



GEORGE WASHINGTON
A NATIONAL TREASURE

Patriot Papers

PATRIOT *n.* [Fr *patriote* < LL. *patriota*, fellow countryman < Gr *patriotes* < *patris*, fatherland < *pater*, FATHER]

"George Washington: A National Treasure" on Tour

National Portrait Gallery, Smithsonian Institution, Opens Exhibition

On February 15, 2002, the National Portrait Gallery's life-sized painting of the father of our country began its first national tour at the Museum of Fine Arts in Houston, Texas. This portrait is so important to American history that it has been compared to the Liberty Bell and the Declaration of Independence.

What makes this painting so valuable? Why is it more important than a photograph of President Bush today? First, it is one of the few visual documents we have of George Washington. In the 18th century, photography, film, and video cameras did not exist. Portrait painters were the most important image-makers of Washington's time, capturing their subjects on canvas. The process was time consuming, so often the artist painted only the face and used someone else to stand in for the body.

The size of this painting is also unique. It is almost 8 feet high. Washington is life-size! Only eight or nine full-length portraits of Washington exist, and this is the first full-length portrait to show him in civilian clothing rather than a military uniform.

Painted in 1796 by artist Gilbert Stuart, the portrait was given as a gift to the British Marquis of Lansdowne. That's why it's often called the "Lansdowne" portrait. For more than 170 years,

Coming Soon to a Museum Near You

The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston:
February 15-June 16, 2002

Las Vegas Art Museum:
June 28-October 27, 2002

Los Angeles County Museum of Art:
November 7, 2002-March 9, 2003

Seattle Art Museum: March 21-July 20, 2003

The Minneapolis Institute of Arts:
August 1-November 30, 2003

Oklahoma City Museum of Art:
December 12, 2003-April 11, 2004

Arkansas Arts Center: April 23-August 22, 2004

The Metropolitan Museum of Art: Fall 2004

the painting stayed in the British Isles. Then in 1968, the National Portrait Gallery opened in Washington, D.C., and the painting was loaned to the museum. For 32 years, it has stayed at the Smithsonian. But in the fall of 2000, its British owner decided he wanted it back so that he could auction it off. The Portrait Gallery was given the chance to buy it first, but the price was \$20 million.

The museum turned to America for help, and the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation of Las Vegas, Nevada, gave a gift of \$30 million so that the painting could remain in the United States and tour the country. The portrait will visit 8 cities before it returns home to the Portrait



The National Portrait Gallery, Smithsonian Institution, acquired Gilbert Stuart's 1796 Lansdowne portrait of George Washington in 2001 as a gift to the nation through the generosity of the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation.

Gallery. Hopefully, it will visit a city near you. Join the tour and learn more about our first President, the father of our country. Or follow the tour online at our website,

www.georgewashington.si.edu

George Washington is anxious to meet you.

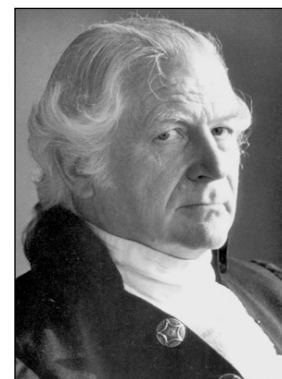
Will the Real George W. Please Stand Up?

"For thousands of Americans, William Sommerfield is George Washington."

—RICHARD BROOKHISER, WASHINGTON BIOGRAPHER

Guess who's coming to town . . . direct from Mount Vernon on the banks of the Potomac? It's George Washington, and you can shake his hand. For 3 days he'll be visiting a museum near you, waiting to share his stories with you—stories of fighting the Redcoats, marrying Martha, and winning the presidency. He may even tell you about chopping down the cherry tree. Or is that just a myth? Did he really have wooden teeth? You'll have a chance to ask him soon. You can learn to dance the minuet or attend a real live press conference with the 1st President. He looks like George Washington. He has white powdered hair. He's almost 6'3" tall. He walks like George and talks like George. He even signs his name like George. Come see for yourself! Bring your family, bring your friends—it's time to take a walk with Washington.

* Parents, check your local museum for program dates and details. Don't miss this trip back in time.



Actor William Sommerfield brings George Washington to your community for a 3-day trip back in time.



Panels from the Wall of Expression in Washington, D.C. See story, page 8.

Nothing but harmony, honesty, industry, and frugality are necessary to make us a great and happy people.

—GEORGE WASHINGTON, 1789

General Washington Rallies Troops at Valley Forge

VALLEY FORGE, 1777-1778—General Washington struggles to keep his troops alive and well in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, this winter. Inadequate shipments of food, clothing, and supplies have left the regiments in shambles. Poor hygiene and serious disease threaten the lives of all the soldiers camped there. General Washington has asked for more supplies, but has not been successful. While General Washington struggles alongside his men, his political enemies threaten to remove his power. Some critics feel that others are better suited to lead the Continental army.

Martha Washington Buries Fourth Child

YORKTOWN, 1781—After losing two children in infancy and her daughter Patsy to epilepsy, Martha Washington lost her last child to camp fever. John Parke Custis, known as Jacky to family and friends, passed away on November 5 at Yorktown. This happened just seventeen days after the surrender of Britain’s General Cornwallis. Jacky leaves behind a wife and four children. General and Mrs. Washington will raise the younger two children, Eleanor “Nelly” Custis and George Washington Parke Custis, at Mount Vernon, their home in Virginia.

