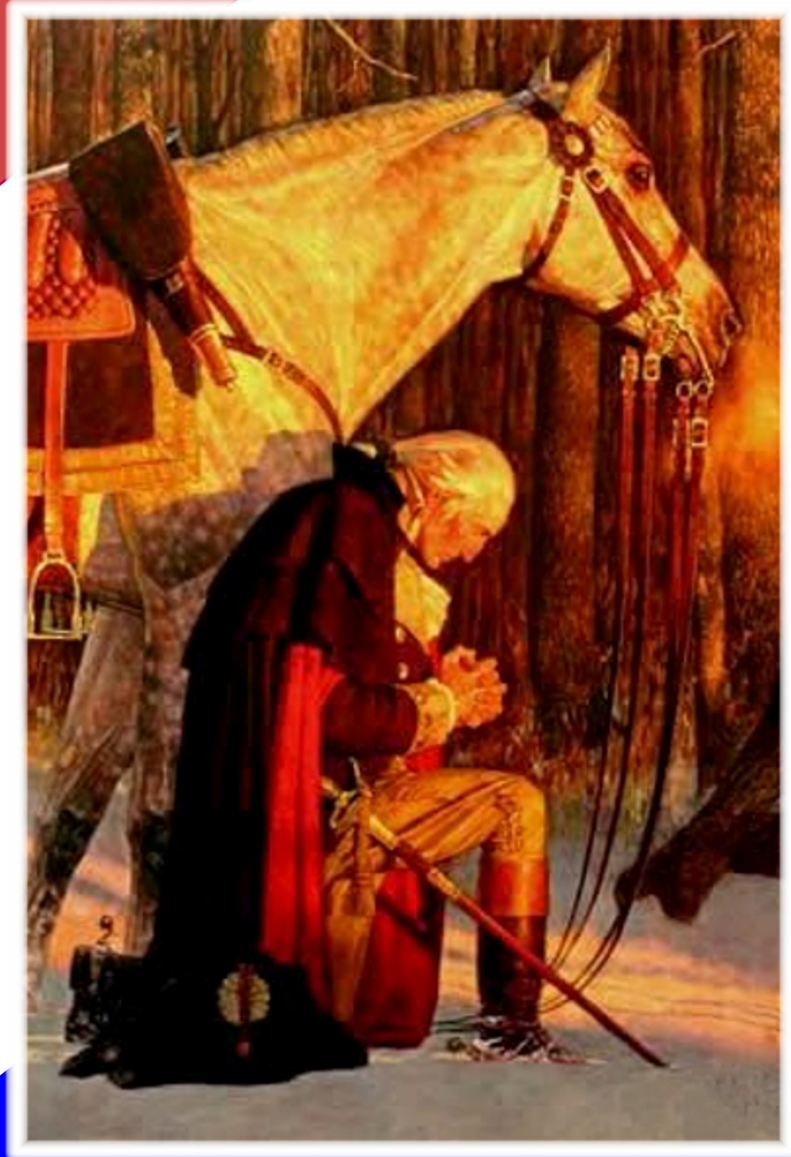


# *Heroes from our Heritage*

*Remember . . .  
Who We Are*



*by Grace and Jack Tuls*

**HEROES FROM OUR HERITAGE**  
**STORIES**

by Grace & Jack Tuls

**A companion book for Home-Schoolers can be used with this Heroes book, namely :**

### **HEROES FROM OUR HERITAGE - CURRICULUM**

The curriculum has Scriptures, a theme, an object lesson, character and puppet skits and a Thanksgiving play with costume and hat patterns. It was used in Children's Church. A question and answer sheet is also available to accompany the story books for use by teachers and students.

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All Scriptures used are from the New American Standard Version unless otherwise indicated.

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## PREFACE

This research and writing began as an inspiration to write a children's church curriculum. As I studied Columbus and the Pilgrims, I became more and more fascinated with the story of their lives. I began to live through those periods in history, feeling their frustrations, seeing their visions, and sensing their dependence on God. Even my dreams in the night were affected. The cares of this world, time schedules and old hobbies took on a different perspective. The example of their lives and the overwhelming awesomeness of God began to change me.

History had never been a great love of mine in school, in fact, I avoided it whenever possible, choosing the sciences instead. But God was working and I needed to be awakened to our precious heritage in America. I needed to learn from godly examples. Often when reading a book I would be amazed to the point of tears about William Bradford's or Mary Brewster's bravery. Their example is beyond human experience in America now, for they suffered hardship and starvation without complaint because they had a desire for religious freedom. Tears came to my eyes as I read the story of the bravery of the people of Leyden, Holland, who were hosts to the Pilgrims, and how they withstood the Spanish in their fight for religious freedom. I was awed by their thronging to church to give praise to God after the victory.

Then in a later period of history, George Washington's perseverance, courage, humility and sacrifice amazed me. Time and again I saw God's control over the forces of nature in sending haze, fog, storms, or rain to direct or aid his chosen leaders. The courage, dedication and self sacrifice of Martha Washington when she visited her beloved General at the winter camps was an inspiration. Adults as well as children can benefit from godly examples like these. Our cherished Biblical heroes will never lose their 'glory or distinction but God works through many dedicated lives down through history to perform His wonders.

It is my prayer that adults as well as children will be inspired by these stories and that the body of Christ will be stirred to some form of action. Godly leaders are desperately needed in America because we have digressed appallingly far from our original covenant with God. Sometimes I can feel God weeping over what He sees in America. Our land is crying out for redemption. He is calling forth a mighty army that will arrest the moral decay, speak, out on political issues and lead our nation back to righteousness. God help us. We love you America. "These dead shall not have died in vain." \*

\*Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, 1863.

*Grace Tuls*

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I thank God for part of His Body at Springs of Life Ministries who helped and encouraged me in the researching and writing of this book. Lisa Corales and Phil Quinton helped me on some of the research. Christa Oakes, Jeanette Quinton and Karen Crismore did most of the typing.

Dr. Richard Biddle, my teacher at Springs of Life College of Ministry and Bible Institute, in teaching "The American Covenant" by Marshall Foster and Mary Elaine Swanson, helped in giving me a new perspective on America. Marshall Foster, himself, when visiting our church, encouraged me.

My dear husband, Jack, was the editor and proof reader. He was the Pastor of our Children's Church at Springs of Life Ministries and together we picked the heroes to research. He did the study and wrote the stories of the Spanish friars, Fr. Jacques Marquette, and General Douglas Mac Arthur, Our daughter, Amy Tuls Jensen, helped with some of the editing also.

When our head pastor, Rev. Ty Beeson was given the theme "America Shall Be Saved", I asked God how I could help develop this theme. God then planted in my heart and confirmed it by my husband that writing about our American history, which was played out in Children's Church would be a tool to inspire youngsters and adults. The interest displayed by the children gave me the incentive to continue the project.

Looking back over the years, I thank God for my precious Dutch, Christian Reformed heritage and the ability to attend Christian schools all my life. My mother, Mrs. Grace Pleune MacNaughton, and my church guided me through the difficult years. Calvin College is my alma mater.

Last, without God's guidance and inspiration these stories would not have come alive. To Him belongs all the praise and honor.





# 1

## CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS

### THE CHRIST-BEARER

#### HIS VISION AS A YOUNG MAN

Christopher Columbus was more than an adventuresome soul seeking a trade route to the Indies, he actually had a few life changing experiences with God as recorded in his private journal. In it he says: "It was the Lord who put into my mind (I could feel His hand upon me) the fact that it would be possible to sail from here to the Indies. All who heard of my project rejected it with laughter, ridiculing me. There is no question that the inspiration was from the Holy Spirit, because He comforted me with rays of marvelous inspiration from the Holy Scriptures... I am a most unworthy sinner, but I have cried out to the Lord for grace and mercy, and they have covered me completely. I have found the sweetest consolation since I made it my whole purpose to enjoy His marvelous presence. For the execution of the journey to the Indies, I did not make use of intelligence, mathematics or maps. It is simply the fulfillment of what Isaiah had prophesied... No one should fear to undertake any task in the name of our Savior, if it is just and if the intention is purely for His holy service ... Day and night, moment by moment everyone should express their most devoted gratitude to Him."<sup>1</sup>





This is a quote from Columbus' "Book of Prophecies", which is available only in Spanish and has never been published in this country. This obscure volume of Columbus' has just recently appeared in English having been privately translated by August J. Kling in 1971.

Perhaps Columbus' humble parents knew of the "call" on his life when they named him Christopher, which means: Christ-bearer. Christopher was born in Genoa, Italy and worked with his older brother in his parent's shop carding wool. Clod put the love for adventure into Christopher's spirit as a young boy. He loved to visit the wharf with his father and watch the ships come and go. His talk with the sailors whetted his appetite for discovery. Finally, he was allowed to take short excursions with them and learned quickly the art of sailing.

Columbus was aware of God's work in his life as a teen age boy. He wrote in his journal Isaiah 49:1-6: "Listen to me, O coastlands, and hearken, you peoples from afar. The Lord called me from the womb; from the body of my mother he named my name... I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth." One historian describes Columbus as "very religious for one of his age."<sup>2</sup>

### **NEAR DEATH AT SEA**

Satan also had plans for Christopher's life and would gladly have snuffed it out if it weren't for the grace of God. One time Christopher was sailing in a large convoy of ships loaded down with goods for trading in France and England when his ship was rammed by a pirate frigate and Christopher was thrown into the sea. Because of a previous scuffle on board with pirates,. Christopher suffered a gaping wound in his side. The cold water quenched the flow of blood somewhat and Christopher reached out to an oar which helped him stay afloat until he was able to make his way to the shore, exhausted and helpless but grateful to God. Hundreds of men had died in the battle, but Christopher's life was spared.<sup>3</sup> The people of Lagos, near where he had washed ashore, treated him kindly, and when they learned that Christopher's brother Bartholomeo lived in nearby Lisbon, they sent him there as soon as he was well enough to travel. Bartholomeo nursed Christopher back to health and then began teaching Christopher the map making business.

It was in Lisbon that Christopher's vision for sailing west was enlarged as he heard tales of the Norsemen and read "The Travels of Marco Polo." Here he also met a beautiful young woman named Felipa Perestrello, and married her. Her brother was governor of the island of Madeira, and soon Christopher and his young bride went to live with Felipa's family on the island of Madeira which is off the western coast of Africa. A son was born to them whom they named Diego.

### **SEARCHING FOR A SPONSOR**

Columbus, still desiring to sail west, devised a plan to talk to the king of Portugal requesting that he sponsor his trip by supplying him with three ships. After three years delay the king refused him. Adding to his disappointment, his lovely wife Felipa died. At this point Columbus could easily have given up his vision but God provided him a friend

in his brother Bartholomeo who again encouraged Columbus. Bartholomeo went to the king of England in hopes of securing their sponsorship for Columbus' vision. After a brief consideration, Henry VII of England refused, thinking the scheme ridiculous.

Bartholomeo proceeded to France and was befriended by the queen but he was never able to obtain any prospect of the king or queen's support.

Spain, meanwhile, was engaged in a costly war trying to push the Moors out of their territory, but Columbus felt that King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella would understand his mission because of their zeal for a Christian nation. However, the timing was still not right and after considering it for years, they refused.

Seven long years had now passed since Columbus began his search for a sponsor. He was approaching the age of thirty five, was an experienced mariner, fairly prosperous, but still there burned within him a desire to fulfill his vision. Had God forgotten about him after planting that desire in his spirit? Had God really said to him in Isaiah 49:6 "I will give you as a light to the nations?" Where was God?

At this point Columbus made a quality decision to go visit the famous monastery, La Rabida, and talk with Father Juan Perez, a man of unusual spiritual wisdom. This visit was a turning point in Columbus' life because his thoughts were directed back to God and His sacrifice for us. Christopher knew without a shadow of a doubt that his mission could only be accomplished by God's enabling power and his own death to self.<sup>4</sup>

## **GOD'S INTERVENTION**

On the following morning, Father Perez sent a letter off to the queen, recommending Columbus as trustworthy and dedicated to God. The queen summoned Columbus and included a check for some clothing and a horse. He was overjoyed! Entering the capital he discovered a great celebration of victory because the Moorish King had surrendered his claim to Spain. King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella granted Columbus an audience and after negotiations granted him the three ships and crew that he had requested! It was true. God had heard his prayers. Not only had they given him the needed ships but they granted his request that he be given the title of Admiral of the Ocean Sea and Governor General over all the lands he discovered. It was quite a bold request, if he had to admit it to himself, but they actually gave it to him. Besides that, his request of a tenth of all the profits which might result from the discoveries was granted. However, Columbus didn't forget that his mission of spreading the good news of Christ was important

## **THE PREPARATION FOR THE VOYAGE**

The next eight months were happy ones for Columbus as he gave meticulous care into outfitting the ships. He secured two caravel type ships named the Nina and Pinta and a larger ship which he renamed Santa Maria in honor of Mary, the mother of Jesus. In the port of Palos, he renewed his friendship with Martin Pinzon and his brother Vincente, experienced mariners who shared his enthusiasm. A crew of ninety men was conscripted

from the port of Palos, many of whom were malcontents seeking a fortune in a new land. Columbus' new wife, Beatriz, and his Sons Diego and Ferdinand spent a few days with Columbus before he was to sail. Then in the early morning hours of August 3, 1492, Columbus knelt on the dock to receive Holy Communion and offer a prayer of gratitude to Almighty God. His dream was about to come true.

## **THE VOYAGE**

"Weigh the anchors and proceed in the name of Jesus"<sup>5</sup> was the first command. The sails unfurled and the red cross of Christ blazoned in the early morning sun. All hearts throbbed with excitement!

The first few days brought them through charted seas as they sailed southwest to the Canary Islands. God had revealed to Columbus that the winds from off the Canary Islands would bear the ships in a south-westerly direction. "I did not make use of intelligence, mathematics or maps. It is simply the fulfillment of what Isaiah had prophesied" he noted in his journal.<sup>6</sup>

After reaching the Canaries, making a slight repair to the Pinta, and restocking, they set sail again into uncharted seas. They sailed due west. All went well those first few days but as the days wore into weeks the men became restless and began to mutter and grumble.<sup>7</sup> Rumors of a giant ship-swallowing fish began to circulate and also the old fears of a flat earth where ships drop off at the edge resurfaced. The men even talked of mutiny and scoffed at Columbus' vision. It was a time to try men's soul. Columbus' crew did not have the spiritual depth that their leader had, for they were largely malcontents. Columbus was known for his faithful attendance at mass and his total lack of profanity. His conversation was best understood by priests who were his closest friends and supporters. People were impressed by his fine presence and innate dignity.<sup>8</sup> It was the glory of God on him!

When Columbus called for a conference with the Pinzon brothers who were captains of the smaller ships, the captains gave him an ultimatum that he must turn back since they were already thirty days from land and three thousand miles away. Even though they had sighted birds and seaweed, they were still frightened. However, God gave Columbus wisdom and he extracted a promise from the crews that they would wait three more days before turning around.<sup>9</sup> God was still at work and the darkest of days was about to become light!

The next morning, Columbus' journal records, a wind sprang up and carried them at incredible speed, so much so that the sailors were alarmed."<sup>10</sup> On the morning of the second day, a shout arose aboard the Pinta: a reed was sighted and a small piece of wood that had been carved by man. Then on the Nina they sighted a small twig with a rose! The mood changed to exuberance! God had showed Himself strong on their behalf when all hope seemed lost.

## **AMERICA!**

That night they traveled at almost reckless speed and hardly an eye was shut as they all peered into the darkness. By 10 p.m. Columbus and another sailor simultaneously sighted light in the far off distance. "It was like a little wax candle rising and falling."<sup>11</sup> Others said they saw it, but most did not. Mariners say it was an illusion, created by over-tense watchfulness. Was it God lighting the way and giving them some encouragement?

At 2 a.m. on the morning of the third day, October 12, 1492, a shout pierced the air aboard the Pinta: "Tierra, Tierra!"<sup>12</sup> (Land, Land!) The lookout had spied a low white cliff. Shouts went up from all three ships and the cannon was fired in exultation. Immediately they took in sail to avoid grounding on the barrier reefs.

As dawn began to break they prepared to send a scouting party onto the land which they discovered to be an island. Columbus and the two Pinzon brothers would be first along with a few choice crewmen.. As their eyes combed the island they were amazed at the lush foliage, the sparkling blue waters and the clean white sand. A few "Indians", (so named by Columbus because he thought he had discovered India), were gathering on the shore, stark naked. Columbus was clothed in his best attire, topped off with a scarlet cape. He carried the royal flag in his hand and the Pinzon brothers bore the huge white banner with a green cross on it. The men reached shore, alighted with tears streaming down their faces and kissed the white beach. Their hearts filled with gratitude as they knelt, implanted the flag and bowed their heads christening the island "San Salvador" meaning "Holy Savior".

The other men from aboard ship then gathered on shore bearing gifts for the natives. Columbus approached the natives cautiously, offering red caps and beads which the natives accepted graciously. Columbus records: "At this (the gifts) they were greatly pleased and became so entirely our friends that it was a wonder to see. They were as innocent as babes when it come to tools of war, for I showed them swords and they took them by the blade and cut themselves through ignorance... I believe that they would easily be made Christian, for it seemed to me that they had no religion of their own."<sup>13</sup> In exchange for the beads and caps the natives gave them fruit and sweet potatoes, a new experience for the seamen.

## **THE LURE OF GOLD**

But then an unusual thing caught the seamen's eyes. Dangling from the noses of the natives were bright gold rings! Could this be the fabulous island of Kubla Khan which Marco Polo had written about? By means of sign language Columbus learned that there was a vast amount of gold to the south. The natives called the island Cubanana (Cuba). Satan then caused confusion and dissent among Columbus and his crew. Martin Pinzon, the captain of the Pinta was especially susceptible to Satan's influence. He urged the crew to sail on to Cubanana. Agreeing, they took a few of the natives on board to serve as guides. Columbus and the other captains were also eager to go discovering again.

## **MORE ISLANDS DISCOVERED**

Many other islands were discovered by Columbus and his crew but none offered them the fabled gold. The Indian guides loved their role as interpreters, learning the English language quickly and went from island to island announcing that "the gods have arrived!"<sup>14</sup>

The next island that Columbus named, was "Fernandina" in honor of the king. On every island on which they stopped they erected a huge cross "as token of Jesus Christ our Lord and in honor of the Christian faith."

Since the island of gold was not yet discovered, Martin Pinzon decided to sail off with the Pinta on his own, apparently overcome with greed. Columbus remained eager to discover the trade route to India which he had originally set out to find.

## **SHIPWRECK**

A few days before Christmas the Santa Maria and the Nina were caught in a storm just off the coast of Hispaniola (Haiti). After finding protection in a rocky cove, they decided to wait out the storm. Columbus went to bed early after having his devotions on Christmas Eve but was abruptly awakened by a gentle bump of the ship. They had struck rock! Before long the ship began breaking up by the waves pounding the ship against the rocks. Columbus quickly notified the Nina for help but it was too late to save the ship. Sadly Columbus gave orders to abandon the Santa Maria. The goods and crewmen of the broken ship were promptly transferred to the Nina. Thankfully, at dawn the Indians from the closest island helped salvage what was most valuable. They were kind beyond belief, not stealing anything for themselves and even gave Columbus gold bracelets, necklaces, and rings to compensate for his loss. Columbus took this as a sign from God that they should establish a settlement there. He gave thanks to God rather than giving in to despair. He named the island "La Navidad" and set about establishing a fort there.<sup>15</sup>

It soon became apparent that some needed to sail back to Spain to make a report to the king and queen. Thirty nine men volunteered to stay behind while Columbus and Vincente Pinzon sailed back to Spain. Columbus was confident that the settlers would be able to discover the gold which would finance the "king and queen's conquest of Jerusalem freeing the Holy Land from the grip of the Moors."<sup>16</sup>

## **THE RETURN VOYAGE**

Setting sail now aboard the Nina they headed north to catch the prevailing winds and who should they discover, but Martin Pinzon and the Pinta! Columbus forgave Martin of his "shameless and disloyal conduct... so that he should not help Satan in his evil design". Sailing home together they were caught in a terrific storm in which the Pinta disappeared from sight. Sadly to say, Columbus did not humble himself and throw himself on the mercy of God as Jonah did, instead he tried to maneuver his way out of disaster by bargaining with God. For days the storm raged unabated until all became numb. Satan

indeed seemed to be lashing his fury upon them, not wanting the discovery to be made known, but God had a plan and Satan could not prevent it.

