

THE WHITE HOUSE

June 2, 1999

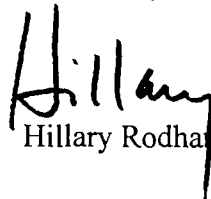
Elizabeth Stephens Campbell
111 Center Street
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

Dear Elizabeth:

Thank you for your letter. I'm very proud of the work that the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association has done to prepare for the bicentennial commemoration and happy that they have invited me to take part in a televised tour of the Mansion. I've asked a member of my staff to contact Jim Rees to discuss the possibility of my participation.

With warmest regards, I remain

Sincerely yours,



Hillary Rodham Clinton

cc: Patti Solis Doyle
Ellen Lovell

*Please
let me know
about following*

ELIZABETH STEPHENS CAMPBELL
LITTLE ROCK

May 24, 1999

Mrs. Hillary Rodham Clinton
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Hillary,

I recently learned that the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association had the wonderful opportunity to host you and the spouses of the nation's Governors at a luncheon in February. My good friend, Frances Buchanan, is on the Board of Regents at Mount Vernon. They were raving over your visit and your obvious enthusiasm for their mission and the work they have done. The Association spent years preparing Mount Vernon for 1999 – the Bicentennial of George Washington's death – and they have received tremendous accolades from the public and the media for all of their accomplishments.

I understand that as part of Mount Vernon's Bicentennial commemoration, *Good Morning America* is very interested in doing a live broadcast of their entire morning show from the Mount Vernon estate. Mount Vernon would like you to be present and participate in a televised tour of the Mansion, with Diane Sawyer and a Washington scholar. I know that you have demonstrated a great deal of interest and support for both preservation and history, and an association with George Washington, and the wonderful women who have restored and preserved his home.

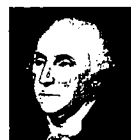
Please let me know if I can follow through with Frances, or if you would prefer, a member of your staff could talk directly to Mount Vernon's Director, Jim Rees, who can be reached at 703-799-8650.

I continue to read with excitement about your plans for the future.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Elizabeth Stephens Campbell', written in a cursive style.

Elizabeth Stephens Campbell



George Washington's Mount Vernon, P.O. Box 110, Mount Vernon, VA 22121

Background Information for the
Grand Opening of George Washington's
Bicentennial on Monday, February 15, 1999

Contact: Sally McDonough
703-799-8507



PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

George Washington's
MOUNT VERNON
E S T A T E & G A R D E N S

SALLY A. MCDONOUGH

Manager of Media Relations

PO Box 110, Mount Vernon, Virginia 22121

Tel: 703 799 8607, Fax: 703 799 8609

E-mail: smcdonough@mountvernon.org

www.mountvernon.org

PRESIDENT SCHEDULING REQUEST

November 13, 1998

☐ ACCEPT

☐ REGRET

☐ PENDING

TO: Stephanie Streett, Director of Scheduling

FROM: Melanne Verveer, Chief of Staff, Office of the First Lady

REQUEST: To have the President and First Lady attend the official opening of *Rediscovering Mount Vernon: 100 Objects for George Washington's Bicentennial* on February 15th, President's Day.

PURPOSE: To bring national attention to Mount Vernon and kick off a year-long national celebration of the life and legacies of America's first president during 1999, The Bicentennial of George Washington's Death.

BACKGROUND: Mount Vernon is asking the President and First Lady to officially open Mount Vernon for its year-long *George Washington Bicentennial 1999* program, and to be the first visitors to take the "Only in 1999" Bicentennial tour. In this year, the bicentennial of Washington's death, more than 100 period objects are being returned to the estate, a new museum gallery is being unveiled, the restored servants' hall will be open for public tours, and a new multimedia show on George Washington will be unveiled.

With the exception of Mr. Clinton, all living Presidents have visited Mount Vernon. Unfortunately a scheduled visit to the plantation this Fall was canceled due to weather.

We expect the President to also be invited to Mount Vernon in November, along with Presidents Ford and Carter, to lay a wreath on Washington's tomb on the actual anniversary of his death.

DATE & TIME: Monday, February 15th, President's Day
10:00 am- 11:15 am

DURATION: 1 hr. 15 min.

LOCATION: Mount Vernon

PARTICIPANTS: The President and First Lady
Washington Descendants
Washington Scholars
Representatives of the Preservation Community including representatives from the Smithsonian, Tudor Place, Kenmore, The National Trust for Historic Preservation and the National Park Service

REMARKS REQUIRED: Yes

MEDIA: Open, will include both national and international press
Asking for live coverage of the event by *The Today Show* or *Good Morning America*

CONTACT: MaryEllen McGuire, Assistant to the Deputy Chief of Staff,
Office of the First Lady (x62016)

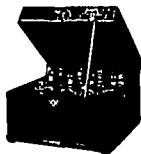
703 Sally
#799
8607

My copy

Note from Alice (Ellen):

POTUS + FIOTUS will also
be invited to the actual
bicentennial of his death
ceremony (Nov 17)

- all living Pres will most
likely be going so this is
the preferable event
(not likely Pres would go to
Mt. Vernon twice)



George Washington
— 1999 —
B I C E N T E N N I A L

December 30, 1998

Ms. Mary Ellen McGuire
Assistant to the Deputy Chief of Staff
The Office of the First Lady
The White House
Room 101
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mary Ellen:

It was wonderful to chat with you yesterday regarding participation of the President and First Lady at the grand opening of the *George Washington Bicentennial* at Mount Vernon on **Monday, February 15, 1999**, the official observance of Washington's Birthday/Presidents' Day. I have attached the details of the morning event for your review and presentation to the President's scheduling office.

Knowing that it will take some time to secure final details of the President and First Lady's schedules, and understanding that there is always a possibility that their schedules may change at the last minute, we are hoping to gain approval for a Presidential endorsement of the invitation. I have enclosed a draft invitation, however, we look to you and your legal department for the exact wording. We would like to deliver the invitation to cabinet level officials, U.S. Governors, and to all members of Congress in two weeks and therefore seek your approval by January 7, if possible.

Invitations to participate in the program have also been issued to former Presidents Ford, Carter and Bush. The Governor and First Lady Gilmore of Virginia plan to join us as well. We hope to determine the details of the speaking program by the week of January 11.

We expect hundreds of visitors to join us for the program and national media attention is counted upon as well (Presidents' Day celebrations at Mount Vernon traditionally deliver national media attention without a VIP program). Once the 1999 Birthday program of speakers is secure and if the President and First Lady plan to join us, we will work with The White House press office to target the appropriate media and aggressively work towards national coverage. Early indicators show interest from *Good Morning America*, *CNN*, *Home & Garden Network* and *C-Span*.

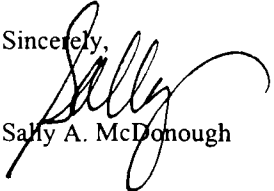
The *Bicentennial of George Washington* officially kicks-off at Mount Vernon on February 15 we had some programs open this fall. To date, the media coverage has been terrific including November 23rd coverage on *The Today Show*. I have also enclosed a few Bicentennial print clips to demonstrate the potential of this event as a national news and feature story.

Additionally, we briefly discussed the possibility of involving the First Lady in a media "first tour" of the Mansion. In preliminary conversations with PBS and other national outlets, we feel that this would be of great interest and a wonderful tie-in to Mrs. Clinton's *Saving America's Treasures* program. I have attached a press release that describes the 100-object tour (see press kit). Of course, there are many natural tie-ins for broadcast of such an event: February (President's Day); April (with a gardening focus); July 4th; and December (the death of Washington). Scheduling from your office as well as from the chosen broadcast house will dictate the broadcast timeframe. We can discuss this in further detail with your press office.

As promised, I have enclosed the background information from the scheduled September Presidential visit that was cancelled due to rain and a Bicentennial press kit. This should provide the necessary background information.

I look forward to working with you and Shirley Sagawa on this project (Charlene Duryea will be thrilled to be working with Shirley). I can be reached at 703-799-8607 or by email at smcdonough@mountvernon.org. It will be a wonderful occasion for the Clintons to host this kick-off celebration in honor of the First President, on President's Day -- during their inaugural visit to Washington's beloved Mount Vernon.

Sincerely,


Sally A. McDonough

DRAFT



*Under the patronage of
The President and First Lady of the United States*

*The Mount Vernon Ladies' Association
requests the pleasure of your company
at the inaugural celebration*

*of the
George Washington Bicentennial 1999*

*Ten o'clock in the morning
Monday, February 15
The Mount Vernon Estate*

R.s.v.p. by enclosed card

Business Attire

Embossed Gold Border

DRAFT

Schedule of Events

9:45 a.m. Suggested arrival time. Please enter the private Hearst Gate (map enclosed)

**10:00 a.m. Opening Commemorative Ceremonies
Featuring Remarks by our Nation's
Most Prominent Elected Officials**

- Master of Ceremonies Barry Bostwick
- The United States Navy Band, premiering
"The George Washington Bicentennial March"
- Patriotic Salute by the United States Army's
Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps and the
Commander in Chief's Guard

**10:30 a.m. Premiere of Bicentennial Exhibits and
Programs**

- Unveiling of the Mansion featuring
200 period objects on loan
- Opening of the New Museum
- Debut of "Washington is No More,"
a dramatic multimedia presentation

Private Reception in the Cunningham Building

The ceremony will take place outdoors, rain or shine
For information, please contact the Director's Office at 703/799-8650

*Special Experiences at Mount Vernon
to Commemorate the
George Washington Bicentennial*

DRAFT



IN THE MANSION

Two hundred different objects from the life and times of Washington will bring new vitality to the most famous preservation project in America. Historical characters will make each tour a revelation of life in the 18th century.

A NEW MUSEUM

More than 100 priceless treasures, ranging from Washington's Last Will and Testament to the desk he used as president, will be unveiled in a dramatic new setting. Also featuring Martha Washington's most valuable jewelry and a host of Washington's most important letters and books.



WASHINGTON IS NO MORE

This unique piece of "mood theater" captures the final moments of Washington's life, as doctors struggled unsuccessfully to rescue the stoic hero. As Washington utters his final words – "tis well" – a family and a nation are cast into mourning.

PLUS: A special guided tour which follows the path of Washington's funeral procession, the opening of the Servants' Hall adjacent to the Mansion, and the announcement of a new series of nighttime musical salutes to "The Father of Our Country."

**THE NEW "ONLY IN 1999" EXPERIENCE
WILL OFFICIALLY OPEN ON FEBRUARY 15, 1999**

EVENT PROPOSAL FOR THE WHITE HOUSE

Consideration of the Participation of the President and the First Lady

A MILLENNIUM PROJECT : *Saving America's Treasures*

- EVENT: Official opening of *Rediscovering Mount Vernon: 100 Objects for George Washington's Bicentennial*, the exhibit of rare 18th-century artifacts in the Mansion, to be opened to the public through February 2000 -- in concert with George Washington's Birthday Celebrations.
- EVENT DATE: Monday, February 15, 1999, Presidents' Day, and the official observation of George Washington's 267th Birthday.
- EVENT TIME: 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. (maximum inclusive)
- OBJECTIVES:
- To bring national attention to the White House Millennium Project by focusing on the *first* of America's architectural treasures to be saved (Mount Vernon's preservation was begun in 1853).
 - To bring national attention to Mount Vernon as the premiere example of historic preservation. In the 1850s, American women rallied to preserve the home of the "father of the nation." Schoolchildren gave pennies, nickels and dimes to save Mount Vernon, and benefits were held across the nation. Since that time, Mount Vernon has welcomed some 70 million people, opening 365 days a year for the benefit of the American public.
 - To kick-off a year-long national celebration of the life and legacies of America's first president during 1999, *The Bicentennial of George Washington's Death*.
 - To celebrate and honor the bicentennial of Washington's Last Birthday.
- SYNOPSIS: Mount Vernon invites the President and the First Lady to officially open Mount Vernon for its year-long *George Washington Bicentennial 1999* program, and to be the first visitors to take the "Only in 1999" Bicentennial tour. Mount Vernon, the second-most visited historic home in the country (second only to The White House) will take a giant step closer to authenticity, as more than 100 period objects are returned to the estate for this Bicentennial year. In addition, a new museum gallery will be unveiled (featuring items from the last decade of Washington's life), the restored servants' hall will be open for public tours, and a new multimedia show on George Washington will be unveiled.

The 100 fascinating objects, borrowed from private and public collections across the globe, provide a unique opportunity for participating individuals and public institutions to join Mount Vernon in its celebration of Washington's life and legacies. As part of the opening ceremony, representatives from organizations like the Smithsonian, Tudor Place, Kenmore, The National Trust for Historic Preservation, the National Park Service, and the Fairfax County Circuit Court will commemorate Washington with the ceremonial "giving" of their objects. It is hoped that the President and First Lady will also present, on loan, a Mount Vernon or George Washington object from The White House Collection. Working with the curators at The White House, Mount Vernon would help identify an item that would be incorporated in the 1999 exhibit for visitors to enjoy throughout the anniversary year.

Following is a suggested itinerary for the President and First Lady:

- SCHEDULE:
- 10:00 a.m.** Outdoor program on the west front (bowling green side), including remarks by the President; an exchange between the President and "George Washington"; interviews by "kid journalists"; musical tribute (30 minutes).

Patriotic performance on the bowling green, provided by the U.S. Army Old Guard Fife & Drum Corps and the Commander-in-Chief's Guard (approx. 30 minutes)
 - 10:30 a.m.** Opening of *Rediscovering Mount Vernon* exhibit with the President and First Lady "cutting the ribbon" at the front door of the Mansion. They would be the very first to take the new tour. If possible, they could present the ceremonial loan from The White House Collection.
 - 11:00 a.m.** ANNUAL EVENT: Presidential Wreathlaying at Washington's Tomb (15 minutes).

We intend to invite live coverage by *The Today Show* or *Good Morning America*, and to make accommodations for all members of the media. The VIP audience would include Washington scholars, representatives from the greater preservation community, members of patriotic organizations, and Washington Family descendants. A respected public relations firm, The Martin Agency of Richmond, Virginia has been enlisted to manage a national media campaign that ensures widespread international coverage.

CONTACT AT MOUNT VERNON:

Sally McDonough, Media Relations Manager
Tel: 703/799-8607;
Fax: 703/799-8609;
e-mail: smcdonough@mountvernon.org

Presidents Visit Mount Vernon

JOHN ADAMS

WILLIAM HOWARD TAFT

THOMAS JEFFERSON

WOODROW WILSON

JAMES MADISON

WARREN G. HARDING

JAMES MONROE

CALVIN COOLIDGE

JOHN QUINCY ADAMS

HERBERT C. HOOVER

ANDREW JACKSON

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

JAMES BUCHANAN

HARRY S. TRUMAN

ABRAHAM LINCOLN

DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER

RUTHERFORD B. HAYES

JOHN F. KENNEDY

GROVER CLEVELAND

LYNDON BAINES JOHNSON

BENJAMIN HARRISON

RICHARD M. NIXON

WILLIAM MCKINLEY

GERALD FORD

THEODORE ROOSEVELT

RONALD REAGAN

GEORGE BUSH



Calendar of Events for Mount Vernon's *George Washington Bicentennial 1999*

The George Washington Bicentennial 1999 kicks-off at Mount Vernon on Washington's Birthday with unprecedented pageantry surrounding the grand opening of *Only in 1999* programs, exhibits and tours across the estate. Programs and events available *Only in 1999* are noted.

George Washington's Birthday

February 15, 1999 – Annual free day

Thousands of visitors from around the world will join in the celebration of Washington's 267th birthday at Mount Vernon, which will officially kick-off the *Only in 1999* commemorative year. The morning program will include the announcement of Mount Vernon's *George Washington Bicentennial 1999* programs with VIP guests from the Administration and other prominent institutions across the country, the traditional wreath-laying ceremony at Washington's tomb and the pageantry of the Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps and the Commander-in-Chief's Guard.

Mount Vernon as It Was:

One Hundred Objects from the World and Times of George Washington

February 15, 1999 through December 31, 1999 – *Only in 1999*

An all new Mansion experience brings together 100 period-artifacts and works of art – more than half of which belonged to George Washington – and places them in their proper context in the Mansion during the *George Washington Bicentennial 1999*. The *Only in 1999* collection comes from institutions and private individuals throughout the country as gifts, loans or purchases, or from Mount Vernon's own storage vaults. During *Mount Vernon As It Was*, the estate will resemble, as never before, the private retreat that Washington knew before his death two hundred years ago.

An All New Mansion Tour

February 15, 1999 through December 31, 1999 – *Only in 1999*

The Mansion tour, incorporating the *Only in 1999* collection, reveals the private retreat of Washington as it appeared during his lifetime. Historic interpreters will relate stories specifically about the 100 objects from the world and times of George Washington. See and hear an account of the lamp by which Washington penned his Inaugural Address. Learn about when Thomas Jefferson visited Mount Vernon in order to persuade a reluctant Washington to serve a second term as president. And, for the first time, view a beautifully decorated table display in the Large Dining Room featuring a 16-place setting of Sevres porcelain purchased for the Presidential household by Washington from the Ambassador of France. Meet 18th-century costumed characters who reveal first-hand accounts and anecdotal personal stories about the Washingtons and their life at Mount Vernon. *Only in 1999* the 22- roomed Mansion will be exhibited as if the family and friends were still in residence.

Mount Vernon Museum

Opening on February 15, 1999

A complete renovation of the Mount Vernon Museum will coincide with a special series of bicentennial exhibitions and will feature an all-new exhibit focusing on the last decade of the first President's life. A highlight of the newly refurbished museum will be an array of historic objects from Washington's presidential residence (originally housed in Philadelphia, the nation's second capital). See a number of exceptional objects, including the office's original whale-oil burning Argand lamp, fireplace mantle and carpet, loaned to Mount Vernon by The Smithsonian Institution, the Historical Society of Pennsylvania and other museums. Also featured in the opening exhibition will be Washington's Last Will and Testament, on loan from the Fairfax County Circuit Court (Virginia), and a one-of-a-kind terra-cotta bust of Washington cast in 1785 at Mount Vernon by the renowned French sculptor Jean-Antoine Houdon that has never left the premises.

