



# Patriot Papers

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

## George Washington Visits George, Washington

National Portrait Gallery Exhibition Tours Country, Opens in Minneapolis

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Coming Soon to a Museum Near You

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

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

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

**Seattle Art Museum:** March 21 - July 20, 2003

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

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

**Arkansas Arts Center:** April 23 - August 22, 2004

**The Metropolitan Museum of Art:** Fall 2004

ing, "Was he real?"

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



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

Colin Mulvaney, Spokesman-Review



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

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

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

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

Thanks to SAM and the Jelly Belly Candy Co. for sponsoring the event and treating everyone to goody bags of jelly beans and a GW pin. What a sweet deal! Ah yes, the answer: 10,008 Jelly Belly beans.

## SOME PIE!

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

<b>CRUST:</b>	<b>FILLING:</b>
159 lbs. flour	100 gallons cherries
72 lbs. shortening	200 lbs. sugar
salt to taste	75 c. tapioca
water to	2 c. almond extract
right consistency	1½ c. red food coloring

"George Washington: A National Treasure" is organized by the National Portrait Gallery, Smithsonian Institution, and made possible through the generosity of the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation.

## About the Artist

Gilbert Stuart was born on December 3, 1755, in Saunterstown, Rhode Island. He began to study painting in his early teenage years, while traveling around Europe. After painting the Lansdowne portrait, Stuart painted Presidents John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, and James Monroe. His most famous portrait of Washington is recognizable today on the one-dollar bill and on postage stamps.

## Making Connections

Imagine you are an actor who portrays a historical figure. Who would you be? How could you talk, dress, and behave to be like this person? Create this character.

## High School Teacher's Edition

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

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

—Felice Pulles, editor-in-chief

### Related national standards in historical thinking

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

### Related national standards in language arts

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

## Writing to Learn

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

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

## Making Connections

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

### Suggestions for the timeline

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

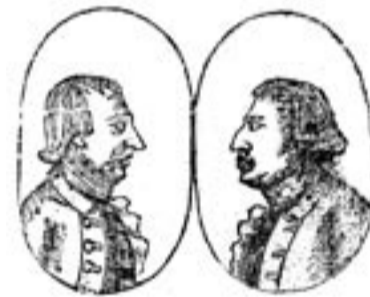
## A BLAST FROM THE PAST

### Washington Wins Election to House from Fort Cumberland!

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

### General Washington Rallies Troops at Valley Forge

VALLEY FORGE, 1777–1778—General Washington struggles to keep his troops alive and well in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, this winter. Inadequate shipments of food, clothing, and supplies have left the regiments in shambles; poor hygiene and rampant disease threaten the lives of all the soldiers camped there. General Washington has made repeated appeals for increased supplies, but the mismanagement of the supply trade has yet to be resolved. In the meantime, General Washington struggles alongside his men while political rivals threaten to remove his power. Military and civilian critics, particularly Thomas Conway and Dr. Benjamin Rush, feel that there are several men who are better suited to lead the Continental army.



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

### Martha Washington Buries Fourth Child, John P. Custis

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

### Washington Unanimous Pick for President at Convention!

NEW YORK, 1789 (AP)—After many months of debate to establish our new American government, the first official election was held on February 4, 1789. George Washington has received all 69 electoral votes! Washington, who will be inaugurated on April 30 of this year, accepted his new office, despite his overwhelming desire to return to his estate at Mount Vernon: "I was summoned by my country . . . from a retreat which I had chosen with the fondest predilection, and . . . with an immutable decision, as the asylum of my declining years." Washington and his wife Martha will move to the country's capital, New York City.

### Washington Graciously Delays Retirement for a Second Term

PHILADELPHIA, 1793 (AP)—President George Washington has won his second election to the presidency of the United States! The inauguration will take place on March 4 in Philadelphia, the new capital of the United States. However, the prospect of returning to the stress of presidential life has left Washington doubtful. Washington wrote to his friend Henry Lee "that it was after a long and painful conflict in my own breast, that I was withheld from requesting, in time, that no votes might be thrown away upon me; it being my fixed determination to return to the walks of private life." The next four years do in fact promise to be difficult; factionalism has already begun to sprout in government over constitutional interpretation. Secretary of the Treasury Alexander Hamilton, who was the driving force behind the creation of the National Bank and National Mint, will remain in the service of the President. Edmund Randolph will replace Thomas Jefferson as secretary of state.

