

The Papers of George Washington **NEWS**

Number 3 Winter 2000/2001

WASHINGTON'S DIARIES ONLINE



The Papers' six-volume letterpress edition of *The Diaries of George Washington*, edited by Donald Jackson and Dorothy Twohig and published by the University Press of Virginia between 1976 and 1979, became accessible online this fall at the Library of Congress's American Memory Historical Collections website. The fifty-one surviving diaries offer an exciting opportunity to explore the thoughts, activities, and historical world of one of America's most important founders. This special online presentation makes the definitive transcriptions, introductory essays, and rich annotation available to the public both as searchable electronic text and as online images of the printed pages. Included also are about 3,800 images from the original manuscript diaries at the Library of Congress, which owns nearly three-fourths of the extant diaries.

The diaries of George Washington are not those of a literary diarist in the conventional sense. Washington's definition of his diary is best illustrated by a phrase that runs through the whole record: "Where & How my Time is Spent." What biographers, editors, and archivists have come to call Washington's "diaries" consist, in addition to his "where and how" diaries, of weather records, agricultural notations, and tours of the North and South during his presidency, together with such documents as the travel journal published in 1754 under the title, *The Journal of Major George Washington, Sent by the Hon. Robert Dinwiddie, Esq; . . . Commander in Chief of Virginia, to the Commandant of the French Forces on Ohio* (Williamsburg, 1754).

Except for special occasions, such as his mission to the French commandant and his voyage to Barbados,

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Online Diaries continued

Washington apparently kept no daily record until 1760. Even then, his diary-keeping was erratic until 1768, when he settled down to a program that he was to continue faithfully until he became commander in chief in 1775. The earliest diaries were kept in notebooks of various sizes and shapes, but when Washington began in earnest to make daily entries he chose to make them in interleaved copies of the *Virginia Almanack*, a Williamsburg publication. By the end of the Revolutionary War Washington had grown accustomed to the blank memorandum books used in the army, and he adopted a similar notebook for his civilian record. By 1795, however, he had gone back to his interleaved almanacs.

Washington apparently kept no diary during most of the Revolutionary War. The rigorousness of his activities would have made it difficult to do so, and the full record of the period that accumulated in his official letter books and general orders rendered the custom less necessary. He tried to resume his old habit in 1780 and 1781, but it was not until he had resigned his command and returned home that he became a confirmed diarist again. A few scattered entries from Washington's diaries that appeared in the nineteenth-century writings of Jared Sparks and Washington Irving indicate that Washington began his presidency with a determination to continue the record. It seems likely that diaries were kept for the presidential years, 1789–1797, and the fact that so few have survived is particularly vexing to historians. Diaries are extant for the period covering Washington's 1790 northern tour and 1791 southern tour as well as the Whisky Rebellion of 1794. Apart from an unrewarding record for 1795, all else is lost for the presidential years. *The Journal of the Proceedings of the President* (1793–1797), a daily account of Washington's official activities and correspondence, written in the first person but kept by his secretaries, was edited by Dorothy Twohig and published in 1981.

The editor who laments the disappearance of so many Washington diaries risks falling into despondency upon learning that Washington's nephew Bushrod Washington gave many away, only some of which have been preserved.

—Adapted from the introduction to the Diaries by Frank E. Grizzard, Jr.

A Brief User-Friendly Guide for Using the Online Diaries

To access the *Diaries* online, tap into <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/gwhtml/gwintro.html>

From the introductory page, there are Web links to several pages with historical background information, a printable version for downloading (a pdf file), the Library's George Washington Papers homepage with its searchable database of 65,000 manuscript documents, and, finally, a link to the *Diaries*.

□ **Using the online electronic text:** The electronic text from the six volumes of the *Diaries*, including Washington's diary entries, the editors' annotation, and the indexes, can be accessed from either the browse function or from search returns.

□ **Using the online printed pages:** A page image viewer allows the viewing of digital images of all the individual pages of the six volumes of the *Diaries*. The digital images can be accessed consecutively or from links within the electronic text through the page image viewer.