Washington is No More

February 15, 1999 through December 31, 1999 – *Only in 1999*

A dramatic, multi-media show, staged in Mount Vernon's greenhouse, transports visitors back to the 18th century to "witness" the final hours of George Washington's life and the after math. Based on the detailed and moving account of Tobias Lear, Washington's trusted friend and secretary, the eight-minute presentation uses state-of-the-art technology to evoke this historic event. An usher, dressed in 18th-century mourning attire, beckons visitors to enter. The experience begins with the sound of gentle distant drumbeats, punctuated by the muffled sound of a woman mourning. Visitors become spectators to the intimate events surrounding the death of Washington and experience firsthand the momentous impact on the young country as it faced a new century without its founding father.

A New Guided Tour: Washington's Funeral Procession

February 15, 1999 through December 31, 1999 (Offered daily) – *Only in 1999*

The death of Washington in 1799 was an epochal event in American history, provides the theme for an *Only in 1999* guided walking tour. Visitors don black armbands and follow the path that Washington's funeral procession took to learn about those who attended the ceremony, peer into the old tomb, where Washington was originally laid to rest, and participate in a moving wreath-laying ceremony at his final resting place.

Celebration Nights at Mount Vernon: American Celebration in Music

April 2 through August 28, 1999 (Friday and Saturday, 5:30 - 8:00 p.m.) – *Only in 1999*

For the first time since 1976, Mount Vernon will remain open to the public during *Celebration Nights* to present a dynamic musical review titled, *An American Celebration in Music*. This live musical performance features American and patriotic music, a multimedia presentation and a narration honoring the character and leadership of Washington. The entire Mount Vernon Estate including special *Only in 1999* tours and exhibitions will be open during Celebration Nights with regular admission in effect. The program is every Friday and Saturday night, April 2 through August 28, 1999.

An American Musical Revue: In Remembrance of George Washington

April 3 through July 17, 1999 (Every Saturday at Noon) – *Only in 1999*

Enjoy award-winning choirs, bands, and orchestras performing patriotic tributes in honor of George Washington. Mount Vernon will host a different group, from across the nation, each Saturday for this special presentation only in 1999.

A Forest of Fifty

April 22-25, 1999 (Earth Day) – *Only in 1999*

Through a national competition, sponsored by Educational Field Services, Inc, the National Tree Trust and Mount Vernon, classrooms from across the country will collaborate and submit creative projects of all descriptions on Washington. A winning school from each state will be announced on Earth Day and their projects will be displayed on the estate. Students from each of the fifty winning schools will plant a heritage tree at Mount Vernon in the spring of 1999 to create a Forest of Fifty.

George Washington: Citizen Soldier

Saturday and Sunday, October 16-17, 1999 – *Only in 1999*

The United States Armed Services and Mount Vernon will commemorate Washington's career as an inspiring military leader and America's *first* Commander in Chief, by air, land and sea. Celebrated on the weekend prior to the anniversary of Washington's Victory at Yorktown, this event will be infused with patriotism and communicate the contributions of two centuries of Washington's matchless legacy of military service by performing both contemporary *and* historic military elements. The event includes: a schedule of musical performances including rousing concerts by divisions of the U.S. Armed Forces bands; battle demonstrations by the U.S. Army 3d Infantry; the Old Guard Fife & Drum Corps and the Commander-in-Chief's Guard; authentic encampments, with over 400 infantry and cavalry re-enactors from the Continental Line performing drills and interpreting camp life; U.S. Navy, U.S. Marine and Coast Guard vessels, contemporary and historic, at anchor in the Potomac River below the Mansion, flying their full colors and firing cannon salutes; honorary tributes to George Washington, including U.S. Air Force fly-overs, and artillery salutes from the infantry; a dramatic, ceremonial "changing of the guard" at Washington's Tomb; and outdoor programs with special guest speakers, such as the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

The Funeral

Saturday, December 18, 1999 – *Only in 1999*

An unprecedented event, the reenactment of Washington's funeral procession will dramatically and solemnly conclude a remarkable year of commemoration. The funeral will be re-created as a narrated, pageant beginning with the preparations and arrival of historically attired mourners including descendants of original mourners. A procession of colonial cavalry and infantry, cannons, a "riderless" horse, solemn music, family, friends and Masons will follow Washington's coffin -- authentically re-constructed -- as pallbearers carry it from the Mansion's large dining room. The procession will conclude with a re-creation of the original Episcopal and Masonic service and the closing of the newly-restored Old Tomb, Washington's original resting-place. Occurring on the eve of our own millenium, this event will remind every American of the enduring legacy of George Washington as a new century approaches.

Mount Vernon Bicentennial Activity Across the Country...

George Washington: The Architect

January 28 through July 5, 1999

This exhibition assembles some 90 artifacts, architectural drawings, manuscripts, and works of art to explore a little-known aspect of the life of George Washington: his practical accomplishments as a self-trained designer and architect, and his key role in molding the nation's new federal city into a grand public stage that would symbolize and reinforce the ideals of the new American Republic. This exhibit is organized and sponsored by The Octagon, the Museum of the American Architectural Foundation and the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association.

Treasures from Mount Vernon: George Washington Revealed

November 20, 1998 through May, 2000 – *Only in 1999* Traveling Exhibit

In an unprecedented national tour, *Mount Vernon: George Washington Revealed*, a number of priceless artifacts relating to the life of George Washington will travel from his Mount Vernon estate to cities throughout America. Combining period artifacts from Mount Vernon's unparalleled collection with a selection of objects from other private and public institutions, an intricate scale model of Mount Vernon, video presentations and photographic panels, the exhibition brings to life the "Father of His Country" and reveals Washington in all his humanity. Every object in the exhibit dates either to the lifetime of Washington or to the direct aftermath of his death, from the clothing he wore, portraits he sat for and swords he used to the letters that flowed from his quill pen. The show will open at The New-York Historical Society on November 20, 1998 and stay through February 22, 1999 before traveling to The Huntington Library, San Marino, California (March 16-June 6, 1999); The Virginia Historical Society, Richmond, Virginia (July 1-September 19, 1999); The Atlanta History Center, Atlanta, Georgia (October 14, 1998-January 6, 2000) and The Chicago Historical Society, Chicago, Illinois (January 28-April 23, 2000).

The exhibition and its national tour were organized by the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association, the oldest preservation organization in the United States, and made possible by Ford Motor Company.

Profile of a Patriot

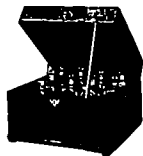
This traveling exhibition, organized and sponsored by the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association, includes 40 nineteenth-century engravings, lithographs and works on paper that capture significant events of George Washington's life while conveying the many ways in which artists shaped his legend.

The George Washington Bicentennial Community Program

October 1998 through February, 2000

Cities and towns across the country will honor George Washington by becoming official George Washington Bicentennial communities and celebrating four commemorative events on dates marking key events in his life. A few examples of the possible activities include:

- Town leaders will raise flags that have flown over Mount Vernon on special days that are proclaimed "George Washington Day."
- Community groups and school children will plant seeds or saplings descended from trees planted by Washington in the 1780s, and 150,000 students will receive a booklet distributed by the National Tree Trust about Washington's conservation efforts.
- School bands will play a new march, entitled "Salute to George Washington," composed by J. William Middendorf especially for the 1999 celebration.
- Composer Stephen Paulus will create a new symphony honoring Washington commissioned by members of the Society of Cincinnati and Mount Vernon, to be played by local orchestras.
- Municipalities around the country will officially proclaim themselves official George Washington Bicentennial Communities.
- A wide array of educational initiatives will take place in schools and communities nationwide.



George Washington
1999
B I C E N T E N N I A L

**George Washington's Mount Vernon presents an all
New and Only in 1999 experience to commemorate
The George Washington Bicentennial 1999**

*Over one hundred artifacts return, new museum opens, and estate features
New exhibitions, programs and events*

Mount Vernon, Virginia, February 15 through December 31, 1999: On Monday, February 15, 1999 at 9:00 A.M., the federal holiday honoring George Washington's birthday, officials and special guests at Mount Vernon will open the estate with a ribbon-cutting ceremony unveiling a newly furnished mansion, the most authentic presentation of the first president's home in 200 years. The home's new exhibition, *Mount Vernon as it Was*, will feature over 100 artifacts from the life and times of Washington, and the estate will launch an unprecedented array of new exhibits, programs and special events throughout the year to commemorate the *George Washington Bicentennial 1999*.

Mount Vernon as it Was: Over 100 Hundred Objects from the World and Times of Washington will feature Washington-owned and original Mount Vernon furnishings as well as 18th-century artifacts and works of art that authentically communicate the decorative presentation of the first president's home. This unparalleled search for objects by the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association is the culmination of years of research to find rare and one-of-a-kind objects located in private and public collections across the country. Cooperating with this first-ever loan event are the National Museum of American History (NMAH), the Smithsonian Institution, Tudor Place, the home of Martha Washington's granddaughter, Kenmore Plantation, the home of George Washington's sister, and the Clerk of the Court of Fairfax County.

George Washington outfitted Mount Vernon with objects he bought while in New York and Philadelphia and other specially ordered items from artisans including John Aitken of Philadelphia and Thomas Burling of New York. With all of the entertaining occurring at Mount Vernon, china, silver and glassware were in abundance at his plantation home.

The Mount Vernon Ladies' Association, the private non-profit group that owns and operates Mount Vernon, has an impressive collection ranging from silver and china to priceless one-of-a-kind Washington items such as his revolving presidential chair. In the mansion's collection, however, only 30% of the objects belonged to George Washington and the rest are from the 18th century period. In 1999, the mansion will resemble as never before the beloved private retreat that Washington knew at his death two hundred years ago.

The true highlight of the house tour is the Washington' master bedchamber. With the addition of several items, including the NMAH Chippendale-style easy chair and footstool and the Tudor Place double chest of drawers borrowed for the *Only in 1999* experience, the room where Washington died on December 14, 1799 will accurately reflect the inventory of the home conducted by the executors following his death. Other featured items returning to the mansion: musical instruments including an English flute and English guitar, Washington's Chinese export porcelain punch bowl, one of the earliest pieces of Washington porcelain, blue and white Canton china, a Washington family gaming table, and the earliest known piece of Mount Vernon furniture, c. 1740 bedstead.

The new items in the mansion allow the estate's educators to completely reintroduce Mount Vernon to the public. In addition to highlighting the returning objects, guides will share accounts from 18th-century visitors including words from Thomas Jefferson, and for the first time in its history, visitors to the estate will encounter first-person historical characters daily from the life and times of Washington, dressed in the appropriate period-attire. Promising to have at least two of these re-enactors daily, Mount Vernon hopes that the introduction of these characters will both entertain their 1999 visitors while educating them with contemporary accounts from those who knew Washington best.

The founders of the Association purchased the mansion and 200 acres in 1858 from the Washington family with only a handful of items left behind. The Association's collection, perhaps considered small by comparison to the Smithsonian is one of the best preserved history collections in the country, boasting over 15,000 objects, 22,000 books and manuscripts and over 2,500 prints and engravings. "I think we have come a long way in preservation of Washington's home and the presentation of Mount Vernon, but in 1999, in honor of his Bicentennial, we truly wanted to create a once-in-a-lifetime experience," says Mrs. Robert E. Lee IV (Carew), the Association's Regent. "Washington isn't being taught like he should be in schools and we needed to take on the responsibility of the Bicentennial to reintroduce the Founding Father to his nation."

Mount Vernon has not stopped the grand Bicentennial plans at the mansion's doors. Also introduced on February 15 will be the Association's newly renovated museum, a multi-media exhibition on the death of Washington, *Washington Is No More and Funeral Procession of Washington*, a 45-minute walking tour that retraces the steps of the funeral procession and informs visitors about the details of that monumental event.

The museum is a completely renovated 800-square foot structure featuring an exhibit on Washington's last decade. George Washington was the only president not to have lived at The White House, and according to educators at the estate and national surveys, many visitors do not know that George Washington first lived in New York and then in Philadelphia when he served his country as first president of the United States (1789-1797). The exhibit will feature items borrowed from the Freemasons of the Alexandria-Washington Lodge and other museums including the National Park Service and Adams National Historic, which will loan Washington's Farewell Address, annotated by Vice-President John Adams. Also featured will be select pages from Washington's Last Will and Testament, a 29-page document owned by the Fairfax County Circuit Courthouse that has rarely been exhibited to the public. Other highlights include a one-of-a-kind terra-cotta bust of George Washington completed in 1785 by Jean-Antoine Houdon, an acclaimed French sculptor commissioned by the Commonwealth of Virginia to create a life-size statue of Washington, and many other personal and rarely-seen objects, such as a portrait of Washington by Robert Edge Pine (1785), jewelry, books and manuscripts, Washington's sunglasses and decorative tableware.

Washington Is No More..., is an intimate visitor experience about the circumstances surrounding the last days of the first president's life. Using historical accounts of Washington's death, the eight-minute, fully automated computer-controlled piece of atmospheric "mood theater" captures the emotion of the dramatic event. Sarner International is one of Britain's leading creators of visitor attractions and heritage interpretation centers for museums and leisure sites across the globe, including award-winning VikingLand in Norway, and The Living Legend in Jersey. *Washington Is No More* is the company's North American debut.

National surveys confirm the already growing concern that Americans do not know their history. According to James Rees, Director of Mount Vernon, "It is a travesty how little we know about our country's history, its founding and what little we know about George Washington, the man who led our country to liberty. Not many of us can cite the accomplishments that earned Washington the title "Father of His Country" from his colleagues. It is a crisis and we see it everyday at Mount Vernon. This year, we had a well-spoken adult ask one of our guides, 'Where is the mountain?' Our guide, thinking she was referring to the Blue Ridge Mountains, began to provide directions when the visitor interrupted and said 'No, the mountain with all of the presidents' heads.' The visitor was obviously looking for South Dakota's Mount Rushmore, here in Virginia!"

Events and programs to look for in the coming months include *George Washington's Birthday* celebration (February 13, 14, 15); *Celebration Nights at Mount Vernon*, when Mount Vernon opens in the evening with a repeating musical review and with all of the *Only in 1999* programs available (Friday and Saturday evenings, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m., April 2 through August 28); *George Washington: Citizen Soldier*, a celebration of Washington the military hero and leader (Saturday and Sunday, October 16-17, 1999); and *The Funeral Reenactment*, a dramatic and authentic re-enactment that concludes the 1999 Bicentennial commemoration

(Saturday, December 18, 1999). For a detailed listing of other programs and events, call 703-780-2000 for a brochure or visit the websites at www.gwashington1999.org and www.mountvernon.org.

The Association is spearheading a nationwide celebration of George Washington and encourages many patriotic organizations to become involved. In addition to what is happening at home, the Association has organized two traveling exhibitions *Treasures From Mount Vernon: George Washington Revealed*, sponsored by Ford Motor Company, focuses on the personal aspects of the nation's first president through the display of approximately 170 objects; and a 19th-century print show, *Profiles of a Patriot*. Additionally, the Association will open an exhibit celebrating Washington the Architect at The Octagon in Washington, DC. Other exhibitions of interest include The Huntington Library's *The Great Experiment: George Washington and the American Republic*, and *The Man Behind the Myth*, presented by the Virginia Historical Society in conjunction with Mount Vernon and Washington and Lee University. The *Treasures* exhibition will travel to both venues to join these exhibitions.

In Virginia, Mount Vernon and the Virginia Tourism Corporation partnered with Washington-related sites in the state to launch *Washington's Virginia: The Footsteps of George Washington*, a travel guide to discovering the integrity, character and lasting legacy of this remarkable man. The 16-page guide directs visitors to towns and taverns, battlefields and homes, mountains and farmlands where Virginia sites have planned five exciting tours with many fascinating programs and events scheduled to take place **Only in 1999**. For information or to receive the free brochure, call toll-free 1-888-828-4787.

The Mount Vernon Ladies' Association, founded in 1853, a private, non-profit group, is the oldest national preservation organization in America. Through a variety of interpretive programs on the estate, as well as in classrooms across the nation, the Association communicates the character and leadership of Washington to millions of Americans each year. On the estate, visitors can experience a mansion tour, four-acre pioneer farm site, two museums, over a dozen outbuildings, four gardens, *The Shops at Mount Vernon* (three gift shops), the *Quick Bite To Eat* snack bar and the *Mount Vernon Inn* restaurant. Mount Vernon is located at the southern end of the George Washington Memorial Parkway, 16 miles south of Washington, DC.

The estate opens at 9:00 a.m. September through March and at 8:00 a.m. April through August. Closing hours are at 4:00 p.m. November through February and 5:00 p.m. all other times of the year. April through August and only in 1999, the estate will remain open until 8:00 p.m. on Friday and Saturday evenings. Individual admission rates are: adults, \$8.00; senior citizens, \$7.50; and children age 6-11, when accompanied by an adult, \$4.00. Admission fees, together with private donations, support the operation and restoration of Mount Vernon. For more information, please call 703-780-2000 or visit us on our website at www.mountvernon.org.

For Additional Details, Contact:

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Smcdonough@mountvernon.org

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Clinton was supposed
to come out Sept
autod. was (for
cancelled lead over)
4500803
Clinton never been
there

Charlene
Dureeay

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THE WHITE HOUSE MILLENNIUM COUNCIL

PHONE: 202/456-2000
FAX: 202/456-2008

TO: Mary Ellen McGuire FAX: 66244

PHONE: _____

FROM: Ginger Cearley

DATE: 12-1

Number of Pages (Including Cover): 5

MESSAGE: Mary Ellen - this was what I forgot about earlier today (on the phone.) I was wondering, hoping, you & Shirley could take this request from here. Sally McDonough, at Mt. Vernon is calling me again about this (703 799 8607.) Let me know, please what you think -- if that's OK. Thanks Mary Ellen,

THE WHITE HOUSE MILLENNIUM COUNCIL
708 JACKSON PLACE, NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20503

The information contained in this facsimile is PRIVATE and intended for the recipient ONLY. Please call if there are any problems with our transmission.

