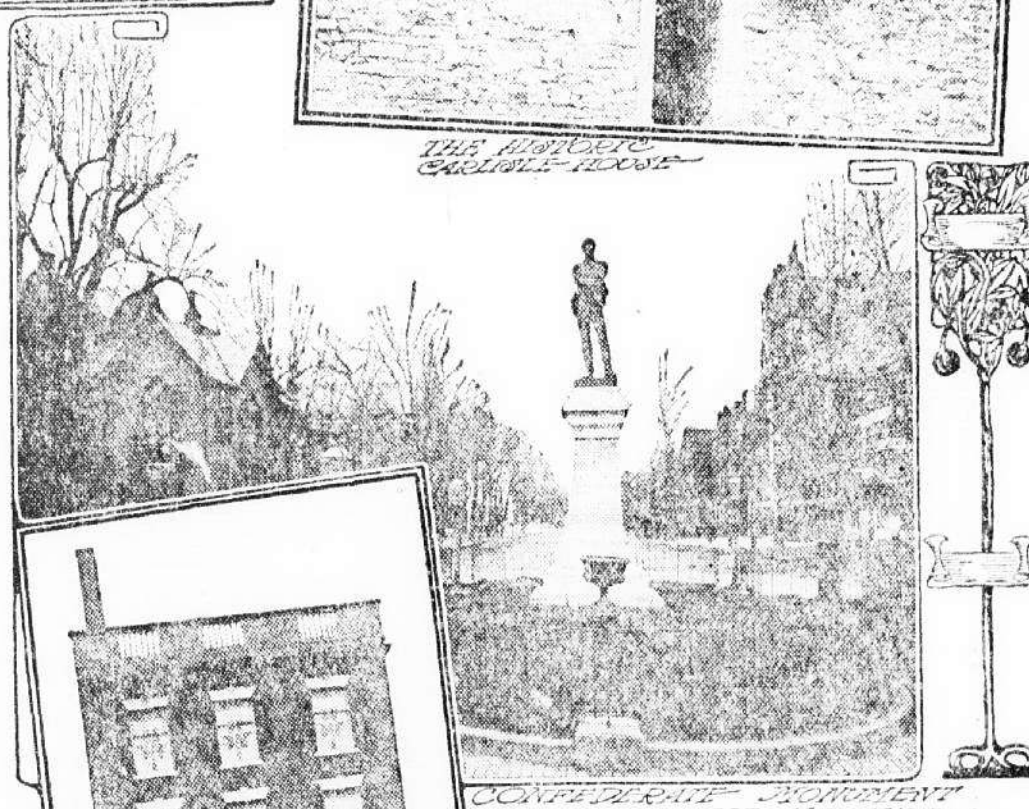


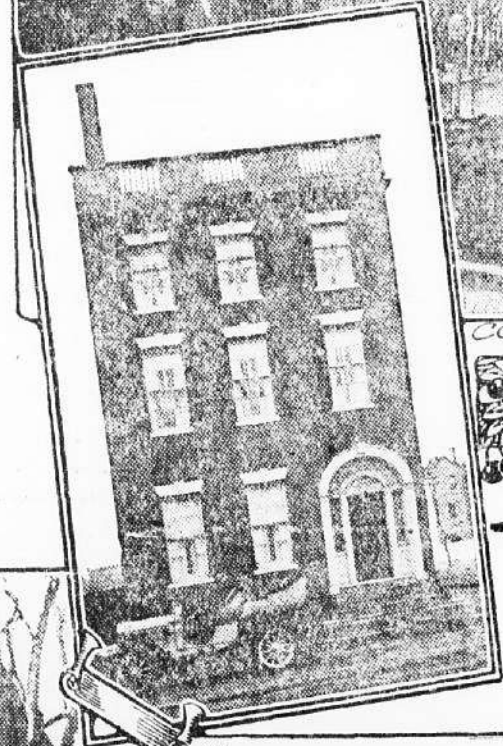
George Washington's Home Town



THE HISTORIC CARLISLE HOUSE



CONFEDERATE MONUMENT IN OLD ALEXANDRIA VIRGINIA



THE SHOOT HOUSE

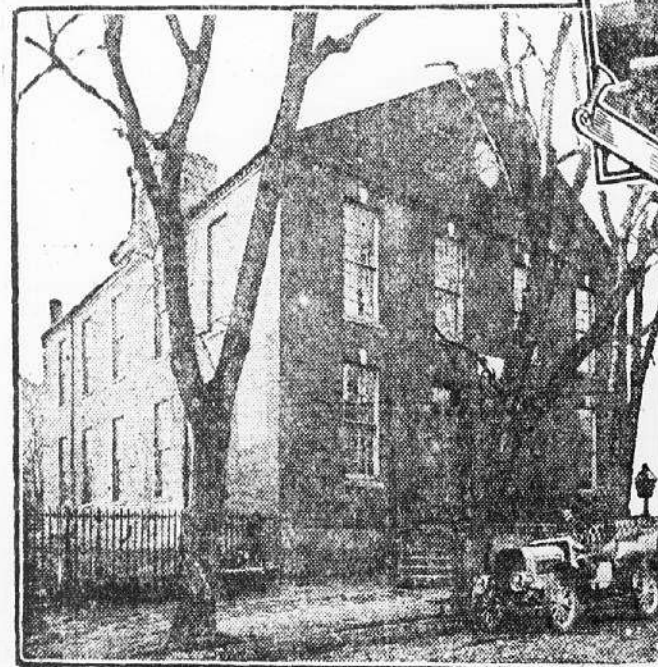


THE RESIDENCE OF LORD FAIRFAX



Each year finds tens of thousands of American citizens making patriotic pilgrimages to the home and tomb of George Washington at Mount Vernon on the Potomac river. Almost without exception these tourists "stop over" going or coming at the quaint old town of Alexandria, Va., located about half way between the city of Washington and Mount Vernon. Many of the visitors declare Alexandria almost if not quite as interesting as the far famed country seat of the Father of His Country. Old Alexandria would be well worthy a visit merely as a fine example of an old colonial town, rich in the architecture of the period, but added to this is the historical significance that it was George Washington's "home town."

Hither he came to attend the balls and other social festivities that brought out all the landed gentry of the old dominion; here he attended church every Sunday when residing at Mount Vernon; and to this place he repaired when business matters connected with his large estate required legal or other adjustment that could not readily be negotiated on the plantation. Alexandria was the meeting place of the Masonic lodge of which George Washington was so prominent a member and here was located a volunteer fire company that boasted our first president as one of its members. In short, from every standpoint, Alexandria meant more to George Washington than the nearest town or cross-roads community is apt to do to the present-day American farmer in this era of rural free delivery and railroads and trolleys and automobiles.



PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

In George Washington's time Alexandria—or Belhaven as it was at first known along about the middle of the eighteenth century—was one of the most prominent ports in the United States and seemed to hold out every promise of extensive development in the future. George Washington himself took a hand in booming the port, which developed an extensive foreign trade. The docks were crowded with warehouses filled with corn, tobacco and other products, while in the harbor were always to be found many of the largest class of cargo ships of that period loading and discharging a variety of commodities. As the American terminus of a heavy overseas trade Alexandria became well known in shipping circles in England, and it was