□ **Using the online manuscript pages:** Digital copies of the Library's manuscript pages of Washington's diaries also may be viewed through the page image viewer.

—Frank E. Grizzard, Jr.

Favorite Diary Entries

"Time," George Washington wrote four days before his death, "is of more importance than is generally imagined" (To James Anderson, 10 Dec. 1799, in *Retirement Ser.*, 4:456). Making wise use of time was a priority for Washington from an early age, and his diaries helped him manage his expenditure of that valuable commodity much as his meticulously maintained ledgers enabled him to keep track of his financial

resources. Washington almost never thought of his diaries as places to confide his inmost thoughts, and only occasionally, such as in his accounts of his 1753-1754 journey to the French commandant and the 1781 Yorktown campaign, did he use them to record important public events. Washington's diary entry for 16 June 1775, the day he became commander in chief of the Continental army, simply reads: "Dined at Doctr. Cadwaladers. Spent the Evening at my lodgings." (*Diaries*, 3:336).

Washington's diaries, nevertheless, reveal the rhythms of his daily life at Mount Vernon, the frequent visits by and to his friends and relatives, his personal amusements from foxhunting to theater, and his preoccupations with gardening, agriculture, and land. A number of diary entries, especially some of the earlier ones, go beyond telling merely where and how Washington spent his time and give intriguing glimpses of him at various important stages of his life: the ambitious young surveyor and soldier, the settled planter and family man, and the first president of the new American nation. Of the many such entries, here are a few of the editors' favorites.

The Greenhorn. Washington made his first trip to the Virginia frontier at the age of sixteen as a surveying apprentice. In his diary entry for 15 March 1748 he wrote: "Worked hard till Night & then returnd to [Isaac] Penningtons [house near present-day Berryville, Va.] we got our Suppers & was Lighted in to a Room & I not being so good a Woodsman as the rest of my Company striped my self very orderly & went in to the Bed as they call'd it when to my Surprize I found it to be nothing but a Little Straw—Matted together without Sheets or any thing else but only one Thread Bear blanket with double its Weight of Vermin such as Lice Fleas &c. I was glad to get up (as soon as the Light was carried from us) & put on my Cloths & Lay as my Companions. Had we not have been very tired, I am sure that we should not have slep'd much that night. I made a Promise not to Sleep so from that time forward chusing rather to sleep in the open Air before a fire as will Appear hereafter" (*Diaries*, 1:9-10).

Washington learned that lesson well. Shortly after the end of the Revolutionary War, at the age of fifty-two, he made a journey to inspect his western lands, and on 25 September 1784 he and his companions

found themselves in a sparsely populated area near Maryland's western border. "At the entrance of the . . . [Youghiogheny] glades," Washington wrote in his diary entry for that date, "I lodged this night, with no other shelter or cover than my cloak; & was unlucky enough to have a heavy shower of Rain" (*Diaries*, 4:44).

The Raft. In the fall of 1753 the Virginia governor sent twenty-one-year-old George Washington to the commandant of the French forces in the Ohio Country with a message warning the French that they were trespassing on British soil. Returning from Fort Le Boeuf near Lake Erie after delivering the message, Washington and his guide Christopher Gist arrived at the bank of the ice-choked Allegheny River on 29 December 1753. "There was no way for us to get over," Washington wrote in his diary, "but upon a Raft, which we set about with but one poor Hatchet, & got finish'd just after Sunsetting, after a whole days Work: We got it launch'd, & on board of it, & sett off; but before we got half over, we were jamed in the Ice in such an Manner, that we expected every Moment our Raft wou'd sink, & we Perish; I put out my seting Pole, to try to stop the Raft, that the Ice might pass by, when the Rapidity of the Stream through it with so much Violence against the Pole, that it Jirk'd me into 10 Feet Water, but I fortunately saved my Self by catching hold of one of the Raft Logs. Notwithstanding all our Efforts we cou'd not get the Raft to either Shoar, but were oblig'd, as we were pretty near an Island, to quit our Raft & wade to it. The Cold was so extream severe, that Mr.

continued next page



Washington and Christopher Gist crossing the Allegheny River. From *The Diaries of George Washington*, volume 1.

