



**GEORGE WASHINGTON
A NATIONAL TREASURE**

Patriot Papers

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

George Washington Visits George, Washington

National Portrait Gallery Exhibition Tours Country, Opens in Minneapolis

The van itself wasn't that unusual—a two-door, three-seat white Ford van. It was what was inside that caused all the commotion. Most people don't expect George Washington, in uniform, to come riding through town. Nor would he stop for gas or eat at the local diner. But that's what he did in the state of Washington, in the month of March 2003, and the locals took note.

Dubbed "The George Tour," this journey across Washington State was organized by the Seattle Art Museum in conjunction with its visiting exhibition "George Washington: A National Treasure." The National Portrait Gallery, Smithsonian Institution, has mounted this exhibition to tour the famous Lansdowne portrait painted by Gilbert Stuart in 1796. The painting has already visited four of eight venues across the country; the tour is made possible through the generosity of the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation of Las Vegas, NV.

George Washington, played by historical reenactor William Sommerfield, left Seattle on a cold, windy, 50-degree morning with four traveling companions: Carol Wyrick, education program director of the National Portrait Gallery, Mimi Gates, director of the Seattle Art Museum, and Jennifer Vary and Erika Lindsey, SAM staffers.

Climbing up into the mountains, surrounded by snow, George and company arrived at their first destination, the small town of George, population 500, and home of "The World's Largest Cherry Pie." George Washington was everywhere—on street signs, road signs, billboards, and even at the Phillips '76 station that proudly displayed a bronze bust in its parking lot. Mayor Elliot Kooy and his wife Debbie joined them for lunch at, where else but Martha's Inn, where baking secrets were shared.

Taking the stage at George Elementary School, Sommerfield as George Washington summoned several children forward. They learned to bow, curtsy, dance the minuet, plow a field, and even fence. Mimi Gates spoke to them about heroes and "she-heroes." And a mock press conference gave the kids a chance to question President Washington: "Do you have wooden teeth? Did you ever live in the White House? Were you hungry after the war? What do you think about our war with Iraq?" And of course, "Are you really George Washington?"

The tour continued on to the Moses Lake Museum and Art Center in Moses Lake and to St. George's School in Spokane. Everywhere President Washington commanded respect; his six-foot, three-inch frame and 18th-century manners somehow demanded it. Everywhere, heads turned and kids

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

were left wondering, "Was he real?"

The three-day tour came to a close at the Governor's Mansion in Olympia. And reminiscent of Washington, DC, in the spring, the cherry blossoms were in full bloom for the occasion. Joined by National Portrait Gallery Deputy Director Carolyn Carr and Lansdowne Project Manager Michael Fox, congressmen, and educators, the National Portrait Gallery presented the state of Washington with a reproduction of the Lansdowne portrait. Governor Gary Locke declared March 26, 2003, Washington State Education Day. And for one last time, there beneath the cherry trees, the legacy of George Washington came to life. Then it was off to the airport and back to reality. But we can't help wondering, "Does George Washington also fly in costume?"



Actor William Sommerfield and fifth-grader Clay Cararelli take up fencing



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.

"Jelly Belly" George: Wow! What a Sweet Deal!

It wasn't the Pied Piper of Hamelin leading the way at the Seattle Art Museum (SAM) on July 2, 2003. It was a fife and drum corps, but the 50 kids gathered in the lobby followed the leader just the same. The excitement: a four-foot-square portrait of George Washington made entirely of jelly beans. The question: How many beans make up the portrait? The mission, should you decide to accept it: compare the famous Lansdowne portrait of George Washington to the Jelly Belly portrait, without sampling a single bean!

The jelly bean portrait is part of an original series designed by San Francisco artist Peter Rocha. Working from photographs, this self-proclaimed "king of jelly bean art" captures the famous faces through rough pencil drawings. He then paints a tight color composition and finishes his unusual work by applying a mosaic of Jelly Belly beans. Favorites in the growing collection include portraits of Elvis Presley, Abraham Lincoln, Martin Luther King Jr., the Statue of Liberty, and the American bald eagle.

Thanks to SAM and the Jelly Belly Candy Co. for sponsoring the event and treating everyone to goody bags of jelly beans and a GW pin. What a sweet deal!

