

## **HOW GEORGE WASHINGTON ESCAPED A TRAP**

After the battle of Trenton, George Washington went back across the Delaware River, since he did not have enough men to fight the whole British army.

But the Americans were glad when they heard that he had beaten the Hessians, and they sent him more soldiers. Then, he returned back across the river to Trenton.

There was a British general named Cornwallis. He had marched to Trenton earlier and fought against Washington. During the battle, General Cornwallis had more men than Washington had. When night came, they could no longer see to fight, and a river separated the two armies.

Washington did not have enough boats to carry his men across the river, and Cornwallis was sure to beat him if they should

fight a battle the next morning.

Cornwallis said, "I will catch the fox in the morning."

He called Washington a fox and he thought he had him in a trap.

Cornwallis sent for some more soldiers to come from Princeton in the morning, as he wanted them to help him catch the fox.

But foxes sometimes get out of traps.

When it was dark, Washington had all his camp fires lighted. He put men to digging where the British could hear them. He made Cornwallis think that he was throwing up banks of earth and getting ready to fight in the morning.

But Washington did not stay in Trenton. He did not wish to be caught like a fox in a trap. He could not get across the river, but he knew a road that went around the place where Cornwallis and his army were. He took that road and got behind the British army.

Washington went out of Trenton in the darkness. You might say that he marched out by the back door, and left Cornwallis watching the front door. The Americans went away quietly. They left a few men to keep up the fires, and make a noise like digging, but before morning these men slipped away too.

When morning came, Cornwallis went to catch his fox. But the fox was not there. He looked for the Americans. There was the place where they had been digging. Their camp fires were still burning, but where had they gone?

Cornwallis thought that Washington had crossed the river by some means, but soon he heard guns firing away back toward Princeton. He thought that it must be thunder, but he found that it was a battle. Then he knew that Washington had slipped past him and gone to Princeton.

Washington had marched all night. When he got to Princeton, he

met the British coming out to go to Trenton. They were going to help Cornwallis catch Washington, but Washington had come to Princeton to catch them. He had a hard fight with the British at Princeton, but at last he beat them.

When Cornwallis knew that the Americans had gone to Princeton, he hurried there to help his men. But it was too late. Washington had beaten the British at Princeton, and had gone on into the hills, where he was safe.

The fox had got out of the trap.