Where’s George?

M H K F H A M I L T O N T N Y
O H T X E L G H I S S R Q O T
U K E E S D C E M U A A P S I
N P S M E I E A O U M L G R L
T R C A Q T D R T R A W C E I
V E L R E A E S A N G Q G F V
E T L T N N T S S L B E I F I
R C N H B R J D L C I Q S E C
N Q O A E W O A U A Y S R J F
O J I B R W B H B F F P T M O
N H L K N N F R S Q Y N I S S
L I P E N N S Y L V A N I A E
G Y S H T A O Y T L A Y O L L
M V F H Z C G R J N Q W Z G U
X C T Y C V T Q H V G U Y L R

False teeth
Federalists
George
Gilbert Stuart
Hamilton

Jefferson
John Adams
Lansdowne
Loyalty oath
Martha

Mount Vernon
Pennsylvania
Rules of Civility

Washington Unanimous Pick for President at Convention!

NEW YORK, 1789 (AP)—After months of debate to establish our new American government, the first official election was held on February 4, 1789. George Washington received all 69 electoral votes! Washington, who will be inaugurated on April 30 of this year, accepted the presidency, even though he wished to return to his estate at Mount Vernon and retire. “I was summoned by my country,” said Washington. He and his wife Martha will soon move to the country’s capital, New York City.

Washington Graciously Delays Retirement for a Second Term

PHILADELPHIA, 1793 (AP)—President George Washington has won his second election to the presidency of the United States! The inauguration will take place on March 4 in Philadelphia, the new capital of the United States. However, Washington is doubtful about being the President again. He wrote to his friend Henry Lee that he accepted the presidency only “after a long and painful conflict in my own breast.” He really wanted to return to Mount Vernon and retire. The next four years could be difficult. There are arguments over the interpretation of the Constitution. Secretary of the Treasury Alexander Hamilton and Secretary of State Thomas Jefferson strongly disagree. President Washington fears this will divide the country.

Whiskey Rebellion Shakes Western Pennsylvania

PHILADELPHIA, 1794 — Western Pennsylvanians have started a violent opposition to government taxes. They are launching the first major civil disturbance of President Washington’s term in office. Last week, U.S. Marshal David Lenox was trying to collect taxes on locally distilled liquor in Westmoreland County. Military action will be taken, much to the regret of the President: The army is being organized from other northern states and they will advance into Pennsylvania shortly.

WOULD YOU
SIGN A
LOYALTY OATH?

During the Revolutionary War, the British would have required you to sign an oath similar to this:


“I voluntarily take this **OATH** to bear Faith and true Allegiance to His **MAJESTY KING** George the Third; — and defend to the utmost of my Power, His sacred Person, Crown, and Government, against all Persons whatsoever.”

Would you have signed? How many colonists do you think were loyal to the British crown?

AT THE CITY ORDINARY,
ON WEDNESDAY
THE 28TH OF THIS MONTH:

*Such Gentlemen
& Ladies are
respectfully invited
to attend this
delightful spectacle.
To the amazement
of all, the*

LEARNED
PIG




*counts, adds, &
subtracts numbers
& even
identifies colors.*

The Doors will be open
at Six o’Clock.

MR. FINNIE
respectfully informs
the gentlemen
amateurs of FENCING,
that he Proposes
opening a

FENCING
ACADEMY

on the 5th of
February on River
Street, the second
door from King
Street, where that
noble art will be
taught every Tuesday,
Thursday, and
Saturday.



The Patriot Papers serves students of all ages. It is published quarterly by the National Portrait Gallery, Smithsonian Institution, P. O. Box 37012, Washington, D.C. 20013-7012


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The opinions expressed in *The Patriot Papers* are not necessarily those of the Smithsonian Institution or the National Portrait Gallery.

Teaching materials to accompany the exhibition “George Washington: A National Treasure” are available to educators at no cost by visiting www.georgewashington.si.edu or by calling 1-866-NPG-KITS.



