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GEORGE WASHITGTON'S CONNECTION WITH EASTERN SHORE

(continued from page 1)

a tried and conspicuous patriot.

Chestertown claims as its son Charles Willson Peale who, with Gilbert Stuart, enjoys the honor of most frequently having painted portraits of Washington. Indeed, Peale painted Washington's first portrait in May, 1772. One of the most famous of all pictures of Washington is that by Peale which hangs in Nassau Hall at Princeton University. The diaries for July 3, 1787 mention Washington's sitting for this artist to paint a portrait from which a mezzotint was to be made.

1. Fitzpatrick, **George Washington Diaries;** September 1784 and August 1785.

2. A letter from Washington to William Fitzhugh, dated New York, December 24, 1789, M. S. Division, Library of Congress.

3. Fitzpatrick, **George Washington Diaries;** May 1772.

Not an Eastern Shoreman but a man evidently well acquainted with and enjoying the confidence of Eastern Shore folks, who lies taking his last sleep in old Shrewsbury churchyard in Kent County, was General John Cadwalader, whom Washington several times sent down the Shore on most important errands. He was an aide of the Commander-in-chief. He is partly famous because he gave the **coup de grace** to the disgraceful "Conway cabal," which for a time threatened Washington's prestige.—by shooting—not mortally—General Conway in a duel. Conway congratulated Cadwalader, it is said, on his marksmanship, and later, apologizing to Washington, fled the country.

In June, 1786, Washington wrote to James Tilghman regarding his son Col. Tench who had just died:

"Of all the numerous acquaintances of your lately deceased son, I may venture to assert (That excepting those of his nearest relatives) none could have felt his death with more regret than I did. because no one entertained a higher opinion of his worth or had imbibed sentiments of greater friendship for him that I had done. Amidst all your grief, there is the consolation to be drawn; that while living no man could be more esteemed, and since dead, none more lamented than Col. Tilghman."

1. Washington's letter to President of Congress, dated Wilmington, Del. Sept. 1, 1777; M. S. Division, Library of Congress.

2. June 5, 1786; quoted from Tilghman, **Worthies of Talbot.**

Writing to Thomas Jefferson on August 1, 1786, Washington lamented again the early death of his friend He "as formerly of my family. (Washington meant of his military family.) He died lately and left as fair a reputation as ever belonged to a human character."

High praise this! Through the stately eighteenth century phaseology, one can see the great heart of Washington letting itself go in uttering his sorrow at the untimely death of Colonel Tench Tilghman who had been his aide from August, 1776, to the end of the war. Washington hardly spoke of any man, not a relative, in more affectionate terms.

Although James Tilghman, the father, was a loyalist throughout the Revolution, Tench Tilghman, the son, enjoyed in an unusual degree Washington's confidence and esteem. It appears that Colonel Tilghman wrote more of Washington's correspondence during the war than any other of the four or five of the General's aides To Tilghman Washington assigned the difficult but delightful task of bearing the official news of Cornwallis' surrender to the Continental Congress

The trip of Tilghman from Yorktown to Philadelphia, involving a ride from Rock Hall through Chestertown and Kent County to the Quaker City, lacks only a great poet's touch to become as famous as that of Paul Revere.

1. Quoted from Tilghman

One more personality of interest—not an Eastern Shoreman, to be sure, but one whose career is inextricably bound up with life on the Shore—is he Rev. William Smith, D. D., the first provost of the University of Pennsylvania and a friend of the first President. On December 28, 1778, Washington attended in Philadelphia "the celebration of the festival of St. John the Evangelist by the 'most ancient and worshipful Society of Free and Accepted Masons,' being honored with the chief place in the procession... In the sermon... by the Rev. Brother William Smith, D. D., Washington was alluded to as the Cincinnatus of America." In the procession to Christ Church, Dr. Smith walked beside General Washington.

The contacts between Washington and Dr. Smith were likely frequent for Washington was much interested in the University of Pennsylvania and eems to have met Smith often in Philadelphia. On January 19, 1781, Dr. Smith proposed Washington's name for membership in the American Philosophical Society. He was elected.

Again in August, 1789, Dr. Smith appears in the story when he with others presented George Washington in New York with an address from "The Bishops, the Clergy, and Laity of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the states vania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia of New York, New Jersey, Pennsylnd South Carolina."

1. Baker, **Itinerary of George Washington.**

2. Lippincott, "George Washington and the University." in **The General Magazine and Historical Chronicle** of the University of Pennsylvania for January 1926

3. Baker, **Washington After the Revolution.**

And once again: General and Mrs. Washington were present in Philadelphia in 1791 at a meeting of this same Philosophical Society when Dr. Smith pronounced an encomium on the lately deceased president of the Society, Dr. Benjamin Franklin.

By themselves these facts might point to only a casual relationship between Washington and Smith, yet they will gain in significance in the light of what follows.

