

APPENDIX I

*Daniel Parke Custis, the son, John Parke Custis,
the grandson, and George Washington Parke Custis,
the greatgrandson of John Custis of Williamsburg*

DANIEL PARKE CUSTIS

Daniel Parke Custis, son of John Custis of Williamsburg and Frances Parke was born at Queen's Creek plantation, October 15, 1711, being the date stated by his wife for the inscription on his tombstone. Little is known of his early life. No surviving record of the College of William and Mary has his name as a student, nor is there any evidence in family papers that he was sent to England for education. His father John refers to his children Daniel and Frances affectionately, in somewhat favorable contrast to his brother-in-law William Byrd who mentions his children in a disinterested manner. At the age of twenty, we know that Daniel was paying his addresses to one "Miss Betty," because there is a copy of a letter in the Custis letter-book, from the father John to the father of "Betty," approving a proposed marriage, and indicating he would do his share in providing for the couple. We do not know who "Miss Betty" was. Mrs. Lee in the *Memoir* of her father mentions the tradition that Daniel's father wished him to marry a daughter of William Byrd II. His marriage was postponed until he was thirty-eight years old, when he selected Miss Martha Dandridge of New Kent County. The date of the wedding, except the year, 1749, seems to have eluded researchers. The father John was not at first in favor of the marriage, because of the insufficient fortune of the intended bride. It was by the persuasion of a prominent attorney, James Power, that he finally gave his approval. Except a few minor bequests, Daniel received all the property of his father, who died in 1749, and he was also the sole executor. In the collection of Custis papers in the Virginia Historical Society, there is much in regard to Daniel's business relations with merchants in England, but almost nothing that reveals a glimpse of his personal life. His portrait, painted by John Wollaston, and now at Washington and Lee University, depicts a handsome, friendly, pleasing countenance and not at all serious.

There were four children born of this marriage: Daniel Parke, born November 1751, died February 19, 1754; Frances Parke, born April 12, 1753, died June [?] 1757; Martha Parke, born ———, died June 19, 1773; John Parke, born at White House, New Kent, 1755, died at Eltham, November 5, 1781. There has never been an indication that this marriage was anything but a congenial and happy one. The couple lived principally on the estate known as the White House on the Pamunkey River in New Kent County, a region at that time favorably known for its prosperous plantations and attractive homes, where the amenities of a well-ordered social life prevailed. At times they were living in Williamsburg on the property known later as the six chimney lot where the father John Custis had fixed his home, a brick house and garden; the house was dismantled many years ago, leaving the kitchen the only reminder of the former house group; the lot is now a part of the eastern portion of the Eastern State Hospital property, the whole of which recently by act of the General Assembly of Virginia has been deeded to the College of William and Mary. Daniel died intestate July 8, 1757, before he had settled his father's estate. His property, of about fifteen thousand acres in several plantations, with cash and credits in Virginia and England constituted one of the most valuable estates in Virginia. In the division of this estate the widow received one third of all the personal property, and each of the two children one third; in addition the widow had her dower right in her lifetime to one third of all the real estate, mostly plantations. The courtship by George Washington of the widow Custis resulted in their marriage on January 6, 1759. On May 1, 1759, four months after his marriage, George Washington wrote to Robert Cary & Co., in London: "Address all letters which relate to the affairs of the late Daniel Parke Custis, Esqr. to me, as by marriage, I am entitled to a third part of that estate, and invested likewise with the care of the other two thirds by a decree of our General Court which I obtained in order to strengthen the power I before had in consequence of my wife's administration" (Fitzpatrick's *Writings of Washington*, vol. 2, p. 319). In the sketch of G. W. P. Custis, the estimated amount is stated which Mrs. Washington received from her first husband's and her daughter's estates. She was indeed fortunate in having married a man who was so honest, exact and able in handling the complicated affairs of the Custis estates. Washington had to clear up what was unadministered of the estate of John Custis, made difficult by the death of Daniel Parke Custis. He was in continual correspondence with merchants and agents in Eng-

