

Writing to Learn

Make Your Voice Heard

If you could have a conversation with George Washington, what would it be like? Compose a letter to Washington sharing your thoughts about the state of America during his presidency. Do you agree with the decisions he makes? What would you suggest he do differently? Next, compose a similar letter addressed to our current President. Send this one!

Or . . . pair up with a friend and write a dialogue between Washington and one of his contemporaries where you discuss the issues of the day.

Or . . . play today’s TV correspondent and conduct a live interview with Washington. What does he think of America in 2002 and the current state of affairs?

Pledge It Forward—Self to Service

Divide students into groups and let them brainstorm about possible service projects they could undertake.

Have the students write political poems on “America 2002” and submit them to PatriotPapers@npg.si.edu

Where’s George? word find puzzle

Find answers on page 7.

Word find puzzle grid containing letters 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
- Jefferson
- Mount Vernon
- Federalists
- John Adams
- Pennsylvania
- George
- Lansdowne
- Rules of Civility
- Gilbert Stuart
- Loyalty oath
- Hamilton
- Martha

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 struck by his reluctance to accept the presidential nomination. In this age of costly campaigns, hanging chads, and fights to the bitter end, it’s hard to imagine. But perhaps Washington’s hesitancy was understandable. In 1788 he was fifty-six years old and had already sacrificed many years in service to his country. In 1783, after eight-and-a-half years as commander in chief of the Continental army, he had resigned his commission. His own affairs and the management of Mount Vernon absorbed his energies, and he had stressed the finality of his retirement. But when unanimously elected, he served. His formal notification of nomination to the presidency praised him for “the proof given of patriotism, of his readiness to sacrifice domestic separation and private enjoyment to preserve the liberty and promote the happiness of the country.” Washington was far more reluctant to consider serving a second term. Historian Marcus Cunliffe writes: He celebrated his sixtieth birthday in February 1792, and felt older than his years. He had survived serious illnesses in 1790 and 1791. He was, he complained, growing deaf; his eyesight was deteriorating; and his memory was beginning to be defective. Yet the detailed, and far from absent-minded, letters that he wrote on Sundays and sent to his agents at Mount Vernon on points of farm management, reveal that he was not so much tired of life as tired of being President.

But his colleagues felt that only he could lead at this difficult time. Thomas Jefferson’s plea, “I cannot but hope that you can resolve to add one or two more to the many years you have already sacrificed to the good of mankind,” and Hamilton’s request to make “a further sacrifice, trusting that it need not continue above a year or two more,” helped press him to service. In a letter to his friend Henry Lee dated 1793, Washington confided that he had decided to accept a second term of office

only “after a long and painful conflict in my own breast.” He was reelected unanimously. Again, he served the whole term.

Washington’s life was one of service and sacrifice. And it came at a great cost—to his health, to his marriage, to the productiveness of 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.

As the 2000 film Pay It Forward suggests, it is often difficult to pay back those who have influenced our lives—our forefathers, our mentors, our heroes, our friends. But we can pay it forward. We can give to the next generation. We can care about community.

The National Portrait Gallery’s Office of Education would like to recognize those who continue to 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, once a week, if a 6th grader reads to an elderly shut-in, if kids in South Texas 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. E-mail us your pledges; write to us about your projects. We’d like to recognize Americans working for America and will feature your pictures and stories 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



Ismael Rosas, Charlie Rinehart, and Marielly Garza (left to right) from Sparks Elementary School in Pasadena, Texas, catch the spirit and contribute to the “By George We’ve Got It” campaign, hoping to help save the treasured Lansdowne portrait of George Washington.

Students in Pasadena, Texas Help Fund The Patriot Papers

Their Campaign— “By George We’ve Got It, Help Us Keep It”

When the National Portrait Gallery announced in February 2001 that it needed \$20 million to keep the Lansdowne portrait of George Washington, the children of the Pasadena Independent School District decided to do something about it. They wanted to save George from the auction block.

They developed the “By George, We’ve Got It, Help Us Keep It” campaign to raise funds for the famous Gilbert Stuart painting. The school district set a goal of one dollar for every student in PISD, and the children raised an inspiring \$4,200 before the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation donated the needed \$20 million. The monies raised by Pasadena students helped to fund The Patriot Papers.

As a Texas Recognized District for outstanding student achievement, the Pasadena District has been involved in local fundraising projects before. Its students contributed to the saving of the Alamo, the San Jacinto Monument, and the renovation of the battleship Texas. The Lansdowne portrait, like these other American treasures, is one that the children of Pasadena hoped to save.

Although most of the children had never seen the Lansdowne portrait in person, their enthusiasm for saving the national treasure was high. District spokesman Kirk Lewis also saw great potential in the project: “This is a teachable moment in terms of our national art history and national American history. It’s a great way to energize our kids to learn about our country.”

The “By George” campaign began as a local project, but gained national attention with its call to raise money. The school district challenged other school districts in the area to join the campaign. Ultimately, the Pasadena fundraisers hoped to relay the challenge across the nation. Fortunately for all Americans, the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation contributed the needed funds in March 2001.

Just as George Washington sacrificed his time and energy for the good of the nation, so too have the children of the Pasadena Independent School District. They have shown the country that national spirit is alive in our nation’s youth. The National Portrait Gallery thanks those in Pasadena who contributed to the Lansdowne portrait campaign. We also encourage all Americans to continue the spirit of giving in their own communities, school districts, and neighborhoods by joining our current campaign “Pledge It Forward—Self to Service.” Take your lead from Pasadena and take time to make a difference.

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.



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 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.

“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



Tile Game

Find answers on page 7.

Unscramble the tiles to reveal a message.

George Washington

Tile game interface for George Washington. Tiles contain letters: AN, A, M, OF, VIC, E., SER. Below are empty boxes for the answer.

Mrs. Washington’s runaway who stayed away!

Tile game interface for Mrs. Washington’s runaway who stayed away! Tiles contain letters: GE, OL, JUD, NEY. Below are empty boxes for the answer.

Mistress Goody Quotes...

Tile game interface for Mistress Goody Quotes... Tiles contain letters: ILIT, Y., THE, RULE, CIV, S OF. Below are empty boxes for the answer.

Faith Proctor

Tile game interface for Faith Proctor. Tiles contain letters: ON A, NZY!, FRE, HION, FAS. Below are empty boxes for the answer.

patriot n.

