

# Washington Papers

SPRING 2016

## George Washington Financial Papers Project Expands Scholarship of Digital Humanities

Jennifer Stertz, WASHINGTON PAPERS SENIOR EDITOR

In 2013, work began on the George Washington Financial Papers project (GWFP). Funded by a grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission, the GWFP is an innovative documentary editing project working to develop a free-access, open-source digital edition and editorial platform containing transcriptions of Washington's three main ledgers. When complete, users will be able to:

- Read transcriptions of the ledgers
- Search those documents for people, places, commodities, and currencies
- Browse documents by account, place, ships, currency, occupation, and services
- Perform searches that trace and compare transactions by type, individual, and content over any time period
- Download data
- Follow links to related correspondence in *The Papers of George Washington Digital Edition*

Those interested in editing and publishing financial documents will be able to use the open-source editing platform to build robust, accessible documentary editions of their own.

In addition to allowing individuals to search Washington's financial documents, the digital edition will provide several interactive tools.

Visualizations will be used to display some of the content in creative ways, while a quiz will both test the knowledge of users and invite them to learn about some of the commodities Washington was interested in. There will also be interactive

videos on how to use the digital edition, in addition to describing the various types of financial documents used during this time. By providing these resources, we hope to encourage users to think outside the box about the material so they may be able to discover increasingly more information.

This January, the GWFP team hosted a day-long conference at Mount Vernon, bringing together individuals engaged with financial documents and digital approaches to making these important records both available and intellectually accessible. At the meeting, participants presented current work and the GWFP team presented the project's history, methodology, discoveries and lessons

learned, as well as next steps and possibilities. Developing this system has challenged us to think creatively about all aspects of the editorial and publication process, resulting in innovative ways for users to explore, analyze, and interact with the documents. Work will continue over the next six months to perfect the digital edition and platform. Both will be available in the fall of 2016.

Continued on page 11.

Gen. Washington	
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Headed "Gen. Washington," this manuscript detail, c. 1787, relates to land taxes George Washington accrued on property in Maryland during the Revolutionary War.

Spring 2016

# A Year of Accomplishments



This has been a year of remarkable—even unprecedented—accomplishments for the Washington Papers. Within a period of 12 months, we have published three outstanding letterpress volumes: *Presidential Series 18*, and *Revolutionary War Series 23–24*. We have finished editing three more volumes: *Presidential Series 19* and *Revolutionary War Series 25–26*, all of which have now entered the production process. Moreover, we have finished transcribing George Washington’s 1751 Barbados diary—to be published as a stand-alone volume as well as integrated into our digital edition—and will complete editing and annotating in July. This pace of high-quality work is a testament to the dedication and professionalism of our team of scholars.

None of this would be possible, of course, without our donors. We have long received significant financial support from Mount Vernon, the National Historical Publications and Records Commission, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Packard Humanities Institute. We are now proud to announce a new partnership with the Florence Gould Foundation, which has generously agreed to support one full-time editorial position working on the *Revolutionary War Series* through the remaining duration of the George Washington Papers project. As always,

though, we continue to rely on the generous support of individual private donors, as credited in this newsletter.

The Washington Papers is more than simply an editorial project. Public engagement is integral to our mission. Our scholars speak and write regularly; crucially, they also make a point of bringing primary documents into the classroom. Over the past year, they have spoken about George and Martha Washington and their families in local elementary schools; worked with K–12 teachers through the Mount Vernon Teachers’ Institute; and held a one-day Lifetime Learning event about Martha Washington for public attendees at the University of Virginia. By engaging in these activities, we put ourselves at the service not just of scholars but of every individual who seeks knowledge and inspiration from George and Martha Washington and the people of their times.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ed Lengel'.

