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George Washington

Bicentennial



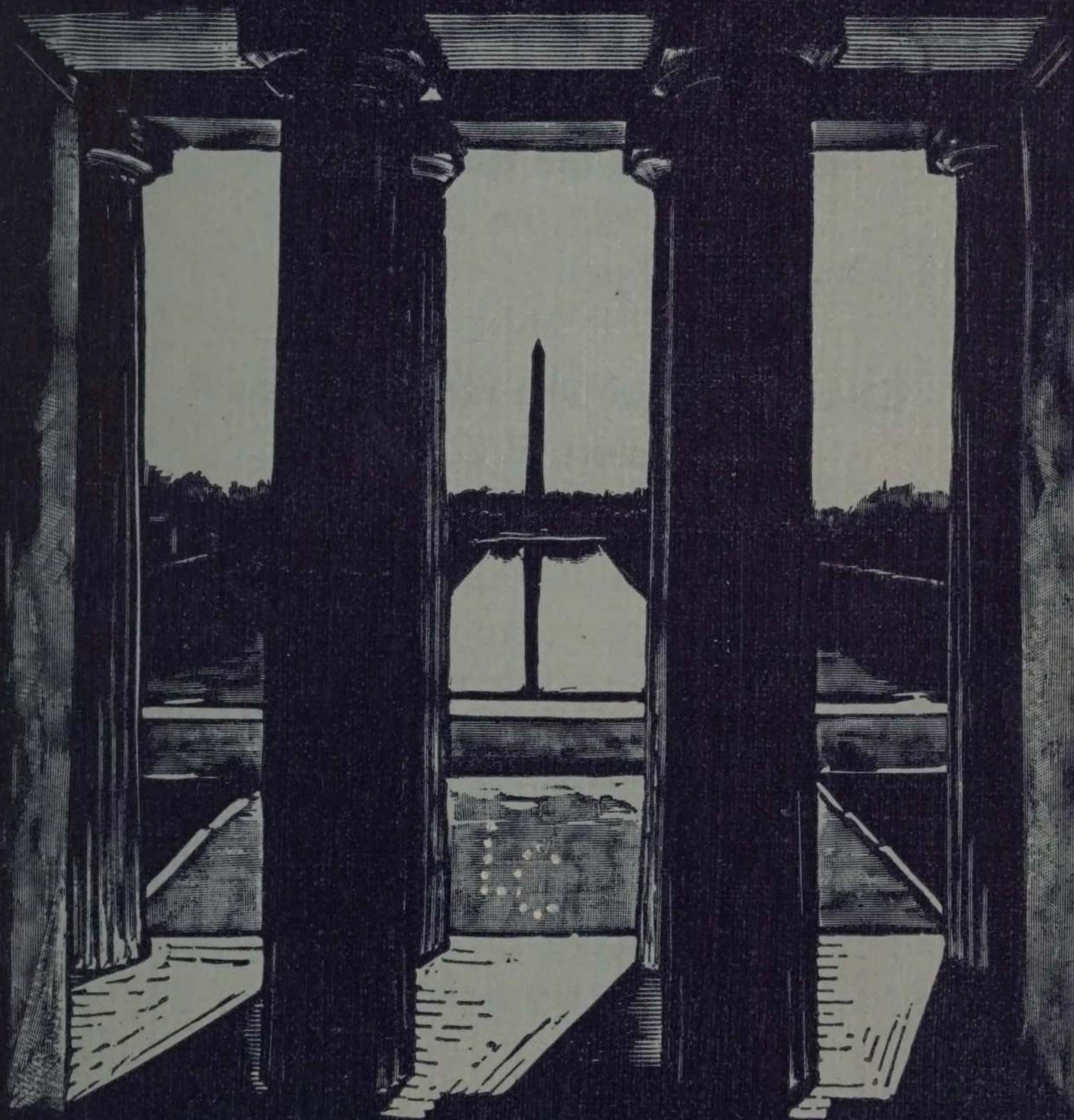
1732-1932







George Washington  
Bicentennial Calendar





Robert McCloskey, ed

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~~WASHINGTON~~

# Dedication

Issued by the American History Club  
of Hamilton High School, Hamilton,  
Ohio, and dedicated to past and future  
members of the History Club

Edited, illustrated and executed in wood  
by Robert McCloskey  
American History Club, 1932

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# Rules of Civility

(From a paper found among the early writings of Washington copied with literal exactness.)

