

THE PAPERS OF GEORGE WASHINGTON



Number 12

NEWSLETTER

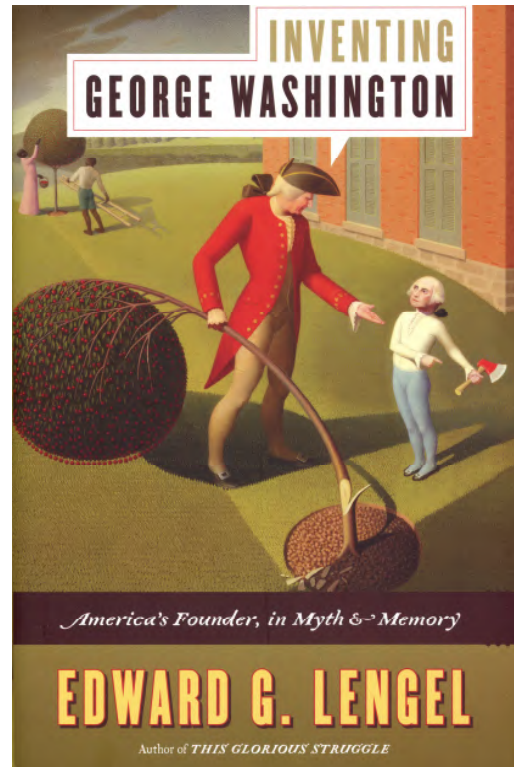
Spring 2011

Lengel is New Editor in Chief at GW Papers

Edward G. Lengel, former senior editor at the Papers of George Washington, has taken the helm as editor in chief of the project.

Lengel, 42, became the project's sixth editor in chief with the retirement of Theodore J. Crackel in August 2010. Lengel earned his Ph.D. in history from U.Va. in 1998, by which time he already had worked for two years as a graduate assistant on the project. Upon completing his Ph.D., he joined the staff as an assistant editor, later becoming associate editor and then senior editor. Prior to his appointment as editor in chief, he served on the "Retirement" and "Revolutionary War" series of letterpress volumes.

Lengel has authored several history books. "Inventing George Washington," published in January by Harper Collins, separates fact from fiction as it explores more than two centuries of American mythology surrounding the nation's first and greatest hero, and illustrates how the iconic Washington has continued to serve the nation long after his death. "Washington's ghost brooded everlastingly on the national stage," explains Lengel. "Memorialized in engravings, marble statues, and hefty biographical tomes, [he] acted as a bulwark to national pride. Like the flag, he symbolized the principles that made the United States both admirable and unique."



Inventing George Washington explores Washington's place in the American mythology and memory.

The book was touted as a featured selection by the History Book Club (historybookclub.com) shortly after its publication.

Other books include "General George Washington: A Military Life," a study of Washington's life as a soldier; "This Glorious Struggle," a collection of Washington's Revolutionary War letters; and "To Conquer Hell," a vivid portrait of the bloody Meuse-Argonne campaign of World War I.

As the longest-serving member of the current Washington Papers staff, Lengel has managed to adjust to his new post with minimal “learning curve,” and the staff has benefited from a smooth transition. Lengel said that his predecessor left the project in good shape. “Ted not only established several important new public initiatives for the Papers of George Washington, but also left the project humming at a high level of efficiency and collegiality,” he said.

Crackel, whose digital re-launch of the Papers of George Washington helped set a new course for traditional documentary editing projects, retired after six years as editor in chief.

Lengel expects to stay the course—for the most part. “The Washington Papers project will maintain its already high standard of productivity and scholarship,” he said, but “I also look forward to steering the project toward more active and visible participation in the University community.”

———*Thomas Dulan and UVa Today*



Presidential Series, Volume 17
Forthcoming in 2011

The Presidential Series editors are now working on the documents that will comprise volume 17: 1 October 1794 to 31 March 1795. Two of the more significant topics in the volume will be the suppression of the “Whiskey Rebellion” excise tax protests in western Pennsylvania, and efforts of special envoy John Jay to negotiate a new treaty with Great Britain that would address British and American grievances arising in the aftermath of the Revolutionary War and new problems created by the British efforts to block the

shipment of supplies to France. In the following letter to John Jay, GW discusses both topics.

———*Carol Ebel & David Hoth*

To John Jay

(Private)

My dear Sir, Philadelphia Novr 1st[-4] 1794.

On tuesday last I returned from my tour to the westward; on monday, Congress, by adjournment, are to meet; and on the day following, Mr Bayard, according to his present expectation, is to leave this city for London.

Thus circumstanced (having so little time between my return, and the opening of the Session, to examine papers, and to prepare my communications for the legislature) you will readily perceive that my present address to you must be hurried; at the sametime, my friendship & regard for you, would not let an opportunity, so good as the one afforded by Mr Bayard, pass without some testimony of my remembrance of you; and an acknowledgment of the receipt of your private letters to me, dated the 23d of June, 21st of July, and 5th & 11th of August. These comprehend *all* the letters I have received from you since your arrival in England, to the present date.