Smithsonian
National Portrait Gallery

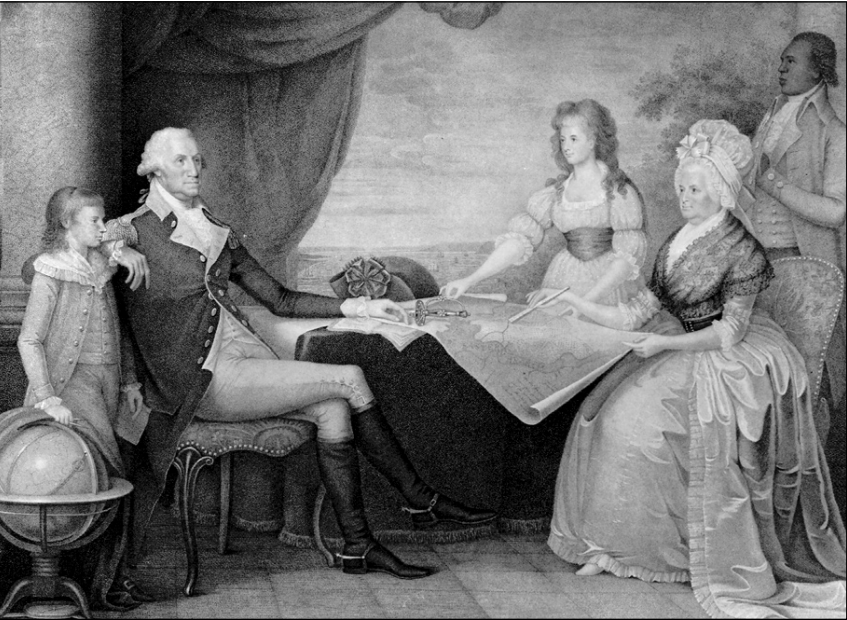
November 1796

RUNAWAY SLAVE. Mrs. Washington is greatly distressed by the loss of Olney Judge, her Mount Vernon servant so skilled in needlework. The girl, we hear, was lured away by a Frenchman who tired of her and left her stranded in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. President Washington has sent word that all will be forgiven if she returns to her mistress, but she has refused to come back unless promised her freedom. This puts the President in an awkward situation. Privately he has said that although he is sympathetic to her demand, setting her free would only reward her for running away and would spread discontent among the rest of his servants (as he calls them), who by being faithful are more deserving of their freedom than the runaway. Above all, the President cautioned that no violent means should be used to bring her back, lest a mob or riot be excited. Rather than risk this happening, he would tell Mrs. Washington she must get along without the services of Olney Judge.

December 1790

FREEDOM TOO GREAT A TEMPTATION. President Washington has brought a handful of servants from Mount Vernon, but he will be faced with the difficulty of complying with the Pennsylvania law freeing adult slaves who have lived in Pennsylvania for six months in a row. It is believed that the President, therefore, will have to shuttle these servants back and forth and suffer the inconvenience of sometimes being without his cook, Hercules. Asked if he feared his slaves might take advantage of being in the North to run away, the President has privately conceded that “the idea of freedom might be too great a temptation for them to resist.”

- ★ George Washington was only 11 years old when he inherited 10 slaves from his father in 1743.
 - ★ By the time he was 22 years old, Washington owned approximately 36 slaves. At his death in 1799, Washington had 316 slaves at Mount Vernon, 123 of whom belonged directly to him. The remaining 193 were “dower” slaves—those he acquired through his marriage to Martha.
 - ★ Washington did not buy or sell any slaves after the Revolutionary War.
- ★ Approximately 75 percent of the slaves at Mount Vernon worked in the fields. Of these, nearly 65 percent were women.
 - ★ Washington allowed his slaves to marry, although such arrangements were not legally binding at that time.
 - ★ In his will, Washington freed all of the slaves he owned. His personal valet, William Lee, was released with a payment of \$30 per year for the rest of his life, a considerable sum in those days.



December 1790

PRESIDENTIAL RESIDENCE, 190 HIGH STREET, PHILADELPHIA. Additions will be made to accommodate Mrs. Washington and her two grandchildren, Nelly, who is about twelve, and George Washington, who is about ten, as well as the President’s secretary and numerous servants.

George Washington and His Family by David Edwin, after Edward Savage, stipple engraving, 1798. National Portrait Gallery, Smithsonian Institution

Throughout the coming months *The Patriot Papers* will address the issue of slavery during George Washington’s time. In view of Washington’s many attributes and accomplishments, it is difficult to acknowledge his role as slave owner. Guest historians will share their perspectives; we invite you to share yours. Hopefully, through dialogue, we will increase our understanding.

— F. A. Pulles, editor
PatriotPapers@npg.si.edu

RUN AWAY FROM MY PLANTATION, called *Newport News*, on the 17th of *January*, a very likely Negro Fellow named *Strawbury*, about thirty Years of Age, has lost one of his fore Teeth, and had on a Cotton Waistcoat and Breeches, Plaid Stockings, and Negro Shoes. The Negroes upon the Plantation saw him go away with two Sailors; he can read, and I imagine he will attempt to go out of the Country on Board a Vessel. I do hereby forewarn all Masters of Vessels from carrying him away, as they shall answer it at their Peril. Whoever brings the said Negro to me, in *York County*, shall have TEN POUNDS Reward if he is taken in this Colony, and TWENTY POUNDS if out thereof.

—WILLIAM DIGGES, Junior

Possessions

Today, most of us own many more things than we really need to live on. When George was 11 years old, his family made an inventory (or list) of their possessions. Here is what they owned, besides their land:

- 16 pairs of sheets
 - 17 pillowcases
 - 13 beds
 - A couch
 - Desks
 - Chairs
 - A fireplace set
 - Tablecloths
 - Napkins
- A looking glass (mirror)
 - One silver-plated soup spoon
 - 18 small spoons
 - 7 teaspoons
 - A watch
 - A sword
 - 11 china plates
 - 20 slaves

How many of these same items are owned by your family today? Are you surprised to see “slaves” listed as part of the inventory of possessions? If you were to make an inventory of every item in your home, how long do you think the list would be? How many items would be unfamiliar to George Washington?

