

Fredericksburg, Virginia 22401-5937 USA

MARCH 20, 1999

BRIAN P. LAMB
c-span RADIO
444 N. CAPITOL ST. N.W. #412
WASHINGTON, DC 20001

DEAR MR. LAMB:

THANKS SO MUCH FOR C-SPAN RADIO. I HAVE HAD TO RETIRE BECAUSE OF FAILING EYE SIGHT CAUSED BY DIABETES. I MUST TYPE "BY FEEL" BUT CAN NOT READ WHAT I HAVE TYPED UNTIL AFTER I HAVE PULLED THE PAPER FROM MY TYPEWRITER. PLEASE FORGIVE ANY MISTAKES.

NOW THAT'S OUT OF THE WAY, THE REAL REASON FOR THIS NOTE.

LAST NIGHT C-SPAN RADIO RAN YOUR MT. VERNON DOCUMENTARY. IT REMINDED ME OF ANOTHER DAY AND TIME. FOR MOST OF MY 67 YEARS I HAVE FOLLOWED IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF WASHINGTON AND MONROE. I AM NOT A HISTORIAN BUT RATHER A PERSON WHO HAS LIVED IN PROXIMITY TO PLACES THEY LOVED.

AS A CHILD I LIVED AT FERRY LANDING. AT ONE TIME OUR FARM WAS ONE OF WASHINGTON'S FIVE FARMS AT MT. VERNON. TODAY IT IS PART OF A SUB DIVISION OF \$500,000 HOUSES.

BACK IN THE 1940s & 1950s I SPENT MUCH TIME ABOARD MY HORSE(NAMED FERRY LANDING) BECAUSE OUR FAMILY WAS CLOSE TO THE FAMILY OF CECIL WALL WHO WAS THE DIRECTOR AT MT. VERNON, I WAS GIVEN AN ENTRY KEY TO THE PRIVATE "WEST" GATE OF THE PLANTATION. THE LOCK WAS 7 OR 8 FEET OFF THE GROUND SO THAT RIDERS OF THE DAY(1940s, 1950s) COULD OPEN AND CLOSE THE GATE WITHOUT DISMOUNTING.

DURING THIS TIME OUR CHEWNING FAMILY ALSO OWNED HOMES IN FREDERICKSBURG. AFTER LIVING IN OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD AND VIRGINIA MY WIFE AND I TOOK UP RESIDENCE HERE IN OLD TOWN FREDERICKSBURG(1987). WE ARE JUST A BLOCK FROM PRESIDENT MONROE'S LAW OFFICE. A WHILE BACK YOU SENT A CREW TO THE CHARLES STREET SITE TO DO A PROGRAM.

I WILL GUESS THAT YOU WILL BE DOING ANOTHER PROGRAM ON OUR 5TH PRESIDENT IN THE MONTHS AHEAD, ALTHOUGH IT MAY NOT BE DONE IN FREDERICKSBURG.

DURING THE WASHINGTON PROGRAM OF THIS LAST WEEK YOU HAD SOME CALLERS ASKING ABOUT WASHINGTON'S MEMBERSHIP IN THE SOCIETY OF THE CINCINNATI. PRESIDENT MONROE WAS THE ONLY OTHER ~~US~~ PRESIDENT OF THE U.S. TO BE AN ORIGINAL MEMBER OF THE SOCIETY.

I HAVE TAKEN MUCH OF YOUR TIME IN THE READING OF THIS LETTER SO I WILL STOP. "HAPPY BIRTHDAY" AFTER 20 YEARS ON THE JOB.

HANG IN THERE.

(SEE ENCLS. MONROE & MT.VERNON)

O-Ames Pres

AD A
SO
JC, I

This was known as the NEST GATE. IN THE 1940s, 1950s
KEY TO THE GATE SO THAT I COULD RIDE THROUGH ON MY HORSE
THAT I COULD RIDE WITH UNCLE CECIL WAIL & HIS DAUGHTER

year was less than twenty-seven hundred dollars. Similar figures are not available for other periods, but it is apparent from the record that 1798 was not a bad year. Poor soil, indifferent labor, and dilatory overseers were limiting factors every year. The prevailing system required an owner's close supervision, if he were to prosper. After 1775 George Washington was not able to devote his full time to his own affairs, and they suffered by his enforced neglect. His income was never large, even before the Revolution. His responsibilities were extensive, and his impulses generous. In view of the circumstances, it would be more accurate to state that George Washington sacrificed potential wealth to serve his country.

The Gardens and Grounds

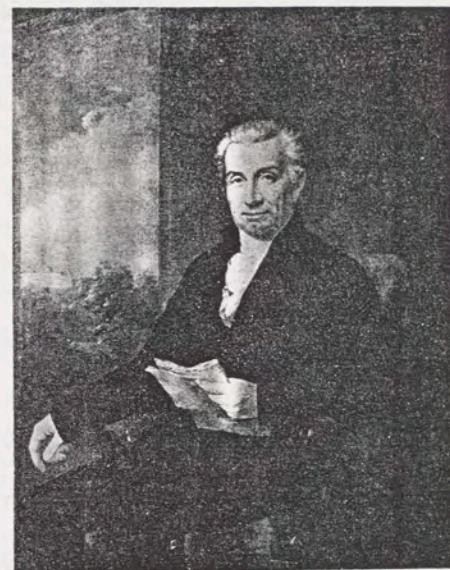
THE LANDSCAPED area of gardens and lawns about the mansion is separated from the surrounding fields on three sides by sunken walls or "ha-haws." The outer walls of the formal gardens and the park wall on the river side complete the enclosure (see the Vaughan Plan, p. 14, and the perspective view, pp. 58-59. The bowling green entrance and flanking "ha-haw" walls mark the boundary on the west between the formal and the informal areas.

The bowling green was a feature of the plan conceived and inaugurated by General Washington shortly before the Revolution. Some

VIEW OF THE MANSION FROM THE GATE



page 24 of a 1968 edition of
MOUNT VERNON (AN ILLUSTRATED HANDBOOK)



LIEUTENANT-COLONEL JAMES MONROE

Only President of the United States, except Washington who was an original member of the Society of the Cincinnati.

BORN at Monroe's Creek, Westmoreland County, Virginia, 1758; Entered the College of William and Mary, 1774 but left to enter the Army, 1775; Second Lieutenant, Third Virginia Regiment, Continental Line, 1775; First Lieutenant, 1776; Severely wounded at the battle of Trenton, 1776; Major and Aide-de-Camp to General Alexander (Lord Stirling), 1777; Monroe County, Virginia, named in his honor, 1779; Lieutenant-Colonel and Military Commissioner for Virginia, 1780; Member of the Virginia House of Delegates, 1782, 1786-1788, 1810-1811; Member of the Continental Congress, 1783-1786; Member of the United States Senate, 1790-1794; United States Minister to France, 1794-1796 and 1803; Governor of Virginia, 1799-1802 and 1811; United States Minister to Great Britain, 1803-1807; Arranged (with Robert R. Livingston of the New York Cincinnati) the Louisiana Purchase, 1803; Secretary of State of the United States, 1811-1817; President of the United States, 1817-1825; Monroe County, Kentucky, named in his honor, 1820; Enunciated the Monroe Doctrine, 1823; President of the Virginia Constitutional Convention, 1829; Died in New York City, 1831.—(Portrait by Rembrandt Peale in Monroe's Law Office, Fredericksburg. Painted while Col. Monroe was President of the United States. He is seated in the East Portico of the White House, the Capitol in the distance).

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IN THE STATE OF VIRGINIA (c.)1934
Law Reporter Printing Co. Wash., DC