The storm finally stilled and a sliver of land appeared which they discovered to be the Azores Islands. They had crossed the Atlantic and were close to home! However, they did not receive a welcome reception. The governor, being Portuguese, made an effort to hold some of the crew in prison. By God's intervention the crew escaped, boarded the ship and they all sailed away.

Soon another even more furious storm arose, and Columbus had to use all his God-given navigational skills to guide his vessel safely into port. He arrived in Portugal, not far from the homes of some of his old trustworthy friends. Since he could not trust the King of Portugal, he sent word to the king and queen of Spain through these friends that he had returned from his mission.

In one of his letters he wrote to the king and queen he commented about his discoveries by saying:

"But these great and marvelous results are not to be attributed to any merit of mine but to the holy Christian faith... for that which the unaided intellect of man could not compass, the Spirit of God has granted to human exertions, for God is wont (accustomed) to hear the prayers of His servants who love His precepts even to the performance of apparent impossibilities. Thus it has happened to me. Therefore, let the King and Queen render thanks to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ who has granted us so great a victory and such prosperity! Let Christ rejoice... in the prospect of the salvation of the souls of so many nations hitherto lost!"<sup>17</sup>

### **WELCOME HOME RECEPTION**

The king and queen were delighted after receiving the letter and prepared a glorious reception for him at their winter palace in Barcelona. With much pomp and circumstance Columbus was received and told his spellbinding story. He presented the king and queen with gifts of parrots, aloes, cotton, spices, salted fish, dogs that could not bark and the Indian's gold ornaments, all borne by the six natives themselves who had accompanied him home. The sovereigns fell on their knees, others following their example, and lifted their faces heavenward. King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella thanked God for His bountiful mercy and sang the "Te Deum." By the last line, the King and Queen were in tears and so was Columbus: "Oh Lord, in Thee have I trusted, let me never be confounded"<sup>18</sup>

### **OTHER VOYAGES**

Columbus returned to America the next year taking seventeen vessels and twelve missionaries. In later years he made two more voyages to the New World. At times the image of Christ was tarnished in his life, as it is in all of us, but Columbus risked his life

many times to fulfill his God-given vision and be the "Christ-bearer" God had called him to be.

CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS  
THE CHRIST-BEARER)

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# 2

## THE SPANISH FRIARS

### CHOSEN TO BEAR FRUIT

#### BACKGROUND

Approximately 50 years after Columbus discovered the New World, the rule of Spain had been firmly established in Mexico, Central America, and South America west of 50 degrees longitude. The Conquistadors had conquered almost everywhere they had set their feet, and the fine discipline and unexcelled courage and skill of the Spanish soldier had won an empire in the Americas while searching for golden treasure. As a result, much treasure flowed into the coffers of Spain, and the greed of Spanish nobles and commoners alike was so great that searching for gold in the Americas became a national obsession.

Mexico, or New Spain as it was called, was the seat of Spanish, government nearest the land which would become the United States. In 1540 Francisco Coronado led a small army of adventurers together with some Franciscan friars on a search for the seven Cities of Cibola, supposedly made of gold. They traveled into what is now New Mexico and Arizona, and discovering that stories of these fabled cities were mostly gross exaggerations, they turned eastward, lured by lies that gold awaited them in the east. They crossed the Staked Plains, the Texas and Oklahoma panhandles, and entered eastern Kansas, where they discovered there was no gold. Sadly they returned to Mexico.

In Coronado's expedition there had been a large retinue of soldiers, camp followers, baggage handlers, Indian scouts, and friars. These were Franciscan friars who accompanied the army to give the leaders "the mind of God" concerning crucial decisions and to convert the heathen natives they might encounter. These friars were not super-spiritual men. They had the failings Common to Catholic monks of that time: namely, rigid doctrine, a tendency to make slaves of their Indian converts, and a policy of recommending capital punishment for any minor acts of rebellion against the crown of Spain or the God of heaven. Since these were the days of the Spanish Inquisition in Europe, the Franciscan friars in the New World were empowered by the Inquisition to be its instruments of enforcement in this area. However, all these negative facts notwithstanding, many friars were sincerely desirous of winning souls to Jesus, and several showed their deep love and care for the Indians over a period of years.

### **BLOOD OF THE MARTYRS**

Because of the foregoing behavior of the Spanish padres, many of these brave souls were martyred by the Indians they attempted to convert. Despite the martyr's deaths of these men, by 1621 it was estimated by Father Alonso Benavides in a memo to the King of Spain that there were more than 60,000 Christian Indians in New Mexico. Truly their blood resulted in a rich harvest of souls for the Lord Jesus. This story is about three such men, Fathers Augustin Rodriguez, Francisco Lopez, and Juan de Santa Maria.

In 1581 these bold Franciscan friars made the first attempt to explore the great basin of the Rio Grande. Accompanied by nine soldiers and 16 Indian servants they traversed 1200 miles of wilderness, going through the desert country to Tiguex, at the approximate location of Bernarlillo, New Mexico today. From there, Father Juan de Santa Maria set out alone to report their discoveries to the viceroy (governor) of New Spain. He was martyred on the way by Indians along the Rio Grande. The rest of the party went west to Acoma and Zuni. These two pueblos exist today, the former about 40 miles west of Albuquerque.

The pueblo of Acoma sits atop a large mesa, rising 350 feet above the desert floor. It was called the "City in the Sky" because of its inaccessibility, and could be defended quite easily. The two remaining friars returned to Tiguex on the Rio Grande where they stayed to teach the Indians about Jesus, as the soldiers returned to report to the governor of Mexico. The Indian tribes in this area of the upper Rio Grande were quite savage, and at some unknown time after the soldiers left, the Indians killed Fathers Rodriguez and Lopez. Years later, a partly destroyed painting was discovered in one of these pueblos depicting the martyrdom of these brave men. It was in the next year, 1582, that the Spanish governor, Espejo, accompanied an expedition to determine what had happened to the faithful friars, and evidence was found of their deaths.

### **TREACHERY AT ACOMA**

Seventeen years later in 1598, Juan de Onate, being given the responsibility to colonize New Mexico and become its first governor, led an expedition into the same territory in

which the Franciscan fathers had been killed. He gave the territory the official name of New Mexico, and declared it pacified. Two of Onate's best officers were the Zaldivar brothers, Juan and Vicente, who were also his nephews. They were both brave and trustworthy.

Arriving at the towering pueblo of Acoma, Onate demanded its obedience to the Spanish crown as represented by himself. It was reluctantly given, the Indians finally following the advice of peaceful chief Chumpo instead of the warlike chief Zutucapan. Then Onate left for the Zuni pueblo to confirm the location of some silver mines. The next month, Juan de Zaldivar, returned from his buffalo hunt and followed Onate as ordered, in his westward march.

Unaware of the hostility of the Acoma pueblo, he stopped for refreshment and an overnight stay. The Indians brought gifts to the Spaniards, put them up for the night, and the next morning as the unsuspecting Spaniards were wandering about the pueblo in small groups, the war chief Zutucapan gave a yell and the Indians charged the Spaniards with clubs. Juan Zaldivar and his men fought like tigers for three hours, but fell in battle, one by one until all were dead except five men. These last five leaped over the edge of the 350 foot high cliff, and miraculously all but one survived, bruised and bloody as they rolled and bounded to the desert below. These four along with three others who had managed to climb down the usual way from the mesa top mounted their horses and rode away to tell Governor Onate what had happened and to warn the Franciscan padres at other pueblos of the possibility of a general Indian uprising.

## **SPANISH RETRIBUTION**

Governor Onate tried the rebellious Indians of Acoma in absentia, declared them guilty of rebellion and murder, and sentenced them to death. He then told the murdered man's brother, Vicente Zaldivar, to take 70 men and punish Acoma as sentenced.

The intrepid Zaldivar reached the mesa in record time, called on the Indians to surrender, which they refused, and gave the command to assault the rock. There were 3000 Indians atop the mesa of which at least 1000 were warriors. Their position seemed impregnable since there was only one narrow path to the top of the 350 foot high rock, and in one place the path gave way to a rickety ladder. The Indians rolled rocks down on the Spaniards and shot clouds of arrows at them as they attempted to climb up the path.

Zaldivar sent most of his force against the side of the mesa where the ladder and footholds led up, but he chose 12 especially brave and skillful soldiers who were athletic, and told them to climb the cliff at another place, clinging to handholds and footholds in the rock until at last they reached the top and scrambled onto the level mesa. The Acoma warriors discovered them at once and rushed to throw them off the cliff. But the Spaniards fought so well that they were able to hold the warriors back until the twelve men were joined one by one by their comrades who swiftly climbed up after them.

Nobody could match the ferocity and skill of the Spanish soldiers, and little by little the Indians gave ground before their furious onslaught. The fight lasted for three days, but finally Zutucapan himself was killed. The Spaniards went on killing the Indians until only 600 of the original 3000 were permitted to surrender under their peaceful chief, Chumpo. Many Indians, when they saw they were defeated, leaped over the edge of the cliff to the desert below. None survived that terrible leap. Then the Spaniards burned the houses of the pueblo and the punishment was complete.

## **CONCLUSION**

The foregoing stories show the difficulties and uncertainties of life in early New Mexico. One might be tempted to think that the early Spanish friars such as Rodriguez, Lopez and Santa Maria, with their inconsistent Christian lives, got what they deserved, or that the Indians should have been left to carry on their affairs in peace without the missionary influence of the friars. Both courses of reasoning are wrong. These and many other friars had the ultimate welfare of the Indians in their hearts when they suffered mightily to bring them to the light of the gospel of Christ as they traveled laboriously from pueblo to pueblo. If it were not so, there would have been no converts after the Spanish soldiers left. History shows that the opposite occurred. At any rate, the Indians were not living in peace before the coming of the friars, but were engaged in intertribal wars which were cruel and bloody, resulting in the extermination of many tribes which had been reported by the first explorers but had vanished by the time of the great missionary push by the Spanish friars.

Considering the extraordinary accomplishments of such fallible men as the Spanish friars, we can take heart that God can use us far beyond our natural capacities, because if we are obedient to God's call, our fruit shall remain as He promises in JOHN 15:16.



# 3

## FR. JACQUES MARQUETTE

### JESUS' DISCIPLINED WARRIOR-EXPLORER

#### A FIRM DEDICATION

Jacques Marquette was born in 1637 in Lason, France. As a lad of 17, he made a decision to enter the rigorous 12 year training to be a Jesuit priest. He had been reading the Jesuit newsletter called "Relations", which was taken from journals of Jesuit missionaries around the world. These narratives had captured the adventurous spirit of Marquette as he read about mission progress in "New France", the French possessions in North America. He had a strong desire to bring the light of the gospel to the remote savages of the wilderness. Although Marquette was from a wealthy family, he was willing to sacrifice wealth and comfort for the harsh life of the frontier in order to save souls. His own journal records that if his travels resulted in the salvation of just one Indian, he would consider them to have been worth all their trouble, and he had reason to presume that such was the case.<sup>1</sup>

After Marquette's training in France, he was assigned to a post in Three Rivers, Quebec, Canada to learn the Algonquin language. He learned six different Algonquin dialects there because of his facility for languages. He also was given instructions by his superiors in Quebec which differed greatly from those given to the Spanish friars a century earlier. He was told to:<sup>2</sup>

1. Love the Indians as brothers.
2. Never make them wait for you in embarking on a journey.
3. Do nothing to annoy them on their journeys.

This was a non-antagonistic approach, letting the Indians keep their culture while becoming Christians, whereas the Spanish friars had forced the Indians of the Southwest to adopt Spanish ways. In addition, Marquette was the kind of man who resolved to live like an Indian, to learn their skills and to earn their respect so they would listen to his message. With an altar stone he could conduct worship services without having a church building for a meeting place.

### **AT THE SAULT AND LA POINTE**

Father Marquette's first non-training post was at Sault Ste Marie in what is now Michigan, where he labored among the Ottawa tribe. After a few years, he was sent to La Pointe on Chequamegon Bay on the SW shore of Lake Superior to continue his work with both Ottawas and Hurons. He always traveled by birch-bark canoe, sometimes with Indians and sometimes with French "Voyageurs", but he became such a skillful paddler that he was able to hold his own with the best of them. He also learned well how to live off the land and in addition knew well God's provision. He carried the light of the gospel deeper and deeper into the wilderness, just as he had dreamed of doing what he had read in the "Relations." Father Marquette had an inquisitive mind, and was eager to learn from his many travels of the extent and topography of North America.

In 1671 the Ottawas and Hurons at La Pointe were threatened by a revenge raid from the Sioux for murdering some of their braves, so they headed East with Fr. Marquette. The Ottawas settled at their old hunting ground of Manitoulin Island in Lake Huron, and the Hurons with Fr. Marquette settled at the Straits of Mackinac where Marquette took charge of the mission at St. Ignace. Marquette had spent only two years at La Pointe, but his fame had gone far and wide as "Black Robe" among the Indians of several tribes. While at La Pointe, he had also heard from an Indian slave of the Illinois tribe about a great river to the west which flowed south and was called the "Mississippi." He had been eager to explore this river and he had written his superiors in Quebec about it, but his duties had kept him busy at La Pointe.

### **COMMISSIONED TO EXPLORE**

At St. Ignace, Marquette lived about two years, preaching and teaching the Hurons the gospel of Christ. One day he was threatened by the tomahawk of an evil man called 'Red Fish.'<sup>13</sup> This man threatened to kill Marquette and swung his tomahawk within an inch of the Father's face. Marquette didn't flinch because he knew if Red Fish were to kill him, he would be ostracized from the tribe because "Black Robe" had become well liked. Red Fish took a second swing, and as he whipped his tomahawk back, the handle broke with a loud crack. The Indian's spirit seemed to break with it, and for the first time Marquette could talk to him about the greatness of his God.

The very same day, Louis Joliet, an intrepid French explorer, found Marquette and told him they had been commissioned by the French governor of Quebec and the head Jesuit in New France to explore the great river to the west. (It's interesting to note that the Mississippi River, discovered long ago by the Conquistador De Soto, had been called by him the "River of the Holy' Spirit"!)

Father Marquette's journal records:

"By the grace of God I now had been granted the opportunity to visit the nations and tribes who dwell along the Mississippi...I found myself in the blessed necessity of endangering my life for salvation of all these people, and especially of the Illinois, who had urgently entreated me to carry the word of God to their country." <sup>4</sup>

On May 17, 1673, Joliet and Marquette and five other French voyagers left St. Ignace to explore the great river. Along the way they were warned of savage tribes, demons and monsters along and in the river. They had made a map from Marquette's information gained while he was at La Pointe, and set out westward and southward with confidence. They followed the northern shore of Lake Michigan with their two canoes, traversing Green Bay until they entered the Fox River at its southern end. At DePere on the Fox River they halted for a few days because Marquette had officially been transferred here, and he had to tend to business. From there their route lay up the Fox to the village of the Maskouten Indians, then a short portage to the Wisconsin River, down which they went until they encountered the mighty Mississippi.

## **DOWN THE MISSISSIPPI**

Joliet and Marquette described the birds and animals along the Mississippi in their journals. Marquette saw buffalo and called them "wild cattle". At one point on the river, Marquette's canoe hit a large catfish (five feet long) and had to be patched up.<sup>5</sup> One day Marquette and Joliet followed some footprints into an Illinois Indian village where they were greeted by four old men who smoked the peace pipe or "calumet" with them. The calumet was the symbol of the sun god that the river tribes worshipped, and it was greatly revered. Anyone possessing a calumet would be safe from attack by most Mississippi tribes. The Illinois welcomed Marquette for whom they had waited many years since hearing of him in La Pointe, and they asked him to stay and found a mission there. Marquette promised to work among the Illinois after his Mississippi exploration. The chief said to the pair: "I thank you both, you in the black robe and you the Frenchman, for having taken so much trouble to visit us.. I beg you to have pity on me and my nation. It is you who knows the Great Spirit who made us all. It is you who speaks to him and hears his word. Beg him to give me life and health, and come and dwell with us so that we may know him."<sup>6</sup> Then the chief gave Marquette a valuable calumet to serve as a safeguard for the party.

Farther down the river beyond the confluence of the Missouri and later, of the Ohio, a fierce tribe called the Mitchigamea shot arrows and threw clubs at the two canoes until they saw Marquette standing up holding the calumet in his hands. Marquette wrote: "They were getting ready to shoot arrows at us from all sides, when suddenly God

touched the hearts of the old men who were standing by the shore. Probably they had just been able to distinguish the calumet from so far off..."<sup>7</sup>

The Mitchigamea tribe then befriended them, and the next day took the party downriver to the Arkansas tribe at the confluence of the Arkansas River with the Mississippi. These Indians said that the Spaniards were only two days down-river, and also that the great river emptied into the Southern Sea (Gulf of Mexico). Because the Spanish were hostile to the French, Joliet and Marquette decided that since their objectives of discovery had been achieved, they were free to return northwards. Actually, they had been slightly misinformed by the Indians and were still 700 miles from the Gulf of Mexico.

## **RETURN TO THE GREAT LAKES**

During the return trip Marquette got sick and he laid in the canoe under a spread-out sail to shield him from the sun. During his feverish ravings he talked about wanting to explore the Missouri River westward.

Returning through the territory of the Illinois Indians, Marquette discovered that he was, in their eyes, a great man who brought peace and prosperity wherever he went and that his Manitou (Great Spirit) kept them in good hunting in this life and in happiness in the next.<sup>8</sup> The weary party returned up the Illinois River to Kaskaskia (near Utica, Ill.), portaged or carried their canoes to the Chicago River, and from there paddled into Lake Michigan. They spent the winter at DePere on the Fox River in Wisconsin, and Marquette's sickness worsened.

## **FULFILLING HIS PROMISE**

In October 1674, Marquette attempted to return to the Illinois Indians at Kaskaskia to found a mission and fulfill his promise. At Chicago he grew very sick and couldn't go further, so he wintered there. In the spring he spent 11 days among the Indians at Kaskaskia, then, knowing he was dying, asked to be returned to St. Ignace. Ascending the eastern shore of Lake Michigan, the overworked and weakened Father Marquette died at Ludington on May 17, 1675 at age of 38. He had spent only nine years in the American Wilderness pursuing his chosen work. His body was carried north to St. Ignace with an escort of 30 canoes, and he was buried there.

The joint accomplishments of Joliet and Marquette were that they had opened up the Mississippi Valley and Great Lakes Basin, and had proved that North America was a mighty continent in its own right.

One final note to contemplate: The devil had tried everything he knew to stop Father Marquette from bringing the gospel to the Indians, but none of his weapons worked on this selfless man. So the devil pushed him to do his work more swiftly than he should have, thus burning himself out and causing an early death. Who knows what tremendous things God might have accomplished through Marquette if he had lived 70 or 80 years?



1. Meredith, R. and Smith, E.B., *Exploring The Great River*, p. 75.
2. Kjelgaard, 3, *The Explorations of Pere Marquette*, p. 5.
3. Ibid. pp. 97-101.
4. Meredith, Smith, pp. 44-45.
5. Kjelgaard, pp. 129-130.
6. Meredith, Smith, p. 57.
7. Ibid, p. 70.
8. Kjelgaard, p. 167.



# 4

## THE PILGRIMS

### GOD'S LIVING STONES

#### THE PREPARATION

The Pilgrim's hunger for more of God and a pure church began years before their voyage aboard the Mayflower. These living stones (I Peter 2:5) had separated themselves from the backslidden Church of England, where they had been called "Puritans", and had fled to the Netherlands. Life there was very difficult also, so they began praying about settling in the New World where they could establish the Kingdom of God on earth. William Bradford, in his "History of Plymouth Plantation" wrote:

"They cherished a great hope and inward zeal for laying some good foundation... for ye propagating and advancing ye gospel of ye kingdom of Christ in those remote parts of ye world..., even as stepping stones unto others." <sup>1</sup>

After much prayer and discussion, it was decided to investigate getting a charter from the Virginia Company. This didn't work, so an independent adventurer named Thomas Weston agreed to help them. He talked the "God words" and possibly was sincere at first, but as the years went by he demanded more and more goods from the impoverished colonists.

The Puritans signed a contract with him, sold their houses and furniture and gave Weston as much money as they could to buy the needed ships and supplies. He bought an old

freighter the Speedwell, and a larger ship, the Mayflower. Since neither of these ships would hold very many passengers, the Pilgrim's beloved Pastor Robinson decided to stay behind. Their elder, William Brewster, would be their teacher and acting pastor.

The Pilgrims had a day of fasting and prayer before their journey. Some thirty five Puritans from the Netherlands were joined by eighty "strangers" from England at the English city of Southampton. Most of these "strangers" shared the Puritans feelings about religious freedom, but some were simply adventurers.<sup>2</sup> The captains and crew of the ships were not Puritans but were hired for this trip.