Tile game interface for patriot n. Tiles contain letters: CO, UNT, FEL, AN, RY M, LOW. Below are empty boxes for the answer.



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 iconic image of the father of our country began a national tour at the Museum of Fine Arts in Houston, Texas. For the first time in history, this prized image—the life-sized portrait of George Washington by artist Gilbert Stuart—has gone on the road. An artifact whose historical and cultural significance has been compared to that of the Liberty Bell and the Declaration of Independence, the painting is one of the most important visual documents of the founding of our nation.

Senator and Mrs. William Bingham of Philadelphia commissioned the portrait from Stuart in 1796 as a gift for the British Marquis of Lansdowne, who sympathized with colonial grievances before the Revolutionary War. Thus the painting is often referred to as the "Lansdowne" portrait to differentiate it from Stuart's other images of Washington.

For more than 200 years, the painting remained in private hands; it was incorporated into the collection of the 5th Earl of Rosebery in the 1880s. It later hung in a castle in Scotland.

In 1968 the Lansdowne portrait was loaned to the National Portrait Gallery in Washington, D.C., where it served as the cornerstone of the museum's opening exhibition. For thirty-two years, it graced the Gallery's rotunda, greeting visitors as they ascended the building's grand staircase to the second floor. But in the fall of 2000, its British owner notified the Gallery of his decision to sell it at auction if the Gallery could not meet his asking price of \$20 million. The search for a benefactor to the Gallery—and to the nation—began.

In March 2001, a \$30 million gift from the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation of Las Vegas, Nevada, assured that the painting would remain in the United States. Of that amount, \$20 million went to purchase the painting, \$4 million to renovate a gallery space dedicated exclusively

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

to the portrait, and \$6 million to ensure that the portrait would be shared with the American people. After the exhibition closes in Houston, it continues to seven other cities, concluding with the portrait's return to its permanent home in the National Portrait Gallery.

Originally, the portrait hung in Lord Lansdowne's London house on Berkeley Square, accompanied by other artworks, including a sculpture of the Roman general Cincinnatus, with whom Washington is often compared. Reportedly, Cincinnatus left his plow to save the Roman republic, then relinquished his public role and returned to private life. The parallel between Cincinnatus and Washington as men of service is striking.

This "man of service" is the George Washington that the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation wanted America to see. Here was a man who served as commander in chief of the Continental army, who shaped the American presidency, who guided the country through the "fragile experiment" of democracy. Certainly others had greater intellect and were better educated, more articulate, and of

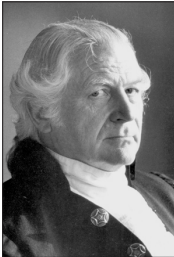


The National Portrait Gallery, Smithsonian Institution, acquired Gilbert Stuart's 1796 Lansdowne portrait of George Washington in 2001 as a gift to the nation through the generosity of the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation.

calmer disposition. But Washington was chosen. Unanimously elected to the presidency, he served two terms and then retired from office. Here was a man who refused to be king.

Join the tour at one of its eight locations as the National Portrait Gallery explores this man of character, self-sacrifice, and patriotism. Or follow the tour online, through the Gallery's Lansdowne website at www.georgewashington.si.edu.

Will the Real George W. Please Stand Up?



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

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

—RICHARD BROOKHISER, WASHINGTON BIOGRAPHER

Hailed by historians and politicians as the definitive dramatic portrayal of George Washington, William Arthur Sommerfield fascinates audiences with the insights, warmth, and humor of our first President. Sommerfield strips away the marble image of the ideal man and replaces it with a portrayal of George Washington, the intensely human being—a man of humor, anger, sorrow, failure, sacrifice, and love.

The only man ever to interpret Washington at the general's home, Mount Vernon in Virginia, Sommerfield draws on more than 10 years of research and performance when creating his character. Every detail, from costume to powdered hair and dress sword, is historically accurate; he even captures the flourish of Washington's signature.

In 1989 the Bicentennial Commission on the Constitution selected Sommerfield to portray Washington for the eight-day journey from Mount Vernon to New York in a re-creation of the inaugural ride, culminating in the swearing-in of the first President. He has continued to captivate audiences on NBC's *EyeWitness to History*, the DC Bicentennial Celebration, the National Bill of Rights Tour, *Good Morning America*, the *Today Show*, and A&E's *The Crossing*. He has appeared in *Time* magazine and the *New Yorker*, and on the covers of *USA Today*, the *New York Times*, and the *Times* of London.

As artistic director and chief writer of the American Historical Theatre in Philadelphia, Sommerfield re-creates history, bringing a piece of the past to life. Favorite performances include "The Glorious Burden," which explores the presidency, and "The Love Letters of George and Martha." Join George for an 18th-century news conference or a lesson in the minuet. Don't miss this trip back in time! Check local venues for details.

High School Teacher's Edition

Fellow educators: *The Patriot Papers* was developed as a vehicle for enrichment in the classroom. As a teaching tool it seeks to put George Washington in context, realizing that while Washington influenced America, America also influenced Washington. The news of the day, the social scene, the fashion, the gossip, the political events, his family, and his contemporaries all had their impact. This interdisciplinary approach to studying Washington should serve a variety of subjects—literature as well as history, language arts as well as visual arts. Designed to coincide with national curriculum standards in both social studies and the language arts, *The Patriot Papers* provides opportunities to sharpen critical thinking skills, interpret primary source materials, arrange events chronologically, determine cause and effect, summarize and analyze historical events and ideas, and discover relationships between America's early history and the present day.

The paper also encourages student involvement. We challenge all to become actively involved in service to country and share their efforts with students across the United States. We hope to publish student art and poetry, as well as stories of service through our website and publication. *Pledge It Forward* and enjoy the journey.

—Felice Pulles, editor-in-chief

Related national standards in language arts

- Reading for perspective
- Reading for understanding
- Applying knowledge
- Evaluating data
- Developing research skills
- Developing writing skills

Related national standards in historical thinking

- Chronological thinking
- Historical comprehension
- Historical analysis and interpretation
- Historical research

Writing to Learn

Students spend numerous hours *learning to write*, and we usually depend on the English teachers to instruct them. We forget that students can also *write to learn*. The very act of thinking an idea through in order to put it on paper leads to clarification of that idea. And as students write, more ideas emerge, questions find answers, and confusion finds clarity as words take shape and form. We need not always know the ending or the answer when we begin to write. The journey will often reveal it.

