

WALLACE STATUE IS ELIGIBLE TO PLACE OF HONOR

By the recent death of General Lew Wallace his statue is made eligible to a place in the National Statuary hall at Washington. The statue of no person is eligible while he is living. "Count no man happy until he is dead," says an ancient proverb. The law does not permit placing the portrait of any American statesman on treasury notes or postage stamps until after his death. The idea seems to be that the closing of a man's life record can alone entitle him to consideration for historic honors. The portrait of Mr. Chase, father of the greenbacks, did not appear on a treasury note, nor that of Mr. Lincoln on a bank note or postage stamp until after they had ceased to live.

In selecting subjects for this honor the choice of the states has some limitations. The act of congress of July 2, 1864, establishing Statuary hall, says:

"The president is hereby authorized to invite each and all of the states to provide and furnish statues, in marble or bronze, not exceeding two in number for each state, of deceased persons who have been citizens thereof, and illustrious for their historic renown or from distinguished civic or military services, such as each state shall deem worthy of this national commemoration."

This leaves the choice to the states, but limits it to citizens who have been illustrious for their historic renown or from distinguished civic or military services. There is no reference to literary work or literary fame. Up to 1904 twenty-seven statues had been contributed by sixteen states, and not one of them was a literary man. New York has contributed statues of Robert R. Livingston and George Clinton, early statesmen of high rank; New Jersey, Robert Stockton, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, and General Phil Kearney, of the civil war period; Penn-

sylvania, Robert Fulton and John P. Muhlenberg, of revolutionary fame; Massachusetts, John Winthrop, first governor of Massachusetts bay colony, and Samuel Adams, of revolutionary fame; Rhode Island, Roger Williams and Nathaniel Greene; Connecticut, Jonathan Trumbull, first governor, and Roger Sherman; Vermont, Ethan Allen and Jacob Collamer, an early senator; New Hampshire, Daniel Webster and John Stark, of the revolutionary period; Maine, William King, first governor; Ohio, James A. Garfield and William Allen, two statesmen of opposite politics; Missouri, Thomas H. Benton and Francis P. Blair; Indiana, Oliver P. Morton; Illinois, James Shields, senator and soldier, and Francis Willard, temperance reformer; Michigan, Lewis Cass; Wisconsin, Pere Marquette, pioneer and missionary; Virginia, George Washington; West Virginia, Senator Kenna.

This list includes some great historic names, with an apparent tendency in recent years to drift into politics. It is somewhat remarkable that there is not a distinctly literary man in the entire list. Even Massachusetts, the birthplace of American literature and the home of Bancroft, Longfellow, Lowell, Holmes, Whittier, Hawthorne and many other shining lights in literature, passed them all over, as well as her soldiers in the civil war, for two statesmen of the colonial and the revolutionary period. This shows the Massachusetts tendency to adhere to early landmarks and ancient traditions.

General Lew Wallace is a fit companion for the goodly company that now graces Statuary hall. He does not possess the halo of the revolutionary period, but he was a soldier in later wars, and served the country in other fields as well. In addition to this, he is the most widely read and popular of American authors.

does, it is probable that steps will be taken to acquire the rise of ground a short distance away where Andre was hanged and buried.

Cyrus Field erected a monument on this spot. It was twice blown over with dynamite by persons who did not sympathize with thus honoring a man of taxes. George Dickey of Nyack abandoned the land, and several times it has been sold by the Rockland county authorities for the non-payment of taxes. eGeorge Dickey of Nyack, now holds a tax title to it.

Tappan people have long objected to the sale of liquor in the "78 House." It was purchased by Mr. Pike in 1897 from Dr. J. J. Stephens of Tappan, after it had fallen into ruins as the result of a severe storm. Pike reconstructed the building with the old material, preserving as near as possible its historic features. The room in which Major Andre was confined while awaiting his trial and before his execution is in exactly the same condition that it was in at that time. For years Dr. Stephens allowed the building to fall into decay. He kept it closed and never allowed sightseers to gain entrance to it.