land and with managers of the several scattered plantations in Virginia. The difficulties of travelling prevented a frequent inspection of the plantations. He had to depend upon managers who were indifferent in keeping accounts and in writing letters. The Custis properties were a cause of anxiety to him for the forty years of his life after his marriage. In a letter to George Mason, May 10, 1776, concerning the Custis estates, he says "I have never charged him [John Parke Custis] or his sister [Martha, died 1773] one farthing for all the trouble I have had in managing their estates, nor for any expense they have been to me, notwithstanding some hundreds of pounds would not reimburse the monies I have actually paid in attending the public meetings in Williamsburg to collect their debts, and transact there several matters appertaining to the respective estates" (Fitzpatrick's *Writings of Washington*, vol. 5, pp. 28, 29). "Every farthing expended in behalf of the young gentleman [John Parke Custis] must undergo the inspection of the General Court in their examination of their guardianship accounts" (Fitzpatrick's *Writings of Washington*, vol. 3, p. 50). The disastrous destruction by fire in 1865 of the building in Richmond in which the General Court records were deposited has been mentioned in the sketch of John Custis. On account of the loss of those records, a full report of Washington's management of the Custis estates may never be made, but something more than what has been published is now possible. The Custis papers (some of which are illegible) in the Virginia Historical Society have been repaired, and may now be consulted; they include the two small volumes which relate to the specific estates of John Parke Custis and his sister Martha, and which have not been generally known by students of General Washington's life.

There is in the Library of Congress a photostat copy of an invoice book of Daniel Parke Custis in which are the orders to his English agents for plantation and personal supplies. This I believe to be in the handwriting of Mr. Custis. After these entries, in an entirely different hand, on page 41, is this order: "One handsome tombstone of the best durable marble to cost about £100 with the following inscription and the arms sent in a piece of paper on it to wit: 'Here [lies or rests] the body of Daniel Parke Custis, Esquire who was born the 15th day of October, 1711 and departed this life the 8th day of July, 1757. Aged 45 years.' " His mother and two of his children were buried in the Custis family cemetery on the Queen's Creek plantation, near the home in later years of Major Hugh Mercer Waller. Dr. L. G. Tyler, in the third volume of

the *William and Mary Quarterly*, first series, page 261, quotes Bishop William Meade as mentioning that there was in this burying ground also the tombstone of Daniel Parke Custis, but that it had been carried off. Dr. Tyler does not give his authority for this quotation from Meade, and it has not been found in Meade's *Old Churches*. There being no record of the burial in New Kent, it is most likely that the body was placed in the Custis burial ground on the Queen's Creek plantation; one of his children had been buried there about a month before. The tombstone next to the removed Custis stones in Bruton churchyard is, I believe, reconstructed of the fragments of that of Daniel Parke Custis. "On September 22, 1784, administration with the will [of John Custis] annexed of the goods etc. left unadministered by Daniel Parke Custis was granted to Wakelin Welch, lawful attorney of Martha Washington for the use of said Martha Washington, formerly Custis, now residing at Virginia aforesaid, the said Daniel Parke Custis dying intestate" (Searle, 287, Prerogative Court of Canterbury. *Waters*, vol. 1, p. 397). The catalogue of the library of Daniel Parke Custis, from a manuscript in the collection of the Virginia Historical Society was printed in the *Virginia Magazine of History*, vol. 17, 1909, pp. 404-12. There are three hundred thirty-two titles in the list, and about four hundred sixty volumes; the entry for some titles is not definite as to the number of volumes in the set. A good many of these titles appear also in the inventory of the library of John Parke Custis, the books being passed on from father to son. Five of the titles with the signature of John Custis are in the inventory of George Washington's library. The best study of the plantation called White House and of the houses on it is by the late Reverend Arthur Gray in the *Virginia Magazine of History*, vol. 42, pp. 229-40, with a picture of White House as it appeared in 1861, also of Chestnut Grove, the birthplace of Martha Dandridge; and in the continuation in volume 44 of the same magazine, p. 130. The original Custis house stood until the early years of the nineteenth century. Mr. Gray believes the second house was built about 1820; this was burned in 1862; a third house on the same site was likewise burned, about 1888. On the Jefferson and Fry map of 1751, "White House" is incorrectly located on the York River between the mouth of Ware Creek and Brick House. The same error in location appears on the John Henry map of 1770.

Ruins of foundation of White House mansion, plate no. 2 in group of plates "Old Houses in New Kent County" vol. 17, *William and Mary College Quarterly* (2d series) page 284 ff; also plates no. 24, 25, *ibid.*,

p. 370. Plate 12 is of Rockahoc to which George Washington refers in his letters.

