

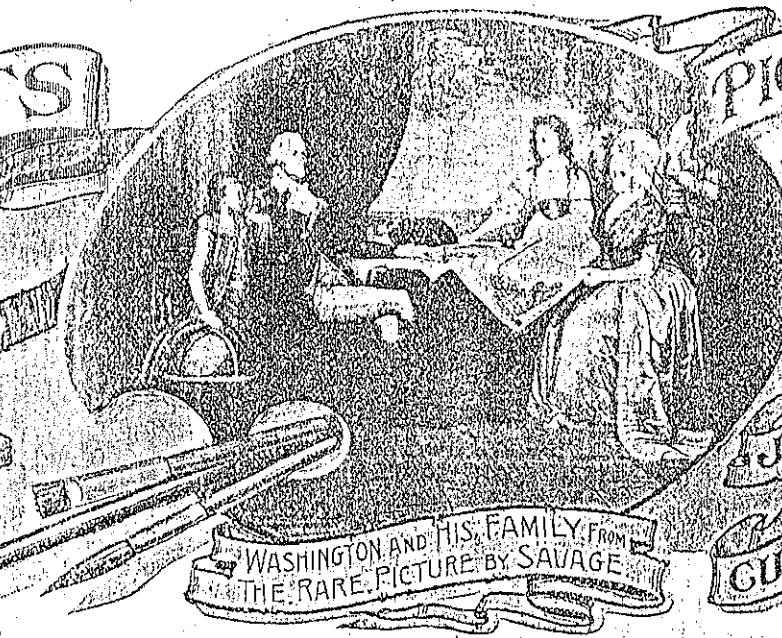
HOW ARTISTS



BUST BY JEAN ANTOINE HOUDON.



A DUTCH WASHINGTON PAINTED ON GLASS.



WASHINGTON AND HIS FAMILY FROM THE RARE PICTURE BY SAUVAGE.

PICTURED WASHINGTON



BY J. OLIVIER AND H. GURWOOD.

CRAYON BY CHARLES DE ST. MEMIN.



ENGLISH PICTURE SHOWING WASHINGTON AS A DANCING MASTER.



IF THE fifteen million boys in America should devote a whole week to reading the most thrilling stories of fiction, no story would be found more filled with tales of stirring adventure, humorous incidents and brave deeds than the true history of George Washington, whose one hundred and seventy-third birthday will be celebrated on the twenty-second day of this month; and because of his wonderful exploits, few men have been more ridiculously painted and described by early artists and historians than this man, whose first real adventure was the cutting down of a cherry tree in his father's yard.

Pirate, slaveholder, gambler, sea-admiral, dunce and dancing-master are a few of the terms which were used to describe George Washington, the patriot and hero, by some of the men who lived in his day. These terms were not coupled with his name through hatred, but simply out of ignorance. In the days when Washington was supplying one-half of the moral courage of the Continental army at Valley Forge, there were thousands of people living in foreign countries who regarded him as an adventurer and an outlaw. Imagination could hardly conceive more picturesque stories than those which gained credence in certain parts of some countries. Some writers even went so far as to describe him as half Indian. Others thought he was a sea fighter, and in parts of France he was regarded as a pirate. There was a time when hundreds of thousands of people looked upon him as a crazy man. But in a very few years, George Washington demonstrated just what he was to the whole world, and that is why every schoolboy and girl in the United States is going to celebrate his birthday a few weeks hence.

Of, course, all the stories of those days made their impressions upon the minds of artists as well as writers, for in those early times it took years to dispel even rumors. The result was some very remarkable pictures of Washington, which have been handed down to the present day.

One of the most interesting of these pictures Washington as a dancing-master. It is a fact that Washington was a very fine dancer. His fame as such spread all through the colonies, and no doubt it was carried in a gossipy sort of a way to England. Anyway, an English artist made him out a dancing-master on canvas, and not a good one at that, but a bow-legged fellow, with a stomach that seemed too full for his vest, and a forehead that receded most amazingly.

