

# THE PAPERS OF GEORGE WASHINGTON

*G. Washington*

Number 10

NEWSLETTER

Fall 2008

## Annual Report by the Editor in Chief

As usual, over the past year, the project has undergone changes that I want to report to you. These include both personnel changes and operational changes.

We were deeply saddened in April by the death of Beverly Runge. Beverly joined the project in 1970—preceded only by Don Jackson, the project's founding editor (1968–1975), and Dorothy Twohig, who herself headed the project from 1992 to 1998. Beverly was our ever-present source of information on all things dealing with Mount Vernon, Virginia, and the Washington family. She pretended to retire in 1995, but really simply reduced her hours and came back to work half time. She was at her desk regularly until just weeks before her death. Her smile was an almost constant presence in the office; it disappeared only when she uncovered a particularly puzzling or frustrating Washington family relationship. Every one of us came to depend on her. She will be sorely missed!

We also lost two editors to retirement this year—Phil Chase and Christine Patrick. Phil, like Beverly, had been with the project for a long time. Phil joined the project in 1973 for a one-year fellowship. He stretched that to 35 years. He first worked with the other editors on the *Colonial Series* and then set out alone to edit the papers of the *Revolutionary War Series*. Phil had completed five volumes on that series before he got any help. He went on to complete another six volumes and in the process trained three editors—two of whom, Ed Lengel and Bill Ferraro, are still with the project. Phil was editor in chief of the project from



Former editors Bill Abbott, Dorothy Twohig, Beverly Runge, and Phil Chase in the “presidential wing” of Alderman Library, circa 1982. The project is indebted to Runge and Chase for their lifetime contributions of scholarship and service to *The Papers of George Washington*.

### **Inside this Issue...**

Editor Phil Chase Retires After 35 Years . . . . .	2
An Introduction to PubMan . . . . .	4
Discovering New Documents . . . . .	4
Recently Published and Forthcoming Volumes. . .	6
Remembering Beverly Runge . . . . .	10
Staff News and New Faces . . . . .	11
Acknowledgements and Support . . . . .	13

ALDERMAN LIBRARY, UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA  
P.O. BOX 400117, CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA 22904-4117  
PHONE: 434-924-3569 FAX: 434-982-4529  
gwpapers@virginia.edu <http://www.gwpapers.virginia.edu>

1998 to 2004 and then stepped down to return to the work that he loved best—editing volumes of the *Revolutionary War Series*.

Christine Patrick joined the project in 1999. She edited four volumes of the *Presidential Series* before her retirement. Her first volume, *Presidential 11*, won the 2003 Thomas Jefferson Prize for Documentary Editing from the Society for History in the Federal Government. Her second, *Presidential 12*, was presented to President George W. Bush in the Oval Office in April 2005.

In August and September of 2008 two new members joined the project's editorial staff. Carol Ebel joined us in August as an assistant editor in the *Presidential Series*. She will be working with David Hoth to learn the ropes of documentary editing and the procedures we follow. Ben Huggins, who has just completed his Ph.D. at George Mason University, joined us as a postdoctoral fellow and is working with Ed Lengel on the *Revolutionary War Series*—like Carol, learning the ropes of our profession.

In 2008 we made a significant change in our mode of operations. Early this year we installed a content management system called PubMan and adopted a new format, XML, for preparing our volumes. This shift will allow us to use the same text files for both the print and digital editions, and will give us remarkably better access to all of the documents (images and transcriptions) in our collection. It will also allow us to create indices for new volumes and update the cumulative index at the same time. This will be a major time saver for the Digital Edition team. As a result, once all of the pre-XML/PubMan volumes are placed online, we can turn to the work of preparing documents, such as Washington's financial documents, school papers, and other documents not included in the print volumes, for inclusion in the Digital Edition. The Papers of George Washington Digital Edition ultimately will become the most comprehensive collection of Washington documents yet known.

—Theodore J. Crackel

## Never-Ending Chase: Editing Founding Father's Papers Is a Calling, Not a Career

MAY 1, 2008 — Philander D. Chase has spent 35 years in George Washington's world — and he's not done yet.

Chase, 65, retired March 24 as senior editor of the Papers of George Washington, housed at the University of Virginia's Alderman Library. But he does not lack for work. He plans to use some of the Washington archive to write a book about Baron Friedrich von Steuben, a Prussian drillmaster who molded Washington's army at Valley Forge. He is also continuing to work on the 19th volume of the Washington Papers' Revolutionary War series.

"Being a documentary editor is a life, not a career," Chase said.

Theodore Crackel, editor-in-chief of the Papers of George Washington, described Chase as the institutional memory of the project.

"He launched the Revolutionary War series of the Washington Papers and has trained just about every editor since 1983," Crackel said. "He has also developed into a leading expert on the Revolutionary War, as well as an expert on Steuben and Henry 'Light Horse Harry' Lee [who commanded cavalry units during the Revolutionary War]. His retirement will be a great loss to us in that way."

Having earned a Ph.D. in history at Duke University, Chase came to Charlottesville in 1973 for a one-year fellowship at the Papers of George Washington as a documentary editor, a job he said requires "academic training and hands-on experience."

"Then I stayed on for another year with funding from the University and from the Mount Vernon Ladies Association of the Union," Chase said. "I've been 'staying for another year' for 35 years."

Chase will miss the "research, writing, collaboration and interacting with the public."

One of the most remarkable things about Phil was his readiness to help anybody, Crackel said. He would work with [historian and author] David McCullough or a high school student with equal enthusiasm.

Crackel also values him as a raconteur.

