



New Kent Court House Area as it appeared in 1759.
Left to right: New Kent Tavern, County Clerk's Office, Court House and Jail

BICENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF THE MARRIAGE
OF
GEORGE WASHINGTON AND MARTHA DANDRIDGE CUSTIS
TUESDAY, JANUARY SIXTH
1759-----1959

The Bicentennial Anniversary of the marriage of George Washington and Mrs. Martha Dandridge Custis will be observed Tuesday, January 6, 1959, with special Prayer Services at historic Saint Peter's Church in New Kent County beginning at 12:15 p.m., conducted by The Rev. Frederick J. Warnecke, Jr., Rector. According to family tradition as stated by George Washington Parke Custis, grandson of Mrs. Washington, who became her adopted son and General Robert E. Lee, the son-in-law of George Washington Parke Custis, the famous marriage was solemnized in Saint Peter's Church. Martha Washington was born in New Kent County June 2, 1731, and resided in the County until 1759.

Following the Church Services, a painting of the New Kent Court House area as it appeared in 1759 will be presented to the Circuit Court of New Kent County at its Court House at 1:30 p.m. It was here that George Washington and Mrs. Martha Dandridge Custis obtained their marriage license. The painting, executed by Mr. David Silvette especially for this Bicentennial Anniversary, pictures the New Kent Tavern, County Clerk's Office, Court House and Jail. The Court House buildings were erected in 1691. The Clerk's Office and Jail were burned in 1787 by one John Price Posey, who was hung for the offense. The Clerk's Office was immediately rebuilt, and the colonial Court House served until 1909 when it was replaced by the present Court House erected on the same site. The painting is a gift to the Circuit Court of New Kent County from the Saint Peter's Church Restoration Association. The presentation will be made by Richard C. Richardson, President of the Restoration Association, and will be accepted by the Honorable C. H. Sheild, Jr., and the Honorable Robert T. Armistead, Judges of the Fourteenth Judicial Circuit.

Vivian L. Anderson
County Clerk
New Kent County
Virginia