The White House was in the midst of the military operations of both armies in the Peninsula campaign in May and June 1862. The following letters from correspondents of the *New York Times* describe the White House and some of the events that took place in and near it. Letter dated May 10, 1862, in issue of May 23, 1862; letter dated May 12, 1862, in issue of May 23, 1862; letter dated June 11, 1862, in issue of June 16, 1862; letter, June 20, 1862, in issue of June 24; letter June 24, 1862, in issue of June 26.

Dr. Malcolm Harris of West Point, Virginia, has given the following data on the White House plantation: the acreage at present is approximately 3,000; it has remained in the ownership of the Custis and Lee families from the early eighteenth century until 1946, when it was sold by Dr. Bolling Lee to C. L. Woodward; the plantations on the Pamunkey above the White House are Foster's Castle, Macon's Island, Poplar Grove; below and adjoining it is the plantation Rockahoc, originally Fort Royal established by the General Assembly in 1646.

In the Custis papers in the Virginia Historical Society library there is "A memorandum of the estate of Colo. Custis decest in York County." This refers to Daniel Parke Custis, and was drawn up a short time after his death, when the estate was divided among the three heirs, the widow and two children. He died, in 1757, eight years after his father. The number of slaves and the total of the livestock could not have changed much in that time. The memorandum therefore gives us an idea of the Queen's Creek plantation of the father's period. There were three hundred and sixty-three horn cattle of which eleven were oxen; seventy-seven hogs, sixty-two sheep, seven horses, of which four are called "work horses." There were seventy-seven slaves, twenty-six were men, twenty-two women, eleven boys, and eighteen "garls." In this memorandum nothing is said about the land. We know from other sources that the total acreage of the Queen's Creek plantation was three thousand three hundred thirty acres.

JOHN PARKE CUSTIS

John Parke Custis, the son of Daniel Parke Custis and Martha Dandridge was born in 1755 at White House in New Kent County. After the second marriage of his mother, he lived at Mount Vernon,

where he received the thoughtful and affectionate attention of his mother and his stepfather. He seems to have had a happy childhood, enjoying the pleasures of life on a large plantation and engaging in the usual sports, and not taking life too seriously. At the age of fifteen he was sent to a small school in Caroline County, conducted by the Reverend Jonathan Boucher, and then when Boucher moved to Annapolis, Maryland, the boy accompanied him and lived in his home. Jack was not a scholarly type, was somewhat indolent, and gave his teacher and stepfather considerable anxiety. Some of his distaste for study was due to an unwise selection of subjects, and indifferent teaching, we may be sure. After being with Boucher for unequal periods in four years, he was sent to New York to attend King's College. Although while there he was shocked by news of his sister's death, he made some progress in his studies, and his teachers received a favorable opinion of his character and ability. Further plans for his attendance at college were broken by his marriage. The letters of Boucher and Washington about the boy's education have led some biographers of Washington to present an unfavorable picture of Jack. Before his death at the age of twenty-six he had certainly shown signs of increasing stability and industry. Washington tried to dissuade him from too early a marriage, but he made his own decision, and when he was twenty, married Eleanor Calvert, daughter of Benedict Calvert of Mount Airy, Maryland. In 1773, his estate was much increased by the death of his sister. When his stepfather was appointed commander of the American Army in 1775, he was thrown much on his own resources in the management of his scattered plantations. He was inclined to take risks in that period of inflated currency, and the General took great pains to instruct him, and warn him about possible danger. He was not actively engaged in connection with the American Army until the Yorktown campaign, where he was an aide to General Washington. He was a member of the House of Delegates of the General Assembly of Virginia from New Kent County in the spring and fall sessions of 1778, 1779, 1780 and the spring session of 1781. In the Yorktown campaign he contracted "camp fever," and believing that his illness would be fatal, he asked to be carried to see the surrender of Yorktown on October 19, and said he would then die content. His wish was granted, and after seeing the spectacle of the surrender, he was removed to Eltham in New Kent County on the Pamunkey River, the seat of Burwell Bassett, who had married his mother's sister. Here he died, and was buried on that estate. General Washington who was present at his bedside, was much affected by the scene, and there