“Phil loves to talk and he can carefully unwind a long and entertaining story,” Crackel said. “He is gregarious, outgoing and always a lot of fun.”

Chase’s work involves stories, transcribing the writings of Washington and the people around him, interpreting damaged or smudged words and determining a document’s meaning through background and context.

While describing documentary editing as “technical and tedious,” he said the reward is “getting to know historical figures as people.”

Aside from affairs of state, Chase said Washington’s writings range from cryptic to mundane to deeply personal.

Washington could be cryptic to be “deliberately restrained and tactful, not divulging his full feelings on matters,” Chase said. Other entries dealt with the weather, what crops were planted where and who had visited. “These are mundane, but they offer a look at the rhythm of Washington’s life,” Chase said. Washington also detailed the life and death of his stepdaughter, Patsy, an epileptic who died from a seizure in 1773. Washington kept a record of her “fits” on his calendar, and noted when they got worse.

“You learn how much human nature is the same and that their reactions are not unique,” Chase said. “They had difficulties they endured and got through. You get a more realistic feel about them.”

Even people more than 200 years dead can still surprise, as new documents surface and old ones are re-interpreted. “It never fails,” Chase said. “By the time you understand a document, it turns out to be something else.”

Editors are attracted to specific writings, and Chase said he has cherished documents in each of the volumes of the Washington Papers. He specifically cited a passage, “There is no restraining the pens or tongues of men when they are charged with a little vanity,” an observation of Washington’s from 1775.

Chase said the 18th century is “an ideal time in which to work,” because of the amount of written

material available. The men and women who played leading roles in forming the union were dedicated to communicating their thoughts and ideas. “They had a sense of what was important,” he said.

By contrast, future historians examining this era may suffer; current electronic archives will be hard to maintain over the years, he said, and much correspondence by e-mail is simply eliminated and telephone conversations are not recorded.

“We may not have access to a lot of documents,” he said. “This is the information age, but we may end up knowing less than from the era of the quill pen.”

Chase said the Papers of George Washington is one of the best archives of any former president, containing 135,000 photocopies of documents, including 40,000 letters to and from Washington, making it a tremendous resource for scholars and historians.

Chase had started out to be an engineer, as his father was, and because there was an emphasis on engineering in the era of Sputnik. But one of his engineering professors advised him to pursue the humanities.

“I found out I had a passion for research and writing history,” he said.

Chase described Washington as the “master of retirement,” having done it three times. Washington retired back to Mount Vernon at the end of the French and Indian War (1754 to 1763), and then again in 1783 after the Revolutionary War. He was persuaded out of retirement to be president, from which he wanted to retire after his first term, but he was convinced into a second term.

“He was glad to leave when John Adams was inaugurated,” Chase said. “But when he retired, he did not wash his hands of it all. He was still active with his correspondence and he kept his hand in. He was still busy and involved with many things.”

Chase said he will stay involved in many things, but he plans to stay retired.

*Republished with permission from Matt Kelly, UVA Today.*



*Editor Phil Chase retired in 2008 after 35 years at The Papers of George Washington. Photo credit: Dan Addison, UVA Today.*

## An Introduction to PubMan

As mentioned in the Annual Report, *The Papers of George Washington* has entered the 21st century! We have adopted a content management system, PubMan, and are in the process of moving to an XML-based editing environment.

PubMan is a computer editing system designed to make the scholarly research and publication workflow more efficient. The program, developed by Steven Perkins of Dataformat.com, has been adopted by many large documentary editing projects and scholarly endeavors that, like *The Papers*, needed a seamless way to transition between print publishing and digital publishing. Perkins's clients include the Thomas Jefferson Foundation, Princeton University Press, Woodrow Wilson Presidential Library, Miller Center for Public Affairs, Papers of Abraham Lincoln, and many others. Of course, every project has different editorial practices and policies; Perkins works with each project to customize the PubMan system around their workflow. The editors of the *Papers of Thomas Jefferson: Retirement Series*, published at Monticello, have worked with the PubMan system for a few years and have been very pleased with the results. They have been very helpful in consulting with *The Papers* editors, who are learning how to use PubMan in forthcoming volumes. *Revolutionary War 21*, edited by Bill Ferraro, will be the first *Papers* volume edited using the PubMan system.

This transition has meant big changes for the project. First, PubMan allows us to bring together, in one centralized location, many of our resources. We have loaded transcriptions, document images, the short-title list, the repository list, and the Digital Edition cumulative index into the system. Simply put, the editors will no longer have to search numerous resources to find what they need. Second, moving away from traditional word-processing programs and using an XML editor will allow us to fully integrate the Digital Edition work into the overall project workflow. In the past, the Digital Edition team devoted much time to cleaning up conversion files and preparing them for the Digital Edition. Once we have fully moved over to the XML environment, this will no longer be necessary. Instead, we will produce volumes for both the print and digital editions.

These changes will allow the Digital Edition team to focus on some exciting projects. Perhaps the most important of these is the addition of Washington's financial papers to the Digital Edition. Washington's various financial records are numerous and full of intriguing information. His meticulous records detail household and farm expenditures as well as public finances. Once online, these records will be a treasure trove for scholars and students alike. We have teamed up with Mount Vernon in hopes of gaining an understanding of the collection's scope and making some real strides in preparing the records for online publication. Currently, there are two research fellows at Mount Vernon transcribing and digitizing the Lund Washington Account Book, 1772–1786, and the Mount Vernon Store Book, 1787. We'll report on the progress in the next newsletter!

