

Washington Papers

2020

The Washington Papers Concludes the *Presidential Series*

Adrina Garbooshian-Huggins, ASSISTANT EDITOR

When George Washington exited the public stage for the last time, his approaching departure from office was strewn with a shower of accolades, lamentations, and expressions of profound gratitude and devotion.

The Papers of George Washington, Presidential Series, volume 21, which appeared in print this spring, marks the end of the project's longstanding series that chronicles Washington's correspondence during his two terms as U.S. president. The first volume in the series was published in 1987. Over the following 33 years, Dorothy Twohig, David Hoth, Mark Mastromarino, Robert Haggard, and Christine Sternberg Patrick counted among the editors who experienced the privilege of editing Washington's presidential papers.

The significance of the *Presidential Series* cannot be overstated; the more than 8,000 documents that make up these volumes help shed light on the history of the Early American Republic and on Washington's political principles that preserved overall peace and stability in the young nation.

The countless letters and accompanying scholarly annotation also detail the official transactions that created and shaped what would later become Washington, D.C. And they illuminate the important precedents that Washington set as the first U.S. president.

Washington's awareness of his place in history is illustrated in his letter of May 5, 1789—just days after his first inauguration—to Virginia congressman James Madison: “As the first of everything, in

our situation will serve to establish a Precedent, it is devoutly wished on my part, that these precedents may be fixed on true principles.”

Washington clearly sought to establish a precedent concerning the integrity and dignity of the office of president, something he undoubtedly hoped would become a model for his successors. Washington's emphasis on the image of the office also was evident in his reaction to his nephew Bushrod Washington's efforts to obtain a federal appointment. In a 1789 letter to his nephew, the president retorted: “My political conduct in nominations ... must be exceedingly circumspect and proof against just criticism ... and no slip will pass unnoticed that can be improved into a supposed partiality for friends or relations.” Washington's interest in proper etiquette, social procedures, and the overall public perception of his administration prompted him to solicit advice on such matters from cabinet members, congressmen, and other high-ranking officials. The reader can examine these correspondences on social etiquette in volume 2 of the *Presidential Series*.



George Washington,
modeled after a sketch by
John Quincy Adams Ward
(cast ca. 1911).

Courtesy of Metropolitan Museum of Art.

The editors of the *Presidential Series* routinely consulted primary sources such as diaries, newspaper reports, diplomatic correspondence from the National Archives, and congressional journals to help explain the major events that occurred during Washington's two terms as president. Such sources were used for annotation of letters regarding Washington's domestic and foreign policy, including his

Continued on page 11.

Changes in Blossom

The grounds of the University of Virginia (UVA) are particularly beautiful this time of year—budding shrubs, fields of grass, and vivid floral colors—it’s a time of transition and growth. So, too, could this be said for The Washington Papers. In March, The Washington Papers moved out of UVA’s Alderman Library (which is currently undergoing a much-needed renovation) and into a new space on the “Corner” near the university. The Project will share this space with the Papers of James Madison, the Dolley Madison Digital Edition, and the Center for Digital Editing (CDE). As you might imagine, proximity can spark collaboration and creativity, and we all look forward to exploring this potential.

Project leadership has also transitioned. Since the summer of 2019, I have had the incredible opportunity of directing The Washington Papers in addition to directing the CDE. As the Center for Digital Editing continues to grow, as The Washington Papers advances work on editing the final years of the Revolutionary War, and as we all begin thinking about the future of editing here at UVA, I expect my colleagues and I will have exciting updates to share well into the future.

The Papers of George Washington had a productive year. Several volumes were recently published, including *Revolutionary War Series* volumes 26 and 27, and *Presidential Series* volumes 20 and 21. Work also advances on volumes 29 through 33 of the *Revolutionary War Series*, with *Revolutionary War Series* volume 28 set for publication later this year.

Work on *The Papers of Martha Washington* is nearing completion; the volume will go to press this fall and be published in 2021. The editors have also completed the search for Bushrod Washington documents. The documents have been catalogued, and transcription and proofreading work is currently progressing.