Edward G. Lengel  
*Professor and Director, The Washington Papers*

## Washington Papers

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# George Washington and the Problem of the Dower Slaves

Mary V. Thompson

MOUNT VERNON RESEARCH HISTORIAN

In the summer of 1799, George Washington drew up plans for settling his estate after his death. Among his actions were the preparations of a will, as well as a list of two categories of slaves—those who belonged to him and those described as “dower slaves.” The latter were enslaved people who originally belonged to Martha Washington’s first husband, Daniel Parke Custis. Custis had died in the summer of 1757, without having drawn up a will, and left an estate of 17,500 acres of land and 283 slaves. According to Virginia law regarding intestate estates, Custis’ widow would receive a life interest in one-third of his estate, which included 84 of the slaves. Following her death, the property (again, including the slaves and any offspring they had) would then revert to the remaining Custis heirs. When George and Martha Washington were married on January 6, 1759, he automatically took over management of the “dower” property, though neither of them actually owned it.<sup>1</sup> The owner was still the estate of Daniel Parke Custis.

There were several times in the 40 years of the Washingtons’ marriage when the conditions under which the dower slaves were held created a problem, but the most important related to a transformation in George Washington’s views about slavery that began during the Revolution. Within three years of the start of the war, he had decided that slavery was wrong and admitted to a relative that, “to be plain I wish to get quit of Negroes....”<sup>2</sup> At that point, the only way he could legally “get quit of Negroes” was to sell them, something he did not want to do because he did not want to break up families.<sup>3</sup> In May 1782, Virginia finally made it possible for individual owners to free



Artist Eastman Johnson's interpretation of Washington's kitchen. Painted in 1864.

their slaves, without needing a special act of Assembly.<sup>4</sup> Over the next 17 years, George Washington came up with several plans to enable the manumission of his own slaves, and even tried to find a way to free the dower slaves, but none ultimately worked. So, in the last year of his life, he did what he could and made arrangements in his will to free his slaves, following the death of his wife.<sup>5</sup>

Complicating everything, however, was the fact that the Washington and Custis slaves had intermarried, meaning that for many families, emancipation would bring great sadness, as husbands were separated from both their wives and children, whose ownership was determined by the ownership of their mother. When Martha Washington freed the Washington slaves on January 1, 1801, 20 families were torn apart.<sup>6</sup>

1 For Virginia law concerning the disposition of slaves in intestate estates and other estate issues concerning slavery faced by the Washingtons, see William W. Henning, ed., *The Statutes at Large: Being a Collection of All the Laws of Virginia, from the First Session of the Legislature, in the Year 1619* (13 vols.; Richmond, Va., 1809–23), 5:444–46, 464; 11:39–40; and 12:140, 145–46, 150.

2 George Washington to Lund Washington, 15 Aug. 1778, *The Papers of George Washington, Revolutionary War Series*, 16:315–16.

3 George Washington to Lund Washington, 24[–26] Feb. 1779, *The Writings of George Washington*, 14:147–49.

4 See “May 1782, Act XXI. An act to authorize the manumission of slaves,” <http://www2.vcdh.virginia.edu/gos/laws1751-1800.html> (accessed 26 Feb. 2016).

5 Dennis J. Pogue, *Founding Spirits: George Washington and the Beginning of the American Whiskey Industry* (Buena Vista, Va.: Harbour Books, 2011), 103–09; George Washington’s Last Will and Testament, [9 July 1799], <http://rotunda.upress.virginia.edu/founders/default.xqy?keys=GEWN-search-1&expandNote=on#match1> (accessed 26 Feb. 2016).

6 “Registration No. 52” and “Registration No. 53,” in Dorothy S. Provine, *Alexandria County, Virginia: Free Negro Registers, 1797–1861* (Bowie, Md.: Heritage Books, 1990), 10.

## WASHINGTON PAPERS IN THE NEWS

■ In an October 2015 *BuzzFeed News* article, Washington Papers Director Edward G. Lengel commented on presidential candidate Rand Paul’s use of quotes misattributed to George Washington.