## Discovering New Documents

Although the vast majority of the more than 135,000 items catalogued by *The Papers of George Washington* were gathered in a very thorough search made in the first few years of the project, the project's editors have continued to gather documents even as they have concentrated most of their efforts on speeding production of *The Papers*. Some documents have been found in newspapers and pamphlets. Both new and previously searched archives have yielded treasures as archivists have improved their inventory controls and as research for the volumes has alerted the editors to new places to look for items. Many new documents have come to the attention of the editors when private owners donated them to archives, offered them for sale, or sent photocopies directly to *The Papers*. The project deeply appreciates all those who have helped us to identify Washington documents.

Fortunately, even now, when only about eight years of Washington's life remain as yet unpublished, the vast majority of documents have been found in time to appear in the appropriate volumes of *The Papers*. The editors have long kept records of those that were found too late, so that they might be included in a supplement at the end of the project. Now it will be possible simply to

insert the documents in their proper place and context in the new Digital Edition.

The following important document, a photocopy of which was provided by a Texas businessman, is a good example. Even by itself, this letter (initially listed as not found in the *Colonial Series*, 9:337) exhibits Washington's interest in western lands and his concern for fellow veterans of the French and Indian War. It also reminds us that the Royal Proclamation of 7 October 1763, best known to history as a limitation on colonial settlement of the west, granted varying amounts of land to the officers and soldiers who had served in the French and Indian War. The letter's full significance, however, can only be appreciated when it is included with other 1773 documents. In the direct chain these include John Armstrong's letter of 17 Aug., to which this replies; GW's inquiry to Lord Dunmore of 12 Sept., and Dunmore's answer of 24 Sept. that he did "not think I am at Present empowered" to make grants of western lands; GW's letter to Armstrong of 10 Oct. transmitting Dunmore's answer; and Armstrong's letter to GW of 24 Dec., acknowledging GW's letters and reporting that he had "communicated your Sentiments and representation of the matter in question to sundry Gentlemen in Pennsylvania belonging to our reduc'd Tribe, who are all thankfully Sensible of that obvious candour with which you have wrote" (*Colonial Series*, 9:307–9, 322–24, 327–28, 345–46, 415–17). Also related are GW's two letters to William Crawford of 25 Sept., in which he discusses efforts to "have 10,000 acres survey'd for me" in case patents should be granted, and his letter to Lord Dunmore of 2 Nov., petitioning on behalf of the officers and soldiers "for leave to survey on the river Ohio & its waters below the mouth of Scioto" (*Colonial Series*, 9:328–32, 356–58). Collectively, these letters show how deeply GW was interested in the effort to obtain titles to these western lands and how complicated the process was.

To John Armstrong

Dear Sir,

Annapolis Sept<sup>r</sup> 28th 1773

Your favour of the 17th ulto, from Carlyle, never came to my hands till the Evening before my departure for these Races; & then, in a very

tatter'd condition. Such Information as I can give, respecting your enquiries, shall be imparted with great cordiality, but I am sorry to add, it is not in my power to be satisfactory at this time.

Captn Bullet, it is true, did obtain a Commission from the College of William & Mary (in the Professors at which the Right of appointment lays) to Survey Lands for the Officers & Soldiers claiming under his Majesty's Proclamation of 1763: but at the same time we were told by the Govr & Council of Virginia, to whom repeated application's had been made, they could not Grant Patents (consistent with the Royal Instruction) for any Lands laying on the Western Waters, further than carrying into Execution the Proclamation of 1754, but would, if it ever should be in their power, give us the preference. This promise, at one or two meetings which the Officers of Virga had at Fredericksburg (last Fall) was considered as amounting to little or nothing; apprehending, from the great migration into that Country, that it would be difficult to keep Lands that you could obtain no legal Title to, & therefore a Majority of them resolved not to put themselves to the expence of Surveying till a more favourable Crises, whilst some others again, determind to attempt it at all hazards. Thus much from certainty.

I now shall inform you that, Lord Dunmore (our Govr) has lately been at Fort Pitt, & that I have heard he should signify, at that place, that he would grant Lands to all those who are entitled under the Proclamation of 1763; If so (which I could scarce believe, as there was no publick Notification of it) I concluded it must be in consequence of the Order of Council at St James's the 7th of April last, which doubtless you have seen, & therefore wrote to his Excellency about 10 days ago, desiring to be informd of the truth of this Report; which I will communicate to you by the first conveyance that offers after his Lordship does me the honour to write; and shall be glad to render you, or any of my Brother officers, any Services I can towards facilitating your Grants of these Lands.

I cannot say that I am even tolerably well acquainted with the mode of proceeding necessary for the Gentlemen officers of your Province to adopt, but should think any Surveys made by