The Portrait Puzzler:

Who am I? FILL IN THE BLANK

☞ Although George and I never had children of our own, I bore 4 children and, sadly, buried them all.

☞ I was the secretary of the treasury. I wanted a strong government with many businesses and banks. Thomas Jefferson and I disagreed about many things, and this began to divide the country.

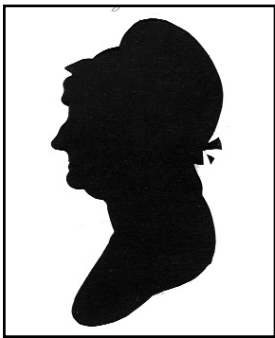
☞ I felt the colonies should be independent from England, and wrote this in *Common Sense*. I also felt that “these were the times that try men’s souls.”

☞ I helped write the Declaration of Independence, and was involved in politics, especially in Philadelphia. I am most famous, however, for using a kite to show the nature of electricity and lightning.

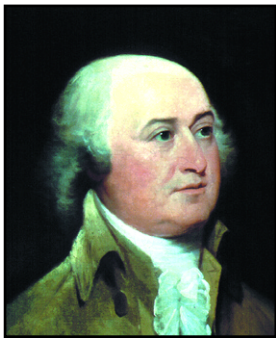
☞ I drafted the Declaration of Independence. As President, I doubled the size of the United States with the Louisiana Purchase.



JOHN HANCOCK



ABIGAIL ADAMS



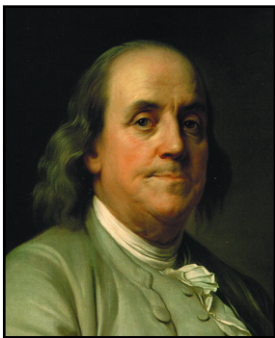
JOHN ADAMS



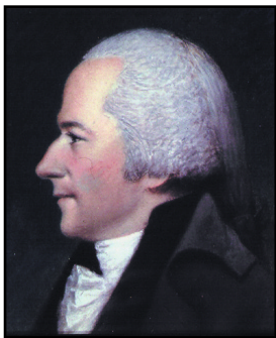
MARTHA WASHINGTON



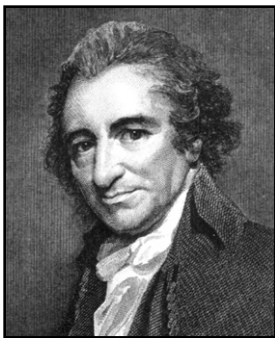
THOMAS JEFFERSON



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



ALEXANDER HAMILTON



THOMAS PAINE

☞ I served as the first Vice President of the United States and as the second President. I was elected to the presidency in 1796. My son later became President in 1825.

☞ Aside from being a first lady, I fought for women’s rights, especially for women to have the same educational opportunities as men. I also strongly opposed slavery.

☞ I was the first to sign the Declaration of Independence, and my signature is the largest.

John Hancock by William Smith, 1775; Abigail Adams by Raphaele Peale, 1804; John Adams by John Trumbull, c. 1793; Martha Washington by an unidentified artist, 1800–1825; Thomas Jefferson by Mather Brown, 1786. Gift of Charles Francis Adams; Benjamin Franklin by Joseph Siffred Duplessis, c. 1785. Gift of the Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation; Alexander Hamilton by James Sharples, c. 1796; Thomas Paine by William Sharp, 1793; All images are details and are from the National Portrait Gallery, Smithsonian Institution

What Did George Really Look Like?

George Washington towered over most men of the time. Standing about 6 feet, 3 inches tall, with long arms and legs, huge hands and feet, and pale blue eyes, Washington attracted notice. When young, his hair was reddish brown, but it lightened as he aged.

As a young man he was strong and athletic looking, weighing about 175 pounds. Later in life, he weighed closer to 200 pounds.

Portraits of the 18th century captured a personality on canvas, much as photographs do today. Both the artist and the photographer try to show the real person through their art. But it is easier for a painter to hide flaws or alter unattractive features than a photographer. The Lansdowne portrait is considered quite realistic, but there are some things the portrait does NOT show about George Washington:

- His face was scarred from smallpox (especially his nose)
- He had a strong “Roman” nose
- Already in his 60s, GW had wrinkles in his skin and a bit of a stomach paunch
- He was wearing ill-fitting dentures that may have distorted his face
- He wore eyeglasses for reading

If you compare this portrait to portraits of other important people during the same time period, you’ll see some very serious faces. Most people did not smile for portraits the way we often are told to “smile” when we have our pictures taken. Portraits were a way to show status and dignity, and to communicate character. People valued a dignified, formal manner, especially in their President.

Look carefully at the Lansdowne portrait on page 1. Identify 3 things the portrait tells us about President Washington:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Compare this portrait with two others of Washington (you can find them in this paper!). Do you notice any similarities? _____

Any differences? _____

Did You Know...?

- He came from a blended family, having two older stepbrothers and one stepsister?
- He was actually born February 11, not February 22? England changed its calendar when he was a boy, causing his birthdate to become February 22.
- His father died when he was 11 years old?
- He often had a bad temper but slowly learned to control it?
- He loved horseback riding, dancing, and farming?
- He was not always a good student?
- He did not always get along very well with his mother, who was bossy and controlling?
- His older half-brother Lawrence was one of the most important people in young George’s life?
- He had two stepchildren, but no children of his own?

