

## ORDER OF THE KNIGHTS OF THE GOLDEN HORSESHOE REVIVED.

THE order of the "Knights of the Golden Horseshoe," instituted in 1716 by the Colonial Governor Alexander Spotswood, of Virginia, has been revived this month in Washington. The event is of interest in this city, because Baltimoreans are enrolled among the charter members.

It was just 200 years ago that Governor Spotswood, man of vision as well as action, dreamed of crossing the Appalachian Mountains and was the first to successfully achieve his purpose. John Fontaine, who accompanied the expedition, wrote of the adventure; Hugh Jones, A. M., chaplain of the "Honorable Assembly" and minister at Jamestown, Va., retold the picturesque narrative in 1724; Howe the historian; Edward Ingle, of Baltimore, and many others to whom the adventure made appeal, told the story, each in his own way. From these painters of past events is glimpsed a picture of Governor Spotswood and John Fontaine setting gayly out, on August 20, 1716, to attempt that which had hitherto been deemed impossible. They were joined en route between Williamsburg and Germanna by several gentlemen, 14 rangers and four Meherrin Indians. They carried ample provisions and did not lack liquid refreshment, for their scribe enumerates "white and red wine, asquebaugh, brandy shrub, two kinds of rum, champagne, canary, cherry punch and cider." (Verily, there was some joy in living in those days before the moral uplift movement struck us.)

Before beginning the ascent, the well-mounted, well-armed company had their horses shod, horses being accustomed to traverse the low country, where there were few stones, without shoes, and then camping and eating and drinking by night and pressing sturdily on by day the party finally reached the mountain's summit, where they cut his Majesty's name upon the rock of the highest peak, naming it Mount George, in honor of their sovereign, King George I, and the next highest peak Mount Alexander, in honor of Governor Spotswood. Finally they descended to the Valley of the Shenandoah, loaded their muskets and feasted. They drank the health of the King in champagne and fired a volley; the health of the Princess in burgundy and fired a volley; the health of all other members of the royal family in claret and fired a volley and wound up by drinking the health of the energetic Governor who had led them to this promised land—not forgetting the volley.

And then they rode homeward as cheerily as they had set out, reaching Williamsburg September 17, and having traveled 438 miles. To commemorate the event and encourage new enterprises and settlements westward, Governor Spotswood gave to each of the company a miniature golden horseshoe, set with garnets to represent nail heads. Upon each was the inscription "*Sic juvat transcendere montes*" (thus it is delightful to cross the mountains) and on the reverse side was inscribed the tramonantane order. Thus the members of the expedition were known as "the Knights of the Golden Horseshoe" and any gentleman was entitled to wear this golden horseshoe that could prove he had drunk his Majesty's health upon the summit of Mount George. The golden emblem was handed down from year to year, but it is believed that all have now disappeared. Among the last upon whom the honor was bestowed was an Indian. On September 12, 1722, Governor Spotswood ended the conference with the Five Nations by giving to the Indian speaking for the tribes the horseshoe which he wore upon his breast. He bade the interpreter tell the Indian the badge would help him cross the mountains and could be carried as a pass when his people came back to Virginia. Edward Ingle wrote in the Magazine of American History in 1887: "As the middle figure in the field of Western discovery between Christopher Columbus kissing the ground of San Salvador in 1492 and the explorers Lewis and Clarke making their way in 1803-6 to the Pacific Coast, stands Alexander Spotswood, drinking on the summit of the Blue Ridge Mountains a health to his English sovereign."

The order of the Knights of the Golden Horseshoe was revived April 15, 1916, at the Octavia, the residence of Dr. Joseph G. B. Bulloch, on the Columbian road, Washington, D. C. Its purpose is historical. Only those are eligible whose ancestors performed service, military or civic, of the highest degree in the Colonies. The personal qualifications of the eligible descendants must also measure up to standards specified in the constitution. The following persons were elected officers of the order:

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#### **B. And O. Brakeman Hurt.**

E. C. Cougnett, brakeman on a shifting engine of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, had several ribs broken and was badly bruised about the body and face yesterday in falling as he ran to board his engine. He was taken to Camden Station and then to his home, 347 South Gilmor street.