Ah yes, the answer: 10,008 Jelly Belly beans.

SOME PIE!

George, Washington, is the home of the world's largest cherry pie, which is eight feet square. The pie is baked each July 4 and served to the public by the Georgettes, a local ladies' club.

CRUST:

159 lbs. flour
72 lbs. shortening
salt to taste
water to
right consistency

FILLING:

100 gallons cherries
200 lbs. sugar
75 c. tapioca
2 c. almond extract
1½ c. red food coloring

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. His friends urged him to return to Virginia and “show his face,” fearing that he would lose the election. But he chose to stay with his men, and was still successful in winning a seat in the House.

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 appealed for more supplies, but has not been successful. In the meantime, General Washington struggles alongside his men, while his political enemies threaten to remove his power. Some critics feel that others are better suited to lead the Continental army.



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

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. 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.

Washington Unanimous Pick for President at Convention!

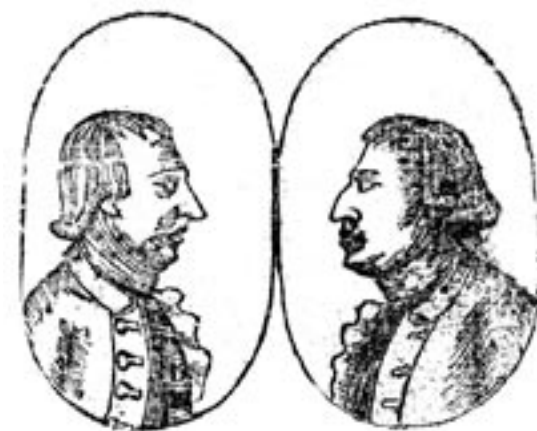
NEW YORK, 1789 (AP)—After months of debate to establish our new American government, the first official election was held on February 4, 1789. George Washington received all 69 electoral votes! Washington, who will be inaugurated on April 30 of this year, accepted the presidency, even though he wished 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 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 could be difficult; there are debates over the interpretation of the Constitution. Secretary of the Treasury Alexander Hamilton, who helped create the National Bank and the National Mint, will continue to work with the President. Edmund Randolph will replace Thomas Jefferson as secretary of state.

Whiskey Rebellion Shakes 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: “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 they will advance into Pennsylvania shortly.



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

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.

The Patriot Papers

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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.

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Smithsonian
National Portrait Gallery

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

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, George 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.

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 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.



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

WANTED

A MILLER, who is a white Man, for a common Gristmill within a Mile of *Williamsburg*, to whom good Wages will be given.



SAMUEL COOKE.
Petersburg, *February* 12, 1772

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
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

Did You Know...?

- Washington came from a blended family, having two older stepbrothers and one stepsister; he was the eldest of the children by his father’s second wife.
- 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.

Possessions

Today, most of us own many more things than we really need to live on. When Washington 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?

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.

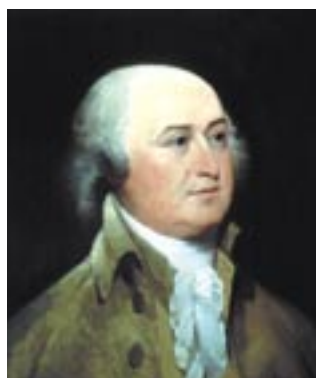
**Editor's note—We apologize in advance for any improprieties, insults, or slanderous remarks on the part of our correspondents. They are, at times ill-mannered, sometimes indiscreet, and, at all times, want of wit.*

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

“Elective Highness”

—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.”

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.”



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

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.”