■ During a November 2015 podcast for *The Economist*, Flora Fraser, author of *The Washingtons*, acknowledged her indebtedness to the Washington Papers while researching her book. (See page 7 for more information about Fraser’s visit to the University of Virginia.)

■ This past November, Edward G. Lengel was interviewed for a feature-length documentary, *The First American*, about the life and legacy of George Washington. *The First American* is hosted and executive-produced by former U.S. Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich and his wife, Callista. The film will premiere at Mount Vernon on May 20.

■ The *Charlottesville Daily Progress* covered the November 2015 Virginia Film Festival premiere of *Monroe Hill*, a documentary about President James Monroe’s land and its role in the founding of UVA. *Monroe Hill* features Washington Papers Associate Editor William Ferraro, who served as a historical consultant on the film. The film also screened at the Richmond International Film Festival and aired on PBS stations.



# Walking in Washington's Footsteps

## *A Visit to Barbados*

Lynn Price, WASHINGTON PAPERS ASSISTANT EDITOR

Alicia K. Anderson, WASHINGTON PAPERS RESEARCH EDITOR

In January, after six full months, we completed the transcription of George Washington's 1751–52 Barbados diary. This took several editors, working both individually and collaboratively, over the course of a number of readings to create the meticulously accurate text of the project's forthcoming scholarly edition.

From the initial transcription by Research Assistant Kathryn Gehred to the first proofreading pass by Research Editor Mary Wigge, the diary was transformed from raw manuscript into flowing typescript. It then passed to us for careful review and verification with the original manuscript at the Library of Congress.

After a final proofreading pass by Director Edward G. Lengel, we returned to the transcript for finishing touches. Most difficult, by far, was the task of addressing missing and illegible text throughout the diary's severely mutilated pages.

A full-blown effort at research and annotation then occupied the winter and spring months. To supplement those efforts, in April, we, along with Lengel, experienced the opportunity of a lifetime: a ten-day visit to the tiny island of Barbados.

Documentary editing requires a great deal of in-depth research, a task that often translates into visits to archives and museums. Thanks to youthful George's travels, our most recent research visit was an adventure in itself.

Our job at the Washington Papers is not only to present accurate transcriptions but to place the reader into the world in which a text was written through proper historical context. Our visit to Barbados included the requisite trips to archives, but it also allowed us to walk on the ground long ago trod by George.

The remnants of fortifications, the fields of sugarcane, Carlisle Bay, and the house where George and Lawrence lodged all combined with local Barbadian fruits and delicacies to create a deeper understanding of the island. In addition, we met with local scholars to discuss the history and culture of Barbados from a more personal perspective.

Although the Barbados of 2016 is very different from the Barbados of 1751, glimpses of the past remain. Many of the surnames that appear in George's diary still exist on the island to this day, serving as a living link to history. Cemeteries offer a physical reminder of the individuals George encountered.

Archival research is necessary, but walking in the footsteps of the past is priceless.



Washington Papers editors Alicia K. Anderson and Lynn Price, along with Director Edward G. Lengel, traveled to Barbados in April.

# Watching the Revolution Unfold with Author Rick Atkinson



Following the completion of his *Liberation* trilogy, author and military historian Rick Atkinson turned his attention to another episode in American history: the Revolutionary War. Almost finished with the research for his first volume, Atkinson believes the first installment will be available as early as 2019. Interested in what he has learned so far, Communications Assistant Katie Lebert recently sat down with Atkinson.

