

Memorandum

To: Arlington House OLLI Class Members
From: Linda Cunningham Goldstein
Date: 05/01/17
Re: Several Requests for Washington/Custis/Lee Family Links

George Washington m. Martha Dandridge Custis (widow of the very wealthy Daniel Parke Custis) Martha brought two children from her former marriage to this union (there were 4, but two died in infancy); John Parke Custis (Jacky) and Martha Parke (Patsy) Custis.

GW had no biological children

Patsy died in boarding school at age 17, and Jacky grew to adulthood and married Eleanor Calvert of Maryland (relative of Lord Baltimore) & built Abingdon, near the N-S Runway at Reagan National Airport.. They had 4 children:

George Washington Parke Custis (Washy/Tub), Martha Parke Custis, Eliza Parke Custis, and Eleanor (Nelly) Parke Custis. Washy and Nelly were brought to Mt. Vernon to be raised by their step-grandfather, GW, and their grandmother, Martha Washington, following their father's death (Jacky) of Typhoid Fever, while George Washington's Aide.

Eleanor Parke Custis married Lawrence Lewis, Washington's nephew of Kenmore in Fredericksburg, Va., and built Woodlawn Plantation, George Washington Parke Custis married Mary Lee Fitzhugh of Alexandria, and built Arlington House on land inherited from his late father's will, which eventually became the site of Arlington National Cemetery. Mary Lee Fitzhugh was the daughter of Wm. Fitzhugh (of Fredericksburg, Alexandria, & Springfield) and Mary Anna Randolph Bolling, a cousin of Thomas Jefferson.

The daughter (and only surviving) child* of George Washington Parke Custis and Mary Lee Fitzhugh, Mary Anna, married Robert Edward Lee (General Lee) of Alexandria, and Stratford Hall (in the Northern Neck of Va.), at Arlington House. The Lees became the owners of same following the death of Mary Lee's father, George Washington Parke Custis.

Note* George Washington Parke Custis had a daughter with a household slave, Arianna Carter, named Mary Carter Custis Syphax, who was given 15 acres of land and a house on Arlington House land (where she is buried). She married William Syphax, a slave, from a free family in Alexandria.

Were the Lees, the Fitzhughs, the Custis Family, The Carters, and the Randolphs of Virginia related? Yes! When it comes down to the First Families of Virginia (the FFV's), it is almost better to inquire as to who WASN'T related! Many of them married their cousins, which was a common practice back in the day.