Six Reasons For Greatness

More than 200 years after his death, we still speak of George Washington's greatness. Why? What makes a person great?

1. By age 23, Washington was renowned for his physical courage: he continued to fight in one battle despite having 4 bullets pierce his clothing and 2 horses shot out from under him.
2. Washington risked his wealth, his reputation, and his life when he agreed to lead the fight against the British; had he failed, he would have been hung as a traitor!
3. Washington learned to "act like a fox, not like a wolf." He understood that to win the war against Britain, he had to outlast his enemy, not win every battle.
4. Washington agreed to become the first President of the United States, when he could easily have been the first king.
5. He was the only President to be elected unanimously, not once but twice!
6. He was the only Founding Father to free his slaves when he died, although this was not effective until after Martha Washington's death.

Is there anyone alive today who you think is great and will be remembered by history? Defend your choice.

Did George Washington Stand a Chance?

TO MODERN PEOPLE, IT IS EASY TO THINK THAT MEDICINE IN THE COLONIES was unsafe. Many doctors at the time were self-trained. If he had lived today, George Washington could have been cured with antibiotics. But in 1799, could Washington have gotten better after the treatments he experienced?

During colonial times, no one knew how diseases were spread. One of the main theories focused on the need for a total balance of tension and fluids in the body. This delicate balance was essential to both physical and mental health. If there was too much or too little of any one fluid, a person could get sick. The doctors who tried to help George Washington used medical treatments that tried to balance the fluids.

Washington's doctors bled him several times. They may have thought that taking out extra blood would stop the swelling in Washington's throat. Unfortunately, they took out a lot of blood. That made it hard for George's body to fight the illness.

Doctors also made Washington gargle with vinegar, molasses, and butter. These were used to open up his throat. But his throat was too swollen and he had a lot of trouble swallowing. He almost choked a couple of times too.

Finally, doctors tried to make him vomit to take out any bad fluids. This can cause the body to lose too much water, and that can make someone sicker.

Even though Washington's doctors did a lot of things that modern doctors would not do, they tried very hard to help him. They used medical practices that were believed to be the most helpful. Washington knew that he was very ill. He died bravely.



George Washington in His Last Illness, an engraving done in 1800 by an unidentified artist, is an example of the public's fascination with the death of its first American hero. National Portrait Gallery, Smithsonian Institution

George Washington Dies at 67

AFTER RIDING OUTSIDE DURING VERY BAD WEATHER LAST THURSDAY and Friday, George Washington got sick on Saturday, December 14, 1799. An infection * gave him a sore throat. He also had a fever, and it was hard for him to breathe.

The President's friend Tobias Lear writes that the President grew calm late in the evening and checked his own pulse. Then he died peacefully in his bed. His wife Martha was with him, as well as some servants, doctors, and friends.

A large funeral is planned for Wednesday, December 18, including gun salutes and a procession.

* *Modern medicine concludes that this was epiglottitis, a bacterial infection.*

The President with No Teeth!

When George Washington became the first President in 1783, he had only one tooth left in his mouth. As a boy, he had cracked walnut shells with his teeth. As a result, many of them fell out before he was 30! Over the years, Washington wore several sets of false teeth. There is no proof that he ever had wooden teeth.

His dentures were made of many things. They were often made from human teeth, animal teeth, and ivory. They were put together with wire and a spring. This allowed the dentures to open and close. Throughout his life, Washington had trouble speaking, chewing food, and smiling. The false teeth could be painful. They sometimes made Washington's cheeks and lips puff out. Fortunately, modern dentistry now allows painless smiles for even the greatest of walnut lovers!



In Other Words...

Mistress Goody's Column of Advice
on subjects other than politics and war.

RESPECTFULLY BASED ON *THE RULES OF CIVILITY*
—BY T. POWELL HARRIS

In 1745, in the colonial frontier town of Fredericksburg, Virginia, thirteen-year-old George Washington recorded *The Rules of Civility* in his workbook, probably as a dictation exercise. These “guide-lines for the respectable gentleman” would influence him throughout his life. The rules stress etiquette, chivalry, and courtesy. Does that sound like something from the Dark Ages?



MISTRESS GOODY

Fortunately, there is one who understands the rules well; in fact, she still recommends their use today. Let us recall a character from the past to help with our everyday problems. We give you the “Toast of George Town,” our own Mistress Goody, always informed, always respectable, and very, very good.

Mistress Goody,
My brother has a toothache every week. I'm getting tired of him complaining so much. He eats chocolate, candy, and ice cream all the time, and I know that's what the problem is. Don't you think if he stops eating junk food his toothaches will go away?

Rule 38: In visiting the sick, do not presently play the physician if you be not knowing therein.

