

WASHINGTONIA

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WASHINGTON

The See of Durham was erected into a Palanate by William the Conqueror, and its bishop, as Count Palatine, in addition to its spiritual jurisdiction became possessed of almost royal powers in temporal affairs, being "Lord Warden of the Marches, Lord High Admiral of the adjoining seas, and Conservator of the League," between England and Scotland.

Early in the twelfth century William de Hertburn was possessed of a Knight's fee upon feudal tenure from the bishop. A record of all the lands appertaining to the diocese of Durham in 1185, was made in the "Bolden Book," so called from the parish of Bolden, near Wessyngton, in which it is recited that William of Hertburn had exchanged his village of Hertburn for the manor and village of Wessington, likewise in the diocese.

This was during the episcopacy of Hugh de Puiset, or de Pudsley, a nephew of King Stephen, Archdeacon of Winchester, Chancellor of York, and bishop of Durham, 1153 to 1195. He was buried in the chapter house at Durham.

With the change of estate the family assumed the surname of DeWessington.

The early English annals contain the names of many of the family more or less distinguished in the civil and military lists.

In 1257 the names of Bondo de Wessington and his son William, appear in land grants, and William

Weshington, of Weshington, was one of the loyal Knights who fought for Henry III, in the battle of Lewes, 1264.

In the reign of Edward III, Sir Stephen de Wessynton ran a course at a tournament in 1334, at Dunstable. In 1350, William, Lord of the Manor, was granted license to settle the estate upon himself, his wife, and his own rightful heirs. He died in 1367, and his son, Sir William, succeeded to the manorial rights. During the episcopacy of John Fordham, he was a member of the privy council of the county, and being the last male in line to which the inheritance of the manor was limited, he was the last of the family to render feudal service to the bishop. His only daughter and heiress, Dionisia, married Sir William Temple, to whose family the estate passed. The seal of William De Wessynton, showing the stars and bars of the Washingtons, is seen attached to a deed dated 1360.

The church had a distinguished prelate in the person of John De Wessynton, who was elected in 1416 prior of the Benedictine Convent, associated with the cathedral of Durham. He successfully contended that the priors of Durham were entitled to be invested with the dignity of Abbots, and as such he presided in 1426, at the general chapter of the Benedictine order, held at Northampton. He died in 1446, having filled the Abbot's chair for thirty years.

The last home of this family, "Washington Hall," in Durham County, England, was sold some years since, with adjoining grounds, for about two thousand dollars. The building dates from the first part of the seventeenth century, and was erected by William James, bishop of Durham. The Washington family occupied the old manor for five centuries before the

hall was built, and the property is mentioned in the Domesday Book.

Originally the name Washington meant "Creek—Meadow Town."

Dodworth, M. S., gives account of the Washington arms and family.

"Miles" A. D., 1306, was son of Willelmi Domini de Wessyngton, and he is one of the witnesses to a charter of Richard, bishop of Durham, 1311, in which he is styled Dno Waltero de Wessington.

There is little doubt that the estates of these Washingtons named the present village of Washington in Durham.

Their earliest Coat of Arms, are :

"Gul. on a bare argt. 3 cinque foiles of ye first."

When Wessington changed to Weshynton, the Arms are :

"G. on a fesse sa. 3 mullets g."

With the first appearance of Washington the Arms are :

"Argt. 2 barrs and in chief 3 molets gules."

The last have remained the Washington Arms for several centuries ; the eagle and the raven being bourne as the crests, together with the coronet and helmet.

In various parts of England the " Washington Arms" are found in parish churches and manor houses, many in a good state of preservation.

At Faulsley church, county of Northampton, are six shields connected with the Washington family, also two at Weston, severally impaling Kitson, Pargiter, Lighte, Butler, Meuce, and other names partially obliterated. At Wickamford, near Eversham, within the

altar rails of the church, may be seen graven on the flat stone and well preserved, the Washington Arms, to the memory of Penelope, daughter of Col. Henry Washington, who was an officer in the royalist army at Bristol, in 1643. She was buried February 27, 1697.

In the church at Garsden, county of Wilts, is the monument of Sir Lawrence Washington, Knight, surmounted by an oval shield, of the arms of Washington and Lewyn. In his mansion at Garsden, the family arms were carved on the mantle pieces. His wife was Anne Lewyn.

