time next month with Mrs. Washington and her two little grandchildren -----" His visit to Mt. Vernon and his return to Philadelphia was doubtless through Prince George's, where going to Mt. Vernon and return to Philadelphia would count as his fifty-eighth and fifty-ninth time in the County.

Washington's movements in accordance with the above expressed intention must again be gleaned from his correspondence; accordingly we find a letter from him dated, "Philadelphia, July 3, 1792," addressed to Henry Lee, and a second letter, also addressed to Lee, from Mt. Vernon, under date of July 29, 1792, in which occurs: "On my way home (Mt. Vernon) and since my arrival here -----"; showing that he had again gone to his Virginian seat, and most probably through Prince George's which would make his sixtieth time in the County.

On October 1, 1792, Washington wrote to Edmund Randolph from Mt. Vernon; wrote to Gouverneur Morris from Philadelphia, October 20, 1792, and to Sir Edward Newenham, also from Philadelphia, under the last mentioned date, in which letter he states: "I have spent part of the summer at Mount Vernon, and have just returned to the seat of Government (Philadelphia)," which would add another journey North from Mt. Vernon and make his sixty-first time in Prince George's.

March 25, 1793, Washington wrote Gouverneur Morris from Philadelphia "I am called to Mount Vernon by the death of my nephew, Major Washington, and am on the point for setting out for that place tomorrow." That he went on to Mt. Vernon is evidenced by a letter from there to Henry Knox, under date of April 5, 1793,

in which he mentions having seen Captain (Joshua) Barney—"at Baltimore, who has just arrived from Havana," and the inference from the above is, that Washington went to Mt. Vernon from Baltimore by way of Bladensburg, thus completing his sixty-second entrance into Prince George's. The nephew referred to was George Augustine Washington, aide-de-camp to General Lafayette, whose widow, Frances (Bassett) Washington married Tobias Lear, one of Washington's secretaries.

April 12, 1793, Washington wrote Thomas Jefferson from Mt. Vernon requesting that certain matters be laid before him upon his arrival in Philadelphia, "for which place I shall set out tomorrow." That Washington carried out his plans for going to Philadelphia is proven by a letter written from that city April 18, 1793, but his route through Prince George's on this occasion, his sixty-third time in Prince George's is not definitely known, though most probably by Bladensburg.

Washington wrote Jefferson from Philadelphia, June 20, 1793, and Jared Sparks, the historian states: "Shortly after writing this letter the President left Philadelphia, and was absent two or three weeks on a visit to Mt. Vernon;" which statement is verified by still another letter to Jefferson, written by Washington from Mt. Vernon on July 30, 1793, from which we may conclude that Washington journeyed homeward once more through Prince George's, his sixty-fourth exit from the County.

July 4, 1793, Washington was in Alexandria in response to her citizens' request that he join them in celebrating the seventeenth anniversary of American Independence. This fact he communicated to Jefferson in a letter from Philadelphia on July 11, which he reached by traversing Prince George's for the sixty-fifth time.

C. C. MAGRUDER.

(To be continued).

FRIDAY, APRIL 29th, 1932

GEORGE WASHINGTON IN  
PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

(PART X)

Jared Sparks, compiler of the writings of Washington, is authority for stating that Washington wrote from Chestertown, Maryland, on September 10, 1793, that he was enroute to Mt. Vernon through Annapolis and Marlborough, while the Maryland Journal (Baltimore) records that on September 12, 1793, " . . . The President of the United States arrived in Tour from Philadelphia on his way to Mt. Vernon."

Sparks doubtless had the required information which led him to make a definite statement as to Washington's route leading through Marlborough, his last visit to that town, and his sixty-sixth time in Prince George's, but the above news note indicates that Washington went to Baltimore and to Annapolis prior thereto.

Marlboro became the county seat of Prince George's in 1706, after beginning to function as a County at Mt. Calvert, April 23, 1696, and the writer owns the only known map (on sheep skin) of the town as surveyed by Thomas Truman Greenfield in 1706. It was named for the Duke of Marlborough, the great military genius of Queen Anne's reign, whom dear, delightful Sir John Addison hailed as hero at the Battle of Blenheim, and word-pictured him as an angel guiding the whirlwind in the lines:

"And, pleased the Almighty's orders to perform,  
Rides in the whirlwind and directs the storm."