thought for a time that the port on the Potomac would overshadow Baltimore. Then came the various influences that combined to bring about the commercial eclipse of the little city so dear to the heart of the nation's liberator. One of the first of these was the establishment only a few miles away of the capital of the nation, which speedily overshadowed Alexandria in various ways. Then came the building of railroads, which diverted much traffic to other channels, and finally the Civil War helped to put a blight upon the community which had long been one of the strongholds of the Lees of Virginia.

But even in this twentieth century neglected Alexandria gets "on the map" at least one day each year—namely, on the 22d of February, when with each recurring anniversary of Washington's birthday there is a big celebration in the little city that is filled with landmarks and objects identified with the private life and public career of the leader of the Revolution. Often the president of the United States goes to Alexandria by boat or trolley to participate in the exercises, and the governors of Virginia and Maryland are invariably invited. On such occasions the town which is located in closer proximity to historic Mount Vernon than is any other community, appears almost too small to accommodate the crowds that invade her public places. For, be it known, for all that there are handsome, well-paved business streets that afford a route of parade for the procession that is an invariable feature of this holiday, there are other highways and by ways in the staid, dignified, conservative old town that readily convince the visitor that they have undergone little if any alteration since the days of George Washington.

Old Alexandria is "going on" three hundred years of age, for it was founded as long ago as 1730, although, as previously explained, it was known for some score of years by another name. In 1848 the general assembly of the colony of Virginia formally designated it as Alexandria. The town retains to this day the names of its streets, chosen in the days of long ago from the titles of royalty and nobility. Thus we find as the most conspicuous thoroughfares King, Prince, Duke and Royal streets.

conspicuously before his countrymen. Here, in the old Carlisle house, which remains to this day one of the chief "show places" of the historic old town, George Washington and other leading men of the colony had a lengthy conference with the British commander on the night before the expedition set out upon the campaign which was destined to go down in history as "Braddock's defeat."

