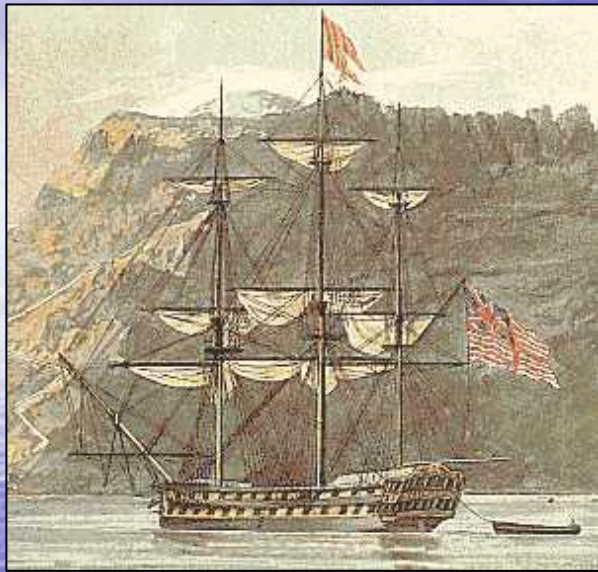


*First in war, first in peace, and  
first in the hearts of his countrymen*

**GEORGE WASHINGTON:  
GOD'S MAN FOR  
AMERICA**

**J. David Rogers, Ph.D.**

# Accidental Immigration



**John Washington** was forced to leave Northamptonshire at age 25 when his father **Lawrence**, the **Rector of Purleigh**, fell from favor when Oliver Cromwell's Parliament overthrew the English king in 1656.

John sailed to America in the ketch *Sea Horse of London* in 1657

- The Sea Horse made landfall in Virginia, but floundered in bad weather off the Virginia Capes on its homeward voyage. Young John was one of the few to escape, by swimming for the Virginia shore, where he began a new life.



# Colonel John Washington

George Washington's great grandfather

- In 1657 John married Anne Pope, whose father gave him 700 acres of land, and their son Lawrence was born in 1659.
- John was known as an honorable man and he received one appointment after another, from Coroner to Justice of the County Court, and was elected to the House of Burgess.
- Anne died in 1668 and John re-married twice more and inherited more property from his second wife
- In 1674 John and Nicolas Spencer purchased 5000 acres along Little Hunting Creek on the south side of the Potomac River.
- In 1675 he received an appointment as Colonel in the Virginia Militia during an Indian War, but he was discredited for the slaughter of some Indians cornered in a blockhouse. This caused him great distress and he passed away in 1-1/2 years later, at age 46.

# Lawrence Washington

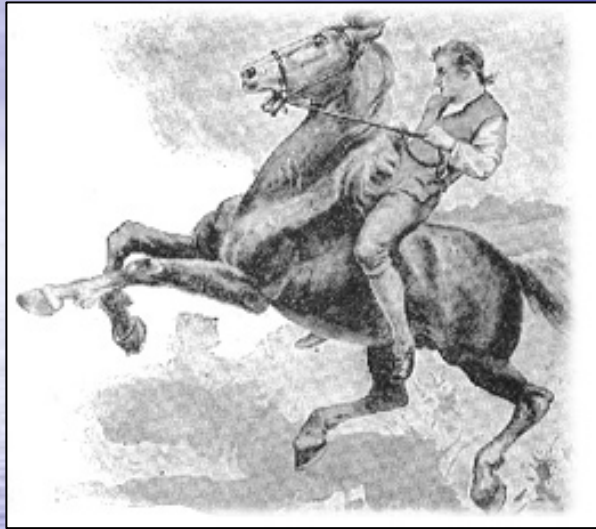
George Washington's grandfather

- Lawrence Washington was educated in England
- Upon his return to Virginia he exerted an interest in the practice of law
- He married Mildred Warner, whose father had been Speaker of the House of Burgess
- He became a sheriff, justice and member of the House of Burgess
- He died at age 38, leaving his home tract to eldest son John, 1,100 acres to second son Augustine, and to infant Mildred some 2,500 acres



# Augustine Washington

George Washington's father



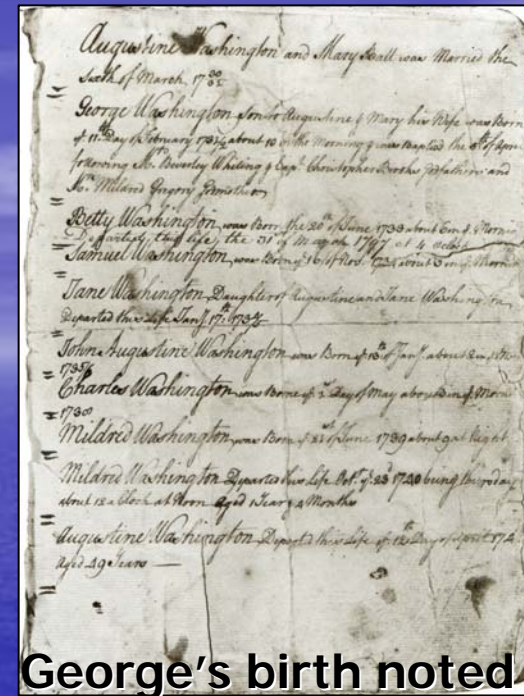
- **Mildred Washington** remarried and moved to England with her 3 children, who attended the **Appleby School** in Westmoreland. They remained in England 4 years, until Mildred died
- **Augustine** returned to Virginia, where he lived a with a cousin
- A blond six footer, **Augustine** was noted for his great physical strength and kindly disposition
- He married **Jane Butler**, whose dowry with his own inheritance set him up with 1,740 acres
- He built a home near the mouth of Pope's Creek on the Potomac Estuary, and purchased his sister's interest in the Little Hunting Creek Tract, upstream



Mary Ball  
Washington

# Family of Augustine and Mary Ball Washington

George Washington's parents



George's birth noted  
in Family Bible

- Augustine's first wife Jane bore him three children: **Lawrence, Augustine, Jr., and Jane**. She died while he was away in England on a trip.
- In 1731 Augustine married 23 yr old **Mary Ball**, whose dowry included 400 acres near the falls of the Rappahannock River. She joined his household on the banks of Pope's Creek
- At 10 AM on February 22, 1732 she gave birth to the first of six children, christening him **George Washington**, some 6 weeks later.





Washington home at  
Pope's Creek

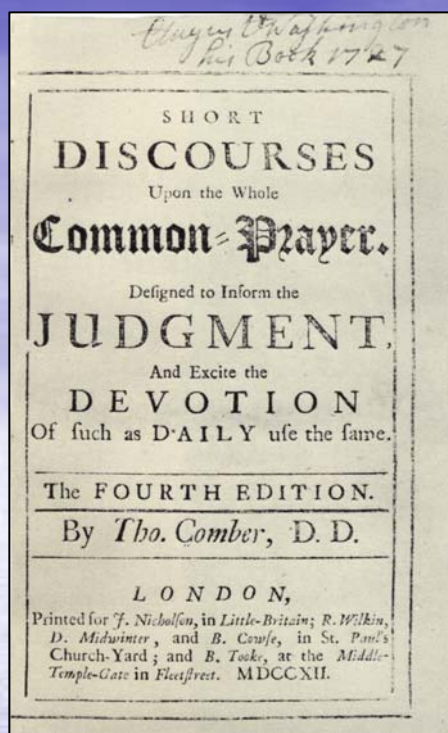


GW birthplace sign



Cabin at Ferry Farm

- **George Washington** lived in many different places in Virginia. He was born at **Pope's Creek**, which is a farm, and lived there till he was three.
- George moved to **Mount Vernon** (Little Hunting Creek) which was also a farm, for another three years.
- Then he moved to **Ferry Farms**. While he lived at Ferry Farms he learned to farm he also learned to ride horses. When George was eleven his father died.
- After that he went to live with his brother **Lawrence**. With Lawrence and his family he lived at Mount Vernon.
- As a kid George loved to ride horses, and he became expert at judging, grooming, and caring for them.



# George Washington's siblings

Sister **Betty** (born 1733); brother **Samuel** (born 1734), brother **John Augustine** (born 1736), brother **Charles** (born 1737), and sister **Mildred** (born 1739).

- George's closest companion was **John Augustine**, whom they called Jack and whom he described as "*the companion of my youth.*"
- George thirsted to be schooled in England, as all his male predecessors, including his older half brothers
- He was largely self-taught, reading his father's library, which included ***Short Discourses upon the Whole Common Prayer***, shown above.



BOSTON ATHENAEUM

THE  
**SUFFICIENCY**  
*Sancti* OF A *Revelation*  
 Standing REVELATION in General,  
 And of the *Revelation*  
*Scripturae* REVELATION in Particular.  
 BOTH  
 As to the Matter of it, and  
 As to the Proof of it;  
 AND  
 That NEW REVELATIONS  
 Cannot Reasonably be Desired, and  
 Would Probably be Unsuccessful.

In Eight SERMONS,  
 Preach'd in the  
 CATHEDRAL-CHURCH of St. Paul, London;  
 At the LECTURE Founded by the Honourable  
 ROBERT BOYLE Esq; in the Year 1700.

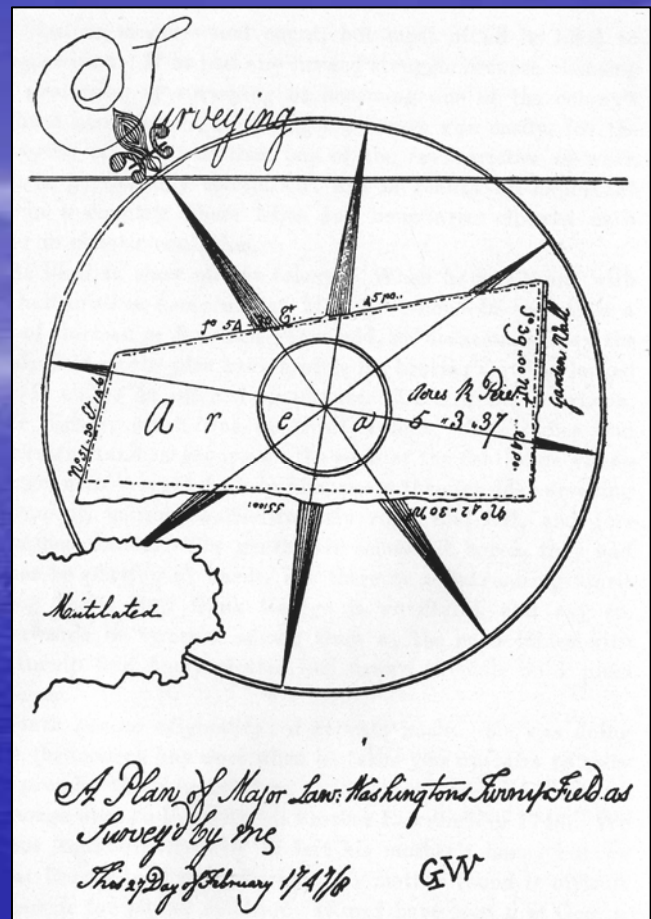
By OFSPRING, Late Lord Bishop of EXETER.

LONDON: Printed for Jer. Batley at the Dove, and T. Waver  
 at the Black-Boy in Peter-Norfolk-street, 1717.

J. D. 172

*Rules of Civility & Decent Behaviour  
 In Company and Conversation.*

- 1 Every Action done in Company ought to be with this design  
 of respect, to show that a civility is  
 2 When in Company put not your hands on your  
 body, nor especially your face  
 3 When talking to your friends that may offend  
 4 In the presence of others say not ill words  
 5 No jeer, nor raillery, nor disputes  
 6 If you laugh, sneeze, cough, or yawn, do it not loud  
 7 If you are speaking, do not interrupt  
 8 If you are speaking, do not interrupt  
 9 If you are speaking, do not interrupt  
 10 If you are speaking, do not interrupt  
 11 If you are speaking, do not interrupt  
 12 If you are speaking, do not interrupt



- George acquired knowledge of arithmetic and penmanship through self study at home; these shows penmanship on his **mother's Bible** (left), His own **Rules of Civility & Decent Behavior** (middle) and a **survey** of brother Lawrence's turnip field (right).

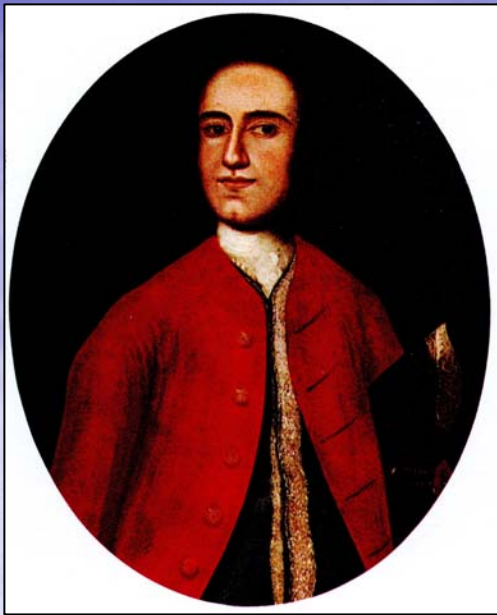


Painting of Lawrence  
Washington (1718-52)

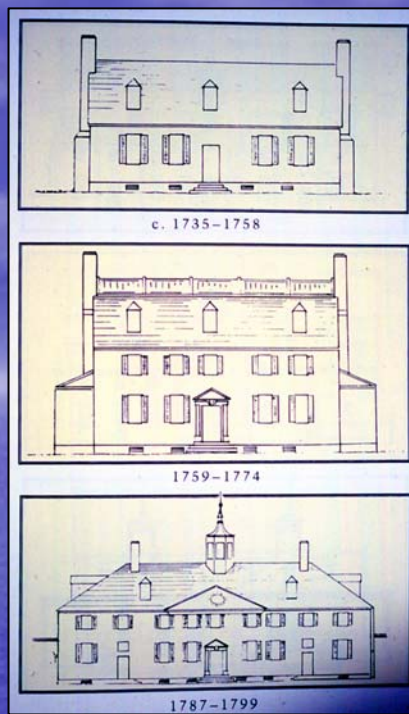
# Influence of older brother Lawrence

- The telling event in young George's life was his older brother's military service, which began in the fall of **1740**, when George was 8.
- 400 Virginia soldiers sailed to the Caribbean to assault the Spanish port of **Cartagena**
- The naval squadron was commanded by English **Admiral Edward Vernon** and the assault troops by **General Thomas Wentworth**
- Lawrence wrote letters home during the two years he was away, which influenced George to pursue a military career





Lawrence Washington



Admiral Edward Vernon

- A year after Lawrence's return Augustine Washington died in 1743, leaving 8 children. **George was just 11 years old, the eldest of six. This dashed any hopes George had of being schooled in England.**
- Lawrence, being the eldest son, received the largest share, 10,000 acres, including the Little Hunting Creek land, which he renamed "Mount Vernon" in honor of Admiral Vernon (above right).
- Young George received Ferry Farm, half of a poor 4300 acre tract, 10 slaves, and 3 lots in Fredericksburg; but his mother was to administer all of this property until he "came of age" to her satisfaction.
- He did not receive this inheritance from his mother for another 30 years.