Favorite Diary Entries continued from page 3

Gist got all his Fingers, & some of his Toes Froze, & the Water was shut up so hard, that We found no Difficulty in getting off the Island on the Ice in the Morning” (*Diaries*, 1:155-56). Because of its contemporary political and military implications, Washington’s diary for this arduous journey was published in 1754, making his name publicly known outside Virginia for the first time.

The Mill. When Washington obtained control of Mount Vernon in 1754, he also acquired a small gristmill on Dogue Creek about two miles west of the mansion house, and a few years later he nearly lost it in a spring storm. “What time it began Raining in the Night I cant say,” Washington wrote in his diary entry for 8 April 1760, “but at day break it was pouring very hard, and continued so, till 7 oclock when a Messenger came to inform me that my Mill was in great danger of blowing. I immediately hurried off all hands with Shovels &ca. to her assistance and got there myself just time enough to give her a reprieve for this time by Wheeling dirt into the place which the Water had Washd . . . Here also, I tried what time the Mill requird to grind a Bushel of Corn and to my Surprize found She was within 5 minutes of an hour about. This old Anthony attributed to the low head of Water (but Whether it was so or not I cant say—her Works all decayd and out of Order wch. I rather take to be the cause)” (*Diaries*, 1:264). Anthony, a skilled slave carpenter in his middle fifties who had come to Mount Vernon the previous year as one of Martha Washington’s dower slaves, served

as Washington’s miller at the time. In 1770 Washington built a large commercial gristmill on Dogue Creek that featured both efficient internal machinery and a long millrace to supply an adequate force of water (see *Diaries*, 2:204). That mill was an important part of his effort to achieve personal economic independence in the years before he fought for American political independence.

A Stepdaughter’s Death. 19 June 1773 was an unexpectedly sad day at Mount Vernon. “At home all day,” Washington wrote in his diary. “About five oclock poor Patcy Custis Died Suddenly” (*Diaries*, 3:188). Martha Washington’s daughter by her first marriage, Martha Parke Custis, known as “Patsy” to her family and friends, was a wealthy and attractive young heiress when she died of an epileptic seizure at about the age of seventeen. In a letter of the following day to his brother-in-law Burwell Bassett, Washington wrote: “yesterday removd the Sweet Innocent Girl into a more happy, & peaceful abode than any she has met with, in the afflicted Path she hitherto has trod. She rose from Dinner about four Oclock, in better health and spirits than she appeared to have been in for some time; soon after which she was siezd with one of her usual Fits, & expird in it, in less than two Minutes without uttering a Word, a groan, or scarce a Sigh. this Sudden, and unexpected blow, I scarce need add has almost reduced my poor Wife to the lowest ebb of Misery” (*Colonial Ser.*, 9:243). The seizures that occasionally had plagued Patsy since she was a toddler grew steadily more frequent and severe as she entered adolescence, notwithstanding the efforts of every physician whom George and Martha Washington employed. During the summer of 1770 Washington, who shared his wife’s great concern about the increasing attacks, kept an apparently surreptitious record of Patsy’s seizures with marks and a few brief words written on the margins of the printed calendar pages of the almanac in which he kept his diary. In a period of 86 days, Patsy had seizures on 26 days and sometimes two seizures in a single day. For 31 July 1770 Washington wrote “1 very bad Do.,” to indicate an exceptionally severe attack (see *Diaries*, 1:328-30; 2:257). So important apparently were children to George and Martha Washington’s life together that soon after Martha’s other child, Jacky Custis, died in 1781, the Washingtons adopted the two youngest of Jacky’s four children, giving them a girl and a boy to



A nineteenth-century drawing of the new mill, probably completed in late 1770, and the miller’s house built in 1771. From *The Diaries of George Washington*, volume 3.

raise such as they had when they married in 1759.

