George Washington Visits George, Washington

National Portrait Gallery Exhibition Tours Country, Opens in Oklahoma City

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 to come riding through town. But that’s just what he did in Seattle, Washington, last March. He was in town to celebrate the Lansdowne exhibition at the Seattle Art Museum.

In Seattle, George Washington joined “The George Tour”—a journey that took George and his friends across the state of Washington to Spokane and back again. George, played by actor William Sommerfield, left Seattle on a cold, windy day with his traveling companions: Carol Wyrick from the National Portrait Gallery, and Mimi Gates, Jennifer Vary, and Erika Lindsey from the Seattle Art Museum. And guess who sat in the front seat next to George? Flat Stanley!

He wasn’t about to miss this trip!

Up into the mountains they climbed. There was snow everywhere. Stanley wanted to throw snowballs, but the others were anxious to keep going. First stop: The town of George, population 500. This is the home of “The World’s Largest Cherry Pie.” Yes, even Stanley had a piece of pie!

Next they were off to the show at George Elementary School. President Washington called for volunteers and taught the kids how to bow, curtsey, dance the minuet, and plow a field.

(Stanley is a terrible dancer. He has two left feet and kept stepping on everyone’s toes.) Then out came the swords, and they learned to fence.

“Jelly Belly” George:

Wow! What a Sweet Deal!

Wouldn’t you love to be called the “king of jelly bean art”? It just sounds like a tasty title! That’s what Peter Rocha, a San Francisco artist, calls himself. He designs jelly bean portraits. And on July 2, his jelly bean portrait of George Washington visited the Seattle Art Museum. Fifty kids took a guess at the number of beans in the portrait. Can you guess?

Our thanks goes to the Seattle Art Museum and the Jelly Belly Candy Company for sponsoring this event. Everyone was treated to a goody bag of jelly beans and a George Washington pin. How sweet is that?

The answer: 10,008 Jelly Belly beans. That’s enough jelly beans for one person to eat for about the next two years! We hope Peter doesn’t sample as many as he uses.

SOME PIE!

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

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

FILLING:
100 gallons cherries
200 lbs. sugar
75 c. tapioca

2 c. almond extract
1½ c. red food coloring

CRUST:

FILLING:

George and Flat Stanley logged more than 1,000 miles touring together.

The tour continued. They stopped to perform again at Moses Lake Museum and Art Center and at St. George’s School in Spokane. Each show ended with a pretend “presidential press conference,” and the kids had lots of questions for President Washington. “Do you have wooden teeth?” “Were you hungry after the war?” “Did you ever live in the White House?” And the favorites, ”Are you really George Washington?” “Is Stanley really flat?”

The last stop was the governor’s mansion in the state capital of Olympia. The National Portrait Gallery gave the state of Washington a special copy of the Lansdowne portrait. Then everyone jumped into the van and headed home.

Coming up in December—Oklahoma City. And just in time for rodeo and the Cowboy Christmas Ball. Stanley has his boots, his hat, and he’s ready to ride. George? I don’t think he wears a cowboy hat!

Our thanks goes to the Seattle Art Museum and the Jelly Belly Candy Company for sponsoring this event.

“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.
General Washington Rallies Troops at Valley Forge

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

Washington Unanimous Pick for President at Convention!

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

Washington Graciously Delays Retirement for a Second Term

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

Whiskey Rebellion Shakes Western Pennsylvania

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

**Where’s George?**


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

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<br>

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Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery

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A BLAST FROM THE PAST

Mr. Finnie respectfully informs the gentlemen amateurs of FENCING, that he Proposes opening a FENCING ACADEMY on the 5th of February on River Street, the second door from King Street, where that noble art will be taught every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday.

At the City Ordinary, on Wednesday the 28th of this month<br>Such Gentlemen & Ladies are respectfully invited to attend this delightful spectacle. To the amazement of all, the LEARNED PIG counts, adds, & subtracts numbers & even identifies colors.

The Doors will be open at Six o’Clock.

Would you take a LOYALTY OATH?

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

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

Would you have signed? How many colonists do you think were loyal to the British crown?
November 1796

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

December 1790

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

George Washington was only 11 years old when he inherited 10 slaves from his father in 1743.

