

the "marriage ceremony was performed in the very room where Washington was married to the charming Widow Custis."

Among the fond recollections of guests at Mount Vernon, after Washington's retirement, was a superbly mellow rye whiskey. "This rye was distilled at Mount Vernon under the skilled hand of James Anderson, the General's chief overseer, who had learned the art in Scotland."

No 4.—MACON.

There is an island in the Pamunkey river in New Kent County, almost three miles above the "White House" which is known as "Macon's Island".

The earliest Macon about whom we have information was Gideon. He lived in New Kent in 1682 and was a member of the House of Burgesses in 1696. He was Commander-in-chief of the military forces in 1702. He married Martha Woodward and they had a son William Macon who married Mary Hartwell.

Several years ago, by prodding into the ground of the old graveyard on Macon's Island, now an overgrown mass of bramble and ruin, we uncovered the tombstone of William and his wife Mary.

It reads as follows :

Here Lie the Bodies of William Macon and Mary his Wife. He was born 11th November 1694 & departed this life in the 79th year November of his Age 1773.

She was born 18 June 1703 and departed this Life 19 November 1770. They were married 24th September 1719.

Had issue Ann, Martha, Mary William Henry Elizabeth Sarah Mary Judy Hartwell & Anna of whom two are interred near this

place viz. Ann who died 9 November 1736 Aged 16 and Mary who died 29th January 1733 Aged 9 year.

Elizabeth Macon, mentioned above married Warner Washington, a member of the illustrious Washington family.

A daughter of Gideon Mason, Martha, married Orlando Jones. Of this marriage was born Frances, the mother of Martha Dandridge Custis Washington.

In a letter written by a daughter of Colonel William Hartwell Macon of New Kent County, a grandson of the William Macon of the tombstone, she says: "The Macon family are French Huguenots. The pioneer to this country was the private secretary to Lord Berkley and came over February 1642. I think he settled in New Kent County on the Pamunkey river and raised his family there just 2½ miles above the White House. It was on this island that my father went to live and there entertained General Lafayette while on his way to Yorktown at the time of the siege."

Macon's Island is inaccessible to the ordinary tourist, but can be reached by a small boat, through Macon's Creek.

There is no trace of the old home on the "Island" now, but a later home, "Mount Prospect" was built on an overlooking hill after the Revolution by the Colonel Hartwell Macon referred to in the letter, and stands there now.