Adieu to Mount Vernon. By 14 April 1789, when Charles Thomson, secretary of the Continental Congress, arrived at Mount Vernon and officially informed Washington of his election as first president of the United States, Washington had reconciled himself to accepting the burden of that new, unprecedented office on the grounds that both the national interest and his personal reputation required it. Two days later, on 16 April, Washington began his journey to New York City for his inauguration. “About ten o’clock,” Washington wrote in his diary, “I bade adieu to Mount Vernon, to private life, and to domestic felicity; and with a mind oppressed with more anxious and painful sensations than I have words to express, set out for New York in company with Mr. Thomson, and colonel [David] Humphries, with the best dispositions to render service to my country in obedience to its call, but with less hope of answering its expectations” (*Diaries*, 5:445). Those words echo the words that he spoke to the Continental Congress on 15 June 1775 when he accepted command of the Continental army (see *Revolutionary War Ser.*, 1:1). In 1789, as in 1775, Washington did not underestimate the difficulty of the challenges that he faced, but although he was too politic to say so openly, he also recognized the magnitude of the opportunity that lay before him, the chance to win lasting public acclaim of the highest order through selfless service as he had striven so ambitiously to do all of his adult life.

The German Church. Contrary to some popular perceptions, Washington was not a humorless man, although his humor surfaced infrequently and often was labored when it did. Returning to Philadelphia from his presidential southern tour of 1791, Washington visited York, Pennsylvania, where on 3 July he wrote in his diary, he “Received, and answered an address from the Inhabitants of York town—& there being no Episcopal Minister *present* in the place, I went to hear morning Service performed in the Dutch [i.e., German] reformed Church—which, being in that language not a word of which I understood I was in no danger of becoming a proselyte to its religion by the eloquence of the Preacher” (*Diaries*, 6:168). Decidedly unorthodox in his religious views, Washington was unlikely to be greatly influenced by a preacher of any denomination, including the Epis-

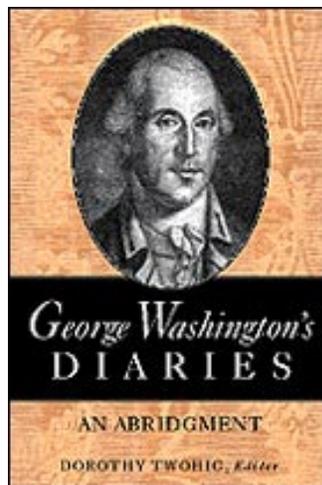
copal Church of which he officially was a member. For Washington’s similarly humorous remarks about attending church services, see his letter to Burwell Bassett of 28 August 1762 in *Colonial Ser.*, 7:147-48.

—Philander D. Chase

Single-Volume Abridged Diaries

Culled from the six volumes of *The Diaries of George Washington* completed in 1979, this selection of entries chosen by Washington Papers editor emeritus Dorothy Twohig reveals the lifelong preoccupations of the public and private man.

Washington was rarely isolated from the world during his eventful life. His diary for 1751-1752 relates a



voyage to Barbados when he was nineteen. The next two accounts concern the early phases of the French and Indian War, in which Washington commanded a Virginia regiment. By the 1760s, when Washington’s diaries resume, he considered himself retired from public life, but growing American unrest with British colonial policies sparked a protest

movement that eventually placed Washington in command of a revolutionary army.

Even as he traveled to Philadelphia in 1787 to chair the Constitutional Convention, and later when he served as president, Washington’s first love remained his plantation, Mount Vernon. In his diary, he religiously recorded the changing methods of farming he employed there and the pleasures of riding and hunting. Rich in material from this private sphere, *George Washington’s Diaries: An Abridgment* offers historians and anyone interested in Washington a closer view of our first president.

GW's Farm Reports

Writing to English agriculturalist Arthur Young as Washington contemplated accepting the first presidency, Mount Vernon's owner mused:

The more I am acquainted with agricultural affairs the better I am pleased with them. Insomuch that I can no where find so great satisfaction, as in those innocent & useful pursuits. In indulging these feelings, I am led to reflect how much more delightful to an undebauched mind is the task of making improvements on the earth; than all the vain glory which can be acquired from ravaging it, by the most uninterrupted career of conquests (To Arthur Young, 4 Dec. 1788, in *Presidential Ser.*, 1:159-60).