The Act authorizing the erection of this County, passed in 1695, (Chapter 13, Bacon's "Laws of Maryland") precisely directs that it is to be known as Prince George's—not Prince George—County. Also, "that the colours (military flag) for the said County—be Snt. George's Cross, vizt. A Red Cross in a White Field"—St. George's Cross as it was to begin to function on St. George's Day—April 23, 1696—which explains references to it in some of the older records as St. George's County.

But the town's name would have been changed and its historic association lost if a certain petition presented to the General Assembly of Maryland in 1731 had been adopted, for the said petition prayed that it be henceforth known as Maryborough. The County took its name from Prince George of Denmark, who upon the accession of Queen Anne became King Consort.

The available records with regard to Washington's itineraries through Prince George's indicate that he was last in Annapolis on March 27, 1791, and therefore that subsequent to that time his journeys were by way of Bladensburgh rather than through Marlborough; moreover, it would appear that whenever he was accompanied by Mrs. Washington that the

former route was invariably taken. Available copies of the Maryland Gazette (Annapolis) are silent as to his visits to that city after the date above mentioned, which serves as another evidence that following that time he was not there, and the very carefully prepared article by Captain H. A. Baldrige, U. S. N., which appeared in "United States Naval Institute Proceedings," February, 1928 also serves to strengthen the above conclusion.

The prevalence of a "malignant fever" and "the absence of the heads of departments therefrom" in Philadelphia prompted Washington to write Edmund Randolph, on September 30, 1793, that he would remain at Mt. Vernon "until about the 25th of October," but his stay there was somewhat prolonged beyond that date since he did not reach Baltimore, by way of Bladensburgh, until November 10, according to the "Chronicles of Baltimore," by J. Thomas Scharf, sometime Commissioner of the State Land office, it being his sixty-seventh time in Prince George's.

Washington remained in Philadelphia until setting out for Mt. Vernon, by way of Baltimore, which he reached June 19, 1794, according to a letter written by him to Edmund Randolph, in which he advised him of his presence in Baltimore and his intention to "proceed in the morning"—June 20—and he went through Bladensburgh on his sixty-eighth visit into Prince George's.

All of the letters quoted from were edited by Jared Sparks, and it will be noted that the most of them were addressed to the members of his cabinet: Thomas Jefferson, Secretary of State; Alexander Hamilton, Secretary of the Treasury; Edmund Randolph, Attorney-General, and Henry Knox, Secretary of War, the cabinet consisting of but four members at that time.

Those who are familiar with Harding's portrait of "Washington Crossing the Delaware" (December 8, 1776) in an open boat amid the ice-floes of the river will recall Knox as looming largest to the left of the majestic figure of Washington as pictured on that canvas.

The Whiskey Rebellion engaged Washington's attention during the fall of 1794, requiring his presence in Virginia, Western Maryland and Pennsylvania, so that his next entrance into Prince George's, his sixty-ninth, was from Philadelphia, on which journey he reached Bladensburgh on April 17, 1795.

Remaining at Mt. Vernon until the 26th of April, Washington was again in Prince George's, traveling through Bladensburgh, on the 28th, enroute to Philadelphia by way of Baltimore, his seventieth journey through the County.

Washington was in Prince George's for the seventy-first time, coming from Philadelphia, when he and Mrs. Washington took breakfast at Van Horne's Tavern and dined at Bladensburgh on July 19, 1795.

This tavern was so known from Gabriel P. Van Horne, boniface, who gave his name to the surrounding neighborhood—Vansville. His son, Archibald Van Horne, a member of Congress from Prince George's, 1807-1811, married Althea Elizabeth

Beall, daughter of Brigadier-General Rezin Beall (1723-1809), who lived nearby and is buried at "Turkey Roost". Captain Rezin Beall was commissioned Brigadier General in 1776 in succession to Thomas Johnson, afterward first State Governor of Maryland and Associate Justice of the U. S. Supreme Court. The forces under his command won distinction at Harlem Heights and at White Plains. He was a great-grandson of Thomas Beall, brother of Colonel Ninian Beall, than whom no man of his day in Maryland has left a more lasting impress in matters civil, military and secular.