In Dorset there was a family of Lawrence, originally from the north of England, who quartered the name of Washington, and it is therefore almost certain that the alliance took place in early times, and in this manner the name Lawrence was adopted into the family and became so common in the several generations.

LINEAGE.

1. JOHN WASHINGTON, of Whitfield, county Lancashire.

2. ROBERT WASHINGTON, of Warton, county Lancashire, Gent., second son, married daughter, of Westfield. It is said that Warton was originally called Weshington.

3. JOHN WASHINGTON, of Warton, married Margaret, daughter of Robert Kitson, sister to Sir Thomas Kitson, Knight.

4. LAWRENCE WASHINGTON, of Northampton, county of Northampton. He was of Gray's Inn, Mayor of Northampton, 1532, 1545, and was one of the original trustees of the Northampton Free Grammar School, named in the Thomas Chipseys deed of foundation 1541; to him in 1538-9, the Manor of Sulgrave, with lands lately belonging to the dissolved priories of St. Andrew, Canons, Ashby and Catesby were granted by the King.

Sulgrave, situated about fourteen miles from Northampton, remained in the family until 1610, three generations having possession, and it was commonly called the Washington Manor.

The house now in ruins, was probably built by him soon after the acquisition of the estate. He died February 19, 1583-4, and was interred in Sulgrave Church, where is seen this inscription on a brass plate affixed to a gray slab of Horton stone. His wife was

Amee, daughter of Robert Pargiter, of Gretworth, Northampton, Gent. She died October 7, 1564.

“Here lyeth buried ye bodys of
Lawrence Washington Gent.,
& Amee his wyf by whom he
had issue liij sons & vij daught^r
We Lawrence Dyed ye day
of ano 15 & Amee deceased
the vi of October An^o Dni 1564.”

It is evident that the husband put down the monument after his wife's decease, in 1564, and left space for the date of his own death, but was not recorded on the brass by his successor.

The effigy of Lawrence Washington is draped in a loose gown or overcoat, open in front, with pendant sleeves, bordered with fur, under which he wears a frock coat fastened up to the throat and confined by a girdle. The hands are in the attitude of prayer. The shoes are of the broad-toed form common at this period.

The four sons are dressed in frock coats, knee breeches, hose, and broad-toed shoes, and each has at his side a gipciere suspended by a girdle.

The daughters are in long gowns confined by girdles, and in close-fitting caps.

Above the main figures is a shield of the family coat of arms. The brass plate of the wife, and the head of the husband were long since abstracted, and no trace of them has ever been discovered.

The estate of Sulgrave manor now comprises 213 acres of land used for farming purposes.

Robert Washington, son of Lawrence, in 1606, left Sulgrave with his eldest son, Lawrence, and took possession of a cottage at Little Brington, near Althorpe Park, the seat of the Spencers, about six

miles from Northampton. It still remains and is visited by many pilgrims.

The church "Saint Mary the Virgin," at Brington, contains two tombstones of the Washingtons.

The one in the chancel covers the grave of Lawrence Washington, who died in 1616; the other in the nave marking the last resting place of Elizabeth and Robert Washington, who died in 1622.

Below the inscription on the latter stone there is a brass shield let into the slab, which represents the Washington family escutcheon :

"Argent, two bars gules, in chief, three mullets of the second."

The same arms are also found on the spandrills of the arch over the main entrance to the Sulgrave Manor house, and on a sun dial found more recently in the garden of the Brington cottage, dated 1617, with initials R. W.

EPITAPHS.

“ Here lieth the bode of Lawrence
Washington sonne and heire of
Robert Washington of Sulgrave
in the Countie of Northampton
Esquire, who married Margaret,
the eldest daughter of William
Butler of Tees in the Countie
of Sussex, Esquire, who had Issue
by her 8 sons and 9 daughters
which Lawrence, deceased the
13 of December, A. Dni. 1616 ”

“ Those that by chance or choice
Of this past sight
Know life to Death resigns
As Daye to night;
But as the sunns restore
Revive the Day
So Christ shall us
Though turnde to Dust and Clay.”