## The Patriot Papers

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

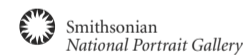
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The opinions expressed in *The Patriot Papers* are not necessarily those of the Smithsonian Institution or the National Portrait Gallery.

Teaching materials to accompany the exhibition "George Washington: A National Treasure" are available to educators at no cost by visiting [www.georgewashington.si.edu](http://www.georgewashington.si.edu) or by calling 1-866-NPG-KITS.

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### Whiskey Rebellion Shakes Pennsylvania

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

### Wanted Immediately

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



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

### FALSE DELICAC

By the author of A WORD TO THE WISE

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

Was found November 9, 1787, on the Egypt Road

### A Lady's TIPPET.

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

KING & QUEEN, MARCH 31, 1772

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

THOMAS HILL

## The Women of Valley Forge and the American Revolution

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

## For Discussion and Debate

Have students do further research on slavery. Good websites include Mount Vernon's site at [www.mountvernon.org](http://www.mountvernon.org), the Hubbard House Underground Railroad Museum in Ohio at [www.hubbardhouseugrrmuseum.org](http://www.hubbardhouseugrrmuseum.org), or the Decatur House at [www.decatourhouse.org](http://www.decatourhouse.org).

## Valley Forge: *An Eyewitness Account*

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

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



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

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

## December 1790

PRESIDENTIAL RESIDENCE, 190 HIGH STREET, PHILADELPHIA. Senator Robert Morris's dwelling at 190 High Street has turned out to be the best house available for the President's use, and Mr. Morris has graciously agreed to move around the corner. Additions will be made to accommodate Mrs. Washington and her two grandchildren, Nelly, who is about twelve, and George Washington, who is about ten, as well as the President's secretary and numerous servants. The bathing room has been turned



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

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

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

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

## November 1796

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

—Paul Reber, Decatur House

## December 1790

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

## For Discussion and Debate

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

*"Not talking about slavery isn't a question of not having the information. It's a question of what you decide to selectively remember."*

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

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

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

*"Slavery is like holding a wolf by the ears."*

—Thomas Jefferson

## Writing to Learn

### "Valley Forge: An Eyewitness Account"

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

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

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

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

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

## Building Vocabulary

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

### Vocabulary Words

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

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

**tippet** n. 1. A long, slender boa used like a scarf. It was considered a fancy accessory in the 18th century, usually made of swansdown or fur.

## For Discussion and Debate

### The Role and Responsibility of the Press

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

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

## Writing to Learn

### Research colonial medicine

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

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

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

April 23, 1789

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



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

May 30, 1789

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

July 9, 1790

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

May 14, 1789

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



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

*“Elective Highness”*

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



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

February 1792

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

August 2, 1793

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

April 1796

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

## Making Connections

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

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

## Washington's Final Hours

PERSONAL RECOLLECTIONS FROM TOBIAS LEAR

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

## Did George Washington Stand a Chance?

Colonial Practice of Bloodletting Helped Cause Washington's Death

—by Vicki Fama, assistant editor

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

Colonial medicine was based on European medical methods and theories; no one then understood how diseases or infection spread. One of the main theories focused on the need for a total

balance of tension and fluids in the body; this delicate balance was essential to both physical and mental health. This concept played an important role in Washington's death.

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

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

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

to choke the sick General.

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

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

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

## From Meditation XVII —by John Donne

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

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

## Studying the Sonnet

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

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

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

FORM= abbaabbacddcee

## Death Be Not Proud

—a sonnet by John Donne, 1633

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

## Writing to Learn

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

## Possessions

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

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

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

## Did You Know...?

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



MISS FAITH PROCTOR

## Faith Goes Underground

—BY J. K. PULLES

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## In Other Words...