The Puritan's destination was just south of the Hudson River in the New World. This was the northernmost border of the Virginia Company, and its settlers would be subject to the Company's laws, however, God had another plan.

Satan was still at work and wanted to keep the gospel light out of the New World. Thomas Weston, apparently used by Satan, changed the contract with the Pilgrims at the last minute. However, the Pilgrims did not knuckle under to his demands but decided on a compromise. They consented to sell their needed provisions, "to clear the haven and withal to put ourselves upon great extremities, scarce having any butter, no oil, not a sole to mend a shoe, nor every man's sword to his side, wanting many muskets, much armor, etc. And yet we are willing to expose ourselves to such eminent dangers as are like to ensue and trust to the good providence of God rather than His Name and truth should be evil spoken of for sin."<sup>3</sup> They also willingly extended the time of their partnership to pay all debts incurred. Truly they were becoming living stones by which a beautiful temple would be built.

On August 5, 1620 they set sail for the New World but three days out to sea, the Speedwell developed a leak. They recaulked her and set sail again only to discover more leaking a week later. Because of this problem the Speedwell did not voyage to the New World. William Bradford records in his history: "the master Of the ship and his company... plotted their stratagem to free themselves, fearing want of victuals, as afterwards was known and by some of them confessed."<sup>4</sup>

The plot was to fit too much mast on the ship, which caused the seams to work open when under full sail. The Speedwell was later fitted with smaller masts and saw much service bringing her captain much gain. Because of this problem with the Speedwell many of the original number chose to stay home. As much as history records, those that chose to stay home were from the "strangers" group.

## **THE VOYAGE**

On September 16, after a six week delay, they were ready to sail on the open sea. They were becoming the hard living stones prepared by Jesus Christ because they were learning to die to self moment by moment. A total of one hundred and two Pilgrims, their cargo and a small landing boat were crammed into the hold of the Mayflower which was about the size of a volleyball court. Only the seamen were allowed above board because

of the rolling seas and all the port holes were shut tightly to prevent entry of water. Children cried, sick stomachs relieved themselves, and the atmosphere was a potential playground for Satan, except for the fact that these dedicated, crucified-with-Christ Pilgrims triumphed with prayer and singing psalms.

Above deck it was a different story, for the seamen enjoyed giving vent to scoffing. One particular strong young man, proud and very profane, took diabolical pleasure in daily taunting the Pilgrims below deck, saying he "hoped to help cast half of them overboard before they came to journey's end and to make merry with what they had... But it pleased God before they came half the seas over to smite this young man with a grievous disease, of which he died in a desperate manner, and so was himself the first that was thrown overboard. It was astonishment to all his fellows for they noted it to be the just hand of God upon him."<sup>5</sup> He had died within a single day, and no one else caught this mysterious disease!

One day during a storm, not long after the Mayflower had crossed the half way mark, the air was split with a resounding crack! The huge cross-beam which supported the main mast had split and was sagging precariously. The mariners now were fearful of the ship's sea worthiness and began a heated discussion. The Pilgrims prayed and God reminded William Brewster of a great iron screw in his printing press. A desperate search was made and finally the screw was located and implanted into the sagging cross beam. A hideous creaking, and groaning of wood raised the cross beam to its original position.<sup>6</sup> The sailors joined the Pilgrims in praise to God now!

Fierce storms continued to assail the worthy Pilgrims. The lanterns swayed and the stench below deck grew almost unbearable. Their daily rations were salt pork, peas, bread, cheese and lemon juice to prevent scurvy,<sup>7</sup> yet their praises rang heavenward.

Finally, on November 9, 1620, after nine weeks at sea, they spied land in the distance and a joyous chorus arose from the ship. The land was identified as Cape Cod, which had long sandy beaches. After consultation with Captain Jones, they decided to sail southward to find the Hudson River, their destination. But after they had sailed that way for half a day, a fierce wind arose and threatened to cast them unto the dangerous shoals. After much prayer and discussion, they resolved to turn around and head north again.

The Pilgrims encountered yet another challenge just before they landed in what is now Cape Cod. The Mayflower sailed into the area of a violent storm just off the coast of Cape Cod. The Mayflower at this point, could not get near shore to land anywhere. The Pilgrims moved to the fore deck of the ship and proceeded to pray. The storm completely dissipated and the Pilgrims then were able to land.

God had a plan in this destination. If they were to be truly free to worship Him, it would have to be beyond the northern border of the Virginia Company. They had been blown less than one hundred miles off their course for the Hudson River. Their contract for the Virginia Company did not cover this territory, so they were truly free to make their own laws in this new land.

While this idea of total freedom was going around in their minds, the seamen were anxious to find a safe harbor. At last, on the next day they got into safe anchorage at Cape Harbor, now called Provincetown, at the leeward tip of Cape Cod. Praise again rose from their lips as "they fell upon their knees and blessed the God of heaven."<sup>8</sup> As they looked out upon the land, their thoughts were mixed. Who inhabited the woods? Were the inhabitants as savage as the Spaniards had been in Holland? Were there many wild beasts there?

William Bradford writes: "If they looked behind them, there was a mighty ocean, a gulf to separate them from all civil parts of the world."<sup>9</sup> Ahead of them was a desolate wilderness. It was muttered by some that the captain himself was eager to discharge them and head back home taking what food he and his crew needed. "What could now sustain them but the Spirit of God and His grace." Yet William Bradford rejoiced in the Lord as he quoted Psalm 107:1-5.

## **THE MAYFLOWER COMPACT**

In the thoughts of some of the strangers from Southampton was stirring the idea of rebellion and the Pilgrim leadership knew that something had to be done quickly. Thankfully, most of the passengers were Puritans and knew about man's basic sinful nature which needed to be guided by the Spirit. Therefore, they drafted the Mayflower Compact, which was to become a stepping stone to our present constitution. In this contract, they used some of the very phrases their beloved Pastor Robinson had said. It read:

"For the glory of God and advancement of the Christian faith... do by these present solemnly and mutually in the presence of God and of one another, covenant and combine ourselves together into a civil body politic for our better ordering and preservation... constitute and frame such just and equal laws, ordinances, acts... for the general good of the colony, unto which we promise all due submission and obedience..."<sup>10</sup>

The compact was signed and John Carver was chosen as their Governor.

Since their lips were uttering God's praises, their eyes were on Him, and their bodies were totally committed to Him, doing everything Scripturally that He had showed them to do, God was about to show His provision.

## **EXPLORING EXPEDITIONS**

The carpenters set about to repair the landing shallop (small boat) since it had been badly damaged in transit, but since this looked like a time consuming job, some of the men decided to investigate the land on foot. After obtaining permission from the leadership, a group of sixteen well armed men set out. Within a mile from the landing they saw about six Indians who were frightened off into the woods. Soon the Indians came out of the woods and ran as fast as they could down the beach. The Pilgrims followed their

footprints until dark and camped out overnight. Thankfully, they found fresh water to quench their thirst.

The next day they found more fresh water and a good quantity of cleared ground, graves, a house foundation and a large iron pot. There were interesting heaps of sand which when uncovered yielded baskets filled with corn of various colors! The Pilgrims were delighted with this new, strange food and decided to return to the ship with their find. Imagine the rejoicing on the ship!

When the shallop was ready, they set out and discovered more corn, beans, cooking implements and deserted houses covered with mats. The Pilgrims returned the borrowed food to the Indians six months later for that was their full intent before taking the food for their survival. William Bradford again gave praise to God. "Let His holy name have all the praise."<sup>11</sup>

As they continued further explorations of the land, more Indians were encountered who were cutting up a large fish. They fled also. That night the exploring party took refuge in a barricade of boughs as protection from the wind and Indian attack. During the night the Indians thought they could scare off the Pilgrims when they interrupted their sleep with blood-chilling howls. The Pilgrims arose early for prayer and breakfast and were soon surprised by arrows flying in amongst them. Two muskets were discharged. Finally, several Pilgrims wearing their armor rushed from the barricade and discharged their muskets together. Only one brave Indian lingered momentarily behind a tree, and he soon ran away shrieking when a musket splintered the tree he was hiding behind. God had protected the Pilgrims since none of the arrows had hit their mark.<sup>12</sup> After a few more hazardous experiences with wind, broken masts and rudders, with God's guidance, they rowed across to the mainland and more encouraging discoveries. They soon found land sloping upward and drained by four spring-like creeks. On the hill, a good twenty acres of ground had already been cleared, and was ready for planting, but with evidence that nothing had been done for several years,<sup>13</sup> The harbor was sounded and found deep enough for shipping. "So they returned to their ship again with this news to the rest of their people, which did much to comfort their hearts."<sup>14</sup>

On December 25, they began to erect the first house for common use.

## **THE STARVING TIME**

It was a very difficult winter. Many of the Pilgrims caught colds from sleeping on the frozen ground. Their bodies were already weakened by the long voyage and lack of a balanced diet, and the hard work of felling trees and building houses. The few able-bodied men had to care for the sick. One by one they began to die of scurvy and other diseases, sometimes two or three a day. Especially in January and February they were in great distress.

"The six or seven sound persons spared no pain, night or day, but with abundance of toil and hazard to their own health, fetched wood, made fires, dressed their

meat, made their beds, washed their loathsome clothes., and all this willingly and cheerfully without grudging in the heart, showing their true love... And yet the Lord so upheld their persons... they were not at all infected., their reward is with the Lord."<sup>15</sup>

They became living stepping stones to the praise of His Name. Had God failed in providing for them? Some of the Pilgrims were strangers and not Puritans. Yet some of the Puritans died too. Their beloved Governor John Carver died that first winter along with about fifty others. Their ranks were reduced to fifty light-bearing stepping stones for a new land for Christ. This is our precious heritage. They gave their lives to establish a nation that is free to worship God. They were the first covenant makers in America, and their dedication inspires us with a sense of awe.

## THE PILGRIMS

### GOD'S LIVING STONES)

1. William Bradford, *Of Plymouth Plantation*, p. 26.
2. Peter Marshall and David Manuel, *The Light and the Glory* pp. 113, 114.
3. William Bradford, p. 53.
4. Ibid, pp. 60, 61.
5. Ibid, p 66.
6. Ibid, p. 67.
7. Rev. James Leynse, *Preceding the Mayflower*, p. 246.
8. William Bradford, p. 69.
9. Ibid, p. 70, 71.
10. Ibid, pp. 83, 84.
11. Ibid, pp. 72-76.
12. Peter Marshall and David Manuel, pp. 122, 123.
13. Ibid, p. 125.
14. William Bradford, pp. 79, 80.
15. Ibid, pp. 85, 86.



# 5

## **WILLIAM BRADFORD AND SQUANTO**

### **A WHITE MAN AND AN INDIAN USED BY GOD**

#### **WILLIAM BRADFORD'S EARLY LIFE**

At the close of the 16th century God was preparing two men for an important role for the burning of His light in America. God was working with these men of two vastly different backgrounds, so that for a period of time neither would survive without the other. They were obedient to the prompting of the Holy Spirit, so God did not need an alternate plan to spread His light in America.

William Bradford was born in 1590 to an English farmer and his wife. His father died when William was only a year old, and his mother remarried. His upbringing was supervised by his grandfather and uncles. Since William was sickly as a child, he spent much time reading. He started reading the Bible and was greatly moved and changed by it.<sup>1</sup> At age 12 or 13 he began to attend William Brewster's church which met in Brewster's house. This Puritan group held separate church services from the Church of England because they disagreed with the State church on how they should worship God. For this they were much persecuted in their town of Scrooby.



The present King, James I, vowed that Puritans would "conform themselves" or he would "harry them out of the land." William Bradford came to live with Pastor Brewster who treated the young lad as a son and brother in Christ. The Brewster family was so persecuted in England that they made plans to flee England and go to the Netherlands where they would have more freedom to worship God.

The Puritans from William Brewster's church had a very difficult time leaving England. At one point they were robbed and imprisoned by the very people they had paid to give them safe passage out of the country.<sup>2</sup> At age 17 William Bradford was imprisoned for several months. At this point one can be assured that he absorbed much of God's Word, which abundantly flavored his books written later in his life. God's power sustained him as he was growing to be that hard rock for use in the foundation of our nation.

Bradford was released from prison and finally made his way with the Brewster family to Amsterdam in the Netherlands where they lived for a year. The next year, the family moved to Leyden and started a church in their home there. Leyden was a University town so William took full advantage of night classes at the University and after working days at weaving, he studied Dutch, Latin, Hebrew, French, history, and literature.<sup>3</sup>

At age 21 Bradford came into a comfortable inheritance from his parents' estate. He contributed a large portion to the Leyden church and also bought a house which he later sold to finance his trip to America.<sup>4</sup> When he was 23 he married Dorothy May, who was 16. Soon she bore a son whom they named John.

William Bradford lived in Leyden for 11 years until conditions became so difficult that their Pastor and his congregation began praying about emigrating to America. After much prayer and discussion it became clear that this is where they should go to worship God more freely and become "stepping stones" for others.<sup>5</sup>

Because of this decision, William and his wife Dorothy had another very difficult decision to make. Their only son John was five years old at the time and quite attached to his mother. However, they felt it was God's will for him to be left with Pastor Robinson and his family, and he could come at a later date. Little John had a very hard time taking leave of his mother not knowing if he would ever see her again. At age 12 he finally did go to America, but his mother had already died a tragic death.<sup>6</sup>

When the Mayflower reached Provincetown and scouting parties went out to survey the land, Dorothy Bradford was left alone without her husband for a time. She saw the bleak surroundings and the hard life ahead of her. For some reason she fell from the ship into the icy waters and died. Historians seem to agree that she was despondent about the surroundings, lack of food, and missing her son and husband and may have willfully jumped overboard.<sup>7</sup>

Her husband William could have become despondent himself and returned to England when the Mayflower returned, but he chose to go deeper into Christ and into his own vision for the colony.<sup>8</sup>

## **A MOST DIFFICULT WINTER**

The pilgrims had a very hard winter because their bodies were exhausted from the trip and it was exhausting work felling trees that were as hard as stone in the winter, William Bradford and most of the others caught colds, developed fevers, and many died. At one point there were only about seven able-bodied men to work and care for the sick. William Bradford fell sick and gave much credit to Pastor William Brewster and Myles Standish who nursed him and many others back to health.<sup>9</sup>

## **THE STARVING TIME**

This first winter was the most difficult. Governor Carver, a godly man, held the colony together by "wisdom, patience, and just and equal carriage of things but that which was most sad and lamentable was that in two or three months' time half of their company died... being ye depth of winter and wanting houses and other comforts, being infected with scurvy and other diseases... so as there died some times two or three a day... scarce 50 remained."<sup>10</sup> God was still at work. The candle was flickering and God was about to reveal Himself in the most unlikely way in the person of an English-speaking Indian.

## **SQUANTO**

It was March 16, the time of new birth and hope, and the Indians' hearts were stirring in compassion. The settlers' hearts were still tender toward God and the high point of their week remained Sunday worship. On this balmy day of March 16 the Pilgrims were gathered in the common house and a lone Indian approached them, entered their house, and in perfect English said "Welcome!" This Indian's name was Samoset, a chief of the Algonquins, and he had learned his English from the English fishing captains who had plied the Maine coast for years. Bradford wrote in his journal:

"He told them also of another Indian whose name was Squanto..., who had been in England and could speak better English than himself. Being, after some time of entertainment and gifts dismissed, a while after he came again and five more with him and they brought all the tools that were stolen away (from the Pilgrims) and made way for the coming of their great Sachem Massasoit and Squanto."<sup>11</sup>

When Squanto arrived he explained to them how their land "happened" to be cleared and ready to plant.

Squanto's story is as fascinating as that of Biblical Joseph. He was taken captive in 1605 along with four other Indians by Capt. Weymouth and transported to England. Here he learned English but cherished the dream to return to his Patuxet tribe which inhabited the very land discovered by the Pilgrims to have been tilled. Finally, nine years later, he was

able to sail back home with Capt. John Smith, who had recently returned from the New World. Squanto was home momentarily in 1614 but was lured back into the ship of Capt. Thomas Hunt apparently for trading goods. Squanto was clapped in irons, along with 20 other Patuxet Indians, and taken to a slave trading post in Spain. God was still preparing His vessel though, and Squanto was bought by a friar who introduced him to the Christian faith.<sup>12</sup>

Squanto was used to the wilderness and monastery life was too quiet for him. He found passage back to England and attached himself to Capt. Dermer who would embark for New England in 1619. When the ship reached New England, Samoset was picked up in Maine and both he and Squanto were dropped off at what is now Plymouth, Massachusetts.

Much to Squanto's surprise and dismay, his tribe was no longer on the grounds where he grew up. Nothing but skulls, bones, and dilapidated buildings remained. Apparently a plague of smallpox had wiped them all out. Surely now Squanto struggled with feelings of bitterness, anger, despair and loneliness but he finally found his way into the neighboring tribe of the Wampanoags, headed by Chief Massasoit. This chief took him into his heart and offered him solace for months.<sup>13</sup>

Soon, however, Samoset dropped by and told Squanto of a tiny settlement of Englishmen who were now barely surviving on his old tribal land. One wonders what went through Squanto's mind at this time. He could have chosen to be vindictive to the Englishmen. After all, Satan might have said: "They took you captive twice and used you for information about fishing, etc." His second choice was to leave them alone and let them starve. But then again, probably some Englishmen in England were kind to Squanto.

God was moving now and Squanto's heart softened; after all, the friar had been kind to him and saved him from slavery. Squanto made the decision to be used by God and accompany Samoset when visiting the colony. The meeting was arranged and all three leaders, Squanto, Samoset, and Massasoit, accompanied by 60 painted warriors, paid a call on the tiny English settlement. They were greeted by a fanfare of trumpet and drum which greatly pleased the Indians. Squanto acted as their interpreter, and a peace treaty was signed which promised mutual aid and assistance, which treaty was honored for 40 years.

### **SQUANTO TEACHES HUSBANDRY**

Squanto immediately set out to find eels for the starving colony. The Pilgrims rejoiced at the "fat and sweet" little critters. Then Squanto showed the young men how to squash eels out of the mud with their bare feet, and catch them with their hands. Next, he showed them how to plant corn the Indian way fertilizing the mound with fish. But where were they to get enough fish? Squanto knew it would be very soon when the alewives (a species of fish) would begin to migrate upstream. He taught the young men how to build weirs to catch the fish also."<sup>14</sup> Imagine their delight and praise to God when their nets nearly broke for the burden of fish.

The corn was now ready to be planted with three fish pointing spoke like to the center of each mound of seed. The Pilgrims were instructed to set watchmen to guard the little mounds from marauding wolves for three weeks until the fish decayed and the corn sprouted. That summer 20 full acres of corn began to grow.

God moved Squanto to instruct them in stalking deer, planting pumpkins, refining maple syrup, discerning herbs, and finding the strawberry patches.<sup>15</sup> Truly the wilderness came alive with wild turkeys, beavers, mink, muskrat, otters, rabbits, and raccoons. God had truly directed them to a beautiful, abundant land. One English man later exclaimed "The land to me seemed like paradise, twas God's masterpiece."<sup>16</sup> The sharp fresh air was invigorating compared to the smog of England with its overcrowded cities. Squanto was that, "very special instrument used by God"<sup>17</sup> to bring life and light to the New World.

Yet Squanto did one more thing of prime importance for the Pilgrims, which was to ensure their financial survival. He taught them how to trap the plentiful beaver, whose pelts were in great demand in England. Squanto also guided them in trading so they could get top price for their pelts.<sup>18</sup>

William Bradford wrote that "it pleased God the mortality began to cease amongst them, and ye sick and lame recovered." Yet there was one sadness during planting season. Their godly Governor Carver, age 57, was planting corn and apparently suffered a cerebral hemorrhage or sun stroke and died within three days.<sup>19</sup> William Bradford was elected the new governor by unanimous vote and was re-elected annually for the next 36 years of his life, except for the five years when he requested that they choose someone else.

During the summer of 1621, the colony began to thrive. So many diaries recorded a sweet smell emanating from the ground.<sup>20</sup> Strawberries as delicious as any in the world sprouted almost everywhere in the woods and fields. In the coastal marshes just south of New Plymouth, bayberries, plums and blueberries were found. Fish were found in every stream and pond.

## **THE FIRST THANKSGIVING**

The settlers explored their neighborhood and "thus they found ye Lord to be with them in all their ways to bless their outgoings and incomings for which let his holy name have praise forever."<sup>21</sup> So wrote Gov. Bradford. God had honored their trust and lives given to Him. Gov. Bradford was so thankful for their abundance of food that he proclaimed our first annual Day of Thanksgiving.