expressed the determination that he would rear two of the four children, the son, G. W. P. Custis, and Nelly, one of the daughters. Mr. Custis died intestate, and thus difficulties arose in the settlement of his estate, tracing back to unadministered property of his grandfather John, and father Daniel Parke. It was necessary for the General and his wife to accept new responsibilities for their grandchildren. The boy, G. W. P. Custis, was heir to all his father's plantations, subject to the one third life dower right of his mother who married as her second husband, Dr. David Stuart. The full history of the General's management of the Custis estate may never be forthcoming, owing to the loss of the General Court records, and also to gaps in the Fairfax County court records on the same subject. The appraisal of his personal property was delivered into the Fairfax County Court in September, 1782, as £6559 5s 6p, in which the books in his library were included. The inventory of the library has been published in *Tyler's Quarterly*, vol. 9, pp. 97-103. The original portrait of John Parke Custis and his sister Martha as children, painted about 1760 by Wollaston, is now at Washington and Lee University. There is a halftone cut of a miniature in Rupert Hughes' *George Washington the Rebel and the Patriot*, p. 18; a portrait of Martha Custis the sister at sixteen in the same work, p. 18. The portrait of John Parke and his four children is reproduced in J. D. Sawyer's *Washington*, vol. 1, p. 250.

The age of John Parke Custis is usually given as twenty-eight at time of his death. There are two reasons why it is better to place the age at death as twenty-six. His sister, Frances Parke, was born April 12, 1753, and died in 1757. Mr. Wilson Miles Cary, a highly capable and conscientious genealogist, gives his date of birth as 1755, but does not include the month or day. General Washington, in a letter to Osgood Hanbury & Co., June 1, 1774, writes "I always have and still do act as the guardian of Mr. Custis," again in a letter of January 13, 1775, he refers to "my present ward's property," both indicating that Mr. Custis was not then twenty-one. The most convincing proof of his birth in 1755, is in Washington's letter to Jonathan Boucher under date of May 30, 1768, in which he says "he is a boy of good genius, about fourteen years of age" (Fitzpatrick's *Writings of Washington*, vol. 2, p. 287), indicating he was certainly thirteen, and would soon be, later in 1768, fourteen. This would place birth date late in 1754 or early 1755. On June 19, 1775, Washington writes to J. P. Custis, "You must now take upon yourself the entire management of your own estate . . ." (Fitzpatrick, *Writings of Washington*, vol. 3, p. 296). The General was then leaving

to take command of the American army, and did not know when he would return, if ever.

GEORGE WASHINGTON PARKE CUSTIS

George Washington Parke Custis (1781-1857) was the son of John Parke Custis (1755-1781), who was the son of Daniel Parke Custis (1711-1757), who married Martha Dandridge in 1749. As the widow Custis, her husband having died in 1757, she married George Washington January 6, 1759. Mrs. Washington's first husband was the son of John Custis, the correspondent of Peter Collinson. Martha Dandridge was born at the plantation of Chestnut Grove on the Pamunkey River, June 2, 1731; she died at Mount Vernon, May 22, 1802. By her marriage to Daniel Parke Custis she had four children: Daniel Parke, Frances Parke, John Parke, and Martha Parke; the two eldest died young, before the death of their father; Martha Parke Custis died at Mount Vernon in 1773, leaving her brother John Parke Custis the only surviving child; Mrs. Washington's first husband was born at Queen's Creek plantation, York County, October 15, 1711, the son of John Custis and Frances Parke Custis, his mother being the daughter of Daniel Parke II; he died July 8, 1757, about eight years after his marriage; since his mother and two children were buried at the Queen's Creek plantation, two miles north of Williamsburg, he was buried there also. The tombstones of these children and of their grandmother Frances Parke Custis were removed from the family burying ground in 1895 by the Magruder-Ewell Camp of Confederate Veterans of Williamsburg and placed in Bruton churchyard, Williamsburg. The writer has visited the site of this family cemetery, of which there is now no surface indication. It is in a field without any tombstone visible, in Camp Peary domain; is one third of a mile southeast of the house belonging to Thomas B. Mahone, one thousand yards southwest of road to Biglers (the old road to Rippon Hall), and one mile and a quarter due south from Magruder post office (not Fort Magruder). The original main house probably was near this cemetery, and was not standing in the memory of Thomas K. Ewan and William Baker. Mr. Ewan believes the house occupied by Major Waller, which stood near the present Mahone house, was the overseer's house, and not the main Custis house. Both these men remember when the Custis tombstones were removed. William Baker who used to hunt in this region remembers the removal of the broken stone erected for Daniel Parke Custis, now in Bruton churchyard, and also the plate that was