Because of the connection of the Beall and Van Horne families it is singularly appropriate that the Brigadier General Rezin Beall Chapter, D. A. R. will place a marker at or near, Van Horne's Tavern, as a feature of the plans of the Prince George's County Bicentennial Committee to establish and mark places visited by Washington, fittingly evidencing Washington's association with the historic hostelry and their contribution thereto.

Washington's last trip to Mt. Vernon was for a short time only, for on August 7, 1795, he reversed his preceding trip through Prince George's and "Breakfasted at Bladensburgh, dined at Van Horne's" enroute to Philadelphia, by way of Baltimore, his seventy-second time in the County.

Leaving Philadelphia for Mt. Vernon, Washington traversed Prince George's on his seventy-third entrance into the County when he took breakfast at Van Horne's Tavern and dined at Bladensburgh, September 12, 1795.

Going again to Philadelphia, it is known that Washington followed the last mentioned route; whether he "refreshed" at Bladensburgh or at Van Horne's Tavern is not known, but this route is mentioned in his diary as of October 16, 1795, evidencing his seventy-fourth time in Prince George's.

Meager details are had of his seventy-fifth time in Prince George's, for his expense account mentions only the lump sum of his traveling expenses between Philadelphia and Mt. Vernon during June of 1796. A similar item is recorded in his expense account on his return to Philadelphia, when he passed through Baltimore, most probably by way of Bladensburgh, July 19, 1795, the Federal Gazette announcing his passage through Baltimore " . . . alone in a single chaise, attended by only two servants," his seventy-sixth time in Prince George's.

The Federal Gazette of September 23, 1796, announced the departure of Washington for Philadelphia on the 19th instant preceding, and his expected arrival on the evening of issue, but Washington did not reach Baltimore until somewhat later, or maybe he tarried there, or elsewhere on his route, since he did not reach Mt. Vernon until September 25, as shown by the total items of expense for the trip, his seventy-seventh entry into Prince George's County.

C. C. MAGRUDER.

(To be continued).

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be addressed to "THE ENQUIRER."

FRIDAY, MAY 6th, 1932

## GEORGE WASHINGTON IN PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

### (PART XI)

Washington's expense account is again authority for crediting him with another trip through Prince George's, his seventy-eighth, and most probably through Bladensburg, bound for Philadelphia, since he enters therein the cost of ferriage between Alexandria and Georgetown on October 25, 1796.

He was next in Prince George's, for the seventy-ninth time, when returning to Mt. Vernon, after the expiration of his second term as President; he dined and lodged at Bladensburg, March 13, 1797.

With him on this occasion were Mrs. Washington and Nelly Custis, who subsequently married Lawrence Lewis, son of Washington's only sister, Betty, and Fielding Lewis, at Mt. Vernon on Washington's last birthday, February 22, 1798; and George Washington Lafayette (and his tutor, Felix Freestal), who found refuge with his father's friend at Mt. Vernon while General Lafayette was a dungeon prisoner in Germany following the French Revolution, which began with the fall of Bastille—"Bastille Day"—July 14, 1789; the key of which old Parisian dungeon is now at Mt. Vernon, the gift of Lafayette to Washington.

After almost continuous public service of varying kinds since 1752, Washington now hoped to enjoy the evening of life by his own fireside, but again his country called him, for on July 4, 1798, President John Adams named him as Lieutenant-General and Commander-in-Chief of all American forces in the anticipated war with France—now sugar-coated as the "French Menace".

The writer has a copy of the only known extant roster of a Prince George's Company, raised with hostilities in view, and captained by Jacob Duckett, with his great-grandfather and great-great-grandfather listed as sergeant and private respectively.

It would be well for those ardent admirers of France who seek to damn the Mother Country to recall that we were at war with France in 1798-1800, even if our school histories gloss over the fact, and to further examine her attitude toward the Colonies during the French and Indian War; the parody exposed through the "X. Y. Z." letters; why Napoleon

sold the "Louisiana Purchase," and his intentions for our subjugation, thwarted because of the destruction of the French fleet by Nelson at Trafalgar; her open sympathy for Spain during the Spanish-American War, and her conduct toward World War debts.