Captn Thompson unavailing; for the Lands must be considerd as appertaining to the Government of Virginia, or not; If it does not belong to Virginia, what Right has our Governor to Grant them? If it does, none but the Masters of our College (not even the Govr himself) has a Right to appoint the Surveyors; & the place, as I have before mentioned, is already disposed of to Bullet; who may, I suppose, appoint as many assistants as he pleases, so that the Surveys are returnd in his name, or the name of a deputy legally appointed & qualified—It is also matter of doubt with me, whether Govr Penn's cerificates ought not to go through the hands of the Governor of the Colony in which the Lands are supposd to lay, before they come to the Surveyor; thereby to obtain an order of Survey; or, perhaps one general Order to the Surveyor, directing him to receive Entries, & make Surveys for all Officers & Soldiers who shall produce regular Certificates from their respective Governors, may suffice; such Certificate being annex'd to, & becoming part of the Surveyors report. Some such method I think must be observd, because, if I recollect our Acts of Assembly right, the Surveyor can not receive an Entry of more than 400 Acres of Land; nor can our Council, by an Instruction, grant more than 1000 to any one person; it becomes necessary therefore, that, the steps taken by the Officers should be regular, in order that the Govr & Council may be releasd from the Instruction I have just mentiond; the Surveyor at liberty to admit a Location of each Person's particular quantity, allowd by the Proclamation; & payment of the Right money avoided by it; otherwise, Ten shillings Sterlg pr Ct must be paid for the Land; which, If I recollect right, his Majesty exempts us from payment of—What I have hear said, may suffice to give you a general Idea of this matter. if a more particular one is necessary, I will write to you again, but my own opinion of the matter is, that Lord Dunmore, at this time, will not Grant the Lands, & I am strengthend in this opinion, by conversing (since I came here) with our Attorney Genl, immediately from Williamsburg, who says he never heard of, nor does he believe that, the Govr will give Patents now; however, I shall probably have it in my power of writing you with some degree of certainty in a Post or two more. In the meanwhile, in

haste, & in a very confusd place I subscribe myself  
Dr Sir Yr Most Obedt Hble Servt

Go: Washington



*Published in October 2008*

Presidential Series, Volume 14

During the last four months of 1793, the period documented by volume 14 of the *Presidential Series*, GW and his administration remained chiefly involved with maintaining the neutrality of the United States. The activities of French privateers in American waters required the American administration to respond to requests from state governors for guidance about implementing the neutrality policy and to complaints from British minister George Hammond about seizures of British ships. As a result the administration had to decide on the extent of America's territorial waters. Another threat to neutrality arose from reports of French-sponsored expeditions into Spanish Florida and Louisiana. These problems were made more difficult by the administration's increasingly public poor relations with French minister Edmond Genet.

Other topics of interest include frontier defense and concerns about British retention of northwestern forts; news from Europe, including reports that a truce with Portugal would free corsairs from Algiers to attack American commerce; problems associated with the arrival of refugees from Saint Domingue; and the ubiquitous applications for appointments to federal office. The volume also records the preparation of GW's annual message. This was an extended process that involved input from each member of the cabinet.

The signature event of these four months, however, was the yellow fever epidemic at Philadelphia. Diagnosed in August, the growing epidemic soon depopulated the city by departures and deaths. GW himself left the city on 10 Sept., making a previously planned trip to Mount Vernon, perhaps speeded by the progress of the disease. Some questioned whether Congress could safely meet at the capital in December, and GW sought advice about whether he had constitutional power

to alter the location at which Congress would convene and about where the government might move. GW himself took lodgings at Germantown in November, and ultimately, waning of the disease made action unnecessary.

Among personal matters, the management of Mount Vernon claimed much attention from GW. He signed a contract with a new farm manager, William Pearce, and his letters to Pearce and to interim manager Howell Lewis convey information and advice. Moreover, in a letter to the English agriculturalist Arthur Young, GW broached a proposal to rent out four of the five farms at Mount Vernon to immigrant farmers, describing his estate in considerable detail.

—David R. Hoth



### *Forthcoming in 2009*

#### Presidential Series, Volume 15

Volume 15 of the *Presidential Series* documents the period from 1 Jan. through 30 April 1794, a time when Washington continued to focus his efforts as president on preventing the United States from becoming entangled in the continuing war between France and Great Britain. Of particular concern was British and French interference with American shipping, despite claims of neutral rights by the United States. Congress reacted to this problem in late March by declaring a thirty-day embargo (later extended) on all ships and vessels in American ports, and the Washington administration enforced this resolution, as well as a series of earlier cabinet decisions regarding the presence of foreign privateers and their prizes in American ports.

The threat of U.S. involvement in the war led Congress to pass legislation designed to increase the military strength of the United States. As a result, Washington and Secretary of War Henry Knox directed the construction of coastal fortifications, the establishment of federal armories, and the creation of an American navy. The European war also produced an exodus of refugees to the United States from the French colony of Saint Domingue and a subsequent federal program of monetary relief, which the administration oversaw.

The question of neutral rights, the threat of an Indian war in the Northwest Territory, British retention of military posts in American territory, and a desire for a favorable trade agreement prompted Washington to appoint John Jay an envoy extraordinary to Great Britain in order to resolve these issues. At the same time, other U.S. diplomats continued their efforts to reach an understanding with Spain over the right of free navigation of the Mississippi River by Americans, Indian unrest in the Southwest Territory, and the boundary between Georgia and Florida, as well as to obtain a commercial treaty between the two nations.

In an effort to manage his Mount Vernon farms while residing in Philadelphia, Washington regularly sent detailed instructions to William Pearce, his newly hired estate manager. Of particular concern was the implementation of a five-year plan of crop rotation designed by Washington in 1793 and the acquisition of a sufficient supply of buckwheat and other seed for spring planting. Washington continued to be a benefactor for his extended family, particularly his sister, Betty Washington Lewis, and his orphaned niece, Harriot Washington. He also directed the refurbishment of his house in Alexandria, Va., for Frances Bassett Washington, the widow of his nephew George Augustine Washington, and he made arrangements to purchase lots in the new Federal City.