That of the 5th of August, dawns more favorably upon the success of your mission than any that had preceeded it; and for the honor, dignity and interest of this Country; for your own reputation and glory; and for the peculiar pleasure and satisfaction I should derive from it, as well on private, as on public considerations, no man more ardently wishes you *complete* success than I do. But as you have observed in some of your letters, that it is hardly possible in the early stages of a negotiation to foresee all the results, so much depending upon fortuitous circumstances, and incidents wch are not within our controul; so, to deserve

success, by employing the means with which we are possessed, to the best advantage, and trusting the rest to the All wise Disposer; is all that an enlightened public, and the virtuous & well disposed part of the community can reasonably expect—nor in this, will they, I am sure, be disappointed. Against the malignancy of the discontented—the turbulent—and the vicious, no abilities; no exertions; nor the most unshaken integrity are any safeguard.

As far as depends upon the Executive, measures preparatory for the worst, while it hopes for the best, will be pursued; and I shall endeavor to keep things in statu quo until your negotiation assumes a more decisive form; which I hope will soon be the case, as there are many hot-heads, & impetuous spirits among us, who with difficulty, can be kept within bounds. This, however, ought not to precipitate your conduct; for as it has been observed, there is a "tide in human affairs" which ought to be watched; and because I believe all who are acquainted with you, will readily concede, that considerations both public & private combine, to urge you to bring your mission to a close with as much celerity as the nature of it will admit.

As you have been, and will continue to be, fully informed by the Secretary of state of all transactions of a public nature, which relates to, or may have an influence on, the points of your mission; it would be unnecessary for me to touch upon any of them, in this letter, was it not for the presumption, that, the insurrection in the western counties of this State has excited much speculation, and a variety of opinions abroad; and will be represented differently according to the wishes of some, and the prejudices of others; who may exhibit it as an evidence of what has been predicted "that we are unable to govern ourselves." Under this view of the subject, I am happy in giving it to you as the general opinion, that this event having happened at the time it did, was fortunate, although it will be attended with consid-

erable expence.

That the self-created Societies, which have spread themselves over this country, have been labouring incessantly to sow the seeds of distrust, jealousy, and, of course discontent; thereby hoping to effect some revolution in the government, is not unknown to you. That they have been the fomenters of the western disturbances, admits of no doubt in the mind of any one, who will examine their conduct; but fortunately, they precipitated a crisis for wch they were not prepared; and thereby have unfolded views which will, I trust, effectuate their annihilation sooner than it might otherwise have happened; at the sametime that it has afforded an occasion, for the people of this country, to shew their abhorrence of the result; and their attachment to the Constitution and the laws: for I believe that five times the number of Militia that was required, would have come forward, if it had been necessary, in support of them.

The spirit which blazed out on this occasion, as soon as the object was fully understood, and the lenient measures of the government were made known to the people, deserve to be communicated: for there are instances of General Officers, going at the head of a single troop, & light companies; of field Officers, when they came to the places of rendezvous & found no command for them in that grade, turning into the ranks, & proceeding as private soldiers, under their own Captains. and of numbers, possessing the first fortunes in the country, standing in the ranks as private men, and marching day by day with their knapsacks & haversacks at their backs; sleeping on straw, with a single blanket in a soldiers tent, during the frosty nights we have had, by way of example to others. nay more of many young Quakers (not discouraged by the Elders) of the first families, characters & properties, having turned into the ranks, and are marching with the Troops.

These things have terrified the Insurgents,

who had no conception that such a spirit prevailed; but while the thunder only rumbled at a distance, were boasting of their strength, and wishing for, & threatening the militia, by turns; intimating, that the arms they should take from them, would soon become a magazine in their hands. Their language is much changed indeed, but their principles want correction.

I shall be more prolix in my Speech to Congress on the commencement, & progress of this insurrection than is usual in such an instrument; or than I should have been on any other occasion: but, as numbers (at home and abroad) will hear of the insurrection, and will read the Speech that may know nothing of the documents to which it might refer, I conceived it would be better to encounter the charge of prolixity, by giving a cursory detail of facts (that would shew the prominent features of the thing) than to let it go naked into the world, to be dressed up according to the fancy, or inclination of the readers, or the policy of our enemies.

I write nothing in answer to the letter of Mr Wangenheim (enclosed by you to me)—Were I to enter into correspondencies of that sort (admitting their was no impropriety in the measure) I should be unable to attend to my ordinary duties. I have established it as a maxim, neither to envite, nor to discourage emigrants. My opinion is, that they will come hither as fast as the true interest & policy of the United States will be benefited by foreign population. I believe many of these, as Mr Wangenheim relates, have been, and I fear will continue to be, imposed upon by Speculators in land, and other things. But I know of no prevention but cau-

tion—nor any remedy except the laws. Nor is military, or other employment so easy to obtain, as foreigners conceive, in a country where offices, and the seekers of them, bear no proportion to each other. With sincere esteem & great

regd I am—Dear Sir Your Affecte Servant

Go: Washington

4th Novr

P.S. Your correspondence with New York is, I am persuaded, too regular and constant to leave you in any doubt as to the health of Mrs Jay. Yet, as I was told yesterday by Mr King that she, & all your family were well—I chose to mention it.