Massasoit arrived with 90 Indian braves, five dressed deer, and a dozen fat wild turkeys. The Indian women taught the Pilgrims how to make hoecakes and pudding out of corn meal and maple syrup. They also taught them how to pop corn.<sup>22</sup> Vegetables and fruits were in abundance and their hearts were overflowing with gratitude toward God, their Provider and Protector.

William Bradford continued to be their governor for 36 years making godly decisions based on God's Word, because it was firmly planted in his heart. The Pilgrims continued to share their provisions with all newcomers, God being their source. The hardest winter had passed, all those who died were as precious as those who lived because they were living stones on which America was built, Christ being the Chief cornerstone.

Squanto continued to live with the Pilgrims until his dying day. The other tribes were displeased with him so actually he was most safe living with the Pilgrims.<sup>23</sup> God had used Squanto in a marvelous way so that Gov, Bradford called him "a special instrument sent by God." Gov. Bradford himself was an instrument used by God to protect Squanto in his later life. God truly does provide for our needs according to His riches in glory.

## WILLIAM BRADFORD AND SQUANTO

### (A WHITE MAN AND AN INDIAN USED BY GOD)

1. Bradford, William, *Of Plymouth Plantation*, Introduction by Francis Murphy, p. viii.
2. Leynse, James, *Preceding The Mayflower*, pp. 75, 76.
3. Brown, Richard, *Massachusetts, A History*, p. 19.
4. Leynse, p. 196.
5. Bradford, p. 26.
6. Leynse, p. 238.
7. Ibid. p. 258.
8. Marshall, Peter and Manuel, David, *The Light And The Glory*, p. 125.
9. Bradford, p. 85.
10. Ibid. pp R4. R
11. Ibid. pp. 87, 88.
12. Marshall, Manuel, p. 129.
13. Ibid. pp. 130-132.
14. Bradford, pp. 94, 95.
15. Marshall, Manuel, p. 133.
16. Brown, pp. 11,12.
17. Bradford, p. 89.
18. Marshall, Manuel, p. 133.
19. Bradford, p. 95.
20. Hawke, David, *The Colonial Experience*, p. 77.
21. Bradford, pp. 99,100.
22. Marshall, Manuel, p. 136.
23. Bradford, pp. 108,109.



# 6

## GEORGE WASHINGTON PART I

### YOUNG MAN OF ENDURANCE

#### EARLY CHILDHOOD

George Washington was born February 22, 1732 in the town of Wakefield, Virginia of hard working parents, Gus and Mary Washington. His father managed an iron mining operation and was often away in England accompanying a load of his iron ore. Since England would not let his father make kettles or farm tools from the iron, he always had to ship the raw iron back to England. There it was fashioned into farm implements and sold to the colonists. His mother and father were thankful to God for their lands, healthy children and the iron mines. Their servant helped them perform many of the chores in running a farm. Father Gus was a faithful deacon in the Pohick Anglican Church. His first wife had died and had left him with two boys, Lawrence and Austin. When father Gus married Mary he had four more children, Betty, George, John and finally Charles.

When George was seven, the family moved to a new location called Ferry Farm on the Rappahannock River about 30 miles away. Here **George was schooled by a private tutor and his mother who read from the Bible to him.** She also read to him from a book called "Contemplations: Moral and Divine" to guide him in his Christian life.<sup>1</sup> Father Gus insisted that the children learn their catechism lessons for recitation on

Sunday. Each Sunday they would travel by carriage to the small brick church where young George would often light the candles.

George's hobby was riding his pony Whitefoot and practicing jumping with her. It was not very easy though, because at first Whitefoot didn't want to jump and when she finally did jump, both she and George tumbled into the dirt. His mother was full of compassion for young George but father Gus insisted that George shouldn't give up but must try again.<sup>2</sup> These qualities of courage and perseverance were to stand George in good stead over the years.

When George was eight he rode his horse daily to the ferry and crossed to the town of Fredericksburg to study at the church's parsonage. His mother wanted him to stay home rather than move away for his schooling.

George's two older half-brothers attended school in England and would come home only for visits. George became especially fond of his older half-brother Lawrence, who was over six feet tall, cheerful and seemed to know everything. When Lawrence finished his schooling he managed a home at Hunting Creek and George delighted in visiting him there. Soon though, Lawrence received a commission as an officer in the American regiment of the British navy and was assigned to duty in the Caribbean. When Lawrence finally returned looking very handsome in his uniform, he had a persistent hacking cough. Despite this affliction, he told the Washington family many sea stories and spoke glowingly of his commander, Admiral Vernon.

When George was only 11 years old his father Gus died unexpectedly. In his will, George was left the house and grounds of Ferry Farm.

A few months later though, another member was added to the family, when Lawrence married Nancy Fairfax. He and Nancy decided to redecorate the Hunting Creek home and rename it Mount Vernon after the British admiral whom Lawrence so admired. It was situated on a high bank of the Potomac River with a serene, panoramic view of a large bend in the river. George loved visiting here and at his brother Austin's house where he could ride horseback.

As a young boy, George enjoyed handwriting and copied many poems. In 1745 he copied 110 rules of conduct into his folio book. He appreciated neatness, organization and good manners.

## **SURVEYING**

One day George found his father's surveying tools and started dreaming about becoming a surveyor. When he asked his teacher to teach him surveying, the teacher was quick to point out that George didn't know nearly enough mathematics. George was so intrigued and determined that he decided he would use his own money, buy the logarithm and trigonometry books, and study on his own. By age 14, he had mastered the books and wanted to try surveying.<sup>3</sup> George wanted to go to England for additional study like his



older brothers had done, but his mother wouldn't allow it. She probably needed him at home since her husband had died.

George went looking for a surveying job locally and landed a desk job with a surveyor for whom he performed his job flawlessly. He also went on many field trips with his new boss and practiced surveying with him.<sup>4</sup>At age 16 he learned that a wealthy member of the Fairfax family needed help surveying his land in western Virginia, so George offered his services and was given the assignment. He rode off into the wilderness on horseback with two friends and their equipment. Being an expert horseman by now, George thoroughly enjoyed the trip except when the woods grew dense and riding became difficult.

One night they stopped at a wilderness cabin and prepared to sleep in the bedding provided. George gladly accepted the bedding but his friends chose to sleep on the floor. Of the bedding George wrote, "I found it to be nothing but a little straw matted together, without sheets, one threadbare blanket, with double its weight in vermin such as lice, fleas, etc. and I was glad to get up as soon as the light was carried from us I lay as my companions."<sup>5</sup>

This trip proved to be quite exciting because the surveyors soon encountered Indians who had a white man's scalp. Thankfully, George found out that Indians disliked settlers but permitted woodsmen to pass through. The Indians even performed a dance for George's party. One night, the straw they slept on caught fire and one man awoke and gave the alarm. George soon learned the way of the woods: how to move soundlessly and how to paddle a canoe, among other things. George wrote detailed descriptions of the woods and the paths of rivers and streams. His report was so good that after passing a qualifying test, he was offered the job of official surveyor of Culpeper County, Virginia at age 17. With his pay he bought some acreage in the Virginia wilderness.

## **LAWRENCE'S DEATH**

Meanwhile, George's favorite older half-brother Lawrence was growing sicker and the doctor recommended a warmer climate for him: the island of Barbados in the Caribbean. George accompanied him and soon George himself fell ill, not from tuberculosis, from which Lawrence suffered, but from smallpox. God was watching over George again, so that after a six week bout with the disease he recovered with an immunity that was to protect him throughout his life. Later in life, when his troops suffered and died from smallpox by the hundreds, George lived on to lead the survivors. When George and Lawrence returned to Virginia, Lawrence, still ill, resigned his commission in the military and George was appointed as his replacement with a rank of Major. Much to George's dismay, Lawrence soon died from his tuberculosis, and George found comfort in reading the Bible.

Lawrence's sickness and death must have had a profound effect on young Washington because it has recently been discovered that at about this time he filled 24 pages in a diary entitled: "Daily Sacrifice."<sup>6</sup> On Monday morning he wrote:

"Direct my thoughts, words and work, wash away my sins in the immaculate blood of the Lamb, and purge my heart by Thy Holy Spirit..., daily frame me more and more into the likeness of Thy Son Jesus Christ."

Then on Monday evening he entered these words:

"Thou gayest Thy Son to die for me, and hast given me assurance of salvation, upon my repentance and sincerely endeavoring to conform my life to His holy precepts and example." <sup>7</sup>

It was also found in his diary that Washington wanted to have the same kind of peaceful death that Lawrence had experienced. He said: "Make me willing and fit to die whenever Thou shalt call me hence". <sup>8</sup>

Lawrence left George stock in the Ohio Land Co. which was far to the northwest. At age 21 he now had a military title and more than 4,000 acres of land which he had bought or inherited.

### **GOVERNOR DINWIDDIE'S ASSIGNMENT**

All was not peaceful on his land because the French were laying claim to some of it, not to mention the Indians. The Frenchmen were even building forts to solidify their position. Virginia's Governor Dinwiddie asked George to deliver a letter many miles into the wilderness to the French Commander, St. Pierre, demanding that the French leave the Ohio Valley, which George accepted, packed his gear and readied his horse. Since George had trained himself to endure cold and discomforts, this was a real challenge to him. Governor Dinwiddie asked Chris Gist, a respected frontiersman, to accompany George.

At a nearby town, George convinced his young friend Jacob Van Braam, who spoke French, to also join the party. With four other helpers they set out in a pouring rain in late October 1753. The trip would be about 450 miles in wilderness with winter approaching, but George felt confident that with God's help he could make it. At the Indian village of Logstown, near present day Pittsburgh, they met a wilderness man who could speak the Indian language. This man, Davison, arranged a meeting with the Seneca Chief, Half King. They all met in the great longhouse, and Half King informed them that he had told the French that he would trade with them but did not want any white man to build houses on Indian land. He had said to the French: "So, fathers, I ask you to withdraw."

Afterwards the Indians agreed to guide George to the French commander at Venango, 60 miles north. But the French commander was not there. So George and his party traveled 100 miles more to a fort called Le Boeuf, near Lake Erie. At Le Boeuf the French told George to go to Canada to talk to their governor since they had orders to maintain their fort. George said: "I have no orders to go to Canada." The French commander, St. Pierre, then gave him a letter reply for Governor Dinwiddie.

## **THE COLD TRIP BACK**

George began his 560 mile trip back with only Gist and Van Braam. He accepted a canoe from St. Pierre and sent his horses on ahead. At Venango Washington was shocked to see his starving horses not fit for travel and since the river was frozen from there onward, they would have to continue their journey on foot in the snow. Washington and Gist set out alone leaving Van Braam with the horses.

At Murdering Town they met an English speaking Indian who offered to be their guide, whose services they accepted. Chris Gist had some reservations about the man and when they stepped into a meadow, a shot split the stillness. Their guide had shot at them. Both men had escaped the bullet and dived immediately at the Indian culprit. Gist wanted to kill him but Washington refused. They tied him at first and later sent him home, promising to follow. They followed him a few yards and then darted away, walking all night being suspicious of not only Frenchmen but Indians, also. God was protecting them for the Indian was only four feet away when he shot. Later in an Indian camp a wise chief said: "The young man (Washington) is a daring warrior. A mighty power shields him from harm."<sup>9</sup>

Their remaining trip was still eventful though, because the river was frozen on its edges and proved a real challenge. Washington and Gist built a raft but during the process of poling, Washington lost his grip and fell into the icy waters, Gist pulled him from the waters and they leaped onto an island. They talked to each other all night to keep from freezing to death. At dawn the river was frozen solid and they could walk across! God had spared their lives again. In a few hours they reached a trading post but hurried on after a short rest at a warm fire.

When he reached Governor Dinwiddie at Williamsburg, Washington had one clear message: The colonists must fight for the land they had just visited! It was January 15, 1754.

Because he had learned that the French had planned to attack the colonists in the spring, Washington had gained respect and was given 100 soldiers to train. He began to train these troops in Alexandria, Virginia. He knew that hundreds of French and Indians would be coming to claim Virginia territory in a few months. George realized his incompetence and confessed to a friend: "It is a charge too great for my youth and experience."<sup>10</sup>

## **FIRST BATTLE: VICTORY**

In March Washington began to march his troops to the Ohio River to meet the approaching French. Soon they heard there were 300 canoes and 1,000 Frenchmen approaching. In the battle that ensued with the advance party of 32 French scouts, 10 Frenchmen lay dead and Washington lost one man. Washington took 22 French captives back to camp leaving the Indians disappointed in not acquiring scalps, for Half King's braves had been on the Virginia side in this battle.

At the camp they began erecting a fort and Washington wrote Governor Dinwiddie requesting more supplies and reinforcements. No help or supplies arrived at first but Washington trusted God and gave credit to "Providence" when help finally did come."<sup>11</sup> British soldiers in bright red uniforms marched rigidly into "Fort Necessity." However, they were not as useful as was necessary because their next task was to carve a road in the wilderness and the British soldiers refused to do this. They remained in the fort with the Indians, while Washington and his Virginians set out to build a road.

## **SECOND BATTLE: DEFEAT**

Soon a message came that the French were sending 800 soldiers and 400 braves against his army. At this news Half King and his braves who had been with Washington melted into the forest, unwilling to fight any more as Washington's allies. Early the next morning the battle began. Washington was defeated and a surrender paper was signed. Washington sorrowfully retreated with his dead and wounded conceding that the Ohio wilderness was lost to the French for the time being.

## **GENERAL BRADDOCK'S DEFEAT**

Washington returned to life at Mt. Vernon, which he now rented from his half-brother Lawrence's widow, Nancy. A new commander, General Braddock, was appointed with fresh plans to regain the Ohio territory. He recruited new troops, and after a short training period they began a daring advance north to capture Fort Duquesne at the current site of Pittsburgh. In route Washington became quite ill but he refused to stay behind.

As the army got within 12 miles of the fort, a musket shot rang out as a signal that the French and Indians were eager to fight. The British marching in their red coats were easy targets for bullets and arrows but they were obedient to their commander. The British became frightened and confused. Washington's horse was shot from beneath him so he grabbed a riderless horse. General Braddock lay wounded on the ground. Washington's horse was shot again and his coat tattered by bullets but miraculously he did not get wounded. Even his hat had a bullet hole in it but God had protected Washington again.

Slowly they began their retreat and General Braddock died. Washington insisted on a Christian burial for General Braddock in the woods. Washington's body was still ill from his sickness, and his mind replayed the horrors of dying countrymen, but his heart was filled with gratitude that his life had been spared. Of the 1,200 British and Virginians that went to battle only 200 remained. God had spared his life for a greater job to come.

## GEORGE WASHINGTON, PART I

### YOUNG MAN OF ENDURANCE

1. Camp, Norma Cournow, *George Washington, Man of Prayer and Courage*, p. 7.
2. Ibid, p. 7.
3. Ibid, p, 18.
4. Judson, Clara Ingram, *George Washington, Leader of the People*, 48, 49.
5. Meltzer, Milton, *George Washington, and Birth of Our Nation* p. 26.
6. Marshall, Peter and Manuel, David, *The Light and the Glory*, p. 284.
7. Ibid, p. 285.
8. Camp, p. 28.
9. Ibid, p. 28.
10. Ibid, p. 43.
11. Ibid, pp. 47, 48.



# 7

## **GEORGE WASHINGTON, PART II**

### **ANSWERING HIS COUNTRY' S CALL**

#### **A TIME FOR REFLECTION**

During the summer of 1755, Washington spent time in reflection and recuperating from the dysentery that plagued his body. It was very difficult and painful when he reflected on the last defeat. Although friends tried to console him it was still a time of sadness. He said: "Too many men died." Yet Washington knew God had spared his life once again. Rev. Samuel Davis of Virginia spoke about Washington in his sermon, calling him "a remarkable instance" of patriotic spirit and military ardor, and hoped that this "heroic youth" had been preserved by Providence "for some important service to his country." <sup>1</sup>

However, his rest period, was short. Reports came filtering into the towns that the Indians and French were determined to drive the English colonists off the land. The French meanwhile were paying the Indians off by giving them trinkets, guns and other things the Indians prized. Then whole caravans of terrified settlers began streaming back through the gaps in the Blue Ridge Mts. with horror stories of scalplings and burned houses. The cries of his countrymen motivated Washington to action. Something had to be done.

## **AN IMPOSSIBLE ASSIGNMENT**

Responding to public clamor, at age 23 Washington accepted command of an "enlarged regiment" for which the House of Burgesses had voted funds. Gathering a few troops around him he went out to inspect the wilderness because Governor Dinwiddie had suggested they build a line of forts to protect the settlers. Washington knew it would be impossible to guard a frontier covering 360 miles of mountainous woodlands with only 1,200 troops, but he was willing to take a look. He couldn't just sit still and let his countrymen be scalped. Even though the Indians and French were congratulating each other, Washington knew that he could trust God with his life.

Then the word came that the Indians were attacking in the Shenandoah Valley only 100 miles from Mt. Vernon. "Desolation and murder increase", he wrote Dinwiddie, "and no prospects of relief." He added that he would gladly die if it would save the people in the Valley. Soon recruits began arriving in homespun clothing. Washington's prayers had been answered. Washington then set about training a bunch of undisciplined individuals. This in itself was a monumental task because he had 1,175 men to control. He set up strict rules for conduct, some of which were: no swearing or drinking.

## **WASHINGTON'S LIFE SPARED AGAIN**

One day Washington rode with several of his soldiers to inspect a small fort at Augusta, Virginia. An ambush party of Indians with white prisoners had hidden, waiting for two traders coming from the south. George and his men came into view from the north and he and his "whooping hallooing gentlemen soldiers" passed with only a "few leaves between them" and were not killed. The traders from the south soon arrived and were killed instantly.<sup>2</sup>

## **DIFFICULT TIMES**

While Washington was waiting for the plan of action to be okayed by headquarters, he noticed that his men needed some spiritual guidance. They were lacking in food and medicine and many were becoming depressed and were deserting. On Sundays Washington frequently read the Scripture and prayed with his regiment. One morning he was observed on his knees with Bible in hand. The government was not helping him and his troops were deserting him so Washington took comfort in the Lord as David had done centuries earlier.

Two years had now passed and nothing was being done except that a new General Loudoun had arrived from England, Washington presented his problems to the stern, cold general but was treated with disdain and told to return to his home. Disgusted, Washington wondered if he should resign but the cries of scalped Virginians ran in his ears.

## **FIGHT WITH DISENTERY**

By August of 1757 Washington's health began to deteriorate possibly due to tension and worry. The dysentery and fever flared up but he continued his work as long as possible. Slowly he lost weight and his doctor performed the usual cure for those days: drawing blood to release the impurities. (Now we know that method is just about the worst thing to do.) Washington was ordered to recuperate at Mt. Vernon, the place he loved.

## **COURTSHIP AND NEW ASSIGNMENT**

In the spring of 1758, still recovering from dysentery, Washington met a lovely widow, Martha Custis, who had two children. They fell in love and planned to marry but military duties beckoned him again. There were new plans to retake Ft. Duquesne, the place near where General Braddock had been defeated. Was George ready? He knew something had to be done and his priorities were God first and his countrymen next, This marriage would have to wait. Washington was to command a regiment of 1,000 men. He felt stronger as the days went by. Especially encouraging were the reports that northern military campaigns at the other forts had begun.

In July, Washington moved his troops to Ft. Cumberland to await the attack on Ft. Duquesne. Thinking of his future bride, he wrote to her a sweet letter ending with "that an all-powerful Providence may keep us both in safety is the prayer of your ever faithful and ever affectionate friend."

## **VICTORY AT FORT DUQUESNE**

Washington's new commander, Forbes, decided to cut a new road through Pennsylvania to reach Ft. Duquesne, and Washington reflected on the folly of Braddock's mistakes. Why spend time, effort and money on a new road when Braddock's road came within six miles of the fort? It's a wonder Washington didn't resign and go back home but God was planning something wonderful just ahead and something must have stirred in Washington to go on, obey his commander and believe for victory. Thankfully, Forbes was open to suggestions that their troops dress in Indian shirts and leggings and move lightly through the woods. No more red uniformed soldiers as easy targets.

A change of events was happening up north. The British ships were blocking the French from reaching their ports and consequently the French could not obtain any more gifts for the Indians. "No gifts, no fight", seemed to be the Indian motto.

Dysentery again racked Washington's body but he drew strength from that spiritual reservoir that he replenished with the Word day after day. By October they reached Laurel Ridge near Ft. Duquesne. Rain came pelting down for eight days and Commander Forbes grew gravely ill. Washington knew that within 19 days the term for his enlisted soldiers would expire and they could legally turn and go home. The press was on.