Lawrence Washington  
in uniform

# Alliance between the Washingtons and Fairfaxes

- Shortly after inheriting the Mount Vernon Estate on Little Hunting Creek in 1643, Lawrence married Anne Fairfax, daughter of Colonel William Fairfax, the cousin and agent of Lord Thomas Fairfax, sole owner of 1.5 million acres of land known as the Northern Neck of Virginia", between the Potomac and Rappahannock Rivers.

- With Anne's hand came a considerable dowry of 4000 acres and an alliance with the most powerful and influential family in northern Virginia, based in Belvoir, a short distance upstream of Mt. Vernon
- Lawrence's connections to the Fairfax family would loom large in the development of George as one of the great personages of history.
- Lawrence was appointed Adjutant of the Virginia Militia with the rank of major and was elected to the House of Burgess.





# Lawrence mentors George



- Five years after his father died in 1743, George (16) moved in with Lawrence's family at Mt. Vernon, where he had a profound impact on George's maturation
- When George was 14 he was eager to seek a military career and escape the chores and responsibilities put upon him by his overbearing mother. Lawrence secured a **midshipman's warrant** for George in the Royal Navy, and thought he had secured his mother's permission.
- George packed his bags, had them shipped to the man-of-war he was assigned and was about to board when his mother refused to grant her consent, writing that he would be better off "*being apprenticed to a tinker than going to sea.*" In such manner did one over-bearing mother save her son to become a frontiersman, surveyor, general, and the father of his country!

# OFF TO THE FRONTIER AT AGE 16



George William Fairfax (1724-87)

- In March 1748 16-yr old George Washington and George William Fairfax (23), the son of Colonel Fairfax, accompanied a professional surveyor charged with mapping the Fairfax land holdings west of the Blue Ridge Mountains, including the unsettled lands of the Shenandoah Valley.





Thomas, 6<sup>th</sup> Lord of Fairfax



- Young Washington and George Fairfax spent a month surveying, camping, hunting, cooking over open fires and observing Indian war dances.
- This taste of the raw frontier was the galvanizing experience of Washington's young life and shaped his destiny.





# Surveyor's Apprentice and Surveyor

- At age 17 Washington began his first paying job, assisting in the survey of Alexandria, VA
- Following this, he was appointed surveyor of Culpepper County in July 1749 (age 17)
- Between 1749-51 he made numerous surveys of the northwest frontier for Lord Fairfax





# Surveying and Acquiring Western Lands

- Washington also surveyed lands west of the Allegheny Mountains for the **Ohio Company**, a consortium formed by his brother Lawrence, Virginia Lieutenant Governor Robert Dinwiddie, some of their Northern Neck neighbors and several influential English businessmen.
- The consortium was given a grant for 200,000 acres and young George was paid one pound English sterling per day to survey the land.
- By the spring of 1750, 18-year old George had saved enough to purchase 1,459 acres along Bullskin Creek, a tributary of the Shenandoah River, over the Blue Ridge Mountains.





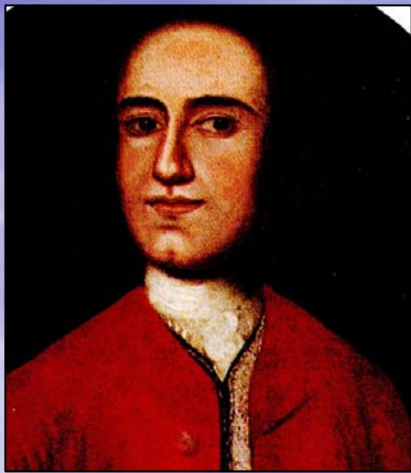
- During this same period George became captivated with the young bride of his wealthy neighbor and camp mate, George William Fairfax.
- Just after their return from the reconnaissance of the Shenandoah Valley in 1748, **George Fairfax** married **Sarah (Sally) Carey**, an attractive, vivacious and high-spirited woman two years older than Washington.



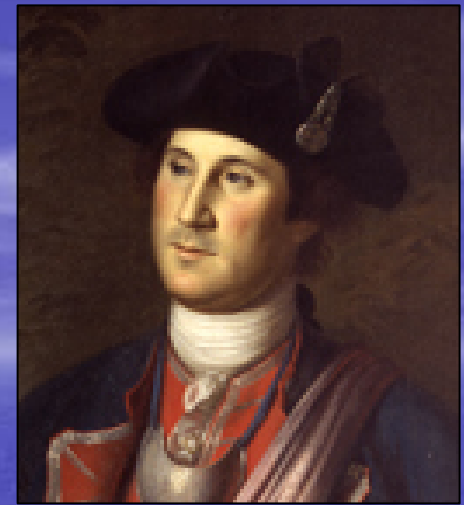


**Romanticized portrayal of Washington being smitten by Sally Fairfax (Mead Schaeffer, 1958).**

- Though nothing disrespectful ever came from the relationship, letters from Washington to Sally between 1758 and 1798 reveal his admiration and love for her between the time he was 16 and 26 years old.
- She and her husband moved to England in 1774, never to return to Virginia. George Fairfax never received his expected title or inheritance and died in 1787.
- Washington's ability to maintain control, in the most difficult of human circumstances, remains a testament to his exceptional qualities of moral and physical willpower.



# Caribbean travels and a rebuffed proposition



- In **September 1751** George made his only trip abroad, to **Barbados** and **Bermuda** with **Lawrence**, who had contracted tuberculosis in the spring of 1749 while serving as a member of the House of Burgess in Williamsburg.
- George accompanied Lawrence until January 1752, when he returned to Virginia and his surveying business. He purchased additional lands adjacent to Bullskin Creek.
- Later in 1752, George (age 20) propositioned **Betsy Flauntleroy**, the daughter of a wealthy Richmond County planter. But, her father turned him down on account that "*he was not suitably positioned in life to deserve her*". That would all soon change, but in the interim, Betsy was betrothed to another.





# Lawrence dies in July 1752 and Mt Vernon passes to George in 1754

- **Lawrence Washington** died in **July 1752**, leaving 3 lots in Fredericksburg to George.
- Although Lawrence willed his Mt. Vernon estate to his widow Anne and their daughter, he added a provision that was to profoundly effect American history: that being if George survived Anne, and if Lawrence's daughter "died without issue" (without any heirs), then George was to receive Mt. Vernon and its adjacent lands.
- As was the custom of the era, six months after Lawrence's death his widow remarried Colonel George Lee in January 1753. Lawrence's only child, Sarah Washington, died in 1754 and in December of that year her mother Anne offered to lease Mt. Vernon for the balance of her life to George. When she passed away in **1761**, he inherited the estate in full.

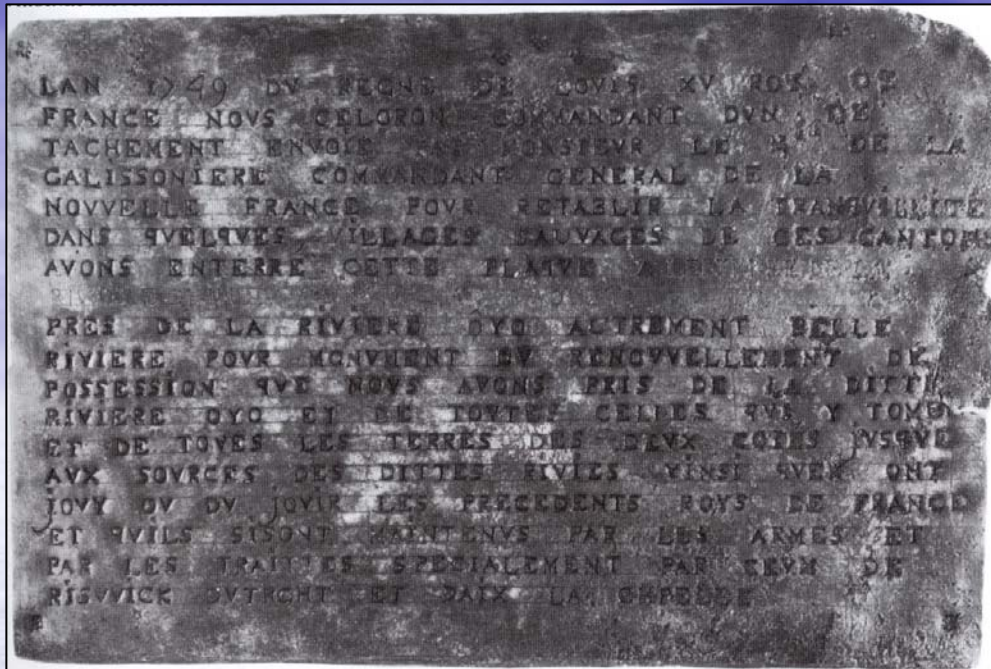


# Appointment as Major of Virginia Militia- Dec 1752

- Among the positions Lawrence held was that of **Adjutant General** of the **Virginia Militia**.
- When George learned that the office of Adjutant was being divided into four districts, he wrote to **Lt Governor Dinwiddie** to apply for an appointment as adjutant to one of the districts.
- In **December 1752**, George was made Adjutant of the Southern District, which carried with it the rank of Major and a salary of £100 pounds per annum.
- George's connections and work experience for the Ohio Company, of which Dinwiddie was part, undoubtedly set the stage for such an appointment at the **age of 20**, but such were the ways of the untamed and unforgiving frontier. Men willing to take risks were often accorded considerable trust.

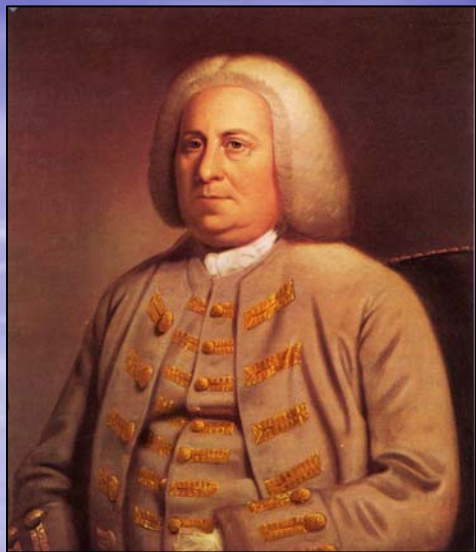


# French Claims on the Ohio Valley 1749-53

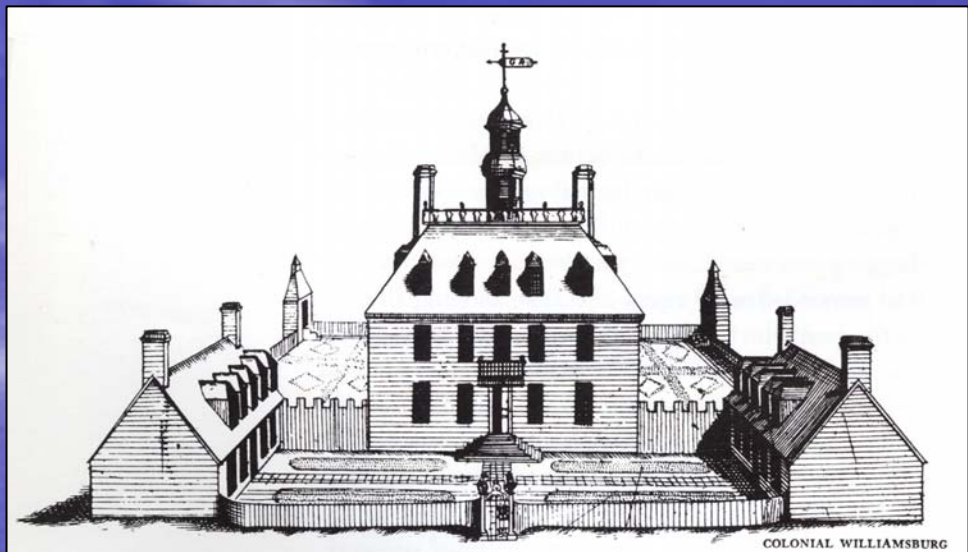


- In **1749** French fur traders based out of Quebec crossed into the headwaters of the Ohio Basin and began laying claim to the lands west of the Allegheny Mountains, burying lead plates and nailing tin plaques to trees as part of their claim. Word of this filtered back to coastal Virginia, whose territorial claims extended west to the Mississippi River.
- The nuisance turned serious in **1753** when news of French Forts along the principal rivers of the upper Ohio Basin reached Lt. Governor Dinwiddie, threatening his Ohio Company's claims to these same lands.
- In **October 1753** Virginia Governor Dinwiddie received word from King George II to proceed with building English forts on the Ohio River and to send a mission to determine whether the French were intruding on English soil. He was further advised that such emissaries should "*require the French to peaceably depart*", and that if they refused, "*We do strictly command you to drive them out by force of arms*".





