

*I*N 1923, the Wakefield National Memorial Association was organized with the sole purpose of recovering "the birthplace grounds of George Washington, restore them, and make the place a shrine for the American people." In 1931 the present Memorial Mansion was erected, using tradition and surrounding houses of the Virginia plantation 18th century architecture as a pattern. It is after this American shrine that the USS WAKEFIELD is named. And no other name would appear more fitting for this gallant transport, as its history will reveal. It has become a floating shrine to thousands of men who, fired by love for America, have crossed and recrossed the seas to serve their country well.

**WAKEFIELD MANSION, GEORGE WASHINGTON BIRTHPLACE NATIONAL MONUMENT**— This substantial brick Virginia plantation house was erected in 1930-31 by the Wakefield National Memorial Association, and is administered by the National Park Service of the Department of the Interior as a national monument. Boxwood on the grounds is more than 100 years old, and, although transplanted from the estate of Sarah Tayloe Washington, is believed to have derived from the original shrubbery at Wakefield.

(Used by permission Department of Interior)

