

## History

*"I have no purpose, directly or indirectly, to interfere with the institution of slavery in the States where it exists. I believe I have no lawful right to do so, and I have no inclination to do so."*

Courtesy Henderson House Museum

George Washington Bush was born in Pennsylvania in the late 1700s. Information about his birth and early years is sparse and conflicting. His birth date was probably around 1790, although some accounts place it more than 10 years earlier, which would have made Bush more than 60 when he and his family followed the Oregon Trail west.

## Ethnobotanical Gardens

can Americas were not the focus.

Washington's northern 3 counties had a fascination with the Ku Klux Klan that experienced a national rebirth in the 1920s and targeted minorities: Jews, Catholics and immigrants. About 40,000 Washington residents joined the Klan by the mid-1920s - 3% of the state's population. A 1924 Klan rally in Issaquah drew 13,000 people; a Stanwood KKK rally attracted 10,000. African Americans were not the focus.

Aerial bombs burst above the field north of Stanwood on the night of July 10, 1924. Patriotic music filled the air and an American flag suspended from a parachute fluttered down from one of the bombs. A huge electrically-lighted, white cross loomed in the center of the estate lawn. The crowd of 10,000 people, gathered at the Stanwood Northwest, had come to stage one of their first outdoor initiation ceremonies.

Presently the music stopped. An awesome hush fell over the throng. Bright lights flooded the sky and played in semi-circles over white robed and hooded figures. A solitary robed and mounted horseman, bearing a crimson electrically-lighted cross, began to move slowly around the perimeter of a black-long line of KKK candidates before the cross.

Speakers proclaimed the Klan's respect for the laws of the nation, with challenge: "The time has come for all Americans to stand shoulder to shoulder for the constitution of the United States, the stainless flag which has never known defeat, and seldom known retreat."

THE TOWN heard again from the Klansmen during Christmas week, when five members came to the Methodist Church, marched up the aisle and handed the pastor an envelope containing a monetary gift from the Order. They also presented an American flag to the church. Similar visits had been made to four other churches during the Christmas season.

In striking contrast to the July ceremonial, was the picnic "To Glorify Wheezey Fords" staged a month later at Warm Beach by Nicklason Auto Company. The oldest