—Christine S. Patrick



### *Published in January 2008*

#### Revolutionary War Series, Volume 17

Volume 17 of the *Revolutionary War Series* opens with Washington moving his army north from White Plains, New York, into new positions that ran from West Point to Danbury, Connecticut. His purpose in doing so was threefold: to protect his army, to protect the strategically important Hudson highlands, and to shore up the equally vital French fleet anchored at Boston. His new headquarters, located near Fredericksburg, New York, about seventy miles north of New York City, was one of the most obscure of the Revolutionary War. Nevertheless, Washington remained as busy with important tasks during the fall of

1778 as during any other period of the war. It was a time of delicate transition for the new Franco-American alliance and for British strategists yet unwilling to concede defeat. Both circumstances required Washington to exercise the sort of mental agility he had demonstrated during the first three years of the war. Equally pressing were the immediate problems of British raids—threatened and real—in New Jersey and New York and along the extensive American frontier and coastline. Within the Continental army, troubling breakdowns in discipline and morale demanded Washington's close attention, as did the logistical and political difficulties of planning proper troop dispositions for the coming winter—the fourth straight winter that Washington would not see home.

Although Washington could not foresee in October 1778 that the British would soon try their hand at conquering the southern states and that the war would last another five years, he sensed that the British Ministry still had both the financial means and the political will to continue the struggle. Ever a realist, Washington recognized that American victory would not come cheaply in what had become a war of attrition as well as an international conflict involving North American, European, and Caribbean theaters. As he had done since 1775, Washington was once more adjusting his thoughts to meet new realities on the long road to American independence.

—Philander D. Chase



*Published in June 2008*

Revolutionary War Series, Volume 18

Volume 18 of the *Revolutionary War Series* covers the period 1 Nov. 1778 through 14 Jan. 1779. It begins with George Washington at Fredericksburg, N.Y., watching New York City for signs that the British are about to evacuate North America. The British had very different intentions, however, dispatching the first of several amphibious expeditions to invade and conquer the Deep South. Congress, meanwhile, mulled plans for the formation of a Franco-American army and the invasion of Canada. Washington worked hard to

quash these plans, which he considered both impractical and dangerous. On 11 Nov., he wrote a long letter to Congress laying out the military reasons why the invasion could never succeed. Three days later, he wrote another, private letter to the president of Congress, warning that a French army in Canada might attempt to re-establish France's North American empire, transforming allies into oppressors. While Congress reconsidered and ultimately scrapped its plans, Washington oversaw the transfer of the captive Convention Army from Boston to Charlottesville, Va.; planned for the dispersal of his own army to winter cantonments across New Jersey; and rode to Philadelphia in late December to open crucial discussions with Congress about the reorganization of the Continental army and American strategy for the 1779 campaign.