By the time he was 22 years old, Washington owned approximately 36 slaves. At his death in 1799, Washington had 316 slaves at Mount Vernon, 123 of whom belonged directly to him. The remaining 193 were “dower” slaves—those he acquired through his marriage to Martha.

Washington did not buy or sell any slaves after the Revolutionary War.

Approximately 75 percent of the slaves at Mount Vernon worked in the fields. Of these, nearly 65 percent were women.

Washington allowed his slaves to marry, although such arrangements were not legally binding at that time.

In his will, Washington freed all of the slaves he owned. His personal valet, William Lee, was released with a payment of $30 per year for the rest of his life, a considerable sum in those days.

December 1790

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

Possessions

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

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

How many of these same items are owned by your family today? Are you surprised to see “slaves” listed as part of the inventory of possessions? If you were to make an inventory of every item in your home, how long do you think the list would be? How many items would be unfamiliar to George Washington?
George Washington towered over most men of the time. Standing about six feet, three inches tall, with long arms and legs, huge hands and feet, and pale blue eyes, Washington attracted notice. When young, his hair was reddish brown, but it lightened as he aged.

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

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

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

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

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

1. ______________________
2. ______________________
3. ______________________

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

Any differences? ______________________

What Did George Really Look Like?
Six Reasons For Greatness

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

1. By age 23, Washington was renowned for his physical courage: he continued to fight in one battle despite having four bullets pierce his clothing and two horses shot out from under him.

2. Washington risked his wealth, his reputation, and his life when he agreed to lead the fight against the British; had he failed, he would have been hung as a traitor!

3. Washington learned to “act like a fox, not like a wolf.” He understood that to win the war against Britain, he had to outlast his enemy, not win every battle.

4. Washington agreed to become the first President of the United States, when he could easily have been the first king.

5. He was the only President to be elected unanimously, not once but twice!

6. He was the only Founding Father to free his slaves when he died, although this was not effective until after Martha Washington’s death.

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

Did George Washington Stand a Chance?

To modern people, it is easy to think that medicine in the colonies was unsafe. Many doctors at the time were self-trained. If he had lived today, George Washington could have been cured with antibiotics. But in 1799, could Washington have gotten better after the treatments he experienced?

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

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

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

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

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

George Washington Dies at 67

After riding outside during very bad weather last Thursday and Friday, George Washington got sick on Saturday, December 14, 1799. An infection* gave him a sore throat. He also had a fever, and it was hard for him to breathe.

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

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

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

The President with No Teeth!

When George Washington became the first President in 1789, 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!
**Trippin’ Through Time**

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

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

Mistress Goody,  
We have assigned seats in my second period geometry class. I am alphabetically challenged in being seated beside the “class clown.” He makes so much noise that I can’t concentrate. This class is already difficult for me, but I don’t want to be a tattletale. What should I do? It is highly inconsiderate for your clownish classmate to encroach on your time to angle with angles. Tactfully remind him that his behavior is inappropriate.

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

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

**Rule 54:** Play not the peacock, looking every day at least, and take heed that you approach not to any uncleanliness.

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**Cross-ing the Delaware**

1. George Washington recorded the Rule of 9 when he was thirteen years old.
2. The National Portrait Gallery’s image of George Washington is often referred to as the ______ portrait.
3. The violent opposition to the liquor tax is known as the ______ Rebellion.
4. The first President of the United States
5. In the time of Washington, there were two political parties, the Republicans and the ______.
6. The name of George Washington’s wife.
7. In the winter of 1777–78, Washington struggled to keep his troops alive at ______.

**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.

Guess who’s coming to town—direct from Mount Vernon on the banks of the Potomac? It’s George Washington, and you can shake his hand. For three days he’ll be visiting a museum near you,* waiting to share his stories and dance the minuet. He looks like George Washington. He has white powdered hair. He’s almost six feet, three inches tall. He walks like George and talks like George. He even signs his name like George. Come see for yourself! It’s time to take a walk with Washington.

*Parents, check your local museum for dates and details.
Social Notes from All Over...