The activities suggested in **Writing to Learn** are intended for student exploration, to let students meander through inspirations, arguments, and ideas until they make meaning of their own. Initially, don't worry too much about form, structure, spelling, and grammar; it's only a work in progress. Ideas are best generated when words flow quickly. The mind can race far faster than the pen. Let it race and catch those ideas on the fly.

Create an Old-Fashioned Advertisement

Ask students to create advertisements of their own using our authentic 18th-century advertisements as models.

- Advertise an unusual product
- Publicize an upcoming event
- Place a "Help Wanted" advertisement

Making Connections

Construct a visual timeline that includes both the **"Blast from the Past"** news stories on page 2 and the entries from **"The Pudding Papers"** on pages 4 and 7. (Students will need to write headlines for **"The Pudding Papers"** entries.) Add significant world events to the timeline, i.e., the beginning of the French Revolution, advances in science, and noted accomplishments in art, music, and literature. It is important to understand Washington and America's early history in relation to other world events.

Suggestions for the timeline

- **1761, Austria:** Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart begins writing minuets at age five
- **1763, Europe:** The Treaty of Paris ends the French and Indian War. France cedes Canada to England and gives up all territories in the New World except New Orleans and a few scattered islands.
- **1765, Massachusetts:** Chocolate is first produced in America
- **1770, Germany:** Composer Ludwig van Beethoven is born
- **1770, Boston:** Boston Massacre
- **1773, Boston:** Boston Tea Party
- **1777, Russia:** Alexander I, Czar of Russia is born
- **1789, France:** Bastille stormed, French Revolution begins

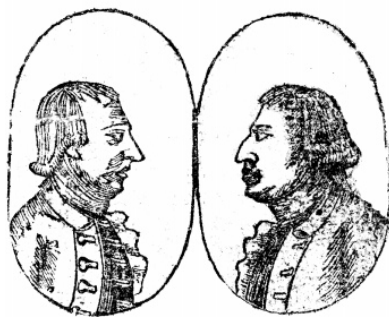
A BLAST FROM THE PAST

Washington Wins Election to House from Fort Cumberland!

FREDERICKSBURG, 1758—George Washington, son of Augustine and Mary Ball Washington, has been elected to the Virginia House of Burgesses while serving with the British regulars at Fort Cumberland. Although urged by friends to return to the colony of Virginia and "show his face," Washington opted to remain with his men and was successful in winning a seat in the House from Frederick County.

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 rampant disease threaten the lives of all the soldiers camped there. General Washington has made repeated appeals for increased supplies, but the mismanagement of the supply trade has yet to be resolved. In the meantime, General Washington struggles alongside his men while political rivals threaten to remove his power. Military and civilian critics, particularly Thomas Conway and Dr. Benjamin Rush, feel that there are several men who are better suited to lead the Continental army.



The Glorious Washington and Gates, detail from Bickerstaff's Boston Almanack, 1778

Martha Washington Buries Fourth Child, John P. Custis

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, merely 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.

Washington Unanimous Pick for President at Convention!

NEW YORK, 1789 (AP)—After many months of debate to establish our new American government, the first official election was held on February 4, 1789. George Washington has received all 69 electoral votes! Washington, who will be inaugurated on April 30 of this year, accepted his new office, despite his overwhelming desire to return to his estate at Mount Vernon: "I was summoned by my country . . . from a retreat which I had chosen with the fondest predilection, and . . . with an immutable decision, as the asylum of my declining years." Washington and his wife Martha will 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, the prospect of returning to the stress of presidential life has left Washington doubtful. Washington wrote to his friend Henry Lee, "that it was after a long and painful conflict in my own breast, that I was withheld from requesting, in time, that no votes might be thrown away upon me; it being my fixed determination to return to the walks of private life." The next four years do in fact promise to be difficult; factionalism has already begun to sprout in government over constitutional interpretation. Secretary of the Treasury Alexander Hamilton, who was the driving force behind the creation of the National Bank and National Mint, will remain in the service of the President. Edmund Randolph will replace Thomas Jefferson as secretary of state.

The Patriot Papers

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

Whiskey Rebellion Shakes Pennsylvania

PHILADELPHIA, 1794—Western Pennsylvanians have turned their resentment over recent taxes on whiskey into a violent opposition. They are launching the first major civil disturbance of President Washington's term in office. Last week, U.S. Marshal David Lenox met with resistance in Westmoreland County while trying to collect taxes on locally distilled liquor. Military action will be taken, much to the regret of the President: "I have accordingly determined to do so, feeling the deepest regret for the occasion, but withal, the most solemn conviction, that the essential interests of the Union demand it." The army is being organized from other northern states, and it will advance into Pennsylvania shortly.

Wanted Immediately

A PERSON to attend in a Store who will be constant and assiduous, understands Accounts, and can write a good Hand. Also, a Youth about fourteen or fifteen Years of Age, who can read well, and write tolerably. Inquire at the Post Office.

Handwritten signature

On Tuesday next, being the 14th Instant, A new COMEDY, called

FALSE DELICACY

By the author of A WORD TO THE WISE

(It may not be improper to give Notice that the Theatre in Williamsburg will be closed at the End of the April Court, the American Company's Engagements calling them to the Northward, from whence, it is probable, they will not return for several years.)

Was found November 9, 1787, on the Egypt Road

A Lady's TIPPET.

Whoever has lost the same, by applying to the Printers, and paying the expense of the advertisement, may have it again.

KING & QUEEN, MARCH 31, 1772



WHEREAS MY APPRENTICE, Christopher Lewis, has absented himself from my Service, I therefore forewarn all Persons from employing or entertaining him under any Pretence whatever.

THOMAS HILL

The Women of Valley Forge and the American Revolution

Martha Washington and other wives assisted with cooking and entertaining the men at Valley Forge. Did you know that some women actually fought in the American Revolution? Deborah Samson served in the Continental army for three years, under the name Robert Shirtliffe. She maintained her identity as a man until she was discovered in 1781. Margaret Corbin replaced her husband on the battlefield at Fort Mifflin, performing all of his duties. Anne Bailey rode hundreds of miles alone to gather ammunition to bring to Fort Mifflin. For more information on women and war, visit <http://userpages.aug.com/captbarb/index.html>

For Discussion and Debate

Have students do further research on slavery. Good websites include Mount Vernon's site at www.mountvernon.org, the Hubbard House Underground Railroad Museum in Ohio at www.hubbardhousemuseum.org, or the Decatur House at www.decaturhouse.org.