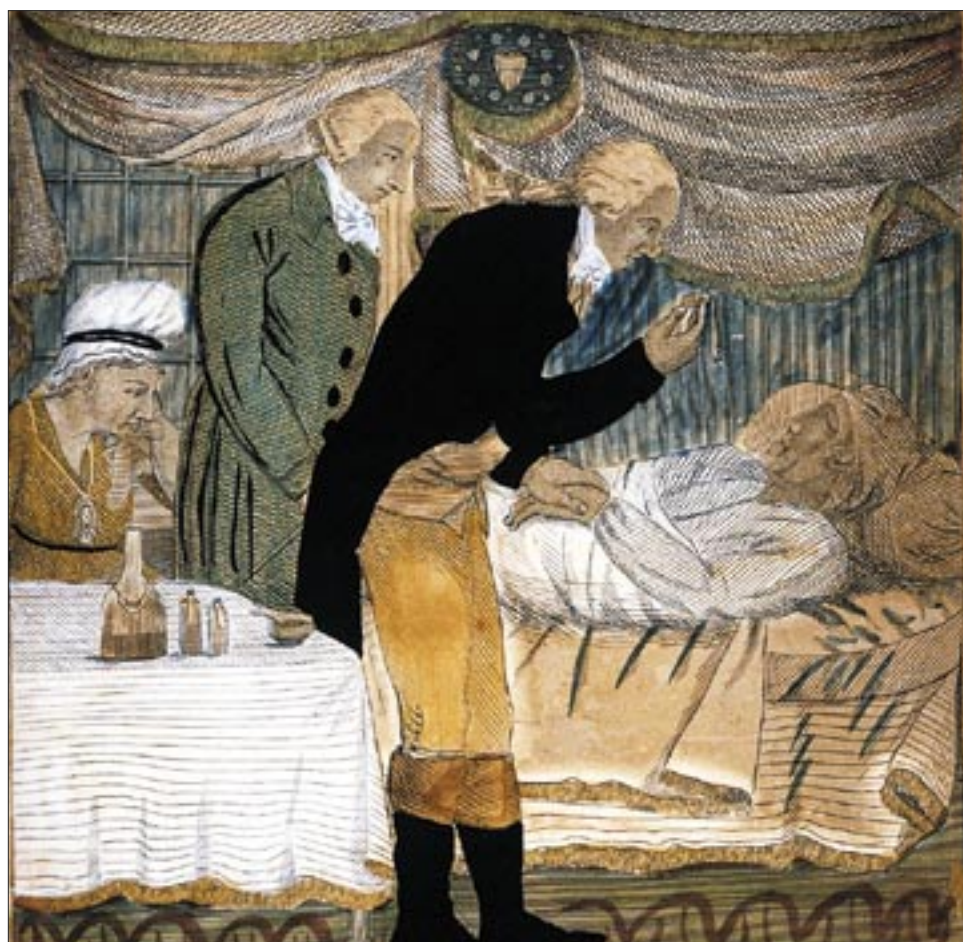
George Washington Dies at 67

After riding outside during very bad weather last Thursday and Friday, George Washington became ill on Saturday, December 14. An infection known as epiglottitis gave him a sore throat, fever, and difficulty breathing.

Doctors tried a practice called bloodletting: they made small cuts on his arm to take out blood. They hoped to relieve the pressure in his throat so he would be able to breathe better. Unfortunately, bloodletting did not help. Doctors also gave him many different fluids to gargle or swallow, including a mixture of vinegar, molasses, and butter. None of these cures helped the former President breathe easier.

His friend Tobias Lear wrote that Washington grew calm late in the evening, checked his own pulse, and then died peacefully in his bed. His wife Martha was with him, as well as several servants, doctors, and friends.

An elaborate funeral is planned for Wednesday, December 18, including gun salutes and a procession.



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

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?

I INTEND
to leave the
COLONY
soon.

THOMAS
HOGG

*Philadelphia Porter,
Beer, and Cyder*



The President with No Teeth!

When George Washington became the first President of the United States in 1783, he had only one of his teeth left in his mouth. As a boy, he had cracked walnut shells with his teeth and, as a result, many of them fell out before he was thirty! Over the years, Washington wore several sets of false teeth. Even though many people today believe that these teeth were made out of wood, there is no proof that he ever had wooden teeth. His dentures were made of many things. They were often a combination of human teeth, animal teeth, and ivory. They were put together with wire and a spring, which allowed the dentures to open and close. Throughout his life, Washington had trouble speaking, chewing food, and smiling. The false teeth could be painful and they sometimes made his cheeks and lips puff out. Fortunately, modern dentistry now allows painless smiles for even the greatest of walnut lovers.



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 think that medicine during the colonial era was crude and painful. 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 received?