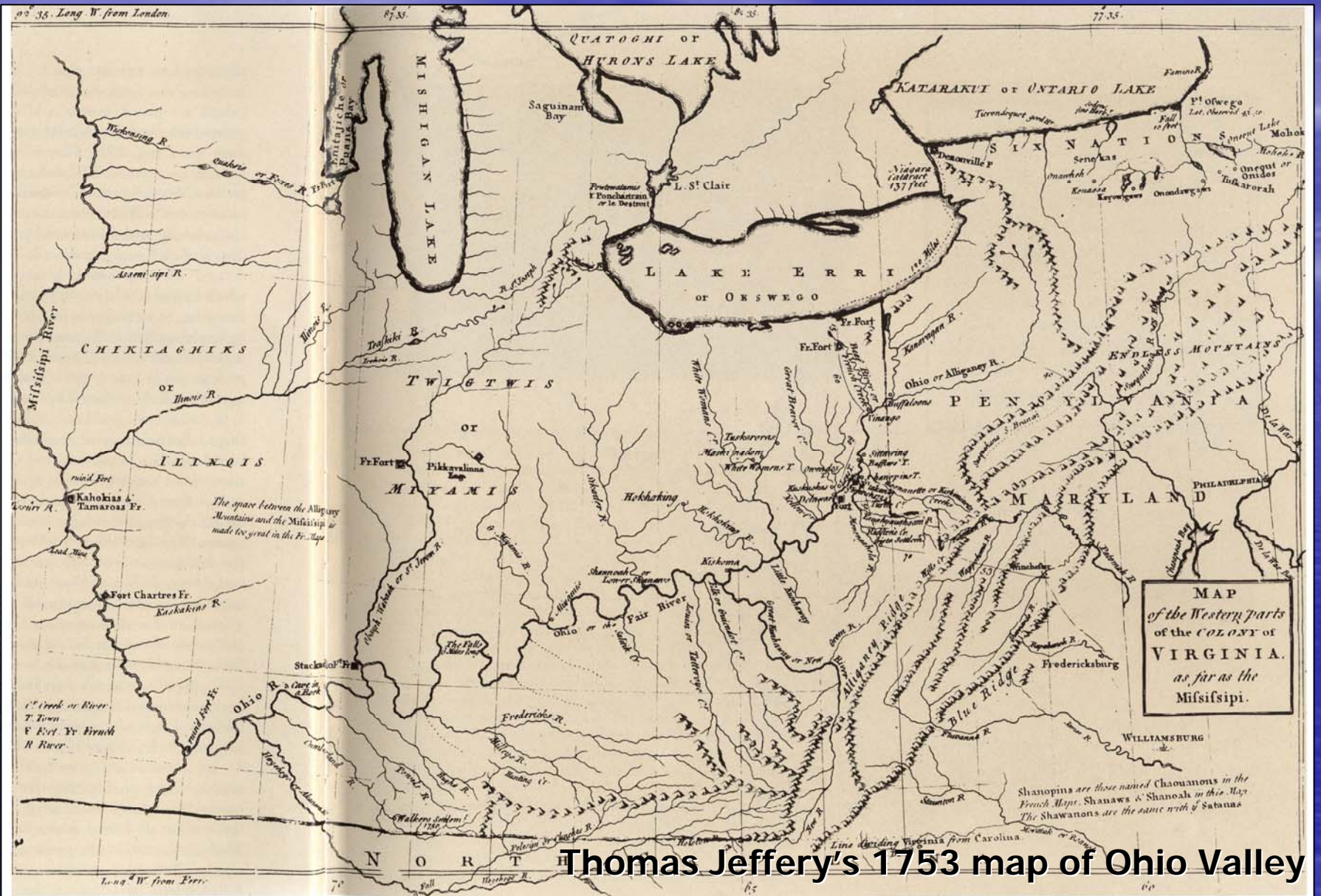
Governor Dinwiddie



Virginia's Governor's Palace in 1747

- Hearing of these developments from his friend Colonel Fairfax, who was on the Governor's Council, **Major Washington (now 21 years old)** volunteered to be the messenger to visit upon the French in the Valley of the Ohio River.
- Years later, Washington wrote of this: "*It was deemed by some an extraordinary circumstance that so young and inexperienced a person should have been employed on a negotiation with which the subjects of the greatest importance were involved*".
- **Dinwiddie** would have been hard-pressed to find a better man for the job, because the task entailed great hardships and an acute ability to traverse and navigate a wide expanse of unexplored country, in the dead of winter.

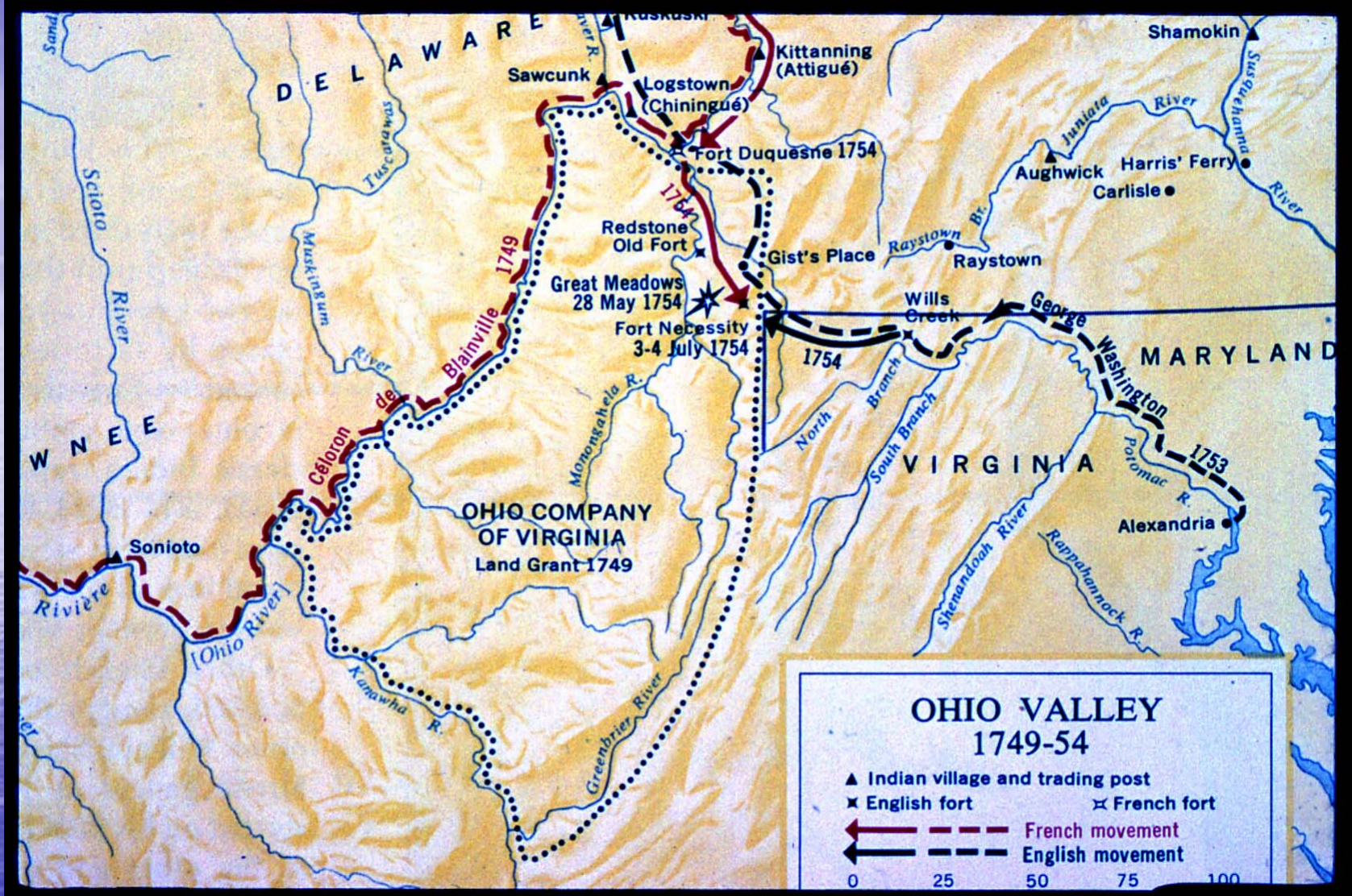




**Thomas Jeffery's 1753 map of Ohio Valley**

- Washington's mission was to request the French to peaceably depart the Ohio Valley region, where they were constructing a string of protective forts.





- With the help of Ohio Valley explorer William Gist, Washington made it to the Forks of the Ohio, where the Allegheny and Monongahela Rivers converge, at what is now Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. There Washington built a small fort and parlayed with Indians to explore the whereabouts of the nearest French outpost, Fort LeBoeuf, on French Creek near present day Waterford, PA.



# First Expedition to The Forks of the Ohio

- Washington's party reached **Fort LeBoeuf** on **December 12<sup>th</sup>, 1753** where Washington presented Governor Dinwiddie's demand for Marquis Duquesne, the French Governor of Canada.
- The Fort's commander said he would forward the message to his superiors and pen a reply for young Washington to take back to Governor Dinwiddie in Williamsburg.
- 10 days later Washington was given a sealed envelope with the French response, which Washington did not open, but delivered to Williamsburg. In his response the French commander politely refused to the English request to retire from the region, given his superior strength in numbers.
- Washington's real mission was that of **gathering intelligence** on the French dispositions in the region, , which he did admirably well.

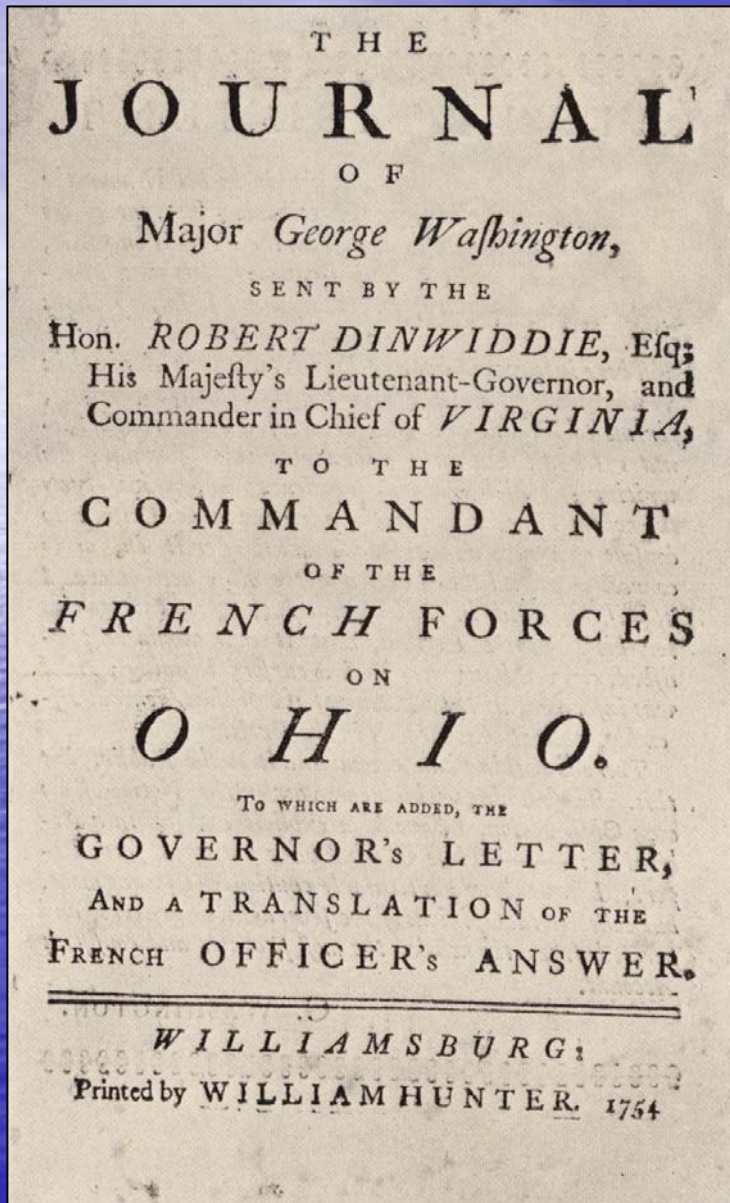
# DANGEROUS JOURNEY



- Washington experienced many hardships in retracing his steps back across the Alleghenies during the winter, it snowing almost the entire time.
- He and William Gist were ambushed by a traitorous Indian guide, but managed to made it to John Frazier's trading post by New Years Day 1754
- He continued on alone to report back to the Colonial government in Williamsburg on January 16th, after spending a day paying his respects to George and Sally Fairfax at Belvoir, along the way.



