



**GEORGE WASHINGTON
A NATIONAL TREASURE**

Patriot Papers

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

“George Washington: A National Treasure” Creates Excitement in Houston, Las Vegas, and Los Angeles

National Portrait Gallery, Smithsonian Institution, Tours Exhibition

Across America, students are lining up to meet the President, and you can too! For the first time in history, the National Portrait Gallery is touring its life-sized portrait of George Washington, the father of our country. The exhibition began in Houston, Texas, and then traveled to Las Vegas, Nevada. It now opens at the Los Angeles County Art Museum in California. This painting is so important to American history that it has been compared with the Liberty Bell and the Declaration of Independence.

What makes this painting so valuable? It is worth \$20 million. Why is it more important than a photograph of President Bush today? First, it is one of the few visual documents we have of George Washington. In the 18th century, photography, film, and video cameras did not exist. Portrait painters were the most important image-makers of Washington’s time, capturing their subjects on canvas. The process was time-consuming, so often the artist painted only the face from life. Then he would ask someone else to pose when he painted the body.

The size of this painting is also unusual. It is almost 8 feet high. Washington is life-

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

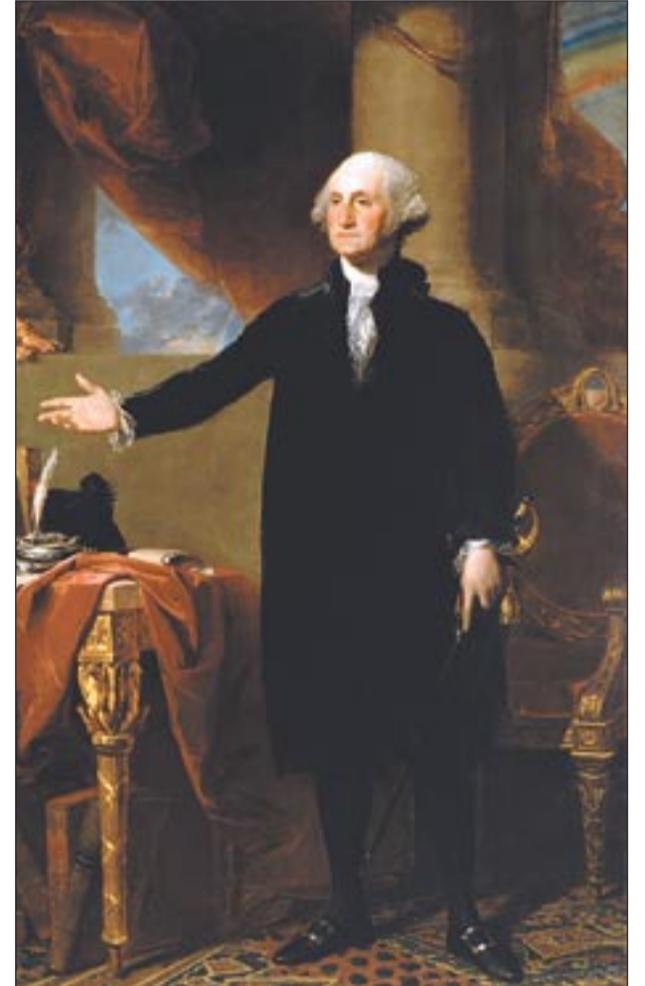
Oklahoma City Museum of Art:
December 12, 2003 - April 11, 2004

Arkansas Arts Center: April 23 - August 22, 2004

The Metropolitan Museum of Art: Fall 2004

size! Painted in 1796 by artist Gilbert Stuart, the portrait was given as a gift to the British Marquis of Lansdowne. That’s why it’s often called the “Lansdowne” portrait.

This national tour is taking the portrait to the people. At the Las Vegas Art Museum, 15,000 students visited “George.” They now wear stickers that say, “I saw the President today.” Students in Lexington, South Carolina, hosted the first “George Washington State Education Day.” And in Pasadena, Texas, kids even drew their own pictures of the portrait.



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.

Join the tour now and learn more about our first President. Or check out our website, www.georgewashington.si.edu. George Washington is eager to meet you.

Americans Pause to Remember, Students Make a Wish for the United States

One year after the tragedy of September 11, 2001, Americans have paused to remember and reflect. The Wall of Expression that surrounds the Old Patent Office Building in Washington, D.C., still stands as a memorial to those who sacrificed, a tribute to those who served, and an expression of hope for

the future. And across the country at the Las Vegas Art Museum, students place their wishes for America on the “Wish Tree.”

