

**WINNOWINGS SERIES NO. 2.
WINNOWINGS FOR WASHINGTON'S
BIRTHDAY. PART I. SELECTIONS FOR
GRAMMAR AND HIGH SCHOOLS;
PART II. FOR LITTLE FOLK. ANECDOTES**

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Winnowings Series No. 2.

WINNOWINGS
FOR
WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY

BY ✓
AGNES MAWSON
AUTHOR OF "WINNOWINGS FOR LINCOLN'S BIRTHDAY"

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PART I.
SELECTIONS FOR GRAMMAR AND HIGH SCHOOLS
PART II.
FOR LITTLE FOLK. ANECDOTES

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1905

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TO MY GENIAL LITTLE COMRADE,

Alfred Benjamin,

A LAD OF SEVEN, WHO SAYS,

"WASHINGTON LIVED FOR HIS COUNTRY AND NOT FOR HIMSELF,"

I LOVINGLY DEDICATE

THIS BOOK.

W-24085

CENTRAL RESERVE

PREFACE.

IT is owing to the appreciation and encouragement of my friends, the teachers and others who have seen "Winnowings for Lincoln's Birthday," that I have ventured to send forth this, the second number of the Winnowings Series.

In the biographical sketch there will be found no detailed account of battles won or lost; only those emphasized by the application of Washington's own words, which form a background to show forth the deep humanity that underlay the calm exterior of the man.

The author calls the attention of teachers and students to the adaptability of Washington's sentiments not only to his own time, but to each generation that has followed, especially to this, the present century.

AGNES MAWSON.

C. A. TRAINER SEP 16 1942



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BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH.

THE genealogy of Washington may be traced to the century following the Norman Conquest. The forefathers of George Washington were lords of the manor of the Village of Wassengtone in the County of Durham : hence the name.

John and Andrew Washington, two brothers, were the first of the family to emigrate. They settled in Virginia, in 1657, between the Potomac and the Rappahannock Rivers, and on Bridges Creek, John's grandson, Augustine, George Washington's father, was born in 1694.

He married twice. Lawrence and Augustine were sons of his first wife. The family by his second marriage were four sons, George, Samuel, John Augustine and Charles; and two daughters, Elizabeth and Mildred.

On the sixth of March, 1730, Augustine Washington married a young and beautiful girl, Mary Ball. George, their eldest child, was born February 22, 1732, in the homestead on Bridges Creek, Westmoreland County, Virginia.

The death of his father in 1743 prevented George Washington from being sent to England as his step-

brothers had been, and he was left to the care of an anxious mother endowed with a strong will, capable of developing in her son those qualities which were of the utmost importance to him to form a great republic.

The moral foundation of Washington's character was doubtless laid by the daily reading of Sir Matthew Hale's "Contemplations," his mother's favorite volume; it may be seen at Mt. Vernon, Va., where one may also see Washington's "Ciphering Book."

Mrs. Washington, according to some authorities, gave her son a private education. His studies included a "critical knowledge of grammar, mathematics, particularly surveying, geography, history, and natural and moral philosophy." *

When Washington was about fourteen years of age, he evinced a great desire to enter the navy; this was encouraged by his brother Lawrence. The great difficulty, however, was to procure his mother's consent; finally this was obtained, but upon receipt of a letter from her brother, Joseph Ball, an English lawyer, who wrote, "Do not let him go to sea; make a tinker or a tailor of him, or anything that will keep him on shore, rather than see him sail away from you as a sailor before the mast," Mrs. Washington's courage failed her and the scheme was abandoned.

* As a lad Washington read the Spectator, a History of England and books on agriculture.

For nearly two years longer Washington continued his studies, especially in mathematics and surveying. When sixteen he lived with his brother Lawrence, who had built a house on the Potomac on the estate inherited from his father; this he called Mt. Vernon.*

At Mt. Vernon, Washington's character was greatly influenced by Lord Fairfax, whose daughter Lawrence Washington married. Lord Fairfax and Washington became good friends; they hunted together and engaged in all sorts of rough and perilous sports. Lord Fairfax, who was many years older than Washington, saw in him such qualities as purity of character, principles of justice, unselfishness, self-control, courage and strong sense, and disinterestedness. Such qualities as invite confidence and command respect, and when united form a character of such perfect proportions as that of Washington.

Lord Fairfax firmly trusted Washington, and proposed to him to survey the Fairfax possessions in the beautiful Shenandoah Valley. Through the influence of Lord Fairfax Washington became public surveyor, continuing this occupation three years, living a rough but manly and robust life.

* The original house was built in 1740, enlarged in 1760, again in 1785. Mt. Vernon was named in honor of Admiral Vernon, Commander-in-Chief in the West Indies. Lawrence Washington obtained a captain's commission for the West Indies, and served in Admiral Vernon's expedition.