For want of a Senate, Congress have not yet proceeded to business.

G. W——n



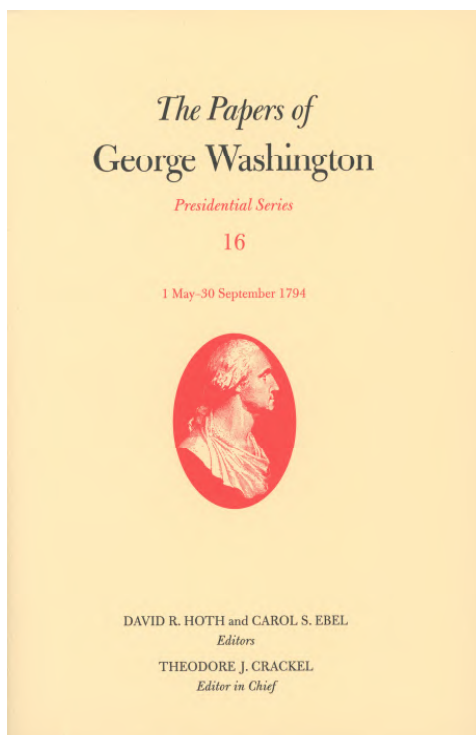
Presidential Series,

Volume 16

Published in March 2011

From May through September 1794, the period documented by this volume, GW continued to face many of the issues that were prominent in previous volumes, most notably the maintenance of American neutrality in the ongoing European war and the problem of Indian relations and frontier defense.

As the volume opens, GW and his cabinet were considering restrictions on the issuance of ship passports to prevent evasion of the embargo passed by Congress. The activities of privateers and foreign naval vessels in American waters continued to create



Volume 16 of the Presidential Series marks the 63rd volume the Papers of George Washington project has published in its 43-year history.

problems as well. Moreover, America's diplomatic corps was overhauled with the appointments of James Monroe as minister to France and John Quincy Adams as minister to the Netherlands, and the departure of John Jay as envoy extraordinary to Great Britain.

To improve frontier defense, GW authorized the erection of blockhouses and deployment of a limited number of militia, and he authorized reinforcements to Anthony Wayne's army for a campaign against hostile Indians in the Northwest Territory. Negotiations, however, were also employed: GW met with Cherokee and Chickasaw delegations at Philadelphia, and Timothy Pickering was dispatched to negotiate with the Six Nations. To retain Iroquois favor, GW requested that Pennsylvania suspend its effort to create a settlement at Presque Isle. When reports from Georgia indicated that group intended to set up an independent government on Creek Indian territory, GW promptly ordered the governor to suppress that plan.

Though these issues continue—news of Wayne's victory at Fallen Timbers reached Philadelphia on 30 September, and Jay sent several, mostly optimistic, letters to GW about the progress of his mission—and other topics such as the Federal City, appointments, the fate of Americans held captive in Algiers, and dissatisfaction in Kentucky with the progress of negotiations about Mississippi River navigation demand attention, the months of August and September are dominated by the government's response to anti-tax activities in western Pennsylvania. Once news arrived that insurgents had burned the home of the inspector of the revenue for that district, GW obtained a judge's certification that the laws could not be enforced by ordinary means and issued a proclamation calling on the insurgents to disperse and threatening the use of militia. Commissioners were sent to negotiate with the insurgents, and militia were called up from four states to suppress the insurgency. The

commissioner reported little success in their effort, and on the last day of this volume, GW himself left Philadelphia to join the militia army.

In GW's private life, his letters to his farm manager William Pearce, document his detailed oversight of Mount Vernon, even from afar, while those letters and his correspondence with English agriculturalists show his keen interest in scientific farming. At this time GW also made an effort to sell his western lands.



Remembering George Washington

Every President's Day historians tell us about how we need to get reacquainted with George Washington. Most of us, they say, know him only as the face on the dollar bill, but we must remember that he was much more than that. He touched off the French and Indian War. He commanded the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War, and led us to victory at Trenton and Yorktown. At the war's end, he turned down offers to become king, and returned to Mount Vernon. He was a prime mover behind the Constitutional Convention in 1787, and served two terms as President of the United States from 1789 to 1797. And incidentally, he *did not* chop down the cherry tree, and *did not* wear wooden teeth. After establishing these facts, the historians retire to their academic dens. Men and women nod sagely. Children memorize the facts they need to pass their tests. Then they forget. George Washington is back in his place—as the face on the dollar bill.

Why is it so difficult to keep George Washington—the real man, as opposed to the symbol—in the national memory? Perhaps it is his apparent lack of humanity. Washington the symbol, much like our national flag, is sacro-

sanct. Neither may be insulted or burned, for they represent the values we hold dear. But how much do we know about either? Most people have heard the story of Betsy Ross and can recite the Pledge of Allegiance, but few could tell you how the flag came into being, what it has meant through American history, or what the stars and stripes represent. Much the same is true with Washington. We know (or think we know) that he was our greatest hero, America's indispensable man, and could probably recite a few facts that we remember from school. Washington the man, however, remains a mystery. That's the problem with national symbols and icons. They are so omnipresent that most of us hardly give them a second glance.