If POTUS can't do they want just FISH? yes, then go to POTUS.

talk go to short term sched. not to find out if poss. - propose it there? Chip Payson 456 2823

12/22 called both

*Sally McDonough 703 799-8607
Missy Gapple 703 799 8606*

*12/22 Chip is emailing form request under Melanne
diff day could do a TV special of MRC wants to go there
- have things in loan year
2/15*

*not want to do something
Agree it is pending is here*

*when-when
bilateral Gwdeath
for FOCUS & POTUS
not a million event*

Ginger

ROUTING SLIP

DATE: 8/10/98FROM: Stephanie Streett
Assistant to the President and Director of Presidential SchedulingSUBJECT: The President and First Lady's presence at the official opening of Rediscovering Mount Vernon.

Virginia Apuzzo	_____	Mike McCurry	<u>✓</u>
Paul Begala	_____	Katie McGinty	_____
Lisa Berg	_____	Minyon Moore	_____
Samuel Berger	_____	Bob Nash	_____
Sidney Blumenthal	_____	OSTP	_____
Erskine Bowles	_____	Jennifer Palmieri	<u>✓</u>
Phil Caplan	_____	John Podesta	_____
Megan Delgleize	<u>✓</u>	Rachel Redington	<u>✓</u>
Maria Echaveste	_____	Bruce Reed	_____
Rahm Emanuel	_____	Dan Rosenthal	_____
Tim Emrich	<u>✓</u>	Charles Ruff	_____
Nancy Hennreich	_____	Patti Solis-Doyle	<u>✓</u>
Mickey Ibarra	_____	Craig Smith	_____
Ron Klain	_____	Doug Sosnik	_____
Lisa Levin	_____	Gene Sperling	_____
Ann Lewis	<u>✓</u>	Larry Stein	_____
Bruce Lindsey	_____	Todd Stern	_____
Capricia Marshall	_____	Melanne Verveer	_____
Thurgood Marshall, Jr.	_____	Michael Waldman	<u>✓</u>
		Ellen Love II	<u>✓</u>

FILE: Pending

COMMENTS: _____

SCHEDULE PROPOSAL

TODAY'S DATE: 8/4/98

ACCEPTREGRET✓ PENDING

38 AUG 5 P2:13

TO:

Stephanie Streett
Deputy Assistant to the President and
Director of Scheduling

FROM:

James C. Rees
Resident Director of Mount Vernon

REQUEST:

The President and First Lady's presence at the official opening of *Rediscovering Mount Vernon: 100 Objects for George Washington's Bicentennial*. It is also hoped that the President and the First Lady will also present, on loan, a Mount Vernon or George Washington object from The White House collection.

PURPOSE:

To bring national attention to the White House Millennium program, Save America's Treasures Tour by focusing on the first of America's architectural treasures to be saved (Mount Vernon's preservation was begun in 1853).

To bring national attention to Mount Vernon as the premiere example of historic preservation.

To kick off a year-long celebration of the life and legacies of America's first president during 1999, *The Bicentennial of George Washington's Death*.

To celebrate and honor the bicentennial of Washington's Last Birthday

BACKGROUND:

Mount Vernon, the second-most visited historic home in the country will take a giant step closer to authenticity, as more than 100 period objects are returned to the estate for this Bicentennial year. In addition, a new museum gallery will be unveiled, a restored servants' hall will be opened for public tours, and a new multimedia show on George Washington will be unveiled

**PREVIOUS
PARTICIPATION:**

DATE AND TIME: Monday, February 15, 1999, Presidents' Day, and the official observation of George Washington's 267 Birthday. It will be from 9:00 a.m.-10:45 a.m.

BRIEFING TIME: 5-10 minutes

DURATION: 1 hour 45 minutes

LOCATION: The George Washington Mansion at Mount Vernon

PARTICIPANTS: Opening ceremony participants:
Smithsonian
Tudor Place
Kenmore
The National Trust for Historic Preservation
The National Park Service
The Fairfax County Circuit Court

VIP audience:
Washington scholars
Representatives from the greater preservation community
Members of patriotic organizations
Washington Family descendants.

OUTLINE OF EVENTS:

9:00 a.m.	President and First Lady open the exhibit by "cutting the ribbon" at the front door of the Mansion.
9:30 a.m.	Program begins
9:35 a.m.	Remarks by the President
9:40 a.m.	The President presents a loaned gift from the White House Collection related to George Washington
9:50 a.m.	Interviews by "kid journalists":
10:00 a.m.	ANNUAL EVENT: Presidential Wreath laying at Washington's Tomb (15 minutes).
10:15 a.m.	ANNUAL EVENT: patriotic performance on the bowling green, provided the U.S. Army Old Guard Fife & Drum Corps and the Commander-in-chief's Guard (approx. 30 minutes).

REMARKS REQUESTED: yes

MEDIA COVERAGE: Yes, possibly *The Today Show* or *Good Morning America*

FIRST LADY'S ATTENDANCE: yes

VICE PRESIDENT'S ATTENDANCE: no

RECOMMENDED BY: Ellen McCulloch-Lovell
Deputy Assistant to the President and
Advisor to the First Lady on the Millennium

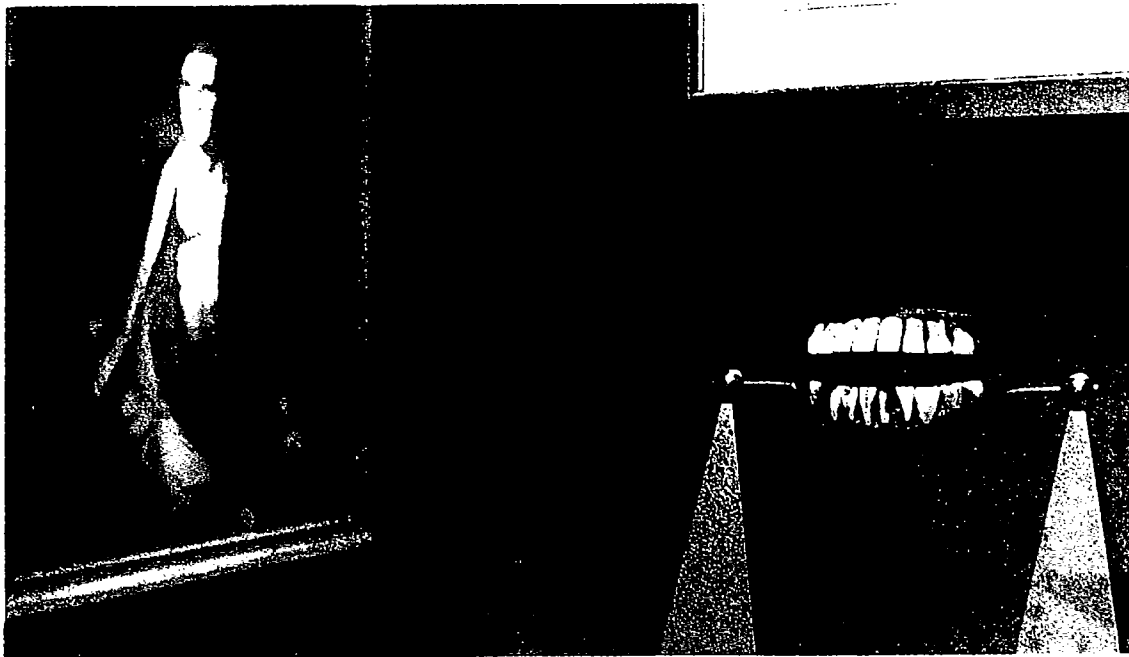
The New York Times

VOL. CXLVIII . . . No. 51,375

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1998

Weekend

FINE ARTS
LEISURE



Washington, Man And President

Evidently the people who came up with the George Washington exhibition at the New-York Historical Society had two things in mind. First they were moved by the assumption that despite the more than two centuries in which the Father of Our Country has been wildly lauded and lionized, few people really know him, or like him very much. Then they concluded that this state of affairs might be changed if they showed stuff like his false teeth (left) and letters to his tailor ordering new breeches.

By the time visitors leave the show, "Treasures From Mount Vernon: George Washington Revealed," they may feel not only less estranged from Washington but, in ways not unknown to aging sons, also feel something close to sympathy for this venerable progenitor.

An article by Michael T. Kaufman, page 41.

The Swords! That Key! Those Teeth!

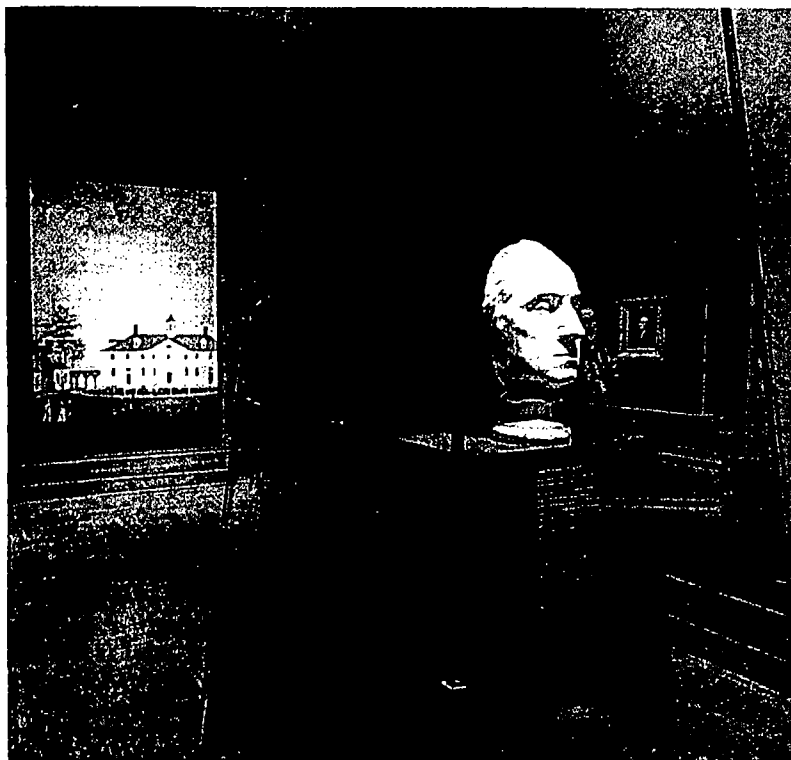
By MICHAEL T. KAUFMAN

Evidently the people who came up with the George Washington exhibition now at the New-York Historical Society had two things in mind. First, they were moved by the assumption that despite the more than two centuries in which the Father of Our Country has been wildly lauded and lionized, few of us really know him, or like him very much. Then they concluded that this state of affairs might be changed if they showed us stuff like his false teeth and his letters to his tailor ordering new breeches.

Now that I have seen "Treasures From Mount Vernon: George Washington Revealed," I think both these notions were good ones. As I walked in, I realized that although like all Americans, I had probably been exposed to more icons, legends and lore about Washington than about any other figure of national renown, my feelings for the man were not really very different than those I had for, say, James Madison or James Polk, respectful but hardly warm. His image was at once as commonly accessible as a dollar bill and as distantly aloof as that serious face looming from Mount Rushmore. This was in contrast to the far more likable, maybe even lovable, likes of Lincoln, Jefferson, Franklin and the Roosevelts.

By the time I left the show, not only was I less estranged from Washington, but in ways not unknown to aging sons, I had also come to feel something close to sympathy for our venerable progenitor. I even came up with a theory to explain why he has been held in such tepid and less-than-heartfelt esteem, but more of that later.

The exhibition, which is at the museum until Feb. 22 on the first leg of a nationwide tour, includes items both predictable and surprising. There are several portraits by Charles Willson Peale; a life mask made as the President breathed through tubes stuck up his nose, and the Spartanly outfitted tent he used in battle with an intricate folding camp bed. There are swords and the key to the Bastille that Washington received from Lafayette. There is the battle sash that the wounded and dying Gen. Edward Braddock gave to Washington along with the command of his British troops, then besieged by French and Indian forces.



Sara Krulwich/The New York Times

Still life: A plaster profile of George Washington by Joseph Wright.

The Letter Writer

Much more revealing are the various letters written by Washington that are interspersed through the exhibition. For instance, on July 18, 1755, nine days after General Braddock's death, Washington wrote to his brother John: "As I have heard a circumstantial account of my death and dying speech, I take this early opportunity of contradicting both, and of assuring you that I now exist and appear in the land of the living by the miraculous care of Providence, that protected me beyond all human expectation; I had 4 Bullets through my Coat, and two Horses shot under me, and yet escaped unhurt."

How delightful. Here is the 23-year-old Washington, clearly flushed in the excitement of battle, subordinating clear evidence of bravery and boldness to expressions of modesty and piety. With subtlety and grace he had combined the stoic "aw, shucks, there was nothing to it," sentiment with the rather dramatic facts of the case, which involved four bullets and two horses.

Uncharitably, it occurred to me that the youthful Washington, unaware that Parson Weems would one day fabricate the legend of his never lying about chopping down cherry trees or anything else, had perhaps been tempted to exaggerate. After all, a year earlier in another letter to his brother that is on display he had exulted, "I heard the bullets whistle, and, believe me, there is something charming in the sound." What if, in fact, only one horse had gone down under him and only two bullets went harmlessly through his jacket. I had no reason to doubt his account other than human nature, life experience and self-awareness. Of course it could have happened just the way he wrote it, but the very idea that in his active youth he might have succumbed to an impulse to embellish

further endeared him to me.

Then there was the letter Washington wrote to Charles Lawrence, his London tailor, in 1763 while he was managing Mount Vernon and his vast land holdings. "Be pleased to send me a genteel suit of clothes made of superfine broadcloth handsomely chosen; I should have enclosed my measure but in a general way they are so badly taken here that I am convinced it would be of very little service; I would have you therefore take measure of a gentleman who wears well-made clothes of the following size — to wit — six feet high & proportionally made; if anything rather slender than thick for a person of that height and pretty long arms & thighs."

Terrific. Here is Washington, sending away to Old Fish Street in London, willing to wait for the months it must have taken for his letter to get there and more months for the suit to be made and come back. Clearly impatient with the inability of finding good help who could get the inseams right, he improvises a way to communicate his needs. As the exhibition makes clear, once he became President, he had his clothes made in the country he fathered, sacrificing European style and craftsmanship to

Cherry tree? Not for this George Washington, impudent, a flirt and perhaps vain.

set a patriotic example. Also commendable. One of Washington's British-made suits is included.

There are also letters by others that convey a Washington much less standoffish than the one commonly portrayed. After a dinner at Mount Vernon in 1777, Martha Dangerfield Bland, the wife of a colonel, wrote to her sister: "General Washington throws off the hero and takes on the chatty agreeable companion. He can be downright impudent sometimes — such impudence, Fanny, as you and I like!!!"

A Mystery

So let us sum up what we have learned so far. Washington does not shy from derring-do and knows how to project himself favorably though modestly. He is vain about his appearance and clothes. And he knows how to flirt quite well. All of which is to his credit.

Now is there any mystery or are there any unexplained details that might add to his mystique? Well, what about the hundreds of letters he wrote to his wife, which she burned upon his death? One was tucked behind a drawer and survived, and it is in the exhibition. Written in 1775 as the General was leaving Philadelphia to take command of the army in Boston, it reads, "I retain an unalter-

able affection for you, which neither time or distance can change."

What was in the burned material? Was it hot? Did he ask her to burn the letters? Did Martha, who by the way always called her husband the General, at least in front of others, do it on her own? Was it right of her to do it? Did she violate posterity's right to know? If so, to know what? Did she protect her husband's privacy or his reputation? Without belaboring the issue, these are obviously timely questions.

And now we come to the unquestioned highlight of the show. The teeth.

Looking at George Washington's false teeth, George Washington's bridge, so to speak, is a profound experience. It evokes a feeling not unlike the one that dawns with the realization that your parents and even your grandparents must have had sex at least once. You cannot look at the teeth and not realize the humanity of their owner. They are not of wood as some have described them; they are a quite handsome set of choppers, fashioned from human teeth, cow teeth and elephant ivory all embedded in seemingly heavy plates of gray lead-based metal. The uppers and lowers are hinged at the corners by small springs. Washington told John Adams that he had lost his natural teeth after using them to crack too many walnuts in his youth.

Along with the teeth there is a letter Washington sent to Dr. Greenwood, their maker, in 1797 when he was President. Like the others on display it is written in his own hand, a forceful, neat and legible script free of the curlicues and flourishes that then prevailed.

"I must again resort to you for assistance. The teeth herewith enclosed have, by degrees, worked loose; and, at length, two or three of them have given away altogether. I would thank you for returning them as soon as possible for although I now make use of another set, they are both uneasy in the mouth and bulge my lips out in such a manner as to make them appear considerably swelled."

As I observed the teeth and read the letter, I felt another surge of sympathy. I also began to develop my theory why I and maybe others had not been more inspired by Washington and his life. Bad teeth and swollen lips are not a tragedy, but they do reveal suffering and they are just about the only sign of something having gone wrong with Washington's life, unless you also consider the line in his will in which he wrote that his "Expectation of having Issue has ceased."

As generally portrayed, his was a life of successive triumphs and compounded virtues and what challenges there were, like that winter at Valley Forge, always led to greater victories. Washington performed truly great deeds, salvaging a revolution and defeating the army of the world's most powerful state and later spurning offers to make him king. But without humanizing weaknesses and without the touch of tragedy, can heroes be lovable, particularly in our time?

What in Washington's life was comparable to Lincoln's depression and marital conflict and to the national tragedy of his assassination or F. D. R.'s wheelchair? It occurred to me as I left the museum that those who had handled Washington's spin, either by burning his letters or writing the hagiographic early biographies, had done a brilliant job, at least for the 19th century, when a blameless life of steady triumphs tended to enhance a leader's popularity. But after Freud, when sins and guilts and failures became so much more important in taking the full measure of a man, that obviously no longer worked so well.

Quite correctly, the exhibition stopped short of turning the first President into a complex modern hero deserving of compassion as well as admiration. It was not at all an iconoclastic case of warts and all, and the subject emerged still eminently worthy of respect. But he is brought down to earth and humanized. With teeth like that, it is very hard to remain a plaster saint.

Celebrating the Leader and His Haunts

"Treasures From Mount Vernon: George Washington Revealed," will be at the New-York Historical Society, 2 West 77th Street, Manhattan, through Feb. 22, along with two displays organized by the Historical Society.