The Center for Digital Editing continues to build partnerships here at UVA and beyond, and our editors are experimenting with innovative ideas to make our work more accessible and sustainable. Our students are also doing amazing work—from building data visualizations based on content in Washington’s presidential household accounts, to extracting narratives from previously unpublished ledgers to fill archival silences. The ideas, creativity, and dedication of the editors and students alike are inspirational.

These efforts would not be possible without the generosity of the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, Florence Gould Foundation, Mount Vernon Ladies’ Association, National Endowment for the Humanities, National Historical Publications and Records Commission, Packard Humanities Institute, University of Virginia, and the William Nelson Cromwell Foundation. We are deeply grateful for their support. Thank you!

Jennifer E. Stertz



CONTACT

MAILING ADDRESS

University of Virginia
P.O. Box 400117
Charlottesville, VA 22904-4117
434.924.3569 TEL
washingtonpapers.org

NEWSLETTER CREDITS

EDITORS

Katie Blizzard, Thomas E. Dulan,
Jennifer E. Stertz

PHOTOGRAPHY

Metropolitan Museum of Art,
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Anne Chesnut

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Exploring the Library of Congress

An Interview with Historian Julie Miller

Katie Blizzard, RESEARCH EDITOR



Julie Miller

Photo by Victoria Van Hynning.

The Library of Congress (LOC) holds the largest collection of George Washington's papers. Maintaining these documents and promoting their use is the work of multiple archivists, paper conservators, and historians. Julie Miller—a historian for the Library of Congress who focuses on early American materials—counts among these important individuals. Curious about the national library's role in furthering the accessibility of these materials, I reached out to Miller to learn more about her work, which ranges from conducting research for document interpretation, to supporting and encouraging public engagement with the collection.

Miller's research on these documents frequently focuses on illuminating the lives of the people with whom George Washington interacted, as inspired by her background in teaching, researching, and writing about American social history. "He was a good keeper of his papers," she explained, which means the materials provide "good documentation of people whose voices were not otherwise preserved, like those who were enslaved." Miller pointed to Washington's financial papers as useful for understanding the behavior of individuals living in the Founding Era. In detailing Washington's purchases, the records show, for instance, the type of goods needed to be considered a colonial Englishman.

A strong familiarity with these documents as such is key to finding opportunities for the public to engage with the materials. "Because we in the Library's Manuscript Division are researchers ourselves,

we know the kind of things scholars may want to know," asserted Miller. In addition to responding to questions from visitors and online users, Miller brainstorms ideas for using the collection. An exhibit she is working on, which evolved out of a partnership with the Georgian Papers Programme in England, examines the surprising similarities between George Washington and King George III of Great Britain by setting the two men in context and revealing them as knowable human beings. Both were, Miller observed, "extremely interested in scientific agriculture," even "reading the same books on the subject," and both believed in a new idea of "the king, or president, as a benevolent leader, rather than a despot."

Miller concluded our conversation by reflecting on the LOC's role in caring for these documents: "The federal government has been in the business of collecting the papers of important American figures for a long time." As a national institution with a "mission to serve a very broad public," she added, "the Library of Congress is best prepared to preserve these materials."

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FROM THE WASHINGTON PAPERS' BLOG

■ George Washington, Genealogist: Why Didn't We Know?

Karin Wulf of the Omohundro Institute at William & Mary discusses how an unpublished George Washington document that includes a family tree and a list of tithables "lays bare the foundation of 18th-century power and violence."

Read now: bit.ly/New-GW-Doc.

■ Washington's Musical Admirer: Francis Hopkinson

Through descriptive writing enhanced by recordings of 18th-century music, David Hildebrand of the Colonial Music Institute explores Francis Hopkinson's musical legacy and friendship with George Washington.

Read now: bit.ly/GW-and-Music.

■ George Washington and the Bearing of Arms

In this blog post, assistant editor Jeffrey L. Zvengrowski discusses George Washington's complex views on the bearing of arms—illustrating how they do not "readily square with the views of today's contending factions."

Read now: bit.ly/GW-and-Arms.