To rediscover George Washington, we must go right to the source. It is not as if he didn't leave anything behind; far to the contrary. His collected correspondence, as cataloged by the Papers of George Washington documentary editing project at the University of Virginia, includes some 140,000 documents. Washington considered his papers to be perhaps his greatest legacy to the nation—"a species of public property," he called them, "sacred in my hands." On his deathbed in December 1799, Washington said nothing about Mount Vernon, Martha and the family, or even the afterlife. He did, however, command his secretary, Tobias Lear, to make certain that all of his letters were properly arranged and cared for.

Why did Washington value his papers so highly? To be sure, they include documents of the highest value to the nation, including his military and presidential records, his observations on domestic and foreign policy, and his farewell address; but they also include hundreds of letters concerning his personal life, clues to what he was like as a man. Washington could have destroyed all of this personal correspondence, but as a man deeply concerned with his public legacy, he must have

known that his best chance of living on in the national memory was not as a two-dimensional symbol, but in the fullness of his humanity.

Unfortunately, one side of George Washington's character is closed to us forever, for Martha burned almost all of her correspondence with her husband after his death. Yet much remains. Thus we have his letter of September 12th, 1758, to Sally Fairfax—written after his engagement to Martha—in which he declares himself a "Votary to Love," and sees Sally's "amiable beauties in the recollection of thousand tender passages that I could wish to obliterate, till I am bid to revive them." We also have the letter he wrote to Martha—one of a handful that survive—on accepting command of the Continental Army in June 1775, "not doubting but that I shall return safe to you in in the fall." Not long ago, the staff of the Papers of George Washington discovered another, previously unknown letter—a note, really—that Martha wrote to George in 1777, in which she casually called him "my love."

Equally interesting are the hundreds of seemingly more mundane letters that reveal episodes in Washington's daily life, along with his hopes and fears, prejudices and insights—all of the things that make us human. To cite a few random examples: in March 1778, during some of the worst days of the Valley Forge encampment, he wrote a letter to a young female admirer, Kitty Livingston, enclosing a lock of his hair. In January 1781, with part of his army in mutiny, he wrote to a quartermaster asking for six toothbrushes "of the strongest & stiffest hair," and a steward who understood how to lay a good dinner table. And in July 1781, just before his army departs for Yorktown, Washington wrote to a French general about the "hilarity which a glass of good claret seldom fails to produce."

All of this seems trivial. Yet it's important to remember that people—especially children—tend to retain knowledge only of things they

can relate to themselves. Who are students more likely to remember: a cold, impeccable symbol, or a warm-blooded human being like themselves? Another important lesson to be gained from humanizing Washington, in particular with respect to how we teach about him in our schools, is that a god is impossible to emulate. Young people have been taught much about Washington's greatness, but little about how he achieved it. He did not become great because he was perfect; he became great because he was able to overcome the failures and limitations which he shared with the rest of us. Realizing that is the first step, not only to appreciating Washington, but to understanding that we, too, are capable of accomplishing great things.

—Edward G. Lengel



Policies and Politics of George Washington's Southern Tour in North Carolina

2011 marks the 220th anniversary of President Washington's tour of the southern states in the spring of 1791. Recently, Carol Ebel shared information about the tour in North Carolina as well as the overall political, cultural, and economic implications of his journey at a presentation given at historic Old Salem, North Carolina. All quoted material comes from the Presidential Series of The Papers of George Washington.

From the first days of his presidency, George Washington expressed a determination to visit every part of the United States. He desired to obtain information about the nation, but also knew that Americans had endured a difficult decade during the Confederation era, in which local and state jealousies almost tore the nation apart. A tour of the states

would emphasize unity and make the new federal government more of a reality in the minds of Americans. Washington first directed his attention to New England, and then Rhode Island, but a trip to the lower South would have to wait until after North Carolina ratified the Constitution in November 1789.

Washington finally determined to visit the South in the spring of 1791. He remained anxious to visit North Carolina. First, he desired to cement the state's recent admittance into the Union. He understood that federalism, the idea of a strong central government, still remained a sensitive issue among many of its inhabitants. Second, the Congress had recently adopted an excise tax on domestically-produced spirits to help fund payment of the nation's Revolutionary War debt. While opposition took place in many states, significant resistance initially occurred in North Carolina, and particularly in the western regions of the state. Such resistance from citizens of one of the newest states in the Union upset Washington's idea of harmony, and it greatly worried the president. In response to the opposition, Washington "took great pains" to talk to Governor Martin and other influential men in North Carolina to ascertain whether residents of that state would adhere to the excise and encourage them to explain the excise and set and an example for the citizens.