Forbes sent three regiments on ahead, Washington leading one of these. Firing was soon heard. Much to their embarrassment and dismay his troops were shooting at each other. "Halt your fire, men", Washington ordered. Bullets had again whistled past and missed. The scouts who had gone on ahead brought back three prisoners with the good news that the French garrison was small and that the Indians had gone.

As they approached the fort slowly hacking their way through the snow laded trees, Washington grew tense. It was now only six days till disbanding time and his troops were eager to leave. An Indian scout approached Washington with a report of smoke up ahead. Within a few hours another report came and was relayed by Washington to his troops: "They've burned the fort and run away." Not a drop of their blood would need to be shed now! What a sweet victory: God had worked a miracle in their behalf: When Washington and his troops reached the fort there were only smoldering cabins and a heap of scalping knives. Washington now felt a great sense of relief and gave thanks to God. Within days he resigned his commission, in spite of his troop's entreaties, and made plans to return to Mt. Vernon and pursue his marriage to Martha.

## **HOME LIFE WITH MARTHA**

In 1759, at the age of 27, Washington married Martha Custis and happily made plans to remodel Mt. Vernon, which had been willed to George from his brother Lawrence's estate. In the meantime they lived in Williamsburg, at her house, and Washington served as a delegate to the House of Burgesses, the State Legislature of Virginia.

Washington was not an easy talker and one day during a session of the Legislature he was praised for his faithfulness and bravery during the Indian wars and when he was called upon to stand, he flushed red and stood speechless. The speaker then said: "Sit down, Washington. Your modesty is equal to your valor and that surpasses the power of any language."<sup>3</sup>

George and Martha oversaw the Biblical and academic instruction of Martha's two small children, Patsy and Jacky. They regularly attended church and soon Washington was asked to be a vestryman (deacon) as his father had been. Later he became church warden supervising church discipline, overseeing relief to the poor, and repairs on the church building. Good news came from England that they had signed a peace treaty with the French! No more war! Washington could now enjoy his well earned peace.

Washington enjoyed laying on the grounds of the plantation at Mt Vernon. His love of symmetry was and remains a delight. The trees he planted now reach hundreds of feet into the sky. Plants imported and tenderly cultivated are a current testimony to his love of husbandry. The diverse variety speaks of an imaginative, creative God.

Since roads were often muddy, making travel a challenge, when guests arrived, they most often stayed for days. Martha enjoyed this and became a charming, gracious hostess. The little brick church at Pohick, nestled in the tees, saw their carriage arrive regularly.

When the legislature was in session they temporarily moved to Martha's house in Williamsburg, the capital. There they attended Bruton church. It still stands today rebuilt over its original foundation with many saints laid to rest beneath the nave and in the courtyard, a striking testimony of a God-fearing people. Just down the street is Mr. Wythe's house, owned by a brilliant, godly man where Washington held his headquarters during part of the Revolutionary War. The gardens are serene and one can almost see Washington on his knees praying there.

## **GROWING UNREST**

As the years passed, England become more and more domineering in her attitude toward the colonists. First England demanded taxes on certain items, then she added more items, and put more and more restrictions on the colonists. The colonial leaders wrote letters to the king, sent representatives to the English Parliament, and tried in many ways to avoid an open confrontation. England was also in the habit of appointing English instead of colonial governors in Virginia. The British even demanded the right to fill the pulpits with English bishops or preachers. In the northern colonies, religious freedom was the very reason that the Pilgrim forefathers had given their lives to establish a colony in America. The Virginia House of Burgesses in Williamsburg ordered a day of fasting and prayer on June 1, 1774 and Bruton church was packed.<sup>4</sup> A great spiritual battle raged. What was God's will for the colonists? They didn't want to shed blood, yet their freedom was being restricted more and more. As event after event passed, it became abundantly clear that they must defend the freedom for which the Pilgrims and Puritans had given their all.

## **A QUALITY DECISION**

Washington had a very hard decision to make that summer of 1774. Would he continue managing his plantation? After all, he was wealthy, happy and he had fought enough to preserve Virginia's freedom. Other men could now rise up to fight for the other states, he might have reasoned. However, God was putting on him the burden for unity of all the states. They were his countrymen just as Virginians were. One Sunday after service at the Alexandria church, George declared his decision. He announced to friends that he would fight to uphold colonist's rights. Later, he even offered "to raise 1,000 men, subsist them at my own expense and march... for the relief of Boston." His offer was not accepted.

## **WASHINGTON COMMISSIONED AS GENERAL**

Political tension was at a high pitch. The town of Boston had been shelled by the British and a Continental Congress was called together in Philadelphia at which Washington was a delegate. He wore his 16 year old military uniform, which fit him perfectly, to show that he was ready to fight. He said: "No man relies more fully on the powerful dealing of the Supreme Being than I."<sup>5</sup> Martha too was trusting God. She said: "God has promised to protect the righteous, and I will trust Him."<sup>6</sup> In June 1775 Washington was officially asked to be the commanding general of the entire Continental Army. He wrote a farewell letter to Martha about his decision to accept the position.

## **THE SIEGE OF BOSTON**

Washington then gathered his ill-clad and ill-equipped army and marched toward Boston. This city had been occupied by British troops and its harbor had been closed. As he approached the city he climbed a nearby hill to assess the situation. In the distance he spotted hundreds of British flags flying from masts of anchored ships. It had been a year and a half since the harbor had reeked of tea from the famous Boston Tea Party. Washington's supplies were critically low, so he sent messages out in all directions asking for gunpowder, knowing that if the British attacked, he would be immediately defeated. By God's mercy the British did not attack. In the meantime Washington's chaplain drilled his troops and had them gathered daily on a grassy plot for prayer. Slowly gunpowder and supplies trickled in. The British aboard the ships slowly used up their food supplies and could not land to obtain more food. Private American ships sank many of the British ships, and slowly the British army which was housed in Boston ran out of wood for fuel. Still they did not attack Washington's army.

## **A NEW FLAG ARRIVES**

The colonists in the meantime were deciding upon a new flag for their army. Wanting to still maintain some of their English heritage they decided upon 13 red and white stripes with the Union Jack in the left hand corner. This was called the "Grand Union Flag."

## **PREPARATIONS FOR BATTLE**

Since the British commander did nothing to attack Washington's army, the king replaced him with a more aggressive commander, Major General Howe. Washington, sensing an impending offensive, sent an enterprising young officer, Henry Knox, who had volunteered, on an assignment 300 miles away to obtain 50 cannons and other equipment which lay idle. With God's help the heavy cannons and other artillery and gunpowder were dragged by sled and oxen over frozen lakes and snow covered hills to the camp at Boston. Washington's troops were eager now to fight but Washington ordered a day of fasting, prayer, and humiliation "to implore the Lord, giver of all victory, that it would please Him to bless the Continental arms with His divine favor and protection".<sup>7</sup>

## **GOD'S INTERVENTION**

That night Washington's army crept up a hill and began digging fortifications. Miraculously, God sent a wind to drown out all the digging noises. Then He sent a haze to cover the tops of all hills thus hiding the hastily built forts. When the haze lifted the British in Boston were shocked to see two American forts constructed on the top of a hill above the city. The British began shelling but their shots fell short. They then decided to get closer by ship, but God sent a tremendous wind and it blew their ships onto harbor islands. The raging surf made landing impossible for the wind was of hurricane force!<sup>8</sup>

Slowly General Howe, the British commander, began to realize an attack was impossible so he raised a flag of truce, No blood would need to be shed! General Howe had 11,000

troops quartered in Boston in stolen homes which he now promised to evacuate without burning them. They all left in haste, confusion, and disgrace sailing north out of Boston. God had intervened. Washington wrote the Assembly in Massachusetts: "and it being effected without the blood of our soldiers must be ascribed to the interposition of Providence." A thanksgiving service was conducted using a message from Isaiah 33:20. "Look upon Zion, the city of our solemnities, thine eyes shall see Jerusalem a quiet habitation, a tabernacle, not one of the stakes thereof shall ever be removed neither shall any of the cords thereof be broken." The people of Boston rejoiced that lives were spared and their homes were returned for they had been held captive for one year.

Were the wind and haze coincidences? Or was God working to birth a new nation where people would be free to worship Him? Washington and the colonists saw this victory as the hand of God.

## GEORGE WASHINGTON, PART II

### ANSWERING HIS COUNTRY'S CALL

1. Judson, Clara Ingram, *George Washington, Leader of the People*, p. 103.
2. Camp, Norma, *George Washington, Man of Prayer and Courage*, 75, 76.
3. North, Sterling, *George Washington, Frontier Colonel*, pp. 157, 158.
4. Judson, pp. 142, 143.
5. Camp, p. 113.
6. Ibid, p. 114.
7. Ibid. p. 129.
8. Marshall, Peter, and Manuel, David, *The Light and the Glory*, pp. 299, 300.



8

### **GEORGE WASHINGTON PART III**

#### **A NATION FORMED FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS**

##### **DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE WRITTEN**

By spring of the year 1776, the British ships returned to New York and began to occupy Staten Island. General Washington knew that the British were preparing to take New York. Hundreds of colonists were now talking independence. The Continental Congress took heed and appointed a committee to write down these newly formed ideas which could then in turn be circulated among the people. Thomas Jefferson, a well known writer, was asked to serve with Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, and about fifty other delegates.

The words came out: "all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights..., that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness..., with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes and our sacred honor." A formal acceptance of the document by Congress was made on July 4, 1776. Washington had the document read to his troops when they were gathered on Long Island.

## **GOD INTERVENES IN NEW YORK**

General Washington knew that the British desperately wanted the port of New York so he stationed thousands of troops in fortifications on Manhattan Island, Long Island, Ft. Lee and Ft. Washington. The British General Howe began to set up camp on Staten Island and before long he attacked Washington on Long Island. For three days the Americans fought bravely although they were outnumbered two to one besides having very few boats compared to the British 500. Washington began to see that he should retreat. With pain he received the news that 2,000 of his men had died. He quietly decided on a night time retreat across the river to Manhattan Island, his only way out; otherwise they would be trapped on Long Island.

In a desperate, bold move Washington collected every vessel in sight and began to evacuate his troops by night. He knew that if the British saw them by moonlight all would be lost. **Slowly but surely, a mist arose in the darkness and covered each boat as it loaded and unloaded its precious cargo from shore to shore. Even the cannons, horses, and provisions were ferried across safely!** By morning when the mist had vanished, so had the Americans completely evacuated much to the astonishment and chagrin of the British troops. If God hadn't sent that mist, the whole army would have been seen and captured! God was preserving our nation because our leaders had based their lives on Biblical principles and trusted Him for protection. <sup>1</sup>

British troops then entered Manhattan Island forcing Washington to go north. Washington felt reasonably comfortable about this because there was a forest ahead of him. He had spent many months in the woods and knew he could hide out among the trees. The British on the other hand did not like the forest. They preferred fighting in the open fields because they fought poorly in the forest.

After the news spread that Washington had retreated, many colonists became discouraged, even though God had intervened. They gave up too quickly and when General Howe asked them to swear allegiance to England, promising them safety, they quickly complied.<sup>2</sup> Congress also panicked and in fear moved their headquarters from Philadelphia to Baltimore.

## **WASHINGTON'S COURAGE**

Washington, still deeply convinced that he was fighting for a just cause and that God's protection was on him, slowly moved his troops south and bravely planned an attack on the town of Trenton. Thousands of German mercenaries were housed there in American homes, having forced themselves upon the people. It was Christmas eve and all had finished celebrating and had just fallen asleep when Washington and his troops crossed the Delaware River and surprised the town. Utter confusion and panic gripped the German troops and many were killed and 1,000 were quickly taken prisoner.

Shortly after that victory he accomplished a second successful surprise attack on the village of Princeton, New Jersey. He complimented his troops on a "gallant and spirited

attack." Morale was up now, and a new group of recruits joined Washington. The rest of the winter was spent in bitter cold at Morristown, New Jersey, where they shivered for lack of warm clothing. Martha Washington came for a visit which encouraged the troops because she was compassionate and mended their clothes and knitted stockings.

### **LAFAYETTE ARRIVES**

The next summer (1777) God blessed Washington with the arrival of a courageous 19 year old from France. They were immediately attracted to each other. Lafayette reminded Washington of himself when he was a youth, eager for action, yet showing a noble spirit since he came to the aid of the oppressed. As the years went by, Washington treated Lafayette as a son and the young man deeply respected his commander and proved to be a brave leader.

### **OPPORTUNITIES FOR DISCOURAGEMENT**

During the fall of 1777 Washington's army suffered two defeats in battle, one at Brandywine and another at Germantown where there were 1,100 casualties. Washington always suffered greatly when this happened because he cared deeply for his men.

The Congress wrote to the General demanding an explanation for the defeats and inquired why the British weren't pursued. Washington wrote them: "Why I did not follow immediately, is the lack of shoes. At least a thousand men are barefoot."

Washington was happy for the news that he received that fall that General Gates had won a victory up north at Saratoga, New York, but he heard rumblings of discontent among his troops that they would rather be with Gates because he was winning battles. At the battle of Saratoga, approximately 6,500 British troops had surrendered and many cannons had also been captured. This battle was significant because the American victory brought France into the war on the side of the new nation.

### **VALLEY FORGE**

Winter was soon upon them so Washington decided to set up quarters at Valley Forge where there was an abundance of trees for firewood and for building cabins. Washington's men at this point were exhausted, mostly shoeless, thin and sick. They had walked 15 miles in a week's time to reach this camp, leaving a trail of blood behind in the snow. They used hats for shoes and made leggings out of straw and paper. One out of three was unfit for duty because of sickness; namely, smallpox, flu, tuberculosis or dysentery. Exhausted men lay with their feet to the flames of bonfires until huts could be constructed. Many deserted those who could, sneaked away. The penalty was severe, however, if discovered, it was death by hanging.

Washington spent his days with his troops, inspecting and planning, and wrote letters late into the night pleading for supplies. He slept in a tent just as his troops did until all his men were housed in cabins. Only then did he move into a small stone house. Only 18

miles away in Philadelphia were the British troops, comfortably housed and fed by British sympathizers. Washington's troops starved, froze and succumbed to sickness but daily Washington was on his knees, Bible in hand, entreating God on their behalf. General Knox and Isaac Potts heard Washington's voice raised in prayer and were encouraged.<sup>3</sup>

Washington's teeth ached and many had to be pulled but his dear wife Martha came and spent some time with him when he was in the stone house. Besides bringing some food, she and the other officers' wives patched and mended uniforms, knitted stockings, and prepared home-made soup for the sick.<sup>4</sup> She was greatly loved for her compassion and encouragement which she gave to the whole army. In spite of these tremendous hardships, Washington marveled that there weren't more desertions. God was supernaturally seeing them through.

In the spring of 1778, the Prussians sent an expert military commander to aid Washington in training his troops. The man, Baron Von Steuben, could speak little English but he was a godsend for Washington. He began training the thin, ragged troops at once, a very frustrating job because of the communication gap and the ineptness and independence of the troops. Yet he never gave up until they became a creditable military force.

### **PEACE OFFER PRESENTED**

That same spring a peace offer was presented to General Washington by British General Howe.<sup>5</sup> It seems the British were becoming frightened by the news that Count d'Estaing had sailed for America with 12 French warships and many French regiments.<sup>6</sup> The colonists at this point had already drawn up a Declaration of Independence and wanted nothing short of total victory. They didn't want peace at the cost of liberty. Washington didn't like war but he didn't want peaceful British dominance either. It was a chance at compromise but General Washington did not succumb.

### **MORE BATTLES**

The summer of 1778 saw Washington take an offensive with his newly trained 17,000 men as they marched toward New York. The campaign ended indecisively so to speak. The Americans stopped retreating, the British were checked but not defeated, and they slipped away in the night.

For the next three years several small battles took place in the north and south, but none were decisive.

During the winter of 1779-1780 Washington camped at Morristown again. Supplies failed to arrive as usual but the General continued to trust in "Providence."



## BATTLE OF YORKTOWN

After another year British General Cornwallis' attempted to separate the southern states from the rest of the colonies. Washington was then frustrated by his defeat at Kings Mountain, South Carolina and found himself pushed back to the Yorktown peninsula in eastern Virginia, from where he had started a year before. Washington at this point had made contact with the French, and they were planning to send ships and troops up from the West Indies to Yorktown in an attempt to cut off Cornwallis from any British aid by sea. Washington, not knowing when the French ships would arrive, began marching his troops 450 miles south to confront Cornwallis at Yorktown. God protected Washington and his troops as they marched south in that no spies reported their movements to Cornwallis so that he might flee westward. Washington craftily leaked misinformation which he hoped would reach the ears of spies. Yet he didn't know when the French fleet would arrive to aid him.

Providentially, the French ships arrived before Washington and began to disable the British ships which were supporting Cornwallis. Badly battered, the British ships limped away leaving Cornwallis stranded to fight 16,000 American and French troops. For days the battle raged with Cornwallis finally making plans to retreat across the York River. **A storm suddenly came up disrupting his plans for evacuation and Cornwallis decided to surrender.** On October 19, his 8,000 troops surrendered, filing past the Americans and their French allies to lay down their arms. It was a glorious victory for the new nation and was the last major battle of the war. A thanksgiving service was held the following day.

Washington had yet another chance to succumb to the schemes of the enemy just after this victory. One of his colonels from New York wrote and urged him to overthrow the American republic and make himself king, saying there would be many other military officers who would, support this military takeover.<sup>7</sup> Washington was very angry and rejected the suggestion immediately.

## PEACE AND FAREWELL TO ARMS

Soon after Yorktown, the English became discouraged with such a long and fruitless war. Six years had passed and they began to make negotiations for peace. Finally on September 3, 1783, after eight years of fighting, a peace treaty was signed. What a glorious day! The country rejoiced!

A farewell meeting was planned by Washington in order to thank his faithful officers. As they were saying goodbye, Washington's eyes filled with tears. "I cannot come to each of you but shall feel obliged if each of you will come and take me by the hand," he said. As each one filed past the General, Washington put his arms around them and kissed them on the cheek. It was a tearful moment for all. Then the General, choked with emotion, raised his arm in silent farewell and walked from the room. The officers affectionately admired Washington as sons would their father, and he treated them as beloved sons. Their memories of his courage, perseverance and faith would last forever.

At Annapolis Washington resigned his commission before the Congress. Great throngs of well wishers had greeted him all along the way. Martha watched from a balcony choking back tears as the General lay down his sword. In his closing words, he commended his new country "to the protection of Almighty God."<sup>8</sup>

The next morning the Washingtons were escorted to their peaceful home on the Potomac. Presents were packed tightly onto the carriage because Christmas was coming soon. While the General was gone Martha's son Jacky had died and now Jacky's two youngest children were being adopted by their grandparents. It would be a joyous Christmas with two young grandchildren at Mt. Vernon.

Also accompanying the Washingtons were a few young aides who could not get home for Christmas so they were invited to share the Christmas merriment at Mt. Vernon. When they left a few days later, George gave each a gift of one hundred dollars for expenses on their journey.<sup>9</sup>

## **QUIET YEARS**

For years, the Washingtons enjoyed each other's company with their grandchildren, and the constant visiting by well wishers. Martha entertained 10 to 15 guests at her table almost continually. They never stinted on sharing their best with their guests.<sup>10</sup>

Washington was deluged with mail, most of which he painstakingly answered former soldiers who were requesting his assistance on receiving back pay, or a land grant. Washington did his utmost to satisfy them.

Some of Washington's most refreshing times at Mt. Vernon were when he rode horseback through his fields and gardens admiring the greenery. Then there were the quiet thankful times with God when he could reflect on all His mercies.

## **MAKING A CONSTITUTION**

A sense of duty still remained with Washington though because his new nation was experiencing growing pains. There were squabbles up north, and the Congress was too weak and powerless to enforce the Articles of Confederation which they had formed. Self-government wasn't working. In response to the state of Virginia's request, Washington went to a Constitutional Convention at Philadelphia in May 1787 to help strengthen the young nation on its course. Before long he was selected as chairman of a committee to write a constitution. For 16 hot weeks Washington presided over the debates on writing laws. He listened mostly, casting a vote only when called upon. Slowly the constitution developed with a Senate and House of Representatives. A President would preside over all.

In February 1789 the state electors decided unanimously to elect Washington as the first President of the United States. Reluctantly, he accepted and the people were jubilant. The trip to the capital at New York where his inauguration was to be held was a joyous

occasion, but embarrassing for Washington. Throngs greeted him wherever he went. Church bells rang and cannons boomed in celebration. The oath was taken on the Bible followed by wild cheering and clapping. Afterwards Washington and other government officials walked to St. Paul's church for special services.