4. In the Presence of Others sing not to yourself with a humming Noise, nor Drum, with your Fingers or Feet.
35. Let your Discourse with Men of Business be Short and Comprehensive.
50. Be not hasty to believe flying Reports to the Disparagement of any.
67. Detract not from others neither be excessive in Commanding.
73. Think before you Speak pronounce not imperfectly nor bring out your Words too hastily but orderly and Distinctly.
81. Be not Curious to Know the Affairs of Others neither approach to those that Speak in Private.
89. Speak not Evil of the absent for it is unjust.
109. Let your Recreations be Manfull not Sinfull.
110. Labour to keep alive in your Breast that Little Spark of Celestial fire called Conscience.






# Ancestry

**T**HOUGH a true illustration of the doctrine of heredity, George Washington was quite unaware of the achievements of his ancestors beyond his great-grandfather, John Washington, who with his brother Lawrence and sister Martha, came to Virginia, in 1657 and settled at Bridges Creek (later called Wakefield) between the Potomac and Rappahannock Rivers on the very plantation where, later in 1732, George Washington was born. The name Washington has been traced back to the Sulgrave Washingtons and further to the de Wessyngton Family of 700 years ago, who had an estate in Palatine Durham. Many are the soldiers, churchmen, lawyers, and landowners, who have been active according to the annals of English history, through the seven generations from John Washington (1450) of Tewhitfield, County Lancashire to George Washington on the Potomac.

His maternal ancestry is traced back to Colonel William Ball, who emigrated to Virginia about 1650 and settled in Lancaster County on a plantation called Millenbeck on the Rappahannock River. From his mother, Washington inherited his physical characteristics, firm will, blazing temper, and respect for authority and truth.



When George was about six years old, he was made the wealthy master of a hatchet, of which, like most little boys, he was immoderately fond;





# January

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## Early Life

**G**EORGE WASHINGTON was the oldest child of Augustine Washington and his second wife, Mary Ball. According to an entry in the old family Bible now at Mt. Vernon, "George Washington, Son to Augustine and Mary, his Wife, was Born ye 11th Day of February 173½ [O. S.] about 10 in the Morning and was Baptized the [15th, figure indistinct] of April following. Mr. Beverley Whiting and Capt. Christopher Brooks, Godfathers, and Mrs. Mildred Gregory, Godmother."

Washington was born at Bridges Creek (Wakefield) the home where Capt. Augustine Washington took his young bride immediately after their marriage on March 6, 1730. This commodious and comfortable homestead, where three generations of the Washington family had made their home prior to Washington's birth, was situated in Westmoreland County on the point of a triangle formed by two creeks and the Potomac River. This house burned on Christmas Eve, 1780. It now is being reproduced on the same spot where the old one stood. Like its prototype the house will be constructed of hand-made bricks of clay taken from the identical field from which the original material came and made according to the original process by a primitive brick making plant operated by negro workmen in the ancient way.



and was constantly going about chopping everything that came in his way. One day, in the garden, where he often amused himself harking his mother's pea-sticks,





# February

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# The Frontier-Fighter

**C**OMMENCING with his experience as a surveyor, George Washington learned to direct projects, command men, and acquaint himself with the habits and feelings of the frontier settlers and Indians. Although not 20 years old this training made him the best-informed Virginian for the task of protecting the frontier against the French and Indians, who were advancing in the Ohio Valley.