Before the president left Philadelphia on the 21st of March, he prepared a careful itinerary describing the dates, places, and mileages to complete the journey before "the warm and sickly months" came upon the South. His plan covered more than 1,816 miles. The president decided to take an eastern route through Richmond and Petersburg, Virginia, New Bern and Wilmington, North Carolina, Georgetown and Charleston, South Carolina, and culminate that leg of his journey in Savannah, Georgia. His return trip followed a western route from Augusta, Georgia, Columbia and Camden, South Carolina, Charlotte, Salisbury, and Sa-

lem, North Carolina, and end in Fredericksburg, Virginia.

By the middle of April 1791, Washington entered North Carolina. Two important elements of Washington's southern tour, as with his visits to all the states, concerned citizen participation and sentimentality. While many of the town receptions were limited to influential male citizens of the communities, when Washington entered a town and rode or walked through the streets, he became, for a brief time, part of the public domain. His personal appearances enabled all genders, ages, and socioeconomic groups to see the president and thus participate in the new government, even if they did not possess political rights. Washington's triumphal entries also enabled former Continental soldiers who served under him or militia troops who fought battles with Washington's regulars to look upon their former general one more time and remember the bonds that united them during trials and sacrifices of the Revolution. Parents eagerly brought their children to see the president in the hope that such an occasion would inspire images of heroic leadership and thoughts of national unity in the minds of their offspring.

As he traveled through North Carolina, Washington took notice of the soil, crops, and manufacturing production there. He recorded particular approval of production efforts at the Moravian settlement at Salem, North Carolina. There, the religious leaders gave Washington a detailed tour of the various

workshops where Moravians produced shoes, leather goods, pottery, tin, distilled spirits, and paper which they supplied to the surrounding area. The president could not help but be impressed. The Moravian code of order, discipline, and productivity which regulated every part of their lives struck a resonant chord with Washington, who adhered to republican values of personal and community independence. Throughout his presidency Washington insisted that Americans needed more than a reliance upon agriculture if they hoped to compete in world economic affairs. Washington saw in Salem a microcosm of the industry, self-sufficiency, and independency that he envisioned for the nation.

In all, Washington viewed his excursion to the South with satisfaction. The journey had convinced him—for a brief time at least—that Americans grew more attached to the federal government and that the resistance against the excise tax would continue to diminish. Although the nation experienced divisive political division during the course of the 1790s, Washington's southern tour helped foster bonds and rituals of unity that enabled Americans to withstand those challenges.

—Carol Ebel



Self-portrait of Benjamin West, c. 1776. Image courtesy of the Baltimore Museum of Art.



Papers of George Washington Editors Help Mount Vernon with Bibliographic Research

On a sunny, warm, Friday morning, March 19, the last day before the arrival of spring, Joan Stahl, Mount Vernon librarian, phoned the Papers of George Washington to ask if the editors could provide a primary source citation for a conversation between King George III and the artist Benjamin West, in which the king raised the question of what Washington would do after the war, and West replied that he would return to his farm. William M. Ferraro, an editor with the Revolutionary War Series, initially fielded the query and surmised that the answer would be found more readily in sources related to West than to Washington. Checking VIRGO, the University of Virginia Library electronic catalog, he quickly discovered that nearly all the books on West were in the Fine Arts Library, and not Alderman Library, the location of the Papers of George Washington's offices. At this point, Ferraro informed Benjamin Huggins, a fellow editor on the Revolutionary War Series, of the query. Huggins indicated familiarity with the anecdote from recent Washington biographies and stated his belief that the original source was an article in a late eighteenth-century British periodical, such as *Gentleman's Magazine*.

While Huggins began checking Washington biographies, Ferraro scouted the internet and electronic databases. It immediately became apparent that the exchange between King George III and West was known widely, as it appeared on several websites, invariably adding the king's observation that if Washington returned to private life after winning independence for the United States he would be the greatest man in the world. Interestingly, a Wikipedia page dedicated to providing sources for statements concerning Washington included the king's remark with the notation,

"Source needed." Full-text databases available through the University of Virginia did not include *Gentleman's Magazine* for the late eighteenth century, so this avenue could not be explored rapidly. About this moment, Huggins reported that recent Washington biographies typically included the anecdote, but the citation, if given, never reached back further than Garry Wills, *Cincinnatus: George Washington and the Enlightenment* (Garden City, N.Y., 1984), where the conversation between the king and West is recounted on page thirteen without attribution.

Intriguingly, the conversation under investigation appears in neither the Douglas Southall Freeman nor the James Thomas Flexner biographies, probably the two most significant treatments prior to the spate of Washington books over the last few decades. Both Ferraro and Huggins noticed in VIRGO a 1978 biography of Benjamin West, notable because it came out after the publication of Freeman and Flexner but before the more recent works on Washington, and it was decided that Ferraro would take the five minute or so walk to the Fine Arts Library to examine its contents, which also simply followed up on his initial instinct that West sources would be more likely to answer the query. Once in the library, it was not difficult to find Robert C. Alberts', *Benjamin West: A Biography* (Boston, 1978), and scan the short index entry on Washington. Page 123, the first item under the subheading, "West assures the king Washington would favor Britain after the war," led to the remarks of King George III, and in the page's notes at the back of the book there was a short title, "Far, I, 278-79." Checking the short title list, Ferraro discovered this source to be the "Farington *Diary*, published Volumes I to VIII." Happily, VIRGO showed that Alderman Library held the entire edition, and it was an easy matter for him to find the needed volume of *The Farington Diary* on his way back to

the project offices and confirm the accuracy of the citation. The phone call to Joan Stahl with this information pleased her greatly.