An Introduction to Presidential Series

Volume 21, September 1796–March 1797

Adrina Garbooshian-Huggins, ASSISTANT EDITOR

The final months of George Washington's presidency are chronicled in volume 21 of the *Presidential Series*, which covers the period from Sept. 22, 1796, through March 3, 1797. Published this spring, volume 21 includes issues relating to the Federal City (now Washington, D.C.) and the increasingly tense relations between the United States and other sovereignties, namely France, Algiers, and multiple Indian nations.

Of particular interest are the heartfelt letters Washington received from citizens congratulating him on his imminent retirement from office. Citizens repeatedly expressed regret at the loss of a great and virtuous leader, while they simultaneously praised Washington's voluntary retirement from office, a spectacle rarely seen in the annals of history.

Central to the volume is Washington's final annual message to Congress, delivered on Dec. 7, 1796. The president spent almost the last half of 1796 preparing for that message, which became an expression of his vision for the domestic and foreign policies of the United States. Understanding the importance of such a message, Washington solicited advice on its content from his cabinet and from longtime adviser Alexander Hamilton, who prepared drafts and memorandums on the issue for Washington's use. Washington advocated for the establishment of a naval force, a national university, and a military academy; for the creation of agricultural boards, and for improved relations with France. Washington ended his message by congratulating

Washington's more personal side is illustrated throughout the volume in letters to his step-grandson, to whom he offered moral and educational advice.

the nation on the success of the republican experiment, expressing his hope "that the Government," instituted "for the protection of their liberties, may be perpetual."

In his last months in office, Washington found himself forced to deny the authenticity of letters falsely attributed to him that had



Medal commemorating George Washington's resignation of the presidency, unknown artist (1797).

Courtesy of Metropolitan Museum of Art.

surfaced during the Revolutionary War and were republished in 1796. He submitted an official repudiation of the forgeries to the secretary of state and asked that his message be deposited in the State Department for "posterity."

On the eve of retirement, Washington compared himself to "the wearied traveller who sees a resting place." The president was eager to return to his beloved Mount Vernon, as illustrated in his abundant correspondence with his farm managers regarding renovations and repairs of the estate's impressive mansion house. That correspondence is filled with discussions of crops, shutters, paint work, and room measurements.

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I am grateful to associate editor Benjamin Huggins for annotating 22 documents in the volume.

An Introduction to Revolutionary War Series

Volume 28, August–October 1780

Jeffrey L. Zvengrowski, ASSISTANT EDITOR

Scheduled for publication in autumn, volume 28 of the *Revolutionary War Series* may well be remembered as “the Arnold volume.” The discovery of Maj. Gen. Benedict Arnold’s treason dominates substantial portions of the text, which presents Gen. George Washington’s correspondence from Aug. 28 to Oct. 27, 1780.

Other unwelcome surprises also troubled Washington over this course of time. British troops led by Lt. Gen. Charles Cornwallis, fresh off having scattered an army under Maj. Gen. Horatio Gates near Camden, S.C., in mid-August, next invaded North Carolina. Meanwhile, efforts to drive the British from New York City were postponed yet again because reinforcements anticipated from France had been delayed. Additionally, British warships arrived from the West Indies, strengthening Vice Adm. Marriot Arbuthnot’s fleet and confining the French forces under Lieutenant General Rochambeau and Rear Admiral Ternay to Rhode Island.

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[that Washington] could quiver with
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Encouraged by rumors that a large French fleet under Rear Admiral Guichen had sailed from the West Indies for Rhode Island, Washington met Rochambeau and Ternay at Hartford on Sept. 20 to plan strategy. The conference, though, proved inconclusive due to uncertainty about Guichen. A disappointed Washington headed back to his army, only to discover along the way that Arnold had absconded to the British following the capture of Maj. John André—the British adjutant general with whom Arnold had schemed to betray West Point—while British forces prepared to embark from New York City to attack



“The tempter and the traitor—the treason of Arnold on the night of Sept. 21, 1780,” printed by Henry Bryan Hall and James Smillie.

Courtesy of New York Public Library.