"The Power and the Glory: George Washington and the Birth of Fame in America" explores how the President has been depicted in American culture, using objects from the society's collection. "George Washington: A Man of His Time, a Man for All Times" is a display of manuscripts, maps and documents from the Historical Society and the Gilder Lehrman Collection.

The Mount Vernon exhibition's national tour is sponsored by the Ford Motor Company, and its appearance in New York was made possible with support from the Gilder Lehrman Institute of

American History. The New-York Historical Society is open Tuesdays through Sundays, 11 A.M. to 5 P.M. Admission: \$5; students and the elderly, \$3; 12 and under, free.

Families may celebrate Washington and New York City history in a series of crafts workshops at the Historical Society from Dec. 26 to 31; all are at 2 P.M. and are free with admission. Other programs in conjunction with the Washington exhibitions include symposiums in January and a walking tour in February. Information: (212) 873-3400.

On Jan. 23, "Washington's New York" will open at the Museum of the City of New York, Fifth Avenue at 103d Street. This exhibition, which focuses on the late-18th-century city, will run through July 4.

USA TODAY
Life

Destinations & Diversions

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 1998 • SECTION D

A George Washington exhibit to sink your teeth into

By Craig Wilson
USA TODAY

George Washington is leaving his beloved Mount Vernon once again. Or at least his teeth are.

A year-long national commemoration of the 200th anniversary of Washington's death kicks off today when the exhibit *Treasures From Mount Vernon: George Washington Revealed* opens at the New-York Historical Society. It runs there through Feb. 22.

"Washington's face is still the most familiar of all historical figures, but with each year that passes, Americans seem to know less and less about the man behind the myth," says James Rees, director of Mount Vernon. "What we're trying to do with this exhibit is show that Washington was not only one of the most effective and powerful people of the period, but one of the most diverse and fascinating personalities."

So what do you get to see? Yes, the teeth, which contrary to legend are *not* wooden.

Booked through 2000

The Washington exhibit will travel around the country through April 2000.

- ▶ New-York Historical Society, New York City, today-Feb. 22.
- ▶ Huntington Library Art Collections and Botanical Gardens, Los Angeles, March 16-June 6, 1999
- ▶ Virginia Historical Society, Richmond, July-September 1999
- ▶ Atlanta History Center, October 1999-January 2000
- ▶ Chicago Historical Society, January-April 2000

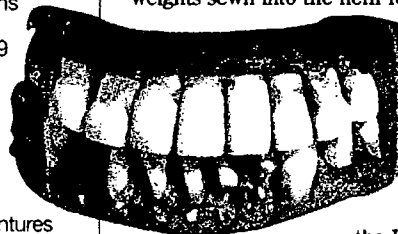
Not wood: Washington's dentures consist of bovine teeth, a carved walnut and some elephant ivory.

But they are just one item among 170 artifacts that will be on view. A sampling:

- ▶ The only two surviving letters from George Washington to his wife, Martha, are

among the rarest artifacts on view. After his death, Martha burned the letters her husband had written to her over the 40 years of their marriage.

- ▶ Martha Washington's bathing dress, made of blue-checked linen, with lead weights sewn into the hem for modesty's sake



- ▶ The iron key from the Bastille, sent to Washington in 1790 by the Marquis de Lafayette after the demolition of the French prison

▶ The centerpiece of the exhibit will be a re-creation of the marquee tent used by Washington when he was commander of the Continental Army. Included: his folding camp bed and blanket, campaign trunks, pewter plate and silver camp cup and his pistol and holster.

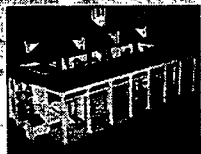
Rees stresses that the exhibit tries not to give 200 years of interpretation of Washington, "but shows actual items he touched and lived with. I don't know how much closer you can get to the real man than his false teeth. It's a shame so many today think of Washington as the sour statesman on the dollar bill. If you spent the last 15 years with him, as I have, you'd think of him as a man of real action. Someone you would kill to sit next to at a dinner party."

Complementary exhibits will be at many of the museums on the tour. The New-York Historical Society will have a rare public showing of 40 manuscripts, including a draft of Washington's first inaugural address written in his own hand.

Aside from the traveling exhibit, more than 100 period artifacts and works of art — more than half of which belonged to Washington — will return to their proper context at Mount Vernon, outside Washington, D.C., during the bicentennial celebration. (Mount Vernon in miniature, 11D)

Mount Vernon

All things great and miniature at George Washington's estate



The rapidly growing world of miniatures has a rather large addition.

Artisans in Washington state have made an exact replica of George Washington's Mount Vernon, right down to the original fabric on the dining room chairs. It's part of *Treasures From Mount Vernon: George Washington Revealed*, beginning its nationwide tour today at the New York Historical Society.

It's being said that this mini-Mount Vernon could be more authentic than the real thing.

"In some ways this house has the potential to be furnished more closely to the way Washington's home appeared because of its use of reproductions," says King Laughlin, Mount Vernon curator.

The miniature is so true to the original that Mount Vernon officials report that some of the most knowledgeable staff members have mistaken images of the miniature for the real thing.

USA TODAY's Craig Wilson looks at a few little tidbits:

Details of design

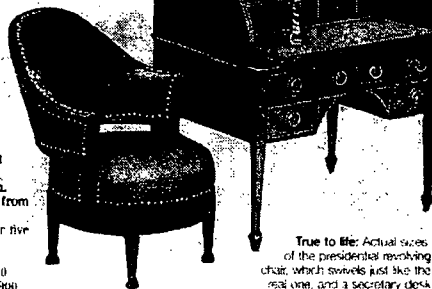
- Architect: Stan Ohman of Port Orchard, Wash.
- Builders/interior design team: Dozens of miniaturists and artisans from Washington state
- Time to build: 4,500 hours over five years



Silver service: A tea set is part of the historic collection.

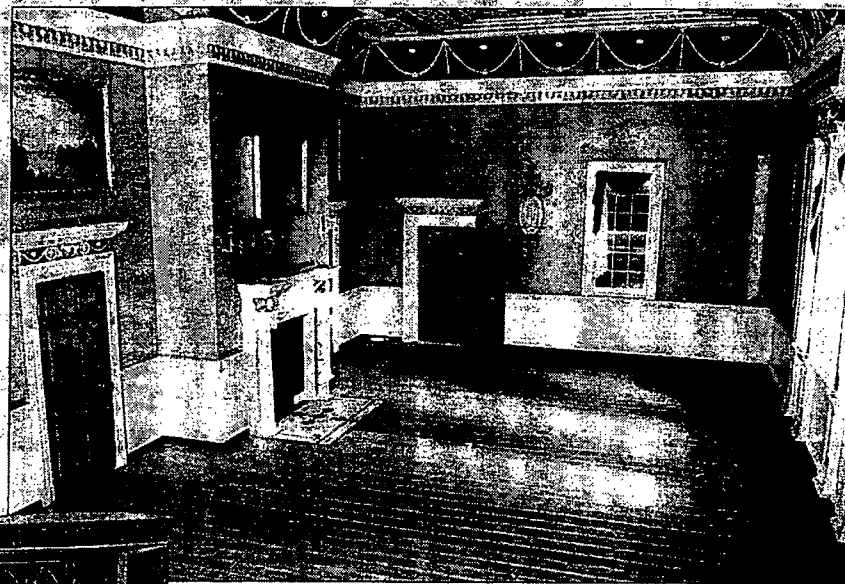
- Cost: About \$500,000
- Weight: 900 pounds
- Scale: 1 inch = 1 foot
- Measurements: 10 feet long, 8 1/2 feet high, 6 feet wide
- Easy viewing: State-of-the-art mechanical features raise and lower two sides, as well as the roof. The walls and roof move up and down every three minutes.

- Hardware: All door knobs turn, all latches latch, all door knockers knock
- Colors: Original colors used at Mount Vernon, copied from paint chips
- Air conditioning: Mareson has climate control, a system that will be installed in the real Mount Vernon in 1999.



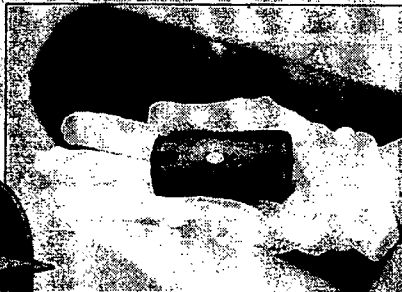
True to life: Actual sizes of the presidential rocking chair, which swivels just like the real one, and a secretary desk.

- Number of shingles: 18,000; Ohman designed a special shingle-making machine to make individual shingles, each about 1 1/2 inches long and crafted from cypress, a highly durable and water-repellent wood.
- Windows: 54, all with workable parts
- Doors: 6 exterior, 36 interior
- Fireplaces: 13 - all work, though they'll never be used.
- Security system.
- Plexiglas barrier: Guests get a closer look at the furnishings.
- Permanent home: Mount Vernon, following its 2-year tour



By N. Dan Bower USA TODAY

Entertaining idea: Sally McDonough, spokeswoman for Mount Vernon, peeks into one of the doors of the Banquet Hall.



By N. Dan Bower USA TODAY

Look away: Washington's deerskin trunk (background) has been replicated down to the engraved copper plate, about 1/4 of an inch.

Household items

- A rug in the small dining room took 500 hours of needlepoint work in a 24-stitch count.
- The 24 dining room chairs are covered with yellow fabric with a circular blue woven design, replicating the original silk and horsehair chair covers (unlike the chairs currently in the mansion).
- Oil paintings include *Great Falls of the Potomac*; *Evening*; *Moonlight*; and *Morning*.
- Busts of George Washington, Jacques Necker, John Paul Jones
- There are 20 Windsor chairs on the piazza.
- The telescope in the study actually works.
- The Mount Vernon dining rooms are fully furnished with silver (styled like the original silver, featuring the "pistol grip"), including a set of 18 knives, forks and spoons, and dessert spoons that weigh less than 1/2 of an ounce.
- Tables have carved inlay, not a replicated painted finish.



Cool seat: The study's fan chair works like the original.

In tune with the old times

The original harpsichord was located in the little parlor and was imported from England as a gift to Martha Washington's granddaughter Nelly Custis. Like the original, the miniature harpsichord was shipped from England, where craftsman Alan McKirdy built it in 1996. It's 1/4 the size of the original, and cost 12 times as much, valued at \$4,000.

- The small dining room comes with six nut picks made of steel with ivory handles.

- The blue-and-white canton was hand painted using a mouse whisker.

- The presidential revolving chair swivels just like the real one.

- The globe was created using modern-day decoupage, which was very similar to the original treatment.

- One of the president's trunks was purchased secondhand, and it has a George Washington copper plate covering up the original owner's initials. The miniature replicated the copper plate with George Washington's full signature etched in it, and the plate is smaller than 1/4 of an inch. The miniature is made of deerskin, just as George Washington's was.

- The miniature fan chair operates with the same technique as the original - move the floor pedals up and down, and the mechanism moves the fan back and forth to cool the person sitting in the chair.

HOW IT LOOKED IN 1830 *KARL BODMER'S AMERICA*

EARLY AMERICAN HOMES

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FEBRUARY 1999

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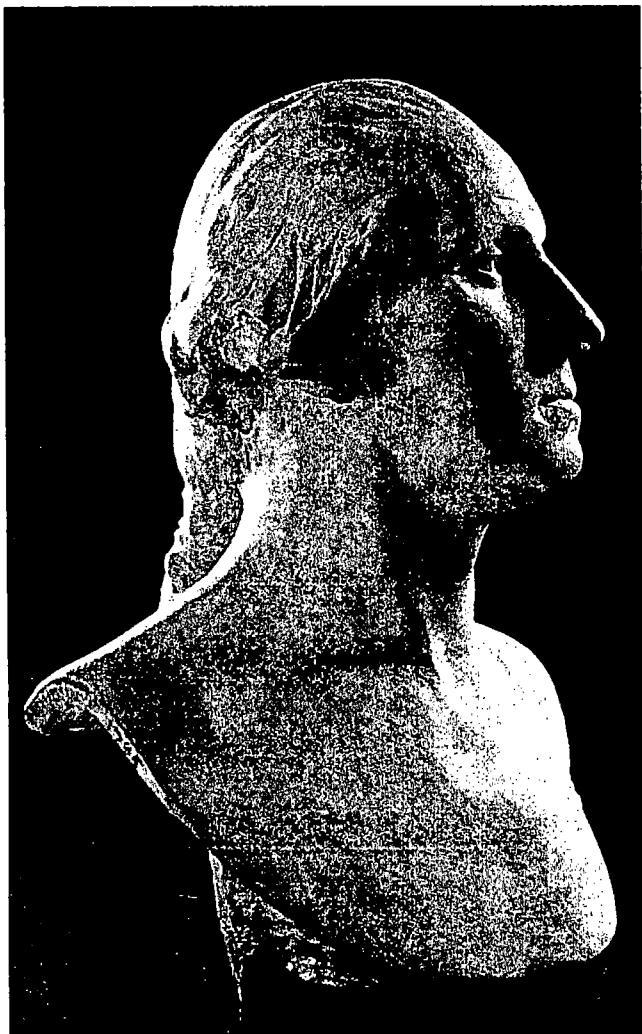


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GEORGE WASHINGTON STOPS HERE

THE BICENTENNIAL

BY JEANMARIE ANDREWS



The two-story piazza along the east front of Mount Vernon overlooks the Potomac River.

Exasperated by the cult growing up around his colleagues, John Adams wrote, "The history of our Revolution will be . . . that Dr. Franklin's electric rod smote the earth and out sprung General Washington. That Franklin electrified him with his rod, and thenceforward these two conducted all the policy negotiations, legislatures, and war." Adams did not overstate Washington's importance: as he himself later proclaimed, "His example is complete; and it will teach wisdom and virtue to Magistrates, Citizens, and Men, not only in the present age, but in future generations."

An ambitious young man who sought wealth and fame to establish his place in Virginia's aristocracy, Washington later subjugated his ambitions to the formation of a new nation (an entity historians believe would

not have existed without him). His deification began in his own lifetime; when he died on the eve of the nineteenth century, the entire nation mourned.

Two centuries later, "the millions unborn" Washington so frequently cited in his decisions guiding the new nation's course have much to learn from—and about—the Father of Our Country. Through special programs commemorating the bicentennial of Washington's death on December 14, 1799, organizations nationwide, led by Mount Vernon, pay tribute to the leader who inspired a new nation and reaffirm his relevance as a role model for today's citizens.

At Mount Vernon, outside Alexandria, Virginia, Washington's home for forty-five years, special activities begin on Presidents' Day and culminate in the reenactment of



The Chinese export porcelain punch bowl, c. 1750, depicts English hunters (albeit with Oriental features) chasing a fox across the countryside; it was one of eight the Washingtons used when entertaining guests. The bowl is on loan to Mount Vernon from Tudor Place in Georgetown.

Top: This bust, cast in 1785 at Mount Vernon by French sculptor Jean Antoine Houdon, was also used as a model for a full-length statue. It is perhaps the best likeness of Washington: the terra-cotta was spread directly on his face (with two straws to his nose for breathing).

Washington's funeral on December 18. To show *Mount Vernon As It Was*, original family possessions and appropriate period furnishings have been borrowed and installed throughout the mansion. (Fortunately for posterity, executors for the estate compiled an exhaustive inventory of Washington's possessions just days after his death.) With the return of a Chippendale easy chair and matching foot stool, a chest on chest, and brass andirons, Washington's bedchamber is nearly identical to its appearance at his death. For the first time, costumed interpreters portraying Washington's personal servant, his daughter-in-law, and other contemporaries help draw visitors in to the somber mood.

Elsewhere at the estate, the servants' hall, grist mill, and bowling green have been restored to their original appearance, and Washington's executive office has been re-created in the museum. *Washington is No More*, designed to place visitors in the context of December 18, 1799, through sight, sound, and scent, complements the scene in the bed chamber and walking tours of the funeral procession to the old tomb, where a replica of Washington's coffin lies.

The Mount Vernon Ladies' Association, the nation's oldest preservation organization, has mounted a traveling exhibition, *Treasures from Mount Vernon: George Washington Revealed*, in which objects valued by Washington illuminate not only the public hero but the private man few knew. Among them are Washington's dentures, made of lead and bone, not wood, contrary to popular myth (the misconception might have arisen from the name of the Philadelphia dentist who made them: Washington wore *Greenwood's* teeth); the blue coat he wore on his last horseback ride before his death, missing the buttons his wife clipped to give as mementos; the two surviving letters he wrote to Martha (she burned the rest to protect their privacy); Martha's wedding shoes, lead-weighted bathing dress, and a gown of imported silk-satin; one of the shell-patterned needlepoint chair cushions Martha stitched; the iron key to the Bastille, sent to him by the Marquis de Lafayette after the demolition of the French prison; and a census of his slaves, listing their names, jobs, and family relationships.

Mount Vernon in Miniature, an exact replica of the mansion on a one-inch-to-one-foot scale, is part of the traveling exhibition. Created and donated by the people of Washington State, the model offers an overview of Washington's taste in architecture and interior decoration. It contains hundreds of miniature oil paintings, china, books, and furnishings, including some no longer in the

mansion proper. The exhibition is on view at the New-York Historical Society through February; it travels to the Huntington Library, Los Angeles, March through June; the Virginia Historical Society, Richmond, July through September; the Atlanta History Center, October through January 2000; and the Chicago Historical Society, February through April 2000.

Profile of a Patriot, also sponsored by the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association, features forty framed engravings, lithographs, and other nineteenth-century art on paper that depict milestones in Washington's life. It opens at the Concord (Massachusetts) Museum in April, then travels to the Dwight D. Eisenhower Library, Abilene, Kansas, in June, to the Alexandria (Virginia) Lyceum in August, and to the Ohio Historical Society Museum, Columbus, in October. Other locations are to be announced.

The New-York Historical Society hosts two exhibitions: *George Washington: A Man of His Time, A Man for All Times*, showing some forty manuscripts, including a draft of his first inaugural address; and *The Power and the Glory: George Washington and the Birth of Fame in America* with paintings, textiles, prints, and household and souvenir objects that demonstrate Washington's unparalleled celebrity decades after his death.