Besides the primary source citation, we now know that the heavily-used conversation between King George III and West gained its foothold in history because Joseph Farington (1747-1821), a second-tier British artist, met West on December 28, 1799, and then wrote in his diary entry for that date West's recollection of an exchange with the king during the early summer of 1782. (West recounted that exchange to show the king's willingness and ability to obtain information on his own, which was then, in late 1799, again a point of issue.) Despite the gap of some seventeen years from the time of the actual event and West's recollection, it is plausible to believe its authenticity and fundamental veracity, with any doubts stemming principally from one's judgment of West's truthfulness and memory. At the very least, it is definite from the Alberts biography that West, who maintained a painting room in Windsor Castle, was on familiar terms with King George III, who paid the artist from his privy purse. Additionally, Farington definitely knew West very well and was a faithful diarist. If only such a level of confidence could be felt about all anecdotes and stories concerning George Washington in wide circulation!

The pertinent passage from Joseph Farington's diary entry for December 28, 1799, reads: "The King began to talk abt. America. He asked West what would Washington do were America to be declared independant. West said He believed He would retire to a private situation.—The King said if He did He would be the greatest man in the world. He asked West how He thought the Americans would act towards this country if they became independant. West said the war had made much ill blood but that would subside, & the dispositions of many of the Chiefs, Washington, Lawrence [Laurens],—Adams,—Franklin,

—Jay were favorable to this country which would soon have a preference to any other European Nation.—During this conversation the Queen was much affected, & shed tears."—Joseph Farington, *The Farington Diary*. Edited by James Greig. 8 vols. 3d ed. (New York, 1923-28), 1:279.

