

ART. V.—*New Notes on the Ancestry of George Washington.**

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IT may be taken for granted that almost all genealogists will read with interest anything that tends to throw fresh light upon obscure points in the descent of George Washington, whose nobility of character is now-a-days recognized nearly as much in England as in the country of his birth and achievements. The few items which I now add to the genealogy of the first and most distinguished American President have at any rate the one advantage that instead of their being, as is too frequently the case, matters of surmise or theory, they are founded on evidence which is quite conclusive.

These new notes relate to the history of Mildred Washington (née Warner†) who was the paternal grandmother of George Washington and who came to England after the death of Lawrence Washington, her husband, for the purpose presumably of attending to her executorship duties and dealing with her deceased husband's English property. When she applied for the grant of Probate at London in November, 1700, she alleged, somewhat inexactly, that her husband had died only a year ago ("ad annum elapsum mortem obiisse"). It appeared, however, that in the meanwhile she had become the wife of one George Gale. As far as I am aware, there has hitherto been nothing known of her history subsequent to her obtaining the Probate in the following month (*i.e.* December, 1700), nor has

* See *Whitehaven and the Washington Family*. By W. S. Harpur, *Transactions, vol. v.* p. 98.

† Daughter of Augustine Warner, of Virginia, apparently the same person whose name appears in the "Register of Merchant Taylors' School," edited by Rev. C. J. Robinson, vol. i., p. 240. "1657-8, Augustine Warnar, eldest son of Augustine, gent. born in Virginia, 20 Oct. 1643."

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this second husband George Gale been identified until now.

Mildred Gale lived only a few weeks after the above-mentioned grant of Probate was issued to her. Her own will was made January 24, 1700-1, and it was proved in the Archdeaconry Court of Richmond (Copeland Deanery) March 18 following; she is therein described as wife of George Gale of Whitehaven, Cumberland, "being doubtful of the recovery of my present sickness;" she mentions that "by an Indenture of Marriage made and executed by and between John Washington one of the executors of my late husband's will of the one part, and my present husband George Gale with my own consent and approbation thereof of the other part bearing date 16 May in the present year 1700 I am empowered to demise by will or other instrument the estate and legacys of my late husband to the uses and purposes therein mentioned"—and she proceeded to bequeath £1000 to her said husband, and the residue of her property equally between her said husband and her children. When George Gale took Probate of her will, he had to give bond for the tuition of the children and their names appear as John, Augustine (father of the President), and Mildred Washington.

Mildred Gale was buried at St. Nicholas', Whitehaven, January 30, 1700-1, but there is not any extant memorial to her in either the church or churchyard. The "sickness" to which she alludes in her will, is sufficiently explained by an entry in the same Parish Register, thus: Baptism, Jan. 25, 1700-1 Mildred daughter of George Gale; and later on appears the *burial* of Mildred, dau. of George Gale March 26, 1701.

The Gale family of Whitehaven claimed to have descended from Gale of Acomb, co. York, and George Gale's grandfather, John Gale, used a seal* engraved with the

* See his will, 1679, Archd. Richmond, Copeland Deanery.

arms of the last named family, but the College of Arms disallowed this claim, and in 1712 made a fresh grant to John Gale the father of George. Mr. Cokayne, Norroy King-of-Arms, has called my attention to a pedigree of the Gale family of Whitehaven* and has very kindly allowed me to take from it the extract which I subjoin. It is stated therein that George Gale was supposed to be living (in Maryland) in 1712, but Lowther Gale, making his will March 25, 1714,† makes a bequest to the four sons of his brother, George Gale, *deceased*.

The problem with regard to the English home of George Washington's ancestry may perhaps never be solved, but the fact of this Mildred having married into a Whitehaven family affords one more fragment of evidence. In the 'Whitehaven Guardian' of Nov. 11, 1875, it was shown that there lived in that town 1692-1766 a family of Washingtons, and the christian name of one of them who was married there in 1731 was *Lawrence*.‡ It is not unlikely that Mildred Washington met George Gale (who became her second husband), through having gone to stay with relations of her first husband at Whitehaven; I believe, that in the Subsidy Rolls (Hearth tax) circa 1673 the name of Washington is not to be found amongst the residents there, but it is obvious that the very rapid increase in the population of Whitehaven at that period, implies a large immigration, and perhaps some of the Washingtons were attracted thither about 1680-90 by the fast growing prosperity of the town.

I have not been able to trace the issuing of any Licence for Mildred Washington's second marriage, from either the York or the three London registries. Supposing the marriage to have taken place in the neighbourhood of

* College of Arms, 6 D, xiv. page 189. A pedigree of this family will be also found in Foster's 'Lancashire Pedigrees.' No issue is there assigned to George Gale of Maryland.

† Archd. Court of Richmond, Copeland Deanery, 1735

‡ See Transactions, vol. v. p. 98.

Whitehaven,

Whitehaven, and by a Licence, the marriage-bond, should be at Lancaster, but the records preserved there appear to be in so chaotic a state as to render a search impracticable. The marriage-bond, which would probably state where was Mildred's abode prior to her second marriage and would give names of her sureties, might furnish a useful clue if it could be found.

GALE OF WHITEHAVEN.

(*Extract only*).

GRANT OF ARMS in 1712, thus—

Argent, on a fesse between three saltires, humettée Azure, an anchor between two lions' heads erased Or.

CREST.—*An Unicorn's head couped Argent charged with two pallets blue, (sic), armed and crined Or, over all an anchor Gold.*

John Gale of Whitehaven	= Mary, dau. of Lancelot Carlisle, in Cumberland, Merchant. Anno 1712.	gent., third son of Adam C., of Bridkirke in Scotland.
(1), Elizabeth, ux. James Milham, of Whitehaven	(3), Mary, ux. Wm. Grayson of Whitehaven, Merchant.	4. Susanna, ux. Wm. Marshall.
John Gale of Whitehaven, dau. of Thos. Tickell, gent. s.p. 1712.	Mathias of Whitehaven, Merchant, 3rd son. Buried at Whitehaven 2 Aug. 1751.	= Dorothy, d. of John Ponsonby of Hale Hall, Cumberland, Esquire.
Robert, 4 th Son, & Mary, died young.	Lowther, 5 th Son. Philip, 6 th Son.	William of Whitehaven, merchant, 7 th son, ob. 9 May, 1773, æt. cir. 80, buried at Whitehaven.
George Gale, 2 nd son, of Somerset County in Maryland. Supposed to be living 1712.	= Elizabeth, dau. of Levin Denwood of Somerset County in Maryland.	= Margaret dau. of Christopher Rich mond of High Head Castle, Cumberland, ob. 25 Sep., bur. at Old Chapel, Whitehaven, 27 Sep. 1759, æt. 69.
(1). Levyn Gale living 1712.	(2). George Gale, living 1712.	(3). John Gale, living 1712.
		Mathias Gale, living 1712.