The house was built in 1750. For many years Casparus Mable kept a tavern there. After Major Andre's capture at Tarrytown he was taken to Tappan where General Washington had his headquarters in the De Wint mansion which is also standing. The Mable house was considered the safest place in which to confine Andre, and there the young British officer was imprisoned. Later General Greene had his headquarters in the "76 House" for a considerable length of time.

Those who desire to have the old house acquired by the state say that it should be preserved not only because it was the prison place of Andre, but because through that imprisonment there terminated at Tappan one of the vital turning points of the revolution.

POISONS WHOSE WORK IS WORSE THAN DEATH

A prominent physician in speaking of the wholesale poisoning laid at the door of the Chicago "arch fiend" Hoch, says that there are a number of unsold poisons, whose effects are of the most subtle character. Among them are poisons that cause death, leaving but little trace as to their existence in the bodies when subjected to analysis.

"The more dreadful poisons are only known to a few men. Mercury methide, for instance, the inhalation of whose fumes produces incurable idiosyncrasy, can be manufactured by two Italians and by no one else in the world.

"Dhatooora is a poison used in India. It, too, produces incurable idiosyncrasy. A British army officer told me of a sad case—a case of two rival tailors, one of whom gave the other a small dose of dhatooora. The victim of the drug remained an idiot all the rest of his life. He sat and moved his empty hands as though he were sewing. He was a formidable rival no longer.

"Mercaptan produces a melancholy so great as to terminate nearly always in suicide. No government would permit the manufacture and sale of this poison. "Dhatooora, mercury methide, mercap-

WOULD PRESERVE ANDRE'S PRISON

A movement is on foot for the preservation of the long neglected "76 House, or "Andre's Prison," at Tappan, N. Y. It is designed to have the state buy the historic building, restore it to its original condition and maintain it as a museum. At present the building where Major Andre of the British army, was imprisoned before to his trial in the Old Dutch reformed church across the road and his execution, on what is now known as "Andre's Hill," is owned by Charles Pike, who keeps a saloon and a house there.

A bill which was this week introduced in the legislature at Albany, provides for the creation of a state reservation out of the property. While

three commissioners are to take charge of the residence, they will only hold office until they have acquired title to the property and restored the building as nearly as possible to the condition it was in during revolutionary days. When this has been done it will be turned over to the scenic and historic preservation society as custodians.

The bill appropriates \$10,000 for the purpose. If the owner is not willing to sell the property to the state, the commissioners will have power to take condemnation proceedings to acquire it. Scenic society is co-operating with those who have introduced the measure and there is every prospect that it will become a law. If it

GONE TO RUIN.

**"Seventy-Six House," Which
Was Maj. Andre's Prison, Is
Now a Wreck.**

WAS DAMAGED BY A STORM.

**This Historic Building at Tappan Has
Been Stripped by Vandals—Its
Owner Positively Refuses
to Sell It.**

The famous old "Seventy-six House" in the historical village of Tappan, which was partly demolished by a storm last week, is in such a state that another high wind will probably complete the destruction, says the New York Press. Thus one of the most celebrated Revolutionary houses in the country will have become an historic ruin.

A Press reporter visited the scene to ascertain the exact amount of damage done by the storm, and whether or not the building might be restored to its original condition.

The "Seventy-six House," or "Andre's Prison," as it is more commonly known, is where the unfortunate British spy was confined prior to his execution in 1780. On Sept. 28, 1780, Maj. Andre, guarded by a strong force of cavalry, commanded by Maj. Talmadge, was brought to Tappan, where Gen. Washington had his headquarters in a house which is still standing a short distance from the prison. Maj. Andre was given the best rooms in the "Seventy-six House," but was closely confined.

Relic Hunters Present.