West Point. Moreover, the bad tidings for Washington continued well into October with news that Guichen’s fleet had sailed for Europe; that British incursions from Canada were ravaging upstate New York, and that a British expedition from New York City departed to attack Virginia.

The documents in volume 28 reveal Washington’s responses to myriad complexities and frustrations, showing he could quiver with worry or seethe with anger beneath his calmly confident veneer. He dismissed most of the militia in Continental service in late August to conserve scanty incoming supplies. He rapidly reinforced West Point to secure that critical location following Arnold’s defection. He controversially authorized André’s execution on charges of espionage. He launched a secret, and ultimately unsuccessful, mission to apprehend Arnold. He sent his trusted subordinate Maj. Gen. Nathanael Greene to the southern department after Congress cashiered Gates, and he moved Continental soldiers to meet threats in the southern states as well as in upstate New York.

An embattled Washington finally found reason to rejoice in late October, with news of the British defeat at the Battle of Kings Mountain in South Carolina. He won a victory of another sort when Congress, in reforming the Continental army, encouraged enlistments for the war’s duration, as Washington had so often urged.

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Five Interesting Things about the Whiskey Rebellion

David Hoth, RETIRED SENIOR EDITOR

On Sept. 30, 1794, the president of the United States, George Washington, left the capital city en route to take command of militias that he had called out to suppress a tax revolt in the westernmost counties of Pennsylvania. The discontent stemmed from a revenue act approved March 3, 1791 that placed an excise tax on spirits distilled within the United States (1 *Stat.* 199-204). The tax was burdensome on western farmers, who often distilled their grain into liquor to create a product more suitable for shipment to eastern markets.

On May 8, 1792, Congress attempted to address complaints in an amended act (1 *Stat.* 267-71), but riots and disruptions continued. Washington issued four proclamations exhorting citizens to obey the laws. In his final proclamation, issued Sept. 25, 1794, he ordered militia to execute the laws and suppress the insurrection, using authority granted by a law of May 5, 1792 (1 *Stat.* 264-65). Below are five things I found interesting about these events while working with the documents.

1 Washington thought it his duty to command the militia. Even though he believed only “Imperious circumstances” could justify an absence from the imminent session of Congress (at least one critic argued that the president’s attendance was required by the Constitution), he also believed he was “Commander in Chief of the militia, when called into the actual service of the United States” (to Daniel Morgan, Oct. 8, 1794; from Edmund Randolph, Oct. 11, 1794 [second letter], and n.1; annual address, Nov. 19, 1794). Balancing between these duties of president and commander in chief, he found the military obligation the more pressing of the two until it became clear the rebels would submit without a fight.

Today we are inclined to see the Constitutional clause that makes the president commander in chief a simple assertion of civilian authority, but in a world in which kings sometimes led armies and Napoleon would soon be both general and emperor, Washington apparently

had a more literal understanding. This reminds us of how *new* the American republic was and how much of the meaning of the Constitution was yet to be fully settled. Perhaps too, the assertion of civilian authority had been made easier by the expectation that Gen. George Washington, commander of the Revolutionary army, would be the first president.

2 On the day after leaving Philadelphia, 55 miles en route to his rendezvous with the militia, Washington penned a brief letter to his farm manager. He had noticed that the farmers along his route managed their buckwheat (a crop in rotation at Mount Vernon) differently from what he expected and wanted to report their procedures for possible use at Mount Vernon. Consider the circumstances: Washington is traveling to take command of an army that may face combat; he must consider what sort of submission to demand from the rebels; he has an annual address to prepare, an important one that will justify his actions to Congress. And yet, he is observing farming practices and thinking about Mount Vernon. This letter suggests Washington, like Cincinnatus, the ancient Roman statesman, military leader, and farmer, was indeed happiest, as he claimed, at his farm.