“ Here lies interred ye Bodies
of Elizab Washington, widdowe, who changed
this life for immortalite ye 19
of March 1622.
As also ye Body of Robert
Washington, Gent. Her late
Husband, second sonne of
Robert Washington of Sulgrave
in ye county of North, Esq.
Who deputed this life ye 10 of
March, 1622 after they lived
lovingly together many years
in this parish.”

5. ROBERT WASHINGTON was of Sulgrave, and jointly with his son, Lawrence, sold the manor in 1610, and settled in Brington. He married Elizabeth, daughter and heiress of Robert Lighte, of Radway, county of Warwick.

Over the door of the cottage at Brington is found this inscription :

“ The Lord giveth the Lord taketh away
Blessed be the name of the Lord.
Constrvta 1606.”

6. LAWRENCE WASHINGTON, of Sulgrave and Brington, born 1546, died December 13, 1616, at Brington.

He married August 3, 1588, Margaret, eldest daughter of William Butler of Tighes, Sussex, England.

The parish register of the church “ Saint Leonard,” at Aston-le Walls, County of Northampton, a few miles from Sulgrave, contains this entry, recently discovered :

“Anno Regine Elizabeth Tricessimo Nuptie facte sunt inter Laurencium Washington gen ; et Margaretam Butler tercic die August ij anno predicto.”

The old Manor at Aston-le-Walls, came into possession of the Suttons from Robert de Lexington, Baron of Toxford, about A. D. 1250, and was held by them until A. D. 1500. At this date the Sutton Dudleys cease to be patrons, and John Butler, Gent., holds the advowson, and inducts George Duddley LL.D., 1539, who was uncle to Mr. John Butler's wife. John Dudley had Aston-le-Walls by gift of his brother, Sir Edward Lord Dudley, K. G. He married a daughter of Charroll, and his daughter, Margery, married John

Butler. The parish has a population of 160. The western porch and Norman tower of the church dates from the 15th century, and having fallen in decay, is now being restored. The relationship between John Butler of Aston-le-Walls and William Butler of Tighes, Sussex, has not been discovered.

7. LAWRENCE WASHINGTON is described in the Heraldic Visitation of Northamptonshire, of 1618, as son of Ldwrence Washington of Sulgrave, afterwards of Brington, who died in 1616. He matriculated at Brasenose College, Oxford, when nineteen years of age ; having been previously entered as "the son of a gentleman Northants ;" and was elected to a close (Northamptonshire) Fellowship, 1624. In 1632-3, he obtained a country living in Essex, on the presentation of Mrs. Jane Horsmanden, and resigned his Fellowship the latter year, apparently because of his marriage with one Amphillis, whose surname is unknown. At Purleigh, in Essex, he remained Rector, until deprived of the benefice under the Commonwealth, 1643, "for no other reason than because he was a loyal person, and had one of the best benefices in these parts." Subsequently he was allowed to accept a "Poor and Miserable living."

Amphillis ——— afterwards Mrs. Washington, was connected with Middle Claydon, near Oxford, and with Tring.

She is supposed to have been the sister of the wife of William Roades, and their mother married Mr. Andrew Knowling as her second husband.

Amphillis ——— married in the year 1633, as her eldest son, John, who was probably 21 years of age before the 8th of February, 1655, when he took

out letters of administration. The name of the husband of Amphillas Washington appears in the Registers at Tring Church, where three of her children were baptized, as Mr. Larrance Washington.

Mr. Lawrence Washington was buried at Maldon, 21st January, 1652. Mrs. Washington was buried at Tring, 19th January, 1654. Both parents being dead, John Washington, eldest son of Lawrence and Amphillis Washington took out letters of administration 8th February, 1655, on his mother's property.

8. COLONEL JOHN WASHINGTON, born in England between 1631 and 4, emigrated to Virginia in 1657.

“He brought with him the Coat of Arms which transferred into the flag of a mighty nation, should float over every sea as far and as proudly as the blended crosses of St. Andrew and St. George.”

He married in Virginia in 1659-60; Ann, daughter of Lieut.-Col. Nathaniel Pope, and widow of Walter Bradhurst. He was Justice of the Peace in 1662, and in 1675, as Colonel, commanded the troops in an expedition against the Indians. He was elected a member of the Colonial Assembly, about which time his wife, Ann, died. The Parish in which he lived was called after him,

His will was dated February 26, 1675-6, and proved January 10, 1677-8. He divided his large estate among his children, Lawrence, John and Ann.