Relic hunters have already been at the ruins. Everything movable is being taken away gradually. The appearance of the house from the front is sufficient to remove at once the thought that it might be restored to its former state. The whole front is open, showing to the public what they have not been allowed to see for many years. From the roof down, the whole east side toward the road lies in a mass of brick, stone, mortar and rotten wood, and passers-by can see the rude condition of the interior.

The garret is divided by rough boards into several apartments, and the cellar is also exposed to view. The other three sides of the building remain as they were before the great calamity, while the greater portion of the roof hangs over, ready to come down at the least provocation. The room on the south front, which was the one where many of the men folk of the old time used to order drinks (as the old house was formerly the Yost Mable Tavern and the bar on which they used to lean and call for more "Jersey lightning" is still the same, showing the ancient wooden posts.)

The room on the north front, which was Maj. Andre's prison, is smaller than it was at that time, as the bad portion has been partitioned off into another apartment. It was in this room that Gen. Washington, Alexander Hamilton and other celebrated men of the time visited the unfortunate Andre. Back of the front room was the one in which Andre slept, and a window looks out to the west to Andre Hill, where the British officer was executed for his complicity in Arnold's plan. This window is closed by old boards, which are not unlike those of the whole back part of the building.

Visitors Not Welcome.

For a long time the house has been despoiled of its most valuable parts by curiosity hunters. The tiles which ornamented one of the fireplaces have been carried away, and the lock on the door leading from Andre's sleeping room to the hall room is in the possession of the New York Historical Society. Not only locks, but doors, too, are notably absent. Dr. Stephens, the owner of the house, has for years prohibited visitors from entering the old house, and has allowed it to fall into ruins.

There is much indignation expressed that he should have done this. Some years ago the Legislature passed a bill for the purchase of the place for \$6000, but the Governor vetoed it. Several historical societies have endeavored to purchase it, but Dr. Stephens refused to part with it. Persons have come hundreds of miles to view the prison, but all fared alike, and had to be content with a view of the exterior.

Three years ago, when the Historical Pilgrims were on their tour through several States, they visited Tappan, but Dr. Stephens refused them admittance. They persisted, but in vain, and finally went up on the hill whereon Gen. Washington's army was encamped, and there were entertained by Mrs. U. E. Barber, who owns the property and headquarters.

There is no record as to when the "Seventy-six House" was built, but it was some time in the years between 1700 and 1750. During the Revolution it was known as the Yost Mable Tavern. Steps are being taken, it is said, to secure Washington's headquarters for the State and prevent it sharing the fate of the Andre prison.

CHANGED BY ONE FIGURE.

PRESERVE ANDRE'S PRISON

New York State Will Be Asked to
Buy a Revolutionary Building
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Tappan, N. Y.—A movement is on foot for the preservation of the long-neglected "76 Stone house," or "Andre's prison," here. It is designed to have the state buy the historic building, restore it to its original condition and maintain it as a museum. At present the building where Maj. Andre, of the British army, was imprisoned prior to his trial in the old Dutch Reformed church across the road, and his execution, on what is now known as "Andre's hill," is owned by Charles Pike, who keeps a saloon and roadhouse there.

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The house was built in 1750. For many years Casparus Mable kept a tavern there. After Maj. Andre's capture at Tarrytown he was brought to Tappan, where Gen. Washington had his headquarters in the De Wint mansion, which is also still standing. The Mable house was considered the safest place in which to confine Andre, and there the young British officer was imprisoned. Later Gen. Greene had his headquarters in the "76 House" for a considerable length of time.

ANDRE'S PRISON.

The State to Be Asked to Preserve the Ancient House.

(New York World.)

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ANDRE PRISON

In Tappan, N. Y., is still preserved the prison in which Major Andre was confined previous to his execution as a spy, and it is today in an excellent state of preservation following its restoration in 1899.