3 Although Washington does not explicitly mention the irony of a country born in part out of a tax revolt now sending troops to suppress such a revolt, the distinction he would have made is clear. In his proclamations of Sept. 15, 1792, and Aug. 7, 1794, and in his annual address of 1794, he noted that the legislature had attempted to address complaints about the law. To his friend Burgess Ball he complained that “self-created societies” were undermining “acts of Congress which have



*Washington Reviewing the Western Army at Fort Cumberland,
attributed to Frederick Kemmelmeyer (after 1795).*

Courtesy of Metropolitan Museum of Art.

undergone the most deliberate, & solemn discussion by the Representatives of the people, chosen for the express purpose, & bringing with them from the different parts of the Union the sense of their Constituents—endeavouring as far as the nature of the thing will admit, to form their will into Laws for the government of the whole” (Sept. 25, 1794).

The Revolution, Washington implied, was fought not about taxation, but about representation. The rebels in this case, however, had been represented, and “if the minority . . . is suffered to dictate to the majority, after measures have undergone the most solemn discussions by the Representatives of the people, and their Will, through this medium, is enacted into Laws; there can be no security for life—liberty—or property” (to Morgan, Oct. 8, 1794).

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4 Washington’s thoughts on the Whiskey Rebellion likely influenced his Farewell Address, particularly his discussion on factions. Seeking to understand the “unaccountable” opposition of westerners to a tax designed in large part to provide for frontier defense (to Alexander Hamilton, Sept. 7, 1792), he came to believe the citizens had been misled by “designing individuals” and those “self-created societies” who raised specious claims of threats to liberty for their own advancement.

5 In late August 1794, while Washington was awaiting results from his last attempt to stop the rebellion without sending in the militia, his farm manager asked about using a still at Mount Vernon. Washington replied that he had “no objection . . . if any advantage from it can be derived under the tax”—of course, the president would obey the law and pay his taxes.

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Reflecting on Bushrod Washington's Judicial Legacy

Hon. David A. Faber, SENIOR U.S. DISTRICT JUDGE

Bushrod Washington was appointed to the U.S. Supreme Court by President John Adams in 1798.¹ Nephew of George Washington, committed to the principles of the Federalist Party, and only 36 years old, he was the youngest justice ever appointed to the court at that time.² Washington would serve on the court until his death in 1829, a period of nearly 31 years.

Bushrod Washington authored 81 separate opinions as a Supreme Court justice, which are reported in volumes 3 Dallas through 2 Peters of the *Supreme Court Reports*. Between 1826 and 1829, Richard Peters, Jr., published Washington's circuit court decisions. These cases, over 500 in number, were compiled principally from Washington's own notes.³

Justice Washington's reputation, secure in his own day, has suffered with the passage of time. He is often represented as lacking in perceptiveness and dominated intellectually by Justices John Marshall and Joseph Story. Such assessments may spring from an unfortunate choice of words by Joseph Story. In a eulogy, Story described Washington's mind as "slow, but not torpid."⁴ When considered in context with Story's other comments, it is likely he meant Washington was slow in the sense of being careful and taking time to form an opinion. Indeed, in the same eulogy, Story also said Washington was "sagacious" and "forcible in conception, clear in reasoning."⁵

Describing Washington's performance in oral argument, Horace Binney, a lawyer who appeared before him many times, said that Washington had "a great quickness and accuracy of apprehension" and that he "caught the important parts in a moment."⁶ At another point, Binney observed: "His mind was full, his elocution free, clear and accurate, his command of all about him indisputable. His learning and



Bushrod Washington, oil on canvas painting
by Chester Harding (1828).

Courtesy of National Portrait Gallery.

acuteness were not only equal to the profoundest argument, but often carried the Counsel to depths which they had not penetrated."⁷

David Paul Brown, a member of the Philadelphia bar, said Washington absolutely excelled as a trial judge. He was perhaps, said Brown, "the greatest *nisi prius* judge the world has ever known."⁸ Washington brought to the trial bench one of the most significant attributes a trial lawyer or judge can have—a knack for nearly perfect recall of the evidence. He took few notes during a trial, preferring to concentrate on the witnesses and their demeanor.⁹ Nevertheless, he was able to deliver long jury charges immediately upon conclusion of the evidence, summing up for the jury from memory, and using only rough notes as to the law.¹⁰

Princeton, Harvard, and the University of Pennsylvania conferred honorary LL.D. degrees upon Washington.¹¹ His opinions are proof of his learning and his powers of precise analysis.