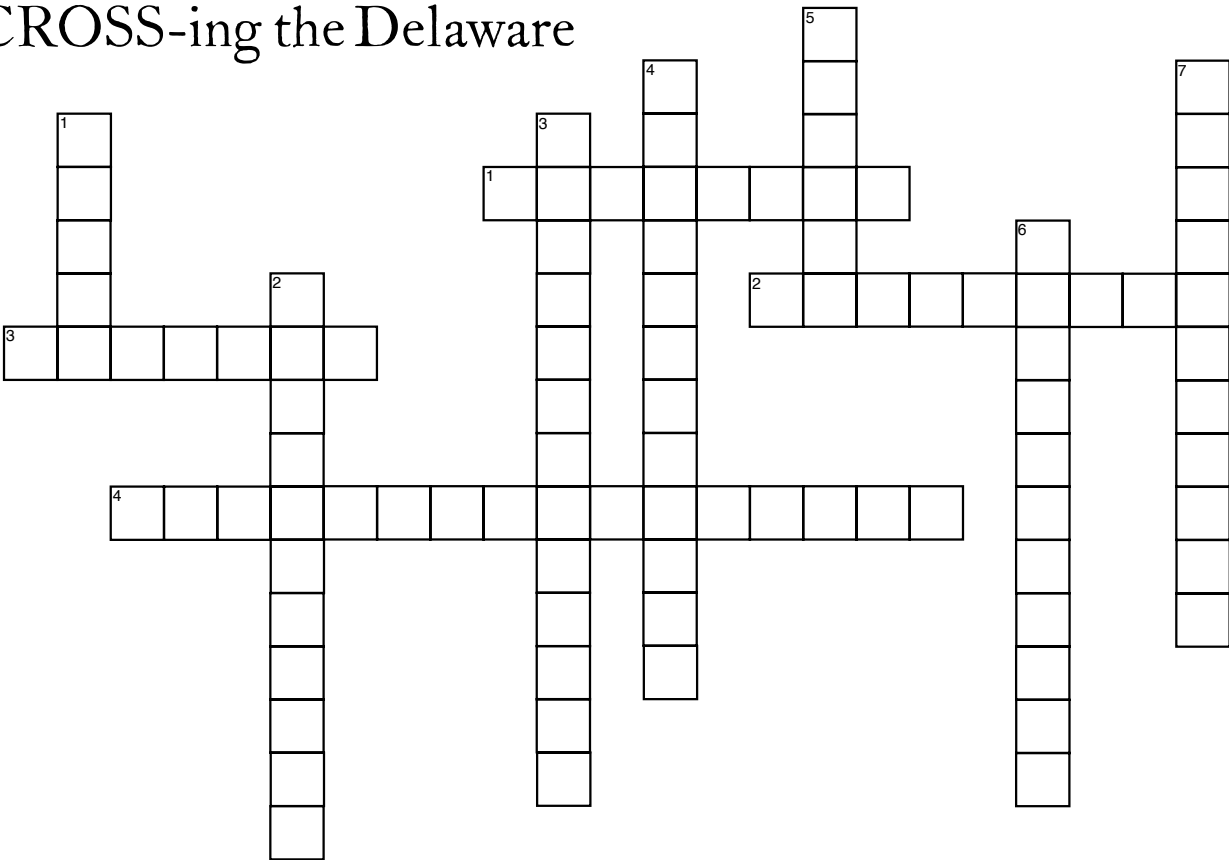
In other words . . . stop playing doctor and suggest that he see a dentist without delay.

Mistress Goody,
There's this really cool group of kids that I want to hang out with. Sometimes they do mean things to people. Like once I know they broke into a teacher's car. They didn't take anything. It was just a practical joke, sort of. My mom says I shouldn't want to be associated with anyone who might lead me into trouble one day, but I think it's all about a little fun. What do you say?

Rule 56: Associate yourself with men of good quality if you esteem your own reputation. For 'tis better to be alone than in bad company.

I think you get Mistress Goody's point!

CROSS-ing the Delaware



ACROSS

- 1. George Washington recorded the *Rules of* _____ when he was thirteen years old.
- 2. The National Portrait Gallery's image of George Washington is often referred to as the _____ portrait.
- 3. The violent opposition to the liquor tax is known as the _____ Rebellion.
- 4. The first President of the United States



DOWN

- 1. Washington had to wear a false set of these.
- 2. In the time of Washington, there were two political parties, the Republicans and the _____
- 3. The man who painted a famous portrait of George Washington in 1796.
- 4. George Washington died of this infection.
- 5. The first name of George Washington's wife.
- 6. The name of George Washington's home in Virginia.
- 7. In the winter of 1777–78, Washington struggled to keep his troops alive at _____.

Mistress Goody,
At the lunch table most everyone eats and talks at the same time. I think that's pretty gross. What do you think?

The rules of dining etiquette are quite clear; let them guide your acquaintances in all their culinary endeavors (and in the cafeteria!).

90th: Being set at meat, scratch not neither spit, cough nor blow your nose, except when there is a necessity for it.