—Edward G. Lengel

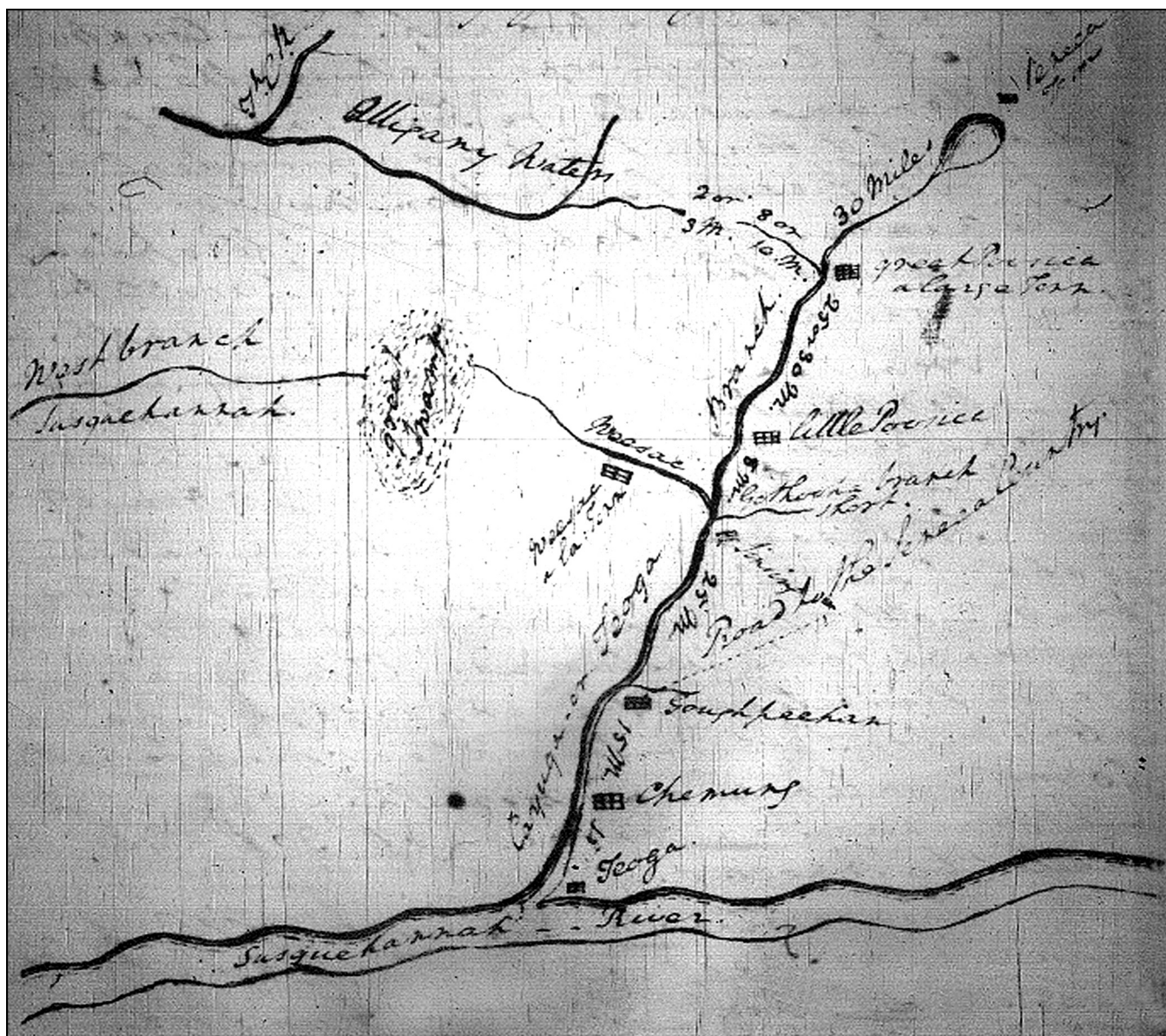


*Forthcoming in 2009 or early 2010*

Revolutionary War Series, Volume 19

Volume 19 of the *Revolutionary War Series*, covering 15 Jan.–7 April 1779, is on track for publication. GW spent much of his time during this period in winter camp at Middlebrook, N.J., working on the seemingly endless but vital task of keeping up the organization and morale of the Continental army and inquiring far and wide for information on the then largely unknown and rugged expanse of frontier along the Pennsylvania-New York border as he strove to plan a punitive expedition against Indians of the Six Nations and Loyalists whose periodic raids terrorized settlers in that region. To help orient users, this volume will include maps commissioned by the project that show locations prominently mentioned in the documents, and in the case of the Pennsylvania-New York frontier map, fully illustrates the impressive scale of GW's planning for a theater-level operation. While hungry for any scrap of information, GW retained a healthy skepticism. Indicative of his caution is his notation accompanying a map (see p. 9) he himself had drawn from the recollections of an old trader: "This must be a mistake—the distance to F[rench] C[ree]k must be great[e]r."





*This map of the Pennsylvania-New York frontier was drawn in GW's hand from the recollections of an old trader.*

Another notable feature of the documents to be included in volume 19 of the *Revolutionary War Series* is the muted but persistent presence of women. Among the residents at the Wallace House, GW's headquarters while at Middlebrook, was Mary Wallace, the wife of owner John Wallace, and more remarkably, her mentally vigorous and pious 96-year-old mother, Mary Maddox. No correspondence directly involving these women has been found, but it is fascinating to speculate on how GW and Martha Washington engaged with these other occupants of the home as they went about their days and nights in the modest spaces of the dwelling. Feminine voices are heard clearly in letters to GW from Maria Farmer, seeking a pass to visit behind British lines, and Marianne Camasse Deux-Ponts, recommending a French officer for continued service in the Continental army. An unidentified woman, or women, evidently motivated Maj. Gen. Israel Putnam to request leave from GW in a letter of 25 Jan. 1779 so he could "lay an Anchor to windward for a Wife." Widowed for the second time in October 1777, Putnam secured GW's reluctant consent for leave but failed in his quest for a wife, for he never married again.

—William M. Ferraro

## Remembering Washington Scholar Beverly Runge, 1929–2008

George Washington never knew Beverly Runge, but she knew him quite well. She had been to his home countless times and also knew his family, his neighbors and closest friends, and even a number of Washington's passing acquaintances.

Her relationship with Washington, one-sided though it was, blossomed over a span of more than 50 years. It began at Mount Vernon and, some time later, was renewed with these words: "A Journal of my Journey over the Mountains began Fryday the 11th. Of March 1747/8 ... Began my Journey in Company with George Fairfax Esqr.; we travell'd this day 40 miles to Mr. George Neavels in Prince William County."

That was the first entry Washington made, at age 16, in a series of diaries that would chronicle the balance of his life. Those diaries have been compiled and annotated in book form—six volumes in all—and parallel the time covered in some 50 other volumes of Washington documents published so far by the Papers of George Washington project since its inception in 1968.

Beverly Runge was instrumental in the decades-long undertaking, and her painstaking research into the life of Washington will continue to serve as an underpinning as the project moves forward to include eventually some 90 volumes.

"The volumes would not be nearly as far along, nor as good as they are, without Beverly," said W. W. Abbot, who served as the Papers' second editor in chief and led the project from 1977 until his retirement in 1992. "She was absolutely invaluable."

Runge passed away April 18 at age 78. Her 37 years at PGW will stand unsurpassed, having outdistanced even the tenure of Philander D. Chase,

who retired in March after 35 years with the project. Before she arrived at the Papers, Runge served as assistant curator at Mount Vernon during the mid-1950s, and after moving to Charlottesville in 1956 continued to work on Mount Vernon's manuscript collection for several years.

Her professional legacy is that of a tenacious researcher who, despite her obvious talents and depth of expertise, was just as determined to remain in the background. Abbot described her as "very modest"; Chase said she "was never one to seek the spotlight," an observation echoed almost

verbatim by another longtime colleague, Dorothy Twohig, who was with the project at the beginning and served as the third editor in chief.

Runge was a major contributor to getting the project set up, said Twohig, and played a key role in identifying and organizing what eventually became a repository of 135,000 photocopied Washington documents. She was "a pillar of the project [who] probably never got the credit she deserved," Twohig added, noting that when Runge balked at ef-

forts to place her in charge of the project's *Colonial Series* (covering the years 1748–75), Abbot nevertheless had her name displayed as "Editor" for the final edition of the 10-volume series.

Most of all, Runge will be remembered for her tenacity and skills as a researcher, especially when it came to identifying obscure individuals and untangling familial relationships.

"Whenever anyone on the staff was confronted with a baffling family genealogy or land transaction," said Chase, "he or she went to Beverly, who almost always was able to make sense of the complicated and seemingly contradictory documents."