If there be any one personage of our Revolution about whom every reader might be supposed to be well informed, it is certainly Major Andre, "whose fate," says General Heath, "drew tears from many eyes," and of whom Washington said: "He was more unfortunate than criminal." Yet very few know much of the arrest and execution of Andre.

Few but historical students know that Andre's adventure really covers a wide territory, extending from Dodd's Ferry, on the south, to West Point on the north, and from a spot a few miles west of Haverstraw to one almost on the Connecticut line, on the east. Roughly speaking, this means a region 25 miles square, within which limits he remained for 11 days. During this time he traveled not less than 125 miles, most of them after he was captured at Tarrytown.

Within these limits remain nine houses identified with his story, the authenticated ruins of five others, and the known sites of two more.

Andre was arrested as a spy on September 23, his three captors discovering on his person treasonable correspondence between Benedict Arnold and the British commander, Sir Henry Clinton.

His trial for treason followed almost immediately and the courtmartial sentenced him September 30 to be hung as a spy, and his execution followed on October 2, 1780, on the hill near the Tappan village. The remains were buried at Tappan, but were later removed to Westminster abbey, London, and only a plain monument now marks the spot where they were first buried.

In the building at Tappan Andre was held a prisoner during his trial, and from this building he was taken to the place of his execution. The village of Tappan is on the Hudson, about midway between New York city and West Point.

The place itself is a sleepy little village, the whole interest of which centers in three sites: Washington's headquarters, which is kept in excellent repair; Andre's prison, and the spot of his execution.

For many years Andre's prison was rapidly falling into decay, but of recent years it has been restored, very fairly, to its original condition.

The show part of the building is, of course, the two rooms once occupied by Andre. The front one was used as his sitting room, and the back one as his bedroom. The first room is much as the "best room" of an ordinary rural dwelling anywhere, and the bedroom is now used as a billiard room. The house is of stone, and in good order and will probably last another century.

About 10 years ago a bill was presented to the New York legislature for acquiring the property and its preservation as a place of public interest, but it failed to pass.

From the house it is only a short walk to the place of execution, less than half a mile, up a slight rise. Here stands the monument erected by Cyrus W. Field in 1879, with the inscription written by Dean Stanley, beginning:

"Here died, October 2, 1780, Maj. John Andre, of the British army, who, entering the American lines on a secret mission to Benedict Arnold," etc.

This inscription has been justly criticized for the misleading statement contained in these words. The lines from the Aeneid with which it closes is, however, well chosen and strictly true. In Conington's translation it is thus rendered:

DANCE AT OLD ANDRE PRISON.

House Where the Spy Spent His Last Days to Be Reopened.

From the New York Herald.

For forty years the old stone house at Tappan, which was converted into a prison during the Revolutionary war, and about which cluster memories of one of the most tragic incidents of that dark time, has been closed to public view. It was behind those thick gray walls that Major John Andre spent the last days of his short life, and it was from that house that he was taken on October 2, 1780, and executed as a spy. Now it is being converted into a public resort, and those darkened rooms will re-echo with merry laughter and the rhythmic shuffle of dancing feet.

For many years the venerable building has been an object of curiosity to sightseers, but no one has been permitted to enter its portals. For forty years the old mansion had been the property of Dr. James Stephens, and had not a severe storm recently destroyed a portion of it the interior would in all probability have been jealously guarded until the walls crumbled to dust.

But the storm demolished a portion of the front wall, and Dr. Stephens disposed of the property to Charles A. Pike, a wealthy resident of Tappan. Mr. Pike will renovate the front and restore it as nearly as possible to its original form. The house will then be opened to the public. While preserving the rooms in their present form, he will permit social parties to gather there for dancing, but will not allow any feature of amusement that would be objectionable or injure the building.

The room on the north front, which was Major Andre's prison, is smaller than it was at that time, as the back part has been partitioned off into another apartment. It was in this front room that Alexander Hamilton and others visited the unfortunate young man. Back of this front room is the one in which Major Andre slept, and a window looks out to the west, where, tradition says, he saw them rear the scaffold for his execution. This window is closed by old boards.