100th: Cleanse not your teeth with the tablecloth, napkin, fork, knife; but if others do it, let it be done with a pick tooth. [i.e., a toothpick]

Questions? Problems? Too much homework?
Write to Mistress Goody for all the answers to love and life. PatriotPapers@npg.si.edu

FUTURE FLASH:

PATRIOTS PROVE VICTORIOUS
IN GREAT BOWL ON THE GREEN

Recently I, Mistress Goody, was privy to a most unusual glimpse into the future regarding our fellow countrymen. It seems that on Sunday, February 3, 2002, a rather unusual sporting event pitted a most honorable group of fellow Patriots from my beloved New England against a rather brutish bunch of Rams from the remote region of Missouri. It took place in a very large Bowl somewhere in the South. Very large men wearing tight breeches and silk stockings banded about the green in a quest to capture a small oval pigskin. The poor pig was repeatedly thrown, kicked, and spiked into the ground. And I'm afraid our fellow countrymen grew rather violent as the afternoon progressed. Such pushing, shoving, shouting, and spitting have never before, I assure you, been witnessed by Mistress Goody, who prefers more refined entertainment. Several gentlemen grew so agitated as to hurl themselves at their opponents; others, totally unruly, grabbed legs, arms, and all accessible appendages, and flung their counterparts to the ground. Although Mistress Goody certainly found it to be a most discourteous display, lacking in all decorum and civility, it is fortunate that our beloved Patriots proved victorious.

Affectionately,
Constance Goody—a former Bostonian

We interrupt this edition of *The Patriot Papers* news to bring you the nearly news—a collection of intimate historical glimpses into the past, captured in not-so-living color in *The Pudding Papers*. The complete episodic adventures can be viewed at your leisure at www.georgewashington.si.edu. Our on-the-scene trusted correspondents include: Silas Silvertongue, our presidential reporter; Titus Blunt, our congressional correspondent; and our own Prudence Pudding, who provides social notes from all over. (We leave it for you to decide, dear reader, whether she is an upstart hussy or a man in disguise.) In the spirit of the freedom of the press guaranteed by our new Bill of Rights, we intend to act as a watchful eye and a listening ear, sometimes bringing a plate of gossip, but never a dish of scandal.

**Editor's note—We apologize in advance for any improprieties, insults, or slanderous remarks on the part of our correspondents. They are, at times ill-mannered, sometimes indiscreet, and, at all times, want of wit.*



Social Notes from All Over...

Patience Wright by an unidentified artist, etching, 1775. National Portrait Gallery, Smithsonian Institution

April 23 1789

HE COMES! HE COMES! George Washington, President-elect of the United States, has just set foot on the New York shore after an eight-day triumphal journey from Mount Vernon. The excitement here is unbelievable. Thousands line the streets—all you can see are heads standing as thick as ears of corn before the harvest. Ladies are crowded in every window, anxious for a glimpse of the illustrious man. “I have seen him!” we heard one young lady call out, “and though I had been entirely ignorant that he was arrived in the city, I should have known at a glance that it was General Washington: I never saw a human being that looked so great and noble as he does. I could fall down on my knees before him.” Washington, it can well be believed, is more popular than the new government he is to head.

Philadelphia, July 13, 1793

RICKETT'S AMPHITHEATRE. Word that the President and his family were to attend a performance of Mr. John Bill Rickett's dangerous feats on horseback brought a large crowd this evening to what is called the Circus. The acrobatic performance was held to raise money to buy firewood for the poor during the coming winter. Mr.

Ricketts, demonstrating his agility by drinking a glass of wine while on horseback, raised his glass to the health of “The Man of the People.” This produced an immediate clap of applause and a loud hurrah from every part of the Circus. Mr. Ricketts has expressed his agreement with those who call General Washington the finest horseman of the age, saying “I delight to see the general ride, and make it a point to fall in with him when I hear that he is abroad on horseback; his seat is so firm, his management so easy and graceful, that I who am a professor of horsemanship, would go to him and learn to ride.”

June 1791

THE PRESIDENT ON TOUR. When he entered upon the duties of his office, George Washington decided he would visit all parts of the United States to please the citizens and to see how they felt about the new government. Silas Silvertongue, who is with the President's party, reports that they are nearing the end of their two-month journey of 1,887 miles, Towns have been in a bustle of preparation, and at every stop the citizens have come out to meet him with addresses of welcome. Ladies, some rouged up to the ears, have bedecked themselves with sashes and headbands painted with images of the President and patriotic slogans. The festivities include the ringing of bells, bands of music, cannon salutes, and **some very bad poetry.** (*see poetry box, upper right*)

Philadelphia, September 1796

A visit to Mr. Peale's museum, Prudence Pudding tells us, is well worth the admission fee of one fourth of a dollar, if only to see the huge American buffalo. Peale's rooms are filled with

POET'S CORNER... SOME VERY BAD POETRY

GEORGE

*There was a young General
named George
Who led troops in the Valley at Forge
His horse was a dolly
Who took bullets so jolly
And now he has a horse no more.*

REVOLUTIONARY MOMENTS

*Colonists took action and dumped the tea
They stood strong and would not flee
Some fought at Lexington, some at Concord*
This threat to the British could not be ignored.*

*Bostonians pronounce Concord — [kahn'•kəd].

You're right, that's hard to rhyme!



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monsters of the earth and sea, a rich array of birds, and a great collection of the bones, jaws, and teeth of tigers, sharks, and many other fearful animals. In one room are rattle, black, and spotted snakes, confined in cases enclosed with wire and glass. She was astonished to see

Mr. Peale take out a black snake about four or five feet long feet long, which he permitted to touch his cheek and twine itself around his neck. In the yard and stable were eagles, owls, baboons, monkeys, and a six-footed cow. Mr. Peale is also a painter, and there can be seen in his museum more than a hundred portraits of the more noteworthy personages of our country, including our illustrious Washington.