In contrast to the uncertain prospects for success as the first head of a radically redesigned government, subject to the vagaries of international politics, and with his behavior scrutinized at every turn, Washington's agricultural affairs allowed him to take satisfaction in tangible results. Corn gathered, wheat threshed, straw cut, rails maled, and flax spun were markers of accomplishment and progress, not to mention income.

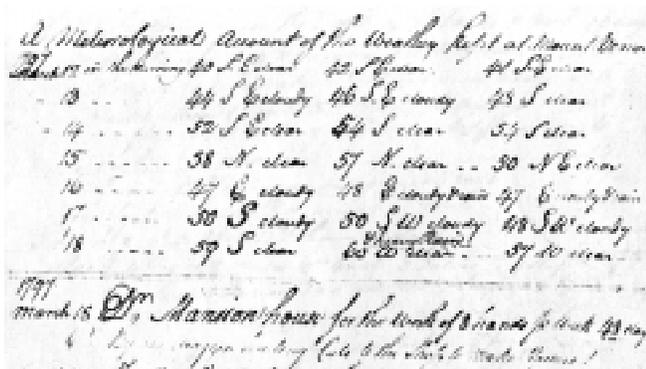
Washington's keen pleasure and interest in the tasks of his five farms are evident in the degree of organization within his extensive operations. From April 1785 until his death in 1799, Washington required his estate manager to compile a weekly summary of the preced-

ing six days' activities. Known collectively as the "Farm Reports," these documents provide an invaluable view of a working plantation and its residents. In addition to cataloguing meteorological information, livestock counts, quantities of various products harvested, and notes on maintenance and improvements, the Farm Reports offer additional insight into slavery, the force behind many of the visible accomplishments at Mount Vernon. In particular, these documents detail the work patterns of slaves, including the tasks at which they were employed and the number of days they spent at work and in illness. As space limitations prohibited the bulk of the reports from being published in the earlier printed volumes, the Papers of George Washington has recently begun the formidable task of transcribing and formatting these valuable records for the comprehensive electronic version. In the meantime, the Library of Congress George Washington Papers website images of the original manuscripts can be found by using the search term "plantation records," at <http://lcweb2.loc.gov:8081/ammem/gwhtml/gwhome.html>.

—Lisa Moot

Washington Papers Website Update

The new and improved Papers website (www.virginia.edu/gwpapers), inaugurated in February 2000, is flourishing! We have received an unprecedented number of "hits" (82,000 independent "clicks" to the main page) in the last ten months and have collected more than 400 names and addresses in our online Guestbook. Our guests' comments and suggestions help us tailor the information presented on the Web to ensure that we address the public's interest in the Founding Fathers. Newly posted documents on our site include Washington's Lists of Slaves (1786 and 1799), all twenty-nine pages of his last will (1799), and an extensive inventory of articles at Mount Vernon (1810) with their appraised value. In the future, the project plans to expand the Maps & Images section and introduce lesson plans that will allow teachers to assist their students in interpreting the primary documents on our site. Stay tuned!



Excerpt from Farm Reports, 18 March 1797, from farm manager James Anderson to George Washington. The weekly summaries typically began with a record of the weather, as shown in the manuscript above.

Volume Updates

Presidential Series

Volume 11

August-December 1792

'one uniform course': Washington's Political Principles

In this day of often harsh political rivalries, it may seem difficult to believe that many of the founding fathers, and none more than George Washington, found the idea of political parties abhorrent and considered their development a threat to the stability of the new nation. Washington, unlike modern presidents, did not see himself as the leader of a political party. Consequently, in the fall of 1792, Washington reacted quite negatively when news reached him that John Francis Mercer of Maryland had claimed the president's endorsement of his candidacy for the House of Representatives. It is unlikely that Washington would have endorsed Mercer, even if he had been inclined to meddle in Congressional elections, for Mercer, an active campaigner against the ratification of the Constitution in 1788, was an ardent opponent of the Federalist policies supported by Washington.