Lafayette, as an individual, came to our assistance because he was wedded to Republican principles; de Rochambeau and de Grasse, at the behest of Louis XVI, the grandson of that union of French and Spanish Bourbon blood who had the startling audacity to proclaim: "I am the State", and live up to it in a supreme autocracy.

A wedding of Bourbonism and Republicanism is unthinkable, and the true background of French massed assistance was to alienate a Colony and establish a government antagonistic to Great Britain, and thereby weaken the power and prestige of her ancient enemy.

Washington survived to see the day when he was more kindly and trustfully inclined toward Great Britain than toward France, and John Adams also saw the light, but Jefferson did not, because, wily politician that he was, with a new political party in mind, of which he was to become the master-spirit, he appealed to the prejudices of unreasoning Sycophants.

Washington's last military appointment necessitated his presence in Philadelphia, consequently he was in Prince George's for the eightieth time on November 6, 1798, when he "Breakfasted at Bladensburg," proceeding by way of Baltimore.

His business dispatched, Washington started on his eighty-first and last journey through Prince George's, reaching Rhodes' Tavern, Beltsville, for dinner on December 18, 1798, and was at Mt. Vernon on the day following, having passed through Bladensburg; so that his first entrance into Prince George's and his last exit therefrom was by way of Bladensburg, first, when in 1751 he was bound for Annapolis, and last when homeward bound from Philadelphia in 1798.

To commemorate this fact, Magruder Chapter, of the District of Columbia Daughters of the American Revolution will place a Marker on the Bladensburg Road at the District Line, setting forth the above mentioned entrances and exits with the most appropriate quotation: "Ave, ave, atque vale!" "Hail, hail, and farewell!" Less than one year after Washington was last in Prince George's he died at Mt. Vernon on December 14, 1799.

His bibliography is more numerous than that of any other human being who ever lived, although that of Abraham Lincoln is but a little less so, while Napoleon Bonaparte suffers by comparison as an inconsiderable third among the immortals. Out of this mass of material, with the mature reflection of nearly one hundred and thirty-three years, no one may garner a more perfectly fitting description, or words which sink deeper into every loyal American heart, than those voiced by General Henry Lee—Lighthorse Harry Lee—father of General Robert E. Lee, when in addressing Congress, two days after Washington's death, he

proclaimed him: "First in War, First in Peace, and First in the hearts of his Countrymen."

Bladensburg was called for "His Excellency Thomas Bladen, Esquire, Governor", when sixty acres were ordered surveyed by the General Assembly of Maryland, May 26, 1741, described as being at the "Head of the Eastern Branch of Potomac River and on the South side of the said Branch near the Forks thereof, and at or near a Place called Garrison

Landing." It was a "Port Towne" with its tobacco warehouse on a lot owned by David Ross in 1747.

The practicability of flat-bottomed boats requiring but a small depth of water as a means of starting tobacco on its export abroad is hardly believable when one sees the Eastern Branch today, except at flood-time, but navigability of the stream for the purpose mentioned is those days even extended for some distance above Bladensburg at a little landing known as Dumfries.

Bladensburg is known as a noted dueling ground where were fought many bloodless and sanguinary "Affairs of Honor" in the open spaces between the trees along the stream winding its way at the foot of Fort Lincoln Cemetery. Here General Armisted T. Mason fell dead at the fire of Colonel James T. McCarty's pistol, February 6, 1819, while the latter was himself wounded; and here also Commodore Decatur was mortally wounded by Commodore Barron; who was seriously wounded, March 22, 1820. It is said that while prostrate on the ground, both believing themselves mortally wounded, a complete reconciliation occurred. Barron recovered physically but was haunted by a lasting remorse. Some two or three miles South, and across the Eastern Branch, at the foot of Boone's Hill, was the scene of the encounter between William J. Graves, a member of Congress from Kentucky, and Joshua Cilley, a Congressman from Maine, in which the latter was the victim in 1838.

