

Transcription

President Washington Visits Boston

From *The Massachusetts Centinel* – October 28, 1789

Not less grateful than their fellow countrymen, are the citizens of the town of Boston. As soon as a confirmation of The President's intention was received, a Committee was immediately appointed to draft an Address to be presented to him, in behalf of the town, by the Selectmen: And a considerable number of citizens convened together for the purpose, appointed a Committee of fourteen, to recommend such arrangements for the reception of so illustrious a character as should be practicable. This Committee having met, recommended the arrangements which took place—which were approved of in Town-Meeting, and made the act of the town by the re-appointment of the Committee, to which the Selectmen and another gentleman were joined.

These arrangements being completed—and information having been received, that The President would enter the town on Saturday at noon, at ten o'clock the inhabitants assembled and formed their PROCESSION in the Mall—from whence, preceded by the Band of his Most Christian Majesty's squadron—they proceeded to the Fortification—where his Excellency the Governour has previously ordered the several military corps of this metropolis to parade.—On the arrival of the head of the Procession at the entrance of the town—the whole were ordered to halt—to open ranks, and face inwards—which being done, an avenue was formed, which reached from the neck to the State-House, for The President, &c. to pass through. At one o'clock, The President's approach was announced by federal discharges from Capt. Warner's artillery at *Roxbury*—from the *Dorchester* artillery posted on the celebrated heights of that town—from Capt. Johnson's artillery at the entrance of this town—and from Castle-William; by a royal salute from the ships of his Most Christian Majesty's squadron, and by the ringing of all the bells.

After the Selectmen had waited on The President—expressed to him the pleasure the citizens enjoyed on his arrival—and gave a hearty welcome,

THE PROCESSION

Into town, was in the following order.

MILITARY.

Commanded by Col. Bradford—
Independent Light-Infantry—under Major Otis.
Independent Fusiliers—under Capt.-Lieut. Laughton.
Capt. Johnson's Artillery.
Independent Cadets—under Major Scollay.
Musick.

THE CIVIL.

SELECTMEN, and Town-Clerk.
Deputy Sheriffs.
Sheriffs of Suffolk and Middlesex, on horseback.
The Council, and
The Lieutenant-Governour, in carriages.
The Marshal of *Massachusetts* district.

The President

On an elegant white Horse, attended by Major
Jackson, and Mr. Lear, his Secretaries.

The VICE-PRESIDENT.

The Hon. Mr. Bowdoin, and others, in two carriages.
Committee of Arrangements.
Commissary-General, and Treasurer of the State.
Representatives.
Overseers of the Poor.
Town-Treasurer.
Magistrates of the town.
Consul of Holland.
Rev. Clergy of this, and other towns.
Lawyers and Physicians.

MERCHANTS and TRADERS,

Preceded by John Coffin Jones, Esq. carrying a Flag*—The Device—*A quay, with a ship coming in,
and another loading.* Motto—*Generous Commerce binds the nations by a golden chain.*

MARINE SOCIETY,

Preceded by Capt. Dunn, with a flag. The device—
A ship passing with Light-House, and a boat going to her.

Masters of vessels.

Revenue Officers.

Officers of the late American Army, preceded by

Dr. Eustis,

A Flag with the *Union Cockade.*

Strangers.

*Artizans, Tradesmen and Manufacturers,
alphabetically arranged.*

BAKERS,

Preceded by Mr. *John Jenkins*, with a flag.

Device—*Three Wheat Sheaves.*

BLACKSMITHS,

Preceded by Mr. *Clough*, with a flag. Device—

The Blacksmith's Arms.

BLOCKMAKERS,

Preceded by Mr. *Skillings*. Device on the flag—*A Lignumvita tree, with Blocks, Pumplogs and Sheaves.*

BOAT-BUILDERS,

Preceded by Mr. T. *Hichborn*. Device on the flag—*A Boat.*

CABINET and CHAIR-MAKERS,

Preceded by Mr. *George Bright*. Device on the flag—*A Cabinet and Chairs.*

CARD-MAKERS,

Preceded by Mr. *Giles Richards*. Device on the flag—*Seven links, held by seven hands, representing the Company of Card-maker, with a pair of Cards in the centre. Motto.—United to extend the Manufactures of our country.*

CARVERS,

Preceded by Mr. *Skillings*. Device on their flag—*A Tree, and a Carver at work. Motto—The Arts flourish under Liberty.*

CHAISE and COACH-MAKERS,

Preceded by Mr. *Thomas Bumstead*. Device on the flag—*The Coachmaker's Arms.*

CLOCK and WATCH-MAKERS,

Preceded by Mr. *M. Peck*. Device on the flag—*Truth sitting in a cloud, pointing to the sun, and Time underneath, pointing to a time-piece, shewing the apparent and true time. Motto—Tempus Rerum Imperator. Time governeth all things.*

NOTE.