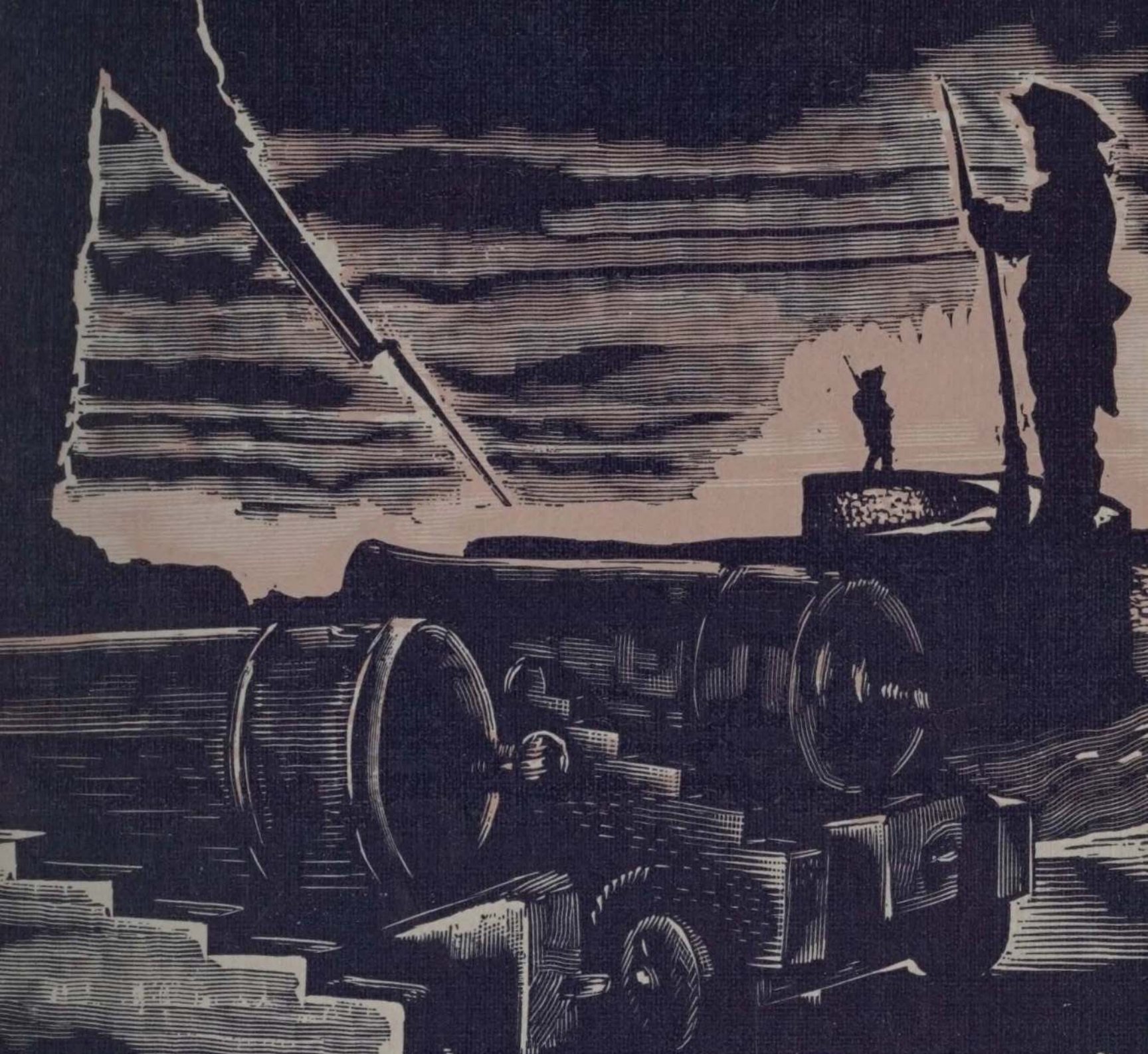
In 1753, he was sent several hundred miles on the Allegheny River by Governor Dinwiddie to warn the French commander to advance no further. It was a perilous task but successfully accomplished. His journal of this trip was so masterful that it was published and distributed as an important document throughout the colonies and England.