Social Notes
from
All Over...

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

Philadelphia, January 1791

MRS. WASHINGTON’S DRAWING ROOM. On Friday evening at eight, your humble correspondent was among the ladies and gentlemen in attendance at Mrs. Washington’s weekly reception. Mrs. Washington, plainly dressed, but in a gown of rich silk, sat on a sofa by the fire-place and arose to greet her guests with a curtsy which each lady returned. Each gentleman bowed low. Coffee, tea, and cake were served, and had I come in the summer, I would have been offered lemonade and ice cream. The ladies swish about, and as candlelight is a great improver of beauty, they appear to great advantage. President Washington circulated among the crowd, chatting agreeably with all the ladies. It is said that he keeps count of the numbers who come to pay their respects to Mrs. Washington and was pleased to find the room so crowded.



“Death March and Monody,” sheet music, circa 1799-1800. National Portrait Gallery, Smithsonian Institution

Philadelphia, April 1791

OUT AND ABOUT. The President of the United States, it is well known, is very fond of the theater and has gone outside the city to Southwark, where plays are performed. During an affecting moment leading to a happy ending, Washington was observed to shed a tear. As the humorous scenes unfolded, those playing the parts of Priscilla Tomboy and Young Cockney received the approving smiles of the old hero. General Washington goes often to concerts but has been heard to say, “I can neither play Musick nor sing Songs.”

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.”

Philadelphia, September 1796

PEALE’S MUSEUM. 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 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

Philadelphia, February 1797

NEW THEATER ON CHESTNUT STREET. We are informed that the President of the United States intends visiting the theater this evening and has sent his carriage to bring the Vice President and his family to join him. The play to be performed is *Columbus, or, A World Discovered*, and it will display scenery, machinery, and decorations, the likes of which have never been seen before. A representation of a storm, an earthquake, a volcano eruption, as well as a procession of Indians, await all who enter. *Columbus* will be followed by a farce called *A Wife at Her Wit’s End*.

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. Everywhere there has been a remarkable outpouring of affection for the President, Silvertongue informs. 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*.

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.*

We take no responsibility for the quality of the work herein. GOOD POETRY SOUGHT. Submit to 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

Making Connections

Fashion design: Design clothing for a historical character or for a historical novel or play.

Research: Investigate Peale’s Museum, Rickett’s Amphitheatre, or the history of the circus.

Create: During the 1770s “Poet’s Corners” appeared in newspapers throughout America. Anonymous poems, songs, and satires commented on issues of the day. Americans also produced a great number of political broadsides—sheets of paper covered with anonymous poems, songs, and essays—that could be tacked up around the city, left on doorsteps, or even read to groups on street corners. Have your students try their hand at creating **broadsides**, writing political or social poetry or drawing political cartoons.

More Bad Poetry

Revolutionary Tea

*There was an old lady lived over the sea
And she was an island queen.
Her daughter lived off in a new country
With an ocean of water between.
The old lady’s pockets were full of gold
But never contented was she,
So she called on her daughter to pay her a tax
Of three pence a pound on her tea,
Of three pence a pound on her tea.*

Revolutionary Moments

*Colonists took action and dumped the tea
They stood strong and would not flea
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!

Word find key. Puzzle on page 8.



Wanted:

Original art, “bad poetry,” stories of community service, pictures, or photos.

Feature your class on our website—send information to: **PatriotPapers@npg.si.edu**

Tile game key. Game on page 8.

George Washington — A MAN OF SERVICE; Mrs. Washington’s runaway who stayed away! — OLNEY JUDGE; Mistress Goody Quotes...THE RULES OF CIVILITY; Faith Proctor — ON A FASHION FRENZY!; Patriot n. — FELLOW COUNTRYMAN

Building Vocabulary

Define the terms “Federalist” and “Republican” as used in Washington’s time. What did each political party represent? Which parties did Jefferson and Hamilton support? Why? How do these terms relate to the Republican and Democratic parties of today?

Vocabulary Words

camp fever 1. Typhus: an infection characterized by high fever, headache, and dizziness; a.k.a. camp diarrhea

cede vt. 1. To surrender possession of, formally or officially. 2. To yield or grant, as by a treaty.

tippet n. 1. A long, slender boa used like a scarf. It was considered a fancy accessory in the 19th century, usually made of swansdown or fur.

For Discussion and Debate

The Role and Responsibility of the Press

The entry for August 2, 1793, “The President Enraged,” reminds us that criticism of the press is nothing new.

- Research the role of the press and its effect on major moments in history.
- Research the effect of the press on political campaigns and elections. How has its role affected election results? Candidates elected?
- Debate freedom of the press vs. the necessity for national security. Today, more than ever, the issue is a difficult one. Does the need for national security ever override the public’s right to know?

Writing to Learn

Research colonial medicine

- Find early medical treatments for some common ailments today.
- Research and chart the rising number of female doctors from 1800 to the present day. Devise a graph to present your data.

THE PUDDING PAPERS

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.*

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.

May 14, 1789

WHAT IS THE PRESIDENT TO BE CALLED? Debate, we are told, rages behind the closed doors of the Senate over a proper title for the President. Vice President John Adams and a number of the senators have insisted that a grand and high-sounding name, such as “Elective Excellency” or “Elective Highness,” is necessary to give respect to the office. Sources tell us that the committee appointed to draw up a list of titles “of all the Princes of the Earth” has recommended “His Highness the President of the United States of America, and Protector of their Liberties.” But the House of Representatives refuses to agree, and Mr. Washington will be simply called President of the United States. As one member of Congress told us, no other title was necessary to add to the respect the whole country had for General Washington.