placed on this stone in Bruton, since removed. Daniel Parke Custis died intestate, the two surviving children, Martha Parke and John Parke each receiving one third of the personal property, and the latter all the real estate, subject to the life estate of one third, his mother's dower right; the mother received also one third of the personal property. George Washington, upon marriage, according to the law of the time that the husband and wife are one, and the husband that one, acquired his wife's share. Mr. Eugene E. Prussing, in his volume *The Estate of George Washington, Deceased*, published 1927, pages 93-7, makes the first attempt by one experienced in accounting and probate work to unravel the involved problems of the Custis properties. I summarize his valuable conclusion substantially as follows: The estate was one of the largest in Virginia. Exactly what it consisted of has long been doubtful and may never be entirely cleared up because the records of the General Court were destroyed by fire in Richmond in 1865. Each of the children of Daniel Parke Custis, Martha (Patsy) and John Parke received \$33,487.15 and Mrs. Washington the same amount. One third of the net product of the lands and slaves had to be drawn upon by Washington for upkeep and taxes. He faithfully kept all accounts of the estates of the two children. In 1778 a full release of all dower right in all real estate was given to John Parke Custis, in return for an annual payment for life to General and Mrs. Washington of £525 or \$2100 silver, which would represent a capital of about \$35,000. When Patsy Custis died in 1773, her estate of \$33,487.15 which had increased to almost double under her stepfather's management was inherited by her mother and brother in equal parts, and Mrs. Washington's share, under the law, became her husband's.

G. W. P. Custis was born April 30, 1781, at Mount Airy, Prince Georges County, Maryland, his maternal grandfather's home, about six months before the death of his father John Parke Custis who had married, February 3, 1774, Eleanor Calvert, the daughter of Benedict Calvert of Maryland; he was the youngest of four children, Elizabeth Parke, who married Thomas Law; Martha Parke, married Thomas Peter; Eleanor (Nelly) (1779-1852) who married, February 22, 1799, Lawrence Lewis, General Washington's nephew. The mother of G. W. P. Custis married a second time, Dr. David Stuart, and had seven children; she died April 28, 1811.

General and Mrs. Washington reared young Custis and his sister Nelly at Mount Vernon, treating them as their own children. The General says in a letter to Lawrence Lewis, September 20, 1799, "from the mo-

ment Mrs. Washington and I *adopted* the two youngest children of the late Mr. Custis," the word "adopted" was used in a popular but not legal sense because there was no provision in English or Virginia law at that time for adoption of a child as we now think of it. In the General's will he refers to G. W. P. Custis as "the grandson of my wife and my ward"; Mrs. Washington, in her will, refers to him as her grandson. The conclusion must be that Washington himself and G. W. P. Custis both used the term "adopted" occasionally in a general and sentimental way, and it must be admitted most appropriately.

The General in his will says "and whereas it has always been my intention, since my expectation of issue having ceased to consider the grandchildren of my wife in the same light as I do my own relations, and to act a friendly part by them, more especially by the two whom we have reared from their earliest infancy, namely Eleanor Parke Lewis, George Washington Parke Custis."

One may observe with considerable amusement the dignified and severe manner in which the General directed the education of the lively young gentleman, not too fond of study, in the letters that passed between them, when the boy was at Princeton, and St. John's, November 15, 1796 to January 22, 1799, and which have been printed in the *Recollections of Washington* edited by Mrs. Lee; like every school boy young Custis had his excuses for inertia. The General was much disturbed by the boy's indolence, and at one time considered his removal to William and Mary College, after his experience at Princeton and St. John's. In a letter to David Stuart, who married the boy's mother, Washington writes, "The more I think of his entering William and Mary, unless he could be placed in the bishop's family, the more I am convinced of its inutility on many accounts." Lossing observes in his edition of the *Recollections*: "The correspondence exhibits the old story of a youth of genius and fortune disappointing the hopes of his friends at College." Mrs. Lee, in her *Memoir* of her father, says that he was the idol of his grandmother, Mrs. Washington; and Nelly, his sister, probably not an unbiased witness, says that he was spoiled by the grandmother. He probably received too much attention from the hundreds of guests and visitors at Mount Vernon. Much might be said, therefore, in defense of a boy of whom so much was expected, and who lived in the stately atmosphere of Mount Vernon under the loving, but strict and positive discipline of so distinguished a foster father. After the death of Mrs. Washington, he began to develop the property of eleven hundred acres near Alexandria, which his father had purchased in 1775 from Gerard Alexander, and

which he named Arlington in honor of the plantation belonging to the Custis family, of Northampton County on the Eastern Shore of Virginia; he inherited, of course, the adjoining paternal estate of Abingdon, subject to the dower right of his mother, Mrs. David Stuart; and in this neighborhood also was the tract of one thousand two hundred acres on Four Mile Run which General Washington had devised to him. As the only son, and according to the law at that time, he inherited all the rest of his father's land, about fifteen thousand acres in different counties in Virginia.