"She was like a terrier—she wouldn't let those people go" until she could identify them, Twohig recalled. "Sometimes that would take a lot of work."



*Beverly in front of Alderman Library.*

## Editor Christine Patrick Retires

Associate Editor **Christine Sternberg Patrick** retired from The Papers in April after more than nine years at the project. She is still hard at work, however, devoting her attention to editing *The Journals of Samuel Kirkland, Missionary to the Iroquois Indians, 1764–1808*. These journals contain detailed entries on a variety of topics, ranging from Native American conversion experiences to competition among Euro-Americans for Iroquois land and military allegiance, to the more mundane facts of everyday life such as food, shelter, clothing, and weather.

Patrick, who joined the staff in January 1999, edited volumes 11, 12, 13, and 15 of the *Presidential Series*. For her work on her first volume, Patrick was awarded the 2003 Thomas Jefferson Prize for Documentary Editing, given by the Society for History in the Federal Government, for “outstanding contribution” to the history of the federal government, based on “the significance of the subject matter, depth of research, rigor of methodology, clarity of presentation, and quality of style.” These attributes, equally evident in her later volumes, attest to the quality of Patrick’s editing style, which was an asset to the project.

“Christine was not only a careful editor, but also one who was willing to devote extra time to the project’s tasks. She will also be missed for her ability to share her knowledge with others at The Papers and in the academic community at large,” said Associate Editor David Hoth, who shared an office with Patrick and worked closely with her on the *Presidential Series*.

“Christine Patrick’s work brought great credit to herself and to the project. We will always appreciate her contribution,” said Editor in Chief Ted Crackel.

Patrick continues her active role in the academic community as a member of the Association for Documentary Editing and of the Colonnade Club at the University of Virginia. She served as secretary of ADE from 2005–7.

## Staff News

From 7–10 Sept., **Ted Crackel** was the guest of the Institute of Netherlands History at The Hague and participated in an EU conference the institute

sponsored dealing with the digitization and online publication of historical documents. Donald Haks and Eef Dijkhof, two scholars from the Institute of Netherlands History, visited the Washington Papers in autumn 2007 to learn more about documentary editing practices in the United States, and to share their own work.

**Ed Lengel’s** latest book, *To Conquer Hell: The Meuse-Argonne, 1918*, published this year by Henry Holt and Co., received critical acclaim for providing the first comprehensive history of the epic World War I battle from the soldiers’ eye view. Lengel’s account of the bloodiest battle in American military history was praised by Martin Gilbert, author of *The First World War* and *The Somme*, as “one of the most powerful war books that I have read.” Alex Kershaw wrote, “Ed Lengel’s account of how American doughboys died in their tens of thousands to end the First World War is one of the great war stories of all time. In Lengel’s skilled hands, the last great battle of the Great War is both riveting and deeply affecting. Authoritative, vividly drawn, and packed with arresting anecdotes and new material, *To Conquer Hell* is destined to be a classic.” Lengel, usually ensconced in the Revolutionary War era, was inspired by family history and a lifelong interest in soldiers’ literature to pursue his fascination with the First World War.

**Lengel** will be appearing in a documentary about George Washington due to air on the National Geographic Channel at 9 P.M. on 19 November. He also was interviewed about George Washington and weather for a documentary to be aired next year on the Weather Channel.

**Ed Lengel** and **William M. Ferraro** spoke at the headquarters of the Society of the Cincinnati in Washington, D.C., on the evening of 25 Mar. 2008. With interest heightened by a magnificent portrait of spymaster Maj. Benjamin Tallmadge on loan to the Society of the Cincinnati, Lengel and Ferraro presented a program titled “An Endless Search: George Washington’s Intelligence-Gathering During the Revolution” to an audience of about 150. Lengel’s presentation, “Spymaster-in-Chief: George Washington and Espionage in



New York City, 1778–1779,” and Ferraro’s presentation, “Front-Line Intelligence for George Washington: Brig. Gen. William Maxwell at Elizabeth, N.J., 1778–1779,” provoked a lively hour of questions and observations from those in attendance.

**William M. Ferraro** published “A Struggle For Respect: Lew Wallace’s Relationships with Ulysses S. Grant and William Tecumseh Sherman After Shiloh,” in the *Indiana Magazine of History*, 104 (June 2008): 125–52, as part of a special issue on Wallace, the Civil War general, diplomat, and celebrated novelist best known for *Ben-Hur*. Also related to Ferraro’s longstanding interest in the noteworthy brothers John and William Tecumseh Sherman was the completion of custom-made microfilm reels with correspondence that he selected from the Charles Ewing Family Papers and Thomas Ewing Family Papers at the Library of Congress, with the support of a \$1,500 research grant from the dean of the College of Arts & Sciences and the vice president for research and graduate studies at the University of Virginia. Ferraro is using these letters to complete a book manuscript tentatively titled “War, Love, Faith: The Sherman-Ewing Family During the Civil War.”

**Phil Chase** received the Distinguished Service Award from the Association for Documentary Editing for his long service to the organization, including a stint as treasurer (1994–97), his “Guide to Planning the Annual Meeting,” his report on “Institutional Relationships and Support of Documentary Editing Projects,” and his dedication to lobbying Congress for sufficient funding of the NEH and NHPRC. Chase accepted the award from then ADE secretary **Christine Patrick** at the 2007 Annual Meeting, held in Richmond in November. After Chase’s retirement from the Papers last spring, the University of Virginia Board of Visitors voted to bestow him with the honor of emeritus for his years of scholarship and dedication to the project.