In 1754 he served as lieutenant colonel in defense of the colony. On July 9, 1755 as aid-de-camp he saved the remnant of Braddock's defeated army. In August, 1755, he was appointed commander-in-chief of the Colonial Forces of Virginia defending 750 miles of frontier with less than 1000 men. In November, 1758, Washington participated in a successful expedition against Ft. Duquesne which ended his military service in the French and Indian War.



he unluckily tried the edge of his hatchet on the body of a beautiful young English cherry tree, which he barked so terribly, that I don't believe the tree ever got the better of it





## March

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# Family Life

**ON** JANUARY 6, 1759, Washington married Martha Dandridge Custis, widow of Daniel Parke Custis, at White House, her residence in New Kent County, Virginia. The Widow Custis possessed two children, John ("Jackey") Parke Custis and Martha ("Patsy") Parke Custis and property worth more than \$100,000 which passed to Washington under the then existing law.

General and Mrs. Washington spent forty years of married life together and these were marked by great tenderness and devotion on both sides.

To the Custis children, Washington was a true and affectionate father and a careful and conscientious guardian. He tripled their fortune for them. Despite their delicacy and the care and attention lavished upon them, neither lived many years. Patsy died at 16 from epilepsy (leaving her entire estate to Washington) and Jackey died at Yorktown from camp fever. He left a wife, Nellie Calvert Custis, and four children, the two youngest of whom Washington adopted. With no children of his own, Washington brought up nine children connected with his or his wife's family which shows that "God left him childless, that he might be a father to his country and a fond parent and guardian to the children of others."



[The next morning the old gentleman, finding out what had befallen his tree, which by the by, was a great favourite, came into the house;





# April

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# The Farmer

**W**ASHINGTON the Soldier and Washington the Statesman have overshadowed Washington the Farmer. By nature, however, he was first, last and always a farmer. Toward the end of his life he wrote:—*“ . . . how much more delightful . . . is the task of making improvements on the earth than all the vain glory which can be acquired from ravaging it. . . . ”*

Washington's deepest interest was centered in the five farms that made up the 8,000 acres at Mount Vernon. Among his crops were tobacco, Indian corn, wheat, flax, hay, clover, turnips, potatoes. Horses, mules, cattle and sheep were raised. Among the 300 hired laborers, indentured servants and negroes were found weavers, carpenters, masons, bricklayers, a shoemaker, a blacksmith, a wood-burner, flower gardeners, kitchen gardeners, painters, millwrights. There were fisheries, a distillery, an ice house, a cider mill and a threshing machine. Flour, salted shad and herring were sent from Mt. Vernon to the West Indies in large quantities. Washington also maintained a ferry across the Potomac which was not only a convenience but a source of profit.



and with much warmth asked for the mischievous author, declaring at the same time that he would not have taken five guineas, for his tree.





## May

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# Commander in Chief

**G**EORGE WASHINGTON was much more than the Commander in Chief. He was the one necessary person, whose determined sense of duty to country and ability kept the Revolution from collapsing during the eight years of war. Without General Washington at its head the American Revolution could not have been won. His faith in the cause and his devotion to the ideals involved made him the symbol of America.

Washington was elected Commander in Chief on June 15, 1775. From his place in Congress he accepted on the following day with this brief speech:—*“I beg they will accept my cordial thanks for this distinguished testimony of their approbation. But lest some unlucky event should happen, unfavorable to my reputation, I beg it may be remembered by every gentleman in the room that I this day declare with the utmost sincerity I do not think myself equal to the command I am honored with. As to pay, Sir, I beg leave to assure the Congress that as no pecuniary consideration could have tempted me to accept this arduous employment at the expense of my domestic ease and happiness, I do not wish to make any profit from it. I will keep an exact account of my expenses. Those I doubt not they will discharge, and that is all I desire.”*



Nobody could tell him anything about it. Presently George and his hatchet made their appearance.