# International Figure at Age 22



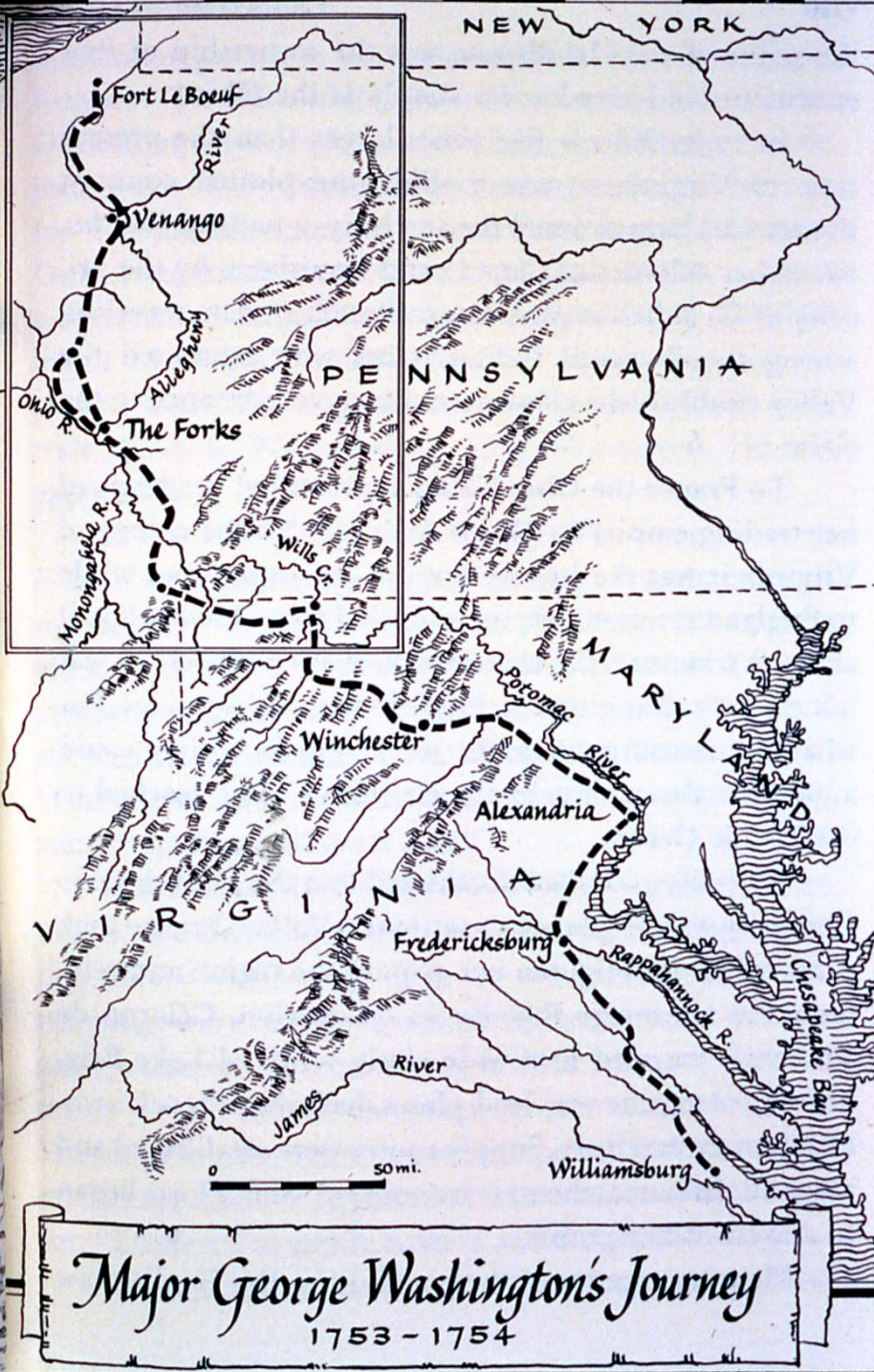
- At Dinwiddie's request, Washington wrote an official report of his mission in just 24 hours, drawing from the "*rough minutes he kept on the trip*", complete with a detailed map.
- This 7000 word essay was soon published as "*The Journal of Major George Washington*" in the colonies and reprinted in the *London Magazine* in June 1754, an event which placed young Washington in a position of considerable notoriety on both sides of the Atlantic.



# Map of Washington's route to Fort LeBoeuf

This is the overview map of Washington's route that appeared in the Journal of Major Washington in 1754

This volume was valuable propaganda for Governor Dinwiddie, as it drew attention to French activities, and, most importantly, to stated goals of occupying the Ohio Valley, west of the English Colonies.







# Surveying background proves valuable

Washington drew a remarkably accurate map of the French forts along the upper Ohio River in his Journal. This illustrated his value as a pathfinder and military officer, bringing him considerable notoriety at age 22.

# Colonial Lieutenant Colonel leads second expedition to Forks of the Ohio in April 1754



- Washington headed west again in April 1754, newly promoted to Lieutenant Colonel of the Virginia Militia and in command of 140 men. He was now 22 years old.
- A smaller group had been dispatched ahead to build an English fort at the Forks of the Ohio, but had been chased away by a superior French force.
- Washington cut a road to the Ohio Company's storehouse at the mouth of Redstone Creek on the Monongahela River, about 37 miles upstream of The Forks of the Ohio. They were constructing the first road west of the Allegheny Mountains.

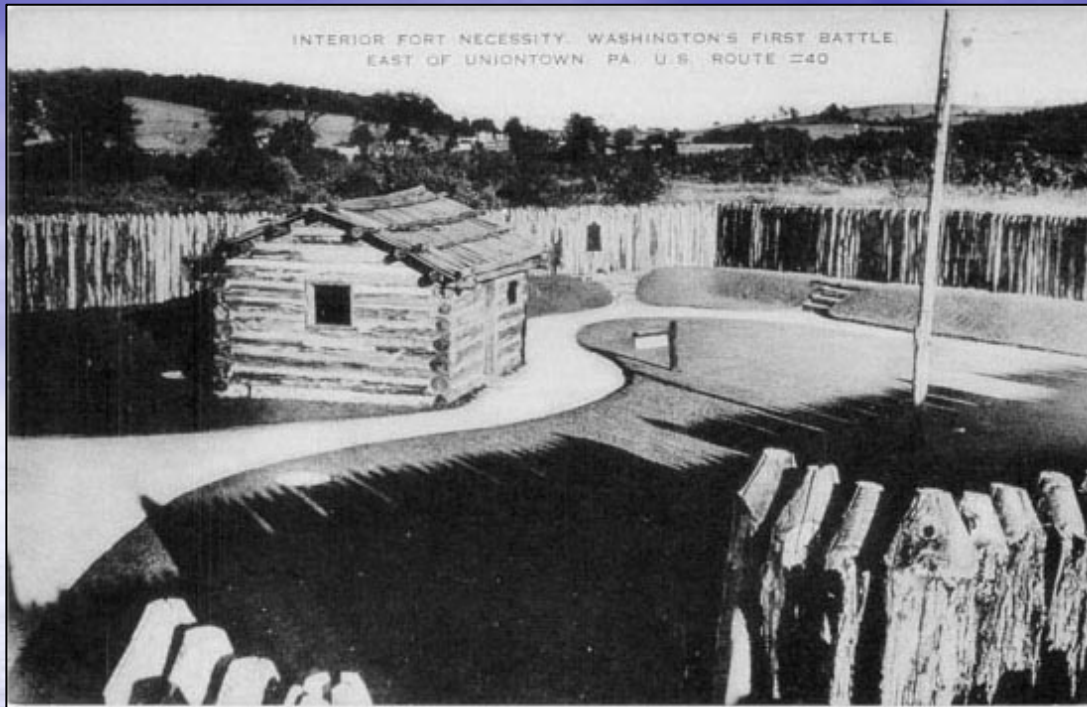




## Ambush of the French diplomatic mission sent to parlay with Washington

- Upon hearing of Washington's advance, the superior French force of 800 men dispatched a diplomatic mission headed by Ensign Joseph de Jumonville with 33 men and an interpreter to find out what the English were doing and ask them to depart.
- Washington was warned of the French party's approach, and not knowing their intention was simply to parley with him, he assumed them to be an attack party.
- The French were ambushed and ten Frenchmen, including Jumonville, were killed (Jumonville was actually executed with a hatchet by one the Indian scouts after having surrendered to Washington's forces).

INTERIOR FORT NECESSITY. WASHINGTON'S FIRST BATTLE.  
EAST OF UNIONTOWN, PA. U.S. ROUTE 240



# Awaiting the French Onslaught at Fort Necessity

- After the dust died down Washington recognized that the superior French forces would soon react to the loss of Jumonville's party and feel obliged to respond; preying destruction on his smaller intruding force.
- Washington's superior Colonel Joshua Fry had died while en route, behind the main force, so Washington assumed command as a full Colonel in charge of the Virginia forces.
- Washington ordered the construction of an emergency stockade around their camp at the Great Meadows and christened it "**Fort Necessity**". Unfortunately, it lay below the surrounding terrain, a fatal error in military engineering.
- He advised Governor Dinwiddie by letter that their force might soon be annihilated by the French, promising that the Virginians would stand their ground and do their duty, whatever fate pressed upon them.





# Surrender of Fort Necessity July 3, 1754

- On the morning of **July 3, 1754** Washington's garrison came under a withering fire surrounding all points of their small stockade. Men began dropping everywhere, unable to effectively return the incoming fire, for the attackers were concealed in the woods surrounding the meadows, and the fort was situated below the level of the forest.
- It was a poor place to build a fort unless attacking troops were slowly advancing in smart orderly rows. But, that wasn't how trappers and Indians fought on the frontier. Several hours into the fire-fight it began raining hard, and the Virginian's powder became useless, so they were obliged to avail themselves to surrender.
- The French commander was **Coulon de Villiers**, elder brother of the slain Jumonville. All he required of Washington was for him to sign a surrender document, march out of the fort with the honors of war, carry off their wounded, and return to Virginia.

Jacob Varnembrane et Robert Scobbe tous  
deux capitaines, nous seront remis en otage  
jusqu'à l'arrivée de nos Canadiens et Français  
cy dessus mentionnés.

nous nous obligons de notre côté à  
donner l'écrite pour Remener en sûreté les  
deux officiers qui nous promettent nos  
français dans deux mois et demi pour  
le plus tard

fait double sur un des côtés de  
notre blocus ce jour et au que dessus

James Mackay, Esq. Washington

Coulonville

Capitulation accordée par Le Commandant des  
troupes de Sa Majesté les Catholiques à celui  
des troupes anglaises actuellement dans le  
fort de nécessité qui voit être confiant sur  
les terres du Domaine du Roy.  
Le 3 juillet 1754 à huit heures du Soir

Savois.

Comme notre intention ne jamais été  
de troubler la pais et la bonne harmonie  
qui devoit l'être. Les deux princes amis,  
mais seulement de venger La mort qui a  
été fait par un de nos officiers porteur  
d'une sommation et sur son licence, comme  
aupre d'empêcher aucun établissement sur  
les terres du Domaine du Roy mon maître.

a ces Considérations nous voulons bien  
accorder Grace à tous les anglais qui sont  
dans le dit fort aux conditions cy apris  
article 1<sup>er</sup>.

nous accordons au commandant anglais  
de ce fort avec toute la garnison  
pour son retourne paisiblement dans  
son pays et luy promettons d'empêcher qu'il

- Washington was embarrassed to admit that he could not read French, so he signed the surrender document and began the long trip back across the Alleghenies with 70 wounded and his battered force.
- When Washington returned to Williamsburg he was dealt an even harsher blow. The document he had signed was written in French, but every regular English officer was taught to read French in English schools. De Villiers had cleverly used the word "*l'assassinat*" to describe the death of his brother Jumonville, so Washington had signed a legal document admitting he, on then behalf of England, had murdered a French officer serving as a diplomat, an unlawful act.





# Washington's dream of becoming a regular Royal Army Officer is dashed

- The surrender document was a source of great embarrassment for Governor Dinwiddie, who was obliged to issue a written criticism of Washington's *"late action with the French"* in which Dinwiddie said Washington *"were by no means to attack the enemy till all of the forces were joined."*
- To this local humiliation was added more grave admonitions emanating from London and Paris. The English Ambassador to France, General Lord Ablemarle, declared that *"Washington and many Such may have courage and resolution, but they have no Knowledge or Experience in our Profession: consequently there can be no dependence on them. Officers, & good ones, must be sent to Discipline the Militia [colonial forces], and to Lead them on"*.



# Breakup of the Virginia Regiment and resignation on eve of French & Indian War

- On the heels of the Fort Necessity fiasco came the mobilization of state militias called by the governors of Maryland, Virginia and North Carolina to combine their forces under the Maryland Governor.
- This had the effect of breaking the Virginia Regiment into individual companies, commanded by captains.
- Since Washington would be demoted three ranks, he resigned from the Virginia Militia and again took up residence at Mt. Vernon.



THE *George Washington*  
FIELD  
ENGINEER.

Translated from the FRENCH of  
M. le Chevalier DE CLAIRAC,  
BY  
Captain CHARLES VALLANCEY.

To which are added,

REMARKS  
ON  
Marshall SAXE's new System of  
FORTIFICATION,  
Proposed in his REVERIES, or Memoirs on the  
ART of WAR.

*Fas est et ab Hoste doceri.*

DUBLIN:

Printed for JOHN SMITH, at the Philosophers Heads  
on the Blind-Quay. MDCCLVIII.

# "Seeking knowledge of the military art"

- In February 1755 King George II dispatched **Major General Edward Braddock** to Virginia with two regiments of regulars, with orders to remove the offending French presence from the upper Ohio Basin.
- Washington wrote to Braddock congratulating him on his arrival and assert *that "I wish for nothing more earnestly than to attain a small degree of knowledge in the military art"*.

- In **March 1755** he received a reply from Braddock's aide-de-camp informing him that it was the General's desire *to "join Braddock's entourage"*, without official rank. Braddock's staff had been impressed by what they had learned of Washington in Williamsburg, and knew they could benefit from his navigational skills and experience in reaching the Forks of the Ohio.
- In late March Braddock's forces assembled at Alexandria and Washington was offered a **brevet captaincy in the English Army**, but politely refused, preferring to serve as a volunteer and hoping that if he proved indispensable, something more rewarding might be in the offing (such as a commission in the regular Royal Army).



# Mother's Opposition to his military career

- On the eve of Washington's departure with Braddock's forces, **Mary Ball Washington** unexpectedly appeared in Alexandria from Ferry Farm and announced that she "**was alarmed at the report**" that George planned to accompany Braddock into the field and that she had come to prevent his impending departure.
- Now 23, this must have been an embarrassing scene for the ambitious military leader, arguing with his mother in a village small enough for every word to be heard and spread with lightning speed.
- A **long argument ensued**, she complaining he was neglecting his duty to her, he protesting that it was service to King and Country that called, that he was too much a part of the entire episode with the French in the Ohio Valley to just walk away now.
- Finally, Washington rode away to join Braddock's force in Frederick, leaving his younger brother Jack in charge at Mt. Vernon.





