

The Famous Wedding Gown of Martha Washington.

(Made in January, 1759.)

THE marriage of Colonel George Washington to Mrs. Martha Custis on the 6th of January, 1759, was the greatest social event of the times. Mrs. Custis, the "most beautiful widow of Virginia," was just twenty-six, in the heyday of her beauty, and was equally renowned for charm of manner and personal distinction.

The wedding gown of the bride was sumptuously rich, differing in a marked degree from the simple costumes worn by her at a later date, and in the pictures with which the public is most familiar. The petticoat was of heavy quilted satin of a deep creamy shade, the court train, reaching to the front breadth of the petticoat, was of corded cream silk, trimmed with deep flounces of rare lace.

The tight bodice and sleeves were also of the corded silk, and the fichu and garniture of sleeves was of lace to match flounce. The high-heeled slippers were of cream satin. No cap and no gloves were worn. The hair of the bride was neither powdered nor frizzed, but was worn brushed smoothly back from the forehead and dressed high at the back with an elaborate garniture of ropes of pearls and diamonds.

The wedding was celebrated at St. Peter's Church, New Kent County, and was attended by the Governor, members of Legislature and British officers in full court dress. From the church the bride was driven to the White House in a gorgeous coach, with six out-riders in livery and a body of splendidly equipped cavaliers. On the porch of the White House stood "Bishop," Colonel Washington's favorite bodyguard, arrayed in the scarlet uniform of George II. Washington's court at the White House, and subsequently in New York, was magnificent to a degree, and Martha Washington always presided at these receptions in gowns of richest materials, adorned with rare laces and costly jewels.

Later in life she discarded her fine gowns and always appeared in public in simple dresses of unobtrusive color and plain stuffs, as an example of democratic simplicity to the women of the new nation.

Mrs. Washington's favorite colors were yellow and brown. It is said that her inauguration gown was of rich yellow brocade, elaborately trimmed with lace and jewels. Later in life she preferred brown satin to all other materials.



The Washington Coat-of-Arms.

BEAUTIFUL WEDDING GOWNS OF TWO CENTURIES.

The Pell Coat-of-Arms.

The Wedding Gown of Mary Howland Pell.

(Made in February, 1897.)

MISS MARY HOWLAND PELL, the daughter of the late Mr. John Howland Pell, will be the central figure in one of the prettiest weddings of Easter week. Her gown, which will be the very latest and most elaborate in design and finish, is of heavy ivory-white satin, cut to fit close at the hips and flare at the sides. The fulness at the back hangs in wide folds from the waist, and extends into a round train, sweeping out three yards at least. The bodice is made in the old-fashioned surplice style, full from shoulders to waist line, and finished at the throat with a high satin stock. The very long sleeves are slightly puffed at the shoulder and shirred all the way from the wrist to the elbow on both inside and outside seams. At the wrist is a fall of lace almost hiding the hand. A second fall of lace extends from shoulder of sleeves half way down the front dart of waist, making a full jabot, partly covering sleeves and shoulder. The veil will be entirely of rare old point. This lace is an heirloom in the Pell family, and has been worn by the brides of several generations. This veil, which extends over the full length of the train, will be fastened in the bride's hair with a diamond star, the gift of the groom.

Miss Pell will also wear in her hair and mixed in with her bridal bouquet and "bouquet de corsage" some delicate, fresh orange blossoms, which will come from Florida expressly for the occasion.

The church will be elaborately decorated with garlands of pink roses, palms and potted plants. Winding up the aisle, where the ribbon is to be tied, will be large bunches of pink roses and ferns. There will be six bridesmaids. Their gowns will be of white mousseline de soie, full skirts, and the bodices trimmed with old-fashioned berthas, knotted in front, and with full ends of lace falling from them.

The flowers will be lilies-of-the-valley, and the bouquet will be of the large, somewhat stiff variety so popular this Winter at the fashionable weddings. A broad band of white satin ribbon will be knotted about the stems and fall to the hem of the dress. A bunch of lilies-of-the-valley will also be placed at the right side of the bodice, and will be held in place by the crush belt of cream satin.