**Katie Lebert:** *Where do you find the American Revolution starts? Where do you find that it naturally breaks into three parts, and why do you find that to be a natural division of its narrative?*

**Rick Atkinson:** Theoretically it begins with the Stamp Act or the end of the French and Indian War, but as I am a military historian, I'm going to start it where the gunfire begins, which is April 1775. The first book will end with the Battle of Princeton, which is January 3, 1777. I see that as a good place and a dramatic place to end it; we've seen the nadir of the American effort, and we have seen Washington emerge in a way that we couldn't have anticipated—as a great captain. I think the second book will end at Savannah in 1778, and then the final volume will be all in the South, except for Arnold's treason. It seems to me, in the same way that I looked at World War II, that the American Revolution breaks into more or less three equal portions. They can be understood independently of each other, but it also allows me as a narrative writer to take my time. I don't have to cram a long war into one volume. It allows me to tell it comprehensively and to go into some detail over the course of those eight years.

**KL:** *You've said before how you believe the narrative reveals "who we are, where we came from, how we fight, what we're willing to die for." How has your research illuminated that American narrative for you?*

**RA:** How do you explain the weirdness of today without anticipating that there is weirdness all the way through American history? I think it's certainly true that you only need to have a cursory understanding of the origins of the country to see how fractious and disputatious and violent it all is. And I do find that as we get deeper and deeper into this tale, that it does illuminate where we came from, who we are, and why we look like what we look like today. It's all very gratifying

to have that fundamental sense. I hope that anyone who reads about the American Revolution, not just what I am writing, feels reverberations and echoes, and sees that the American Revolution is like the Big Bang of American history; it sends out particles of energy that will last through all of American history.

**KL:** *What are you learning about George Washington through your research?*

**RA:** I think I am appreciating him more as a general than I did before. George Washington is an astonishing detail man, and that's because, unlike Dwight Eisenhower, he does not have a huge staff. You would think that being swallowed by details would cause him to lose sight of the bigger picture and threaten his ability—as it does for many people who get lost in the details—to think strategically. That does not really happen. He does make serious mistakes, but you see that he is still able to take care of the details. And yet, particularly as we get to the end of 1776, he's still thinking in fairly substantial strategic and operational terms; he's thinking how he can convert successes into strategic winnings. I think out of that, Trenton is born, and then Princeton. That's very impressive, and that does not happen very often with generals. You are watching someone come into his own as a commander.

**KL:** *What personal stories have you seen unfold as part of your research?*

**RA:** I think one of the things we have to remember is that we have something of the order of 25,000 Americans who died during the war. That's 25,000 Americans of almost 2.5 million people. Just today, I was reading an account from a father. He gets word in the middle of July that his son had died on June 20 during the retreat from Canada. His son had been wounded at Bunker Hill. He's part of that force that goes to liberate Canada, and he dies this horrible death at the age of 24. It's heartbreaking. A father mourning his dead son is a father mourning his dead son, whether you're talking about it in Thucydides or in the American Revolution. So, part of my ambition as a writer is to find that deep tragic thread that runs through every war, including the Revolution, and to bring it back and put it in the reader's face. To remind that the essence of every war is tragedy, and this war is no different.

# George Washington's Journey

## *Bringing the Government to the People*

T.H. Breen

WILLIAM SMITH MASON PROFESSOR OF AMERICAN HISTORY EMERITUS AT NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY  
AND AUTHOR OF *GEORGE WASHINGTON'S JOURNEY*

I am indebted to the editors of the George Washington letters and diaries at the Washington Papers. Without these materials, I could not have reconstructed the president's travels to all 13 original states during his first term in office. It was an extraordinary journey, involving thousands of miles on terrible roads. What motivated Washington to sacrifice personal comfort—twice he was involved in near-fatal accidents—was a conviction that the new federal government was not yet strong enough to overcome regional identities and personal rivalries.

The ratification of the Constitution allayed some fears, of course, but even after election, he remained determined to strengthen the bonds of union. From his perspective, the Revolution was still at stake. By traveling and taking the new government to the people, Washington hoped to convince ordinary Americans that a strong union would bring them greater prosperity and security.

