GEORGE WASHINGTON'S KIN: EPHRATA MAKES HISTORY AGAIN

by Kathleen Keifer



photo: Keith & Sadie Dogle

nally emerged, and who berta and Glenora. It's also is quickly struck by the fact thought it would tie the where Nat Jr. lived with that in the 17th century, first president of the United his wife Wanda and where there was no United States States with a small house in they raised their two sons and yes, England owned Ephrata Washington with Tom and Nat III. a Civil War veteran, the building of the Grand Coulee Dam, and the career of of Ephrata Athletic Club pared for the bare-boned a distinguished state Sena- and Sole Performance, details of the past tor? It does, and it's a mean- now owns the house. Mike brief, that starts with the blessed future generations Washington had no chilfirst American colonies of of citizens with his love dren, but George had four fifth great-grand nephew of George Washington.

gin at 42 C Street in Ephra- The recent compilation of includes music and sound ta, a cozy two-story house a Washington family his- effects and interviews with nestled beneath a canopy of tory narrative is his latest Nat Washington Jr., and trees across from the Grant investment in the history of one of his relatives, the sto-County Courthouse, but the house and the family. it ends there. At least the remnants of the story now reside beneath the roof of with the Virginia Colony in the Valley during and afthe beautifully remodeled and young George Wash- ter the war. home where Nat Wash- ington who was hired by ington Sr., former County Englishman Thomas Fair-Prosecuting attorney lived fax as an assistant to survey were aristocratic, welland where he raised his 5.2 million acres of Virgin- educated people of subthree children, including ia land that Lord Fairfax stance and stature. They

The full story has fi- Nat Jr. and twin girls Ro- had inherited. The listener

ingful journey, though grew up in Ephrata and has Virginia and ends with the and commitment to local full brothers, a sister and stellar legislative and legal history. After buying the two half brothers. George career of Nat Washington, house in 2010 he began the Washington's siblings and process of remodeling and their families owned propinstalling pictorial displays erty in the Shenandoah that portray the history of Valley and surrounding ar-The story doesn't be- the Washington family. eas. In a brisk narrative that

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it all. But that's what oral history does sometimes, Mike Scellick, owner catches the listener unpre-

George and Martha ry moves through the Civil War and the circumstances The narrative begins of the Washington Families

> The Washington's were dedicated farmers and Christians following doctrine of The Church of England. They owned large plantations and looked after hundreds of slaves. The Civil War changed their lives forever.

> In the aftermath of the war, several Washington family members moved to the state that bore their name. Settling in Spokane, Jim Washington went to work for Weyerhaeuser. Within a few years, his brother, sister and Civil War Veteran father moved to Spokane.

> From there the story unfolds like a pioneer novel. From Spokane to a homestead on land near the

site of where Grand Coulee terms as Washington State They were brought west lee Dam became more than construction of Priest Rapjust a passionate rumor.

Dam possible: An unsung struction of the dam. hero in an amphitheater of hero's that had their hand on the wheel. Nat Wash- tion is that the Nat Washington Sr. played a pivotal role in making sure that is now the only public re- stay at the historic house or President Roosevelt knew about the dream to build containing historic Wash- call (509) 754-4300. the dam. His tragic and unington family records. timely death in 1926 meant passionate spokesman and leader would no longer play a role in the mighty cause of building a dam at Grand Coulee.

True to the legacy of family leadership emerges Nat Washington II. He grew up, in part, on the rugged reaches of his grandfather's homestead on the Columbia River, riding horseback to Ephrata on occasion. Most of the time he spent living in the house at 42 C Street. He

Dam now sits, the family Senator. He was the attor- by Bushrod Corbin Washstruggles with harsh condiney for Grant County PUD ington, George's 4th greattions, draught, death, and and led important negotia- grand nephew when he progress as the growing tions that led to financing moved to Spokane. desire to build Grand Cou- which made possible the ids and Wanapum Dams. Washington House in Eph-He also helped orchestrate rata is a state treasure. It It is at here the au- the agreement between the can be rented for overnight dience learns about Nat utility and the Wanapum stays, special events or Washington Sr.'s role in Band of Indians living at meetings. Copies of Washmaking Grand Coulee Priest Rapids before con- ington family personal pa-

> The greatest revelaington House at 42 C Street pository in the country to review the documents,

The historic Nat pers, diaries, letters and photographs can be viewed by appointment.

For reservations to









RELAY FOR LIFE OF COLUMBIA BASIN

The American Cancer Society Relay For Life movement is the world's largest fundraising event to fight every cancer in every community. Rallying the passion of 4 million people worldwide Relay For Life events raise critical funds that help fuel the mission of the American Cancer Society, an organization whose reach touches so many lives - those who are currently battling cancer, those who may face a diagnosis in the future, and those who may avoid a diagnosis altogether thanks to education, prevention, and early detection.



WHAT HAPPENS AT A RELAY FOR LIFE EVENT?

Relay For Life events are community events where teams and individuals camp out at a school, park, or fairground and take turns walking or running around a track or path. Each team has at least one participant on the track at all times and participates in fundraising in the months leading up to the event. Individuals and teams raise money and awareness to help the American Cancer Society save lives. Symbolizing the battle waged around the clock by those facing cancer, the event can last up to 24 hours and empowers communities to take a stand against the disease and take action by supporting the Society's lifesaving mission.

Join the Relay For Life movement today!

Register online at relayforlife.org to start your fundraising team or join an existing team. Then join us on event day to celebrate survivors, remember loved ones lost, and fight back!

HOW YOUR DOLLARS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

With your help, the American Cancer Society is fighting for every life threatened by every cancer, in every community. Through your support of the Relay For Life movement, your dollars contribute to:



Groundbreaking cancer research so cancer never steals another year from anyone's life.

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October 24th: Wine & Art Walk

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