

When the Silhouette Was Popular

A Sketch of Washington's Time

By WALTER J. JAMES

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IN Washington's day there was no such art as photography to preserve the likenesses of the great and the humble. Not for the painters of portraits in all the features of the Father of His Country and the other important figures of his time would have been lost to posterity. There existed, however, one poor makeshift or substitute for the photograph. That was the silhouette. Washington, Franklin, Jefferson, Thomas Paine and other illustrious builders of the republic are preserved to us in silhouette, and, even though there had been no painters to portray their likenesses, these simple makeshifts would have given us a fairly adequate representation of their profiles.

The silhouette, however, is older than the American republic. It originated in 1767. Etienne de Silhouette, a Parisian banker, was responsible for both the name and thing. Personally, however, he had nothing to do with it. The good monsieur was made minister of finance for the French monarchy in 1767. Finances were in a very bad condition. French war and incompetent ministers had not to speak of inordinate extravagances throughout the king's court, had reduced France to a pitiable state.

Banker Silhouette was called to the financial ministry in the hope of solving the problem of extracting France from her poverty. He was wise and prudent. He believed in saving rather than in extravagance. He urged economy upon all the government officials, as well upon the government officials. This was too much for the reckless, plunging aristocracy. The high flies of French society began to loud and long, and they determined to carry out M. de Silhouette's advice by a resort to burlesque. Accordingly they commenced by wearing coats without folds or ruffles, casting about for some material of plain wood and wearing hats without plumes. Those who had been patronizing portrait painters turned to the "shadow picture" or other ridicule. The shadow picture was the profile cast by the subject on a wall by a certain arrangement of the lamp. The tracing of this shadow outline and its cutting out in black paper and pasting on a wall by a certain arrangement of the lamp. The tracing of this shadow outline and its cutting out in black paper and pasting on a wall by a certain arrangement of the lamp.

The very first shadow photograph ever made in the world, Miss Dorothy Catherine Draper of New York, the subject, was taken by Professor John W. Draper in 1840, and it was nearly twenty years before the shadow photograph became really popular. Thus the modern silhouette, that may be termed the poor man's picture, until times well within the memory of many persons now living.

Today the silhouette is not a curiosity. At some of the summer resorts, at county fairs and expositions, an occasional silhouette artist may be seen rapidly cutting the profile of a young sweetheart or yourself for a little fee. He probably knows little or nothing of the history of the silhouette and the pretty maiden who merely accepts and treasures her profile in black on a white ground as a "souvenir" of the occasion is unaware that such "souvenir" is a "souvenir" for their silhouettes generations before the amateur photographer infested the earth, with his propensity for taking snapshots at everything, from a poor pup to a president.

The Many Sided Washington

By WALTON WILLIAMS

THAT Washington was very well off in this world's goods is a matter of common knowledge. The fact that he was exceedingly shrewd and thrifty in business matters is not so widely known. He inherited much property, and he increased it by careful management. Washington was indeed a many-sided man. He could conquer a king or increase a corn-crop with the same fidelity to detail. He looked closely after the details in farming as well as in fighting, and therein lay the secret of his success in both these professions.

"Letters and Recollections of George Washington," published by Doubleday, Page & Co., reveals the business side of his life in a manner calculated to convince the reader that the Father of His Country was a likely man to be a landlord. It required a mighty lively imagination to cheat George Washington in a business deal. He was an able judge of men and a shrewd analyzer of motives. In a few words he could delineate the character of a statesman or draw a correct picture of a servant, and he looked after his servants, both employed and slaves, from the head overseer on his plantation to the ugliest scullion in his kitchen.

The letters mentioned were written by Washington to his private secretary, Tobias Lear, a young man from New Hampshire, who occupied that confidential post during the last sixteen years of the great man's life. In a letter written from "George Town" early in 1791 Washington includes several other letters, one of which he mentions thus:

Another letter from Colo. Cannon which I may venture to say never him to do what I will not call him, and that I need never look any rent from him. I have told you to say to him, if he does come to Philadelphia during my absence that his estate should give at New York, does not justify his present report and price of grain & the demand for it last year in his own neighborhood, to be increased upon by such sale as his letter exhibits. In a word I mean that I am by no means satisfied with his treatment of me.