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

RESPECTFULLY BASED ON *THE RULES OF CIVILITY*  
—BY MARLA MAIDEN

In 1745, in the colonial frontier town of Fredericksburg, Virginia, thirteen-year-old George Washington recorded *The Rules of Civility* in his workbook, probably as a dictation exercise. These “guidelines for the respectable gentleman” would influence him throughout life, guiding him in both social and professional situations. Translations and variations abound, but all stress etiquette, chivalry, and courtesy, often rather elusive concepts in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

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

*Mistress Goody,*  
*We have assigned seats in my second period geometry class. I am alphabetically challenged in being seated*

*beside the “class clown.” He makes so much noise that I can’t concentrate. This class is already difficult for me, but I don’t want to be a tattletale. What should I do?*

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

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

*Mistress Goody,*  
*My best friend has been out of school with “mono” for several weeks. We talk on the phone and email one another every day so that she can stay up-to-date on things. But just the other day while I was describing what a great time I had at “spring fling” she became upset and bung up on me. I think she is just jealous because I am having fun without her.*

Your friend with the “kissing sickness” is envious of your fun at the seasonal gala because she is having none of her own. Though it may tickle your throat to swallow your delicious tales, spare your friend her jealousy.

**Rule 43: Do not express joy before one who is sick or in pain, for that contrary passion will aggravate his misery.**



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

Do impress on vain Valerie that beauty fades, while some friendships can last forever:

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

*Mistress Goody,*  
*I have been dating my girlfriend for six months, and I believe I am falling in love with her. Lately, I have heard rumors that she had a “bad reputation” at her former school. Should I believe my girlfriend or these rumors?*

Sir, if you call this gnawing mistrust “love,” you are sadly mistaken.

**Rule 50: Be not hasty to believe flying reports to the disparity of any.**



MISTRESS GOODY

## The President with No Teeth!

When George Washington became the first President in 1783, he had only one tooth left in his mouth. As a boy, he had cracked walnut shells with his teeth. As a result, many of them fell out before he was 30! Over the years, Washington wore several sets of false teeth. There is no proof that he ever had wooden teeth. His dentures were made of many things. They were often made from human teeth, animal teeth, and ivory. They were put together with wire and a spring. This allowed the dentures to open and close. Throughout his life,

Washington had trouble speaking, chewing food, and smiling. The false teeth could be painful. They sometimes made Washington’s cheeks and lips puff out. Fortunately, modern dentistry now allows painless smiles for even the greatest of walnut lovers!





*Social Notes from All Over...*

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

Philadelphia, January 1791

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



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

Philadelphia, April 1791

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

Philadelphia, July 13, 1793

RICKETTS'S AMPHITHEATRE. Word that the President and his family were to attend a performance of Mr. John Bill Ricketts's dangerous feats on horseback brought a large crowd this evening to what is called the Circus. The acrobatic performance was held to raise money to buy firewood for the poor during the coming winter. Mr. Ricketts, demonstrating his agility by drinking a glass of wine while on horseback, raised his glass to the health of "The Man of the People." This produced an immediate clap of applause and a loud hurrah from every part of the Circus. Mr. Ricketts has expressed his agreement with those who call General Washington the finest horseman of the age, saying "I delight to see the general ride, and make it a point to fall in with him when I hear that he is abroad on horseback; his seat is so firm, his management so easy and graceful, that I who am a professor of horsemanship, would go to him and learn to ride."

Philadelphia, September 1796



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

PEALE'S MUSEUM. A visit to Mr. Peale's museum, Prudence Pudding tells us, is well worth the admission fee of one fourth of a dollar, if only to see the huge American buffalo. Peale's rooms are filled with monsters of the earth and sea, a rich array of birds, and a great collection of the bones, jaws, and teeth of tigers, sharks, and many other fearful animals. In one room are rattle, black, and spotted snakes, confined in cases enclosed with wire and glass. She was astonished to see Mr. Peale take out a black snake about four or five feet long, which he permitted to touch his cheek and twine itself around his neck. In the yard and stable were eagles, owls, baboons, monkeys, and a six-footed cow. Mr. Peale is also a painter, and there can be seen in his museum more than a hundred portraits of the more noteworthy personages of our country, including our illustrious Washington.