He married in 1804 Mary Lee Fitzhugh (1788-1853) of Chatham, near Falmouth, daughter of William Fitzhugh and Anne Randolph; his only surviving child of four daughters was Mary Anne Randolph Custis (Oct. 1, 1808-Nov. 5, 1873), who was married at Arlington, June 30, 1831 to Robert E. Lee (1807-1870).

Although only a boy of nineteen at the time of the General's death, and conspicuous for not having been energetic and attentive to business, he was named in the will as one of the executors. This trust he seems to have most faithfully performed, and was most thoughtful in the care bestowed upon his grandmother in her remaining years. He served as a volunteer to oppose the British army when it entered Maryland in 1814, and fought at the Battle of North Point as a private soldier. Mr. Custis died October 10, 1857, and was buried at Arlington.

When Mr. Custis accepted the appointment of Counsellor of the American Antiquarian Society in the District of Columbia, Arlington was in the District. He revered the memory of General Washington, and manifested that veneration in his contributions on the General's life, published in the *National Intelligencer* at intervals in a period of thirty years. These were collected and published after his death under the title *Recollections and Private Memoirs of Washington* by G. W. P. Custis of Arlington. Compiled from files of the *National Intelligencer*, Washington, D. C. Printed by William H. Moore. 1859; 105 pages. This work was issued in an enlarged form of 644 pages, in 1860, and 1861, under the general supervision of Mrs. Robert E. Lee, who contributed a memoir of her father, and with copious and most valuable notes by Benson J. Lossing. The letters between the General and his ward, when the boy was at Princeton and St. John's are included in this edition. The *Memoir* by Mrs. Lee is the most intimate and detailed account that we have of her father.

He had some reputation as a playwright, having written *Indian Prophecy*, *Pocahontas*, *The Railroad*, *North Point or Baltimore Defended*,

Eighth of January, and *Pawnee Chief*. Only the first two are extant in print. Although the *Dictionary of American Biography* treats him primarily as a playwright, he has a much more solid basis for consideration in American history as an improver of agriculture, and as the best known and most highly respected citizen of the District of Columbia for half a century. Nearly every distinguished foreigner who travelled in the United States, and the leading public men of this country were welcomed and entertained at his house. He was frequently called upon to address public meetings. The volume on General Washington prepared from his contributions in the *National Intelligencer* has a distinct and permanent value as a source book on the subject.

Some of his leisure he spent in painting scenes of the American Revolution for the walls of his house at Arlington: *The Battle of Trenton*; *The Battle of Monmouth*; *The Battle of Princeton*; *Battle of Germantown*; *Surrender at Yorktown*; *Surrender of British Colors at Yorktown*. These examples of his artistic ability with the exception of one were scattered and presumably destroyed in the course of the occupancy of Arlington by Federal troops in 1861 to 1865; they were not of a high degree of merit, but of considerable value for their detail of features of persons familiar to Custis by observation and by his recollection of the stories of revolutionary patriots. Benson J. Lossing, in an article entitled "Arlington House" in *Harper's Magazine*, vol. 7, 1853, pp. 433-54, reproduces these paintings and describes them. The only one now known to exist is the *Surrender at Yorktown*, General Washington being the central figure, which was for a time in the City Hall of Alexandria; it is now in the George Washington Masonic National Memorial, in Alexandria.

By his will printed in full in the Appendix to Prussing's *Estate of George Washington, Deceased*, Mr. Custis left the Arlington estate to his daughter, Mrs. Robert E. Lee, for her life, the property then to go to his oldest grandson George Washington Custis Lee; to his second grandson, William Henry Fitzhugh Lee, when of age, the estate of White House in New Kent County, of about four thousand acres; to his third grandson, Robert Edward Lee, Jr., the estate Romancoke in King William County, of about four thousand acres; Smith's Island in Northampton County, and all of his lands in Stafford, Richmond and Westmoreland Counties to be sold, in order to pay the legacies to his four granddaughters of \$10,000 each. The White House and Romancoke plantations to be worked and the proceeds to be used to help pay legacies to his granddaughters. After legacies were paid, and the estate clear of debt, then freedom to be given to all of his slaves.