Colonial medicine was based on European medical methods and theories. No one 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. To achieve this balance, Washington's doctors bled him several times. They may have thought that removing extra blood would lessen the swelling in his throat. Unfortunately they took so much blood that it was hard for Washington's body to fight the illness.

Doctors also made Washington gargle with mixtures of 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, and he died peacefully.

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 alone would have weakened Washington enough to kill him.



MISS FAITH PROCTOR

Faith Goes Underground

—BY J. K. PULLES

Hello again everyone! Faith Proctor here to tell you about another one of my amazing adventures in the modern world. Most recently I traveled to an underground world run by a mysterious and unseen god.

Several weeks ago my cousin Melody asked me if I would like to go to the mall.

Now being thoroughly familiar with the mall and all of its wonderful shops, I agreed to the trip. Melody explained to me that her mother was not able to drive us in the automobile so we would have to travel by another means of transportation. Leaving the house, we walked down the street and after several blocks came upon a mysterious staircase descending down into the earth! “What is this?” I asked. “It’s the subway,” Melody answered. “A subway?” I questioned skeptically. “Is that your word for a root cellar? I don’t like root cellars—they’re damp and musty and filled with spiders.” “No,” laughed Melody, “a subway is an underground train system . . . for people.” “A train that runs under the ground? That’s just crazy!” “Trust me Faith. Let’s go and you can see for yourself!”

Slowly, I descended the stairs with Melody, certain that at any moment I would come face to face with a large, hairy, city-sized modern spider—modern spiders who probably carried

weapons and lay in wait for silly girls who thought they were going to the “subway.” How could Melody do this to me?

“Melody,” I began pleading, “please don’t feed me to the giant spiders!” “What are you talking about?” Melody laughed. “There are no giant spiders. Please trust me, we are almost there and then you’ll see.”

Descending the last few stairs, I braced myself for the worst, and gasped. “A whole new world!” I exclaimed. People were everywhere! There were small stations where a person could buy fruits and vegetables, clothing, flowers, beverages, and even jewelry. I began running around, looking at all the amazing things. Wonderful paintings hung on the wall, obviously done by important artists of the underground world. Some artwork on the wall—artwork that my parents would never approve of—also contained bad words, but obviously in this world the artists were well respected.

Catching up with me, Melody grabbed my hand and said, “Let’s go, Faith. We don’t want to miss the next train.” We approached a small, clear enclosure. An inhabitant of the underground world sat inside. “Do they speak our language?” I asked. Melody laughed. “Yes, they speak English like we do. They are just like we are.” “Amazing,” I mused, “that they have learned our language and our ways of living down under the ground.” Melody looked at me strangely but said nothing. She pulled several dollars out of her pocket, then slid the money through a small window in the enclosure as she said, “Four, please.” The person in the box grabbed the money and gave us four shiny, round, metal coins in return. “They have their own system of money? That’s incredible.” Smiling Melody said, “Well, we exchange our money for their ‘tokens’ which we use to ride on the train.”

Next I followed Melody to a cement platform with benches where other people waited for the train. We sat on a bench

to wait, and it was then that I heard the voice of their god. A booming voice came from nowhere and proclaimed loudly, “The 2:07 southbound, destination Lollyland Park and Shopping Plaza, arriving now on track six.” “The voice of God!” I shouted. Springing off the bench, I threw my hands up and began shouting, “Please God, what do you want from us? We are peaceful visitors to your underground world. Do not harm us!” Grabbing at my sweater, Melody dragged me down to the bench. People around us were staring and laughing. “Please, Faith be quiet!” Melody scolded. “That is not the voice of God. It is simply an announcement for the next train.” “Are you sure we should not make a sacrifice of some sort just to be sure? I could leave the new lip gloss you gave me.”

Suddenly, I heard a giant roar coming from a tunnel at the end of the platform. Seconds later, a large silver train whooshed forward out of the tunnel and with screeching brakes stopped directly in front of us. Doors in the center of each car split apart. Melody grabbed my arm, and we pressed into the car with the rest of the crowd. One unfortunate woman’s purse caught in the door. “Please stand clear of the doors, please stand clear of the doors,” boomed their god, and the doors slammed open. “Move to the center of the train.” The doors slammed shut. “There is another train directly behind us. Please stand clear of the doors.” The doors slammed open. Obviously their god was angry now. I stood clear of the door. I shoved to the center of the car. I grabbed the metal pole above my head, hung on, and prayed to my own god. The voice spoke again. “This is the 2:07 southbound to Lollyland Park and Shopping Plaza. Next stop, Washington Street Station.” And then, just as quickly as it had arrived, the train wooshed off again, with one very nervous but excited new passenger onboard.