“I wish that everyone would be happy.” “I wish that the Twin Towers would never have fallen.” “I wish there would be no poor people and everyone would have enough to eat.” “I

wish everyone in the world would be free like us.” “I wish that no one would be dead.” “I wish Americans would feel safe.” The wishes keep coming. And from even the youngest participants, we sense a deep concern for the nation and its people. Perhaps we have all begun to care for one another.



Dedicated to those who sacrificed and served on September 11, 2001, and the weeks following, the Wall of Expression surrounds the Old Patent Office Building at 8th and F Streets in Washington, D.C. The building, home of the National Portrait Gallery and the Smithsonian American Art Museum, is currently undergoing extensive renovation while its collections tour the world.

Andrew Bodak visits the Wish Tree at the Las Vegas Art Museum after touring “George Washington: A National Treasure.” More than 15,000 students saw the exhibition in Las Vegas.

“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.

Martha Washington Buries Fourth Child

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

Where's George?

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

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

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.



WOULD YOU SIGN A LOYALTY OATH?



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

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

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

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

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: Felice A. Pulles
 ASSISTANT EDITOR:
 Vicki Fama, Hana Field
 REVIEW EDITOR: Dru Dowdy
 EDITORIAL CONSULTANTS:
 Kate Finch, Shirlee Lampkin
 THE PUDDING PAPERS:
 Margaret Christman

EDITORIAL STAFF: Tia Powell Harris,
 Terilee Edwards-Hewitt, Emily
 McDonough, Whitney Pickens,
 Emily van Agtmael
 GUEST COLUMNIST: J. K. Pulles
 DESIGN: Studio A, Alexandria, VA,
 and London Graphics,
 Washington, DC

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

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



AT THE CITY ORDINARY,
 ON WEDNESDAY
 THE 28TH OF THIS MONTH:

*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.

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.

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.

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 George Washington’s time. In view of Washington’s many attributes and accomplishments, it is difficult to acknowledge his role as slave owner. Guest historians will share their perspectives; we invite you to share yours. Hopefully, through dialogue, we will increase our understanding.

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

RUN AWAY FROM MY

PLANTATION, called *Newport News*, on the 17th of *January*, a very likely Negro Fellow named *Strawsbury*, about thirty Years of Age, has lost one of his fore Teeth, and had on a Cotton Waistcoat and Breeches, Plaid Stockings, and Negro Shoes. The Negroes upon the Plantation saw him go away with two Sailors; he can read, and I imagine he will attempt to go out of the Country on Board a Vessel. I do hereby forewarn all Masters of Vessels from carrying him away, as they shall answer it at their Peril. Whoever brings the said Negro to me, in *York County*, shall have TEN POUNDS Reward if he is taken in this Colony, and TWENTY POUNDS if out thereof.

—WILLIAM DIGGES, Junior

Possessions

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

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

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

The Portrait Puzzler: Who am I? FILL IN THE BLANK

☛ Although George and I never had children of our own, I bore 4 children and, sadly, buried them all.

☛ I was the secretary of the treasury. I wanted a strong government with many businesses and banks. Thomas Jefferson and I disagreed about many things, and this began to divide the country.

☛ I felt the colonies should be independent from England, and wrote this in *Common Sense*. I also felt that “these were the times that try men’s souls.”

☛ I helped write the Declaration of Independence, and was involved in politics, especially in Philadelphia. I am most famous, however, for using a kite to show the nature of electricity and lightning.

☛ I drafted the Declaration of Independence. As President, I doubled the size of the United States with the Louisiana Purchase.



JOHN HANCOCK



ABIGAIL ADAMS



JOHN ADAMS



MARTHA WASHINGTON



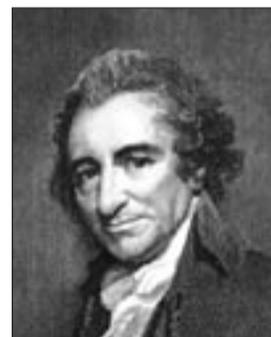
THOMAS JEFFERSON



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



ALEXANDER HAMILTON



THOMAS PAINE

☛ I served as the first Vice President of the United States and as the second President. I was elected to the presidency in 1796. My son later became President in 1825.