George Washington: Architect at the Octagon Museum in Washington, D.C., focuses on Washington's eye for design and his creative approach to construction, skills that are often underappreciated. Form followed function in Washington's designs, as in the nearly round sixteen-sided barn he built at Mount Vernon to thresh wheat more efficiently. His vision guided the design of a grand president's house and awe-inspiring classical buildings for the Federal City, meant to convey the new republic's stature and permanence. The exhibition, which runs from January through June, features Mount Vernon's first cornerstone and the final from its cupola as well as Washington's drafting instruments and architectural manuals.

Soon after assuming the presidency, a position he accepted reluctantly, Washington said, "The establishment of our new Government seemed to be the last great experiment for promoting human happiness." Using his handwritten letters, manuscripts, rare printed documents, artwork, and personal objects, *The Great Experiment: George Washington and the American Republic* at the Huntington Library, Los Angeles, examines not only the experiment of creating the first successful republican nation but Washington's development from frontiersman to general to president and the indispensable role he played in the

creation of that nation. After closing May 30 at The Huntington, *The Great Experiment* will be on view at the Pierpont Morgan Library in New York City through the end of the year.

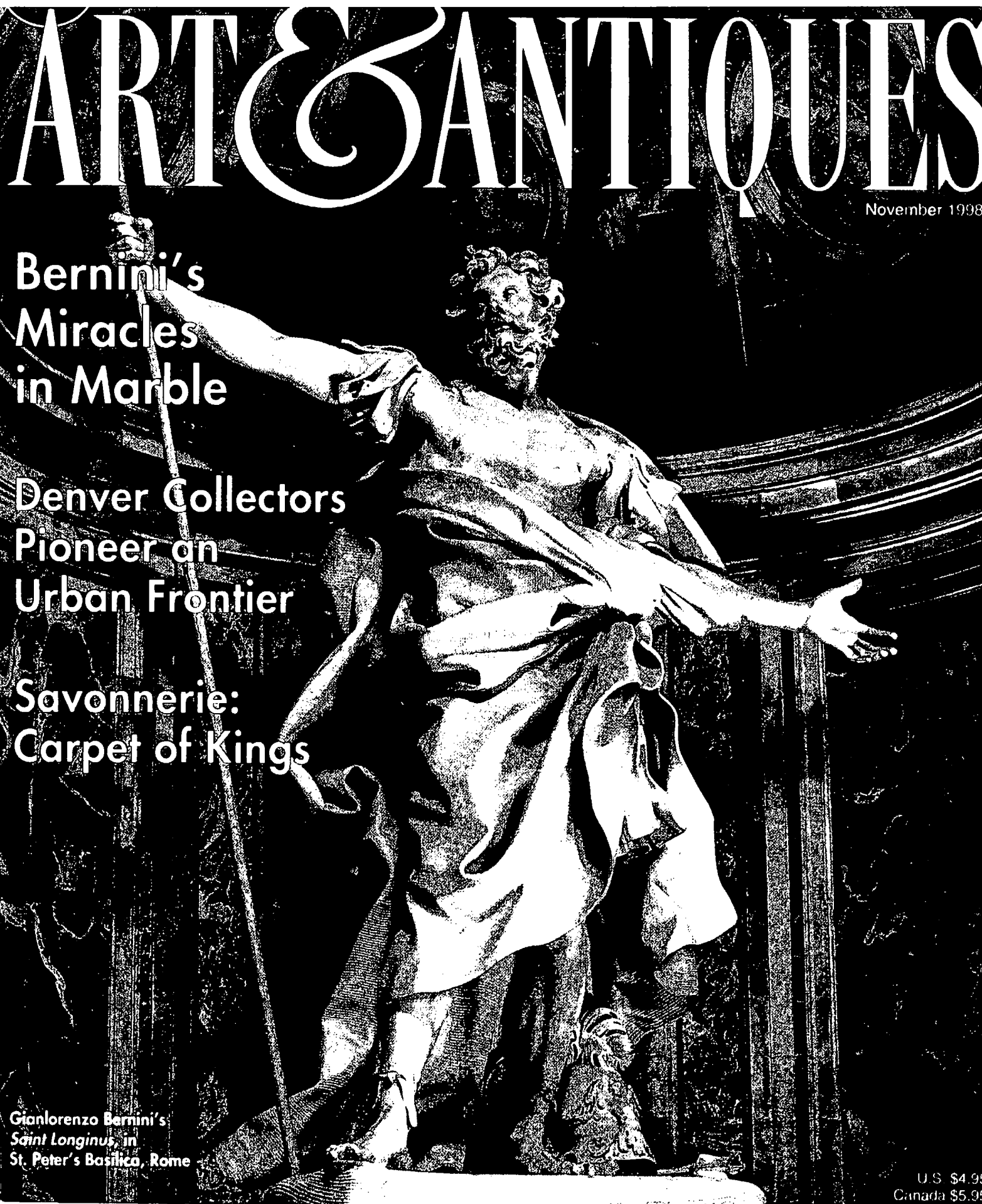
On Washington's birthday, February 22, *George Washington: The Man Behind the Myths* opens at the Virginia Historical Society, focusing on the president's private life—his upbringing and his roles as husband, father, and Virginia planter—through letters, diaries, paintings, and personal artifacts. The exhibition travels to the Tennessee State Museum in Nashville, November through January 2000, and then to Washington State Historical Society in Tacoma from February to June 2000.

Also in Virginia, visitors can tour taverns, battlefields, farmlands, and homes where Washington formed his patriotic ideals. Special programs are planned in Winchester, Fredericksburg, Yorktown, Williamsburg, and Alexandria, January 21-23. Colonial Williamsburg explores *The Washington Williamsburg Knew* through lectures, special tours, and encounters with Washington's contemporaries. The program focuses on the years 1752 to 1781, during which Washington embarked on his military career, married the wealthiest widow in the colony, pursued family and business matters, and became a member of the House of Burgesses.

The Museum of the City of New York examines *George Washington's New York* in 1776, the year he mounted his unsuccessful defense of the city against the British; on Evacuation Day, November 25, 1783, when he returned to the city triumphant; and on December 4, 1783, when he bid farewell to his officers at Fraunce's Tavern. Using documents, maps, paintings, costumes, furnishings, and ephemera, the exhibition also looks at the city during its brief reign as the nation's capital. It runs January 23 through August 22.

The Museums at Stony Brook, New York, explore the image of George Washington as it has been subjected to political, social, cultural, and economic forces, as well as its endurance as a powerful national symbol. The exhibition, *George Washington, American Symbol*, opens February 6 and closes May 31. ★

ART & ANTIQUES



November 1998

**Bernini's
Miracles
in Marble**

**Denver Collectors
Pioneer on
Urban Frontier**

**Savonnerie:
Carpet of Kings**

Gianlorenzo Bernini's
Saint Longinus, in
St. Peter's Basilica, Rome

U.S. \$4.95
Canada \$5.95

Mister Washington Goes to ...

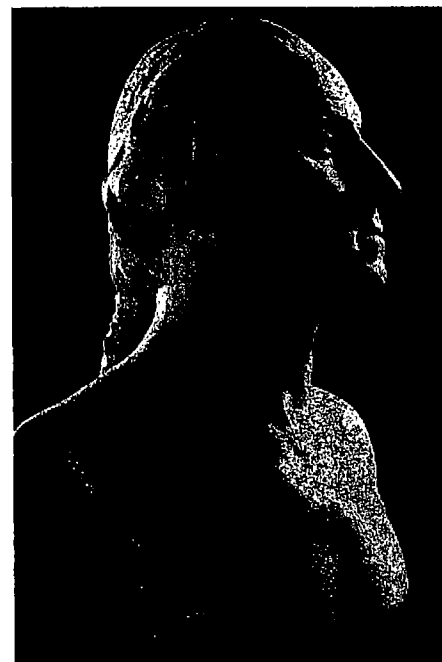
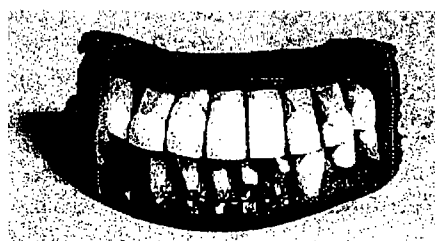
We know too much about our current president, and too little about our first.

By Rebecca Knapp Adams

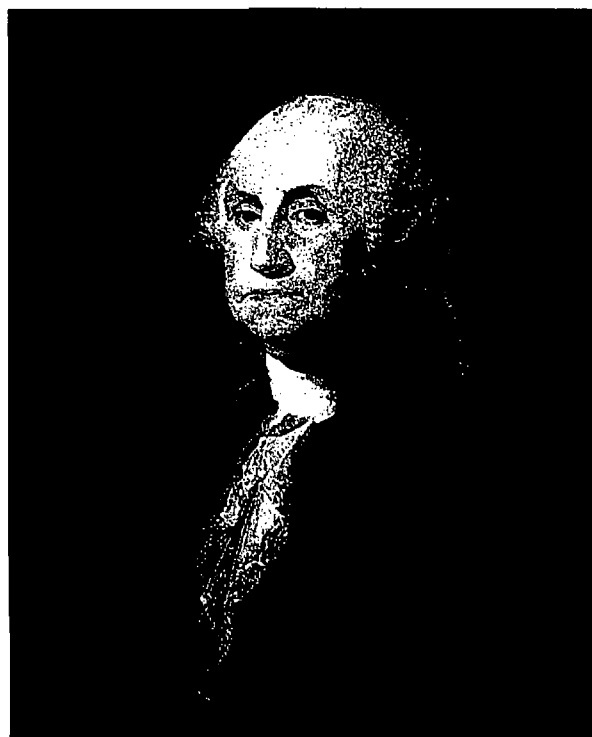
Never before have Americans needed so badly a refresher course in what it is—or was—to be presidential. The late 20th century has not been kind to the office—or perhaps it is the other way around. In either case, had MTV, Arsenio, or the *National Enquirer* been around for the founding of the republic, we might today have a better feel for the “real” George Washington. At the very least we would know whether he wore boxers or briefs.

The intimate details of Washington’s life were not preserved. Instead, we have small stories that are supposed to tell us about the man whose emotional reserve made him a monument. Contemporary hero-seekers don’t want a monument, however. They want warm-blooded

heroism supported by rich anecdotes: football at the Kennedy compound, Nixon and Checkers, Clinton protecting his mother from her abusive husband. Richard Brookhiser’s 1996 biography *Founding Father* (Simon & Schuster, \$12) quotes a prescient Parson Weems, who wrote in his 1800 biography of Washington: “It is not, then, in the glare of public, but in the shade of *private life* that we are to look for the man. Private life is always *real* life. Behind the curtain, where the eyes of the million are not upon him and where a man can have no motive but inclination, no *incitement* but *honest*



It's time to wheel out the Washingtonia. Left: The dentures of America's first president. Above: Jean Antoine Houdon's 1785 bust shows Washington as a classical hero.



nature, there he will always be sure to act himself; consequently, if he act greatly, he must be great indeed.”

On the bicentennial of Washington’s death, Mount Vernon, his former home in Virginia, leads a pack of museums in raising exhibitions to help illuminate the man behind the myth. What is revealed in the many traveling exhibitions that trail from Virginia to California in the next year is a record of the public figure, and that’s not nearly as dry as it sounds.

The public Washington, with his statesmanship, physical stature, and military background, was the only classical hero these United States have ever had. Tall and imposing, he is

Far left: One of the many portraits Gilbert Stuart painted of Washington. The image was used for the dollar bill. Left: A suit and waistcoat worn by a guest to Washington's Inaugural Ball.



described by John Rhodehamel in the catalogue of the exhibition "The Great Experiment" as "a head taller than most of the men of his time." In that same book, Lord Fairfax's gushing appraisal of the young Washington describes a man "straight as an Indian ... his frame is padded with well-developed muscles indicating great strength. He is wide shouldered ... His head is well shaped, though not large, but is gracefully poised on a superb neck."

Rhodehamel, a leading Washington scholar, has written his catalogue for an exhibition at the Huntington Library, in San Marino, California, which runs through May 30 and then travels to the Pierpont Morgan Library in New York City. "The Great Experiment: George Washington and the American Republic" includes some 130 manuscripts, documents, objects, and artworks that chart the man's evolution from frontiersman to general to president.

Mount Vernon is the linchpin of the George Washington bicentennial, lending objects to other institutions and hosting every kind of celebratory event to mark not the death but the life of the former president. "Treasures from Mount Vernon: George Washington Revealed" opens at the New-York Historical Society on November 20. The show is in six sections, starting with "The Presence of Washington," in which the physical stature of the man is evoked in portraits by Charles Willson Peale, and such objects as the famed wooden



Top: Mount Vernon is one of many places hosting Washington commemorations. Above: a gold mourning ring.

teeth. The most intriguing section is "The Pleasure of His Company," which brings viewers a flesh-and-blood Washington in rare artifacts, like the only two surviving letters he wrote to his wife, Martha, and his notes on life at Mount Vernon, records of daily temperatures, and references to growing hemp—not exactly Jeffersonian in style, but in his own hand, nonetheless.

What's odd, but welcome here, is the inclusion of the Mount Vernon slaves in "The Pleasure of His Company." On view is a handwritten census of Mount Vernon's slaves taken by Washington in 1799, in preparation for freeing them

1. Turned Hemp at Muddy Hole to the 1st Stake - and finished that at Dog Run -
 Wind at N.E. very cloudy the whole day
 one coldish drizzle in evening which was
 the end

2. Day warm & fine - Wind Northwardly -
 Drizzling - but soon dry afterwards -
 went too much to get ready for on the 1st

3. Turned Hemp at Muddy Hole to the 1st Stake (beginning of road and road of road) - the
 side to the 1st Stake - and at Dog Run
 the side to the 1st Stake beginning of road
 Mulberry was
 clear & pleasant - but not warm -
 Wind being Northwardly in the forenoon
 calm in the evening. -

Above: a page from George Washington's diary. These agricultural notes show he planted hemp at Mount Vernon.

in his last will and testament. Washington was never completely comfortable being a slave owner, and it's a challenge today to reconcile this aspect of his life in one so committed to procuring and preserving liberty for "the people." The contradiction renders the Mount Vernon display all the more compelling.

The New York venue makes sense, as George Washington had a lifelong relationship with the city, and much of what he is remembered for as a soldier, and statesman, happened there. "George Washington's New York," a show organized by and opening at the Museum of the City of New York, from January 23 through August 22, 1999, exploits that connection with gusto. Presented here are three chapters in the life of Washington from the last quarter of the 18th century, starting with his failed attempt to hold New York against the British in two 1776 campaigns, the Battle of Long Island and the Battle of Harlem Heights.

Washington's triumphal return to New York City on November 25, 1783, when the city had finally been rid of British occupation forces, comes next. One week after Evacuation Day, Washington resigned his command and bid a poignant farewell to his officers at Fraunces Tavern on Pearl Street in lower Manhattan. Rhodehamel suggests that for Washington, "Giving up power was more glorious than winning the war. By stepping down, Washington had raised himself up to a pinnacle of republican heroism." Indeed, he was already mythologized as a general, but in his willingness to walk away from what could have been his kingdom, Washington told the world that advancement of independence—not pursuit of personal glory—had been his great and noble ambition.

After eight years of war and diplomacy, Washington wanted only to retire as a private citizen to his beautiful estate

and gardens in Virginia. He would "resign with satisfaction the Appointment [he] accepted with diffidence," and take leave of "all employments of public life," he announced in his farewell address to his officers. Ha. He'd be back, and more than once.

The Fraunces Tavern Museum is attempting something tricky by examining, in a three-part show (October 1999 through March of the following year), the death of Washington. Visitors will see tableaux, letters, manuscripts, and other objects that reveal the impact of Washington's death on the nation. Eighteenth-century mourning practices are examined. So is the effect of his dying at the end of the century, a circumstance that stirred Americans with the feeling that the first chapter of the Great Experiment had ended.

Washington was not a gifted orator—Jefferson once remarked: "His colloquial talents were not above mediocrity," adding that he had "neither copiousness of ideas nor fluency of words." This is a bit of a snippy appraisal considering the acuity of those ideas Washington cherished, most important of these being the conviction that everything he said and did as the first president of the United States was precedent and would very likely stick. The genius of his leadership was his strength of character. He was no Rhodes Scholar, but back then, who was? Adams, Jefferson, and Hamilton were around to write brilliant tracts and articulate the complexities of founding a republic.

The Brookhiser biography makes an eloquent point about the knowability of Washington, saying, "We can go to his house; we can stand in the room where the Constitution was debated; we can see the places where his soldiers drowned and died and prevailed. If we see them with understanding and sympathy, we can glimpse him." And that should be enough. □

WHERE IS WASHINGTON CROSSING?

"Treasures from Mount Vernon," New York Historical Society, November 18 to February 1999.

"George Washington: The Man Behind the Myth," Virginia Historical Society in Richmond, February 22 to October 3, 1999.

"The Presidential Portraits of George Washington, 1789-1797," National Portrait Gallery, November 20 to December 9, 1999.

"Washington in Glory, America in Tears," Fraunces Tavern Museum, New York, October 8, 1999 to April 2, 2000.

"The Great Experiment: George Washington and the American Republic," Huntington Library, San Marino, California, through May 30, 1999; from June to December 1999 at the Pierpont Morgan Library in New York.

"George Washington: Architect?" Octagon Museum, Washington, D.C., late January to June 1999.

For additional information, call **Mount Vernon** at (703) 799-8652 or log on to www.mountvernon.org or www.gwashington1999.org.

Presidential Visits to Mount Vernon

President Reagan
February 1982



President Roosevelt
April 1939



President Hayes
June 1878



THE PRESIDENT SPEAKING AT THE
WASHINGTON MEMORIAL, MOUNT VERNON

President Hoover
February 1932



President Kennedy
July 1961



President McKinley
December 1899



President Harrison
May 1889



President Bush
April 1989



George Washington's
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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

FOR PLANNING PURPOSES ONLY September 10, 1997

PRESIDENT CLINTON TO VISIT MOUNT VERNON

Washington, D.C. -- President Clinton and Vice President Gore will travel to Mount Vernon in Alexandria, VA on Thursday, September 11, 1997 to announce the creation of the American Heritage Rivers Program. This initiative will support local efforts to enhance the history, culture and environment surrounding great American rivers.