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

April 23, 1789
HE COMES! HE COMES! George Washington, President-elect of the United States, has just set foot on the New York shore after an eight-day triumphal journey from Mount Vernon. The excitement here is unbelievable. Thousands line the streets—all you can see are heads standing as thick as ears of corn before the harvest. Ladies are crowded in every window, anxious for a glimpse of the illustrious man. “I have seen him!” we heard one young lady call out, “and though I had been entirely ignorant that he was arrived in the city, I should have known at a glance that it was General Washington: I never saw a human being that looked so great and noble as he does. I could fall down on my knees before him.” Washington, it can well be believed, is more popular than the new government he is to head.

Philadelphia, July 13, 1793
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.”

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, 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 slandering remarks on the part of our correspondents. They are, at times ill-mannered, sometimes indiscreet, and, at all times, want of wit.

Philadelphia, September 1796
A visit to Mr. Peale’s museum, Prudence Pudding tells us, is well worth the admission fee of one fourth of a dollar, if only to see the huge American buffalo. Peale’s rooms are filled with 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 encased 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.
Red Land High Proves “That’s What Friends Are For”

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

When did you last say thank-you to a teacher? The students at Red Land High School in Pennsylvania found a wonderful way to say “thank-you, we care” to a favorite teacher with a very special son. Teacher Bill Spong and his wife Denise have a little boy named Billy who has a rare form of cerebral palsy called chorea. It prevents Billy from crawling, walking, and talking. But Billy’s doctors found a new treatment that helps—it’s a special suit that helps Billy move his muscles. Unfortunately, the suit is expensive to use, and it’s only used in Detroit, Michigan. Billy has worn the suit twice, and it’s helping. Now he can sit up and crawl, and he is trying to stand. But each trip to Detroit costs close to $10,000.

The students found a way to “Pledge It Forward” and help out. They mounted a huge talent show. Everyone turned out to help. Forty-two acts were auditioned, 25 acts were chosen, and tickets went on sale. In just one week, the 1,000 seats were sold out. The show included singing, dancing, skits, and even karate! The Kerney sisters performed a mime and won $500. But the real winner that night was probably Billy. In just one week, the students raised $6,500. They gave it to Billy and his family while the audience and students sang “That’s What Friends Are For.” Some of the money will buy Billy a special walker. The rest will help buy Billy an electric wheelchair. For Bill and Denise Spong, it was a moment they’ll never forget. And Billy is just wondering how fast he’ll be able to race in an electric wheelchair.

Portland Pledges: “We Can Always Learn from Kids”

At Portland Lutheran School in Portland, Oregon, the students are taking “Pledging It Forward” seriously. “We started a new campaign based on the idea of paying forward kindness and building community,” said teacher Desi Pritchard. The students did everything. They delivered meals on wheels, donated food and blankets to animal shelters, and visited retirement homes. The third graders helped by collecting and sorting the recycling. The older students started a “homework club” and helped the younger kids. They even taught them how to play chess! “The younger bunch can’t wait to come back and return the favor to another group,” said Pritchard. “We can always learn from kids.”

What are you doing to help your school? Write and tell us. Start today!

Kids Surprise Seniors

Students from George Elementary School paid the residents of Quincy Convalescent Center in Quincy, Washington, a visit in April. Glenda King’s second- and third-graders had spent one day the previous week making spring cards and baking cookies. Students introduced themselves to the residents and presented each with a card. They also gave cookies to the residents who were able to have them. One resident requested a song, and the kids sang a rousing version of “God Bless America.” The residents loved the handshakes and conversations, and the students left with many requests to visit again.

Gardening and English: Side by Side

The kids at College Place Middle School in Lynnwood, Washington, are learning English while they plant gardens. They are students in the English as a Second Language (ESL) class. When the project started, the kids paid for the flowers themselves. But when they wanted to plant a second garden, teacher Merilee Bengtsson went to the parents for help. The Parent Club donated funds, and now students and parents plant side by side. The project has expanded and now has Master Gardeners. And there are units for science, mapmaking, and math. “When I plant the flower, I feel great,” said one young African boy. He is improving his English right along with his gardening skills. “This project has become a focus of community spirit and school pride,” said Bengtsson. “We hope the lessons teach kids to make gardens both beautiful and environmentally kind.”

Pledge It Forward—Self to Service

A Challenge from The Patriot Papers
—F. A. Pulles, Editor-in-Chief

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