## June

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VIRGINIA

MARYLAND

MOUNT VERNON



HOME OF LINCOLN'S ANCESTORS



WAKEFIELD - WASHINGTON'S



HOME OF JOHN MARSHALL

BIRTHPLACE OF GEO. MASON



BIRTH

HOME OF JOHN TAYLOR

FREDERICKSBURG



BIRTHPLACE OF PRES. TYLER

RAPPAHANNOCK VALLEY WASHINGTON'S BOYHOOD HOME





CHESAPEAKE BAY



ACE

HOME OF LEE

PRES. MADISON

BIRTHPLACE OF PRES. MONROE

EDWARD PENDLETON

E. OF HENRY CLAY





# The Citizen

**A**T THE age of 17 Washington was appointed official surveyor of Culpepper County, Va. At 20 he was adjutant of a military district. He served as vestryman in the parishes of Truro and Fairfax. For fifteen years Washington was a member of the House of Burgesses. He usually gave a ball to the voters on the night he was chosen. His first duty as a burgess was to assist in drafting a law to prevent hogs from running at large in Winchester.

Washington was not a speechmaker. Rising in the assembly to acknowledge thanks tendered him for his military services Washington was so inarticulate that the Speaker said: "Sit down Mr. Washington, your modesty equals your valor and that surpasses the power of any language that I possess."