**All the flags in Procession, agreeably to the recommendations of the Committee of Arrangements, were of white silk, of a yard square—with staffs seven feet long, and all very handsomely painted. The artizans flags, &c. were numbered from one to 50.*

COOPERS,

Preceded by Capt. *Job Wheelwright*. Device on the flag—*The Cooper's Arms.*

COPPERSMITHS, BRAZIERS, &c.

Preceded by Mr. *William Caldwell*. Device on the flag—*A circle of eleven bells, with three blackload Pots, a Still, &c. Motto—Unison.*

CORDWAINERS, &c.

Preceded by Mr. *Samuel Bangs*. Device on the flag—*The Cordwainer's Arms—Crispin Crispianus*.

DISTILLERS,

Preceded by Mr. *Thomas Hill*. Device on the flag—*A Still, with the Distiller's Arms*.—Motto—*Drop as rain---distill as dew*.

DUCK-MANUFACTURERS,

Preceded by Mr. *Alker*. Device on the flag, *A Loom, with a man weaving*. Motto---*Boston Sail-Cloth Manufacturers*. The workmen carrying flax, &c. and a specimen of the cloth.

GLAZIERS AND PLUMBERS,

Preceded by Mr. *Caleb Champney*. Device on the flag---*The Glazier's Arms*.

GOLDSMITHS AND JEWELLERS,

Preceded by Mr. *Benjamin Burt*. Device on the flag---*The Goldsmith's Arms*.

HAIR-DRESSERS,

Preceded by Mr. *Jonathan Farnham*. Device on the flag---*A Wig, Razor and Comb*. Motto---*By Fashions we live*.

HATTERS,

Preceded by Capt. *Nathaniel Balch*. Device on the flag---*An arm supporting a Hat*.

HOUSE-CARPENTERS,

Preceded by Mr. *William Crafts*. Device on the flag---*The Carpenter's Arms*. Motto---*Honour God*.

LEATHER-DRESSERS,

Preceded by Mr. *Adam Colson*. Device on the flag---*A Buck and Glove*.

LEMON-DEALERS,

Preceded by Mr. *James Wheling*. Device on the flag---*Three Lemons with an Orange in the centre, and a Pine-Apple at the top. An Orange and Lime-Tree forming the Shield*. Motto---*Success to Trade*.

LIMNERS AND PAINTERS,

Preceded by Col. *Mason*. Device on the flag---*The Painter's Arms*.

MASONS,

Preceded by *Major Bell*. Device on the flag---
The Mason's Arms.

MAST-MAKERS,

Preceded by Mr. *Samuel Harris*. Device on the
flag---*A Bowsprit, Top and Cap*.

MATHEMATICAL INSTRUMENT-MAKERS,

Preceded by Mr. *William Hager*. Device on the
flag---*A Quadrant and Compass Card*. Motto---
The Artist's Pride, and Seaman's Guide.

PAPER STAINERS,

Preceded by Mr. *Joseph Hovey*. Device on the
flag---*The Paper Stainer's Arms*. Motto---*May
the fair daughters of Columbia deck themselves and
their walls with our own manufactures*.

PEWTERERS,

Preceded by Mr. *Thomas Green*. Device---*The
Pewterer's Arms*.

PRINTERS AND BOOKBINDERS,

Preceded by Mr. *Benjamin Edes*. Device on the
flag---*A Printing-Press* on one side. Motto---
The Art which preserves all arts. Reverse---*The
Stationer's Arms*.

RIGGERS,

Preceded by Mr. *Wyer*. Device on the flag---*A
Ship with her bare masts*.

ROPE-MAKERS,

Preceded by Mr. *William M'Neil*. Device on the
flag---*Queen Catherine, patroness of Rope-makers,
with hemp round her waist---a spinning-wheel, with
eleven spinners pointing to it, and a coil of cable*.
Motto---*Success to American manufactures*.

SADDLERS,

Preceded by Mr. *Zechariah Hicks*. Device on the
flag---*Three Pack Saddles*.

SAIL-MAKERS,

Preceded by Capt. *Samuel Barret*. Device on the
flag---*A Bench, tarring of Twine, and roping a Sail*.

SHIPJOINERS,

Preceded by Capt. *John Ballard*. Device on the flag—*The Shipjoiners arms*.

SHIPWRIGHTS, &C.

Preceded by Deacon *Gibbon Sharp*. Device on the flag---*The Hull of a Ship, and thirteen Stars on a Cross*.

SUGAR-BOILERS,

Preceded by Mr. *Samuel Snelling*. Device on the flag---*The Sugar-Boiler's Arms*.