When he was a boy of sixteen, and brimming over with a love of adventure, George longed to become the captain of a ship, and to fight the enemies of England on the sea. Like many boys of today, that had long been his ambition, and when his half-brother, Lawrence Washington, went to serve as a captain under Admiral Vernon, after whom Mount Vernon was named, it looked as though the boy would achieve that ambition. Soon after this, George was offered a midshipman's commission, but Mrs. Washington shattered his air castles by declaring that he should never go to sea. Years after, when George Washington had become one of the most famous men in the world, it was supposed by many that he had really served under Admiral Vernon, and that he instructed the captains of the American ships during the War of Independence. Several pictures of him were painted, representing him as a sea-fighter, and the most famous of these is that shown above, for which a British admiral posed. But the picture was supposed by many to paint



PAINTED
**QUAINT ENGLISH PICTURE
 FOR WHICH A FAMOUS ADMIRAL POSED
 AND WHICH REPRESENTS WASHINGTON AS A SEAFIGHTER**



**PORTRAIT
 BY EDWARD SAVAGE**



**THE WIDOW CUSTIS AS SHE LOOKED
 WHEN WASHINGTON LED HER TO THE
 ALTAR. FROM A RARE OLD PAINTING**

When he was a boy of sixteen, and brimming over with a love of adventure, George longed to become the captain of a ship, and to fight the enemies of England on the sea. Like many boys of today, that had long been his ambition, and when his half brother, Lawrence Washington, went to serve as a captain under Admiral Vernon, after whom Mount Vernon was named, it looked as though the boy would achieve that ambition. Soon after this, George was offered a midshipman's commission, but Mrs. Washington shattered his air castles by declaring that he should never go to sea. Years after, when George Washington had become one of the most famous men in the world, it was supposed by many that he had really served under Admiral Vernon, and that he instructed the captains of the American ships during the War of Independence. Several pictures of him were painted, representing him as a sea-fighter, and the most famous of these is that shown above, for which a British admiral posed. But the picture was supposed by many to point to only half of the truth. After Washington had won the independence of the colonies, there were, of course, thousands of stories and anecdotes told about him all over the world, just as there are about great men of today, such as Dewey and Mark Twain. It was said that in his very early years he was a wild fellow, fond of gambling and vice, and that for a short time, under an assumed name, he commanded a pirate ship. It took a good bit of imagination to transform a dancing-master into a pirate, or vice versa, but thousands of the people of the eighteenth century did it, and more, too.

Every boy who reads history knows that for many years before the War of Independence young George Washington was a true subject of King George, and several times nearly lost his life in fighting for him. In those days he became the bitter enemy of the French. Later, when Lafayette came over to aid the American cause, there was a faction in France which revolted against aiding the struggling colonies, although their own country was at war with England. Among these people, of course, Washington was described at his worst, and many caricatures of him were drawn by artists of that day. They even went so far as to describe him as a dolt and a dunce. In the French picture shown above, he is painted as a weak, narrow-chested man, with just about as much character showing in his face as one might expect in one who is weak-minded.

But the funniest story about Washington that ever gained credence was one born in Holland, which declared that he was a Dutchman, and at least half of the old Dutch pictures of the great patriot gave him Dutch features. This story may have originated from the fact that Washington was a great friend of Jacob Van Braem, a Dutch soldier of fortune, who made a romantic reputation in the new world, and who afterward played his part in the history and fiction of Holland. In fact, Washington was not only the friend and chum of Van Braem, but for a long time studied military tactics and strategy under him. One writer even went so far as to hint that Washington was a Dutchman under an assumed name.

On the other hand, no man that ever lived has had more attention paid to him by famous artists than George Washington. Men have lived who have spent years in the study of the patriot, of his ways of living, and of his morals and religion, that they might not fail in picturing the true Washington. One of these men was John Trumbull, and another was Edward Savage. Savage even went so far as to make a long study of Washington's family, and his group picture is the most famous ever painted.

The bust of Washington by Jean Antoine Houdon, and the crayon by Charles De St. Mehin are thought to be the two best profiles of the patriot ever made. But above all these, probably the two pictures most interesting to the younger generation of Americans are those which show Washington and the beautiful "Widow Custis" at the time of their courtship, and when Washington had yet his name to make.



**WASHINGTON'S WEDDING.
 FROM A SCARCE PRINT.**



SHOWING
**FRENCH PICTURE
 WASHINGTON AS A MAN SHOWING
 PHYSIQUE AND EXPRESSIONLESS FEATURES.**



**BY JOHN TRUMBULL
 WASHINGTON**



**WASHINGTON AS HE APPEARED ABOUT THE TIME
 OF HIS MARRIAGE. FROM FIRST
 AUTHENTIC PORTRAIT, BY C. WILSON PEALE**