Here also was fought the Battle of Bladensburg, August 24, 1814, an inglorious field for American Arms, where General Winder with 7000 troops was worsted by General Ross, who subsequently fell at North Point, and Admiral Cockburn, in command of 5000 troops, but it should be recalled that among the enemy were many who had seen service in the Napoleonic Wars while the Americans were mostly raw militia.

Benjamin Stoddert, Charles County born, first Secretary of the United States Navy, who served under Presidents John Adams and Thomas Jefferson, lived and died here in 1813 and lies buried in St. Matthew's Churchyard, better known as Addison's Chapel, near the District Line at Seat Pleasant.

William Wirt, Attorney-General of the United States in the cabinet of President James Monroe, was born of a shoe-maker father in Bladensburg. He prosecuted Aaron Burr, and appeared in some of the most famous cases ever argued before the great Chief Justice John Marshall.

Since beginning these articles I have been favored by Mr. J. Alexis Shriver, State Chairman for County Celebrations, Routes and Houses Committee of the Maryland Bicentennial Commission, through the loan of the result of his personal researches with regard to Washington's visits to Maryland. This applies in particular to Washington's expense accounts and the writings of Washington, as compiled by Jared Sparks, which have been of great assistance, as evidenced by the use of items from his accounts and by Washington letters mentioned and quoted from, for which I wish to express my appreciation.

Although I have mentioned Washington's eighty-first time in Prince George's as his last visit thereto, in accordance with the data now in hand, there is a possibility that evidences of other visits may yet be found, for, regardless of the great extent of his bibliography, earnest students are continuing their research work which may reveal additional information along this line.

C. C. MACRUDER.

(Concluded).

#### THANKS TO MR. MAGRUDER

In this issue appears the concluding installment of a series written by Mr. C. C. Magruder on "George Washington in Prince George's County".

Starting with our issue of February 26th, The Enquirer-Gazette has carried an article on this subject every week until the present, or eleven in all, and we wish to express our thanks to Mr. Magruder on behalf of the public, as well as ourselves, for his many hours of research work and time devoted to preparing the articles. They were prepared in a most excellent and interesting form, and the many requests for copies and complimentary remarks we have heard spoken of Mr. Magruder over his style of writing same, is evidence that his efforts to give the people of Prince George's County the historical facts of Washington's travels and visits in the County, are appreciated.

Ordered, that board take into consideration the request of C. C. Magruder for appropriation on behalf of the Washington Bicentennial Committee to purchase markers to be placed on the roads traveled by Geo. Washington in Prince George's County.

#### Planning Marker For Home

Upper Marlboro, Md., June 26—Placing of a marker at the old Melwood House, which was the home of Gov. Thomas Sim Lee and was visited by George Washington, is being advocated by the Woman's Club of Melwood district. Cooperation of all women's clubs in the county will be asked in the move.

Order  
2000

FRIDAY, APRIL 15th, 1932

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GAZETTE, UPPER MARLBORO, MD.

ST. BARNABAS' CHURCH, LEE-  
LAND

In connection with the two hundredth anniversary of the Birthday of George Washington which is now being celebrated throughout the nation, a special patriotic service in his honor will be held in St. Barnabas' Church, Leeland, on Sunday morning, April 24th, at 11 o'clock.

It is particularly fitting that St. Barnabas' Church should pay tribute to his memory inasmuch as there are only two of our churches in Prince George's County in which he worshiped, St. Barnabas' Church, Leeland being one and St. John's Church, Broad Creek, the other.

Quoting from a letter received from C. C. Magruder, Chairman of the Prince George's County Committee of the Maryland George Washington Bi-Centennial Commission:

"Washington attended service at St. Barnabas' with Robert Eden, Governor of Maryland, on September 6, 1772, in the church building which preceded (immediately) the present structure. This is one of the HISTORIC SPOTS our Committee hopes to have appropriately marked."

It is earnestly hoped that every member and friend of St. Barnabas' Church will make a special effort to attend this service and by advertising it secure the attendance of all other members and friends from far and near.

*Baltimore Sun Aug 20/32*

Washington Marker  
Dedication Planned

Final Ceremony Will Be Held  
Wednesday Afternoon At  
Benedict, Md.

