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FACTS ABOUT GEORGE WASHINGTON*

Fond of historical and biographical research—the unearthing and bringing into newness of life, incidents and veritable facts in the lives of distinguished persons who have played a part in American History, I have discovered among other interesting personal data some important items having special bearing upon the lineage or the forebears of George Washington.

Of Washington's mother, I find that both of his great-grandfathers came to America about the same time, 1657. John Washington settled at Bridges Creek near Colonial Beach while William Ball settled on the Rappahannock river about 100 miles below Fredericksburg, at the lower beginning of Northern Neck, calling the place Millenbeck. Further up the stream he named a place Epping Forest, building a house, and here was born Joseph Ball, afterwards Captain of the ship "Hope". Joseph Ball's first wife was Elizabeth Romney, a daughter of the Lord Mayor of London, his second wife was a widow named Johnson, her maiden name was Montigue, and to her was born a daughter—Mary Ball—the Mother of George Washington.

Mary Ball was born in 1707. In March, 1730, she married Augustine Washington, grandson of John Washington. She was called the "Belle of Northern Neck" and also, the "Rose of Epping Forest". The old house where she was born and married, has long since gone to decay, but the site has been preserved, which is surrounded by a square of giant oaks, and among them has been planted a new residence. Many descendants of the family are buried in White Chapel graveyard, two miles further on, of which John

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Washington was the first warden. He came from Sulgrave, near Bothley, where Lord Macaulay was born, and was related to James Shirley, the great classic and dramatic writer.

Old Epping Forest is in Essex, near London, and was once a hamlet of Waltham Abbey. Wakefield on the Potomac, where Washington was born, was named for Old Wakefield, a township near Leeds, England, which was the birthplace of Ratcliffe, Bentley, and others. Washington's grandfather, Lawrence, was the Vicar of Wakefield, and is buried in Christ Church, his tombstone being well preserved. The great Cardinal Woolsey, was born in Wakefield, the place being named for one of his tutors, Dr. Richard Wakefield, who was the first to translate into English the history of Greece and Rome.

And now that I am playing the role of a biographical chronicler, I found in my research an item that riveted my attention and has led me to ask: "Was Washington A Dutchman"? He certainly was, if my reading of his lineage is not at fault. My reading of history shows where the family from which he is, or was, descended, began with Odin, the founder of Scandinavia, 50 years before the Christian era and continued through fifty-two generations down to George Washington.

The name originally was Wasser (meaning water) until about A. D. 400, at which time the family became noted for their exploits in the North Seas and against the Norsemen whom the Scandinavians fought for over 400 years, finally making a permanent settlement upon the British Island. There the name became Wasserman, (mariner), and continued from the building of Cave Castle on the banks of the Humber river, about A. D. 500, until the family in the next 300 years had worked itself down the great Vitullus Road, which ran from Dover to Hull, to about 30 miles above London, where they finally inhabited a village called "Little Brighton", and here the name was shortened to Washington, meaning "Wasserman" from Brington or Brighton. From which place John Washington, the first of that name to emigrate to this country, was a descendant. He settled at Pope's Creek, in Maryland, and afterward at Bridge's Creek, in Virginia, marrying Anna Pope, daughter of the first settler, and reared a family—his son, Lawrence Washington, being the grand-father of George, through Augustine and the Balls.

Mount Vernon is in Fairfax County, 17 miles south of Washington—the foundation of the Mansion was started in 1736 by Aug-

ustine Washington, and finished by his son Lawrence, in 1743. The building is of two stories and attic high, 96 feet long, by 30 feet wide, the first structure was only four rooms, attaining its present appearance in 1786. In the parlor is one of the two famous mantle pieces sent to Washington by Lafayette, upon his return to France. The other is in "Harewood", the home of Samuel Washington, at Charlestown, West Virginia. In the north dancing room is another famous mantelpiece from Italy, made of statuary and syenite marbles, presented to the General (Washington) by Samuel Vaughan of London. Exact plans and dimensions of the mansion have been made, and are kept, in case of destruction. Washington's family motto was *Exitus acta probat*—translated signifies: "The Event Justifies the Deed."

Junius Thomas Turner.

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