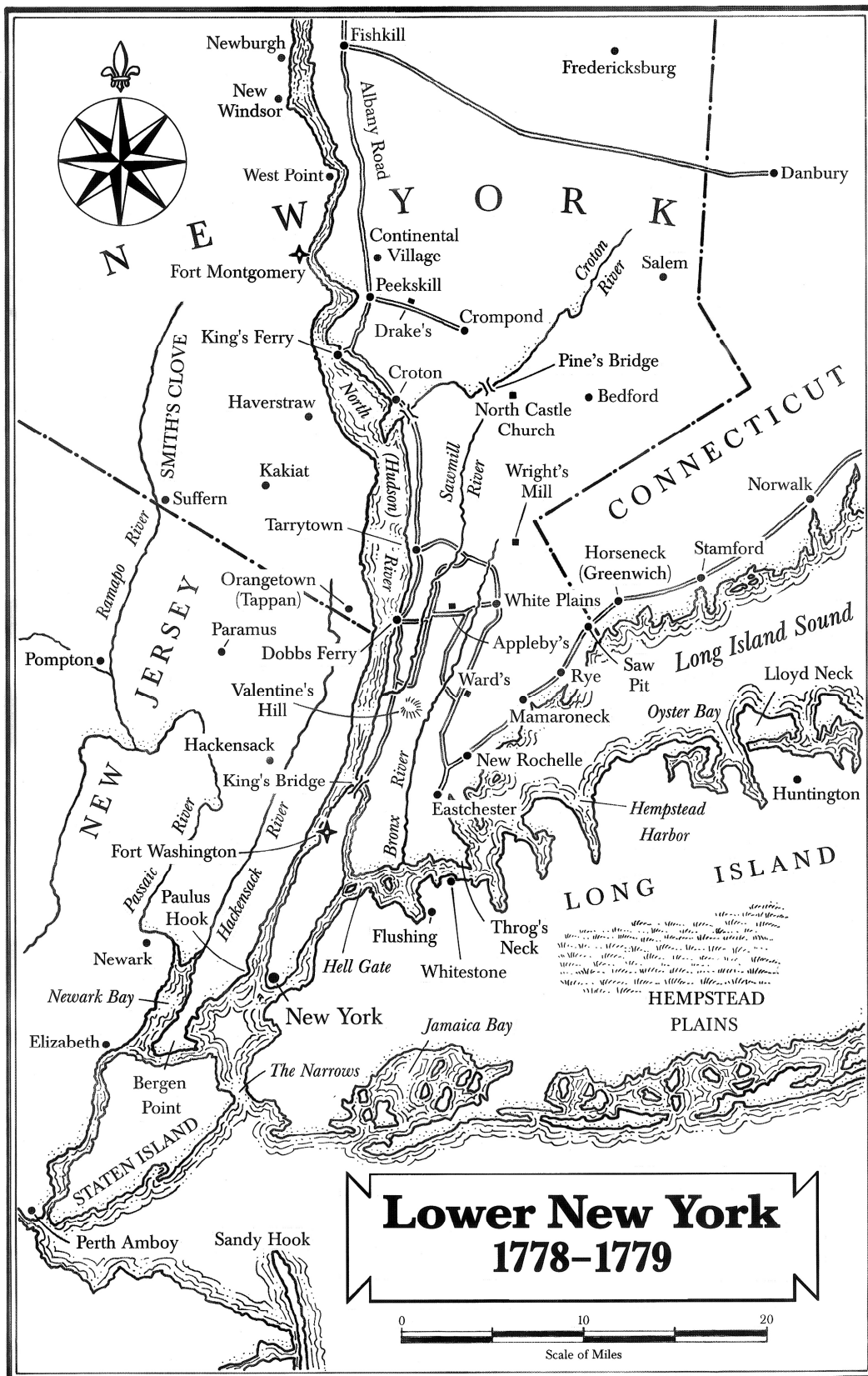
—PGW Editors



Document Search

This year the project has initiated a thorough search for Washington documents. Although editors and research assistants have found documents sporadically in the past and have always kept an eye open for Washington material, this document search intends to be more comprehensive with a wider scope. The project held an initial search in the 1960s and 1970s, and since then, new documents or new versions of documents have come to the project through various mediums such as microfilm, auction offerings, private ownership, and general research of repository holdings on the part of our editors. The current search will consult all of these sources and take advantage of new opportunities provided by digital technology. It will involve searching online databases, contacting repositories worldwide for copies of Washington-related manuscripts, and scanning microfilm into digital form.

As technology has increased, so has the amount of Washington material online. The document search will include a general scouring of online databases to find listings of correspondence and documents associated with Washington. This leap in the capability of technology has also greatly influenced the way researchers and archivists handle document storage. Repositories now have a much more exact understanding of the materials they hold, and often provide this information in digital guides online that are available for searching.



This map of Lower New York, created by Rick Britton in 2005, appeared in Volume 17 of the Revolutionary War Series.

This type of efficient searching was not available during our initial search, and now, from a distance, we are able to look at the holdings of repositories in depth making our process much more focused when we inquire about Washington holdings. With the acquisition of new microfilm scanning technology, we will be able to search for previously unknown documents with ease in collections stored on microfilm reels or in microfiche form. This technology allows us to digitally scan microfilm and microfiche onto our computers and shared network for reference and research. We will be able to enhance poor quality microfilm, consult large volumes of film both digitally and manually with the machine, and make the contents easily accessible as our editors work through current and future volumes.

Thus far, even in the earliest stages, the search has proved fruitful. We have consulted numerous dealers, and we have found new documents that are of interest to our editors. We are also now aware of many Washington documents being held in repositories all over the country that will be valuable to our work. As we continue to contact repositories all over the world, we hope to increase our awareness and our collection. New advancements in technology have provided new opportunities for communication about Washington holdings between dealers, repositories, private owners, and documentary editors. The ease of this communication will benefit the project in many ways, most notably by bringing in new material, enhancing the work of our documentary editors, and enriching the experience of our readers

We could use your help!

If you hear of a Washington document that has surfaced please let us know. See contact information on page 1.

—Erica Mitchell

Staff News

In January 2011, Harper Collins Publishers released **Edward G. Lengel's** latest book, *Inventing George Washington: America's Founder in Myth and Memory*. Lengel was on NPR's "All Things Considered" program in February and since then has participated in a number of speaking engagements across the country. *Inventing George Washington* is available for purchase at Amazon.com

Carol Ebel contributed an article about William H. Crawford in the Encyclopedia of the War of 1812, ABC-CLIO Military History Series. She presented several programs to historical organizations which focused on the activities of George and Martha Washington during the Revolution and the presidency. In February 2009 she presented a talk entitled, "Dining with the President" at a south-eastern Georgia meeting of the Daughters of the American Revolution. The presentation explored Washington's efforts to establish respect for the new office of the presidency through the creation of symbolic receptions and dining experiences. This past March she spoke to the Alexander Martin Chapter of Highpoint, North Carolina about the role and experiences of Martha Washington during the American Revolution. That same month she also presented the inaugural program at historic Old Salem, North Carolina to mark the 220th anniversary of President Washington's southern tour in 1791.

Associate Professor/Associate Editor **William M. Ferraro** delivered an address, "George Washington's Mind, Or, A General's Genius" to the McLean Historical Society, in McLean, Virginia, on 7 April 2010. An expanded version, simply titled "George Washington's Mind," has been submitted as a chapter in the Blackwell Companions to American History series volume devoted to current research on Washington under the editorship of Edward Lengel, PGW editor-in-chief.

Ferraro presented "George Washington and James Monroe: Military Compatriots, Political Adversaries, and Nationalist Visionaries," at the

"Sons of the Father: George Washington & His Protégés" conference. This inaugural Sons of the American Revolution Annual Conference on the American Revolution took place at the United States Military Academy, West Point, N.Y., 18-20 June 2010. This paper has been expanded and submitted as a chapter in a book featuring the conference presentations now under consideration by the University of Virginia Press.