John Adams by John Trumbull (detail), oil on canvas, circa 1793. National Portrait Gallery, Smithsonian Institution

*“of all princes
of the Earth”*

—a suggested title for the President of the United States, 1789



Martha Washington (above left) by an unidentified artist, after Gilbert Stuart and Charles Willson Peale, oil on canvas, 1800–1825. Abigail Adams (above right) by Raphaelle Peale, hollow-cut silhouette, 1804. National Portrait Gallery, Smithsonian Institution

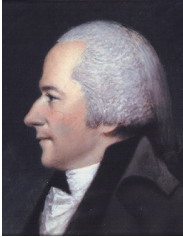


May 30, 1789

THE PRESIDENT’S LADY. Mrs. Washington, who needed some time to prepare for her journey, has now arrived in New York. The President’s lady will give no interviews to the press, but this correspondent has talked to many of her friends and acquaintances. Mrs. Adams, the Vice President’s lady, who first met Mrs. Washington when she came to be with the general in Cambridge at the beginning of the war, told *The Patriot Papers* that Mrs. Washington is a lady of patience and prudence. “Her manners are modest and unassuming, dignified and feminine, not the Tincture of ha’ture about her.” Others tell us that Mrs. President Washington [no one thought to call her the first lady] is very friendly and likes to talk, but never about politics. “I little thought that when the war was finished that anything would call the General into public life again,” she had told friends. “Yet I cannot blame him for having acted according to his ideas of duty in obeying the voice of his country.”

July 9, 1790

WHERE IS THE CAPITAL TO BE? Ever since the old Congress left Philadelphia in 1783, arguments have raged over where the permanent seat of government should be built. At last, the residence is decided. The government is to leave New York and spend the next ten years in Philadelphia. The permanent capital will be a new city created on the banks of the Potomac River, the exact location to be chosen by President Washington. Some folks speculate that it will not be far from Mount Vernon. New Yorkers, after they have gone to so much trouble and expense to accommodate the government, feel betrayed, and one angry letter to the editor speaks of the President as the country’s “former favorite guardian and deliverer.”



Alexander Hamilton (above left) by James Sharples, pastel on paper, circa 1796. Thomas Jefferson (above right) by Mather Brown (detail), oil on canvas, 1786. Gift of Charles Francis Adams. National Portrait Gallery, Smithsonian Institution



February 1792

POLITICAL PARTIES. Not a word about political parties in the Constitution, but they are here and with a passion. Federalists, who are friends of the government, and the Republicans, who find much to criticize, are at it tooth and nail. Most folks say the parties started over the differences between Secretary of the Treasury Alexander Hamilton and Secretary of State Thomas Jefferson. Hamilton, the friend of business and manufacturers, has pushed for a strong federal government; Jefferson, who wants to see America stay a land of farmers, is deeply suspicious of moneymen and banks. But what has really stirred things up is the war between France and England, with the Republicans being passionately on the side of France, which has beheaded its king and become a republic, and the Federalists seeing the old mother country as an important trading partner. The President, who wants to keep both Hamilton and Jefferson in his cabinet and to steer a neutral course between France and England, is beset by difficulties.

August 2, 1793

THE PRESIDENT ENRAGED. Sources tell us that the President lost his usually well-controlled temper at a recent meeting of his cabinet. Shown a satiric piece describing his head being chopped off by the guillotine, printed in Republican editor Philip Freneau’s newspaper, the President went suddenly into a towering rage, spoke bitterly of the newspaper abuse to which he had been subjected in past months, and defied any critic to indicate one selfish act committed by him in office. He said he would rather be a farmer than emperor of the world, and yet that “rascal Freneau” insinuated that he would like to be a king. To add insult to injury, Freneau sent three copies of every issue to the President’s dwelling.

April 1796

GEORGE WASHINGTON LAFAYETTE. The fourteen-year-old son of the Marquis de Lafayette arrived in Philadelphia on the 11th of this month. His father, who had tried to save the King and Queen of France from losing their heads, remains in prison, and the lad has been sent to America to be under the protection of President Washington. “I will be his friend,” the President declared and has taken him into his household, even though he worries that the revolutionary government of France might take offense. He has instructed young Lafayette to study hard to be worthy of his father. Washington has a special place in his heart for the Marquis de Lafayette, who had come from France to fight in the American Revolution when he was nineteen years old.

Making Connections

Some familiar phrases and famous titles originate from the work of 17th-century poet John Donne. Students may find them familiar. “Death Be Not Proud” was used as the title for John Gunther’s famous novel about his son’s death at age 14 from leukemia. “For Whom The Bell Tolls” titled Ernest Hemingway’s famous WWI novel. And “no man is an island” is captured in everything from poster to song. Students may recall hearing the musical refrain

played repeatedly during the 2002 Winter Olympic games held in Salt Lake City, Utah. Ask them why Donne’s words from *Meditation XVII* were especially relevant to the Olympics, especially in view of the preceding tragic events of September 11, 2001. How is the phrase “No man is an island” relevant to their lives today? Have students explore the meaning of the last line, “Never send to know for whom the bell tolls, it tolls for thee.”

Washington’s Final Hours

PERSONAL RECOLLECTIONS FROM TOBIAS LEAR

George Washington, beloved general and first President of the United States, has died at his home at Mount Vernon at the age of 67. His illness was short: after riding out in bad weather on Thursday, December 12, General Washington was taken with a fever and respiratory problems. Although doctors made numerous attempts to save his life, Washington passed on with the dignity and courage he had displayed throughout his many years of military and civic service.

Washington’s close friend and personal secretary, Tobias Lear, was with the general throughout his illness. Recounted here are Lear’s recollections of these final hours:

“I found the General breathing with difficulty, and hardly able to utter a word. . . . A mixture of Molasses, Vinegar, and butter was prepared to try its effects in the throat; but he could not swallow a drop. Whenever he attempted it, he appeared distressed . . . and almost suffocated. Rawlins came in soon after sunrise, and prepared to bleed him. When the arm was ready the General, observing that Rawlins appeared to be agitated, said, as well as he could speak, ‘Don’t be afraid.’

Dr. Craik came in soon after and, upon examining the General, he put a blister of Cantharides* on the throat, took some more blood from him, and had a gargle of Vinegar and sage tea, and ordered some Vinegar and hot water for him to inhale the steam, which he did; but in attempting to use the gargle, he was almost suffocated.

Upon Dr. Dick’s seeing the General . . . he was bled again; the blood came very slow, was thick, and did not produce any symptoms of fainting. About half past four o’clock, he desired me to call Mrs. Washington to his bed side, when he requested her to go down into his room, and take from his desk two Wills . . . and bring them to him, which she did. Upon looking at them, he gave her one, which he observed was useless . . . and desired her to burn it.

He said to me, ‘I find I am going, my breath cannot last long. I believed from the first that the disorder would prove fatal. . . .’