TALLOW-CHANDLERS, &c.

Preceded by Mr. *William Frobisher*. Device on the flag---*Three Doves with Olive Branches in their mouths, and two wax Candles*. Motto---*As shines The President, so let your Lights shine*.

TANNERS AND CURRIERS,

Preceded by Mr. *Samuel Bass*. Device on the flag---*The Tanner's Arms*.

TAYLORS,

Preceded by Mr. *Ballard*. Device on the flag---*The Taylor's Arms*.

TIN-PLATE WORKERS,

Preceded by Mr. *Howe*. Device on the flag---*The Tinman's Arms*.

TOBACCONISTS,

Preceded by Mr. *M'Kean*. Device on the flag---*A Hand supporting a Hand of Tobacco, a Roll and a Paper of Tobacco*.

TRUCKMEN,

Preceded by Mr. *Jeremiah Gore*. Device on the flag—*Two Horses with a Truck loaded, and a man driving*.

WHARFINGERS,

Preceded by Mr. *Thomas Moore*. Device on the flag—*A Cart loaded with Wood, drawn by three Horses*. Motto—*Wood Wharfingers*.

WHEELWRIGHTS,

Preceded by Mr. *Jennings*. Device on the flag—*The Wheelwright's Arms*.

SEAMEN,
Under the orders of Captains *Job Prince* and
Allen Hallet, carrying a blue Ensign.

SCHOLARS
Of the several Schools, under the care of their
respective Masters, each with a quill.

On the arrival of the front of the Procession at the Old Brick Meeting, the whole halted—and the Military, the Selectmen and Council conducted THE PRESIDENT through the Triumphal Arch erected across the Main-Street, to the Senate-Chamber, by the East door of the State-House, from whence the President passed through the Representatives' Chamber to

THE COLONNADE (a)
erected for the occasion in the West end of the State-House, composed of six large columns, fifteen feet high, and a ballustrade hung in front with Persian carpets, on which were wrought thirteen roses. The circle of the colonnade measured forty-four feet, and projected boldly into the Main-Street, so as to exhibit in a strong light, "*The Man of the People.*" The central West window of the State-House was the door through which the President passed to the ballustrade descending from a platform four easy steps to the floor of the gallery, which was furnished with armed chairs, and spread with rich carpets. On this platform was a pedestal, covered with green, supporting the figure of *Plenty* with her *Cornucopia* and other emblems. As soon as the President entered the Colonnade, he was saluted by three huzzas from the citizens; and by an ODE* sung by a select choir of singers, with Mr. Rea at their head, in

THE TRIUMPHAL ARCH (b)
which was adjacent to the Colonnade. This Arch is 18 feet high, composed of a center arch 14 feet wide, and one on each side, of 7 feet, with an Ionick pilaster and proper imports between them. The freeze exhibits 13 stars on a blue ground, and a handsome white dentule cornice is carried to the height of the platform; above is painted a ballustrade of interlaced work, in the center of which is an oval tablet, with the following inscriptions—On one side, "*To the Man who unites all hearts*"—and on the other, "*To Columbia's favourite Son.*" At the end adjoining the State-House, is a panel decorated with a *Trophy*, composed of the arms of the United States, of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and our French Allies, crowned with a laurel wreath; over these an inscription, "*Boston relieved March 17, 1776*"—as a proof of a grateful remembrance of the services rendered this town by the illustrious President in his military character. Over the center arch, a rich canopy of 20 feet in height was erected, with the American Eagle perched above; the whole forming a spectacle, which, while it captivated the eye of the beholder, added much to the testimonials of the respect of the day.

After the Ode was sung, the Procession passed the President, and proceeded into Court-Street, where the whole was dismissed.

The military companies then escorted the President to his residence in Court-Street, after which they returned into State-Street, gave three vollies, and were dismissed.

The number of people collected to see their beloved President, it is almost impossible to compute—The streets were crowded—

You would have thought the very windows mov'd
To see him as he pass'd, so many young and old,
Through casements darted their desiring eyes.

But from the precautions taken, and more from the occasion of their meeting, no one accident happened to mar the pleasure enjoyed on the auspicious day.

**For this Ode see our last page.*

ILLUMINATIONS

And fireworks were exhibited in several parts of the town—In State-Street, the Bunch-of-Grapes, the Eastern Coffee-House, Hayt's and Jones's Rooms, &c. made a handsome appearance; and several fireworks were let off from the Castle, and from the French ships, which were very beautifully illuminated.

(a) *Designed by Hon. Mr. Dawes.*

(b) *Designed by Mr. C. Bulfinch.*

ODE,

To Columbia's Favourite Son,
Sung on the arrival of THE PRESIDENT at the State-House.