- **Mary Ball Washington** would continue to complain of her son's inattention to her throughout the War of Independence, while he was Commander-in-Chief of the American forces and obliged to ignore his own family and estate.
- Her "*raw connections*" (her mother was illiterate) were a source parlor room gossip by properly pedigreed English society, throughout Washington's lifetime. Considering her lineage, she performed admirably in managing the family affairs.
- Washington purchased this home in Fredericksburg for her in 1772, before the War of Independence, and she lived here long enough to see him inaugurated at the fledgling nation's first president in 1789, dying later that year at the age of 81.

# Famous Roster of Participants

- The Braddock Expedition included **Washington**, Daniel Boone, **Maj Horatio Gates**, **Maj Thomas Gage**, Christopher Gist, Dr. James Craik, **Daniel Morgan**, Cpt. Roger Morris, George Croghan, **Adam Stephen**, **Charles Lee**, and Indian Chief Pontiac.
- Eight of these became generals in the American Revolution, one C-in-C of the British Forces, two considered for C-in-C of American forces, and one became President of the United States





**Thomas Gage 1721-87**



**Charles Lee 1731-82**



**Horatio Gates 1728-1806**



**Daniel Morgan 1736-1802**



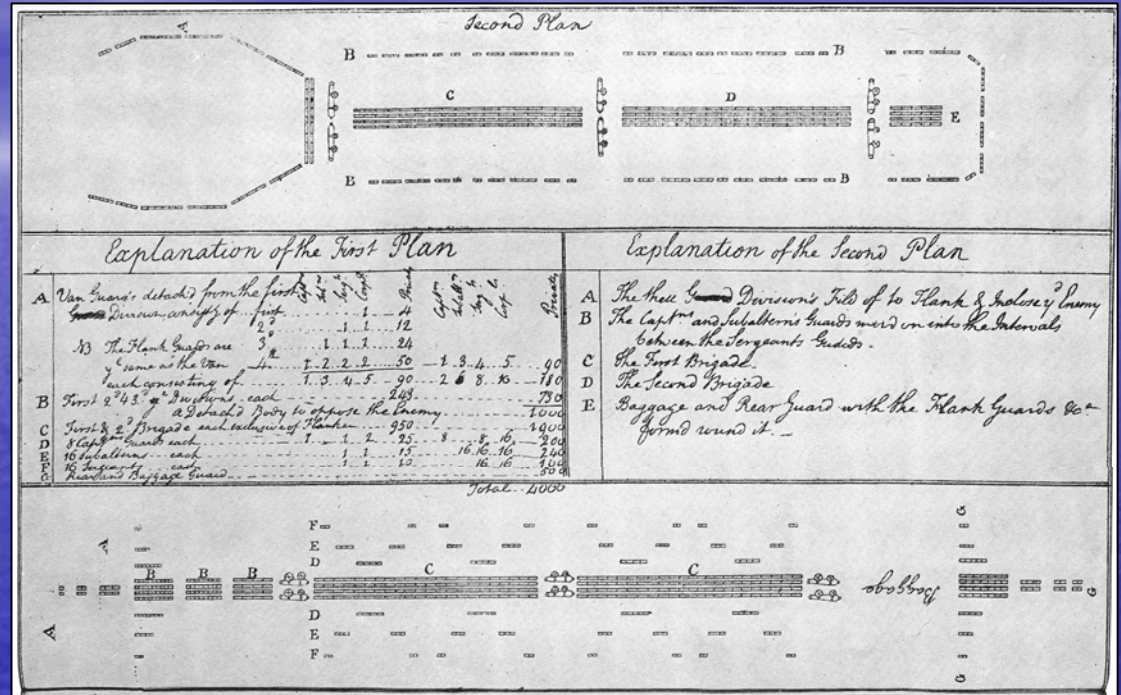
**Robert Orme 1725-90**



**Daniel Boone 1735-1820**



# Rebuffed Suggestions



Washington's suggested line of march for General Braddock

- Like many Royal Army officers, **General Braddock** refused the advice of a colonial officer, bluntly informing Washington that when the time came for battle, his regular forces would show the colonials a thing or two about military discipline and deportment.



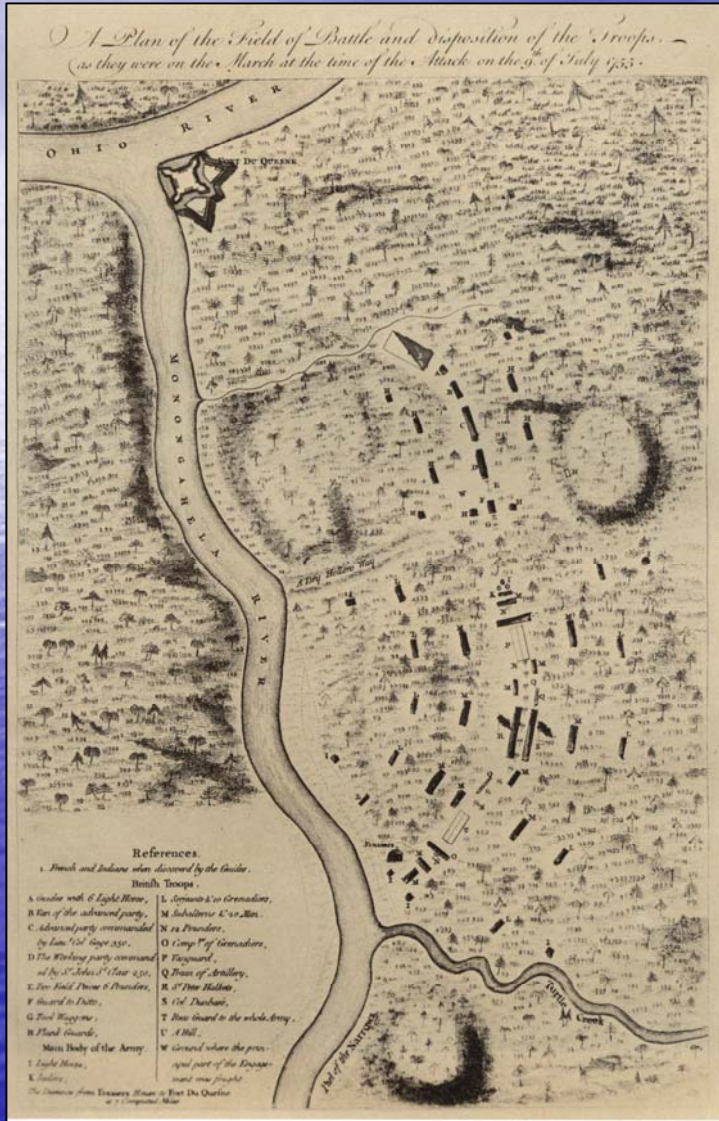


# Overconfidence and a snail's pace through the unblazed wilderness

- Instead of heeding Washington's advice to dispense with wagons, Braddock set about to pull everything he was accustomed to carrying through the unblazed wilderness.
- His force soon became badly dispersed over a distance of almost 20 miles! Washington continued advising against using wagons, but Braddock refused his every suggestion.
- Discouraged, Washington contracted a severe case of dysentery and was obliged to ride in a wagon in the rear of the traveling force.
- Braddock eventually relented and adopted Washington's suggestion to take an advance force of 1200 men forward without wagons, leaving Washington behind. But, the advance force was badgered by marauding Indians, who delighted in taking scalps, a practice which terrified the British regulars.



# Braddock's force slaughtered



- Washington regained sufficient strength to rejoin the advancing Braddock on July 8th, along the Monongahela River about 12 miles upstream of The Forks of the Ohio.
- The English force was spread out over a mile-long track and were hoping to ford the Monongahela twice on July 9th, while sending Major Gage forward with an advance force to protect the fords from ambush.
- Around 2:30 PM Gage's troops were ambushed and the terrified redcoats broke ranks and ran in retreat, causing mass confusion. Braddock and the other officers tried to calm the terrified men, but to no avail.
- The red-coated British made fine targets, especially their mounted officers, all of whom, except for Washington, were either wounded or killed in this engagement.
- Colonial troops tried to get into the woods and fight the French on their own terms, but were fired upon by their British allies, who mistook them for the enemy.



# "Bullet proof" hero of the Monongahela



- The defeat was one of the worst in British colonial history. Washington played the significant role in saving what was left of the beaten expedition, burying Braddock in the road at night and running wagons over the grave to conceal it.
- Indians fighting along side the French would later testify that "*Washington was bullet proof*", that they had repeatedly tried to shoot him, but all attempts being unsuccessful.
- Washington had two horses shot out from under him, his hat was shot off, and his coat was pierced by four bullet holes. In 1932 a tourist unearthed an indented silver button with the inscription "GW", which appears to have come from Washington's uniform.
- Of the force of 1,459 men, 914 men and 63 officers had been killed or wounded, and **Washington was Braddock's only aide to escape unscathed.** The 23-year old Washington was lauded as the real hero of an otherwise disastrous expedition.



# Colonial Colonel and national hero



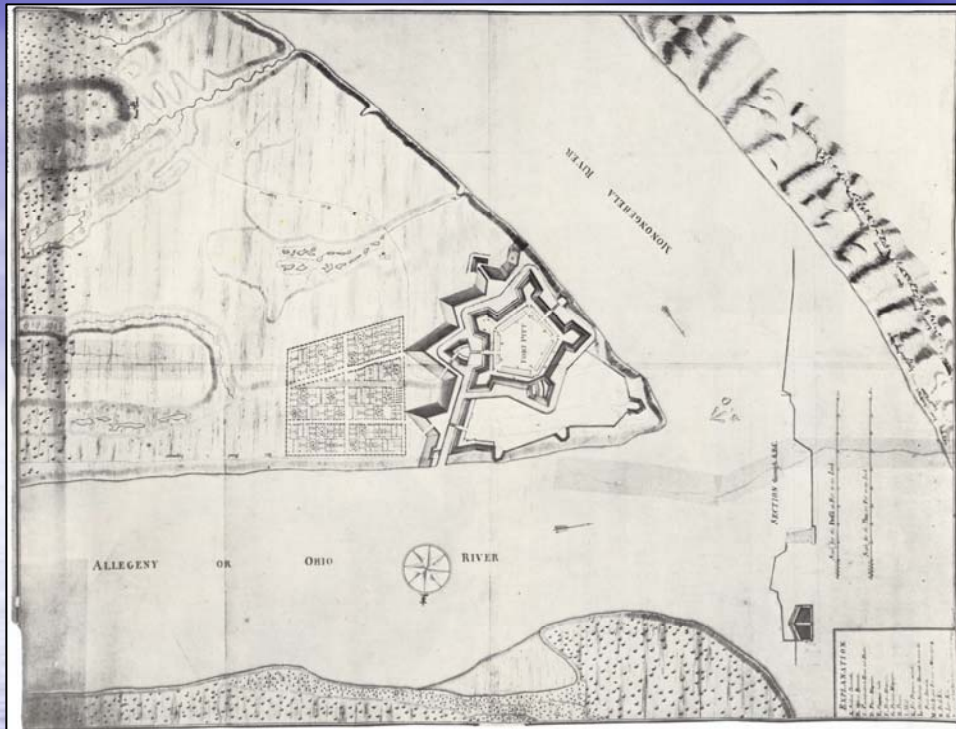
- Upon their return to Virginia Washington was the subject of considerable acclaim. Braddock's aide-de-camp, Major Orme, described him as an example of "*the greatest courage and resolution*".
- Governor Dinwiddie again established the Virginia Regiment and named young **Washington as its Colonel**. During **1755-56** Washington established a chain of far-flung outposts.
- In **May 1756** the English declared war on France and in the colonies this became known as the "**French & Indian War**", whereupon the French Province of Canada fell to the English.
- Washington hoped his efforts would secure him a commission in the regular British Army, but this was never to be. He lacked a suitably influential patron, had little actual experience under command of regular forces, and lacked the **2000 pounds** sterling needed to secure a commission of a major.
- Washington made numerous appeals to the English military leadership in Philadelphia, was always rebuffed. Years later, many English officers assumed this was Washington's motivation for commanding the insurgent colonial forces.



# Washington's Fourth Trip to the Forks of the Ohio

- Between **August 1757** and **April 1758** he again contracted dysentery and was forced to convalesce at Mt. Vernon before returning to duty just in time for the last British expedition to the Forks of the Ohio (his 4th trip).
- The English mounted an all-out three-pronged offensive, one of which was aimed at Fort Duquesne, at the confluence of the Allegheny and Monongahela Rivers (in present day Pittsburgh).
- To Washington's delight, the English had finally decided to recognize the rank precedence of colonial field officers in comparison to regular officers, a first. This meant that **Washington, as a Colonel, outranked regular British officers of Lt. Colonel and below**. This brought him considerable respect, at least in theory.
- Washington was placed under the command of **British Brigadier John Forbes**, leading the expedition to Duquesne. Like Braddock, Forbes declined advice from colonial officers. Forbes and his second in command had a long-standing dispute with Washington that persisted throughout the expedition and was to embitter Washington for many years.
- Forbes decided to use Philadelphia as a base of operations instead of Alexandria, and began constructing a new road to the Forks of the Ohio. While his men cut the new "*Great Road*" into the Ohio Valley, Forbes contracted an illness to which he would succumb. The British slogged on, Forbes being determined to carry out his orders, no matter the cost.

