# GEORGE WASHINGTON AT THE DELAWARE: A DRAMATIC ACTION

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649246564

George Washington at the Delaware: A Dramatic Action by Percy MacKaye

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd. Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

PERCY MACKAYE

# GEORGE WASHINGTON AT THE DELAWARE: A DRAMATIC ACTION

Trieste

# GEORGE WASHINGTON AT THE DELAWARE

A Dramatic Action

With a Prologue

BY

# PERCY MACKAYE

#### SCENE DESIGN BY ROBERT EDMOND JONES

Together With Comments and Suggestions in Recard to its Production, by the Author, the Scene Designer, and

#### WALTER HAMPDEN

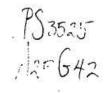
FIRST IMPERSONATOR OF THE TITLE-ROLE OF THE THREE-ACT FLAY, FROM WHICE THIS ACTION IS SELECTED, ENTITLED

> WASHINGTON, The Man Who Made Us A Ballad Play by Percy MacKayr

NEW YORE SAMUEL FRENCH PUBLISHER 28-80 WEST 28TH STREET

÷.

London SAMUEL FRENCH, LTD. 26 Southampton St. STRAND



COPYRIGHT, 1918 BY PERCY MACKAYE COFYRIGHT 1920 BY PERCY MACKAYE

All Rights Reserved

IMPORTANT NOTE. In its printed form, this Dramatic Action is published for the reading public only. Dramatic rights, and all rights whatsoever, in this work are fully protected by copyright in the United States, Great Britain and countries of the copyright union. All rights of translation are reserved. No performances of this Dramatic Action—amateur or pro-fessional—may be given without the written permission, first obtained, of Samuel French, agent for the author, and the pay-ment of royalty, by arrangement with said agent. All public readings for money are also forbidden, without written permission and payment of royalty: for such permission application should be made direct to the author, at the Harvard Club, 27 West 44th Street, New York, where also programs and press notices of performances should be forwarded.

#### PREFACE

The Dramatic Action here printed is a brief excerpt only of my complete Ballad Play, in three acts and a prologue, "Washington: The Man Who Made Us," published by Alfred A. Knopf, 220 West 42nd St., New York; and this excerpt comprises one Action (the Ninth) selected from the fourteen Actions contained in the threeact play. A note to this effect should be printed, at the head of the Cast of Characters, in all amateur performances given of this Action; and the author requests that two copies of the program be sent, with press notices, to him at his address, Harvard Club, New York City.

At the present date, translations of this Action and other Actions of the play are being done into various languages for use in foreign language publications and theatres of the Unted States, concerning which those interested in further information may apply to Mr. Barrett H. Clark, Foreign Language Information Service Bureau, Red Cross, 1107 Broadway, New York.

On Washington's Birthday, 1920, the first performance of my complete play, in its Theatre Version, was given by Mr. Walter Hampden and his company at the Belasco Theatre, Washington, D. C., the play opening in New York on March 1st for a run at the Lyric Theatre, with the scenic production of Mr. Robert Edmond Jones.

By the public in many parts of America Mr. Hampden's distinguished acting in the title rôles of "The Servant in the House," "Hamlet," "Macbeth," and as Shylock in "The Merchant of Venice," has been welcomed as comparable to the noblest traditions of his profession; and the abounding gifts of Mr. Jones as a creative artist of the theatre have been notably recognized in his scenic productions of "Redemption," "The Jest," "Caliban," "The Birthday of the Infanta," etc.

With a view to assisting the simplification of amateur productions of this Action of my play, both of these artists associated with its professional production have written their Comments and Suggestions with my own, printed on the pages immediately following the dramatic context.

The music and words of the ballad introductory to this Action ("The Raggle Taggle Gypsies"), as well as the ballads with music included in the complete three-act Ballad-play, may be obtained from the H. W. Gray Company, publishers of music, 2 West 45th St., New York the ballad of this Ninth Action being illustrated by Dorothy Fuller (of the Fuller Sisters), the other ballads by Arvia MacKaye.

My complete play, "Washington," from which this Action is taken, I began to write at Washington, D. C., in December, 1917, and completed at Shirley Centre, Massachusetts, on July 4th, 1918. Though it had long been partially projected in my mind, yet the human meanings illumined by our entrance into the Great War, and the world relationships implied by that vast decision, were compelling incentives for me to undertake and bring the play to completion, setting during that time all other matters aside.

To-day, George Washington—dead—is for most people a figure remote, statuesque, dignified, cold, almost mythical; one to be revered, but not warmly loved. But in his own day—alive—he was a magnetic human being, passionate, patient, resourceful—a rugged personality, lovable and greatly beloved.

It has been, then, my aim so to portray him in his strong prime, with truth to reality, that we of America to-day may be led to feel a more intimate affection for "the man who made us," and for the still contemporary cause which he espoused for mankind.

PERCY MACKAYE.

Harvard Club, 27 West 44th St., New York; July, 1920.

## CHARACTERS

### OF THE PROLOGUE

VOICES OF THE PEOPLE (chanting, unseen, or vaguely suggested)

•

A TOWN CRIER (Quilloquon)

A BALLAD SINGER (Quilloquon)

A LITTLE BOY

A LITTLE GIRL

#### OF THE DRAMATIC ACTION

THOMAS PAINE

LIEUT. JAMES MONROE

GEN. GEORGE WASHINGTON

COL. ALEXANDER HAMILTON

The sound of a flute (Quilloquon's)

Voices of men (outside)

[For the costuming of these characters of the Prologue and Action, and for the lighting of the scene, see the Comments and Suggestions at the back of this volume.]

PLACE AND TIME: By the Delaware River, above Trenton; Christmas Night, 1776.

SCENE: An Opening amid snow-laden Woods by Moonlight.

\* 5

8x 52 52

۵ ۲ ۲

\* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \*

# GEORGE WASHINGTON

### AT THE DELAWARE

A Dramatic Action



l

EXITVS .ACTA . PROBAT

## PROLOGUE

#### (PARTS I AND 2)

The stage is shut off from the audience by simple blue curtains, closed where they meet at the centre. Behind the curtains a far-off bell is heard ringing, with musical cadence. Now its tone changes to a deep, mellow pealing; and now its rhythmic cadence is blended with far-sounding chimes, through which low murmurous VOICES of many people rise, fall and rise again more loud—like a great wind, heard distantly, over forest trees. At first hardly audible, the deep murmur grows gradually more articulate, till—between the pulsing