*“Without [the letters and diaries of the Washington Papers], I could not have reconstructed the president’s travels to all 13 original states during his first term in office.”*

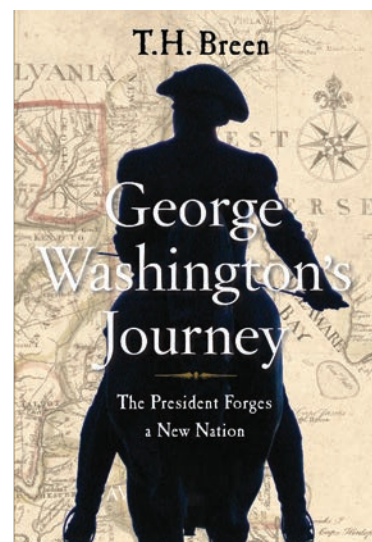
When he reached New York City in 1789, which was then the nation's capital, Washington immediately advanced the idea for a journey to see the people. Celebrated colleagues such as Alexander Hamilton and James Madison agreed that it was a good plan, but it is important to note that the inspiration for the trip came entirely from Washington. He possessed an intuitive sense of how much in politics is theater. By making himself visible to the people—to women as well as men—he hoped to strengthen the bonds that held the new republic together. In community

after community, he appeared before adoring crowds as the central figure in winning independence. His very person symbolized the new republic.

The American people responded enthusiastically. They organized huge parades in which marchers often seemed to outnumber spectators. Welcoming candles glowed in every window. Choirs sang special songs for the occasion; troops of local militia

escorted Washington from place to place. The entire journey was a success. One newspaper account captured the excitement of the moment: “All classes and descriptions of citizens discovered...the most undisguised attachment and unbounded zeal for their dear Chief...not even Imperial dignity itself with its usual splendor and magnificence, could equal this interesting scene.”

My new book, *George Washington's Journey*, introduces readers to Americans whose lives were transformed by his visit to the communities where they actually lived. The list of people Washington met includes female factory workers in New England, the spokesman for a struggling synagogue in Rhode Island, a young woman who imagined in 1789 what it would be like to have a female president of the United States, and an extraordinary slave named Hercules who forced Washington to tell a lie. These men and women participated in the invention of a new republican theater. They were his audience. They forced him to discover how to present himself persuasively as the president of a republic in which no person could claim political power solely on the basis of inheritance or birth.





# Martha Washington in the Community

Valentine's Day came early thanks to two back-to-back events organized by the Washington Papers.

On February 8, the Papers and the University of Virginia's Corcoran Department of History welcomed to UVA grounds Flora Fraser, author of *The Washingtons: George and Martha, "Join'd by Friendship, Crowned by Love,"* for a presentation on what she learned while writing her book. Fraser used the Papers' digital edition to research *The Washingtons*, and Papers Associate Editor William Ferraro fact-checked the book's text prior to publication.

During her talk, Fraser, who is the daughter of British historical biographer Lady Antonia Fraser and politician Sir Hugh Fraser, explained how her first visit to Mount Vernon reminded her of an English manor house. This connection inspired her to write *The Washingtons*, which was a finalist for the 2016 George Washington Book Prize.

Fraser discussed how Martha, accustomed to luxury, traveled to be with her husband during the Revolutionary War and adapted to sleeping in taverns and eating off tin plates. The presentation, which was followed by questions from the audience, also covered the Washingtons' private and public lives during George's presidency, and public reactions after the couple's deaths.

*"These events furthered the Washington Papers' mission of engaging with the University and local communities in thoughtful dialogue about our work and the Founding Era."*



Author Flora Fraser at an event co-sponsored by the Washington Papers in February

The very next day, Washington Papers editors participated in a day-long, in-depth event about "Martha Washington's World" with UVA's Lifetime Learning program. Audience members from the community enjoyed lectures on George and Martha Washington, as well as learning stations on the new Martha Washington and Family Papers projects, Martha's friends and family, and African Americans and slaves at Mount Vernon. An afternoon panel discussed the study of women's history in relation to Martha and her era. Additionally, the editors surprised the event attendees by serving Martha Washington's "Great Cake," which they had baked themselves, using the original recipe.