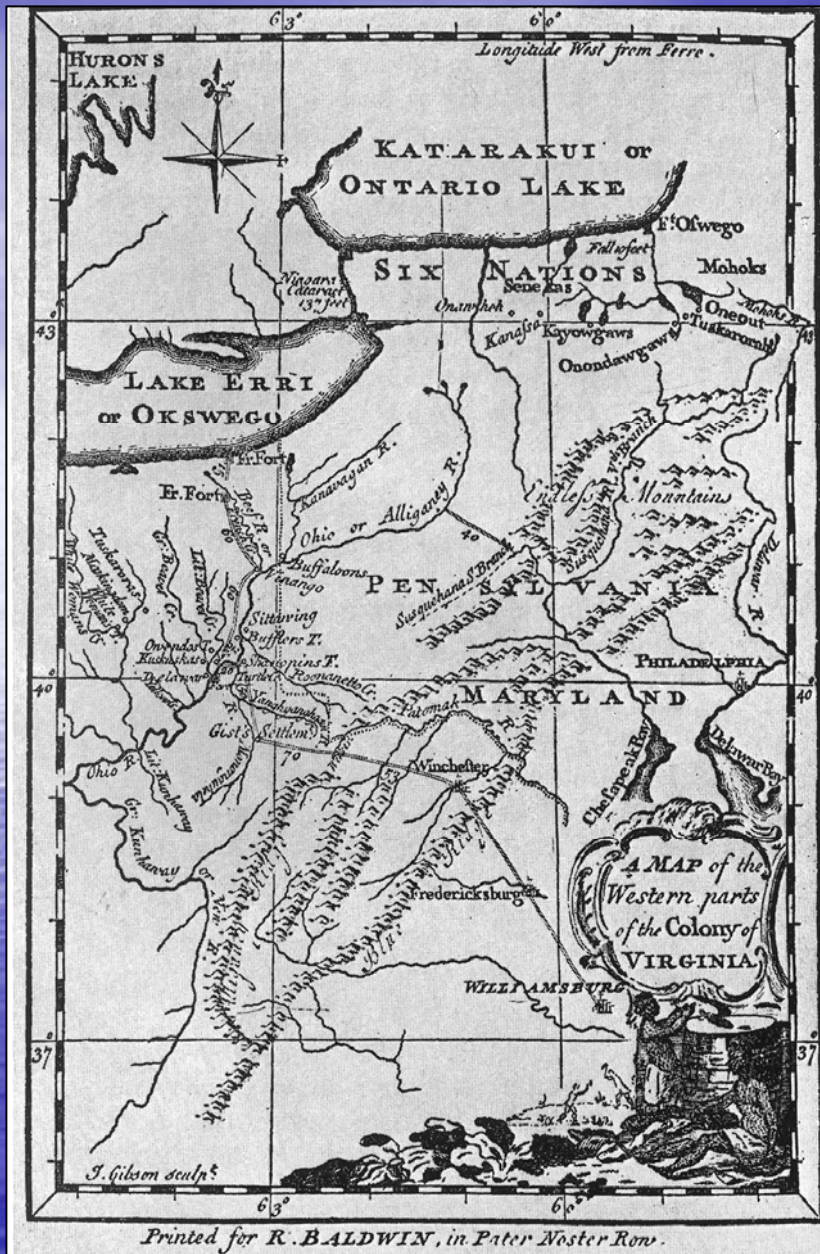
# Capture of Fort Duquesne November 1758



- Believing Forbes wouldn't strike until spring, the French commander sent most of his men back to Canada for the winter. When Forbes numerically superior force arrived in late November 1758, the French destroyed their cannon and evacuated Fort Duquesne, leaving the English to their prize.
- On Christmas morning 1758 Washington viewed the spot where the French fort was being transformed into Fort Pitt. It was a sour note upon which to end the five years of seeking to secure the Forks of the Ohio. There would be no avenging of the disastrous engagements of the past, the war in the west was now concluded.



# French & Indian War 1756-63



- Forbes held a council at Fort Bedford with the Indian tribes of region, establishing peace between them and the British. When the French realized they would no longer have Indian allies, and established British control of the upper Ohio Valley.
- In 1759 Major General Jeffrey Amherst captured forts at Ticonderoga and Crown Point and British forces captured Fort Niagara.
- The British launched a combined force of about 9,000 soldiers under General James Wolfe and a fleet of 20 ships under Admiral Charles Saunders laid siege on Quebec from June 27th until September 18th, 1759 when the French surrendered their garrison in the city.
- By the end of 1760, Montreal and Detroit also fell to the British. The British had gained all of North America from the French.
- With the Treaty of Paris in February 1763, all of North America east of the Mississippi went to the British. The French turned over their claims of New Orleans and the lands west of the Mississippi to Spain, as compensation for Spain's surrendering Florida to the British.





**Daniel Parke Custis**



**Martha Dandridge Custis**



**Jacky and Patsy Custis**

- Washington disappointed his Virginia Regiment by announcing his intention to resign and return to Mt Vernon in early 1759.
- Washington eventually received a **grant of 15,000 acres of land** in the Ohio Valley as a military bounty for his war service. Even so, he purchased as much land from his fellow officers over the next few years.
- He returned to Mt Vernon to marry **Martha Dandridge Custis**, a wealthy young widow, one year his senior.



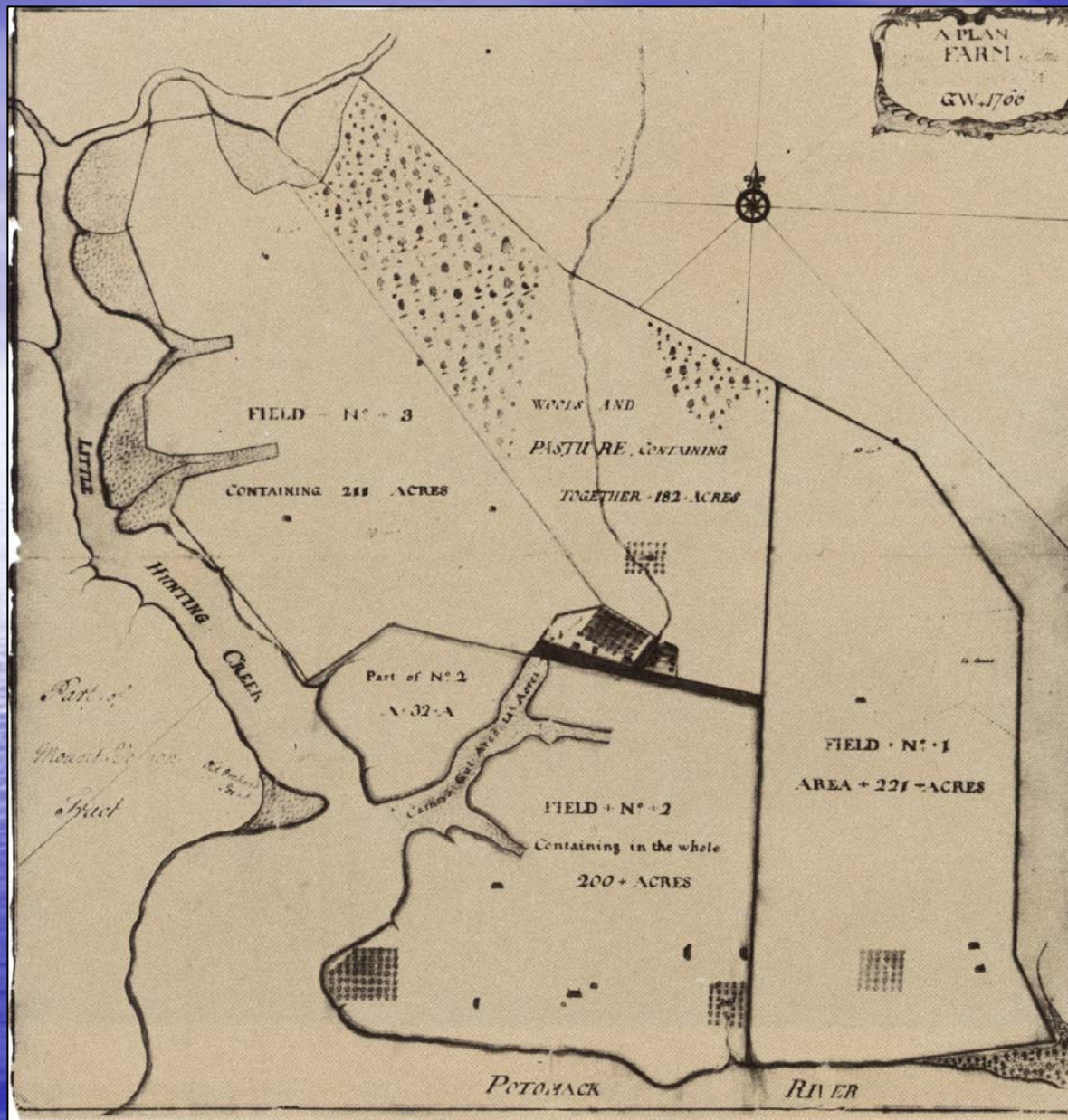


- **Martha Dandridge** was by all accounts, one of the wealthiest women in the Tidewater, her marriage contract attesting to an estate in excess of 20,000 pounds and 17,438 acres of land; a startling sum in those days.
- She had married **Daniel Parke Custis**, 20 years her senior, when she was 18 (1749), and had borne him 4 children before he passed away in 1757. Two of the 4 children survived; John Parke (Jacky) Custis was 5 and Martha Parke (Patsy) Custis was 3 when **Martha married George on January 6, 1759**.
- Martha described herself as “a fine healthy girl”, slightly plump, with dark hair, hazel eyes and fine teeth, with a quiet gentle nature and an instinct for getting along with people.



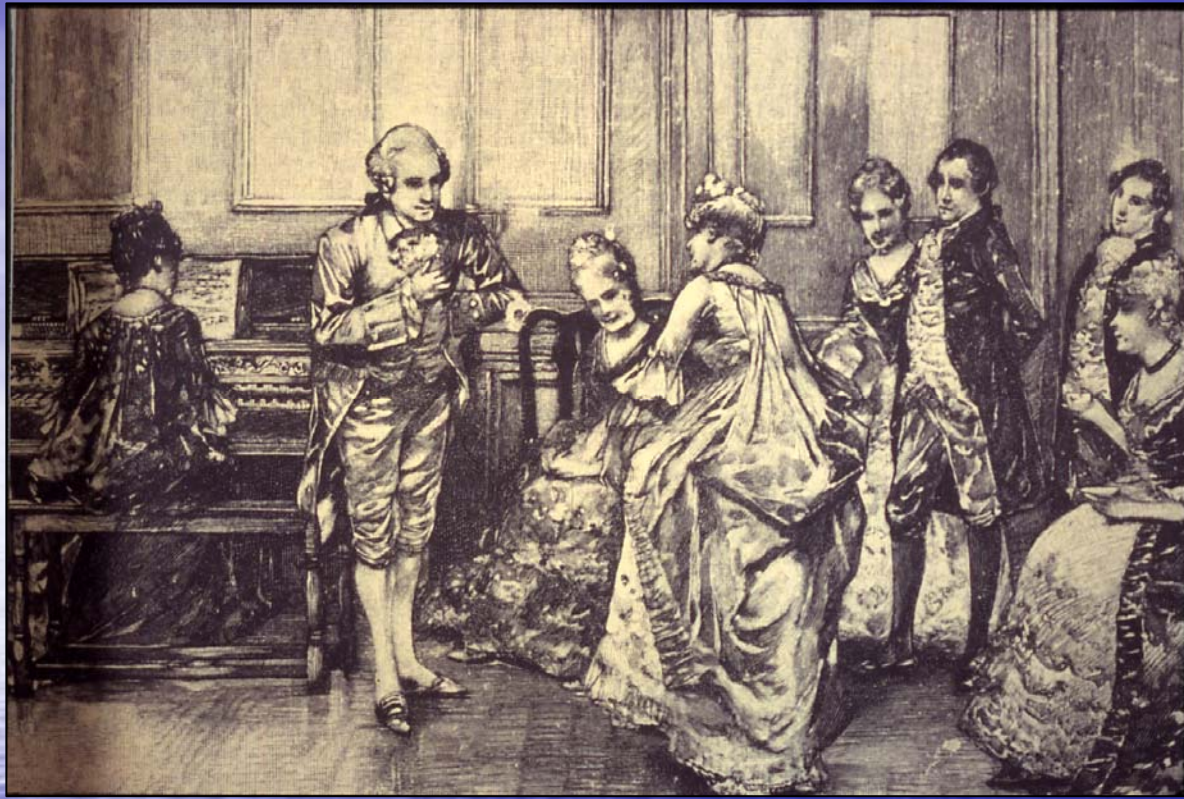
# Country Gentleman

- Washington established himself at Mount Vernon, and *“provided stability, protection and honor upon his household,”* according to Martha.



Washington's own survey of his holdings at Mt. Vernon





# Dress for Success

- Washington always took great care in choosing his clothing, and was universally known for always being dressed appropriately for whatever occasion he was engaged; from buckskin outer ware while tramping the mountains, to silk suits (shown here) for evening dances. He may have been attuned to these sartorial nuisances by brother Lawrence.



September: 1759.

Invoice of sundries to be shipped by Rob<sup>t</sup> Cary Esq<sup>r</sup>  
and Company for the uses of Master John, and Miss Patsy  
Custis - each to be charged to their own Acc<sup>ts</sup> but both Consign<sup>d</sup>  
to George Washington Potomack River &c.