June 1791

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

Philadelphia, February 1797

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

POET'S CORNER... SOME VERY BAD POETRY

REVOLUTIONARY MOMENTS

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

\*Bostonians pronounce Concord — [kahn • kəd].  
You're right, that's hard to rhyme!

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

Will the Real George W. Please Stand Up?

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



PHOTOGRAPH BY JACK MANNING, NEW YORK TIMES

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

Making Connections

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

**Research:** Investigate Peale's Museum, Ricketts's Amphitheatre, or the history of the circus.

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

Create an Old-Fashioned Advertisement

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

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

More Bad Poetry

Revolutionary Tea

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

Revolutionary Moments

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

\*Bostonians pronounce Concord — [kahn • kəd].  
You're right, that's hard to rhyme!

Tile game key. Game on page 8.

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

Word find key. Puzzle on page 8.



## Wanted:

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

Feature your class on our website—send information to [PatriotPapers@npg.si.edu](mailto:PatriotPapers@npg.si.edu)!

## Writing to Learn

### Make Your Voice Heard

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

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

Or . . . play today's TV correspondent and conduct a live interview with Washington. What does he think of America in 2003 and the current state of affairs?

## Pledge It Forward—Self to Service

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

Have the students write political poems on "America 2003" and submit them to [PatriotPapers@npg.si.edu](mailto:PatriotPapers@npg.si.edu).

## Where's George? word find puzzle

Answers on page 7.

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

False teeth	Jefferson	Mount Vernon
Federalists	John Adams	Pennsylvania
George	Lansdowne	Rules of Civility
Gilbert Stuart	Loyalty oath	
Hamilton	Martha	

EDITOR'S CHOICE:

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

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



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

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

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

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



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



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

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

## Gardening and English: Side by Side

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

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



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

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

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

## FREEDOM—Captured on Film

12-Year-Old Thy Vu Wins Contest

Challenged to illustrate how "Independent Courts Protect Our Liberties," contestants in the 2003 Images of Freedom Student Photography Contest ranged from middle school through high school. Yet it was a 12-year-old who captured first prize. Thy Vu's portrayal, *A Pure Court Thinking about Freedom*, made her the youngest student to



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

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

ever win the contest. Jim Landman, associate director of the American Bar Association's Division of Public Education and organizer of the contest, remarked that the theme for this year was particularly difficult, making Vu's accomplishment even more impressive. In April, Vu traveled to Washington, DC, to receive her award and tour the Capitol. Thy Vu began drawing cartoons at a young age to distract herself from the bullying that took place at her school in Vietnam. Now a seventh-grader at College Place Middle School in Lynnwood, Washington,

## Pledge It Forward—Self to Service

A Challenge from *The Patriot Papers*

—F. A. PULLES, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The Portrait Gallery's Office of Education would like to recognize those who continue to care about community. We challenge you to *Pledge It Forward*—pledge time to your schools, youth organizations, senior centers. We'll feature your stories and photos on our website at [www.georgewashington.si.edu](http://www.georgewashington.si.edu). Projects of particular merit will be published in *The Patriot Papers*. Get creative; get busy. And together, we can build a community of caring. Write to us at [PatriotPapers@npg.si.edu](mailto:PatriotPapers@npg.si.edu).

## Tile Game

Answers on page 7.

Unscramble the tiles to reveal a message.

### George Washington

AN	A	M	OF	VIC	E.	SER

### Mrs. Washington's runaway who stayed away!

GE	OL	JUD	NEY

### Mistress Goody Quotes...

ILIT	Y.	THE	RULE	CIV	S OF

### Faith Proctor

ON A	NZY!	FRE	HION	FAS

### patriot n.

CO	UNT	FEL	AN	RY M	LOW