1 Clare Cushman, ed., "Bushrod Washington," in *The Supreme Court Justices: Illustrated Biographies, 1789–1995*, 2nd ed. (Washington, D.C.: 1995), 53.

2 See David Leslie Annis, "Mr. Bushrod Washington, Supreme Court Justice On The Marshall Court" (Ph.D. diss., University of Notre Dame, 1974), 71.

3 See James R. Stoner, Jr., "Heir Apparent: Bushrod Washington and Federal Justice in the Early Republic," in *Seriatim: The Supreme Court Before John Marshall*, ed. Scott Douglas Gerber (New York: 1998), 330.

4 Joseph Story, "The Late Washington," *Boston Daily Advertiser*, Dec. 10, 1829 (quoted in G. Edward White, *The Marshall Court and Cultural Change 1815–1835*, [1988], 350).

5 *Ibid.*

6 See Horace Binney, *Bushrod Washington* (Philadelphia: 1858), 16.

7 *Ibid.*, 11.

8 See Lawrence Washington, *Address of Lawrence Washington in Presenting Portrait of Bushrod Washington* (Columbus, Oh.: 1912), 6.

9 Albert P. Blaustein and Roy M. Mersky, "Bushrod Washington," in *The Justices of the United States Supreme Court 1789–1969*, eds. Leon Friedman and Fred L. Israel (New York: 1969), 1:248.

10 See Binney, 19, 27.

11 See Blaustein and Mersky, "Bushrod Washington," 256.

Mary Ball Washington

The Untold Story of George Washington's Mother

By Craig Shirley (New York: Harper, 2019. 344 pp.)

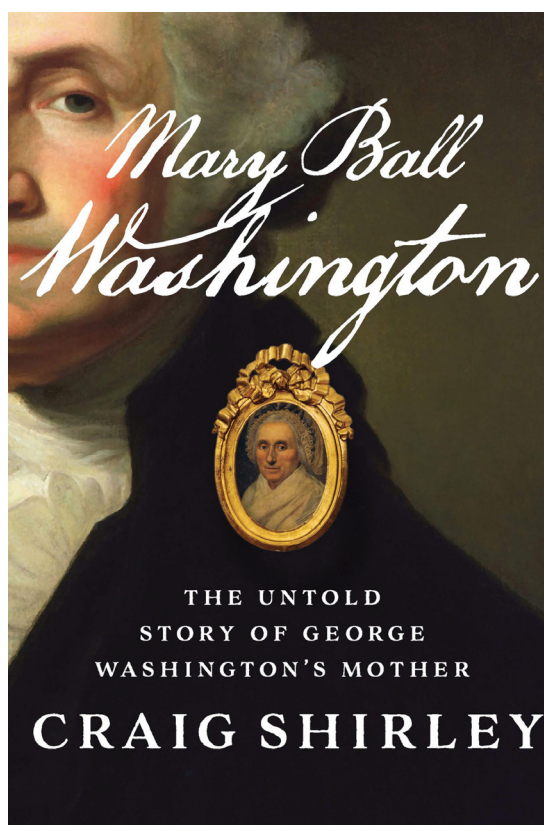
William M. Ferraro, RESEARCH ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR AND SENIOR ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Craig Shirley, known as a Ronald Reagan biographer and an interpreter of the modern Republican Party, tries his hand at a very different subject in this study of Mary Ball Washington, George Washington's mother. He confronts the challenge of sparse sources on this 18th-century woman by embedding her life in an extensively detailed political history of the British colonies and their emergence as a new nation known as the United States. Although this narrative approach often loses its principal character for pages at a time, Shirley succeeds in conveying the central point that Mary Ball Washington was a real and constant presence—particularly emotionally—in the life of her famous son.

Mary is seen most in the first portion of the book, which delves into the ancestry of the Balls and describes the many losses she experienced as a girl and young woman. Death took her father, mother, and caring guardians before she turned 21. These losses left land, slaves, and meaningful wealth in her possession, but the multiple traumas also scarred her psyche to some degree. Mary desired to keep close the people she loved, and she feared risk, especially as it concerned circumstances beyond her view or control.

