

A WASHINGTON TOKEN.

BY WILLIAM C. WELLS.



HALFPENNY TOKEN OF JOHN WASHINGTON OF PETWORTH.

AT the present time, when England and the United States are preparing to celebrate the century of peace between the two nations, and the Manor House of Sulgrave, Northamptonshire, the old home of the Washingtons, has been acquired by the Anglo-American Peace Centenary Committee as a permanent memorial of this great occasion, we welcome any new contribution to the knowledge we already possess concerning the English family connections of President Washington; especially if that contribution be of a numismatic character.

At the head of this article appears an illustration of a token, hitherto unrecorded, and of which I am unaware of the existence of any other specimen. It was issued *circa* 1650-60, at Petworth, Sussex, and may be described as follows:—

Obverse.—IOHN. WASHINGTON.=A pack-horse walking to left.

Reverse.—IN. PETWORTH. CARRIER.=HIS HALF PENNY.

It was formerly in the collection of Mr. Frank E. Macfadyen, and is now in my possession.

To enable the reader to understand exactly how John Washington, the issuer of this token, was connected with George Washington's ancestors, it will be necessary to give a brief outline of the history of that family.

Their name was, originally, Bayard, or Baird. A member of this family came over with the Conqueror in 1066, and we learn from the *Liber Niger* that Godfrey Bayard, or Baiard, a descendant of the companion of the Conqueror, *temp.* Henry II., held a barony in Northumberland in 1165. In the same reign William de Hertburn, son of Godfrey Bayard, appears to have obtained the manors of Hertburn and Washington in the county of Durham. It was usual, at that time, for all but the main stock to drop the ancestral name, and adopt that of their territory; and William Bayard therefore became "de Hertburn." It was probably a son of his who first assumed the name of Washington.

The main branch of the Washington family afterwards removed to Whitfield, Lancashire, and about the middle of the fifteenth century we find that John Washington of Whitfield had two sons, John, who inherited the Whitfield estate, and Robert, who settled at Warton, Lancashire. Robert Washington had two sons, the eldest of whom, John, had five sons, the eldest of whom, Lawrence, settled at Northampton, where he soon became a prominent citizen, and was chosen mayor in 1532, and again in 1545. On the dissolution of the monasteries, he obtained from King Henry VIII. a grant of the manor of Sulgrave, Northamptonshire, which had been alienated from the Priory of St. Andrew, Northampton.

Lawrence Washington died in 1583-4, and was succeeded by his eldest son, Robert, who was twice married. By his first wife he had six sons, of whom the eldest was Lawrence, and the second was Robert. By his second wife he had three sons, one of whom was also named Robert, and of him more later.

Robert Washington of Sulgrave was succeeded by his eldest son, Lawrence, who died in 1616. A younger son of the last named Lawrence was the Rev. Lawrence Washington, Rector of Purleigh, Essex, whose eldest son, John, emigrated to Virginia, in 1657, and was the great-grandfather of George Washington, the first President of the United States.

To return to Robert, son of Robert Washington of Sulgrave, by his second wife. Very little is known of him and, so far as I can discover, the late Mr. Waters, the eminent American genealogist, alone

of the numerous enquirers into the Washington family history, has made mention of him.

He was probably born at Sulgrave, but the date of his birth cannot now be ascertained, as the Sulgrave parish register for the early part of the seventeenth century does not exist. He appears to have settled at Petworth, Sussex, but I have not yet found evidence that his children, who included John, the issuer of the token, and Robert, were born there.

In the possession of a collector at Boston, U.S.A., is a deed, dated May the 2nd, 1674, between John Shotter of Midhurst, Sussex, mercer, of the one part, and Robert Washington the younger of Petworth, currier, of the other part. For £140, Shotter sells to Robert Washington the messuage called the "Haws" (?), in Petworth, "now occupied by one Robert Washington the elder," adjoining the beast-market on the west, and South Street on the south. I have not seen the deed, and the transcript in my possession describes Robert Washington as a currier, but in the light of the token, which describes his brother John as a carrier, it is very possible that the transcriber erred, and that Robert, also, was a carrier.

Margaret Sandys, widow, sister to the Rev. Lawrence Washington, Rector of Purleigh, in her will, made in 1673 and proved in 1675, gives to "my uncle Robert Washington, five pounds"; and in 1676, Mrs. Elizabeth Mewce, another sister, mentions her uncle Robert in her will as then living. These entries help us to identify Robert, son of Robert Washington of Sulgrave, and uncle to Mrs. Sandys, and Mrs. Mewce, with "Robert Washington the elder," who resided at Petworth in 1674, and was the father of John Washington, the issuer of the token.

I recently made a somewhat hurried search of the Petworth parish register, and found the following entries relating to John Washington and his family:—

- 1641. "John Washington & Dorath(y) Whatly, June 20." (*Marriage.*)
- 1644. "Ann, filia John Washinton, Nov. 27." (*Baptism.*)
- 1648. "Dorothy, [daughter] of John Washington, Sep. 10." "
- 1652. "Alice, d. of John Washington, June 13." "

- 1657, April. "Oliver, son of John Washington, the 23th." (*sic*) (*Baptism.*)
 1665, August. "John ye sonne of John Washington ye 28th." "
 1665, September. "Eliz. ye da. of Joh : Washington, ye 20." (*Burial.*)
 1667, November. "James, ye so : of John Washington, ye 1." (*Baptism.*)
 1672-3, February. "John Washington & Ann Sheryer, ye 8." (*Marriage.*)
 1673, November. "Eliz. ye Da. of John Washington, 23." (*Baptism.*)
 1675-6, February. "Margret, Da. of John Washington, ye 7." "
 1675-6, March. Ye Da. of John Washington, 31." (*Burial.*)
 1676, July. "John Washington ye 2th." (*sic*) "
 1677, December. "Eliz. ye Da. of John Washington ye 9." (*Baptism.*)
 1679, August. "Olive[r] Washington buried the 29th."
 1679, December. "Mary Washington Baptized ye 21."
 1681-2, February. "Dorothy Washington buried in wollen 21."
 1682-3, January. "Isaac Washington Buried in wollen ye 21th." (*sic*)
 1683, October. "Mary Washington Buried in woollen ye 4th."
 1684, June. "John Washington Buried in woollen the 10th."
 1685, April. "Elizabeth Washington Buried in woolen the 24th."
 1686-7, March. "Timothie Washington Buried in woolen the 18th."
 1689, November. "Elizabeth Washington Buried in woollen ye 23."
 1694, October. "Anne Washington Buried in woollen the 23."

On the following page sufficient of the pedigree of the Washington family is reproduced to show the connection of the Petworth branch.

THE WASHINGTONS OF NORTHAMPTONSHIRE, SUSSEX AND VIRGINIA.