WHAT: President Clinton to discuss American Heritage Rivers program.

WHERE: The Lawn, Mount Vernon, Alexandria, VA

(In case of inclement weather the event will take place at the White House, Room 450, Old Executive Office Building).

WHEN: Thursday, September 11, 1997
11:00 a.m.

COVERAGE: OPEN PRESS

Press entrance: Will be directed to event site from main gate.

Pre-set: 6:00-8:00 a.m.

Final access: 9:00-10:00 a.m.

Press parking: Normal Mount Vernon lot, just past main entrance.

Satellite trucks: Administrative gate adjacent to main entrance.

NOTE: Press must display valid photo identification at the designated entrance on site. Media will not need to request special credentials to cover this event. The following event participants and attendees will be available for individual interviews following the President's remarks, approximately 12:00 p.m. Please contact the White House press office at 456-7150 to arrange an interview.

- * Mr. August Carlino, Executive Director, Rivers of Steel, Pittsburgh, PA
- * Mayor Tom Murphy, Pittsburgh
- * Lt. Governor Robert Kustra, Illinois
- * Jose Lopez, Member, Chicago River Rats
- * Rebecca Wodder, American Rivers
- * Willie Strong, Northwest Pulp and Paperworks Resource Council
- * Wallie Hardie, National Corngrowers Association
- * Mayor James Whitaker, Lynchburg, VA

- 30-30-30-

News

For Details, Contact:

Sally McDonough
Mount Vernon's
Public Relations' Office
Phone (703) 799-8607
Smcdonough@mountvernon.org

Cancelled
Sus

President Clinton visits Mount Vernon, the home of the nation's first president

Historic Visit on Thursday Morning, September 11, 1997

Mount Vernon, Virginia William Jefferson Clinton, the 42nd president of the United States, makes his first-ever visit to Mount Vernon, the home of George Washington, on Thursday, September 11, 1997. President Clinton, joined by Vice President Al Gore and members of the Administration, will tour the home, announce the American Heritage Rivers Initiative program on the east lawn overlooking the Potomac River, proceed to the tomb of George and Martha Washington and the slave memorial to pay their respects, and conclude with a visit to George Washington's formal garden. The estate will remain open to the public all day (with various areas temporarily closed for security reasons) and the public is invited to the President's announcement at approximately 10:45 a.m.

"We know how genuinely interested the President is in American History," says James C. Rees, Resident Director, Mount Vernon Ladies' Association, "and we are thrilled, if all goes well, that he will spend as long as three hours on George Washington's estate." According to the Association's research, 27 United States presidents have visited Mount Vernon, but the Association's historians believe it is highly probable that many undocumented visits occurred from the early 1800's through 1858, the year the Association acquired the property from the Washington family.

"If you've visited Mount Vernon, you have enjoyed the breathtaking panoramic vista of the Potomac River and the scenic Maryland shoreline. According to George Washington, the Potomac River was "one of the finest Rivers in the world." With this view, you can understand why George Washington so loved his Mount Vernon estate and why President Clinton selected this location for such an important announcement about America's rivers," says Jim Rees. In fact, George Washington's own words, quoted by President Kennedy at his Mount Vernon State Dinner in 1961, capture the essence of the Mount Vernon Estate:

I can truly say I had rather be at home at Mount Vernon with a friend or two about me, than to be attended at the seat of government by the officers of State and the representatives of every power in Europe.

- More -

Prepared 7/10/97

GEORGE WASHINGTON'S MOUNT VERNON: ESTATE & GARDENS
Mount Vernon, Virginia 22121
Tel. 703 780 2000 Fax: 703 799 8698
<http://www.mountvernon.org>

More at Mount Vernon

Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln, Theodore Roosevelt, Franklin D. Roosevelt, and George Bush are among the presidents who have journeyed to Mount Vernon to pay their respects to George Washington. Colonel Harrison Howell Dodge, Mount Vernon's resident director from 1885 through 1937, recalled in his book, Mount Vernon: Its Owner and Its Story, "Nine Presidents have held office while I have been at Mount Vernon and all of them except Harding visited Washington's home at least once during their occupancy of the White House. For some reason Harding never happened to come while President, though he had been a frequent visitor as a Senator."

President Theodore Roosevelt so enjoyed Mount Vernon that records indicate he visited Mount Vernon at least four times. In his book, Dodge fondly recalled these visits in great detail. "I look back with great pleasure to the visits of President Roosevelt. He took his visits to Mount Vernon in a holiday spirit and was usually in a characteristic good humor." In fact, one story detailing a 1907 visit when the Roosevelt party arrived by horseback in a heavy down pour, captured the president's powerful personality. When a member of his cabinet retired to the "dressing-room" to dry off and dress for dinner, the president summoned Colonel Dodge in a boisterous manner and shouted, "Come, Colonel. I want you to see my Postmaster General in the tub taking a bath with his boots on."

"Although rain is in the forecast for Thursday, we plan to take all precautions to keep cabinet members and special guests exceptionally dry," says Rees. "Our archives are full of photographs, sketches and personal stories which document the very special experiences that presidents at Mount Vernon. Many have enjoyed their visit so much, they can't wait to come back." President Franklin Roosevelt visited Mount Vernon seven times; President Wilson, four times; and President Coolidge, twice.

Just as previous U.S. presidents, foreign kings, queens and other dignitaries before him, President Clinton hopes to visit the Tomb of George and Martha Washington and the Slave Memorial for a few private moments to pay his respects. On Thursday, President Clinton will join over 70 million Americans and foreign visitors that have made a pilgrimage to Mount Vernon to pay such homage.

- More -

The Mount Vernon Ladies' Association, founded in 1853, is the oldest national preservation organization in America. Through a variety of interpretive programs on the estate, as well as in classrooms across the nation, the Association communicates the character and leadership of Washington to millions of Americans each year. On the 500-acre estate, visitors can experience a four-acre pioneer farm site, two museums, over a dozen outbuildings, three gardens, two gift shops, a snack bar and restaurant. Mount Vernon is located at the southern end of the George Washington Memorial Parkway; just 16 miles from Washington, DC.

The estate opens at 9:00 a.m. September through March and at 8:00 a.m. April through August. Closing hours are at 4:00 p.m. November through February and 5:00 p.m. all other times of the year. Individual admission rates are: adults, \$8.00; senior citizens, \$7.50; and children age 6-11, when accompanied by an adult, \$4.00. Admission fees, together with private donations, support the operation and restoration of Mount Vernon. For more information, please call 703-780-2000 or visit on the Internet at <http://www.mountvernon.org>.

- End -

More at Mount Vernon

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4

[Mount Vernon : George Washington
Bicentennial 1999]

[Mount Vernon]

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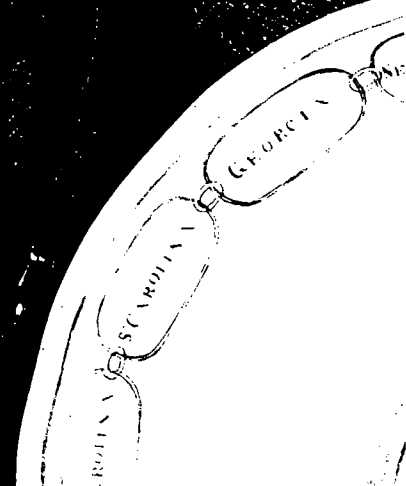
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[Treasures from Mount Vernon]



Treasures from
Mount Vernon
George Washington Revealed

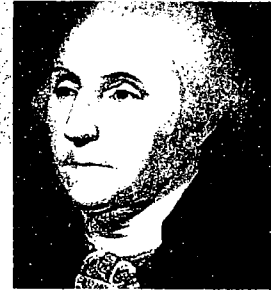


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George Washington

1999

B I C E N T E N N I A L

C O M M U N I T Y C E L E B R A T I O N P L A N N E R

How Much Do You Know?

George Washington QUICK QUIZ



1. How many children did George Washington father?
 - a. ☐ None
 - b. ☐ 1
 - c. ☐ 2
 - d. ☐ 4
2. Which college did Washington attend?
 - a. ☐ The College of William & Mary
 - b. ☐ Oxford
 - c. ☐ Harvard
 - d. ☐ He did not attend college
3. How long did Washington serve as commander in chief of the Continental Army?
 - a. ☐ 2 years
 - b. ☐ 5 years
 - c. ☐ 8 years
 - d. ☐ 10 years
4. Which Founding Father did not sign the Declaration of Independence?
 - a. ☐ George Washington
 - b. ☐ Benjamin Franklin
 - c. ☐ James Madison
 - d. ☐ Thomas Jefferson
5. Washington's favorite pastimes included:
 - a. ☐ Foxhunting
 - b. ☐ Gambling
 - c. ☐ Reading
 - d. ☐ Purchasing Lottery Tickets
 - e. ☐ All of the above
6. Where did the first President of the United States live during his first year in office?
 - a. ☐ Washington, D.C.
 - b. ☐ New York, New York
 - c. ☐ Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
 - d. ☐ Boston, Massachusetts
7. Washington's foreign travels included:
 - a. ☐ England
 - b. ☐ France
 - c. ☐ Barbados
 - d. ☐ Mexico
8. Approximately how many acres of land did Washington own?
 - a. ☐ 500
 - b. ☐ 2,000
 - c. ☐ 21,000
 - d. ☐ 70,000
9. Washington's most successful financial venture was probably:
 - a. ☐ Tobacco
 - b. ☐ Fishing
 - c. ☐ Quarry
 - d. ☐ Distillery
10. Which famous Washington story is true?
 - a. ☐ His wooden teeth
 - b. ☐ Cutting down the cherry tree
 - c. ☐ Tossing the silver dollar
 - d. ☐ None of the above

FOR ANSWERS, SEE REVERSE

ANSWERS

1. **a. None**
Martha brought two children to Mount Vernon from her first marriage, but try as they might, Martha and George never had children of their own.
2. **d. He did not attend college**
Washington was the son of his father's second wife, so time and money were in short supply to attend college. Like Abraham Lincoln, he was mostly self-taught.
3. **c. Eight Years**
During that period, Washington returned to Mount Vernon only once during the entire war.
4. **a. George Washington**
He was serving as commander in chief, and had just finished saving the city of Boston from British troops.
5. **e. All of the Above!**
An original lottery ticket purchased by Washington is in the Mount Vernon collection.
6. **b. New York, New York**
Washington was inaugurated at Federal Hall and lived at Number 3, Cherry Street. The capital city moved to Philadelphia in 1790, where he served out his two terms as president. He is the only president not to reside in The White House.
7. **c. Barbados**
He left American soil only once, when he was 19, to travel with his ailing brother Lawrence to a more healthy climate. Lawrence did not recover and died in 1752.
8. **d. 70,000 acres**
Washington's vast holdings of land were located in what would today be six different states and the District of Columbia.
9. **b. Fishing**
In a short six-week season each spring, Washington's men netted about a million shad and herring, which were salted, packed in barrels and exported.
10. **d. None of the Above**
The closest to the truth is the myth that Washington had wooden teeth. In truth, his false teeth were carved from ivory or from the teeth of large animals, and attached to a metal brace with tiny wooden dowels.

*To learn more, visit our websites at
<http://www.mountvernon.org> and <http://www.gwashington1999.org>*



George Washington
— 1999 —
B I C E N T E N N I A L

November 17, 1998

Dear Media Representative:

Two hundred years ago, George Washington's unexpected death occasioned an outpouring of grief so extreme that even today's cult of Diana pales in comparison: deluged by requests for mementos, his widow Martha dispatched pieces of china and swatches of his clothing to admirers, even as funerals were held all around the country and eulogies issued from every pulpit and publishing house.

But today? Although Washington's face may be familiar – we see it each time we spend a dollar bill – Americans tend to know almost nothing about the man.

Many teachers openly admit that Washington and the other founding fathers have been relegated to the dustbins of history. In a recent test administered to high school seniors, only one in ten could be considered proficient in American history. Six of ten lacked even a "basic understanding" of the subject. In a survey of fourth graders, seven of ten students thought that Illinois, California or Texas were among the 13 original colonies. Six out of ten had no idea why the Pilgrims came to America, only *seven percent* of fourth graders could identify "an important event" that took place in Philadelphia in 1776.*

Textbooks have diminished tremendously their coverage of Washington. I still have the history textbook I used in the fourth grade, and it has *ten times* more pages devoted to Washington than the textbook used in the same class, at the same school, today.

Why is this important? Because even after two centuries, Washington still has so much to teach us. He made his share of mistakes – in the Revolutionary War, for instance, he lost far more battles than he won. But his life and his legacy teach us that armies can best be led and governments can best be managed by individuals of character. Washington's example of leadership, in the face of remarkable adversity, has yet to be eclipsed.

That's the point of the George Washington Bicentennial 1999 – we are trying to reintroduce the real George Washington to as many people as possible. Because despite what you have heard, Washington was not only the most important and most powerful leader of his era, he was also the most fascinating. As author Garry

Wills said, "when Washington entered the room all heads turned. Everyone wanted to talk to him, even when the others in the room included Jefferson and Hamilton."

The enclosed press package details the projects and programs we have planned for 1999, with a special emphasis on *Treasures from Mount Vernon: George Washington Revealed*. This traveling exhibition will open at the New-York Historical Society this November, and then head for Los Angeles, Richmond, Atlanta and Chicago.

Please feel free to contact Anne Edgar of the Kreisberg Group at 212/799-5515, if she can be of any help in assisting you in your coverage of this yearlong event. Or you can reach me directly at 703/799-8656.

Sincerely,

James C. Rees
Resident Director

P.S. You can test your own knowledge of Washington by taking the enclosed Quick Quiz. Or feel free to delve into our websites at <http://www.mountvernon.org> and <http://www.gwashington1999.org>



TREASURES from MOUNT VERNON
 * GEORGE WASHINGTON REVEALED *

EXHIBITION FACT SHEET

TITLE: **TREASURES FROM MOUNT VERNON:
 GEORGE WASHINGTON REVEALED**

OVERVIEW: For the first time, a number of priceless artifacts relating to the life of George Washington will travel from his Mount Vernon estate to cities throughout America. The exhibition and its national tour have been organized by the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association, the oldest preservation organization in the United States, as the centerpiece of *George Washington Bicentennial 1999*, a year-long national commemoration of the 200th anniversary of Washington's death.

**NATIONAL
 TOUR:**

New-York Historical Society
 New York, New York
 November 20, 1998 - February 22, 1999

Huntington Library Art Collections and Botanical Gardens
 San Marino, California
 March 16-June 6, 1999

Virginia Historical Society
 Richmond, Virginia
 July 1-September 19, 1999

Atlanta History Center
 Atlanta, Georgia
 October 14, 1999-January 6, 2000

Chicago Historical Society
 Chicago, Illinois
 January 28-April 23, 2000

SPONSORSHIP: *Treasures from Mount Vernon* and its national tour are made possible by Ford Motor Company. The presentation of the exhibition at the New-York Historical Society is made possible by the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History.



CONTENTS:

170 period artifacts have been assembled for *Treasures from Mount Vernon*, drawn from Mount Vernon's holdings and other important private and public collections throughout the country. From the clothing he wore, portraits he sat for, swords he used and letters that flowed from his quill pen, each dates to Washington's lifetime or to the period immediately after his death.

Six thematic sections explore the life of George Washington from his early years as an ambitious teenager to his later incarnation as a heavily burdened President: the first presents a number of Washington's possessions and objects to evoke his physical stature; the second traces his exploits as a surveyor and soldier; the third vividly summons up his life on the field as a Revolutionary War commander in chief; the fourth offers insight into the private Washington; the fifth details his well-ordered daily life at Mount Vernon; and the sixth shows how the mythologizing of Washington began during his lifetime and reached a feverish pitch following his death.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Washington's false teeth, perhaps the most vivid element of his legend. By the time of his election to the presidency in 1789 when he was 57 years old, Washington wore a full set of dentures, which had a deleterious effect on his appearance. Contrary to legend, they were not wooden.
- The bloodstained military sash given to Washington by the dying British General Edward Braddock at the Battle of Monongahela (1755), the engagement that made Washington a hero at age 23 and earned him the post of Commander of the Virginia Regiment.
- The only two surviving letters from George Washington to his wife Martha (exhibited in rotation) are among the very rarest artifacts on view in the exhibition. After his death, Martha Washington burned the letters her husband had written to her over the 40 years of their marriage
- Iron key from the Bastille, sent to Washington in 1790 by the Marquis de Lafayette after the demolition of the French prison

- A bathing dress belonging to Martha Washington, made of homespun blue-checked linen, with lead weights sewn into the hem for modesty's sake
- A census of the slaves at Mount Vernon recorded by George Washington only months before he died. Washington freed his slaves posthumously through provisions in his will. In this list, a rare and invaluable document, George Washington enumerates the individual slaves, their jobs and family relationships, where they lived, and to whom they belonged
- Pair of porcelain cherubs purchased in Paris at Washington's behest to serve as ornaments of the latest style and finest taste for the President's table
- Four of George Washington's swords, with a facsimile of a page from his last will and testament bearing these words: "These swords are accompanied with an injunction not to unsheath them for purpose of shedding blood, except it be for self defense, or in defense of their Country and its rights...."
- "Mount Vernon in Miniature," an exact replica of the mansion in a scale of one inch to one foot, measuring ten feet long, eight and a half feet high and six feet wide. Created and donated by the people of Washington State, the model contains hundreds of miniature objects, including oil paintings, china, books, tables, and more than 100 chairs. A mechanical system allows the walls to descend, so visitors may see the reproduction of the mansion's third floor.

