

Strange as this story may seem, in view of the popular tradition among our neighbors as to Washington's American nativity, it is certainly not without some foundation. Even so patriotic and (in the main) so pains-taking a writer as Benson J. Lossing, who had access to whatever documents were likely to shed light on the question of Washington's birth and baptism, is compelled to acknowledge that there is no official record to solve it. Washington himself seems to have been brought up in the belief that he was born in Virginia. When about seventeen years old, he made the following entry in his mother's Bible: "George Washington, son to Augustine and Mary his wife was born ye 11th day of February, 173 $\frac{1}{2}$  about 10 in the morning, and was baptized on the 8th of April following, Mr. Beverley Whiting and Capt. Christopher Brooks, Godfather (*sic*), and Mrs. Mildred Gregory, Godmother." The fact that "th," instead of "rd" comes after the figure "3" in the date of the baptism, gives some reason to believe that a cipher has been omitted, so that the real date would be "April 30th." This change would add nearly four weeks to the interval between the birth and the baptism and, on the theory that the former took place in England, the latter in Virginia, would impart some probability to the intervening voyage by Mrs. Augustine Washington.

Augustine Washington was born in 1694, and, when twenty-one years old, married Jane, daughter of Caleb Butler, of Westmoreland County, Virginia. This lady died on the 24th of November, 1728, after having borne four children, of whom Lawrence and Augustine survived to maturity. Augustine (George Washington's father) then married Mary Ball, on the 6th of March, 1730. Of this latter marriage no record is preserved. In December 1871, Dr. B. J. Lossing, while staying with the late Prof. F. B. Morse in New York, was shown by his host a portrait said to be that of Washington's mother, Mary Ball, taken just before her marriage. Prof. Morse had received the picture