Dr. S. Weir Mitchell, in his delightful novel of the Revolution, "Hugh Wynne, Free Quaker," gives us an interesting glimpse of the old house. Hugh Wynne, at the time of Andre's execution, was an aide on Washington's staff, and Andre had previously befriended him. Wynne was greatly shocked at the turn affairs had taken, and besought Washington's permission to visit the prisoner on the eve of his execution.

These are the words of Dr. Mitchell, whose entire story displays remarkable historical accuracy: "I went at once—it was now close to 8 in the evening—to the small house of one Mabry, where the prisoner was kept. It was but 100 yards from His Excellency's quarters. Six sentries marched to and fro around it, and within the room two officers remained day and night with drawn swords. My pass was taken at the door of the house, while I waited on the road without. In a few minutes an officer came to me with Major Talmadge's compliments, and would I be pleased to enter?"

"I can see today the rising moon, the yellowish road, the long gray stone farmhouse of one story, with windows set in an irregular frame of brickwork. The door opens and I find myself in a short hall, where two officers salute as I pass. My conductor says, 'This way, Captain Wynne,' and I enter a long, cheerless looking apartment, the sitting room of a Dutch farmhouse. Two lieutenants seated within at the doorway rose as I entered, and, saluting me, sat down again. I stood an instant, looking about me. A huge log fire roared on the hearth, so lighting the room that I saw its glow catch the bayonet tips of the sentinels outside as they went and came. There were a half dozen wooden chairs, and on a pine table four candles burning, a bottle of Holland, a decanter and glasses. In a high backed chair sat a man with his face to the fire. It was Andre. He was tranquilly sketching, with a quill pen, a likeness of himself."

After his visit to Andre, Wynne intercedes with Washington in his behalf, but to no purpose. He retraced his footsteps, sad at heart.

"A gentle slope carried me up the hill," writes Dr. Mitchell, "back of Andre's prison, and at the top I came out upon a space clear of those camp homes, and stood awhile under the quiet of the star-peopled sky. At last, as I turned in my walk, I came upon two upright posts, with a cross-beam above. It was the gallows. I moved away horror stricken, and with swift steps went down the hill."

There is no record as to when the old house was built. In the Revolution it was known as the Mabry Tavern. Its subsequent owners have been Frederick Blauvelt, Philip Dubey, Henry Gasner, Henry Storms, Thomas Wondle, L. T. Sneden, Henry Ryerson and Dr. James Stephens. The latter purchased it forty years ago.

FROM ANDRE'S PRISON.

Three Young Men Caught Trying to Seal Bricks for Relics.

NYACK, N. Y., Nov. 24.—Shortly after 2 o'clock this morning three young men were seen scaling the fifteen-foot fence which Charles Pike, the recent purchaser of the '76 stone house at Tappan, has put around the old Andre prison to protect it from the depredations of relic-hunters, and a passer-by compelled them to drop a large bag which was filled with bricks from the historic old structure.

The plans of the young thieves were doubtless to sell the bricks for big prices, as has been done for the last week, three or four persons at a distance paying as much as \$5 apiece for the souvenirs. Mr. Pike is getting desperate, and says the thieves will keep on until some of them are shot. He is looking for part of a door leading into the Andre prison room, and also for a lock that was stolen from another door.

"If they succeed in carrying off the whole building," said Mr. Pike this morning, "I shall have to chain the ground fast to prevent the thieves from carrying that away piecemeal. It's an outrage that a man cannot keep his own property without having to watch it day and night. Stealing pieces of this old building is just as bad as breaking into my residence and carrying off the contents while I am sleeping."

Mr. Pike has this week prepared his plans for restoring the old building to its original form, provided enough of the old structure is left to build up on, and even after the work is completed he will have to carefully guard the property day and night.

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