In Other Words...

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

RESPECTFULLY BASED ON *THE RULES OF CIVILITY*

—BY MARLA MAIDEN

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 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 assist 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,
We have assigned seats in my second period geometry class. I am alphabetically challenged in being seated beside the “class clown.” He makes so much noise that I

can’t concentrate. This class is already difficult for me, but I don’t want to be a tattletale. What should I do?

It is highly inconsiderate for your clownish classmate to encroach on your time to angle with angles. Tactfully remind him that his behavior is inappropriate.

Rule 4: In the presence of others, sing not to yourself with a humming noise; nor drum with your fingers or feet.

Mistress Goody,

At my school, it is the latest trend to wear your jeans and tees with holes and frayed seams. Everyone is dressing this way, but my mother refuses to allow me. I feel totally uncool.

Heed your mother’s wise instruction. A trend may triumph for a mere season, but a well-dressed person will adhere to this simple maxim:

Rule 51: Wear not your clothes, foul, ripped or dusty, but see to it that they be brushed once every day at least, and take heed that you approach not to any uncleanness.

Mistress Goody,

My best friend Valerie takes so much time doing her hair and deciding on her clothes that we are late for everything. We never see all of a movie or make it to a party on time. How can I ask her to speed it up?

Do impress on vain Valerie that beauty fades,

while some friendships can last forever:

Rule 54: Play not the peacock, looking everywhere about you to see if you be well decked, if your shoes fit well, if your stockings sit neatly, and your clothes appear handsomely.

Mistress Goody,

I so wanted a fish tank filled with exotic fish that I begged my parents for one. They agreed reluctantly to this expensive gift, on the condition that I assume sole responsibility for its upkeep. I have realized, however, that I don’t really like the fish. They are smelly, slimy, and kind of boring. I don’t like cleaning the tank, and I often forget to feed them. What do I do?

You must bear the burden of these living possessions, or have the courage to admit that you need help. This brings to mind some very sage advice:

Rule 82: Undertake not what you cannot perform. Be careful to keep your promises.



MISTRESS GOODY





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 fireplace 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, 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*.

Philadelphia, July 13, 1793

RICKETTS'S AMPHITHEATRE. Word that the President and his family were to attend a performance of Mr. John Bill Ricketts'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



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

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, 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.

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. (See poetry box, upper right.)

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 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.*

We take no responsibility for the quality of the work herein. GOOD POETRY SOUGHT.
Submit to PatriotPapers@npg.si.edu

Will the Real George W. Please Stand Up?

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



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.

Check local venues for details.

EDITOR'S CHOICE:

"All the World's a Stage": Red Land High Proves "That's What Friends Are For"

Students Raise \$6,500 in One Week for Billy Spong



Too often the work of a teacher goes unrecognized. The hours are long, the pay is low, the food is lousy, and students are stingy with compliments. If they like you, they don't cause trouble. If they don't, they do. But one dedicated Pennsylvania teacher did receive a substantial "payback" that will long be remembered.

William Benjamin (Bill) Spong III teaches English, journalism, and speech at Red Land High School, located in a rural area called Etters on the outskirts of Harrisburg, PA. An alumnus himself, he has taught there since the fall of 1994. In 1999 his wife Denise gave birth to a very special little boy, William Benjamin (Billy) Spong IV. Just 15 hours after birth, Billy suffered a massive heart attack that caused irreparable damage to his nervous system. Just six months later, at the Kennedy-Kreeger Children's Center in Baltimore, he

was diagnosed with a very rare form of cerebral palsy known as chorea, the youngest child ever to be diagnosed, and the doctoring began. With little ability to control his muscles, Billy's development was severely delayed. At the age of three, he was just starting to sit up; he does not talk. It was then the Spongs heard of a new European therapy being offered in Detroit. Developed for children with movement disabilities, it involves wearing a special suit that forces the muscles to work. Billy has made two trips to Detroit for this special therapy, and already he has started to crawl, can push buttons, and is even trying to stand. Unfortunately, the cost of travel and treatment is high; a trip to Detroit with therapy runs about \$10,000.