Great Washington the Hero's come,
Each heart exulting hears the sound,
Thousands to their Deliver'r throng,
And shout him welcome all around!
*Now in full chorus join the song,
And shout aloud great Washington!*

There view Columbia's favourite Son,
Her Father, Fav'rite, Friend and Guide!
There see th' immortal Washington!
His Country's Glory, Boast and Pride!
Now in full chorus, &c.

When in th' impending storm of war,
Thick clouds and darkness hid our way,
Great Washington, our Polar Star,
Arose; and all was light as day!
Now in full chorus, &c.

'Twas on yon plains thy valour rose,
And ran like fire from man to man;

'Twas here thou humbled *Paria's* foes,
And chac'd whole legions to the main!
Now in full chorus, &c.

Thro' countless dangers, toils and cares,
Our Hero led us safely on—
With matchless skill directs the wars,
'Till Vict'ry cries—the day's his own.
Now in full chorus, &c.

His country sav'd, the contest o'er,
Sweet Peace restor'd his toils to crown,
The Warriour to his native Shore
Returns, and tills his fertile ground.—
Now in full chorus, &c.

But soon Columbia call'd him forth
Again to save her sinking fame,
To take the Helm, and by his worth,
To make her an immortal name!
Now in full chorus, &c.

Nor yet alone thro' *Paria's* shores,
Has Fame her mighty trumpet blown;
E'en *Europe, Africk, Asia* hears,
And emulate the deeds he's done!
Now in full chorus, &c.

BOSTON, WEDNESDAY, OCT. 28, 1789.

Yesterday his Excellency the Governour and Council gave a sumptuous and elegant dinner, at Faneuil-Hall, to The PRESIDENT of the United States—At which were also present, the Vice-President, the Lt. Governour, Council, Hon. Mr. Bowdoin, Judges of the Supreme Court, Officers of his Most Christian Majesty's squadron, Foreign Consuls, President of Harvard-College, the Clergy of this town, Civil and Military Officers, and Gentlemen of distinction, to the number of 150. On this occasion the Hall was beautifully ornamented with the several flags, &c. displayed in the late Procession, amounting to 48. We lament that the want of room will not permit us to go into particulars.

Owing to severe indisposition, His Excellency the Governour could not attend the publick dinner yesterday.

Yesterday THE PRESIDENT honoured the Stone-Chapel with his presence to hear the Concert of Sacred Musick; but on account of the indisposition of several of the first performers, the Musick was postponed until Wednesday next. Several pieces were however given, which merited and received applause.

On the arrival THE PRESIDENT of the United States on Saturday last, the right Hon. Viscount De Ponteves Gien, and the other officers of his Most Christian Majesty's squadron, conducted by the Hon. Consul of France, paid their respects to that illustrious character at his residence in Court-Street.

On Sunday last His Excellency the Governour visited The President, at his residence in Court-Street—which The President returned on Monday.

The book *John Tileston's School* by D. C. Colesworthy, published in Boston in 1887, contains a wonderful description by one of the schoolboys of Boston who marched in the procession and saw President Washington when he visited the town in 1789. D. C. Colesworthy's father, Daniel P. Colesworthy, was that young schoolboy and a pupil of Master John Tileston who taught at a writing school in the North End from 1754-1819.

“October 24, 1789, was a proud day for Boston, and Mr. Tileston in particular. The illustrious personage, George Washington, was to visit the place, and extensive preparations were made by the town authorities to receive him. And the no little interesting part of the programme was the appearance of the school children in town, neatly dressed, with quills in their hands, full of smiles and radiant with delight. My father, Daniel P. Colesworthy, who died in Portland, in 1852, was one of Mr. Tileston's pupils at this period. At my request he wrote an interesting account of the occurrence which follows:

‘When General Washington visited Boston I was a school-boy. The day before he arrived Master Tileston told all the boys to come to school the next morning with clean faces, and dressed in their best clothes; each one to be particular to bring a quill with him. We followed our master's instructions, and accordingly the next morning we marched with the scholars belonging to the other schools in town; our school taking the precedence, and the rear. We marched to Washington Street, as far as the upper corner of Exchange Street, where we halted—opened to the right and left and formed a line on each side of the street, from Exchange Street to the Old South Church. At about half past ten o'clock the cannon on the Neck announced Washington crossing the line between Boston and Roxbury. The companies of the militia of Boston and vicinity were out to escort him. A stage or bridge was built from the Old State House to the stores on the opposite side of the street, with arches underneath. It was covered with damask. Here the Governor and Council received him. An anthem was sung, as Washington, with his hat in his hand, passed by us on his light gray horse. We rolled our quills between our hands, that the General might notice us. When school was dismissed we called to see him, each one making a bow, which he politely returned. I saw him several times afterwards.’”