

1810. Mention must also be made of the so-called "manor Report of Sandhurst which comprises the Royal Military College of the estate." The estate in question is so referred to in a Blue Book of 1810. No evidence has been found to support the view that this was ever a separate manor. Some account of the history of the government property is given in another chapter.

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## The Washington Arms and Pedigree.

*By Mrs. Suckling.*

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FROM a long article recently published in America, it would appear that doubts have arisen as to the accuracy of the pedigree supplied to General Washington by the Heralds' College, which doubts "are based upon investigations (not yet completed) by the Rev. Dr. Solloway, Vicar of Selby, Lancashire (?), England; that our father, George, did not, after all, derive from the Washingtons of Sulgrave, but was probably a descendant of one of two brothers, who went to Virginia from Lancashire." What is known about Washington's forebears is, that they were John and Laurence Washington, who came from England in 1657. When Washington became President and sent to Sir Isaac Herd, Garter King-at-Arms, for his pedigree, it was ascertained that Laurence Washington, who died near Sulgrave in 1616, had two sons John and Laurence, who were accordingly assigned to the President, as belonging to him. It is said that he never was satisfied with this pedigree, but respected a tradition that his family came from farther North. Now comes forward the Rev. Dr. Solloway, "who has noted an heraldic window in the Abbey Church, which shows the Washington Arms, and which has led him to reconsider this matter of the pedigree. Laurence Washington the elder, who died in 1616 (Dr. Solloway has ascertained), was married in 1590 and had seventeen children. Of these, John and Laurence (whom Herd supposed to have been the founder of the American family) were the fourth and fifth members; so that in 1657, about the time of their emigration, they would be some sixty years old." The writer goes on to suggest "that Herd was mistaken, and that this John and Laurence never left England at all, and that the John and Laurence who did go out to Virginia were not of the Northamptonshire branch of the family. And the truth is that John stayed in England to become Sir John Washing-

ton, and that his brother Laurence settled down at Purley in Oxfordshire."

Burke, in his "Armoury," under Washington gives the Arms "Argent, two bars gules, in chief three mullets of the second" to families of that name in "Lancashire, Leicestershire, Northamptonshire, Buckinghamshire and Kent." And Foster, in his "Alumni Oxoniensis," mentions four Washingtons who were Oxford graduates, and were "Armiger" from the County of York in the seventeenth century. Also, the Visitation of that County for 1563, shews Tempest "impaling Washington"—for Sir Richard Tempest married Elenora daughter and heir of William Washington. Therefore if the American writer is referring to Selby in Yorkshire, there should be no lack of armorial memorials to this family in that County. Moreover, Foster says that Laurence, son of Laurence Washington of Sulgrave, Northants (gent), matriculated at Brasenose College, Oxford, at the age of 19, on the 2nd of November, 1621; and that he was Rector of Purleigh in Essex from 1633 until ejected in 1643" (Walker's *Sufferings of the Clergy*). He also gives "William Washington, gent," as "Son of Robert of Sulgrave, gent," and says that he matriculated at Oriel College on the 6th of December, 1588, aged 11, together with his brother Christopher Washington, who was aged 15. Burke's "Armoury" has it that, "this family derived from Robert Washington,\* second son of John Washington of Whitfield; Robert's eldest son, John, who was of Wharton, was father, by Margaret his wife, daughter of Robert Kitson, Esq., of Wharton, of Laurence Washington of Northampton, Esq., and of Gray's Inn; who had a grant of land at Sulgrave in the 30th of King Henry the VIII. His great grandson John Washington, younger brother of Sir William Washington of Packington, county Leicester, emigrated to America about 1657, and was father of Laurence Washington of Bridges Creek, county Virginia, North America; whose son, Augustine, was father of George Washington the patriot, who was born in February, 1732."

The Margaret Kitson, aforesaid, was sister of Sir Thomas Kitson of Hengrave in Suffolk (see Visitation, 1561), who left Margaret, daughter and sole heir. John Dovington of Yorks, was father of Katherine Kitson, wife of Sir John Spencer of Wormleighton in Warwick, whose grandson, Sir Robert Spencer, was then created Baron Spencer of Wormleighton in 1603. In the church of Great Brington, Northants, is a stone covering the remains of "Elizabeth Washington. widow, who changed this life for

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\* Of Warton, co. Lanc.—J. H. C.

imortalitie ye 19th of March, 1622. As also ye body of Robert Washington, gent, her late husband, second son of Robert Washington of Solgrave in ye county of North, Esq., who departed this life ye 10 of March, 1622, after they lived lovingly together in this parish." Also a stone with the Arms of Washington impaling Butler for Laurence Washington ("son and heir of Robert of Sulgrave") and Margaret Butler his wife. Foster gives the entry, at Magdalen College in 1560-7, of "Laurence, son of Laurence Washington. Mayor of Northampton 1534 and 1545," and says he was "B.A. in 1567, Barrister-at-Law and M.P. for Maidstone 1604-11, died in London 21 December, 1619, aged 73, and was buried in Maidstone Church."

It would indeed be satisfactory if the alleged inquiry results in anything so conclusive and so interesting as the pedigree of the celebrated Governor, John Winthrop, of Massachussets; printed by the late Dr. Muskett in his *Suffolk Manorial Families* (1900) under "Winthrop of Grouton." Also, if anything definite is discovered as to the oft-told tale that the Washington Arms formed the basis of the Federal flag, and that their crest, of an eagle, with wings endorsed, was the parent bird of the American Eagle. Nor should this be surprising under the circumstances, for, at that time in England, we read that "the facings of Regiments, raised by private individuals or by public subscription, were often taken from the family arms of their colonels, and the badges from his crest." Moreover, that the story has adherents in America is evident from the following by a well-known writer: "It is not a little curious that the poor, worn out rag of feudalism, as many would count it, should have expanded into the bright and ample banner that now waves on every sea." But if this was true the General never once alluded to it in his correspondence, and even went so far as to refuse the dedication of a book on Heraldry from his aversion to genealogies. The maker of the flag is said to have been a Mrs. Ross, an upholstress in Philadelphia. The accepted story is, that after the decision of Congress, that in future there should be a single Federal flag, General Washington, together with certain members of the Committee, repaired to Archer Street carrying a rough sketch of the intended design, and that at Mrs. Ross' suggestion Washington re-drew it on the spot, with the alterations deemed expedient, and shortly afterwards she produced the famous "Stars and bars," alluded to by Whittier in his "Barbara Frietchet":—

"Forty flags with their silver stars,

"Forty flags with their crimson bars."