Washington's subsequent reprimand of Mercer, however, did not arise from their different political philosophies, as the president explained to Mercer in a letter written at Mount Vernon on 26 September: "I . . . do not scruple to declare to you that I was not a little displeased to find by a letter from Capt'n Campbell, to a Gentleman in this neighbourhood, that my name had been freely used by you, or your friends, for electioneering purposes, when I had never associated your name & the Election together; and when there had been the most scrupulous & pointed caution observed on my part, not to express a sentiment respecting the fitness, or unfitness of any Candidate for representation, that

could be construed, by the most violent torture of the words, into an interference in favor of one, or to the prejudice of another. Conceiving that the exercise of an influence (if I really possessed any) however remote, would be highly improper; as the people ought to be entirely at liberty to chuse whom they pleased to represent them in Congress. Having pursued this line of conduct *steadily*—my surprise, and consequent declaration can be a matter of no wonder. when I read the following words in the letter above alluded to—'I arrived yesterday from Philadelphia, since which I find Colo. Mercer has openly declared, that Mr Richd Sprigg junr informed him, that Bushrod Washington told him that the President in his presence declared, that he hoped Colo. Mercer would not be left out of the next representation in Congress; and added that he thought him the best representative that now goes, or ever did go to that Body from this State.'

"I instantly declared to the person who shewed me the letter [James Craik], 'that to the best of my recollection, I never had exchanged a word to, or before Bushrod Washington on the subject of your Election—much less to have given such a decided opinion. That such a measure would have been incompatible with the rule I had prescrib'd to myself, & which I had invariably observed—of not interfering directly or indirectly with the suffrages of the People, in the choice of their representatives: and added, that I wished B. Washington might be called upon to certify what, or whether any conversation had ever passed between us on this subject, as it was my desire that every thing should stand upon it's proper foundation.' Other sentiments have been reported as mine, that are equally erroneous.

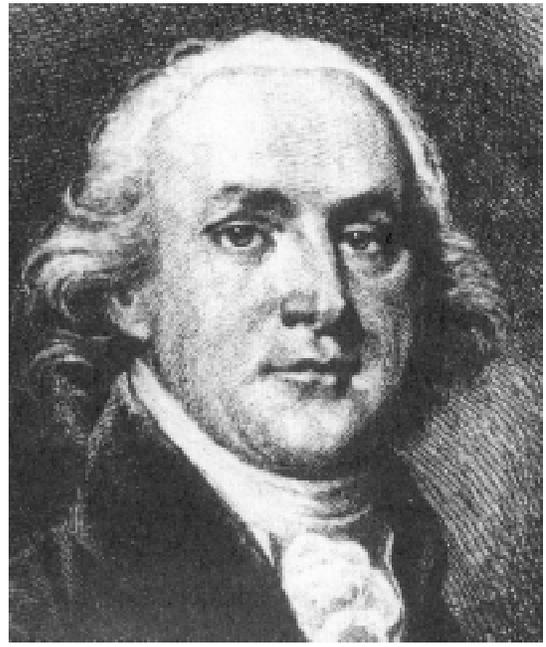
"Whether you have, upon any occasion, expressed your self in disrespectful terms of me, I know not: it has never been the subject of my enquiry. If nothing impeaching my honor, or honesty, is said, I care little for the rest. I have pursued *one* uniform course for three score years, and am happy in *believing* that the world

continued next page

have thought it a right one—if its being so, I am so well satisfied myself, that I shall not depart from it by turning either to the right or to the left, until I arrive at the end of my Pilgrimage.”