Washington was a delegate to the first Continental Congress. Patrick Henry said: "For solid information and sound judgment, Colonel Washington is unquestionably the greatest man on the floor." While a delegate to the Second Continental Congress Washington was unanimously chosen commander in chief of the American forces. To every civic duty Washington gave careful attention, even to riding 10 miles to the polling town to cast his vote because he considered this his duty.



"George," said his father, "do you know who killed that beautiful little cherry tree yonder in the garden?"





# July

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# The President

**W**ASHINGTON was inaugurated the first president of the United States on April 30, 1789, on the balcony of Federal Hall of Wall Street, New York City.

The Constitution had been adopted in 1787 by the Constitutional Convention at Philadelphia, over which he presided and steadied its actions. Nothing in his whole life gives stronger evidence of his character and ability than the splendid judgment that he displayed in selecting the first cabinet of the U. S.

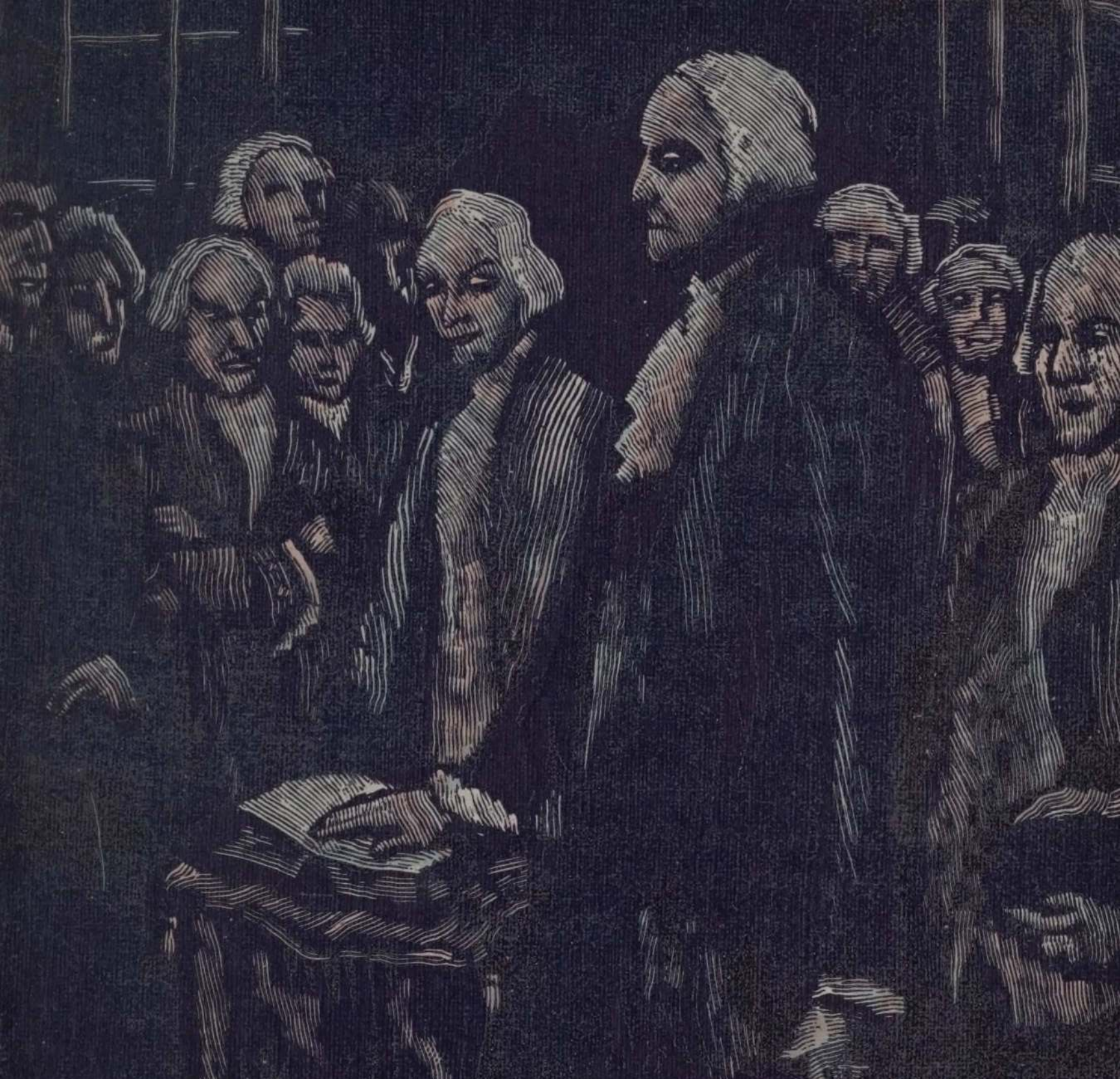
Many were the precedents that this group gave to succeeding generations. Relations with foreign governments were established and a firm policy of neutrality was adopted; five departments of government were organized; the Whiskey Rebellion in Western Pennsylvania was put down, an act which established federal authority at home; the first tariff bill was passed July 4, 1789.