It is well known that Washington provided in his will for the liberation of his slaves after the death of his widow. While he lived, however, he took good care to see that his slaves were kept properly and that they did not permit dreams of liberty to disturb their equilibrium. When the capital of the nation was removed to Philadelphia, Washington took a number of slaves from his Mount Vernon estate to serve in the presidential mansion, a house rented by the president. It appears from the following remarks in a letter to Mr. Lear from Richmond that Washington was worried lest some of his negroes might obtain their liberty under Pennsylvania's laws:

The Attorney General's case and mine I somewhat in conversation I had with him respecting our slaves, is some what different. He is in order to qualify himself for practice in the Courts of Pennsylvania, was obliged to take the Oath of Citizenship in that State; which, of course, is identical as an Officer of Government only, but whether among people where there is no colour of law for it, this distinction will avail. I know, and therefore, but you will take the last advice you can on the subject, and if you find any of your slaves may, or any for them shall attempt their freedom at the expiration of the term, it is my wish and desire that you would send the whole or such part of them as Mrs. Washington may choose to keep home, for although I do not think they would be benefited by the change, yet the idea of freedom might be too great a temptation for them to resist. If any of them are to be sent, they had better be sent to a State of Slavery. As all except Hester, and the negroes I have mentioned, believe me to prevent the emancipation of them, otherwise I shall not only lose the use of them, but may have them to pay for. If you taking good and ample security to send them back to Virginia, I wish to have it accompanied under protest that they do not belong to me and the Public and none of them should so eventually do this, as Mrs. Washington's coming to Virginia next month, she will do the middle or latter end of it, so she should to live, or to do if she can, and avoid which it by the most prudent and agreeable means, with the assistance of Miss Hester & Co. They would naturally bring her mind and spirit and her own under the same, remaining here to see what we require there, might be sent on in the autumn. Whether there is occasion for this or not according to the result of your enquiries, or issue the thing as it may, I leave that to your discretion and this advice.

Physical Culture Class. Prof. Bushnell, a graduated teacher of physical culture from the central Y. M. C. A. Chicago was here Monday evening to organize a class in physical culture for young members of the local Y. M. C. A. Tuesday has been chosen for the work which will begin with callisthenics on Monday evenings. The young ladies, some fifteen in all, are arranging to meet Tuesday evenings for the same work. With Miss Cora Ellison, one of the teachers, as president of the class. There may also be a junior class for boys.

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Honey Lake

Miss Elizabeth Jacobson went to Elgin Tuesday to make a two week's visit with friends.

Andrew Hayes, Theodore and Glen Maynard, Hurl and Walter Gossel worked at the ice-harvest.

Mrs. William Hall who has been seriously ill is around again.

Mrs. Reno is home from a Chicago hospital quite improved in health.

Miss Edna Gossel spent a few days at Lake's Corners last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Melners who went to attend the funeral of Mr. Melners father at Kaneville, Illinois, have returned home. Mr. Melners, Sr. died February 12 and the funeral was held the following Thursday. He was one of the oldest settlers of Kane county.

Wedding bells will soon be heard near here.

William Blue, Jr., of Chicago, made a short visit at Woodlake farm Sunday.

While working at Zurich Saturday Oscar Maynard strained his back severely and was attended by Dr. Dawson of Waukegan.

Messrs. Grace and Jordan have filled their ice-houses from Honey Lake.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. August Altenberg a son, weighing twelve pounds. All are doing well.

Martin Biderski has sold his fine team of iron grays.

Charles Maynard made a trip to Dundee Saturday, returning Monday.

Our school is quite small at present on account of the prevalence of mumps among the children.

Mrs. Harold Sprague and daughter, accompanied by her brother, left Wednesday for South Dakota, after making an extended visit with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Godfrey Neumann.

Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Jones, of Genoa, Illinois, spent a few days at Cozy Nook poultry farm last week, returning home Sunday evening.

Lake Zurich.

H. Smith spent Sunday at Carpentersville.

Mrs. Henry Seip is ill.

Mrs. C. Hokeneyer of Gilmer, a nurse, is caring for Mrs. William Rickness who has a serious attack of influenza.

A. Froelich, F. Roney and L. Gary transacted business in Chicago Monday.

Norman Ladd of Waukegan was here Sunday evening.

Miss Rosa Scholz of Lake Forest spent Sunday at her home here.

Miss Lydia Hokeneyer of Gilmer visited her sister here Sunday.

Miss Annie Scholz visited in Chicago Saturday and Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Pugh and Mr. and Mrs. F. Pugh attended a surprise party at Henry Kropp's Saturday night.

Chicago visitors Tuesday were the Melnishes onto Frank and August Froelich.

Misses Anna and Hattie Forklitz visited Mrs. Phillip Young and other friends Tuesday.

Harry Marquette, foreman of the Krickelbocker ice houses at Lake Zurich, made the largest one day run on record this season. The total number of men employed was 201 and the amount hauled 45,500 cakes, of which 24,500 were loaded into cars and the balance, 21,000 cakes, were put in the consumers' homes. There was one hour's delay on account of having no empty cars. Low on the lake became so badly iced combined Monday that sailing was abandoned and all barrels piled up. The houses are only about half filled, but immense quantities of a good quality have been shipped during the latest.

HORSES

At Auction

Saturday, March 2

On the old GLYNCH FARM one and a half miles north of Waukegan. See notice in column headed "Coming Auctions" for detailed description.

Coming Auctions for detailed description.

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