9. LAWRENCE WASHINGTON was born at Bridges Creek, Virginia, 1659-60, and March, 1690, married Mildred, daughter of Col. Augustine Warner of Gloucester County, Virginia. He died in March, 1697-8. She died in England, January 30, 1700-1, and was

buried at St. Nicholas Whitehaven, County Cumberland.

10. AUGUSTINE WASHINGTON was born in 1694, and March 6, 1730-1, married Mary, daughter of Col. Joseph Ball, of Virginia, born 1706. He died April 12, 1743. She died August 26, 1789.

Augustine, with his brother John, was taken to England by their mother, Mildred, and placed in a grammar school at Appleby, where the two boys remained until 1715, when they returned to Virginia. Augustine inherited the 400 acres of land lying in Mattox, known as "Wakefield Tract," his birthplace.

NOTE.—Augustine Washington, by his first wife, Jane Butler, had children, viz:

- I. Butler, born 1716, died young.
 - II. Lawrence, born 1718, died July 26, 1752. Married July 19, 1743, Anne Fairfax.
 - III. Augustine, born 1720, married Anne Aylett.
 - IV. Jane, born 1722, died January 17, 1735. By second wife, Mary Ball, had
 - V. George, born February 11, 1732.
 - VI. Elizabeth, born June 20, 1734, died March 31, 1797, married Col. Fielding Lewis.
 - VII. Samuel, born November 18, 1733, died 1781. Married 1st, Jane Champe. 2d, Mildred Thornton. 3d, Lucy Chapman. 4th, Anne (Steptoe) Alleton. 5th, Widdow Perrin.
 - VIII. John Augustine, born January 13, 1736, died February, 1787. Married Hannah Bushrod.
 - IX. Charles, born May 2, 1738. Married Mildred Thornton.
 - X. Mildred, born June 21, 1739, died October 23, 1740.
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11. GEORGE WASHINGTON was born (according to the entry in his mother's Bible, now preserved at Mount Vernon) "George Washington, son to Augustine and Mary his wife, was born y^e 11 Day of February 1732, about 10 in the morning, and was baptized the 3d of April following."

He married January 6, 1759, Martha, daughter of John Dandridge, and widow of Daniel Parke Curtis.

He died (s. p.) December 14, 1799. She died May 21, 1801, Aet. 70.

He was the first President of the United States of America, and was inaugurated April 30, 1789.

“The Republic may perish; the wide arch of our varied Union may fall; star by star its glories may expire; stone by stone its columns and its capitol may moulder and crumble; all other names which adorn its annals may be forgotten; but as long as human hearts shall anywhere plead for a true rational constitutional liberty, those hearts shall enshrine the memory and those tongues prolong the fame of George Washington.”

“ The Defender of his Country, the
 Founder of Liberty,
 A Friend of Man,
History and Tradition are Explored
 in Vain
For a Parallel to his Character.
In the Annals of Modern Greatness
 He Stands Alone,
And the Noblest Names of Antiquity
 Lose their Lustre in his presence.
Born the Benefactor of Mankind
He united all the Qualities Necessary
 To an Illustrious Career.
Nature made him Great.
He made himself Virtuous.
Called by his Country to the Defence
 of her Liberties,
He Triumphantly Vindicated the Rights
 of Humanity
And on the Pillars of National Independance
Laid the Foundations of a Great Republic.
Twice invested with Supreme Magistracy
By the Unanimous Voice of a Free People
 He surpassed in the Cabinet
 The Glories of the Field,
And voluntarily resigning the Sceptre
 and the Sword
Retired to the Shades of Private Life.
A Spectacle so new and so sublime
Was Contemplated with the Profoundest
 Admiration;
And the name of Washington,
Adding new Lustre to Humanity,
Resounded to the Remotest Regions of
 the Earth,
Magnanimous in Youth,
Glorious through Life
Great in Death.
His highest Ambition the Happiness of
 Mankind,
His noblest Victory the Conquest of Himself.
Bequeathing to Posterity the Inheritance
 of his Fame,
And building his Monument in the Hearts
 of his Countrymen,
He lived the Ornament of the Eighteenth
 Century.
He died regretted by a Mourning World.”

