

BOYD B. STUTLER
BOX 1412
CHARLESTON, W. VA.

April 15, 1931

Mr. Clarence S. Brigham, Director
American Antiquarian Society
Worcester, Massachusetts

Dear Mr. Brigham:

I have just returned from a ten days' trip to the east and find your letter of the 8th, referring to an old ledger kept by Martin Frame, which includes long accounts with George S. Washington and others.

From the description given, together with the names listed, I am of the opinion that Martin Frame kept store in or near Charles Town, Jefferson County. This town is, as you know, in the extreme eastern part of the State, within sixty miles of Washington, and was the seat of the families of Charles and Samuel Washington, brothers of General George.

The George S. Washington mentioned was, undoubtedly, George Steptoe Washington. He was a son of Samuel, and nephew of the General. George Steptoe was born at Harewood, the Samuel Washington home at Charles Town, in 1773. Samuel died in 1781. George Steptoe was educated by General George, was one of the administrators of the Washington estate and was bequeathed a sword by the General. He married Lucy Payne, of Philadelphia, in 1796--the account would seem to begin soon after his marriage. He lived at Harewood certainly as late as 1806, for on October 15 of that year his son, George Steptoe, Jr., was born at the ancestral home. He later removed to Augusta, ~~xxxxxx~~ Georgia, where he died, His widow later married Chief Justice Todd. *17 1829 - 37 years (Raleigh Star, Feb. 2, 1804)*

It was at the home of George Steptoe Washington that James Madison and Dolly Payne Todd were married. The old home is still standing. I am sending you under separate cover a copy of the West Virginia Review for March, 1931, which contains a story "Harewood--Colonial Seat of Samuel Washington."

Some of the other names given in your letter confirm the belief that the Mary/tin Store was at or near Charles Town. Battaille Muse was for some years overseer of Washington's Mount Vernon estate. He was sent by General Washington to "Berkeley County" to look after the family property there, and that part of Berkeley became Jefferson county in 1801. Muse continued his stewardship of the Washington property as late as 1795, when he resigned. If the book contains names of Morrow, Dandridge, Spotswood, my theory of location will be confirmed.

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#2.

The Washington heirs did not come into the Kanawha valley, near the present city of Charleston, until 1810 or after. The division of the Washington land in the Kanawha and Ohio valleys was made in 1807. Charleston and Charles Town are different towns, and are many miles apart.

Curiously enough, I addressed the Jefferson County Historical Society on last Thursday night. If your letter had reached me while in that section, I could have traced the story down to the last detail. I have some very good friends there who will be glad to check the names. If you care to trust the ledger to me for a few days, I can, perhaps, give you data on many of the men who carried accounts at the store. I will have the very excellent co-operation of Dr. Roy Bird Cook, author of the recently published "Washington's Western Lands," and who is an authority on the Washington's in West Virginia.

We have a number of the descendants of Samuel Washington now living in Charleston and vicinity--including Georges and Marthas. This branch of the family does not figure large in the history of the county and in some their names appear only as owners of land inherited from their distinguished kinsman.

Will write you later on this subject, after I have heard from my Charles Town and Shepherdstown friends.

Sincerely



BOYD B. STUTLER
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CHARLESTON, W. VA.

June 6, 1931

Mr. Clarence S. Brigham, Director
American Antiquarian Society
Worcester, Massachusetts

Dear Mr. Brigham:

I am just in receipt of your letter of the 5th reminding me of the ~~Mathew~~ Frame ledger. I owe you an apology for my failure to make a prompt report on this interesting item. I have been out of town much of the time since its arrival and had not taken time to go over it in detail. The book is being returned to you by express, prepaid, today.

There is but little I can add to my statement of April 15th. ~~Mathew~~ Frame conducted his business in Jefferson County, but the exact location is not determined. From the fact that the names of well known citizens of Charles Town are carried on the ledger I assume that he lived at that place. Though many of the names are those of known residents of Harper's Ferry and other sections of Jefferson county. I have asked that a check of the land books be made, covering the years 1798 to 1804. He probably owned several tracts of land but in the old records there are some times such notations as "home site," "store house," etc.

To begin with, Fouk or Foulk, is a Harper's Ferry name; members of the family were living there at the time of the John Brown raid. Hite is an old Valley of Virginia name, the founder of the family settling near Winchester in 1732. Robert Baylor, folio 14, was the grandfather of the Colonel Baylor who figured in the Brown episode as commander of the Virginia militia. John Wager lived at Harper's Ferry and was one of the heirs of ~~the~~ Robert Harper, founder of the village and from whom the settlement took its name.

The name of Abraham Davenport appears on folio 31. A great grandson of this man lives in Charleston. I talked with him about the ledger and he informs me that he has heard his grandfather frequently mention the name of Mathew Frame. Davenport lived at Charles Town and founded one of the "ruling" families of that section. The ~~xxxxxx~~ great grandson and his cousin, both of whom live in this city, have a collection of more than five hundred family letters dating from 1770 to and after the Civil War. They have pooled their collections, arranged the documents in chronological order and are having the series typed.

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#2.

Battaille Muse, folio 35, was the friend and employee of Washington, mentioned in my letter of April 15. John Haines, folio 47, was a forsbear of the ~~Haxinx~~ Haines, father and son, who were for so many years connected with the newspaper, Spirit of Jefferson at Charles Town. This paper is still published though it passed out of the Haines family about five years ago. It is the oldest newspaper now published in West Virginia.

Jacob Alstott, folio 52, was the father of John H. Alstadt and grandfather of John Thomas Alstadt, who were captured by John Brown's men and held as hostages in the engine house at the time of the capture of Brown. John Thomas Alstadt, who lived at the old family home near Harper's Ferry, died about 1925. The Lewis Washington home, visited by Brown's men on the same evening, is but a short distance from the Alstadt place. Both of the homes are standing, with but little alteration since John Brown's day.

Magnus Tate, folio 59, whose account fills several long pages, was a Berkeley and Jefferson county celebrity; politician and member of Congress. His place of residence at the time of carrying this account is uncertain, but probably in what is now Jefferson county. In 1798 he was made a justice of the peace of Berkeley county, then including all of Jefferson.

George Washington, folio 60, was George Steptoe Washington, nephew of General George Washington and inheritor of "Harewood."

Some little note could be made about almost every name listed, either of the individual or the family. A further report will be made on the location of lands or "tenements" owned by ~~Mathew~~ Frame.

I have taken the liberty to permit my friend, Dr. Roy Bird Cook, examine this ledger. He is the author of "Family and Early Life of Stonewall Jackson," "Washington's Western Lands," and other works of genuine value. At present he is compiling a history of pharmacy in West Virginia and this ledger was of particular interest. Attached to one of the pages was a bill for drug sundries, dated 1798--the earliest bill he had found. With your permission, a copy of this drug bill will be used in his published work.

I shall be glad to render any assistance possible in clearing up questions on any other manuscript material in your possession. and I promise to be more prompt in acting on inquiries in the future.

Our school year is just closing, and though I am not a school

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#3

man I have found it necessary to visit a number of schools and to make contacts with both teachers and pupils. Last year we published the West Virginia Encyclopedia, now in general use in the schools of the State. We now have a school text--"West Virginia--Yesterday and Today,"--in process of printing. This we hope to place in the independent districts for use the next school year and will offer it for state-wide adoption in 1932, when the adoptions for a five year period are considered by the state board.

With continued good wishes, I am

Very truly yours

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Boyd B. Stutler". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name "Boyd B. Stutler".