Even before Washington wrote the above letter, Mercer had heard reports of the president’s displeasure, and he attempted to mitigate Washington’s response in a letter written on 15 September 1792, in which Mercer defended himself by charging that others were using Washington’s name improperly to malign Mercer: “It is currently said that you have written or verbally expressed great dissaprobation at some liberty that had been taken with your name by me. . . . I now beg leave to state to you that it was told me at dinner in Company—that you had expressed opinions to your Nephew favorable to me or my Election—I immediately observed that I wished it might be true as it would be the most eligible means of rejecting those infamous tales that had been so long and industriously propagated in this part of the Country, that you considered me as personally inimical—I mentioned soon afterwards what I had heard in the presence of three or four persons with this additional observation & caution that I had written to Marlborough whence the report was said to have originated to enquire into its truth—my sole object in this had I receivd a confirmation woud have been to have exposed the malignity, falsity & impudence of those who had ever made use of your name against me—for the truth of these impressions so long & so generally made here an enquiry of your Neighbour Mr Rozier [Henry Rozer], Mr Osborn Sprigg or Mr Thos Clarke or any other Gentlemen of reputation I beleive in Prince Georges County, (shoud you choose to satisfy yourself) woud convince you that these People have for five years past made very free with your name to create unfavorable impressions of me in this District.

“I shoud at an earlier period have mention[ed] this, . . . I did think that if ever such Reports (industriously circulated as they were) shoud reach your Ears, they might become the foundation of some explanation on your part either to me or others—& I anxiously waited for some opportunity when unsuspected of adulation I might openly express my real sentiments & the pain which reports so injurious to my feelings & so contrary to truth had given me, I write this now Sir, only to assure you that every report you may have receivd of



John Francis Mercer. Albert Rosenthal engraving, 1888.
From the *History of the Celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the Constitution of the United States*,
Hampton L. Carson, ed. (Philadelphia, 1889), volume 1.

improper use made of your name by me, is wholly without foundation & that if improper impressions with respect to me have been made on your mind, they shall not remain, from any neglect to remove them on my part.”

After receiving Washington’s letter of the 26th, Mercer, noting that “it evidently appeared that you were not satisfied with my explanation,” on 5 November replied to Washington’s accusations of impropriety with expressions of apology and a detailed explanation of the events that led to the misunderstanding. Whether or not Mercer’s second letter appeased Washington is not known because the subject matter does not appear again in their later correspondence, which concerned the settlement of a debt owed Washington from the estate of Mercer’s father. Nevertheless, with or without the president’s endorsement, Mercer was elected in the fall of 1792 from Maryland’s Second District to his second and final term in the House of Representatives.

All the above letters, located in the George Washington Papers at the Library of Congress, can be accessed on the web at <http://lcweb2.loc.gov/ammem/gwhtml/gwhome.html>, and they will be published in volume 11 of the *Presidential Series*.

—Christine S. Patrick

Revolutionary War Series

Volume 11

August-October 1777

General Howe's Dog

The Revolutionary War at its worst often de-generated into unrestrained violence both on and off the battlefield, and neither side hesitated to accuse



the other of committing the most detestable atrocities. The contending generals, nevertheless, prided themselves on being gentlemen and acting as such on all occasions. A small but notable instance of George Washington's steadfast adherence to the code of

eighteenth-century gentlemanly behavior amidst the strife of war appears in the forthcoming volume 11 of the *Revolutionary War Series*. Writing from his headquarters at Perkiomen, Pennsylvania, two days after the Battle of Germantown, Washington apparently sent the following message to General William Howe, who remained at Germantown:

Octr 6. 1777

General Washington's compliments to General Howe. He does himself the pleasure to return him a dog, which accidentally fell into his hands, and by the inscription on the Collar appears to belong to General Howe.

Neither the name nor the breed of the dog is known, nor the circumstances under which it was found. As tempting as it is to speculate that Howe's faithful canine was perhaps not so faithful after all and had deserted to the Americans in search of true liberty or better food, it is more logical to think that the animal happily and unknowingly pursued a deer or other game across American lines and was captured much against its will. Certainly the Americans could not accuse the dog of being a spy since its inscribed collar clearly indicated

that it was in proper "uniform."

The draft of Washington's note to Howe, which is in the handwriting of his aide-de-camp Alexander Hamilton, is in the Washington Papers at the Library of Congress. The original manuscript can be viewed online at the Library's American Memory website, at <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/gwhtml/gwhome.html>. The receiver's copy of the note, presuming that it was sent to Howe with his dog, has not been found, probably because Howe's private correspondence was burned in an accidental house fire during the early nineteenth century.