For Master Custis 6<sup>th</sup> Oct. - For Miss Custis - 4<sup>th</sup> Oct. -

1 p. Irish Holland . . . . . w 1/2	2 g <sup>d</sup> fine pointed Linnen . . . w 1/6
2 y. fine Cambrich . . . . . w 10/	1 p. Irish Holland . . . . . w 1/2
5 pack hand <sup>d</sup> sm <sup>d</sup> & fine -	2 y. fine Holland . . . . . w 10/
3 p <sup>s</sup> Gloves - 2 laid Hats. -	8 p <sup>s</sup> kid Mitts - 2 p <sup>s</sup> Horse
2 p <sup>s</sup> India Handker	2 p <sup>s</sup> silk Shoes - 1 p <sup>s</sup> Broad
6 p <sup>s</sup> fine thr <sup>d</sup> Stockings	2 p <sup>s</sup> Calumanna D <sup>o</sup> - 2 p <sup>s</sup> sea <sup>d</sup> Pump
2 p <sup>s</sup> Couser Ditto	2 p <sup>s</sup> fine knee Stockings
6 p <sup>s</sup> Worked Ditto	2 p <sup>s</sup> worked D <sup>o</sup>
2 p <sup>s</sup> strong Shoes - 2 p <sup>s</sup> Pumps -	1/2 p <sup>s</sup> Flowers Simeth. -
1 sum <sup>d</sup> suit of Cloaths to be made of something light & thin . . . }	2 y. fine Cambrich . . . . . w 10/
3 fine Ivory Combs - 2 horn D <sup>o</sup> & 2 comb	2 Caps, 2 p <sup>s</sup> Ruffles, 2 Tuckers, Bits & Aprons - if fashionable . . . }
1 b. black hair Ribbon	2 Fans - 2 Mats - 2 Bonnets -
1 b. handsome blue shoe & knee Buckle	2 p <sup>s</sup> large Pins - 2 p <sup>s</sup> short Whites
10/ worth of Toys -	2 p <sup>s</sup> Minshins - 1 cloth Cloak -
6 little books for Child <sup>s</sup> <sup>Tag</sup> head	One lined Coat of Sat <sup>n</sup> silk made to Pack knee Bags -
1 y. 8 <sup>d</sup> knee - 10 y. 12 <sup>d</sup> Ditto	6 yds Ribbon - 2 Necklaces -
1 y. 2/ Ditto - 10 y. 3/ Ditto	1 p <sup>s</sup> silk sleeve Bull <sup>d</sup> with Hoops
1/2 lb. White brown thr <sup>d</sup>	1 Fair Dress Baby - 10/ & other Toys 10/
1 light duffe Coat with blue Togs -	6 Pocket handkerchiefs . . .

G. Washington  
20<sup>th</sup> Sept. 1759.

# Faithful Step Father

- The page at left is a hand-written order by Washington of items for Jacky (age 6) and Patsy Custis (age 4) that he was ordering from London in 1759.
- Note the precise handwriting, which, along with fine clothing, were his trademarks



# Politically Active

Mount Vernon Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup> 1770

Rev. Sir,

The uncertainty of your return from Maryland (as we heard that Potomack was froze below Cedar Point) added to the difficulty, & indeed danger of crossing the water, between this and your House are the Reasons of Jacky's detention here so long. — We therefore if he should be too late in coming, hope your excuse for it. —

He brings down several pair of very good London made Shoes, which being too small for him, it would be acknowledged as a favour if you could give him any assistance in changing of them for those of larger size. — Our Compliments are offered  
& I am Rev. Sir  
I am most A. ble Serv<sup>t</sup>

10<sup>th</sup> The bad weather has detained Jacky to this time from the date above —

Geo. Washington

- Like his forbearers, Washington was elected to the House of Burgess in Williamsburg in 1758.
- He was always an advocate for western expansion and held large land holdings west of the Allegheny Mountains
- This letter dates from 1770, when he was 38.

# Mt. Vernon



1757



1759



1774



1775



1776



1778



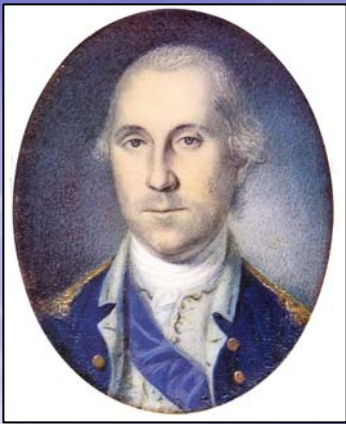
1785



1787

- Throughout his lifetime Washington improved and expanded his Mt. Vernon estate
- His biggest concern was what the British might do to it and Martha during the War of Independence, when he was away for 6-1/2 years





George



Martha



Jacky



Patsy

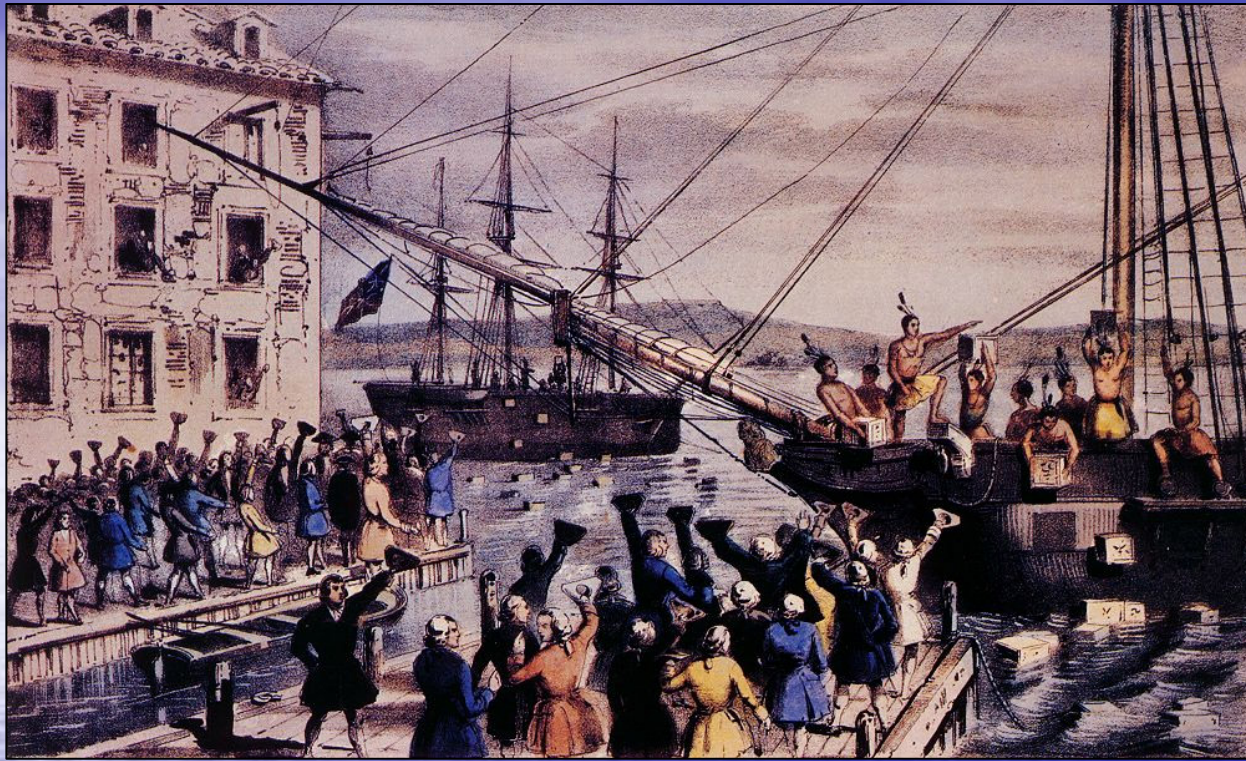
- **Patsy Custis** was discovered to be epileptic at age 12 (1767) when she cried and fell from a horse. She was then treated as a quasi-invalid and in June 1773 was suddenly stricken with a fatal seizure and died at the tender age of 17.
- The Washingtons provided a live-in tutor for young **Jacky Custis** between the ages of 7 and 13, then sent him to a private school run by the Reverend Jonathan Boucher, who complained to Washington of the lad's laziness and propensity to the opposite sex.
- In **1773 Jack** suddenly announced his engagement to **Nellie Calvert**, the daughter of an illegitimate son of the 5th Lord Baltimore. This was not taken kindly, and George wrote to Nellie's father informing him that Jack should complete college before getting married, and George hurried his step son off to King's College (later renamed Columbia University) in New York City.
- Jacky married at age 19, cut a wide swath at King's College and fathered four children. He died of "camp fever" in 1781 shortly after the Battle of Yorktown, where he was serving his step father as an aide.







# Boston Tea Party 1773



- In 1773, Britain's **East India Company** was sitting on large stocks of tea that it could not sell in England. It was on the verge of bankruptcy. In an effort to save it, the government passed the **Tea Act of 1773**, which gave the company the right to export its merchandise directly to the colonies without paying any of the regular taxes that were imposed on the colonial merchants, who had traditionally served as the middlemen in such transactions. With these privileges, the company could undersell American merchants and monopolize the colonial tea trade.





# A Military Man

- Washington served as one of Virginia's representatives to the **First Continental Congress** of 1774 at Carpenter's Hall in Philadelphia.
- Washington wore his old uniform as Colonel of Virginia Militia to the Congress.
- He was the only delegate in **1774** or **1775** thereby marked as a former "**military man**", and most everyone in the Colonies was familiar with his exploits in the French & Indian War.
- Was he availing himself to Congress for military service?



# In Congress

The delegates of the United Colonies of New Hampshire, Massachusetts Bay, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, New Castle, First & Second of Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina & South Carolina

To George Washington Esquire

We express especial trust and confidence in your patriotism, conduct and fidelity  
Do by these presents constitute and appoint you to be General and  
Commander in chief of the army of the United Colonies and of all the forces raised or to be raised by them and of all others who shall voluntarily offer their forces and join the  
said army for the defence of American Liberty, and for repelling every hostile invasion thereof  
And you are hereby vested with full power and authority to act as you shall think  
for the good and welfare of the service  
And we do hereby strictly charge and require all officers and soldiers under your command to be obedient to your orders & diligent in the exercise of their several duties  
And we do also enjoin and require you to be careful in executing the great trust reposed in you by causing strict discipline and order to be observed in the army and that the soldiers are duly exercised and  
provided with all convenient necessaries  
And you are to regulate your conduct in every respect by the rules and discipline of war (as herewith given you) and punctually to observe any  
such rules and directions from time to time as you shall receive from this or a future Congress of the said United Colonies or a Committee of Congress for that purpose appointed

This Commission to continue in force until revoked by this or a future Congress

Dated Philadelphia June 19<sup>th</sup> 1775

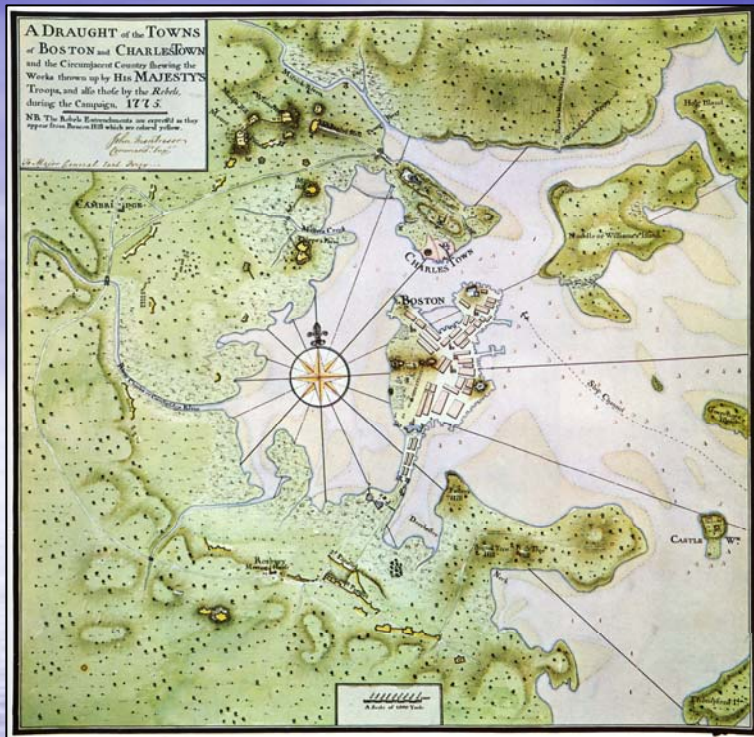
Attest P. Chathamson fecit

By order of the Congress  
John Hancock President



- At the **Second Continental Congress in 1775** John Adams nominated Washington to serve as Commander-in-Chief of the ragtag American Army fighting the British in the Boston area, the most powerful military machine in the world.
- His selection was politically orchestrated by Adams to forge a compromise between the southern colonies (Virginia) and those of New England, who had taken up arms against the British before the other colonies.
- By accepting the position Washington was risking everything he had accumulated up to that point in his life. If captured, he would be tried for treason, executed, and his estate would have been taken, leaving his family destitute.