## **THE PRESIDENCY**

The years of the presidency were demanding on Washington in a new way. He wanted to be sure he was doing things right for there was no pattern to follow in the world's governments. He had only the principles in the Bible to guide him. Washington surrounded himself with wise, reliable men, for he had a God-given gift for selecting wise men.

After his first term, Washington was asked to serve again. People were saying that he was the only one who could get the government to work and settle the disputes. In the spring of 1793 Washington was unanimously re-elected to the presidency.

It was a difficult four years for Washington but God continued to give him strength and wisdom. Martha was a gracious hostess as streams of people came to visit them. Their home in Philadelphia, the new capital, was so well used that some of the furniture had to be replaced three times.<sup>11</sup>

After eight years in office, Washington decided on retirement and wrote a Farewell Address. John Adams, a godly man who had served under Washington as vice president, was chosen as the next president.

## **FINAL DAYS**

Back at Mt. Vernon, Washington relaxed between letter writing and entertaining guests. Lafayette's son spent several months with him and Martha much to Washington's delight for he had been fond of his father.

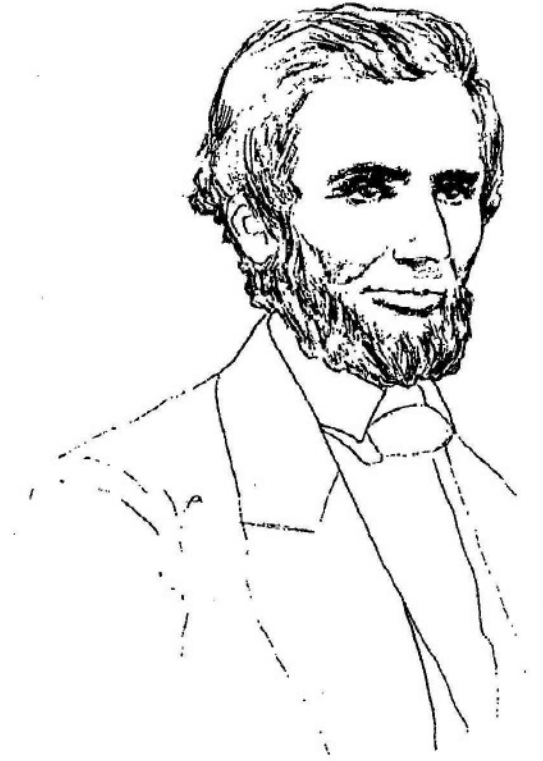
On December 12, 1799 Washington caught cold while making the rounds of his estate on horseback. The following morning the family doctor was called but he grew worse as the day went on. On December 14, 1799 Washington departed for his eternal home. "Grandmother resigned him... into the arms of his Savior and his God," said his granddaughter Nelly.<sup>12</sup> The nation mourned for 30 days.

Washington had served his country for the better part of 45 years. On his own insistence he served throughout the war without salary and in fact often gave his own resources for his beloved troops.<sup>13</sup> He suffered deprivation in every area. He withstood jealousy, traitors, near mutiny, and all sorts of conflicts. His faith, perseverance, courage, humility, generosity and wisdom are an inspiration to all. God has given us a precious heritage in a man like George Washington.

## GEORGE WASHINGTON, PART III

### A NATION FORMED FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS

1. Foster, Marshall and Swanson, Mary Elaine, *The American Covenant*, pp. 41, 42.
2. Judson, Clara Ingram, *George Washington, Leader of the People*, p. 162.
3. Camp, Norma Cournow, *George Washington, Man of Prayer and Courage*, p. 141.
4. Thane, Elswyth, *Washington's Lady*, pp. 138-141.  
(Recommended reading for interesting details.)
5. Judson, p. 178.
6. Meltzer, Milton, *George Washington and the Birth of our Nation*, p. 102.
7. Ibid, p. 110.
8. Camp, p. 151.
9. Judson, p. 189.
10. Meltzer, pp. 120, 121.
11. Camp. p. 160.
12. Ibid. p. 163.
13. Thane, p. 79.



# 9

## **ABRAHAM LINCOLN PART I**

### **THE BEGINNING OF WISDOM**

Shortly after George Washington's death in 1799, God began raising up another great political leader who would also have a thirst for learning and a deep desire to have all people live by Biblical principles.

#### **LIFE IN KENTUCKY**

Abraham (Abe) Lincoln was born into a pioneering family on February 12, 1809 in Knob Creek, Kentucky. Abraham's grandfather, originally from Virginia, had been killed by Indians when he arrived in Kentucky. Young Thomas, Abraham's father, had little time for education because he had to work hard to support the family. Thomas Lincoln married Nancy Hanks, a kind, devout woman who was somewhat educated. It was she that encouraged their two young children to learn. From that marriage Sarah was born, then Abraham, and finally another boy who died after three days.

Abraham's mother sang lullabies and hymns to the children to lull them to sleep at night. She also taught them the alphabet at an early age. It was said that by the time Abe was seven he was able to take his turn in daily Bible readings. In school also Abe later wrote "we had no reading books, and we read out of the Bible. The class would stand up in a row, the teacher in front of them, and read verses, turn about."

While in Kentucky, Abraham's mother and father talked often during the week about the issue of slavery. They felt that the Bible was strongly against using as a slave a person of another race. His parents' little Baptist church was involved in a controversy about slavery and eventually "closed its doors because its members could not meet in peace."<sup>1</sup> Thomas and Nancy Lincoln found peace in another Baptist church whose members were antislavery in sentiment. Many historians agree that partly because of this slavery issue the Lincolns decided to move north to Indiana, across the Ohio River where slavery was prohibited.

Another reason for the family's move was that Thomas Lincoln was facing a court case because the land he and his neighbor had built on was claimed by a wealthy Virginian even though Thomas had bought the land in good faith. It seems there was an error in the surveying records and Abe's father didn't want to fight it out in court.

### **MOVING TO INDIANA**

The idea of moving was exciting for young Abe and his older sister Sarah. They had to pile all their belongings onto a wagon. This included all the cooking utensils, linens, spinning wheel, clothes, etc. All the furniture would be left behind because his father could make new furniture wherever they settled. Plenty of corn for planting was taken along with food staples for the winter. Abe and Sarah rode the wagon while their parents walked the 100 miles alongside. At night they camped in the woods. Thomas Lincoln had staked a claim in Indiana previously and this was their destination.

When the Ohio River came into view, young Abe and Sarah were excited for they had never seen such a mighty river. The ferry ride across was an exciting first-time adventure also. On the Indiana side they met Mr. Posey, who loaned them another wagon. From Mr. Posey they bought a cow and also a dog for Abe.

But then the road became more and more narrow until finally the family had to cut their way to their farm with an axe, felling the trees as they went. They finally settled on a relatively high piece of land fed by a clear water spring.

By nightfall Abe and his father had put together a three-sided shelter with a roof made of saplings covered with brush. In front they kept a fire burning constantly, not only because it was December but they had been warned about bears and wolves. The little family didn't sleep too well because of the cold and fear about wolves, but prayer and father's promise to build a log cabin gave them a bit of peace. Abe's father worked slowly on the log cabin, but hunting game for the family was more pressing business for him. Also, Abe's father wanted to clear the land so the corn and other seeds could be planted in the spring. Abe's mother was very patient about the cabin. In the spring Abe's mother insisted that he and his sister Sarah attend school and do their planting chores afterwards.

Young Abe was a smart and obedient student. A neighbor said that by age seven "he set everybody a wonderin' to see how much he knowed."<sup>2</sup> Abe's father had help that spring

on building the cabin when his mother's cousin Dennis Hanks arrived. As soon as the cabin was up his mother's aunt and her husband arrived to stay with the Lincolns.

## **UPHEAVAL**

That fall, however, a mysterious sickness plagued the Pigeon Creek neighborhood where the Lincolns lived. Cows and people alike got sick and died within a short time. Due to subsequent research it seems that cows feasted in the fall on certain weed named "white snakeroot" which poisoned them and their milk. People became sick with fevers and stomachaches and died shortly. Because of this poisoned milk Nancy Lincoln's aunt and her aunt's husband died that first fall.

Shortly thereafter, Nancy herself (Abe's mother) got sick and died. Since Abe dearly loved his mother this was a very difficult time for him. At age nine, Abe picked up his Bible for answers. In later years he said that the Bible which his mother read and had taught him to read was the greatest comfort he and his sister had after his mother was gone.<sup>3</sup>

## **A NEW FAMILY**

Thomas Lincoln grieved a long time for his wife but the following fall he left the children abruptly with their older cousin Hank and went away. Within a month's time he returned, much to Abe's and Sarah's amazement, with a new mother for them. She came with her three children, since her first husband had died, and immediately comforted Abe and his sister. She busily set the cabin in order, cleaning everything in sight, and brought it a loving touch of compassion yet firmness, organization yet comfort, and freedom yet stability.

To Abe's delight she brought a few books with her, which he devoured as fast as his nine year old mind could manage, namely: Pilgrim's Progress, Aesop's Fables, and Robinson Crusoe. His new mother, Sarah, encouraged Abe to read and complimented him on his writing. Also, young Lincoln was now pleased that he had a new brother and two new sisters, some tasty food and a feather mattress. Life was so much better since Sarah arrived.

## **ABE, THE "BOOK WORM"**

Because Abe's mind was constantly "a churnin'", he always befriended a person who had a book. His formal education only amounted to about a total of one year as he later said but he spent hours by candle light and firelight with his eyes glued to a book and his long lanky legs draped over a chair or stool. Ramsey's "The Life of George Washington" particularly took his fancy and after reading it late into the night, he tucked the book into a chink between the logs by his bed.

During the night, a rain storm blew against the cabin drenching the treasured, but borrowed book. Much to Abe's dismay when he viewed the precious book in the morning,

the pages were soaked. Dutifully, Abe returned the book with apologies but its owner demanded two whole days of work in the cornfield to reimburse him for his loss. The only consolation was that now Abe owned another book.<sup>4</sup>

Reading gave Abe a "way with words", ideas and topics for conversation. He even obtained a notebook and began writing down all things that struck him from oratory, rhetoric, science, art, etc. His stepmother later said: "he read them, looked them over, analyzed them, thoroughly understanding them and then translated them into his boyish language to tell his school mates, friends, and me what they meant. They must hear or he would bust wide open."<sup>5</sup>

His thirst for learning was so great that it was said that there wasn't a book within 50 miles of the Lincoln cabin that he hadn't read. In his own words he said: "The things I want to know are in books. My best friend is the man who'll get me a book I ain't read." Later he even read the Constitution of the U.S. and gave speeches to trees.

### **ABE'S OTHER INTERESTS**

Coupled with his thirst for learning was his love for people and his interest in their many concerns like farming, bridges, boats, and their petty disputes. The people loved him in return and offered him jobs from rail splitting, to corn-planting, ferrying, and most any other job because of his pleasant personality and strong physique. Physically Abe at 16 was already a gangly six feet four inches and an excellent wood splitter.

Abe's father was not pleased with his "book learnin" and would often call his attention to work that he thought needed to be done. Abe was obedient though and helped his father and later earned money splitting logs, giving all his earnings to his father as the custom was in that day.

Abe's older sister Sarah married a mutual friend when Abe was 17, but two years later she died in childbirth. Abe remembered how Sarah had gotten married in the new little church their father had helped build. It had been a joyous occasion just like the times when they had grown up together, though without a mother. God had seen them through that difficult period and would see him through again. Sarah's husband also grieved but said "The Lord gave us a little time, but it was blessed and joyous."<sup>6</sup>

### **ADVENTURES ON A FLATBOAT**

At age 18 Abe built a sturdy raft for himself and did errands along the Indiana side of the Ohio River. Because of a dispute about his ferrying rights in which young Abe was proved to be legally correct, he began to take an interest in law books. He studied "The Statutes of Kentucky" and "The Revised Laws of Indiana."

The following year Abe was offered a job taking a load of produce by flatboat down the Mississippi River to New Orleans. He gladly accepted even though he knew the dangers of currents, pirates, snags, and rapids. His father consented, and so with his friend Allen



Gentry he pushed off downstream. Traveling was lonesome, but the surrounding countryside was beautiful. Each night they stayed at a different wharf.

One night about midnight as they camped near New Orleans after an exhausting day on the treacherous river, Abe was abruptly awakened by Allen calling his name: "Abe! Help me!"

Quickly Abe went to his friend who was struggling with several dark strangers. Within seconds Abe pulled one man off, tossing him into the river. Two more intruders were tossed into the water in rapid succession. Sensing impending retaliation the young men immediately loosened the ropes that held their boat to the wharf and took off into the darkness.<sup>7</sup> It was a relieved, thankful few hours before they reached their destination at New Orleans.

### **EXPOSURE TO SLAVERY**

New Orleans was an entirely different world to a country boy like Abe. The variety of people, clothes, houses, shops, vegetation and food intrigued him. But one particular event caught his eye and impressed him deeply. There on a platform was a group of black people being auctioned for a price to wealthy men who called out their bids. How horrid, Abe thought. His parents had talked about this when he was a child, and were so much against it. Now he could see why. In anger, Abe turned away. Didn't the Declaration of Independence say "that all men are created equal?" There would be no peace for him that night.

### **ILLINOIS BECKONS**

Back home in Indiana there was talk of "milk sickness" again. Quickly "Pa" Lincoln sold his land, corn, and hogs, piled everything feasible in a wagon, and took off with his family for new territory in Illinois. A cousin welcomed them to Macon County and helped them build a new cabin.

### **GOD'S CONCERN ABOUT FROSTBITE**

During these early adult years Abe didn't nurture God's Word which had been planted in his heart by his mother. However, even though this seed was dormant, God was watching over Abe.

During the winter of 1830 Abe fell into the Sangamon River which was swollen with ice. His canoe had been punctured by a sharp chunk of ice, and Abe found himself barely staying afloat on the overturned canoe. Somehow he managed to get to shore and walked painstakingly to his friend's farmhouse, His feet were burning as a sign of freezing and Abe was aware of his serious plight. His friend's mother immediately sensed Abe's condition, pulled off his boots and massaged his feet by the fire. They were all worried his feet were frozen. After a few hours Mrs. Warnick rested from the massaging and

placed Abe's condition in God's hands. Slowly the circulation returned and his feet were saved.<sup>8</sup>

Abe had a time for reflection. Mr. Warnick loaned Abe his Bible, the words of which brought comfort during this recuperation time.

## **SEVERAL JOBS**

The next few years Abe became experienced in several jobs preferring those where he had contact with lots of people. He took another trip down the Mississippi River to New Orleans.

At age 23 Abe's father decided to move again and after helping his father build a cabin, Abe decided to strike out on his own. In the back of his mind was the idea of becoming a lawyer. As his mother would say, "God was guiding him."

Abe had heard that a nearby town, New Salem, had some educated men in it so he headed there. In New Salem he met Mentor Graham, the school master, who immediately took a liking to Abe because he could read. Mr. Graham invited Abe to join their debating society which met weekly. Because of Abe's quick wit and love for people he instantly gained favor with the townspeople.

In order to pay for his board and keep with a friend, Abe accepted a job as a clerk in a general store which he liked very much. In his spare time he studied a book on grammar which Mentor Graham loaned him.

Before long the residents of New Salem urged Abe to run for election as Sangamon County representative to the State Legislature. It was a challenge that young Lincoln couldn't turn down. He campaigned the best he knew how but lost the election,

Abe returned to clerking, becoming half owner of a store under his name and the name of a man called Berry. Abe was known for his honesty by this time and people enjoyed trading with him. He roomed back of the store, spending his evenings reading law books since he had recently met two lawyers, Stuart and Logan, whom he admired.

However, the business didn't go too well because William Berry became addicted to drinking and Abe became addicted to reading law-books while customers waited for assistance. The store closed and when Mr. Berry died within a few months, Abe was left with a huge debt. He could have left town but he decided to stay and pay off the debt.<sup>9</sup>

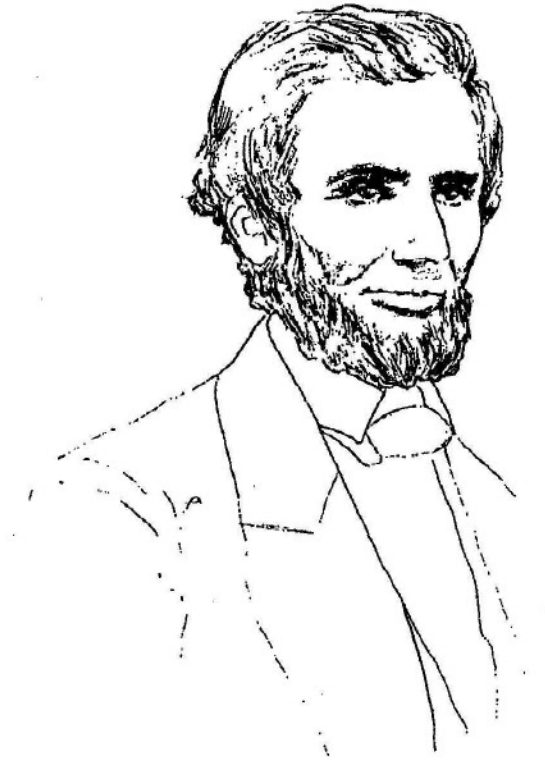
Abe's next job as a postmaster didn't pay too much but it gave him an opportunity to read all the newspapers coming into town. For additional pay Abe studied surveying, and landed a surveying job. Thus he was able to accomplish two things at once when he rode out into the country: surveying and delivering mail. Now he was becoming acquainted with many more people in the countryside.

When the time for announcing candidacy for the State Legislature came around, Abe took Mr. Graham's advice and ran for office again. This time he was elected. After outfitting himself with some new "city clothes" he rode off to Vandalia, the Illinois state capital.

## ABRAHAM LINCOLN, PART I

### THE BEGINNING OF WISDOM

1. Warren, Louis A., *Lincoln's Youth*, p. 13.
2. *Ibid.* p. 11.
3. *Ibid.* p. 218.
4. Judson, Clara Ingram, *Abraham Lincoln, Friend of the People*, pp. 52,53.
5. Kigel, Richard, *The Frontier Years of Abe Lincoln*, p. 3.
6. Collins David, *Abraham Lincoln, God's Leader for a Nation*, p. 32.
7. *Ibid.*, pp. 33, 34.
8. *Ibid.*, pp. 42, 43.
9. *Ibid.*, p. 91.



# 10

## **ABRAHAM LINCOLN, PART II**

### **SERVING HIS COUNTRY**

#### **AS STATE LEGISLATOR**

Lincoln's friend John Stuart who was an experienced lawyer and legislator welcomed young Abe to the sessions at the Illinois State House. Many decisions were made there concerning roads, schools, bridges and voting rights. Lincoln did the best he could for the people he represented. After the legislature sessions ended Lincoln studied law books again in hopes of passing the State Bar Examination.

In 1836 Lincoln was re-elected to the State Legislature. The next year, Springfield was chosen as the site for the new capital. Also at this time, Lincoln passed his Bar examination becoming a licensed attorney.

John Stuart invited Lincoln to set up a law practice with him in Springfield. Lincoln agreed and then traveled back to New Salem to gather up his belongings and say good-bye to his good friend and teacher, Mentor Graham.

## **SPRINGFIELD LAWYER**

Before long Lincoln acquired a large clientele with Stuart. However, Stuart decided to campaign for a seat in Congress leaving Lincoln alone. The two men had agreed to divide all their earnings so when Stuart returned "Honest Abe" gave him half of the earnings even though Smart had not helped on the cases.<sup>1</sup>

In 1838 Lincoln ran again for election to the State Legislature and was reelected.

## **COURTSHIP AND MARRIAGE**

Since Lincoln enjoyed talking with people he attended a party where he met Mary Todd from Kentucky. Mary was well educated, with bright eyes, a ready smile and an interesting conversationalist. Lincoln courted her diligently and they became engaged the summer of 1840. Within months though Lincoln broke the engagement and immediately became very depressed.<sup>2</sup>

For 15 months the couple remained apart but were reunited unexpectedly at the party of a mutual friend. The love was still there and consequently they resumed their courtship and were married in November of 1842.

It was a small wedding, with no honeymoon because Lincoln was a poor man burdened with old debts. The young couple went directly to a rooming house where they lived for almost two years.

The Lincoln's first son, Robert, was born while they lived in the rooming house but soon afterwards they bought a five year old single story house for \$1,500 from Rev. Dresser. They added a second story later.<sup>3</sup> Lincoln began to prosper financially so that he could comfortably support his growing family. A second son, Eddie, was born in 1846, a third named Willie in 1850, and the final son Thomas, in 1853. The Lincolns lived in this house for a total of 17 years excluding short stays in Washington.