Leonardtown, Md., Aug. 19—The fifth and final dedication ceremony in connection with the placing of the markers at historical points in Charles county by the George Washington Bicentennial Committee will be held at 4.30 P. M. on Wednesday at Benedict, Md., it was announced today by H. S. Swann, of La Plata, Md., chairman of the committee.

Benedict, one of the oldest settlements in Charles county, was first known as Benedict-Leonardtown. It was one of the places where the mail carrier who made but just four trips a year was always scheduled to stop and it was apparently the site of boat-building activity, as George Washington had a boat constructed there, and while inspecting its construction is said to have greatly enjoyed himself at the races held there at that time.

The marker to be presented was erected by the Charles Countians, the county's youngest civic organization.

The invocation will be offered by the Rev. Father Charles E. Roach, pastor of St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church, Bryantown, Md., and the presentation of the marker by former State Senator John F. Mudd, of Bryantown, Maryland.

Thought you might not have seen this  
of the Star -

# The Evening Star

WITH SUNDAY MORNING EDITION

WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, JULY 5, 1932.

## Marker Unveiled at St. Barnabas Church

BICENTENNIAL SERVICES FEATURE INDEPENDENCE DAY PROGRAM AT LEELAND.



**D**R. THOMAS E. GREEN, national director of speaking service of the American Red Cross, delivered the principal address at St. Barnabas Church, Leeland, yesterday, when this Bicentennial marker was dedicated. The marker was unveiled by John Marbury Bowle, 9-year-old son of W. Beall Bowle, one of the vestrymen, and accepted by C. C. Magnuder, chairman of the county Bicentennial Committee.

In the picture, left to right: Mr. Magnuder, Mr. Bowle, W. Seton Belt and J. H. Parker, vestrymen; Rev. J. C. M. Shrewsbury, rector; Jefferson Jones, vestryman; Dr. Green, Julian H. Hall, vestryman, and William Boswell, sexton.

The inscription on the marker reads: "St. Barnabas Church, erected 1774. (Queen Anne Parish.) In the church which preceded this present structure George Washington and Robert Eden, last Royal Governor of Maryland, attended service, September 6, 1772. Rev. Jonathan Boucher, rector. Placed by members and friends of this parish, George Washington Bicentennial, 1932."

—Star Staff Photo.

The Engineer Gazette  
Oct 22 1934

#### BICENTENNIAL MARKER DEDICATED

(1)  
"The Melwood Park" marker was dedicated within this old colonial manor on Friday afternoon, Oct. 21, at 2:30 P. M. under the auspices of Prince George's County Federation of Women's Clubs with the Melwood Club as hostess.

The ceremonies were most interesting and appropriate to the occasion. They began with music furnished by the Cheltenham Orchestra and the singing of "America" when the two flags, the American and the Maryland, were presented by Mrs. Frank M. Hall and Mrs. E. J. Smith, descendants of Ignatius Digges.

Mrs. Frank Scrivener, Chairman of the committee of arrangements introduced the speakers in order of the program.

Monsignor J. A. Cunnane of Baltimore, formerly of St. Mary's Church of Upper Marlboro, delivered the invocation. The marker was unveiled by Mrs. Cora P. Mayberry, president of the Melwood Club, also Mrs. W. L. Preston, Mrs. Guy Meloy and Mrs. C. P. Close, of the Federation.

It was officially presented in a few gracious words by Mrs. J. Enos Ray, County president of Women's Clubs, and accepted in behalf of the County Bicentennial Commission by Mr. C. C. Magruder as Chairman.

Mr. J. Alexis Shriver, chairman of the State Bicentennial Committee made pleasing remarks stating what had been accomplished in marking colonial mansions and places of historical interest in our State visited by George Washington.

Thos. Sim Lee of Washington, great grandson of Gov. Thos. Sim Lee was present and expressed great pleasure that the home of his maternal ancestors should be thus so suitably marked.

Mr. Wm. L. Marbury of Baltimore, formerly of Southern Maryland made the address. He gave the historic background in England dating back many centuries of the laws and customs brought by Lord Baltimore and the establishment of the "Manors" in the early colony of Maryland.