These events furthered the Washington Papers' mission of engaging with the University and local communities in thoughtful dialogue about our work and the Founding Era.

You can read Flora Fraser's blog post about her recent visit to Mount Vernon and a blog post about the Great Cake recipe at [gwpapers.virginia.edu/about/washingtonsquill](http://gwpapers.virginia.edu/about/washingtonsquill).

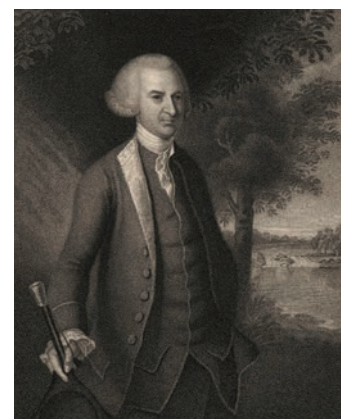
# New Center for Digital Editing Will Encourage Collaboration and Innovation

The Washington Papers now operates as a unit of the Center for Digital Editing (CDE), established in November 2015 at the University of Virginia. The CDE is an enterprising digital laboratory, dedicated to collaborative research in the digital humanities and to developing new technologies for content management and digital publication. Its objectives include:

- Providing stable, long-term, and familiar means for scholars to publish digital editing projects, relieving them of the need to create and navigate unique platforms for each project
- Preparing reliable transcriptions and annotations of the writings of our nation's leaders, while also focusing on diverse and underrepresented groups in history

- Placing these papers in the public domain
- Enabling researchers to make important connections between figures and events in the past
- Training students and educators to interpret and interact with primary documents

In addition to the Washington Papers, the Center for Digital Editing has developed or is continuing to develop collaborations with a number of diverse and important projects. These presently include the Woodrow Wilson Papers, the Martin Van Buren Papers, the John Dickinson Papers, and the Clarence Mitchell Jr. Papers. Major new stand-alone and collaborative projects will focus on African Americans and the history of slavery and emancipation, as well as on significant women and women's movements, among other topics.



The papers of Clarence Mitchell Jr. (top, here with President Lyndon Johnson) and the papers of John Dickinson (bottom) will be a part of the Center for Digital Editing.



Michael Dickens identified an original George Washington letter bound into a Tayloe family scrapbook at Montpelier.

## How I Discovered a Long-Lost Washington Letter

Michael Dickens

WASHINGTON PAPERS VOLUNTEER RESEARCH ASSOCIATE

Recently, an assignment given to me by Washington Papers Associate Editor William Ferraro led to the recovery of the original version of a George Washington letter known only to exist in draft form. Written by Washington on December 7, 1778, the letter covered cavalry dispositions in response to the British fleet's return to New York.

The discovery came about when Ferraro asked me to analyze the list of subscribers who purchased John Marshall's five-volume *Life of Washington*, published in 1804. I identified an original set

deposited on loan to James Madison's Montpelier by descendants of John Tayloe III, a friend of Washington; Tayloe's sister, Sally, married William Augustine Washington. Tayloe was the builder of the Octagon House in Washington, DC, where James and Dolley Madison lived for a period after the White House was burned in 1814. In the fly-leaf of Volume 3 was a small, previously unknown pencil cartoon, possibly of Washington. Additional information provided by the Tayloe family led to the recovery of the original Washington letter bound into a separate volume.



# Four Most Popular Posts on New and Improved Washington Papers Blog

This fall, the Washington Papers introduced a new-and-improved version of its “Washington’s Quill” blog. Aside from being more interactive and frequently updated, the blog now includes a larger rotation of writers from the Papers staff, as well as guest contributors.

Below are excerpts from our four most popular blog posts, written by Washington Papers editors.