These tendencies exhibited themselves after her husband Augustine died in 1744. She became responsible for their five surviving children—George being the eldest—as well as the complicated financial issues related to managing the property

that had come under her control. Mary's decision to never remarry was an unusual one for her time and showed a streak of confidence and independence that arguably saw even more profound expression in George Washington.



Mary Ball Washington:
The Untold Story of George Washington's Mother.
By Craig Shirley (New York: Harper, 2019. 344 pp.).
Courtesy of Shirley & Bannister Public Affairs.

Shirley wants to push back against the numerous Washington biographers who portray Mary as a burden who inappropriately checked her son's early ambitions to rise to prominence in the British military and aggravated him with selfish demands for money after he gained fame and she grew older. The case is difficult to make given the available documentary record, and Shirley's analysis sometimes slips into a carping tone. Interestingly, Mary appears most attractively in the correspondence of Lafayette, who met his commanding general's elderly mother during the last years of the Revolutionary War and unfailingly sent his regards to her in subsequent letters to Washington.

Mary's importance is unmistakable. As Shirley concludes, she shaped her eldest son through "motherly love" that "may have been as much about authority as affection." She "made him the man he was: stubborn, singular, awe-inspiring, and *independent*" (p. 290).

Creativity is required to sketch Mary as a three-dimensional historical figure and to discover the dynamics that energized her bond with her eldest son. Shirley's effort contributes to this ongoing process.

News & Announcements

Events

A Recap of The Washington Papers' 50th Anniversary Celebration

On Feb. 1, 2019, The Washington Papers publicly celebrated 50 years of editing the papers of George—and more recently, Martha—Washington. Events included a public tour of our offices in the University of Virginia's Alderman Library, as well as an exhibition of significant Washington-related manuscripts owned by the Albert & Shirley Small Special Collections Library or on loan special for the event, courtesy of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association.

Exhibit materials were selected for their illustration of the challenges involved in scholarly editing. The most apparent examples on display were those manuscripts made illegible as a result of ink or water stains, or incomplete as a result of the mutilation or absence of large sections of material. Other items at the exhibit hinted at the challenge of finding a balance between accessibility and authentic representation, such as when editing a document written entirely in another language. One of the most popular items on display—a letter by Thomas Jefferson in which he describes a recent visit to Mount Vernon—demonstrated the need for editors to examine third-party correspondence, or materials outside those written to and from the figure of study, in order to write accurate and descriptive annotation.

In addition to holding an open house and public exhibit, editors and selected guests gathered on Jan. 31 for a private reception, which featured lectures from historian Alan Taylor and from Douglas Bradburn, president and CEO of George Washington's Mount Vernon.

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Editor Gives Book Talks Focusing on Washington's Bold Military Plan

Last year, associate editor **Benjamin L. Huggins** delivered lectures at two historic sites: the Guilford Courthouse National Military Park in North Carolina on March 13, and Fraunces Tavern in New York City on July 18. Huggins's topic was his book, *Washington's War 1779*, which discusses Gen. George Washington's bold plan to win the War of Independence by the fall of 1779.

Author and Adventurer Peter Stark Visits The Washington Papers

On Nov. 6, 2019, Peter Stark, bestselling author of *Young Washington* and nominee for the George Washington Book Prize, visited The Washington Papers and lectured to a public audience about young George Washington's journeys through the Ohio frontier. Pulling from his adventurous background as an explorer of "blank spaces," Stark's lecture (and book) focused on illustrating the environmental conditions, physical challenges, and overall experience of Washington's journeys through wilderness. You can learn more about *Young Washington* and the inspiration behind it by reading research editor Katie Blizzard's interview with Stark: bit.ly/WP-Stark-Interview.