"A genial and accomplished gentleman, simple and modest in demeanor, unswerving in his integrity and friendships, a lover of all that was best in his fellow men and in the institutions of his country. He was such a man as historians ignore but mankind bestows its reverence and affection upon" (Karl Decker and Angus McSween, *Historic Arlington*, 1892, p. 24).

There is an original portrait of Custis, by Samuel Lovett Waldo, in the Corcoran Gallery; a full page reproduction appears in the volume prepared by the United States Quartermaster Corps entitled *Arlington House and Its Associations*, 1932, page 17. There is an engraved portrait, the frontispiece, from an original painting by Gilbert Stuart, in the *Recollections*. A photograph was taken of Mr. Custis, at Arlington House, in 1854, at the age of 73, by Col. B. F. Hawkes of Washington; this has been reproduced in John Ball Osborne's *Story of Arlington*, 1899, page 8.

Congress, by act of March 3, 1883, appropriated \$150,000 for the purchase of the Arlington property. On March 31, 1883, G. W. C. Lee, grandson of G. W. P. Custis, conveyed title to the United States. By joint resolution of Congress, March 4, 1925, the Secretary of War was empowered to undertake the restoration of Arlington House and to put it in the condition it was prior to the War of 1861-1865. In 1929, the Quartermaster Corps began the work of restoration. By executive order, June 10, 1933, Arlington was turned over to the National Park Service, from the War Department. In "U.S. vs. Lee," in 106 *U. S. Supreme Court Reports*, pp. 19-251, the legal complexities of the sale of Arlington are presented; see also Enoch A. Chase, "The Arlington Case Against the United States," in the *Records of the Columbia Historical Society*, vol. 31-2, pp. 175-207.

WRITINGS OF G. W. P. CUSTIS

Letter [December 11, 1804] addressed to the Speaker [of the House of Representatives] enclosing sundry resolutions agreed to by the inhabitants of Alexandria County, relative to the recession of the jurisdiction of that part of the territory of Columbia, which was ceded to the United States by the state of Virginia . . . [Washington, 1804] 6 pages.

An address to the people of the United States, on the importance of encouraging agriculture and domestic manufactures . . . Together with an account of the improvements in sheep at Arlington, the native sheep of Smith's Island, and the plans proposed of extending this valuable race of animals, for the benefit of the country at large . . . Printed by S. Snowden, 1808. 43 pages.

An address occasioned by the death of General Lingan, who was murdered by the mob at Baltimore. Delivered at Georgetown, September 1, 1812. Boston, published by Bradford & Read, 1812. 16 pages. Reprinted in the Appendix to the *Recollections*.

Oration by Mr. Custis, of Arlington; with an account of the funeral solemnities in honor of the lamented Gen. James M. Lingan. Illustrated by notes . . . Washington City, 1812. 36 pages.

The celebration of the Russian victories, in Georgetown, District of Columbia; on the 5th of June, 1813. Including the oration of Mr. Custis and the address of Mr. Harper, etc. Georgetown, D. C. Printed by J. B. Carter, 1813. [57] pages. Reprinted in the Appendix to the *Recollections*.

Oration at the celebration of the Russian victories, June 5, 1813, at Georgetown. Annexed the speech of Robert Goodloe Harper, 1813 [No place of publication, 1813]. 16 pages.

Oration . . . delivered at the celebration of the Russian victories, June 5, 1813. . . . To which is annexed the speech preceding the toast of Robert Goodloe Harper, esq. With the letter of Mr. Daschcoff, the Russian minister, to Mr. Custis, and Mr. Custis' reply. 16 pages.

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Letter to Thomas Carberry in *Magazine of American History*, vol. 13, 1885, p. 583.

There are short contributions by Mr. Custis in vol. 1, p. 380, vol. 2, p. 255, and vol. 7, p. 51, of the *American Farmer*.

Two letters of Mr. Custis in Emmet collection are in the N. Y. Public Library.

In the course of this study of John Custis, there has come to light a remarkable series of letters of G. W. P. Custis to his friend, Mr. Francis Nelson, 1844-1856, concerning the method of farming on the White House plantation. These letters, now deposited in the Library of William and Mary College, add much to our information about Mr. Custis, and especially about his efforts to improve the cultivation of the White House and Arlington plantations.

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