

NEWS DEPARTMENT

Washington-Napoleon Willows

Vernon Kellogg has a Washington-Napoleon Willow at the family home at Suquamish, Washington. He has grown rooted slips from his parent tree. When he offered one or more of these for planting on the University of Washington campus for part of the celebration of the great Washington Bicentennial, some questions were raised about connecting Napoleon's name with the source tree at Washington's Mount Vernon home.

A letter of inquiry was sent to Colonel Harrison H. Dodge who has been Superintendent of the Mount Vernon Estate since 1884. His reply, dated May 26, 1931, includes the following:

"Your present urge is for information upon the willow trees now growing at Mount Vernon. I planted them when little switches—cut from the parent tree which stood near the tomb here and, in turn, was from one growing (then) at the U.S. Navy Yard at Washington, D.C. That one had been propagated from a cutting of the willow at Napoleon's former grave at St. Helena. Such is the established tradition which has now intrigued the public, and clamors for description—now that the Bicentennial has captivated the 'Youth of America.' I cannot tell you how often I have been appealed to for the story the past three weeks."

Colonel Dodge then kindly sent five cuttings packed in damp moss. These were promptly placed in the care of Ludwig Metzgar, gardener on the campus of the University of Washington.

An Astorian's Letter

The Missouri Historical Society's *Collections* for 1931, pages 323-325, contains a letter written by Wilson Price Hunt to John Jacob Astor from Saint Louis on November 16, 1836. After the affairs of the Pacific Fur Company were settled in 1813, Hunt returned to Saint Louis. In 1822 he was appointed postmaster of the city and remained in that office for eighteen years.

This letter pertains to the forwarding a deed to land to replace a mortgage he had given for a debt to Mr. Astor. He refers to a copy of Washington Irving's *Astoria*, published in that same year, 1836. He was sorry to see his own name "blended with a description of merely the Boatmen, Motlies, etc." He complains of the treatment of the Saint Louis of that early day, 1806 and adds: "One