☛ Aside from being a first lady, I fought for women’s rights, especially for women to have the same educational opportunities as men. I also strongly opposed slavery.

☛ I was the first to sign the Declaration of Independence, and my signature is the largest.

John Hancock by William Smith, 1775; Abigail Adams by Raphaele Peale, 1804; John Adams by John Trumbull, c. 1793; Martha Washington by an unidentified artist, 1800–1825; Thomas Jefferson by Mather Brown, 1786. Gift of Charles Francis Adams; Benjamin Franklin by Joseph Siffred Duplessis, c. 1785. Gift of the Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation; Alexander Hamilton by James Sharples, c. 1796; Thomas Paine by William Sharp, 1793; All images are details and are from the National Portrait Gallery, Smithsonian Institution

What Did George Really Look Like?

George Washington towered over most men of the time. Standing about 6 feet, 3 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 3 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? _____

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?

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 4 bullets pierce his clothing and 2 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 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

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 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!



In Other Words...

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

RESPECTFULLY BASED ON *THE RULES OF CIVILITY*

—BY T. POWELL HARRIS

In 1745, in the colonial frontier town of Fredericksburg, Virginia, thirteen-year-old George Washington recorded *The Rules of Civility* in his workbook, probably as a dictation exercise. These “guidelines for the respectable gentleman” would influence him throughout his life. The rules stress etiquette, chivalry, and courtesy. Does that sound like something from the Dark Ages?



MISTRESS GOODY

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 help 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,

My brother has a toothache every week. I'm getting tired of him complaining so much. He eats chocolate, candy, and ice cream all the time, and I know that's what the problem is. Don't you think if he stops eating junk food his toothaches will go away?

Rule 38: In visiting the sick, do not presently play the physician if you be not knowing therein.

In other words . . . stop playing doctor and suggest that he see a dentist without delay.