The establishment and success of the new system of government in its infant years was due mainly to Washington's wisdom and skill. He declined a third term and ended his second on March 3, 1797. He left national affairs in good order and returned to Mt. Vernon, having been his country's great leader, in war and peace, for more than 20 years.



This was a tough question; and George staggered under it for a moment; but quickly recovered himself;





# August

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# The Man

**W**ASHINGTON was tall, erect, well proportioned, circumspect in dress, courtly in manner. He was an expert horseman. Washington was distinctly social, enjoying receptions, teas, dinners and picnics. He was more at ease with women than with men. He was extremely punctual. The cook was never kept waiting more than five minutes even if dinner guests had not arrived. Fish, honey, and nuts were his favorite foods while salt cod fish was his favorite Sunday dinner.

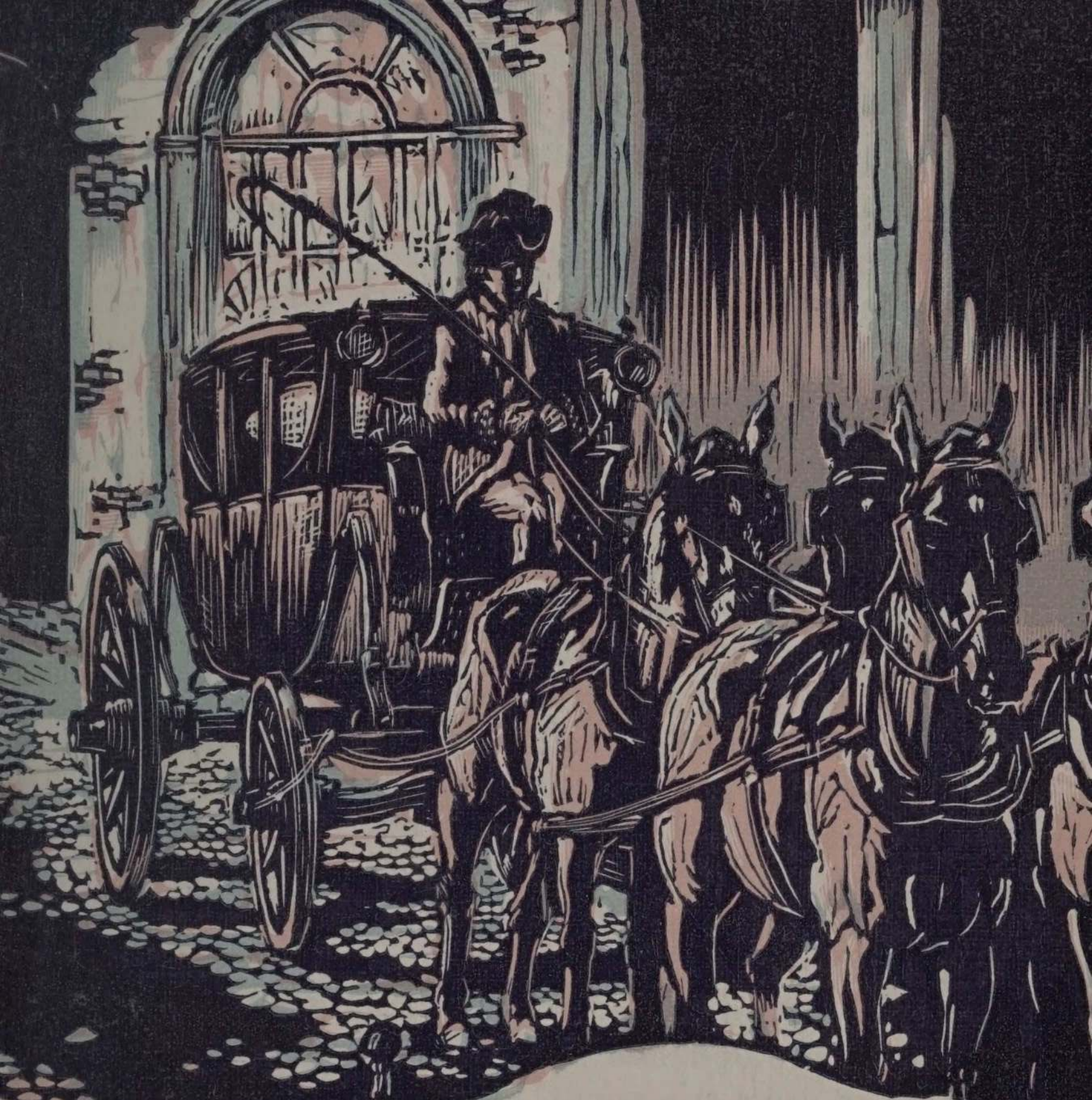
When a young man Washington's favorite diversion was fox hunting. Next in interest came his fondness for dancing. Cards and billiards interested him and in later life the theater. Farming he termed "The most favorite amusement of my life."

Washington was a member of the Church of England and an active Mason. While not university trained he acquired education through reading. He was the recipient of honorary degrees from many colleges. He contributed to the education of many boys and his will made provision for schools, colleges and universities. Washington's will also made bequests to 41 of his and his wife's relatives and directed that "upon the decease of my wife it is my will and desire that all slaves which I hold shall receive their freedom."



and looking at his father, with the sweet face of youth brightened with the inexpressible charm of all-conquering truth, he bravely cried out,





# September


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# The City Builder

**T**HE greatest tribute to George Washington is the beautiful Capital City on the Potomac. The first Congress convened in New York on April 6, 1789. On July 6, 1790 the House passed an act "establishing the temporary and permanent seat of government in the United States." After 10 years in Philadelphia the government was to be transferred "to the Indian place with the long name, on the Potomac." Washington was empowered to select the exact site and to appoint three commissioners who were to survey the Ten Mile Square, provide buildings for the Congress, the President and the public offices. To plan the Federal City Washington chose a young French officer who had served in the Revolution, Major Pierre Charles L'Enfant.