VIDEO COMPONENTS:

A ten-minute video presentation, produced by The History Channel, will introduce visitors to the historic events that made Washington an icon of American history. The History Channel will also produce an attract-screen video presentation in the exhibit that lends insight to Washington's personal and professional life from 20th-century perspectives. Interviews are with William J. Clinton, president of the United States; George Bush, former president of the United States; Richard Brookhiser, author of the celebrated book Founding Father; Don Higginbotham, historian and author of George Washington and the American Military Tradition, one of the *Ten Great Books on George Washington*; (Ms.) Lee Dazell, historian and co-author of *George Washington's Mount Vernon*; and Barry Bostwick, star of the weekly comedy, *Spin City*, who portrayed the

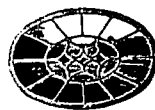
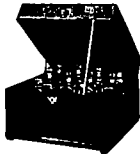
difficult role of George Washington in the CBS mini-series George Washington.

INFOR-

MATION: The public may call (703) 780-2000 for more information on *George Washington Bicentennial 1999*, or visit www.gwashington1999.org or the Mount Vernon Website at www.mountvernon.org.

Press contact:

Sally McDonough
Mount Vernon
Telephone number: (703) 799-8607
Fax number: (703) 799-8609



EXHIBITION FACT SHEET

TITLE: **GEORGE WASHINGTON: ARCHITECT**

Organized and sponsored by The Octagon, the museum of The American Architectural Foundation, and the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association

VENUE: The Octagon
1999 New York Avenue, Washington, D.C.

DATES: January 28, 1999 – July 5, 1999

OVERVIEW: Some 90 artifacts, architectural drawings, manuscripts, and paintings will be assembled to explore a little-known aspect of the life of George Washington: his practical accomplishments as a self-trained architect, and his key role in molding the nation's new federal city into a grand public stage that would symbolize and reinforce the ideals of the new American Republic.

George Washington: Architect demonstrates how Washington used architecture on his estate of Mount Vernon to help define his own image, placing himself squarely among the American gentry. The exhibition also shows how Washington's understanding of the power of image, and his conviction that America needed a strong central government, led him to argue forcefully for a sense of grandeur and permanence in the public buildings of the then-fledgling Capital city.

Unlike such notable peers as Thomas Jefferson, Washington never attended college, nor traveled to Europe. He was a self-trained architect who formed his ideas on design in many ways, from reading English pattern books to seeking advice from local workmen and neighbors. *George Washington: Architect* illustrates a variety of these sources, and demonstrates Washington's hands-on approach to building.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Drawings, plans, and surveys in Washington's own hand
- Washington's personal ledgers, 18th-century invoices for building materials, and a carpenter's weekly work report
- A leather drafting case inscribed "George Washington, 1749"
- L'Enfant's Plan of the city of Washington D.C.
- Books from Washington's library, such as the pattern-book *The British Carpenter: or, a Treatise on Carpentry* (London, 1768) by Francis Price (Collection of the Boston Athenaeum), and *New Principles of Gardening* (London, 1728) by Batty Langley
- Cornerstone from the basement, finial of the cupola, outside siding, and shutters from Mount Vernon
- Washington's correspondence regarding the planning of Washington D.C., the construction of Mount Vernon, the building of the greenhouse and treading barn on the estate, and the design of Washington's townhouses in the new federal city
- Drawings and paintings of Mount Vernon by such artists as Edward Savage (c. 1792), Henry Latrobe (1796), Samuel Vaughn (1787), Alexander Jackson Davis (1830-31), Louis Remy Mignot (ca. 1858-59), and Winslow Homer (1861)
- A Sears, Roebuck, and Co. house kit from the 1930s modeled after Mount Vernon
- Washington's plot of Belhaven (Alexandria), 1749
- An original oil painting of Washington overseeing construction of the south wing of Mount Vernon, commissioned by the Mount Ladies' Association and executed by Peter Waddell (available after December 1, 1998)

PROJECT

LEADERSHIP:

Mount Vernon:

Dennis J. Pogue, Ph.D., Director of Restoration

The Octagon:

Linnea Hamer, Curator of Exhibitions

Eryl J. Platzer, Director

Consultants:

Robert F. Dalzell, Ph.D., Williams College

David Hamill, Pentad Design, Designer

Richard Love, Ph.D., Exhibition Coordinator / Consulting Curator

Orlando Ridout, Maryland Historical Trust

Pamela Scott, Architectural Historian/Consultant

Press contact:

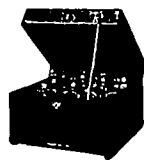
Sally McDonough

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G. Washington
1999
B I C E N T E N N I A L

EXHIBITION FACT SHEET

TITLE:

**MOUNT VERNON AS IT WAS: ONE HUNDRED
OBJECTS FROM THE WORLD AND TIMES OF
GEORGE WASHINGTON**

OVERVIEW:

100 period artifacts and works of art—more than half of which belonged to George Washington—will return to their proper context within historic Mount Vernon during the *George Washington Bicentennial 1999*. Works on view come from institutions and private individuals throughout the country as gifts, loans or as purchases, or from Mount Vernon's own archives.

In 1999, the public Mount Vernon will resemble as never before the beloved private retreat that Washington knew at his death two hundred years ago.

DATES:

February 15, 1999 (Presidents' Day) – February 21, 2000

HIGHLIGHTS:

- The bedroom of George and Martha Washington, where the nation's first president died on December 14, 1799, which will be returned almost exactly to its original appearance. Newly in place will be the massive double chest of drawers purchased by Washington in 1774 from George William Fairfax and a pair of brass andirons raised on cabriole legs (both from the collection of Tudor Place), as well as a Chippendale-style easy chair and a matching foot stool (from the National Museum of American History (NMAH), Smithsonian Institution).
- Martha Washington's granddaughter's English guitar with her initials carved on the sound board (from NMAH) and her grandson's English flute will be newly displayed in the parlor, where Washington would have heard their music.

HIGHLIGHTS, *cont'd*

Also in the front parlor will be one of the finest and most important pieces of furniture to be returned to Mount Vernon, Washington's carved mahogany tea table (NMAH), as well as his Chinese export porcelain punch bowl depicting a fox hunting scene (from Tudor Place), and a framed porcelain portrait of Washington.

- The dining room table at the public Mount Vernon is not usually set. For the bicentennial, however, visitors may view the 16-place setting of Sevres porcelain purchased for the Presidential table by Washington from the first French Ambassador to America, along with a silver mirrored plateaux adorned with bisque figurines, and silver wine coasters and cake basket (Mount Vernon, NMAH, and private collectors).
- The Washingtons used blue and white ware for daily meals, having placed 9 separate orders over the years totaling an estimated 1,000 pieces. But few examples remain in Mount Vernon's holdings. For this exhibition, a number of Canton and Nankin porcelain will be on view throughout the mansion, including a garniture set not displayed at Mount Vernon since 1802 (National Museum of American History (NMAH), Smithsonian Institution).
- A View of Genesee Falls, by William Winstanley, a landscape painting once owned by Washington and displayed in his dining room of Mount Vernon. It will return to join four other of the landscape paintings from Washington's collection that had been previously restored to the room (National Museum of American History (NMAH); Smithsonian Institution).
- The earliest known piece of furniture in Mount Vernon will be the bedstead, c. 1740, bequeathed to George Washington by Lawrence Washington, his oldest half-brother (NMAH). The bedstead will be hung with reproduction fabric based upon material ordered by Washington (NMAH).

cont'd

- The study, Washington's private sanctuary at Mount Vernon, will feature Washington's brass double candlestick, the lamp he preferred to use while writing at night including when he wrote his Farewell Address. Also, the brass tripod base telescope, mentioned in Washington's will, will be on view.

INTERPRETATION: Within the mansion, Mount Vernon will configure settings, as historical tableaux, to tell particular stories relating to Washington the surveyor, farmer, businessman, general, and president.

As part of this interpretation, visitors will encounter first-person historical characters such as Mrs. Eliza Powel, wife of the mayor of Philadelphia, and the close friend credited with encouraging Washington to serve a second presidential term, as well as Christopher Sheels, the slave who served as Washington's personal servant and will describe the ordeal of his death.

First-person historical characters will be present in the mansion daily only in 1999.

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EXHIBITION FACT SHEET

TITLE: PROFILE OF A PATRIOT

Organized and sponsored by
The Mount Vernon Ladies' Association

**NATIONAL
TOUR:**

Morristown National Historic Park
Morristown, New Jersey
(973) 539-2016 <http://www.nps.gov/morr>
Opens: January 16, 1999

Concord Museum
Concord, Massachusetts
(978) 369-9763 <http://www.concordmuseum.org>
Opens: March 12, 1999

Dwight D. Eisenhower Library
Abilene, Kansas
(913) 263-4751 <http://redbud.lbjlib.utexas.edu/eisenhower/ddehp.htm>
Opens: The week of June 21, 1999

Alexandria Lyceum
Alexandria, Virginia
(703) 838-4994 <http://ci.alexandria.va.us/oha/lyceum/ly-index.html>
Opens: August 6, 1999

Ohio Historical Society Museum
Columbus, Ohio
(614) 297-2300 <http://winslo.ohio.gov/ohswww/ohshome.html>
Opens: October 17, 1999

(Other locations TBA)

OVERVIEW:

Forth 19th century engravings, lithographs, and works on paper capture significant events of George Washington's life while conveying the many ways in which artist shaped his legend.

George Washington: Profile of a Patriot includes portraits, domestic settings, military scenes, and unusual tributes that evoke both the man and the myths surrounding him. The exhibition demonstrates how 19th-century depictions of Washington emphasized character and virtue in the face of turbulent national events such as Westward expansion, the Civil War and Reconstruction. As the United States grew from a fledgling republic into a pan-continental giant, Americans continuously reinvented Washington's legend and looked to him as a role model for both political and domestic life.

EXHIBITION HIGHLIGHTS:

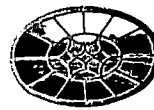
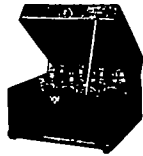
- *Washington Taking Command of the American Army*, published by Currier & Ives, New York 1876 (gift of Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Seaman, Vice Regent for Wisconsin), one of the popular mass produced lithographic prints that made it possible for Washington's portrait to hang in middle-class American homes.
- *British Surrendering Their Arms to Gen. Washington after their defeat at York Town in Virginia October 1781*, engraved by Tanner, Vallance, Kearney and Allen, after a drawing by John F. Renault, has a folk-art quality that became a popular genre in 19th-century America. (Gift of Mr. Albert Small.
- *Washington Crossing the Delaware*, engraved by Paul Girardet in 1853, after a painting by Emmanuel Leutze, a rare print, made after the classic painting which captures one of Washington's greatest military successes, as well as the profile of that great American hero. (Willard-Budd Collection)
- *Plan of the City of Washington...*, engraved by John Russell, published in William Winterbottom's *View of the United States*, London, 1796, picturing one of Washington's major but overlooked accomplishments, his role in designing the new capital city of Washington D.C. (Willard-Budd Collection)

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Exhibit coordinator:

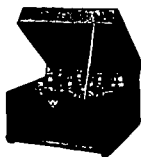
Barbara McMillan, Librarian
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Ten Great Books on George Washington

In anticipation of the bicentennial of the death of George Washington in 1999, the **Organization of American Historians** and **Mount Vernon**, Washington's home and estate, joined forces in 1998 to poll professional historians on the ten greatest books ever written about the First President's life and legacy. The results (listed below) were tabulated from the responses of some 275 scholars.

1. *George Washington: A Biography*, Flexner, James T. (New York: Little, Brown & Company)
2. *George Washington: Man and Monument*, Cunliffe, Marcus
3. *The Genius of George Washington*, Morgan, Edmund S. (New York: W. W. Norton & Company)
4. *Washington*, Freeman, Douglas S. (New York: Simon & Schuster)
5. *George Washington and the American Military Tradition*, Higginbotham, Don (Athens: University of Georgia Press)
6. *The Presidency of George Washington*, McDonald, Forrest (Lawrence: University Press of Kansas)
7. *The Papers of George Washington*, Abbot, W. W. and Dorothy Twohig, eds. (Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia)
8. *George Washington: A Biography*, Alden, John R. (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press)
9. *The Meaning of Independence: John Adams, George Washington, Thomas Jefferson*, Morgan, Edmund S. (Ann Arbor: Books On Demand)
10. *The Diaries of George Washington*, Jackson, Donald and Dorothy Twohig, eds.



FACT SHEET
SELECTED HIGHLIGHTS
GEORGE WASHINGTON BICENTENNIAL 1999

In 1999, Mount Vernon will mark the bicentennial of the death of George Washington by mounting a nationwide commemoration of his life and legacy. The *George Washington Bicentennial 1999* programs will offer insight into the many changes of today while crossing the long divide of two centuries to examine the character and contributions of our First President. Among the array of celebrations, exhibitions and programs held on the Mount Vernon estate and throughout the country are:

AT MOUNT VERNON:

Mount Vernon As It Was: One Hundred Objects from the World and Times of George Washington

February 15, 1999 (Presidents' Day) – February 21, 2000

This exhibition brings together 100 period artifacts and works of art—more than half of which belonged to George Washington—and places them within their proper context in historic Mount Vernon during the *George Washington Bicentennial 1999*. Objects on view will come from institutions and private individuals throughout the country as gifts, loans or as purchases, or from Mount-Vernon's own collection. During "Mount Vernon As It Was," the estate will resemble as never before the beloved private retreat that Washington knew at his death two hundred years ago. For detailed information, see the **fact sheet** in the *George Washington Bicentennial 1999* press kit.

George Washington's Birthday

February 15, 1999

Thousands of visitors from around the world will join in the celebration of Washington's 267th birthday at Mount Vernon, which will include a traditional wreathlaying ceremony at his

grave and the pageantry of the U.S. Army Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps and the Commander In Chief's Guard, officially launching the *George Washington Bicentennial 1999* at Mount Vernon.

Complete Renovation of the Mount Vernon Museum

A complete renovation of the Mount Vernon Museum will coincide with a special series of bicentennial exhibitions.

A highlight of its opening will be an array of historic objects from Washington's presidential residence (originally housed in Philadelphia, the nation's second capital). A number of exceptional objects, including the office's original whale-oil burning Argand lamp, fireplace mantle and carpet, have been loaned to Mount Vernon by The Smithsonian Institution, the Historical Society of Pennsylvania and other museums. Also featured in the opening exhibition will be Washington's Last Will and Testament, on loan from the Fairfax County Circuit Court (Virginia), and a one-of-a-kind terra-cotta bust of Washington cast in 1785 at Mount Vernon by the renowned French sculptor Jean-Antoine Houdon that has never left the premises.

Celebration Nights at Mount Vernon: An American Celebration in Music

Friday and Saturday evenings, 5:30 - 8:00 p.m.

April 2 through August 28, 1999

For the first time since 1976, Mount Vernon will remain open to the public during celebration nights to present a musical review entitled "An American Celebration in Music." The program features a live band with a repertoire of American patriotic music, a multimedia presentation, and narration honoring the character and leadership of Washington. The entire Mount Vernon Estate, including tours and exhibitions, will be open during this program at the regular admission price.

George Washington: Citizen Soldier

Saturday and Sunday, October 16-17, 1999

The activities of these two days, celebrated on the weekend prior to the anniversary of Washington's Victory at Yorktown, will commemorate Washington's career as a devoted military leader and as America's first Commander in Chief. Among both contemporary and historic military elements:

- A schedule of musical performances, including rousing concerts by divisions of the popular U.S. Armed Forces bands.
- Battle demonstrations by the U.S. Army 3d Infantry, the Old Guard Fife & Drum Corps and the Commander in Chief's Guard.
- Authentic encampments, representing troops from the conflicts in which Washington was involved, with over 500 infantry and cavalry re-enactors from the Continental Line performing drills and interpreting camp life.
- Contemporary and historic U.S. Navy, U.S. Marines and U.S. Coast Guard vessels at anchor in the Potomac River below the Mansion, flying their full colors and firing cannon salutes.
- Honorary tributes to George Washington, including U.S. Air Force flyovers, and artillery salutes from the infantry.
- A dramatic, ceremonial "changing of the guard" at Washington's Tomb.
- Outdoor programs with special guest speakers such as the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

The Funeral

Saturday, December 18, 1999

The re-enactment of Washington's funeral procession will dramatically and solemnly conclude the 1999 bicentennial. The narrated pageant will begin with the preparations and arrival of historically attired mourners, including descendants of original mourners, as possible. A procession of colonial cavalry and infantry, cannons, a "rider-less" horse, solemn music, family, friends and Masons will follow Washington's coffin — authentically re-constructed — as pallbearers carry it from the Mansion's large dining room to the ceremony site at the family vault. The ceremony will conclude with a re-creation of the original Anglican and Masonic service and the closing of the newly restored Old Tomb, Washington's original resting place. Poised on the eve of the millenium, this event will remind every American of the void left by the death of George Washington as a new century approached.

A New Guided Tour: Washington's Funeral Procession

Offered daily in 1999

In 1999, Mount Vernon will offer guided tours on the theme of the death of Washington, an epochal event in its day. Visitors

will follow the path of the funeral procession, peer into the Old Tomb where Washington's body was initially laid in 1799, and participate in a moving wreathlaying ceremony at the New Tomb, his final resting place.

Washington is No More

A multimedia presentation

February 15, 1999 through February 21, 2000

Tobias Lear, Washington's trusted friend and secretary, penned a detailed and moving description of Washington's final hours, which will serve as the basis for a new multimedia experience in the greenhouse adjacent to the upper garden. A costumed guide dressed in period mourning will usher visitors into the hushed and darkened "theatre." The show will begin with the sound of gentle distant drumbeats, which will set a somber tone for the presentation. Lighting and sounds created with multimedia technology will transport visitors back to the 18th century to experience the final days of Washington and the mourning that followed.

Other initiatives on the Mount Vernon estate during the George Washington Bicentennial 1999 include the **restoration of the Old Tomb and the New Tomb**; the **restoration of the servants' hall** (the north dependency), one of the last original structures at Mount Vernon to be restored and opened to the public; the **installation of air conditioning and climate control** in the mansion; the **restoration of the Bowling Green**; and the **restoration of Washington's Gristmill**.