The story of Washington's relations to the Eastern Shore remains incomplete without a discussion of his connection with one of the venerable institutions of the Shore, Washington College.

In 1780, Dr. Smith left Philadelphia and settled in Chestertown, Maryland, as rector of the Chester Parish Church. Deeply interested in education as well as in religion and seeing that Maryland boys would longer be hardly welcome at their former haunts in Cambridge and Oxford. he contrived in 1782 to secure local and legislative support for elevating the Kent County School to the rank of college. Of this institution, which had been in existence as early as 1725, he became first president and retained the office for seven years.

1. Baker, **Washington After the Revolution.**

A very pleasant chapter in the career of George Washington, that of his thoroughgoing interest in education, is yet to be written. He watched carefully over the college training, first of his nephews, and then of his step-son. He also contributed generously of his means to the support of many educational efforts in the nascent nation.

Dr. Smith, as president of the new college in Chestertown enlisted Washington's cooperation in his venture Therefore, in the roster of contributors for the infant college Washington's name leads, like Abou Ben Adhem's, all the rest. In a letter to Dr. Smith, the General expressed great pleasure that the new institution was to bear his name. Washington College enjoys the distinction of being the first educational institution and the only college t oposses the name by Washington's express consent.

Furthermore General Washington accepted a place on the first Board of Visitors and Governors. He presided at its deliberations when, in April, 1785 he attended the third commencement of the college at Chestertown.

Over the desk of the president of the college hangs a photostatic copy of an old mildewed diploma which bears witness that, on June 24, 1789, Washington College conferred on George Washington the degree of Doctor of Laws. **honoris causa.** The original of this document may be seen in the Manuscript Division of the Library of Congress.

1. Washington College Catalogue.

2. Smith, **Life of Rev. William Smith, D. D.**

That General—just become President—Washington deeply appreciated this token of distinction and esteem from his name-sake college may be seen in the letter which he wrote Dr. Smith and the Board from New York on July 11, 1789 after the reception of the diploma:

"Gentlemen: Your very affectionate Address, and the honorary Testimony to your regard which accompanied it, call forth my grateful acknowledgement.

"A recollection of past events, and the happy termination of our glorious struggle for the establishment of the rights of Man cannot fail to inspire every feeling heart with veneration and gratitude toward the Great Ruler of Events, who has so manifestly interposed in our behalf.

"Among the numerous blessings which are attendant upon Peace, and as one whose consequences are of the most important and extensive kind, may be reckoned the prosperity of Colleges and Seminaries of Learning.

As, in civilized societies, the welfare of the state and happiness of the people are advanced or retarded, in roportion as the morals and education of the youth are atended to; I cannot forbear, on this occasion to express he satisfaction which I feel on seeing he increase of our seminaries of learn ng through this extensive country. and the general wish which seems to prevail for establishing and maintaining these valuable institutions.

"It affords me peculiar pleasure to know that the Seat of Learning under your direction hath attained to such proficiency in the Sciences since the Peace; and I sincerely pray the great Author of the Universe may smile upon the Institution, and make it an extensive blessing to this country."

1. Washington College Catalogue for 1844.

WORTON

Mr. and Mrs. B. F. Rash are visiting in Wilmington this week.

Mrs. A. J. Hackett, of Chestertown, spent Sunday with her sister. Mrs Joseph Duyer.

Mr. and Mrs. John Duyer and daughter, Clara, and Miss Catherine Loller, of Chestertown, spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Carroll Loller.

Mrs. Lester Carter and daughter, Sarah, spent Tuesday with Mrs. Charles Crowding.

Mr. B. F. Sewell, of Rock Hall has been visiting his sister. Mrs. P. B tasin.

Master Marvin Nichols is on the sick ist.

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We're selling tires at prices that you should keep pasted in your hat.
If you need a new tire or four of them now is the time to speak. We have a supply of tires for men who'll appreciate their service, fitness and wearing qualities. We're selling them at prices that decreases the cost of car owning.

Farmers, List Your Repair Needs
It would be hard to find a farmer who at some time or another had not lost valuable time waiting for necessary repair parts. Take this territory and total up the time lost in this way and it will astonish you. And all because repairs are not odered as early as they should be.
There is no better time than right now—just before the busiest season on the farm—to go over your machines carefully, make a list of repairs you are likely to need and send it to us. With this list in our hands, we can order our stock so as to be prepared to meet every call promptly.
Repair part service is a necessary part of our business. We realize what it means to you in time and money to get what you need at once. Help us to help you by making up your list now and sending it in to us.
PAUL COMEGYS
Millington, Maryland

OTICE
The Chestertown Water Board has moved its office from Firemen's Hall to the office of William Belt Townshend in the Kent News Building. Office hours will be from 2 p. m., to 5 p. m.
CHARLES S. SMITH, Clerk.

BRICE'S MILL
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