Charles Willson Peale, self-portrait, oil on canvas, circa 1791. National Portrait Gallery, Smithsonian Institution

Pledge It Forward—From Self to Service:

A Challenge from The Patriot Papers — F. A. PULLES, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

When studying George Washington, I was surprised to discover that he really didn't want to be President. Remember the last presidential election and the close race between George W. Bush and Al Gore? They counted and recounted those votes for weeks. (Remember the hanging chads?) And both men really wanted to be President of the United States. George Washington, on the other hand, didn't really want the job. In 1788 he was 56 years old and had already sacrificed many years in service to his country. For eight-and-a-half years he served as commander in chief of the Continental army. He was ready to spend more time with his family managing his Virginia plantation, Mount Vernon. But his friends felt that he was the only man who could lead a new country. And when they asked, he served. Four years later, when asked to serve a second term, he was even more hesitant. But he knew his country needed him during this difficult time, and again he served.

Washington's life was one of service and sacrifice. And it came at a great cost—to his health, to his marriage, and to Mount Vernon. Throughout our country's history, Americans have been asked to serve and sacrifice for the good of country and community. On September 11, we were called once again and America answered. Many sacrificed; many served. And Americans con-

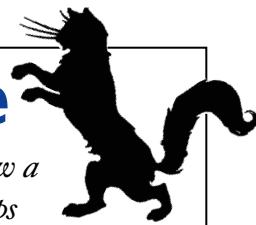
tinued the fight overseas defending our freedom.

Sometimes it's hard to pay back those who have helped us and shaped our lives—our forefathers, our heroes, our parents, our teachers. The 2000 movie *Pay It Forward* had a solution: if you can't pay them back, pay it forward. Find three new people to help in your own community. It's a good way to say thank-you.

The National Portrait Gallery's Office of Education would like to recognize those who care about community. We challenge you to Pledge It Forward—pledge time to your schools, youth organizations, senior centers. Pick a project, pledge your time, and make a difference. If a high-school student tutors one child just once a week, if a 4th grader reads to an elderly shut-in, if kids in Las Vegas start a small library by collecting used books, if senior citizens plant flowers on Main Street, if teens answer a hotline, volunteer at a shelter, or simply read to a child, we would all be stronger. Ask your teachers, tell your parents. Pick a project and tell us about it. We'd like to recognize Americans working for America and will feature your stories and pictures on our website at www.georgewashington.si.edu. Projects of particular merit will be published in *The Patriot Papers*. Get creative; get busy. And together, we can build a community of caring. Write to us at PatriotPapers@npg.si.edu.

Pets on Parade

Washington had many pets. Draw a picture of Patriot the cat, Sweetlips the hound, or your own favorite pet. Send it to us!



"Kids Voting" Campaign Launched in Las Vegas

As the father of our country, President George Washington led the way in the world's first experiment with democracy. Today we strive to maintain that democracy. Following Washington's example of patriotism, Las Vegas Valley students will have an opportunity to participate in our democratic process, when they cast their ballots in the fall 2002 general election.

"Kids Voting Nevada" is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to promoting voter registration and educating children in the voting process. On election day, participating students cast their ballots alongside their parents at numerous polling sites throughout the Las Vegas Valley.

Launched in 1998, the "Kids Voting" campaign began with 36 schools; 11,588 students cast their ballot on election day. By 2000, the campaign had doubled in size, with 77 schools, 2,600 teachers, 480 community volunteers, and 43,241 students voting. Campaign 2002, "Our Freedom, Our Future," will be underway shortly.

The Patriot Papers salutes the students of Las Vegas for following in George Washington's footsteps and strengthening American democracy. Check out the "Kids Voting" display at the exhibition "George Washington: A National Treasure" when you visit the Las Vegas Art Museum.

Patriotic Events Celebrate Washington:

- 4TH OF JULY FAMILY DAY WEEKEND
- SEPTEMBER 11: A CANDLELIGHT VIGIL IN REMEMBRANCE OF THE NATIONAL TRAGEDY.
- NEVADA DAY WEEKEND, OCTOBER 25–27

Together, Museums Create Wall of Expression

On the morning of September 11, 2001, Americans watched in horror as we witnessed the sheer force of hatred. As a nation we mourned, and as a nation we must heal.

Voicing our collective sorrow, we used art as our medium and created the Wall of Expression, seeking to heal ourselves and support a grieving nation. This wall stands as a memorial to those who sacrificed, a tribute to those who served, and as an expression of hope for the future.

*"These are the times that try men's souls.
The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot
will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of
their country; but he that stands it now, deserves
the love and thanks of man and woman."*

THOMAS PAINE, FROM *The American Crisis*, DECEMBER 1776



Dedicated to those who sacrificed and served on September 11, 2001, and the weeks following, the Wall of Expression surrounds the Old Patent Office Building at 8th and F Streets, NW, in Washington, D.C. The building, home of the National Portrait Gallery and the Smithsonian American Art Museum, is currently undergoing extensive renovation while its collections tour the world.