You can read these and other blog posts at [gwpapers.virginia.edu/about/washingtonsquill](http://gwpapers.virginia.edu/about/washingtonsquill).



## **"I am determined to lower her Spirit and Skin her Back"**

**January 15, 2016**

Research Assistant Kathryn Gehred started a lively conversation over social media with a blog post about Charlotte, one of Martha Washington’s enslaved seamstresses.

“For many slaves, being quiet and submissive was the wisest choice to navigate their environment. Charlotte (like the revolutionaries who fought against British tyranny) was clearly incapable of quiet submission to injustice. No matter how many times she was denied respect, she continued to demand it.”

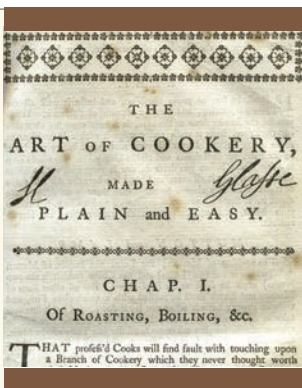


## **Dutiful or Loving Son? Reflecting on Washington's Relationship with His Mother, Mary Ball Washington**

**February 11, 2016**

A trip to George Washington’s boyhood home led Associate Editor William Ferraro to reflect on historical and personal perspectives on Washington’s mother.

“George and Mary infrequently exchanged letters, and the son’s other correspondence contains very few references to her. One of these rare mentions occurred in a letter from Fielding Lewis to George Washington dated March 2, 1779. ‘Our Friends are all well the Old Lady keeps her health.’”



## **To Make a Great Cake**

**November 24, 2015**

Research Editor Caitlin Conley turned her blogging into a culinary experience by baking Martha Washington’s “Great Cake” recipe from scratch.

“Martha Washington’s ‘Great Cake’ recipe is a sweet document, written in a careful hand by her granddaughter on a piece of folded scrap paper. It asks for 40 eggs, four pounds each of sugar and butter, five pounds of fruit and flour, a pint of wine, an ounce of nutmeg and mace, and plenty of French brandy. I knew that I had to try and make it.”



## **A Morbid Child Remembers George Washington**

**December 14, 2015**

The anniversary of George Washington’s death inspired Research Editor Kim Curtis to reflect on her childhood fascination with the deaths of historical figures.

“In addition to the history and documentary editing practices that I’ve learned at the Papers, I have uncovered an interesting connection to George Washington that feeds back into my childhood morbidity: on December 13, 1799, Washington came down with the illness that would take his life. December 13 is my birthday.”

# News and Notes

## Washington Papers Advocates for the Humanities

In March, Research Assistant Kathryn Gehred and Communications Assistant Katie Lebert attended the National Humanities Alliance's annual Advocacy Day. The two-day event began with lectures and panels on how to advocate for the humanities. The next day, Gehred and Lebert then met with staff members of various senators' and representatives' offices to discuss the impact of the humanities on public education and scholarship. Sharing their experiences at the Washington Papers, the pair specifically advocated for maintained funding of the National Historical Publications and Records Commission, one of the institutions that generously supports the Papers.