About ten minutes before he expired, . . . his breathing became easier; he lay quietly; he withdrew his hand from mine and felt his own pulse. I saw his countenance change. . . . The General’s hand fell from his wrist—I took it in mine and put it into my bosom. Dr. Craik put his hand over his eyes and he expired without a struggle or a sigh!

During his whole illness he spoke but seldom, and with great difficulty; and in so low and broken a voice as at times hardly to be understood. His patience, fortitude, and resignation



George Washington in His Last Illness, an etching 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

never forsook him for a moment. In all his distress, he uttered not a sigh, nor a complaint; always endeavoring to take what was offered him, and to do as he was desired by the Physicians.”

* blister of Cantharides: cantharides (kan thar ě dez) n. pl. [ME cantaridesffL cantharides, pl. of cantharis, kind of beetle, Spanish fly, Gr kanthris, blister beetle] dangerous, sometimes fatal, preparation of powdered, dried Spanish flies, formerly used internally as a diuretic and aphrodisiac and externally as a skin irritant.

Did George Washington Stand a Chance?

Colonial Practice of Bloodletting Helped Cause Washington’s Death

—by Vicki Fama, assistant editor

Today, it is easy to criticize the medical methods performed in colonial times. When we read that George Washington died of a simple bacterial infection, we wonder why measures we now consider primitive, such as bloodletting, were even employed in the fight to save the first President’s life. Medical training was primitive as well: although some American doctors were fortunate enough to study in England or Scotland, others were less fortunate. American medical schools did not yet exist; thus, many doctors were self-trained. In view of our present medical understanding, did George Washington even stand a chance of being saved?

Colonial medicine was based on European medical methods and theories; no one then understood how diseases or infection 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. This concept played an important role in Washington’s death.

On the morning of December 14, 1799, George Washington, who had felt ill for several days, sent for a plantation worker who could bleed him. Bloodletting was a common practice: by releasing blood from the body of a sick person, doctors believed they could alleviate excessive pressure and tension and return the body to a healthy balance. Washington’s doctors may have thought that bloodletting would thus extract the constricting fluids around his throat. However, within 2 hours, Washington was bled several times, losing an estimated 5 pints of blood—approximately one-third of the blood in his body! This was certainly a factor in his death.

The doctors also tried other methods of withdrawing fluids. Washington was given an tartar emetic, which induced vomiting. Again, this practice would have dehydrated him and lessened his chance of recovery.

Washington was also subjected to the intake of fluids. Doctors tried to administer mixtures of molasses, vinegar, and butter, hoping to heal his throat from the inside. They also used a gargle of vinegar and sage tea for the same purpose. But because of the severe swelling of Washington’s

throat, both attempts were unsuccessful and even threatened to choke the sick General.

The most dramatic medical treatment, proposed by Dr. Elisha Dick, was a tracheotomy (the creation of an air hole in the throat to allow for easier breathing). While the other physicians treating Washington rejected the idea, some scientists today believe that a tracheotomy could have been beneficial. Nonetheless, the lack of sterile equipment and anesthesia might have easily caused a deadly infection or put Washington’s body in shock, an equally threatening possibility.

The doctors who cared for the dying George Washington did all that they thought medically possible. While it is tempting to judge their methods with the benefit of hindsight, we should appreciate the context and limitations of the colonial era. George Washington died the way he lived, with courage and a belief in a greater force beyond mankind.

A modern analysis by White McKenzie Wallenborn, M.D., concludes that Washington died from acute epiglottitis, which is a bacterial inflammation of the epiglottis, a flap at the root of the tongue that prevents food from entering the windpipe. However, some doctors today believe that the excessive loss of blood would have weakened Washington enough to kill him.

From Meditation XVII —by John Donne

“All mankind is of one author, and is one volume; when one man dies, one chapter is not torn out of the book, but translated into a better language; and every chapter must be so translated. . . . As therefore the bell that rings to a sermon, calls not upon the preacher only, but upon the congregation to

come: so this bell calls us all: but how much more me, who am brought so near the door by this sickness....No man is an island, entire of itself....any man’s death diminishes me, because I am involved in mankind; and therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for thee.”

Studying the Sonnet

16th-century English sonnets, also known as Shakespearean sonnets, consisted of fourteen lines written in iambic pentameter, a rhythmic device with 10 syllables per line, alternating between stressed and unstressed syllables. The rhyme scheme of the sonnet was divided into three four-line stanzas, called quatrains, followed by a two-line rhyming couplet. The quatrains had an alternating rhyme scheme that could be represented by "abab," while the final ending couplet could be represented by "gg." The overall resulting rhyme scheme is "abab cdcd efef gg."

Italian, or Petrarchan, sonnets were written as early as the 13th century but they were more popular during the 14th century. Petrarchan sonnets followed the rhyme scheme of “abbaabba,” ending in either “cdcdcd,” “cdcdcd,” or “cdedce.” Often divided into an octave (8 lines) and a sestet (6), there was usually a *rotta*, or turn, in the poem’s message at the end of the octave. Frequently the first 8 lines presented a question or problem, and the last 6 provided an answer or solution.

After studying the poem thematically, have the students study the poem’s structure to determine whether it is an English or Italian sonnet. Marking the rhyme scheme, and searching for an octave, a sestet, or a rhyming couplet provides clues. It also helps clarify meaning.

FORM= abbaabbacddcee

Death Be Not Proud

—a sonnet by John Donne, 1633

Death, be not proud, though some have called thee
Mighty and dreadful, for thou art not so;
For those whom thou think’st thou dost overthrow,
Die not, poor Death, nor yet canst thou kill me.
From rest and sleep, which but thy pictures be,
Much pleasure; then from thee much more must flow,
And soonest our best men with thee do go,
Rest of their bones, and soul’s delivery.
Thou art slave to fate, chance, kings, and desperate men,
And dost with poison, war, and sickness dwell;
And poppy or charms can make us sleep as well
And better than thy stroke; why swell’st thou then?
One short sleep past, we wake eternally,
And death shall be no more; Death, thou shalt die.

Writing to Learn

- Take any character from the past and write a journal entry, a page from a diary, or a letter from his or her perspective.
- Make up your own *Rules of Civility* for the 21st century—on dating, on dining, on education, on politics.
- Take any modern personality, celebrity, or politician and send them back in time to comment on an event. (“Future Flash” is really the opposite—a character from the past comments on a current event.)