NATIONWIDE:

The George Washington Bicentennial Community Program

Cities and towns across the country will honor George Washington on dates marking key events in his life. Among the commemorations:

- Town leaders will raise flags that have flown over Mount Vernon on special days that are proclaimed "George Washington Day."
- Community groups and school children will plant seeds or saplings descended from trees planted by Washington in the 1780s, and 150,000 students will receive a booklet distributed by the National Tree Trust about Washington's conservation efforts.

- School bands will play a new march, entitled “Salute to George Washington,” composed by J. William Middendorf especially for the 1999 celebration.
- Composer Stephen Paulus will create a new symphony honoring Washington commissioned by members of the Society of Cincinnati and Mount Vernon, to be played by local orchestras.
- David and Ginger Hildebrand will release on CD and cassette a compilation of 18th century tunes familiar to Washington, performed on period instruments.
- Municipalities around the country will proclaim themselves official George Washington Bicentennial Communities.
- A wide array of educational initiatives will take place in schools and communities nationwide. For detailed information, see the **Educational Initiatives** fact sheet in the *George Washington Bicentennial 1999* press kit.

Treasures from Mount Vernon: George Washington Revealed
 Opens November 20, 1998 at The New-York Historical Society;
 travels to Los Angeles, Atlanta, Richmond, and Chicago

For the first time, a number of priceless artifacts relating to the life of George Washington will travel from his Mount Vernon estate to cities throughout America. The exhibition and its national tour were organized by The Mount Vernon Ladies' Association, the oldest preservation organization in the United States, and made possible by the Ford Motor Company. For detailed information, see the **press release** and **fact sheet** in the *George Washington Bicentennial 1999* press kit.

George Washington: Architect

Opens January 28, 1999 at The Octagon in Washington, D.C.
Organized and sponsored by The Octagon Museum of The American Architectural Foundation and The Mount Vernon Ladies' Association

This exhibition assembles some 90 artifacts, architectural drawings, manuscripts, and works of art to explore a little-known aspect of the life of George Washington: his practical accomplishments as a self-trained designer and architect, and his key role in molding the nation's new federal city into a grand public stage that would symbolize and reinforce the ideals of the new American Republic. For detailed information, see the **fact sheet** in the *George Washington Bicentennial 1999* press kit.

Profile of a Patriot

Opens in April 1999 at the Concord Museum in Concord, Massachusetts; travels to Abilene, Kansas; Alexandria, Virginia; and Columbus, Ohio

Organized and sponsored by The Mount Vernon Ladies' Association

This traveling exhibition of 40 nineteenth-century engravings, lithographs and works on paper captures significant events of George Washington's life while conveying the many ways in which artists shaped his legend. For detailed information, see the **fact sheet** in the *George Washington Bicentennial 1999* press kit.

PUBLICATIONS:***George Washington's Mount Vernon***

(Monacelli Press/December 1998 – hardcover)

The first comprehensive publication on George Washington's home, this book will become the definitive volume on Mount Vernon. Edited by Wendell Garrett, senior vice president of American decorative arts at Sotheby's New York and editor at large of *The Magazine Antiques*, *George Washington's Mount Vernon* will combine 200 color photographs with seven essays to tell the story of Mount Vernon's architecture, decorative arts, paintings and engravings, and gardens and landscape. Contributors include Susan Gray Detweiler, Rudy J. Favretti, Allan Greenberg, Ronald L. Hurst, James C. Rees and Gilbert T. Vincent. (Principal photography: Robert C. Lautman and Edward Owen)

George Washington's Gardens at Mount Vernon: Landscape of the Inner Man.

by Mac Griswold

(Houghton Mifflin/Spring 1999 – hardcover)

Celebrated garden historian Mac Griswold will write about George Washington's accomplishments as a gardener in this comprehensive 160-page volume that includes 125 color photographs taken during all four seasons.

Gwashington1999.org

A new Web site, developed by Mount Vernon and the Virginia Association of Museums (VAM), has been designed to function as "control central" for the *George Washington Bicentennial*

1999. It includes: ***National Calendar of Events***; information on Mount Vernon's ***Community Programs*** nationwide; an interactive map of ***Washington in Virginia*** for tourists; an interactive area for students, called ***Here Was George Washington***, where George Washington explains in his "own" voice the significance of various historic sites in his life; ***Scholarly Chat Room***, where leading historians address a series of questions about Washington's personality, tastes, and accomplishments; a special exhibition area with an electronic gallery of rare Washington artifacts; ***Ten Great Books on Washington***, selected through a poll of members of the Organization of American Historians; a multimedia slide show recounting the events surrounding the death of the "Father of His Country"; and sample lesson plans and curriculum units for teachers. Available October 1998.

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EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVES

Mount Vernon has designed array of programs and materials designed to reach students throughout the nation, both in and outside of the classroom, during the *George Washington Bicentennial 1999*. Many of these initiatives are the result of collaborations between Mount Vernon and fellow civic and educational organizations.

Educational initiatives include:

The **National Tree Trust** will work with **Mount Vernon** to distribute a booklet on George Washington as conservationist to more than 100,000 students across the nation. Thousands of seeds from trees on the Mount Vernon estate will be distributed to schools in suitable climates for Washington's favorite species.

Through a national competition, sponsored by **Educational Field Services, Inc**, the **National Tree Trust** and **Mount Vernon**, classrooms will collaborate to submit creative projects of all descriptions on Washington. A winning school from each state will be announced on Earth Day. Representatives of the winning schools will attend a tree planting ceremony at Mount Vernon in Spring 1999.

The **Chesapeake Bay Foundation** will develop educational materials on Washington's commitment to conservation and will include Mount Vernon in its teacher workshop programs for 1999.

The **America the Beautiful Fund** will encourage the creation of hundreds of George Washington Memorial Gardens by distributing free vegetable, flower and herb seeds to qualifying community groups across the nation.

For its annual mock Congressional hearing competition, the **Center for Civic Education** will challenge high school students across the nation to explain how Washington's personal example helps define the responsibilities of citizens in the American democracy. The Center also will distribute supplemental lesson materials on George Washington to 17,000 high school teachers from coast to coast.

The **National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution** will sponsor a George Washington essay contest and mount the exhibition "Martha Washington and the Colonial Revival" in the DAR Museum in Constitution Hall in 1999.

Boy Scouts across the nation will be able to earn a special George Washington Activity Badge in 1999 by learning about Washington and sharing their knowledge with the people in their communities. On Saturday, November 6, 1999, the **Nation's Capital Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America** will host a Salute to George Washington at Mount Vernon. Some 1,000 scouts from across the nation will attend this two-night camp-over on the Mount Vernon estate.

Nearly two dozen Washington-related sites in the Virginia, including **Mount Vernon, Yorktown, and Colonial Williamsburg**, will offer field trip activities and tours for students to "walk in Washington's footsteps," and learn about his life and accomplishments.

The **State of Virginia** will issue tens of thousands of "Time Traveler" passports and other prizes to children who rediscover George Washington by visiting at least three Washington-related historic sites or special exhibits in 1999.

The **National Honor Society** will devote its 1999 annual conference to leadership and citizenship, as exemplified by George Washington. Honor Society students in schools nationwide will participate via video in follow-up debates about the relevancy and meaning of these values in modern society.

Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, in partnership with **Mount Vernon**, will create an electronic field trip on George Washington. Filmed at Mount Vernon and at Williamsburg, the field trip will be fed by satellite up-link to schools across the nation, inviting students to explore how Washington became a successful leader and nation-builder.

PUBLICATIONS FOR TEACHERS

George Washington: Gentleman from Mount Vernon: To be published by **Cobblestone Publishing** in late 1998 as part of its "Teaching with Primary Sources" series. Written by a team of **Mount Vernon** historians and educators, this book is designed to define Washington's character and legacy through 82 primary source materials. A series of 10 educational activities will help students explore George Washington in-depth, and come to understand why he inspired awe in his contemporaries.

Archaeology and the Slave Experience at Mount Vernon: Mount Vernon has joined with Jackdaws Publications, a specialist in portfolio curriculum units for teachers, to produce this new Lesson. Using invoices, maps, census records and other documentation original to George Washington, as well as 20th-century archaeological findings from Mount Vernon, students will be given the challenge of analyzing the 18th-century Mount Vernon community and learning about the material culture of 300 African American slaves through the objects they used in their daily lives. Full-size facsimile documents and color images of artifacts excavated on the estate will guide students through the task of

identifying an archaeological assemblage from Mount Vernon, the most thoroughly documented 18th-century plantation in existence today.

CD-ROM — FOR TEACHERS AND CHILDREN OF ALL AGES:

Dig Into George, CD-Rom. This new interactive CD-Rom takes users on a video tour of the Mount Vernon Mansion to discover Washington through the home he designed and furnished. Twenty audio quotes from “George Washington” tell the story of his home in his own words. Children of all ages will enjoy the *Archaeology Concentration Game*, an interactive exploration of archaeology at Mount Vernon that will help them understand just what those discoveries from the past can tell us about Washington and the entire 18th-century Mount Vernon Community. Twelve lesson plans, available on a PDF file for classroom use, will provide teachers with materials that go far beyond the limited information available in modern textbooks. **Mount Vernon** aims to distribute *Dig Into George* free of charge to teachers and school libraries. The CD-Rom will also be available for sale beginning in late October 1998 through the Mount Vernon Inn Gift Shop.

INFOR-

MATION: The public may call (703) 780-2000 for more information on *George Washington Bicentennial 1999*, or visit www.gwashington1999.org or the Mount Vernon Website at www.mountvernon.org.

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For Immediate Release

**HICKORY CHAIR COMPANY INTRODUCES NEW DESIGNS
ADAPTED FROM THE FURNITURE OF
GEORGE WASHINGTON'S MOUNT VERNON**

**The Bed Washington Really Did Sleep In—A Grand Four Poster—
Is Highlight of New Design Collection**

MOUNT VERNON, VIRGINIA (September 15, 1998) -- In 1999, in conjunction with the *George Washington Bicentennial 1999* commemoration of George Washington's death, Hickory Chair Company will introduce two new lines of furnishings comprising approximately 25 new designs based primarily on the 18th-century furniture of Martha and George Washington. The new lines expand the company's popular *Mount Vernon Collection* to a total of almost 75 items, all developed under an exclusive licensing agreement with the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association. In addition, the designs mark a first for Hickory Chair's *Mount Vernon Collection*—the introduction of furniture designed for a casual lifestyle. *The Bicentennial Collection* furniture line will be available in five stores across the nation in Spring 1999.

Where Washington Slept: Formal Elegance

Hickory Chair has drawn from the private and intimate spaces of Mount Vernon, adapting furniture from the Washingtons' second-floor bedchamber. The centerpiece is the reproduction of Martha and George Washington's four-poster bed, which was custom

made extra-large to accommodate one of America's tallest founding fathers. The original bedstead--crafted from mahogany and topped with white dimity--was special-ordered by Martha Washington in 1797 from a Philadelphia craftsman. Hickory Chair will adapt the bed to contemporary queen and king sizes, and will offer a canopy as an option.

Other highlights from the more formal portion of *The Bicentennial Collection* include a desk and nightstand based on Washington's French dressing table; an end-table and coffee table inspired by Washington's handsome wine cooler; a French Louis XVI side chair; and an armoire and entertainment center adapted from the First President's tambour secretary desk.

Through a new partnership with Tudor Place, the historic home of Mrs. Washington's granddaughter, Martha Parke Custis Peter, located in the Georgetown section of Washington, DC, Hickory Chair will also offer an adaptation of the mahogany chest-on-chest which stood just a few feet from the Washingtons' bedstead in their master bedroom. These two pieces, reunited for the first time in 200 years, will be on view at the Mount Vernon Museum during the *George Washington Bicentennial 1999* commemoration.

Additions to the formal collection include:

- Washington four-poster bed
- Limited-edition Washington chest-on-chest
- French desk and night stand based on Washington's dressing table
- Glass topped end table and coffee table inspired from Washington's wine cooler
- Coffee table inspired by stool owned by Nelly Custis, Martha Washington's granddaughter
- Lacquered end table inspired by George Washington's dressing case

- French Louis XVI side chair
- Armoire/entertainment center inspired by Washington's tambour secretary desk

“Plantation Life,” A More Casual Line

As a statesman, Washington was known for his formal and straitlaced demeanor. But once he returned to Mount Vernon, he relished a more relaxed, informal way of life and the role of gentleman farmer. This aspect of Washington's character has been captured in Hickory Chair's new grouping of furniture, *Plantation Life*, with its simple lines, painted and distressed appearance, and a sense of unexpected whimsy.

One of the highlights of the *Plantation Life* furniture line is a rare 18th-century Tidewater Plantation Secretary Desk that has been adapted into an armoire/entertainment center. It will be painted and distressed to appear as the original. (The same finishes will be available for the other pieces of furniture in *Plantation Life*.)

As Washington raised bees, a new glass-topped table will feature the design of an 18th-century bee skep. The original spit rack in the Mount Vernon kitchen has inspired a rustic buffet. Windsor chairs and a server from the kitchen are also available. Most of the pieces will be offered in two new finishes--Plantation Light (like pine) and Plantation Dark (medium-cherry)--in addition to several painted colors.

The Casual Furniture Collection, Plantation Life, includes:

- Painted and distressed Plantation Secretary Desk / armoire / entertainment center
- Bee Skep-inspired table
- Windsor settee fashioned after the original in Mount Vernon's small parlor
- Windsor side and arm chair from Martha Washington's garret bedroom, where

she moved after her husband's death in 1799

- Server from Washington's kitchen and night stand inspired by the same piece
- A table and a buffet with a plate rack inspired by the spit rack in the kitchen
- Pedestal-base round plank table inspired by the Plantation Secretary Desk

"One of the most attractive aspects of the Hickory Chair *Mount Vernon Collection* is that each piece really stands on its own and tells its own story," notes Beverly Addington, director of Mount Vernon's licensing program. "A person can purchase a whole room of furniture that blends together beautifully, just like the rooms of Mount Vernon, or select one great piece that can become a keepsake from the Washington Bicentennial and an heirloom to pass on to children and grandchildren."

The entire *Mount Vernon Collection* will be previewed to dealers at the International Furniture Market in High Point, North Carolina, this October. For additional information about the Hickory Chair dealers in their region, the public may contact the Hickory Chair Company at 828-328-1801 or visit its website <http://www.hickorychair.com>.

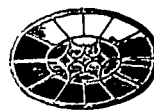
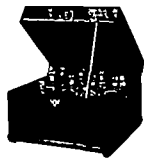
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G. Washington
— 1999 —
B I C E N T E N N I A L

A Brief Washington-Mount Vernon Chronology

- 1674 John Washington, great-grandfather of George, is granted the Mount Vernon homesite.
- 1726 Augustine Washington, father of George, acquires the Mount Vernon property from his sister Mildred
- 1732 George, first child of Augustine and Mary (Ball) Washington, born at the family place on the Potomac River in Westmoreland County, Virginia
- 1735-39 Augustine Washington in residence at Mount Vernon with his young family.
- 1743 Augustine Washington dies. Lawrence Washington, George's elder half brother, marries and settles at Mount Vernon.
- 1752 Lawrence Washington dies at Mount Vernon.
- 1754 George Washington acquires Mount Vernon by lease from Lawrence Washington's widow.
- 1759 George Washington marries Martha Dandridge Custis, widow of Daniel Parke Custis, and settles at Mount Vernon with his wife and two young stepchildren, John Parke and Martha Parke Custis.
- 1761 Inherits Mount Vernon following the death of Lawrence Washington's widow.
- 1775 Elected General to command all Continental forces.
- 1781 Stops briefly at Mount Vernon en route to and from Yorktown. John Parke Custis dies; the Washingtons take in his two youngest children, Eleanor Parke and George Washington Parke Custis.
- 1783 Resigns his commission to Congress and retires to Mount Vernon.
- 1787 Presides over the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia
- 1789-97 Years of the presidency. Visits Mount Vernon fifteen times.
- 1799 Dies and is entombed in the old family vault
- 1802 Martha Washington dies and is entombed beside her husband. Mount Vernon passes to Washington's nephew Bushrod Washington.
- 1829 Bushrod Washington dies, leaving Mount Vernon to his nephew John Augustine Washington.
- 1853 Mount Vernon Ladies' Association founded by Ann Pamela Cunningham of South Carolina to purchase and preserve the home and tomb of George Washington.
- 1858 Mount Vernon Ladies' Association receives its final charter from the Commonwealth of Virginia and purchases Mount Vernon from John A. Washington, Jr.



The Mount Vernon Ladies' Association

Mount Vernon, the home of George Washington, is owned and maintained by the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association, the oldest national historic preservation organization in the United States.

Founded by Ann Pamela Cunningham of South Carolina, the Association might never have come into existence were it not a tradition for Navy ships to toll bells when passing Mount Vernon. When in 1853 Miss Cunningham's mother was summoned to deck by such a bell, ringing in homage to the nation's first president, she was horrified at the sight of Washington's once grand house covered with peeling paint and overgrown weeds, its famous portico so dilapidated that it was propped up by a sailing mast.

"I was painfully distressed," she later wrote to her daughter, "at the ruin and desolation of the home of Washington, and the thought passed through my mind: Why was it that the women of his country did not try to keep it in repair, if the men could not do it? It does seem such a blot on our country."

Inspired by her mother's conviction, Ann Pamela Cunningham launched a campaign to raise the funds necessary to purchase and preserve the home of Washington. The Association she founded in 1853—a nationwide organization of women—appealed to the American people for \$200,000. The country responded, and five years later the Association purchased the mansion, outbuildings and 200 surrounding acres from John Augustine Washington, Jr., a great-grandnephew of George Washington.

Mount Vernon is held by the Association under a charter from the Commonwealth of Virginia. The Association is led by a Regent (i.e., chairperson), and the charter provides for a woman representative from each state.

No tax dollars are expended to support Mount Vernon: the Association does not accept grants from the federal, state or local government. The mansion and its grounds, outreach and education programs, and estate events and activities, are supported through the generosity of patriotic individuals, foundations and corporations, together with income from gate receipts and gift shop and restaurant revenue.

Under the Association's 140-year long trusteeship, Mount Vernon has been authentically restored to its original appearance. Today Mount Vernon is a national monument that is open to the public every day of the year, serving over a million visitors annually.