The old Carlisle house, which is assuredly one of the most interesting structures in the United States, fell sadly into decay some years ago, although a move looking to its complete restoration has latterly been made by a patriotic society. George Washington was a frequent guest at Carlisle house—the mansion of Major Carlisle, and when, after a social function in Alexandria he returned to Mount Vernon by boat it was almost invariably from the Carlisle house that he set out, the terraced grounds of the mansion sloping down to the river, rendering it convenient for General Washington and his house guests to step into the barge to be rowed to his manor house farther down on the Virginia shore of the Potomac. It was also General Washington's custom to sup at Carlisle house each 22d of February when he came to Alexandria to attend the "Birth Night Balls," which were instituted in his honor in Alexandria after he rose to fame as the hero of the War for Independence. These balls were held at Claggett's tavern and constituted the supreme height of Alexandria's social glory.

General Washington was most intimately identified with the history of Alexandria from the year 1763, when he purchased considerable property in the town. He showed himself a good citizen by becoming a member of the Friendship Fire Engine company. This was a volunteer organization

NAMING THE BOY.

Old Jum, gardener and general factotum, was accompanied one day by a bright-looking lad eight or ten years old.

"Is this your boy?" I asked.

"Yessuh, he mine, he las' one I got, sub—Junior, you wuffles nigger, tek your manners ter de white folks!"

"Junior," I commented. "So he is named after you."

"Nawsuh," the old man replied rather indignantly; "he ain't named fur me! My name Jumbo, whar my mammy git out'n de Bible. Dis hyar chile name Junior cuz he wuz bawn in June."—Lippincott's.

WHAT WAS, "ETC.?"

Writing about a recent "function," the society editor of the Ellis, Kan., Review-Headlight says: "Light refreshments were served, consisting of popcorn, cider, etc., served in courses."

for any such thing as a fire-fighting department with paid employees was, of course, totally unknown in those days. Tradition recounts that not only was the Father of His Country a supporter of this old-time fire-fighting organization, but that on the occasion of more than one fire he "ran with the machine" in the good old-fashioned way. Another organization which rivals the veteran fire company in interest is the Masonic lodge of which Washington was a member, and the lodge rooms of which in the city hall at Alexandria are filled with Washington relics of priceless value.

Among the buildings in Alexandria which attract much attention from visitors is the old colonial mansion at the corner of Duke and St. Asaph streets, where Lafayette and his suite were quartered when the distinguished Frenchman visited this country and where a great ball was given in his honor. Not far distant is the building occupied as the first free school in America—a school established through the bounty of George Washington. On Fairfax street, near Duke, is the First Presbyterian church, built in 1774, and on Cameron street is the town house of Lord Thomas Fairfax, a splendid example of the architecture of the Georgian period and yet in a perfect state of preservation. Persons who essay to "tour Alexandria" by motor car are destined to many a bump and jolt, for whereas the principal business streets are paved with asphalt most of the old residential streets have the great cobble stones that have with stood the traffic of more than a century. However, it is interesting to note that even this primitive paving has its historic significance, for these self-same cobblestones were laid under General Washington's direction by the Hessian prisoners, captured by the continental army.

Mount Vernon Token Returned

When Mount Vernon, the home of Washington, was restored some 30 years ago the various states were asked to send some token to be placed in the rooms. The women of Kansas sent a solid walnut, hand carved seal of Kansas to represent this state. For 30 years the beautiful seal has been standing in the former home of the Father of His Country and it has just been returned to the Kansas Historical society to be placed in the exhibit of Kansas curios.

The piece is carved from one solid piece of native Kansas walnut, one of the few perfect pieces of walnut wood found in the state. A search of several months was required to find a tree suitable for the work. One was found in Coffey county and was cut down expressly for this carving. It is four feet long and two feet high and is intended to go over the door of some hall.

The seal was carved by the late Henry Worrall of Topeka, the first artist in Kansas. He worked all one summer on it. In the center is the great seal of the state, painted in colors in oil by Professor Worrall. Around the seal are the words "Great Seal of the State of Kansas, January 29, 1861," carved by hand, each letter in relief. Around the seal are grouped the products of Kansas.

When the servant quarters were restored at Mount Vernon, Kansas school children raised the money to pay for the restoration. It was then decided that Kansas had sufficient representation among the relics in the home and the great seal was returned to the Historical society.

WISDOM FROM THE WED.

Singleton—It's wonderful what love will enable a fellow to see in a girl that he never saw before.

Wedmore—Yes, and it's equally wonderful what love won't let him see that he'll see later on.—Boston Evening Transcript.

A MAN'S WAY.

"I hear the bride and groom are having trouble already."

"Married only a month already, and quarreling?"

"So they say."

"What is the trouble?"

"Seems her husband wants to quit going to afternoon receptions and get back to business."

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