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
- 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?

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?

TRIPPIN’ THROUGH TIME



MISS FAITH PROCTOR

18th-Century Paradise Lost

Faith’s Fashion Frenzy

—BY J. K. PULLES

Hi! My name is Faith Proctor. I was raised in the Berkshires of western Massachusetts by Abigail and John Proctor, two very sensible people who believe in a life of simplicity and purity. For more than 200 years, we Proctors have preserved the ideals set forth by George Washington, our nation’s first President. It was not until my recent 18th birthday that I learned of the existence of my distant cousins in Washington, D.C. My parents decided it was time that one of us ventured into “big-city America” to see what advances had been made.

Meeting my aunt, uncle, and cousins was enormously exciting, and I was simply awestruck by all of the amazing inventions of the 21st century outside world. First and foremost in my thoughts, however, is my trip with my cousin Melody to the “mall.” At Melody’s first mention of the

mall, my heart pounded with fear. Mistaking the word for “maul,” I feared they planned to leave me in the forest to be attacked by wolves. Melody carefully explained that the mall was like a large market where tradesmen gathered to sell their wares. My fears allayed, we entered the maze. I was shocked to see all the women in pants! The most popular pants seemed to be a very low-slung pair of dungarees called “hipsters.” I think they should be called “come hither misters,” for this will most certainly be the effect of wearing such pants. Looking down at my own ankle-length skirt and quilted petticoat, I reminded myself of the prudence of keeping some details hidden from young gentlemen.

We next came upon a shoe seller called Paidless. Over the door hung a sign that read “Buy One, Get One Free.” Well obviously! One wouldn’t get very far with only one shoe and no mate. This seemed to me a most unscrupulous vendor. Upon entering the store, I found none of the sturdy leather lace-up boots to which I am accustomed, but instead found boxes and boxes of large wedges of cork and wood with small straps of leather attached to the top. How uncomfortable and impractical! However would one walk to the well?

Leaving the shoe-seller, we entered a very large vendor called Gracy’s, with many varied wares to sell. In the clothing area, my eyes fell upon a one-armed shirt! I asked Melody if this was another “buy one get one free” swindle, wherein the other sleeve would be supplied only after pur-

chase. Melody explained to me that this was the way the shirt was supposed to look. And she thinks that I am naïve! What good is a shirt with one arm? What a terrible sunburn one would have after working in the field all day. Glancing in a mirror at my own clothing, I was thankful for my high-collared blouse with two full sleeves.

Our next stop was at Linens, Loofas, & After, a vendor that sells toiletries. I was thoroughly shocked to find men and women browsing together! Hiding my surprise, I began to peruse the soaps and finally had to ask the vendor where I could find the lye soap. She had never heard of lye soap! She said that she recommended the “cucumber-melon” soap. Cucumber melon? Why would a person put cucumbers and melons in their soap? How unsanitary!

Our final stop was a clothier called the Snap. Inside they sold many sheer, knee-length, belted nightgowns that women wore over their clothes. My cousin Melody told me they were called “dusters.” Obviously these are clothes only to be worn by maids. It is very strange that a vendor sells only clothing for one profession!

All in all I had a wonderful experience at the mall. However, I believe that in 200 years people’s sensibilities have regressed, for I saw the most impractical choices in dressing oneself. And still I wonder, with no blacksmith, who will shoe your horse while you shop?

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 “guidelines for the respectable gentleman” would influence him throughout his life, guiding him in both social and professional situations. Translations and variations abound, but all stress etiquette, chivalry, and courtesy, often rather elusive concepts in the 21st century.

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 offer advice on life, love, and learning. We give you the “Toast of George Town”—our own Mistress Goody, always informed, always respectable, and very, very good.

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!

Dear Mistress Goody,
I heard a really bad thing about one of my best friends. I think our other friends should know how this girl is acting when we’re not around. Should I tell them?

Rule 79: Be not apt to relate news if you know not the truth thereof. In discoursing of things that you have heard, name not your author. Always, a secret discover not [that is, do not reveal].

In other words . . . don’t pass rumors if you’re not sure they’re true. Best to keep a secret a secret and not tell at all, unless her actions are such that they may do harm to her person or to that of another. Then ’tis kind and quite your duty to reveal the truth to your superiors or loved ones.

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:

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

Rule 100: 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].

Mistress Goody,
My very best friend just broke up with her boyfriend. But now he asked me out, and she’ll just die when she finds out. Should I go? What should I do? He’s awfully cute.

My, my, this is a distressing dilemma. Mistress Goody recalls a situation of her own. It was 1796 at the George Town Ball. I cut quite a stunning figure that evening in my green taffeta gown and brocaded mules. Miss Prudence Petticoat of Philadelphia was pursued by a most evocative gentleman, but when her dance card was full, he pursued me! I’m afraid that a most unladylike tiff ensued in the ladies’ powder room shortly thereafter . . . but I digress. My advice to you, my dear, is found in

Rule 22: Show not yourself glad at the misfortune of another.

To join the gentleman in frivolity so soon after her heart-break is unconscionable, not to mention terribly tacky. It cer-

tainly shows little regard for your intimate friend and calls into question your upbringing. Heed also

Rule 110: Labour to keep alive in your breast that little spark of celestial fire called conscience. Have you misplaced yours, my dear?



MISTRESS GOODY

Mistress Goody,
I am a big school girl. I suppose the guys think I’m cute, because I get asked out on dates a lot. I go and have a nice time, but eventually they are ready to get “serious.” They all want to be my only boyfriend. My problem is I don’t know how to pick a good boyfriend. And that means I won’t know how to pick a good husband! I mean, what does a girl look for in a guy? Can you help me?

Mistress Goody has contemplated this very question many, many times. I’ve always found the male point of view regarding love and marriage most helpful. As a matter of fact, the most sage advice comes from George Washington in a letter he wrote to Martha’s granddaughter, Nelly Custis. I will share a portion of it with you here. I do hope this “checklist” of sorts helps to settle your quandary.

“When the fire is beginning to kindle, and your heart growing warm, propound these questions to it. Who is the invader? Have I competent knowledge of him? Is he a man of good character? A man of sense? For be assured a sensible woman can never be happy with a fool. What has been his walk in life? Is he a gambler? A spendthrift?, a drunkard? Is his fortune sufficient to maintain me in a manner I have been accustomed to live? And is he one to whom my friends have no reasonable objection? If these interrogations can be satisfactorily answered, there will remain but one more to be asked; that, however, is an important one. Have I sufficient ground to conclude that his affections are enjoyed on me? Without this the heart of sensibility will struggle against a passion that is not reciprocated.”