## **DISAPPOINTMENTS**

In 1846 Lincoln ran for the U.S. House of Representatives and won by a large majority. His stay in Washington was burdensome because Mary didn't like it and Lincoln's ideas were not popular. He was outspoken against the Mexican war and slavery. Within view of the Capitol Building was the largest slave market in the country. Lincoln wanted to abolish this but was unsuccessful.

Sadly, he returned to Springfield when his term was over. There life with Mary was pleasant but illness soon crept into the family. First Mary's beloved father died in Kentucky. Then young Eddie, not yet four, became gravely ill and died. Mary went into shock. Mary collapsed into frequent sobbing, secluding herself for days. Lincoln buried himself in his work. Slowly Mary recovered.

## **A NEW LAW PARTNER**

Lincoln had by now set up office with William Herndon. Mr. Herndon was very patient with Lincoln because Abe wasn't very organized. Documents were often stored in his hat. However, Lincoln was conscientious in every case that he handled. His habit was to master every detail of a case before going to court. He represented all kinds of clients from powerful corporations to penniless widows. His cases ranged from runaway pigs to murderers.

Lincoln had a deep God given sense of right and wrong. One time he wrote to his law partner Herndon; "You must remember that some things legally right are not morally right".<sup>4</sup> One time Lincoln was trying to decide whether to accept a client and he said he had to reject the case because of "equity and justice." He said: "You'll have to get some other fellow to win this case for you. I couldn't do it. All the time while talking to the jury I'd be thinking 'Lincoln, you're a liar', and I believe I should forget myself and say it out loud."<sup>5</sup>

## **THE STORYTELLER**

Ever since Abe was a young boy he loved telling stories. This story telling ability using homespun examples delighted his clients and the jury. One time as an example of assault he told the story of a man who was walking down the street with a pitchfork in his hand. A very fierce dog attacked him and the man defended himself by striking the dog with the prongs of the pitchfork. When the dog died, the owner complained saying:

"What made you kill my dog?"

"What made your dog try to bite me?" was the reply.

"But why didn't you go after him with the other end of the pitchfork?"

"Why didn't he come after me with his other end?"<sup>6</sup>

Lincoln also told jokes in which he was the brunt of the joke. He considered himself tall, lanky and ugly so he walked with a perpetual slouch. His good humor made him a welcome sight though to those who knew him.

## **RIDING THE CIRCUIT**

During the years of 1848-1854 Lincoln spent about six months of every year traveling through the judicial circuit. Circuit courts were set up in the state to serve citizens who lived in sparsely populated areas and who had no judge or lawyer to serve them. The circuit judge went from one community to another twice a year in order to make decisions on pioneer disputes. The judge and lawyer usually rode a horse but sometimes they rode a buggy. Judge Davis weighed more than 300 pounds, consequently there wasn't much room for tall, thin Lincoln. Often Lincoln rode his horse alongside.

Nights they stayed with friends or stopped at miserable little inns. Lawyers slept two to a bed. Rains, cold, poor food and long hours were hard on the judge but Lincoln took it in stride having grown up under adverse circumstances in the woods.

## **MARY MANAGES AT HOME**

Mary had a hard time at home while he was gone. She had to manage the household and care for the boys. The three boys (including their older brother Robert) were rambunctious and as Lincoln's law partner said: "unrestrained in their amusement."<sup>7</sup> When Lincoln was with the boys he enjoyed taking them for walks or playing with them on the floors, but he wasn't one for strong discipline either.

Mary liked to entertain and have things "nice" for company. The church sewing society had meetings in her home which was real difficult with three rowdy boys. Mary was known to have headaches which made her cross and difficult. After her death it was discovered that she had a brain tumor which may have caused her severe headaches.<sup>8</sup>

## **POLITICS AND SLAVERY**

Even though politics had been a disappointment to Lincoln his strong sense of justice drew him back into the field. There was debate going on as to whether the Louisiana Purchase should be "slave" or "free." Senator Stephen Douglas introduced a bill that each state should decide about slavery for itself. The bill passed and became a law.

Everybody seemed to be talking about the slavery issue now that new states were being added to the union. Senator Douglas was the champion of the slave holder. Lincoln just couldn't keep still because it hurt him to "see a man eat his bread by the sweat of another man's brow". Slavery was so foreign to his moral nature and his childhood pioneering experience. He had planted his own wheat and corn and taken it to the mill. Why shouldn't all men do this or pay to have it done, rather than demand a black man do it for them? Black men were also created in the image of Almighty God. Besides that, the Declaration of Independence said: "All men are created equal."

In June of 1858 Lincoln was selected to run as a candidate for the new political party, the Republican party which was a blending of anti-slavery Democrats and Whigs. Douglas was to be his opponent from the pro-slavery Democrats.

## **LINCOLN DOUGLAS DEBATES .**

In the months that followed there were seven heated public debates. Douglas was eloquent and backed by much money but Lincoln was logical and convincing. Each party claimed victory after the debates. Finally on Nov. 2, 1858 the state election was held and Lincoln was defeated for senator. It was a sad time in the Lincoln household. Mary consoled her husband for she was pleased and proud that he had conducted himself well.

## **NOMINATED FOR PRESIDENT**

When Lincoln returned to Springfield, his debts had mounted from his campaigning. He accepted a temporary job as judge of the courtroom below his law office.

The nominating committee for the Republican party met in Chicago in May 1859. Lincoln did not choose to attend although his good friends Judge Davis and William Hendon had urged him to go. On the 18th of May a telegram arrived for Lincoln informing him of his nomination for President.

The following Saturday an official group of men arrived at the Lincoln household to inform Lincoln of his nomination. The Lincolns who were known to be "teetotalers" offered the visitors only cold water declining the offers from friends to supply liquor.<sup>9</sup>

During the months that followed Lincoln spoke about keeping slavery out of the new territories without disturbing slaveholding in states where it was legal, protection for American industries, and giving free homestead land to people who wanted to move west. Celebrations with parades and rallies were held in Springfield.

One day in October Lincoln was looking over a survey taken in Springfield of how pastors in the city intended to vote. He remarked to his friend that most of the pastors were against him.

"Mr. Bateman", he said "Here are 23 ministers...all against me but three... I am not a Christian God knows I would be one but I have carefully read the Bible and I do not so understand this book." Taking a copy of the New Testament out of his pocket he continued.

"These men know I am for freedom... and that my opponents are for slavery... I do not understand it at all."

Mr. Lincoln paused, rose to his feet, walked up and down the room with his head bowed. When he raised his face it was wet with tears.

"I know there is a God," he said, "and that he hates injustice and slavery. I see a storm coming and I know that His hand is in it. If He has a place and work for me, and I think He has, I believe I am ready. I am nothing, but the truth is everything. I know I am right because I know liberty is right, for Christ teaches it and Christ is God. A house divided against itself cannot stand...I will be vindicated."<sup>10</sup>

## **MR. PRESIDENT ELECT**

On November 6, 1860 Lincoln rejoiced! He had received the needed electoral votes to be elected President. One newspaper headline read: LET THE PEOPLE REJOICE! LINCOLN ELECTED! GOD BLESS NEW YORK! SHOUT BOYS SHOUT, VICTORY IS OURS!<sup>11</sup>

The celebrations were short lived however. The southern leaders said they would never accept a "Black Republican". In December, three months before Lincoln was inaugurated, South Carolina seceded from the Union. Soon Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana,



Florida and Texas joined South Carolina, forming their own Confederate States of America, and elected Jefferson Davis as their President.

Things looked so hopeless to Lincoln that he thumbed through the worn papers of his Bible. Finding the story of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane gave him some comfort.<sup>12</sup> He had been betrayed, lost and alone also. There was strength to carry on. The long forgotten seed of his mother's teaching was watered with God's love and mercy.

Before leaving Springfield for Washington, Lincoln visited his aging stepmother. She had inspired him as a child to study the Bible and live according to its principles. He honored and admired her all his life. In Lincoln's farewell address to the people of Springfield he said: "Without the assistance of that Divine Being... I cannot succeed. With that assistance, I cannot fail...trusting in Him who can go with me... and to His care commending you, as I hope in your prayers you will commend me, I beg you an affectionate farewell."<sup>13</sup>

## **INAUGURATION DAY**

March 4, 1861 was a cold, crisp day in Washington. The city looked like an armed camp. There were rumors of assassination plots. Soldiers and sharpshooters protected Lincoln wherever he went.

In Lincoln's address he assured the people of the South that he would not force them to give up their slaves. He urged the states to settle their differences peaceably for the sake of the Union. He said: "Intelligence, patriotism, Christianity and a firm reliance on Him who has never forsaken this favored land are still competent to adjust... our present difficulty." He was sworn in with his hand on the Bible.

## **CIVIL WAR BEGINS**

Within days the Confederate states were mobilizing for war planning to attack Fort Sumter in Charleston harbor. Lincoln ordered additional troops to be sent to protect federal property there. As the Union ships approached Charleston April 12, 1861, rebel cannons opened fire on Fort Sumter. After 36 hours the bombardment ended with the Fort's surrender.

That day Lincoln called for volunteers to enlist for 90 days. Surely the war would be over by then. The South mobilized also. Generals and commanders were appointed for both sides in the border states.

Decisions had to be made in nearly every family. Sometimes brothers fought brothers and cousins fought cousins. It was dreadful. Many of Abe's and Mary's family lived in Kentucky and chose to fight for the Confederacy.

Soon both sides had large armies of volunteers. Another battle was fought at Bull Run and the Union troops were defeated. The President stayed up all night listening to stories of the tragic defeat.

### **FAMILY FUN AND GRIEF**

Lincoln found relief from the pressures of war by spending time with his two youngest boys, Willie age 11 and Tad age 8. The boys had a collection of pets including a pony, goat, and birds given to them. They would often stage plays or a circus for their dad and the neighborhood children. Willie especially delighted his father because he had inherited his dad's ability to amuse others.

Sickness came knocking at the door of the Lincoln household again, and as a result Willie grew gravely ill. On February 20, 1862 he died. His mother, Mary became overcome with grief again and never fully recovered from her despondency.<sup>14</sup> Lincoln also plunged into deep despair. He and Mary searched for answers. Lincoln turned to God as he had never done before. The seed of the Word which his mother and stepmother had planted was, sprouting.

### **THE EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION**

The war continued. The death toll mounted. Lincoln shuffled his generals around. Many decisions Lincoln had to make on his own because his cabinet members disagreed with him as well as among themselves. Lincoln studied books on military strategy.

Lincoln's toughest decision was one concerning slavery. There were so many conflicting opinions. Lincoln told later of often hearing the voice of God louder than the cannon's crying: "Let my people go!"<sup>15</sup> Finally on Sept. 22, 1862 Lincoln wrote and read his Emancipation Proclamation to his cabinet, thereby freeing slaves in all the states. The statement was released to the public on Jan. 1, 1863. The black people rejoiced and joined the side of the Union by the hundreds and later by the thousands!

### **THE TURNING POINT**

The dreadful war continued. There were many defeats for the Union but then in 1863 signs of hope appeared. General Grant defeated the Confederate troops at Vicksburg, Mississippi, and General Meade defeated Confederate troops at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. In November Lincoln was invited to present a speech at the dedication of a national cemetery in Gettysburg. Lincoln ended his address with these words: "that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain - that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom - and that government of the people, by the people, and for the people shall not perish from the earth."

## **LINCOLN'S CONSECRATION TO CHRIST**

Yet an even more significant event was taking place in Lincoln's heart. In his own words he later replied to a man who asked him: "Do you love Jesus?" Mr. Lincoln replied: "When I left Springfield I asked the people to pray for me. I was not a Christian. When I buried my son, the severest trial of my life, I was not a Christian. But when I went to Gettysburg and saw the graves of thousands of our soldiers, I then and there consecrated myself to Christ. Yes, I do love Jesus."<sup>16</sup>

A while later Lincoln had the words "In God We Trust" put on coins and also proclaimed the last Thursday in November as a day of national Thanksgiving.

## **PRESIDENCY AND VICTORY**

In 1864 when the Republicans held their convention, Lincoln was again nominated. Since the war was still absorbing Lincoln's energies there was no campaigning. However, he was re-elected.

The Confederacy was crumbling in 1865. Jefferson Davis, the President of the Confederacy fled from the capital city of Richmond, Virginia. Newspapers read: "Union Army Triumphant."

Confederate General Robert E. Lee met with General Grant to sign surrender papers at Appomattox Courthouse. Afterwards Lincoln met with General Grant in Washington. Lincoln was deeply relieved that the war was over and wanted to show his appreciation to General Grant.

That evening Lincoln and his wife attended a play at Ford's Theater. By 10 p.m. an assassin's bullet had penetrated Lincoln's skull and he died the following morning. Victory had been sweet and short-lived on this earth for Abraham Lincoln, but its resulting fruit has endured for all Americans up to this present day.

The boy who had recoiled at shooting a bird had led many a brave son into war for a just cause. He felt the pain of slain sons even as God had felt the pain of his slain Son, but the sacrifice had produced a glorious and lasting rebirth of freedom in our land.

## ABRAHAM LINCOLN, PART II

### SERVING HIS COUNTRY

1. Judson, Clara Ingrain, *Abraham Lincoln, Friend of the People* p. 110.
2. Bell, Patricia, "Mary Todd Lincoln, A Personality Profile", an article included in "Abraham Lincoln" by Eastern Acorn Press, p. 18.
3. Sanders, Gerald, *Abraham Lincoln Fact Book*, p. 23.
4. Winn, Ralph, *A Concise Lincoln Dictionary*, p. 112.
5. Jennison, Keith, *The Humorous Mr. Lincoln*, p. 27,
6. *Ibid*, pp. 23, 24.
7. Freedman, Russela, *Lincoln, A Photo-biography*, p. 41.
8. Bell, p. 19.
9. Judson, p. 147.
10. Jennison, p. 66, also Moseley, Ron, *Fascinating Christians in the White House*, p. 32.
11. Freedman, p. 62.
12. Collins, David, *Abraham Lincoln, God's Leader for a Nation*, p. 128.
13. *Ibid*, pp. 129, 130.
14. Freedman, p. 80.
15. Moseley, p. 33.
16. *Ibid*.



# 11

## **DOUGLAS MACARTHUR, PART I**

### **DISCOVERING THE PRINCIPLES OF GREATNESS**

#### **EARLY YEARS**

Douglas MacArthur was born in 1880 in Little Rock, Arkansas, the last of three children. He was the son of Captain Arthur MacArthur, a much decorated veteran of the Civil War. In fact, Douglas' father had been instrumental in the taking and holding of Missionary Ridge by Union forces at the battle of Gettysburg, the turning point of the war.

Douglas spent his early childhood learning to ride horses and to shoot straight in the frontier outposts of the American West to which his father had been posted. When Douglas was three years old, his older brother Malcolm died, and his mother increased her devotion to her two remaining children, Arthur, seven, and Douglas. This tie with his mother was one of the dominant factors of Douglas' life. Mrs. MacArthur began the boy's schooling at home and taught them to do what was right no matter what the sacrifice, and to put their country first. She also taught them never to lie and never to tattle.

When Douglas began a regular school, he did poorly at first because he was distracted from his studies by the lures of the West (riding and shooting); but later, when his father

was posted to Washington DC, young Douglas' grades improved to average as he completed grade school.

Still later, when his father was posted to Texas, Douglas was seized with a desire to know, a seeking for the reason why. Consequently, he concentrated on his studies and his marks soared. He also participated in athletics of many kinds including football, baseball, and tennis. During this same period, his study of the Bible opened up for him the spiritual doors of faith.<sup>1</sup>

After his family moved to Milwaukee in 1897, Douglas applied for admission to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. He prepared carefully for the admitting test, and passed it with the best marks of any applicant in his district, ensuring himself an appointment. From this he learned the important lesson that "preparedness is the key to success and victory."<sup>2</sup>

In 1898, the United States went to war with Spain, and young MacArthur wanted to volunteer for army service, but his father told him to continue his education by attending college at West Point.

## **WEST POINT**

The Military Academy at West Point left its mark on Douglas MacArthur for the rest of his life. His four years there were mostly happy, and he learned the value of self-discipline. In one particular incident he put his whole career on the line when he refused to "tattle" on his classmates for a severe "initiation" ordeal which he had undergone. Douglas' deeply ingrained principle of never tattling won out over the great temptation to report his classmates to the authorities, especially when the authorities ordered him to do so.

Douglas compiled an amazing record at West Point. He achieved the highest scholastic record seen in 25 years as well as winning his letter in sports. Consequently he became the "First Captain of the Corps", an honor which went to the best student. He said that he studied no harder than the other men, but had a clearer perspective of events a better realization that first things came first.<sup>3</sup> He graduated in 1903 as a second lieutenant of Engineers, and his first assignment was in the Philippine Islands.

## **THE PHILIPPINES**

The Philippine Islands charmed Douglas MacArthur. The hospitality, respect and affection shown by the Filipinos for his father who had done a tour in the Islands, plus the attractive result of a mixture of Spanish culture and American industry, as well as the slow pace of life held a fascination for MacArthur as long as he lived. He spent four years in the Islands on engineering projects, at one time encountering two bandits on a jungle trail. Because of his earlier training with a pistol, he killed them both, but not before one of them fired his rifle at Douglas. The heavy slug tore through his hat and almost cut down a sapling directly behind him but Douglas was not hurt. This was the first of many

protective miracles which the Lord worked in his life. His sergeant ran forward, looked at the dead bandits and the crownless hat and said, "The Lieutenant's pardon, but the rest of the Lieutenant's life is pure velvet."<sup>4</sup>

## **SCOUTING THE FAR EAST**

In the last weeks of 1904, Douglas was ordered to join his father in Japan and to observe the Russian-Japanese War. They were to estimate Japan's military capability and national purpose and goals, and report back to Washington DC. After the Japanese victory over Russia, both MacArthurs took a nine month tour of the Far East to get a feeling for how significant these countries' progress, outlook, and lifestyle would be to the United States in the near future.

Douglas and his dad went to Hong Kong, Singapore, Burma, India, Ceylon, Thailand, Indonesia, Indo-China, China, and Japan. Douglas later wrote that "in these lands lived almost half the population of the world, and probably more than half of the raw products to sustain future generations. Here was western civilization's last earth frontier. It was crystal clear to me that the future, and indeed the very existence of America, was irrevocably entwined with Asia and its island outposts."<sup>5</sup>

## **INTERLUDE**

In 1906, at age 26, MacArthur returned to Washington DC and was assigned to be an aide-de-camp to President Theodore Roosevelt. Douglas admired Roosevelt greatly as a statesman of brilliant imagination because of his prophetic vision of Asian politics which struck a responsive chord in MacArthur's heart. MacArthur felt that the Japanese leaders were planting the seeds of eventual Japanese military conquest of the Orient, and believed that they would one day strike for control of the Pacific and domination of the Far East.

In 1912 MacArthur's father died in the middle of a speech he was giving to a group of aging Civil War veterans. This event had a profound effect upon Douglas, for he said "My whole world changed that night. Never have I been able to heal the wound in my heart."<sup>6</sup> He had greatly loved and respected his father, and his loss left a void that was never filled.

## **WASHINGTON AND VERACRUZ**

Douglas MacArthur had been promoted to Captain in 1911 and in 1913 he was assigned to the General Staff in Washington DC. He cared for his mother, and took her to live with him. In 1914 he was sent to Veracruz, Mexico to investigate the logistics of having an American army conduct war against Mexico from Veracruz. He found that there were great transportation problems, and through great personal risk he found five locomotives to move the many available boxcars.

He was shot at several times by bandits, got three bullet holes in his clothing on one occasion and a single hole in his shirt on another, but he was never wounded. He was greatly admired for his bravery, and was recalled to the General Staff in Washington and promoted to Major shortly thereafter. While on the General Staff, MacArthur made the acquaintance of important government people including the Secretary of War and the President, both of whom asked his opinion of certain situations.

## **WORLD WAR I**

In 1917 when the United States declared war on Germany, thereby entering World War I, MacArthur's advice was followed to form a special American division called the Rainbow Division (12,000 men) composed of National Guard troops from all over America. Douglas was promoted to colonel and was made the division's Chief of Staff, or second in command.