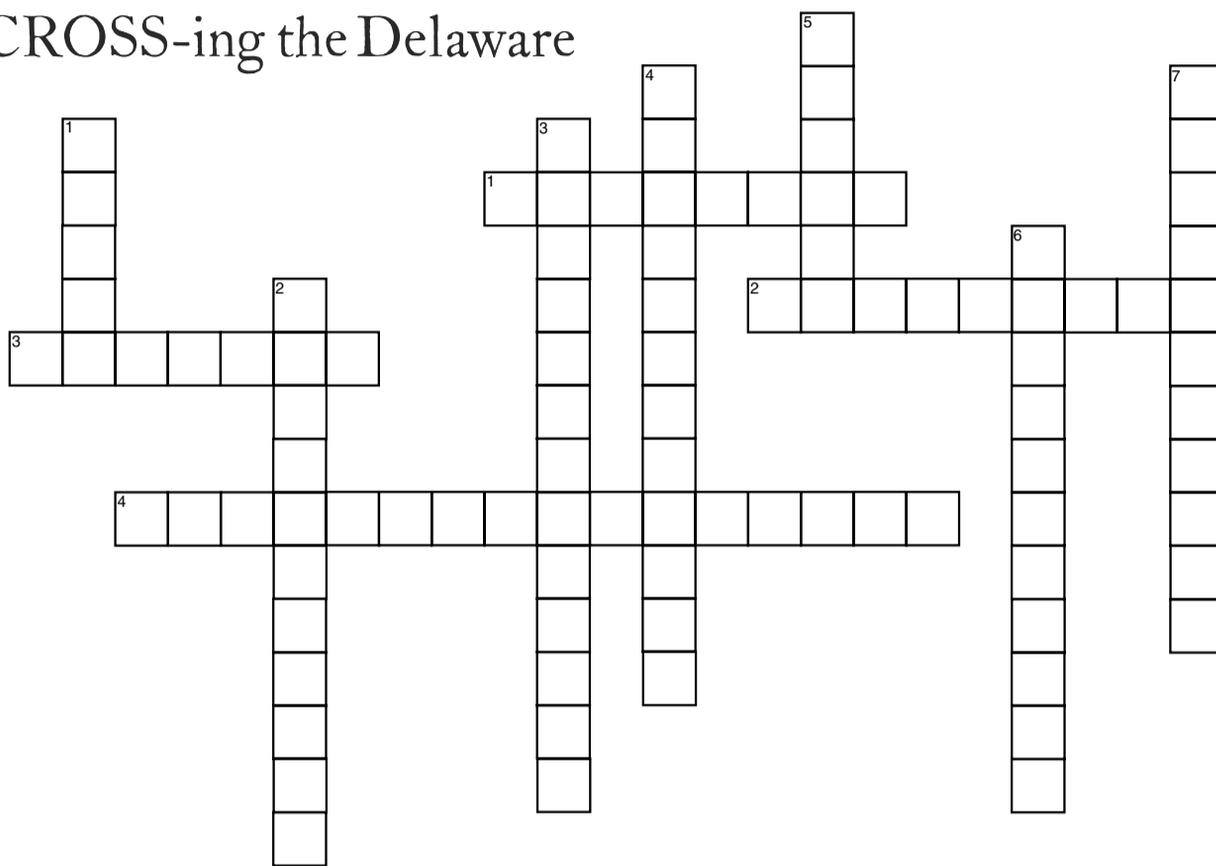
Mistress Goody,

There's this really cool group of kids that I want to hang out with. Sometimes they do mean things to people. Like once I know they broke into a teacher's car. They didn't take anything. It was just a practical joke, sort of. My mom says I shouldn't want to be associated with anyone who might lead me into trouble one day, but I think it's all about a little fun. What do you say?

Rule 56: Associate yourself with men of good quality if you esteem your own reputation. For 'tis better to be alone than in bad company.

I think you get Mistress Goody's point!

CROSS-ing the Delaware



ACROSS

- 1. George Washington recorded the *Rules of _____* 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

DOWN

- 1. Washington had to wear a false set of these.

- 2. In the time of Washington, there were two political parties, the Republicans and the _____.

- 3. The man who painted a famous portrait of George Washington in 1796.

- 4. George Washington died of this infection.

- 5. The first name of George Washington's wife.

- 6. The name of George Washington's home in Virginia.

- 7. In the winter of 1777-78, Washington struggled to keep his troops alive at _____.



Mistress Goody,

At the lunch table most everyone eats and talks at the same time. I think that's pretty gross. What do you think?

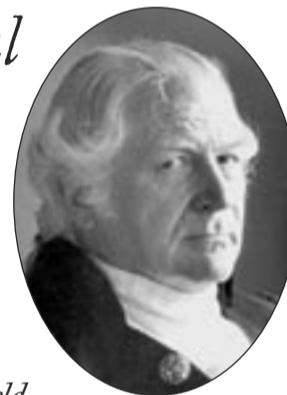
The rules of dining etiquette are quite clear; let them guide your acquaintances in all their culinary endeavors (and in the cafeteria!).

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

100th: Cleanse not your teeth with the tablecloth, napkin, fork, knife; but if others do it, let it be done with a pick tooth. [i.e., a toothpick]

Questions? Problems? Too much homework? Write to Mistress Goody for all the answers to love and life at PatriotPapers@npg.si.edu.

Will the Real George W. Please Stand Up?



PHOTOGRAPH BY JACK MANNING, NEW YORK TIMES

Actor William Sommerfield brings George Washington to your community for a 3-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 3 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 6'3" 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.

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

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



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, who is with the President's party, reports that they are nearing the end of their two-month journey of 1,887 miles. 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, 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

POET'S CORNER... SOME VERY BAD POETRY

GEORGE

*There was a young General
named George
Who led troops in the Valley at Forge
His horse was a dolly
Who took bullets so jolly
And now he has a horse no more.*

REVOLUTIONARY 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 • kəɹd].

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

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.



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

EDITOR'S CHOICE:

The Patriot Papers Salutes the "Kids Who Care"

They "Pledged It Forward" and Adopted Grandparents at Silver Ridge



Students share smiles and stories with their "adopted grandparents" at Silver Ridge. Above, Vivian Estrada and Belle Seigel



Luis Sanchez and Tim Leonard



Harriet Domes and Devin Davis

Fourteen 4th and 5th graders from Jacobson Elementary School in Las Vegas decided to bridge the generation gap and "adopt a grandparent." They wrote their own grant, and student adviser Fern Hardin presented it before the city council. When they got it, the group grew to 44 members, and they adopted the entire Silver Ridge Healthcare Center. "They love it when we come to visit them, and we love to see their smiles," said student Taylor Stasik. Barbara Kern, the school's gifted and talented specialist, is their adviser. First, the kids made 144 colorful vases full of flowers—one for each resident. Then, to celebrate Flag Day and the 4th of July, they stitched 144 patriotic

pillows decorated with the American flag and presented them to their new "adopted grandparents." "We were so excited," said Tommy Niyomkoun. "When the day came, we were giving letters and pillows to everyone."