Ferraro also served as the primary historical advisor and a frequent on air commentator for *Fractured Union*, a one-hour film on the changing relationships among George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, and George Mason from the end of the Revolutionary War to the 1790s as they debated the meaning of nationhood. This was a production of the Fairfax Network, a division of the Fairfax County, Virginia, Public Schools, with support from Mount Vernon. It is designed for school children and general audiences and is expected to be seen by over 10 million viewers.

He also gave a Power Point presentation on the private life and public career of Ulysses S. Grant to a class on that important Civil War general and 18th President in the University of Virginia's School of Continuing & Professional Studies, 27 October 2010. He gave another Power Point presentation, entitled "Creating and Defending the Capital City, 1790-1865," on 2 October 2010 to the annual conference of the United States Anti-Doping Agency, held at the Landsdowne Resort near Leesburg, Virginia.

Recent volumes of The Papers of George Washington have been enhanced with maps drawn by Charlottesville mapmaker **Rick Britton**. We thought our readers might like to know a little more about Rick and asked him to provide a brief statement:

"Born in Richmond, Virginia, I spent many of my formative years in Argentina and Brazil. Thanks to my passion for 18th and 19th century American history, I fell in love with maps while still a teenager. I started by reproducing the maps from a folio-size Civil War book published in the 1880s. What began as a hobby evolved into a side-

line and eventually a business. Over the past twenty years I've illustrated maps for literally dozens of books, magazines, pamphlets, and brochures.

In today's publishing world, most of the maps are drawn on a computer screen. I believe that this type of cartography is acceptable for some purposes, but if the topic is history that's earlier than the mid-20th century the accompanying maps should be illustrated as they were in the past—by hand. I employ the same techniques and symbols used by map illustrators in the 18th and 19th centuries. The result, I believe, is cartography with the "feel" of history, cartography that's more relevant—and valuable—to the book in which it appears.

For the past decade it's been my honor to illustrate maps for the Papers of George Washington at the University of Virginia. For some of the map projects the source material—the base maps—have been relatively scarce or, worse yet, contradictory. For many of the projects, however, I've been able to compile my maps from those done by Washington's cartographers (some of whom were amazingly talented). The goal, of course, is to produce cartography that features the best of both worlds—cartography that's both accurate and authentic to the period. I look forward to illustrating maps for the Papers of George Washington for many years to come."

For more information about Rick and his cartography, see his website:
<http://www.rickbritton.com/>

Three of our staff members, Editor in Chief Professor **Edward Lengel**, Associate Editor **Bill Ferraro**, and Assistant Editor **Ben Huggins** will be participating in a panel titled, "George Washington's Way of War, 1779" at the annual meeting of the Society for Military History which will be taking place in Lisle, Illinois, June 9-12, 2011. The panel will present current scholarship on George Washington's strategy, planning, and operations as commander-in-chief of the Continental Army in 1779. Edward will chair the panel, and Bill and Ben will be presenting papers. Bill's paper examines Washington's active and aggressive

response to the British raids on coastal Connecticut in the summer of 1779 and Ben's paper investigates Washington's planning and preparations for a bold and potentially decisive attack on New York City in the fall of that year.. The panel will also feature a paper on General Sir Henry Clinton's strategy as British commander in chief by Dr. Andrew O'Shaughnessy, Saunders Director of the Robert H. Smith International Center for Jefferson Studies at Monticello. Dr. Dennis Conrad of the Navy History and Heritage Command, formerly an editor of *The Papers of Nathaniel Greene*, will also be featured on the panel as commentator on the papers.



Mount Vernon seeks director for new library.

General Description:

From the new 45,000 square foot facility that will serve as the international headquarters for scholarship about the life and times of George Washington, the founding Director of the new Library will provide strong leadership and vision in the quest for and dissemination of knowledge about America's most effective leader. The Director will lead the enhancement of scholarly research, the creation of new programs that reach millions of Americans through classrooms and other venues, and develop a leadership institute. The Director will strive to showcase Washington as America's most respected and emulated hero.

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The Director will guide Library staff in the operation of the Library and its collections, and also expand our rare books and manuscripts acquisitions program. The Director will build and maintain important relationships with other libraries, universities and museums.

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The Director will lead the implementation of new technologies, strategic partnerships and technological collaborations.

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1. Vice President, Education
2. Head Librarian
3. Vice President, New Media

Qualifications:

1. Experience with scholarly methods and resources, knowledge of 18th-century American history, and familiarity with the latest electronic outreach tools, is desirable.
2. A doctorate in history or other advanced degree is desirable, as is a record of publishing and speaking in public.
3. The qualified candidate will have excellent interpersonal, communication and managerial skills and will view this endeavor as an entrepreneurial enterprise demanding a vigorous work ethic driven by a vision to safeguard Washington's life and legacies for future generations and to attract supporters to achieve these goals.

The Papers of George Washington are now sharing news and updates through social media outlets. Follow us on **Twitter @PapersofGW**, like us on **Facebook**, and read about the project's history and process on **Wikipedia!**



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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.

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