—Philander D. Chase

Volumes of *The Papers of George Washington* are available at most major university or research libraries and via interlibrary loan. To purchase volumes, please contact:

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Announcements

Associate Editor **Frank E. Grizzard, Jr.**, received the 2000 Distinguished Service Award from the Association for Documentary Editing (ADE) for serving as ADE webmaster since the inception of the association's website in 1995 and for his work on or with various councils and committees regarding electronic initiatives within the ADE.



In October 2000 **Frank Grizzard** presented a Web-based demonstration of the Washington Papers project to Dr. Bill Irwin's honors class at Fluvanna County High School in central Virginia.

The Proceedings of the American Philosophical Society has accepted Assistant Editor **Robert F. Haggard's** paper, "The Nicola Affair: Lewis Nicola, George Washington, and American Military Discontent during the Revolutionary War," for publication in 2001.

Robert Haggard's new book, *The Miller School of Albemarle: A History*, was released in 2000.

Editor in Chief **Philander D. Chase** wrote a forward to Peter R. Henriques's book, *He Died as He Lived: George Washington's Death and Funeral*, which was published by Mount Vernon in December 2000.

In November 2000 editors **Philander D. Chase**, **Frank E. Grizzard, Jr.**, and **Christine S. Patrick**, together with Research Assistants **Lisa Moot** and **Hannah L. Edelen**, attended the annual George Washington Symposium at Mount Vernon.

Volume 9 of the *Presidential Series* (September 1791–February 1792), edited by **Mark A. Mastromarino** and **Jack D. Warren, Jr.**, was published in September 2000. It covers the beginnings of the Federal City and General Arthur St. Clair's disastrous Indian campaign.

Volume 11 of the *Revolutionary War Series* (August–October 1777), edited by **Philander D. Chase** and **Edward Lengel**, includes documentation for the important battles of Brandywine and Germantown. It is currently being indexed and proofread and is scheduled to be published in the spring of 2001.

Volume 12 of the *Revolutionary War Series* (October–December 1777), edited by **Frank E. Grizzard, Jr.**, covers the final stages of the Philadelphia campaign and the establishment of the winter encampment at Valley Forge. It has been delivered to the press and will be published in the fall of 2001.

My observation on every employment in life is, that wherever, and whenever one person is found adequate to the discharge of a duty by close application thereto it is worse executed by two persons—and scarcely done at all if three or more are employed therein, besides, as you have very properly observed, the danger of money is increased in proportion to the number of hands into which it is committed" (from upcoming vol. 11 of *Presidential Series*, George Washington to Henry Knox, 24 Sept. 1792).

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New Staff

During the second half of 2000 the Washington Papers welcomed several new staff members:

Hannah L. Edelen, administrative/editorial assistant, received a J.D. from the University of Virginia School of Law before working as both an environmental consultant and an Internet content writer.

James E. Guba, research assistant, recently received a Ph.D. in history from the University of Virginia. His dissertation is entitled "Cardinal Jacques Davy Du Perron: Conversion, Schism, and Politics in Early Modern France."

Alice E. McShane, part-time research assistant, holds an M.A. in Education from the University at Albany, State University of New York, and is currently a Ph.D. candidate in the History Department there.

Lisa Moot, electronic text assistant, received an M.A. in history from the University of Georgia before teaching for three years at Western Albemarle High School in central Virginia.

Jennifer E. Stertz, part-time research assistant, recently received an M.A. in history from Appalachian State University.

The project bids *adieu* to Administrative/Editorial Assistant **Libby Murphy**, now a Ph.D. candidate in the French Department at Stanford University. We are grateful for her many contributions to the Washington Papers.

Major funding for the Papers of George Washington is provided by the National Endowment for the Humanities and the National Historical Publications and Records Commission, as well as by the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association, the University of Virginia, the Packard Humanities Institute, and the Norman and Lyn Lear Foundation. Your gift, regardless of size, is important to the project in enabling it to meet the matching requirements of many of its grants and to maintain its high standards of quality and productivity.

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