As battle followed battle, MacArthur showed both bravery in action and excellent battle tactics against a formidable German force. He was promoted on the battlefield to Brigadier General, and was later slightly wounded. At the end of the war in 1918, he had been given command of the Rainbow Division and had won many honors and medals. He also had learned another important principle; namely, that the essence of victory lies in the answer to where and when to commit one's troops.<sup>7</sup>

## **BETWEEN WORLD WARS**

When MacArthur returned to the U.S., he was made the Commander of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. In the face of a national, letdown of military preparedness because another war was unthinkable, he worked hard to revitalize the school's curriculum and spirit. He was determined to cling to the principles of Duty, Honor, Country (West Point's motto), to emphasize thoroughness, good work habits, and the gospel of cleanliness to be clean, to live clean, and to think clean.<sup>8</sup> He also set out to increase the cadets' responsibilities in order to develop initiative and force of character.

In early 1922 MacArthur married, but in a few years the marriage ended in divorce. Later that year he was sent to the Philippine Islands and was asked to draw up a plan of defense for the Bataan Peninsula across the bay from Manila. He walked all over the rugged terrain, which topographical information was invaluable to him when the Japanese attacked the Islands 20 years later.

In 1925 Douglas was promoted to Major General and was recalled to the U.S. He had several assignments, all of which he carried out with excellence. He incurred the undying hatred of the Communists and Pacifists by his wise handling of the "Bonus March" veterans, dispersing them without serious bloodshed which the Communists had hoped to provoke. He also received his fourth star and promotion to General in 1930. He was made Chief of Staff (or head) of the whole U.S. Army at the same time, and tried to increase the country's preparedness despite a popular demand to disarm.



In 1932 Franklin Roosevelt became President and shortly tried to make significant cuts in the Armed Forces. MacArthur argued vehemently against it because of the Japanese aggression in eastern Asia, and was able to persuade Roosevelt to stop his proposed budget cuts after a fiery confrontation at the White House. MacArthur had said that if the budget cuts were made, when we lost the next war and an American boy, lying in the mud with an enemy bayonet through his belly and an enemy foot on his dying throat, spat out his last curse, he wanted the name not to be MacArthur but Roosevelt.<sup>9</sup> From that time onward, President Roosevelt was on Douglas MacArthur's side. Slowly the President grew to respect MacArthur as the symbol of the conscience of the American people.

## **PREPARING THE PHILIPPINES**

In 1935 MacArthur and his mother returned to the Philippines. At the personal invitation of the Philippine President-elect, Manuel Quezon, an old friend of MacArthur's, Douglas was ordered by President Roosevelt to begin a 10 year program to arm the Philippines and to prepare them for war with Japan. Douglas' mother died shortly after their arrival in the Islands, leaving him without her wise counsel.

In 1937 he married. Jean Faircloth and their first son Arthur was born in 1938. MacArthur's job in arming the Philippines was made difficult by the lack of support he received from the U.S. government. Slowly the project went forward as the clouds of WW II gathered. In 1939 those clouds broke over Europe and WW II began. In 1941 MacArthur was appointed Commanding General of the U.S. Army Forces in the Far East.

MacArthur recognized that he was racing against time because he knew that the Japanese needed to take the Philippine Islands, which he recognized as the key that unlocked the door to the Pacific Ocean. On December 7, 1941 the Japanese struck the American fleet at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii an overwhelming blow which precipitated the U.S. into WW II.

## **RETREAT FROM THE PHILIPPINES**

There was a great deal of confusion at MacArthur's headquarters in Manila immediately after the attack on Pearl Harbor and for some days thereafter. Nobody knew exactly what had happened and what the Japanese would do next. People scurried around with reports of Japanese bombing raids at different points in the Philippine Islands. MacArthur knew that the Japanese would bomb his 36 aging P-40 fighter aircraft and his 17 B-17 bombers, all at Clark field if they remained on the ground, and yet, through conflicting orders, confused reports, and a difficult transition from a peacetime to a wartime frame of mind, most of his airplanes were caught on the ground and were destroyed.

Warning had been sent to Clark from Iba airfield's radar operator and from Filipino coast-watchers. These warnings had come by teletype, radio, and telephone. But Clark's radio operator had been out to lunch, the radio message had been unintelligible due to static and the telephone operator had promised to pass the word at the earliest opportunity, which he never did.<sup>10</sup> And so MacArthur lost his small air force. Two days later he lost

the nearest available allied sea-power when Japanese pilots sank Britain's battleships Prince of Wales and Repulse off the coast of Malaya.<sup>11</sup>

On the third day of the war minor landings were made by Japanese troops on Luzon Island. MacArthur held his troops back waiting for the main landings to occur. Three days before Christmas the blow fell. Powerful Japanese forces landed at Lingayen Gulf NW of Manila and at Lamon Bay SE of Manila and tried to catch the American and Filipino troops of MacArthur between their armies. Through skillful maneuvering MacArthur avoided this trap and withdrew his troops into the Bataan Peninsula. He didn't try to defend Manila in order to preserve it from destruction because he knew the Japanese couldn't use it if he held Bataan and Corregidor Rock, an island fortress in the mouth of Manila Bay. MacArthur had said, "The enemy might have the bottle, but I have the cork."<sup>12</sup>

Slowly the Japanese advanced down the Bataan Peninsula, the stubborn Filipino American forces contesting every step. Although the Japanese forces didn't greatly outnumber MacArthur's forces, MacArthur's forces couldn't be resupplied with men and material and the Japanese could. MacArthur had asked many times for help from the U.S. Navy, but none came, Actually, the Philippine Islands had been written off by the American government which was following a procedure of winning the war in Europe first.

## **ESCAPE**

As the months passed the defenders of Bataan and Corregidor were being pressed ever further toward their inevitable defeat. President Quezon of the Philippines was taken to Australia by an American submarine which had successfully run the Japanese naval blockade, and finally President Roosevelt ordered Douglas MacArthur to Australia also. MacArthur, his wife, four year old son, and a few staff officers left Corregidor the night of March 12 by a fast PT boat. This craft eluded the surrounding Japanese vessels, and successfully brought the little party to Mindanao Island, the Philippines' southernmost island, from where they were flown to Australia by a B-17 bomber.

When MacArthur arrived in Australia he was given the command of all Allied ground forces in the Southwest Pacific. His indomitable spirit showed when he announced to the world that he had been ordered to go to Australia. He said, "I came through and I shall return." These last three words became a battle-cry for America over the next three years of bloody jungle warfare against Japan.

## DOUGLAS MACARTHUR, PART I

### (DISCOVERING THE PRINCIPLES OF GREATNESS)

1. MacArthur Douglas, *Reminiscences*, p. 23.
2. Ibid, p. 24.
3. Ibid, p. 34.
4. Ibid. p. 37.
5. Ibid, p. 40.
6. Ibid, p. 44.
7. Ibid, p. 72.
8. Ibid. p. 86.
9. Ibid. p. 111.
10. Manchester, William, *American Caesar*, p. 211.
11. Hunt, Frazier, *The Untold Story of Douglas MacArthur*, p. 228.
12. MacArthur, p. 137.



# 12

## DOUGLAS MACARTHUR, PART II

### VICTORIOUS COMMANDER AND STATES MAN

#### DEFENDING AUSTRALIA FROM NEW GUINEA

When Douglas MacArthur and his family arrived in Australia they found the people of the island continent determined to fight the Japanese aggressor on Australian soil, but they were preparing to give up Northern and Western Australia to the enemy and only defend the more populated southern and eastern provinces. At any rate, theirs was a defensive strategy, which MacArthur pointed out would only result in defeat or stalemate for the Allies. He won the confidence of John Curtin, the Australian Prime Minister, and got his backing for the bold strategy of defending Australia by taking the offensive in New Guinea, a mountainous, jungle-covered island 1500 miles long just north of Australia across the Arafura Sea. This strategy greatly encouraged the Australian people.<sup>1</sup>

MacArthur faced a tremendous challenge. He had to contend with the wildly optimistic American viewpoint that made the Joint Chiefs of Staff give him the staggering goal in 1942 of capturing the Bismarck Archipelago and Rabaul.<sup>2</sup> The latter was defended by 100,000 seasoned enemy troops and the pessimistic Australian viewpoint that made their commanders talk about defending a line through eastern and southern Australia. What made his job so difficult is that although he was given command of all Allied forces in the Southwest Pacific, he was never given more than 15 percent of the total American war effort,<sup>3</sup> because America was following President Roosevelt's order of defeating Germany first.<sup>4</sup> Coupled with these handicaps was the great ignorance of the American people (reflected by their leaders) regarding the vast distances of the Pacific Ocean and

the geography of its many islands.<sup>5</sup> In short, since America's founding as a nation, its attention for over 150 years had been almost totally on Europe, and consequently knowledge of East Asia and its Pacific island outposts was almost nonexistent. It probably was this fact that accounted for America's "Germany first" strategy.

## **THE STRATEGIST**

General MacArthur's background in the Orient was invaluable to him as he planned a strategy that would defeat the Japanese. He was aware that the Asian countries which had been occupied by the Japanese had at first welcomed their troops as liberators from the White Man's yoke of imperialism, only to discover later that their Asian brothers imposed a far crueler yoke. MacArthur also had a far better opinion of the Japanese soldier than his contemporaries who thought they were incompetent and inefficient. He knew that this was racial prejudice and that the Japanese were a formidable foe. He knew that they were efficient, elite troops that had been battle hardened in China and that their Shintoist philosophy had taught their men that they were invincible. They had no word for defeat and had a suicidal mind-set being happy to die for their Emperor. When they had a coordinated plan of attack they worked smoothly, but when they were attacked, their very rigidity hampered their performance.<sup>6</sup>

His humiliating defeat in the Philippines caused MacArthur to think of the Pacific War as a personal duel between himself and "the Jap." In a sense, this medieval concept fit exactly with the Japanese medieval code of Bushido. MacArthur too was more willing to die than to surrender. As a result of this mind-set, he talked about "my air force", and "my navy", phrases which brought him much hostility from his own superiors in Washington.<sup>7</sup>

MacArthur insisted on a good map room. He would often superimpose an outline of the United States on a map of the Southwest Pacific just to show newly arrived officers the tremendous logistical difficulties in that area where the Japanese Navy was undefeated and roaming the Pacific almost at will. MacArthur would sit and think for hours before developing a plan of attack for a particular campaign. Then he simply gave it to his staff and told them to work out the details. It was in this manner that he devised the triple envelopment strategy, using land, sea, and air power to leap frog Japanese strong points, capture Japanese weakly held areas, and cut off the bypassed strong points from all outside support.<sup>8</sup> MacArthur's well planned attacks and mobility reminded military leaders and analysts of the strategies of former great conquerors such as Genghis Khan and Napoleon.<sup>9</sup> John Gunther would write: "MacArthur took more territory with less loss of life, than any military commander since Darius the Great."<sup>10</sup>

## **THE MAN**

Douglas MacArthur was America's most gifted commander of troops and he knew it, and he expected to be treated accordingly.<sup>11</sup> He once glared disapprovingly at an Australian Member of Parliament who referred to him as "Doug". Even his wife Jean never called him that; she called him "Sir Boss" a pet name referring to the main character in the book "A Connecticut Yankee In King Arthur's Court."

It was this aloofness of MacArthur that distinguished his character from that of many other leaders during WW II. It also earned for him antagonism, ridicule, and the accusation of being pompous. Modern America generally hates those who "put on airs," and MacArthur was fair game for those espousing the emerging anti-hero philosophy of the 1940's. But this was no pseudo hero, here was a man with the military mind and the firm grasp of history of Julius Caesar, and with an equal oratorical capability. Nevertheless he retained his Christian perspective and was full of mercy to a defeated foe. That is why he was loved and trusted first by the people of the Philippines, later by the defeated Japanese masses, and finally by the people of Korea. They understood him to be the very essence of the American spirit.<sup>12</sup>

## **I HAVE RETURNED**

On May 6, 1942, the Filipino and American forces on Corregidor surrendered to the Japanese, and effective resistance in the Philippines ceased. MacArthur was sure that the prolonged defense of the Philippines had spoiled the Japanese timetable for conquest, and this had saved Australia from invasion. This is quite likely but was never proved. As for the Filipinos, they felt that America had betrayed them and had left them to fight the Japanese alone, but they believed in General MacArthur, and clung to his ringing promise: "I shall return."

Over the next two years of war in the Pacific, America was able to reverse the tide of Japanese victories. A powerful Pacific fleet was built around the newest effective weapon, the aircraft carrier, and was given to Admiral Nimitz, who was given the task of uprooting the Japanese from the Central Pacific. MacArthur, in charge of the Southwest Pacific, halted the Japanese advance in New Guinea by letting the terrible hardships of the jungle-covered Owen Stanley mountains wear down the Emperor's troops until he hit them with a powerful force of Australians and Americans just north of Port Moresby on the southern coast. Then MacArthur's troops pushed the Japanese back over the mountains to the northern coast. After taking Buna on this coast, MacArthur began his leapfrog strategy which was so effective against the enemy that by summer of 1944 he had seized New Guinea and the islands just west of it, and was planning a return to the Philippines. In all these campaigns his land based airplanes had played the major role, sinking many Japanese troop and supply ships as they tried to reinforce their beleaguered garrisons. With Admiral Nimitz on the right, and General MacArthur on the left, America was hitting the Japanese with repeated "one-two" punches like a well trained boxer.

After successfully fending off a proposal by the U.S. Navy to bypass the Philippines and invade Formosa instead, which MacArthur had convinced President Roosevelt would be an unforgivable mistake, the General's troops landed with overwhelming force on the beaches of Leyte in the Central Philippines in October, 1944. General MacArthur waded ashore with his troops and with the new Philippine President, Sergio Osmena, at his side. "People of the Philippines: I have returned," he said. He asked the Filipinos to: "Rally to me. Let the indomitable spirit of Bataan and Corregidor lead on...rise and strike. Strike at every favorable opportunity. For your homes and hearths, strike! For future generations of your sons and daughters, strike! In the name of your sacred dead, strike! Let no heart be faint. Let every arm be steeled. The guidance of Divine God points the way. Follow in His name to the Holy Grail of righteous victory."<sup>13</sup>

## **VICTORY OVER JAPAN**

After MacArthur's troops had secured Leyte from the enemy, the newly promoted "General of the Army" invaded the main Philippine island of Luzon from the same beaches that the Japanese had used at Lingayen Gulf three years earlier. He skillfully directed the assault against the enemy, out-maneuvering General Yamashita, the best general that Japan had. MacArthur was very careful not to spend too many men in seizing his objectives. He would let his artillery smash the enemy's defenses before he released his infantry to take those positions. He once said that he would not take by sacrifice what he could achieve by strategy.<sup>14</sup>

After MacArthur had captured the capital city of Manila, he was making a speech restoring full governmental powers to the Philippine Commonwealth, when he broke down in tears for a moment, wiped his eyes on his sleeve, and said: "In humble and devout manifestation of gratitude to Almighty God for bringing this decisive victory to our arms, I ask that all present rise and join me in reciting the Lord's Prayer."<sup>15</sup> After the capture of Manila, MacArthur set about liberating the rest of the Philippine Islands without orders to do so from America. As one island after another fell to his men, the American Joint Chiefs of Staff in Washington cabled MacArthur their heartiest congratulations.

After the Japanese defeats at Iwo Jima and Okinawa in spring and early summer of 1945, MacArthur began planning for the invasion of Japan. Since the Japanese still had six and one half million men under arms he figured the invasion would cost at least one million American casualties. Providentially, the dropping of the, atomic bombs at Hiroshima and Nagasaki and the entry of Russia into the Pacific war on the side of the Allies caused the Japanese government to surrender, thus making the costly invasion unnecessary. The Emperor of Japan broadcast the surrender, and Japanese all over the empire laid down their arms on August 15, 1945. On August 30 General MacArthur flew into Tokyo's Atsugi Airport to supervise the surrender. This was a very brave act because he was completely at the mercy of the Japanese who up till now had been his mortal enemies. However he understood their mental make-up and not a single threatening gesture was made towards him. On September 2, MacArthur received the formal surrender of Japan on the battleship Missouri in Tokyo Bay. World War II was over at last.

## **RULER OF JAPAN**

Douglas MacArthur was determined that the occupation of Japan by American troops be generous and compassionate. He had been chosen by President Truman to be the Supreme Commander of Allied Powers who would oversee the occupation. MacArthur was put under intense pressure by Russian diplomats and even by some American bureaucrats to punish the Japanese with a harsh occupation. This he refused to do. Instead he brought in American food to feed the semi- starving masses of Japan, a generous act which they never forgot. He also allowed the Emperor Hirohito to continue upon his Chrysanthemum Throne, although he was stripped of his powers.

MacArthur set up a democratic government for Japan and helped the Japanese to draft a democratic constitution. In addition, he gave women the right to vote in the new Japan. With his benevolent rule he won the hearts of the Japanese people so that he was revered almost as much as the Emperor. MacArthur's policies made by a generous spirit through a lifetime study of the Oriental character, made the American occupation of Japan an unprecedented success.

## **THE KOREAN WAR**

In June 1950, North Korean communist troops invaded South Korea like a whirlwind. President Truman gave General MacArthur the task of leading United Nations troops into battle in a defense of the South Korean state. MacArthur committed the Allied troops to battle almost as soon as they arrived in Korea. He directed them to form a perimeter around the southern city of Pusan, and to hold out to the end.

As the North Koreans pushed south, their supply lines lengthened, and resupply of their advancing armies became increasingly difficult. As they battered away at the Pusan perimeter, General MacArthur made a surprise amphibious landing at Inchon on Korea's west coast, and pressing rapidly inland, recaptured the capital city Seoul, and cut the enemy's supply lines. The North Korean armies, caught between the jaws of powerful pincers, and lacking necessary supplies, were cut to pieces by the Allied juggernaut. MacArthur's troops invaded North Korea and virtually wiped out enemy resistance as far northward as the Manchurian border. However, the Chinese Communist army now upset the war by entering on the side of North Korea. The American government, afraid to start a land war against huge masses of Chinese soldiers, and intimidated by belligerent threats of Soviet Russia, refused to let MacArthur bomb the Chinese staging centers across the Yalu River in Manchuria. MacArthur, for the first time in his life was forced to fight a war he was not allowed to win.

## **THE OLD SOLDIER FADES AWAY**

General MacArthur's troops fought their way out of encirclement by the Chinese armies and marched to the sea, where they were evacuated to Japan by American ships. The battle line pressed southward until it halted at about the 38th parallel, approximately the demarcation line at the start of the war. MacArthur did not concur with the half-hearted



attempts at winning the war that were forced on him from Washington DC. His views of bombing across the Yalu River and of using Nationalist Chinese troops on Formosa to attack southern China were unappreciated by President Truman. Things came to a head in March 1951 when Congressman Martin read to the Congress a private letter he had received from MacArthur saying that in war there was no substitute for victory.<sup>16</sup> President Truman immediately relieved General MacArthur from his Command and recalled him to the United States.

The General was acclaimed as a hero by the American people when he returned to the U.S. It was the first time he had been home since before WW II. People thanked him and feted him and gave him tickertape parades. It was a huge national outpouring of affection for him which he deeply appreciated. He made a stirring speech to a joint session of Congress on March 19, 1951 where he explained and defended his views regarding the current situation and the necessity of achieving victory at all costs. He closed with the sad words that like the old soldier in the ballad, he now closed his military career and would just fade away - an old soldier who had tried to do his duty as God had given him the light to see that duty.<sup>17</sup>

Although America had taken Douglas MacArthur to its heart, the old General did slowly fade away. He made speeches to patriotic groups reminding Americans of their heritage, and not to compromise the principles that had been paid for with the blood of each generation. When MacArthur learned of the Korean armistice on July 7, 1952 he said: "This is the death warrant for Indochina."<sup>18</sup>

Subsequent events have proved the accuracy of this statement.

General Douglas MacArthur died peacefully on April 5, 1964 at 84 years of age. Never has an American public figure had such an impact in the history of four other nations besides his own as has MacArthur. He was truly a champion of traditional American values and a shining example of the spirit of America.

DOUGLAS MACARTHUR, PART II  
VICTORIOUS COMMANDER AND STATES MAN

1. Hunt, Frazier, *The Untold Story of Douglas MacArthur*, p. 278.
2. Manchester, William, *American Caesar*, p. 284.
3. Ibid, p. 284.
4. Long, Gavin, *MacArthur As Military Commander*, p. 89.
5. Manchester, pp. 277-278.
6. Ibid, pp. 280-281.
7. Ibid, pp. 281-282.
8. Ibid, p. 279.
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10. Ibid, p. 280
11. Ibid, p. 282.
12. Ibid, p. 376.
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14. Ibid. p. 395.
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Page 77 General Douglas MacArthur, from "Life" magazine, adapted by Jeanette Quinton.

Page 84 General Douglas MacArthur landing on Leyte, wading ashore during initial landings in October, 1944. Adapted from a U.S. Army photograph by Dee Hunter.