"I'm so proud of my kids," said Ms. Kern. "We celebrate their caring." Student Michael Wray was more philosophical. "It was a unique experience. It taught me that being old is not a bad thing or a good thing. It's a stage of life, and you can't avoid it." True, Michael. But how much nicer life is for the "adopted grandparents" at Silver Ridge who now have a whole new generation of friends.



Marion Andrews and student adviser Fern Hardin

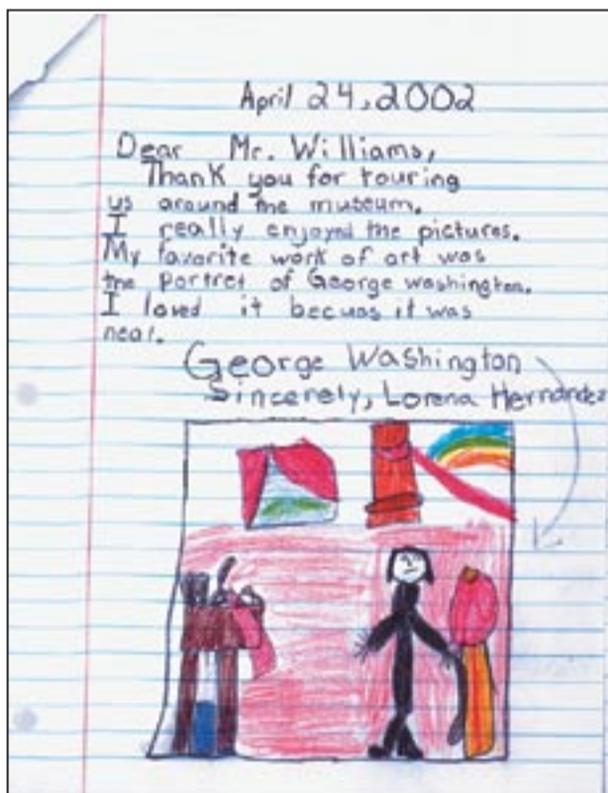
*Kudos to Kern's Kids,
Felice Pulles, Editor-in-Chief*

South Carolina Students Celebrate Veterans Day



Students are also raising money for a veterans' monument. Here, Alan Fung creates a collection container.

Midway Elementary School students in Lexington, South Carolina, celebrated Veterans Day with a special ceremony at their school. They invited all of their fathers, grandfathers, brothers, uncles, sisters, and aunts—anyone who had served America in the armed forces. Organized by the kids, the day featured a flag ceremony, patriotic speeches, and songs. "Many came in uniform," said Principal Margaret Mitchum, "and sat beside their kids. It was a very special celebration. We'd like to do this every year."



After touring the exhibition in Houston, Lorena Hernandez of Pasadena, Texas, drew her own Lansdowne portrait as part of her thank you note to MFA Houston docent Mr. Williams.



Pledge It Forward—From Self to Service:

A Challenge from The Patriot Papers

— F. A. PULLES, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The National Portrait Gallery's Office of Education would like to recognize those who continue to care about community. We challenge you to *Pledge It Forward*—pledge time to your schools, youth organizations, senior centers. Pick a project, pledge your time, and make a difference. If a high-school student tutors one child, once a week, if a 6th grader reads to an elderly shut-in, if kids in South Texas start a small library by collecting used books, if senior citizens plant flowers on Main Street, if teens answer a hotline, volunteer at a shelter, or simply read to a child, we would all be stronger. E-mail us your pledges; write to us about your projects. We'd like to recognize Americans working for America and will feature your pictures and stories on our website at www.georgewashington.si.edu. Projects of particular merit will be published in *The Patriot Papers*. Get creative; get busy. And together, we can build a community of caring.

Write to us at PatriotPapers@npg.si.edu.



Kindergarteners Andrew McMillan, Ross Hendrix, and Marshall Denny "Pledge It Forward," honor their heroes and contribute to the "South Carolina Cares" campaign following September 11.



Lots of patriotic pillows!