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Acknowledgement

Editor Acknowledged by Alexis Coe in NYT Bestselling Book *You Never Forget Your First*

In her biography of George Washington, which debuted at #11 on the *New York Times* bestselling list for nonfiction, Alexis Coe thanked senior associate editor **William M. Ferraro** for his expertise and assistance. Having helped by fact-checking, editing chapters, and responding to the author's

questions, "[Ferraro]," wrote Coe, "went far beyond the call of duty."

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Publication

Assistant Editor Publishes Book on the Confederacy and Its Competing Ideologies

In a new book published by LSU Press titled *Jefferson Davis, Napoleonic France, and the Nature of Confederate Ideology, 1815–1870*, assistant editor **Jeffrey L. Zvengrowski** closely examines two factions of Confederate ideology: those who supported and those who opposed Jefferson Davis, the president of the Confederacy. Focusing especially on the pro-Davis Confederates, Zvengrowski uniquely posits that this camp looked to Bonapartist France as a model and ally for their new government, and that their ideology could be traced as far back as the Jeffersonian Democrats and their faction of War-Hawks. Copies are available for purchase through LSU Press: bit.ly/JLZ-Book.

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Interview

Editor Quoted in Article about Washington's Role as a Father

In an interview with *HISTORY*, research editor **Kathryn Gehred** discussed George Washington's role as a stepparent to the children and grandchildren from Martha Washington's first marriage. "It seems like [Washington] was a good father figure to the kids," Gehred was quoted as saying. "He's always writing letters to Martha's children and to the grandchildren they take in after both of those children die. He's always giving people advice—very rarely listened to—but you can tell that he took on a big role." You can read the full article at bit.ly/GWs-Children.

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Continued from page 1.

efforts at westward expansion. These materials illuminated Washington's leadership and policy directives as he sought to increase American influence on the nation's frontiers. Washington largely achieved these objectives by appointing able generals and diplomats who could carry out his vision. For instance, Anthony Wayne defeated a large Indian force at the Battle of Fallen Timbers in 1794, which resulted in the 1795 Treaty of Greenville; John Jay negotiated the 1794 Jay Treaty, which forced the British evacuation of the western posts, thereby diminishing British influence over the Indians; and Thomas Pinckney's treaty with Spain opened the Mississippi to U.S. trade. A number of primary sources were used to explain these and other events.

At the close of Washington's presidency, the United States faced increasingly hostile relations with France and threats of war from the dey of Algiers. Washington received public criticism from numerous individuals, notably Thomas Paine. Nevertheless, the president left the office with the knowledge of having presided over the first eight years of the American Republic with moral integrity and policies backed by righteous intentions. The day before leaving the presidency, Washington cited his "conscious rectitude" and the "approving voice of



George and Martha Washington arriving at Mount Vernon, print published by C. Klackner (1910).

Courtesy of Mount Vernon Ladies' Association.

my Country" as his consolation for the tribulations he endured in the final years of his presidency.

As longtime *Presidential Series* editor David Hoth has observed, many of the scholars who have had the privilege of editing Washington's correspondence have come away with heightened admiration for the first president of the United States.

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University of Virginia

Awarded \$1 Million Grant from Andrew W. Mellon Foundation

The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation has awarded \$1 million toward a groundbreaking digital publishing enterprise at the University of Virginia (UVA). The funding will support the Virginia Digital Publishing Cooperative—a partnership between the Center for Digital Editing and University of Virginia Press—to promote the creation of an accessible, robust, and sustainable system for publishing the work of scholars who transcribe and annotate records of historical importance.

The grant was made possible by a joint initiative between The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and the National Historical Publications and Records Commission that was developed in 2017 in response to “the urgent need of scholars and documentary editors for reliable . . . field-driven outlets for publication and discovery of digital editions.”

For the next three years, more than 30 leaders from the fields of textual editing, history, and digital humanities will collaborate on building the technical and human infrastructures necessary to make such a publishing pipeline possible. Their work will expand on the few options currently available to editors.

“The NHPRC-Mellon award confirms what we have long known,” said Christian McMillen, associate dean of UVA’s College of Arts and Sciences. “The University of Virginia Press and the Center for Digital Editing are leaders in the field of digital publishing.”

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For more information about the grant, please visit

centerfordigitalediting.org