—Go. Washington

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!



Valley Forge:
An Eyewitness Account

In the winter of 1777, Commander in Chief George Washington moved his army to a winter camp at Valley Forge, some 20 miles outside of Philadelphia. For the next few months, the soldiers suffered from starvation, the lack of adequate clothing, and poor hygiene. Although morale was low, Washington managed to keep the struggling army together. A new quartermaster general, Nathanael Greene, and a German drillmaster, Baron von Steuben, helped bring supplies and order to the broken army. The following diary entry from Dr. Albigen

“December 14—Prisoners & Deserters are continually coming in. The Army which has been surprisingly healthy hitherto, now begins to grow sickly from the continued fatigues they have suffered this Campaign. Yet they still show a spirit of Alacrity & Contentment not to be expected from so young Troops. I am Sick— discontented—and out of humour. Poor food—hard lodging—Cold Weather—fatigue—Nasty Cloaths—nasty Cookery—Vomit half my time—Smoak’d out of my senses [by the smoke created by the guns]—the Devil’s in it—I can’t Endure it—Why are we sent here to starve and Freeze—What sweet Felicities have I left at home; A charming Wife—pretty Children—Good Beds—good food—good Cookery—All agreeable—all harmonious. Here all Confusion—smoke & Cold— hunger & filthyness—a pox on my bad luck. There comes a bowl of beef soup—full of burnt leaves and dirt. . . . Away with it Boys—I’ll live like the Chameleon upon Air. Poh! Poh! Cries Patience within me—you talk like a fool. Your being Covers your mind with a Melancholic Gloom, which makes everything about you appear gloomy. See the poor Soldier, when in health—with what cheerfulness he meets his foes and encounters every



Battle of Bunkers Hill, near Boston (detail) by Johann Gotthard Von Müller, after John Trumbull, engraving, 1788–1797. National Portrait Gallery, Smithsonian Institution

hardship—if barefoot, he labours thro’ the Mud & Cold with a Song in his mouth extolling War & Washington—if his food be bad, he eats it notwithstanding with seeming content—blesses God for a good Stomach and Whistles it into digestion. But harkee Patience, a moment—There comes a Soldier, his bare feet are seen thro’ his worn out Shoes, his legs nearly naked from the tatter’d remains of an only pair of stockings, his Breeches not sufficient to cover his nakedness, his Shirt hanging in Strings, his hair dishevell’d, his face meager; his whole appearance pictures a person forsaken & discouraged. He comes, and crys with and air of wretchedness & despair, I am Sick, my feet lame, my legs sore, my body cover’d with this tormenting Itch—my Cloaths are worn out, my Constitution is broken, my former Activity is exhausted by fatigue, hunger & Cold, I fail fast I shall soon be no more! And all the reward I shall get will be—‘Poor Will is dead.’ People who live at home in Luxury and Ease, quietly possessing their habitations, Enjoying their Wives & families in peace, have but a very faint idea of the unpleasing sensations, and continual Anxiety that Man endures who is in a Camp, and is the husband and parent of an agreeable family. These same People are willing we should suffer every thing for their Benefit & advantage, and yet are the first to Condemn us for not doing more!!”

Throughout the coming months *The Patriot Papers* will address the issue of slavery during 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
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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.”

RUN AWAY FROM MY PLANTATION, called *Newport News*, on the 17th of *January*, a very likely Negro Fellow named *Strawsbury*, 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

December 1790

PRESIDENTIAL RESIDENCE, 190 HIGH STREET, PHILADELPHIA. Senator Robert Morris’s dwelling at 190 High Street has turned out to be the best house available for the President’s use, and Mr. Morris has graciously agreed to move around the corner. 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. The bathing room has been turned



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

into a study to provide for a room in which the President can do business, but unfortunately, it will be necessary for visitors to walk up two flights of stairs and pass by the public rooms and private chambers to get to it. The President has insisted that the house is to be finished in a plain and neat manner and has ruled out tapestry or very rich and costly wallpaper. He has also ruled that the back yard be kept as clean as the parlor since it is in full view from the best rooms in the house.

For Discussion and Debate

Use the following scholarly perspectives for open class discussion, or ask students to choose one quote and write a paragraph that supports or rejects the author’s opinion.

“Not talking about slavery isn’t a question of not having the information. It’s a question of what you decide to selectively remember.”

“White and black history are invariably entwined together. To suggest that you can tell a story about whites and not talk about blacks, or blacks and not talk about whites, is preposterous.”

—Paul Reber, Decatur House

“A major factor in Washington’s failure to put his growing opposition to slavery into practice in the 1790s was certainly his own conception of his presidential role.”

“It was Abigail Adams, perhaps, who first noticed the paradox of Virginia. In a letter to her husband in the spring of 1776, she remarked how odd it was that those patriots with the strongest ‘passion for Liberty’ were also ‘those who were accustomed to deprive their fellow Creatures of theirs.’”

“Slavery is like holding a wolf by the ears.”
—Thomas Jefferson

Writing to Learn

“Valley Forge: An Eyewitness Account”

This very personal and rather disturbing diary entry of Dr. Albigen Waldo attests to the power of primary sources and to the power of the first-person narrative. The personal recollections of Tobias Lear in *Washington’s Final Hours* on page 5 are equally powerful. Have students write their own diary entry as a real or imaginary historical figure. They could write as a colonist, a soldier, runaway slave Olney Judge, or Strawsbury, the slave sought through an actual advertisement.

George Washington’s fundamental dilemma:
How to reconcile the proclaimed ideals of the revolution with the institution of slavery

As a Virginia plantation proprietor and a life-long slaveholder, Washington had a substantial private stake in the economic system of the South. However, in his role as acknowledged political leader of the country, his overriding concern was the preservation of the union.

Have students discuss Washington’s fundamental dilemma as President and slaveholder in a written essay. They should consider the entries on page 3, as well as the facts bulleted in the box to the left.

- 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.
- Approximately 75 percent of the slaves at Mount Vernon worked in the fields. Of these, nearly 65 percent were women.
- Washington did not buy or sell his slaves after the Revolutionary War.
- 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.