## Editors Contribute to Versailles Exhibition

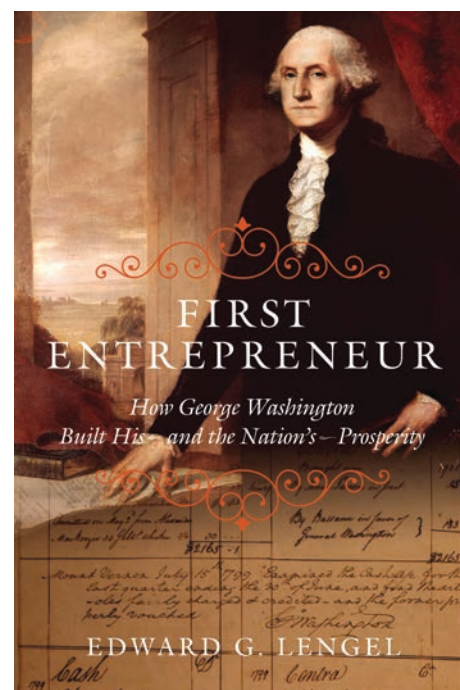
This summer, the Palace of Versailles in France will embark on a groundbreaking exhibition, "Versailles and the American Revolution," and two Washington Papers team members will contribute to the endeavor. The exhibit will illustrate the importance of Franco-American relationships at the end of the French *ancien régime* and the consequences of the American Revolution. Exhibition curators invited Washington Papers Director Edward G. Lengel and Research Assistant Elisa Shields, who is fluent in French, to write an essay for the accompanying catalog, which will be published in both English and French. The essay will focus on the Revolutionary War from Lexington to Saratoga. For the first time in a French exhibition, the perspectives of American, British, Spanish, and French historians will be considered.

## New Book on Washington as Entrepreneur Published

This February, De Capo Press published a new book by Edward G. Lengel, director of the Washington Papers. *First Entrepreneur: How George Washington Built His—and the Nation's—Prosperity* uses Washington's financial papers to show how the nation's first president built Mount Vernon into a business enterprise. The book has garnered positive reviews, including the *Wall Street Journal* and the *Journal of the American Revolution* online magazine's highest rating. Lengel has written about *First Entrepreneur* for the History News Network and Money.com, and has appeared on Reason TV, at the National Archives, and at Guilford Courthouse National Military Park in North Carolina. He will also discuss his book at the Fort Plain Museum and Historical Park in New York in June.

## Washington Papers Shares Research at the Virginia Forum

This March, Washington Papers editors Lynn Price, Alicia K. Anderson, and Caitlin Conley presented at the Virginia Forum, held at the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation in Williamsburg, Virginia. Moderated by Papers Director Edward G. Lengel, the panel shared challenges and insights from transcribing and annotating George Washington's Barbados diary and Martha Washington's papers. As editors of the Barbados diary, Price and Anderson focused on George Washington's first and only foreign excursion. Conley shared her research of numerous Virginia newspaper snippets and articles—dated during and after Martha Washington's life—that referred to the



First Lady. The annual Virginia Forum brings together those engaged in the study and interpretation of Virginia history to share their knowledge, research, and experiences.

## Ferraro Explores Washington-Monroe Relationship at Ash-Lawn Highland

During a February lecture at Ash-Lawn Highland, the iconic home of James Monroe, William Ferraro, Washington Papers associate editor, explored the highs and lows of Monroe's relationship with George Washington. Ferraro's lecture detailed pivotal moments of their relationship, including their shared involvement in the Revolutionary War, their mutual belief in the inadequacies of the Articles of Confederation, their differing opinions on the proposed Constitution, and Monroe's written attack on George Washington's diplomacy. Ferraro concluded that though the two strongly disagreed on some matters, both Washington and Monroe ultimately recognized their common commitment to maintaining and improving the state of the nation.

Connect with us,  
and see what all the fuss  
is about among our  
social media followers!

*"Keep feeding us history, we'll keep spreading the word.  
Thanks for sharing your work."* — Philippa Crawford

*"You are my hero. Thanks for the work you are doing."*  
— Heather Karen Hunt

*"I just love this Facebook page."* — Marti Knox

*"Always will try to support you in your efforts. I enjoy  
looking at your posts because they help to bring  
Washington alive for future generations."* — Andy Martin



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The Washington Papers has also been working on two other projects: the George Washington Bibliography project and the George Washington Day-by-Day project. The Bibliography project is a compilation of books related to Washington. The metadata and annotation will allow users to search and

browse the books in a variety of ways. The Day-by-Day project, on the other hand, is a collection of information about every day of Washington's life. Users will be able to search and browse these entries by date and keywords. Both projects will eventually be available on the Mount Vernon website.

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