To help with the considerable cost of this long-distance therapy, the teachers and most of the school's 1,200 students at Red Land High thought of a way to "Pledge It Forward" and help out. Under the direction of teacher Alison Gonce, the students mounted a talent show like no other. When the call went out for auditions, everyone answered. Seventy-two students in 42 acts auditioned, 25



Billy's buddies help "Pledge It Forward" through flight, fantasy, and fun



acts were chosen, and the tickets went on sale. In just one week, they sold out 1,000 seats. Local businesses also got involved, donating money and prizes for an auction.

The show included everything from dance to a violin concerto to a black-belt karate act that included the breaking of cinder blocks! The winners—sisters Krista and Karlyn Kerney—performed a mime to "I Believe I Can Fly" and received a check for \$500. But the real winner that night was probably Billy. In just one week, the students had raised \$6,500 and they presented a check to Billy, his parents, and his baby sister, while actors and audience sang "That's What Friends Are For." Some of the money will buy Billy a special walker; the remainder will go toward the purchase of an electric wheelchair. For Bill and Denise Spong, it was a show of support they will never forget. And as for Billy, he's just wondering how fast he'll be able to race in an electric wheelchair.

Gardening and English: Side by Side

When English as a Second Language (ESL) students planted flowers in front of College Place Middle School in Lynnwood, Washington, few expected that the volunteer project would become part of the curriculum. The kids had paid for the flowers themselves. But when they asked to plant a second garden, teacher Merilee Bengtsson asked the Parent Club for funds and extended the project into a lesson plan. Soon students and parents planted side by side. Now the effort has expanded to include Master Gardeners and a unit of lessons for science, mapmaking, and math, as well as English. Bengtsson and the Master Gardener volunteers hope the lessons teach the kids to make gardens both beautiful and environmentally sound.

One young African boy, who began the year speaking only a few



Rita Kandybina from Russia, José Beltran from Mexico, and Salvador Peña Torres plant a clematis in the Peace Garden at their school.

words of English, has improved his English along with his gardening skills. "When I plant the flower, I feel great [but] I was so surprised to put the gloves on my hands." He had planted flowers before, but never with gloves.

"This project has become a focus of community spirit and school pride," said Bengtsson, "especially for students who sometimes have difficulty fitting into mainstream school activities."

FREEDOM—Captured on Film

12-Year-Old Thy Vu Wins Contest

Challenged to illustrate how "Independent Courts Protect Our Liberties," contestants in the 2003 Images of Freedom Student Photography Contest ranged from middle school through high school. Yet it was a 12-year-old who captured first prize. Thy Vu's portrayal, *A Pure Court Thinking about Freedom*, made her the youngest student to ever win the contest. Jim Landman, associate director of the American Bar Association's Division of Public Education and organizer of the contest, remarked that the theme for this year was particularly difficult, making Vu's accomplishment even more impressive. In April, Vu traveled to Washington, DC, to receive her award and tour the Capitol.

Thy Vu began drawing cartoons at a young age to distract herself from the bullying that took place at her school in Vietnam. Now a seventh-grader at College Place Middle School in Lynnwood, Washington,



Vu draws from real life to express her observations, hopes, and dreams. Although she still enjoys drawing, she no longer uses it as an escape. Vu credits her mother, also an artist, for encouraging her interest and teaching her about the use of light and nature in her work.

It was this exceptional use of light and nature that

the panel of judges noted in Vu's winning entry. The photograph captures her classmate Mary Yilma set against a background of flag and foliage in blinding white, holding a gavel and a replica of the torch from the Statue of Liberty. "The girl in white represents purity," explained Vu, "because judges should make pure decisions [and] follow only the law, so we will have freedom. No one has the right to influence them." This picture illustrates the need for judges to make decisions based on the law, not on personal convictions or politics.

Pledge It Forward—Self to Service

A Challenge from *The Patriot Papers*

—F. A. PULLES, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The 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. We'll feature your stories and photos 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.