Washington showed faith in the new venture by purchasing lots and by building a double house on North Capitol Street for the accommodation of Congressmen. He sacrificed western land to raise the necessary \$16,000 but insisted upon such extravagancies as stone trimmings and dormer windows to make the building properly dignified. He expected to build a fine residence for his own home near the White House. Washington laid the corner stone of the Capitol on September 18, 1793. He also walked through the White House which was nearly completed before his death.

An illustration at the bottom left of the page shows a man and a child on a beach. The man is standing on the left, looking towards the right. The child is on the right, looking towards the man. They are on a sandy beach with waves in the background.

"I can't tell a lie, Pa; you know I can't tell a lie. I did cut it with my hatchet."—





# October

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# Business Man

**ONE THIRD** of Washington's life, and this at the most productive period, was devoted to exacting public service, yet he left one of the largest estates of his day and a record of business achievements that showed financial acumen amounting to genius.

Washington inherited the Englishman's love of land and eventually acquired 63,000 acres of it. Much of this was bottom land on the Ohio, Kanawha and Little Miami rivers. In addition he had holdings in Maryland, Western Pennsylvania, New York, Kentucky and Virginia.

Through his marriage Washington gained control of a fortune which added greatly to his resources. When free to oversee the activities of his own plantations he probably averaged an annual profit of from 10 to 15 thousand dollars annually. Washington held a considerable amount of bank stock in the Bank of England and the banks of Alexandria and Columbia.

For 40 years Washington worked for the development of projects to promote the mutual interests of commerce between the sea coast towns and the sections beyond the mountains. In pursuance of this aim he bought lands, built roads, fought wars, planned canals, organized various companies and encouraged new settlements.



"Run to my arms, you dearest boy," cried his father in transports, "run to my arms; glad am I, George, that you killed my tree, for you have paid me for it a thousandfold."





# November

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## Last Days

**A**FTER the busy and exacting presidential days, the Washingtons wearily but happily returned to their dear Mt. Vernon. It was not to a life of privacy however. Because of the possibility of war with France, he was appointed Commander-in-chief again in 1798, by President Adams, but attended to the duties of the position mostly by correspondence.

Hospitality, now as in former years, was the dominating spirit of their home. He noted in his diary the day when visitors were not present and in a letter to a friend he wrote:—*“A glass of wine and a bit of mutton are always ready, and such as will be content to partake of them are always welcome.”*

His last year was cheered by the marriage of his adopted grand-daughter, Nellie Custis, to his nephew Lawrence Lewis, and saddened by the deaths of his brother and sister. On receiving news of his brother's death, he wrote to Colonel Ball:—*“I was the FIRST and am now the LAST of my father's children by the second marriage, who remain. When I shall be called up to follow them is known only to the giver of life. When the summons comes, I shall endeavor to obey it with good grace.”* He did—for on December 14 a few hours before his death he said to Dr. Craik, *“I am dying, Sir, but I am not afraid to die.”*

W 34



Such an act of heroism in my son is more worth than a thousand trees, though blossomed with silver, and their fruits of purest gold.—“Parson” Weems.





# December

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To add brightness to the sun,  
or glory to the name of Wash-  
ington is alike impossible. Let  
none attempt it.

In solemn awe let us pronounce  
that name and in its naked, death-  
less splendor leave it shining on.

Abraham Lincoln.









## Illustrations

TITLE PAGE—Washington Monument from Lincoln Memorial.

JANUARY—Sulgrave—Home of Washington's Ancestors.

FEBRUARY—Wakefield—Washington's Birthplace.

MARCH—Fort Duquesne.

APRIL—School House at Mt. Vernon.

MAY—Mt. Vernon.

JUNE—Valley Forge.

JULY—Independence Hall.

AUGUST—Washington Taking the Oath of Office.

SEPTEMBER—Washington's Coach.

OCTOBER—Washington Monument from Potomac Park.

NOVEMBER—Library at Mt. Vernon.

DECEMBER—Scene at Mt. Vernon.

Washington's Tomb

















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