**Jennifer Stertzer** was nominated to serve as the next secretary for ADE. Her stint will begin after the organization’s 2008 Annual Meeting in Tucson, Ariz., in October.



*New York State ninth-grader Valerie Champeau (above, with Ted Crackel) visited the Washington Papers this year to perform research for her award-winning project titled “The Newburgh Conspiracy: the Final Conflict,” which examined Washington’s defeat of a plot by Continental army soldiers to march on Congress to demand overdue pay, pensions, and benefits. Valerie’s project, addressing the theme “Conflict and Compromise in History,” won the Southern Hudson Regional History Day contest and placed second in the New York State competition.*

## New Staff Members

**Carol S. Ebel** earned her B.A. degree in history from Georgia Southern University and her M.A. and Ph.D. in early America (the southern frontier) from the University of Georgia. She previously worked as an instructor at Georgia Southern University in Statesboro and at Brewton-Parker College in Mt. Vernon, Georgia. Most recently, she served as an assistant professor at Armstrong Atlantic State University in Savannah, Ga., where she participated in an interdisciplinary workshop for

public educators that focused upon the history and environmental impact of the Georgia barrier islands. She has worked with several local historical organizations to help them create or expand their archival collections. Her recent publications include two articles in the *New Georgia Encyclopedia*: one titled “Casimir Pulaski” and one about Samuel Nunes, an early Jewish immigrant to colonial Georgia. She currently is studying the Revolutionary career of Col. George Mathews of Augusta County, Va., and later governor of Georgia.

After serving for thirteen years in the U.S. Navy, **Benjamin Huggins** received an M.A. in

U.S. history from George Mason University in 2003. As a history doctoral student and research assistant, he worked on the Papers of the War Department project at GMU’s Center for History and New Media from 2006 to 2007. Huggins recently completed work at GMU for a Ph.D. in history, with a specialty in antebellum southern politics. He defended his dissertation, titled “Republican Principles, Opposition Revolutions, and Southern Whigs: Nathaniel Macon, Willie Mangum, and the Course of North Carolina Politics, 1800–1853” in August. His degree will be conferred in January 2009.

## Acknowledgements

We gratefully acknowledge these people and organizations for their support this year:

Rick Badwey	Emory & Winifred Evans	Jean B. Lee
Warren & Laura Bingham	Theodore L. Ferraro	Maryland State Society of the Daughters
Harry Cummings & Ann	Merle & Barry Ginsburg	of the American Revolution
Colby-Cummings	Dr. Lewis C. & Rita Gordonson	Leona Oleander Moore
Joan & Tom Dater	John Hattendorf	Joe Rubinfine
John S. Davis IV	Edward James Hayes Foundation	William Vodrey
Richard W. Dyke	Philip & Michelle LeDuc	Stephen K. West

Major funding for the Project is provided by:

The National Historical Publications  
and Records Commission  
The National Endowment for the Humanities  
The Mount Vernon Ladies’ Association  
The University of Virginia  
The Packard Humanities Institute

*Your gift, regardless of size, helps us meet the fundraising requirements of these grants and maintain the project’s high standards of quality and productivity.*

*We appreciate and acknowledge a gift of any amount. All donors receive our newsletter and acknowledgement on the website. Gifts of \$500 receive a future volume signed by the editors. Gifts of \$1,000 receive a signed future volume as well as formal acknowledgement in the book.*

I wish to help support The Papers of George Washington:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for your support!

Please make your check payable to:  
The Papers of George Washington

and mail to:

The Papers of George Washington  
University of Virginia, P.O. Box 400117  
Charlottesville, VA 22904-4117

THE PAPERS OF GEORGE WASHINGTON



ALDERMAN LIBRARY, UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA  
P.O. BOX 400117, CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA 22904-4117  
PHONE: 434-924-3569 FAX: 434-982-4529

gwpapers@virginia.edu <http://www.gwpapers.virginia.edu>

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
CHARLOTTESVILLE VIRGINIA  
PERMIT NO. 164

The **Papers of George Washington** at the University of Virginia was established under the auspices of the University and the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association to publish a complete edition of Washington's correspondence and other writings.

The complete published papers will include:

- The Diaries of George Washington  
(6 volumes)\*
- The Colonial Series (10 volumes)\*
- The Revolutionary War Series  
(40 volumes—18 to date)
- The Confederation Series (6 volumes)\*
- The Presidential Series  
(21 volumes—14 to date)
- Journal of the Proceedings of the President  
(1 volume)\*
- The Retirement Series (4 volumes)\*

(\* series completed)

*The Papers of George Washington Staff*

Theodore J. Crackel, *Editor in Chief*  
Edward G. Lengel, *Senior Editor*  
David R. Hoth, *Associate Editor*  
Carol S. Ebel, *Assistant Editor*  
William M. Ferraro, *Assistant Editor*  
Jennifer E. Stertz, *Assistant Editor*

Thomas E. Dulan, *Copy Editor*  
Stacy Diggs-Allen, *Fiscal Administrator*  
Benjamin L. Huggins, *Postdoctoral Fellow*  
Alexis D. Luckey, *Research Assistant*  
Pamela J. Grizzard, *Proofreader*

Michael Caires, Ronda Chollock, Gabriel Haley,  
Elizabeth Leis, Kelly McConnell, Erica Mitchell,  
Dana Stefanelli, Samuel Turner,  
*Student Assistants*

W. W. Abbot, *Editor Emeritus*  
Philander D. Chase, *Editor Emeritus*  
Dorothy Twohig, *Editor Emeritus*