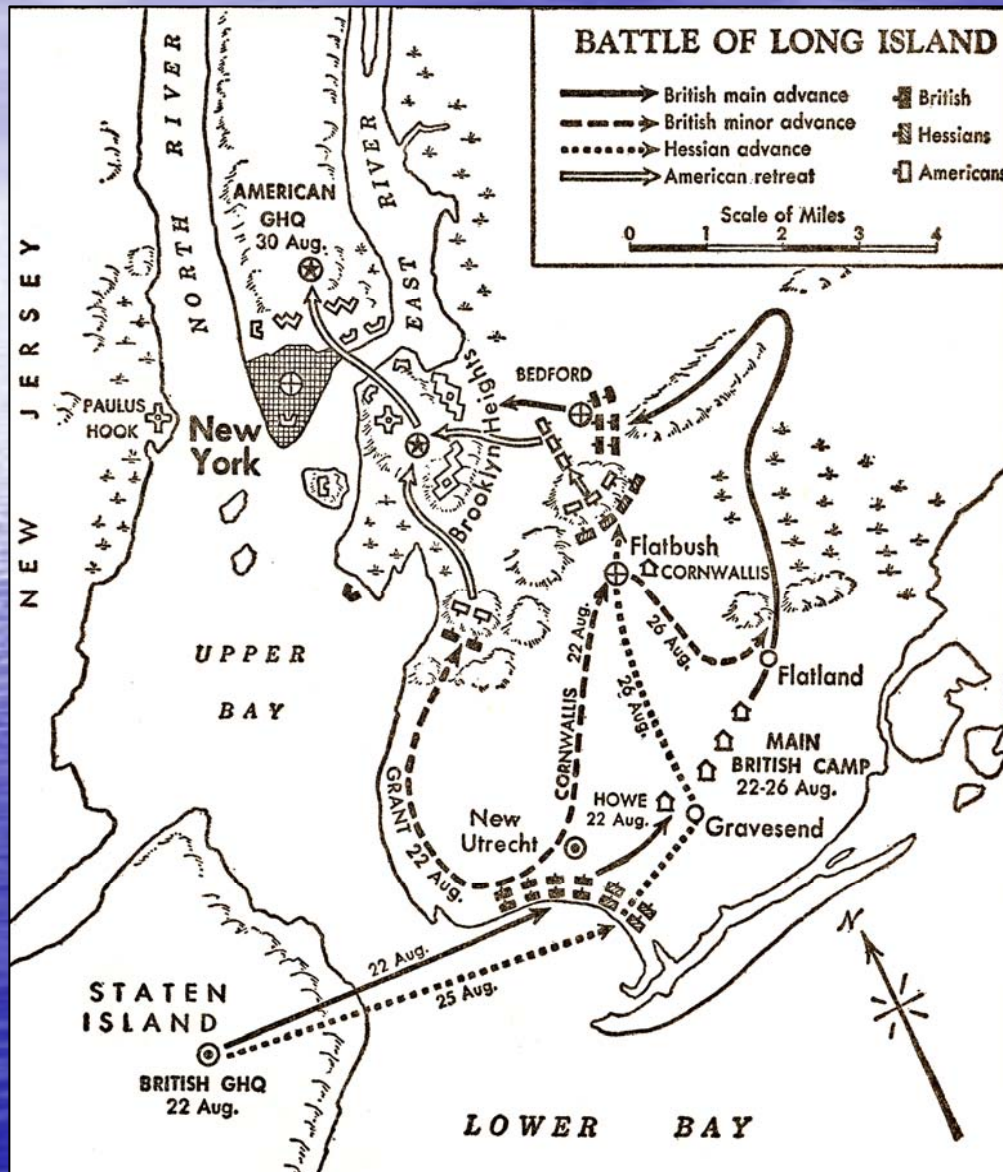




- George Washington took command of the 17,000 man Continental Army in Boston on July 3, 1775, two weeks after the Battle of [Breed's] Bunker Hill.
- On March 4-17, 1776 American forces captured **Dorchester Heights** which overlooks Boston Harbor. Captured British artillery from Fort Ticonderoga is placed on the heights to enforce the siege against the British in Boston.
- The British evacuate Boston and set sail for Halifax. George Washington then rushes to New York to set up defenses, **correctly anticipating the British plan to invade New York City.**

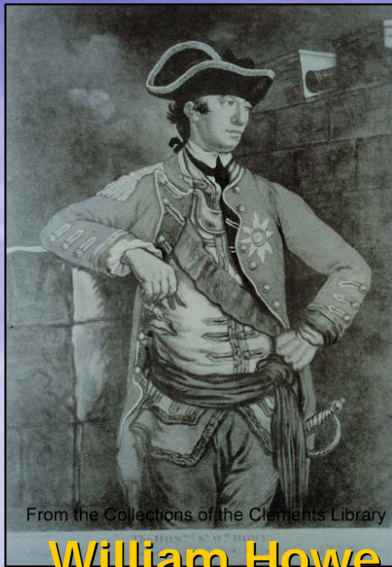


# Battle of Long Island



- On August 22, 1776 the British landed on Long Island and **British General William Howe** defeated **General Charles Lee** at the Battle of Long Island.
- The British lost 63 killed and 337 wounded and missing, while the Americans lost about 970 men killed, wounded or missing, and 1,079 taken captive.
- **The Continental Army had lost almost a quarter of his entire strength.**

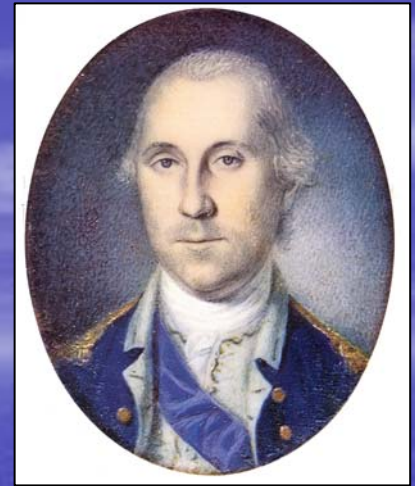




From the Collections of the Clements Library  
**William Howe**



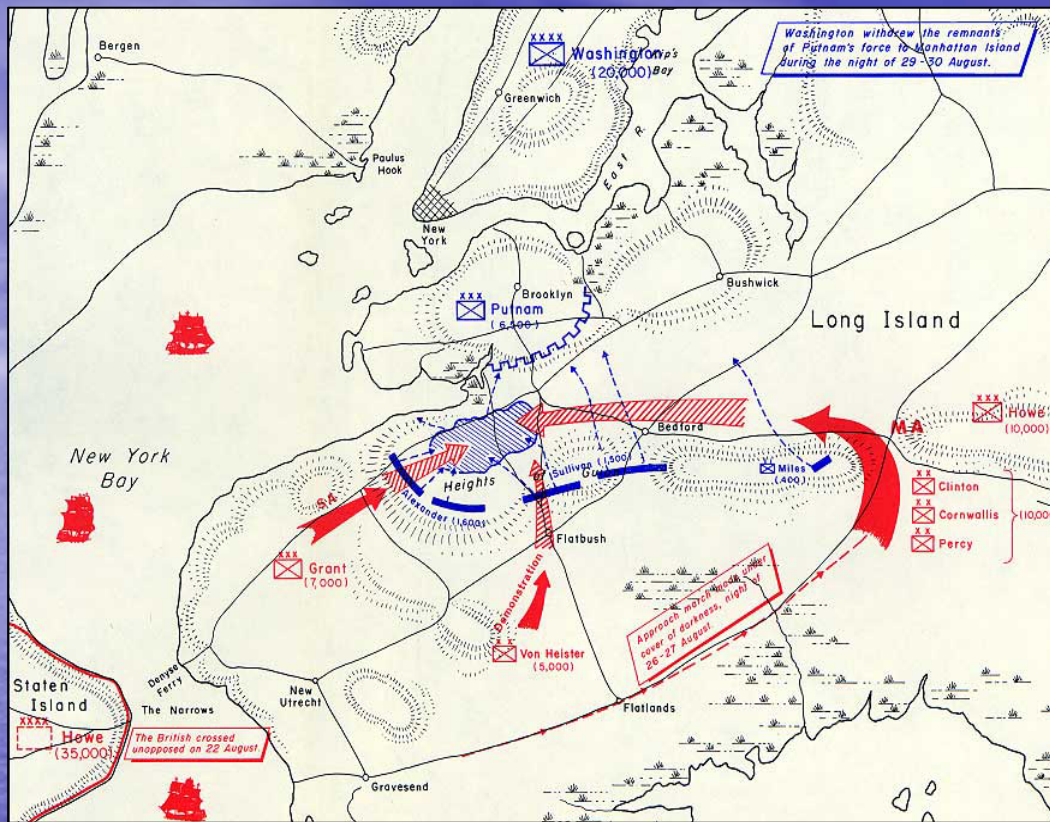
**General Charles Lee**



**Washington**

- On August 26, **General Charles Lee** retreated to Brooklyn Heights. The Americans were out-numbered three-to-one. **General Howe** wanted to avoid another Bunker (Breed's) Hill, so instead of storming the American positions he ordered his men to dig in and bring the guns into range.
- When **Washington** arrived on August 27th, he remained cool and confident, overseeing the construction of new fortifications on Brooklyn Heights. A serendipitous downpour made further British attacks unlikely. American troops found it hard to cook their food or to keep their powder dry.
- On August 28th, additional troops arrived to boost the number of men under his command to 9,000.





- **At this juncture Washington realized that he had put himself in a trap.** He had split his troops between Manhattan and Long Island, with the Hudson River, the East River, and Long Island Sound controlled by British warships.
- Admiral Richard Howe, the brother of General Howe, could cut off Washington's forces if he moved his ships from the New Jersey Shore to the East River.
- **Washington prayed for deliverance**, and the weather turned sour. Unfavorable northeast winds prevented Admiral Howe from moving his ships into New York Bay into the mouth of the East River. This mile wide channel was Washington's only possible path of retreat.



# God always provides a miraculous escape



- Rain continued intermittently throughout August 29<sup>th</sup>. The poor weather forestalled Howe's onslaught and the British ships failed to position themselves between Brooklyn Heights

and Manhattan. That night it began to rain, but with an unusual northeast breeze.

- Washington turned to the seagoing soldiers of John Glover's Marblehead Regiment to ferry the American troops across the East River to Manhattan on that evening, and the exodus began at 9 PM. The wind ceased at Midnight, and Glover's men muffled their oarlocks.
- After an hour of calmness a gentle southwesterly breeze erupted, which allowed the Marblehead men to hoist sails, allowing transport of 4 times as many troops per hour.
- By this time the sky had cleared and the moon was shining brightly. British forces were close enough to observe that the American defenders had departed their defensive positions, but nothing unusual was noticed! **God intervened.**



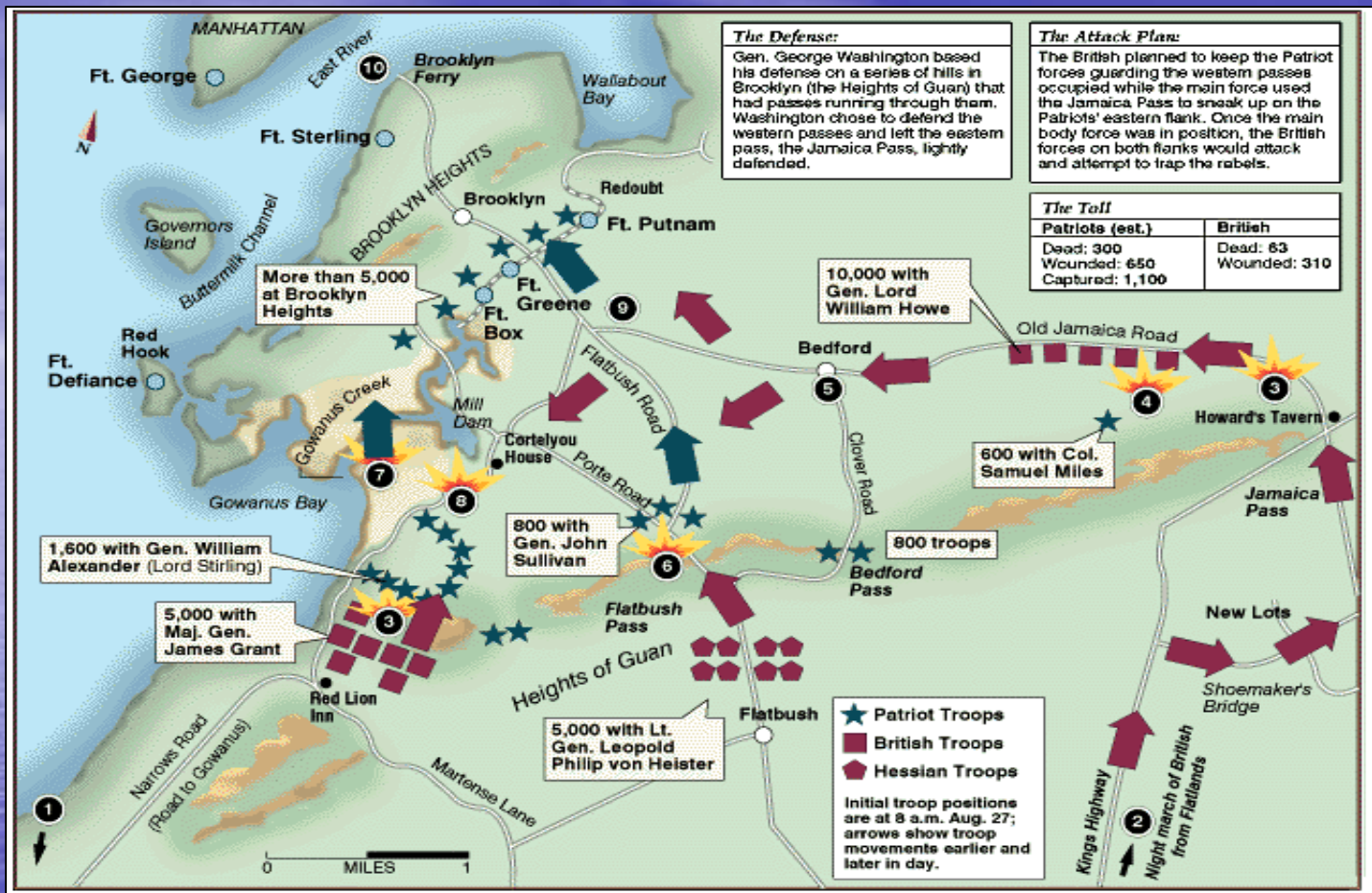
# God's Providence



- When first light appeared, the evacuation of 9,000 American troops was far from complete, the oarsmen needed at least three more hours.

- The soldiers occupying the front line trenches and huddled along the beach worried that they would be spotted or left behind.
- Then, rising out of the wet ground and off the East River came a dense fog, and the fog covered the entire river. When the sun rose the miraculous fog did not lift! The entire Army was extracted, except for the heaviest caliber canon.
- **Just as the last boat pulled into the channel with General Washington aboard, the fog began to lift and dissipate. It was seen as a miracle by the troops and providential by Washington. 9000 men had been saved from certain capture or destruction, and the American cause preserved.**



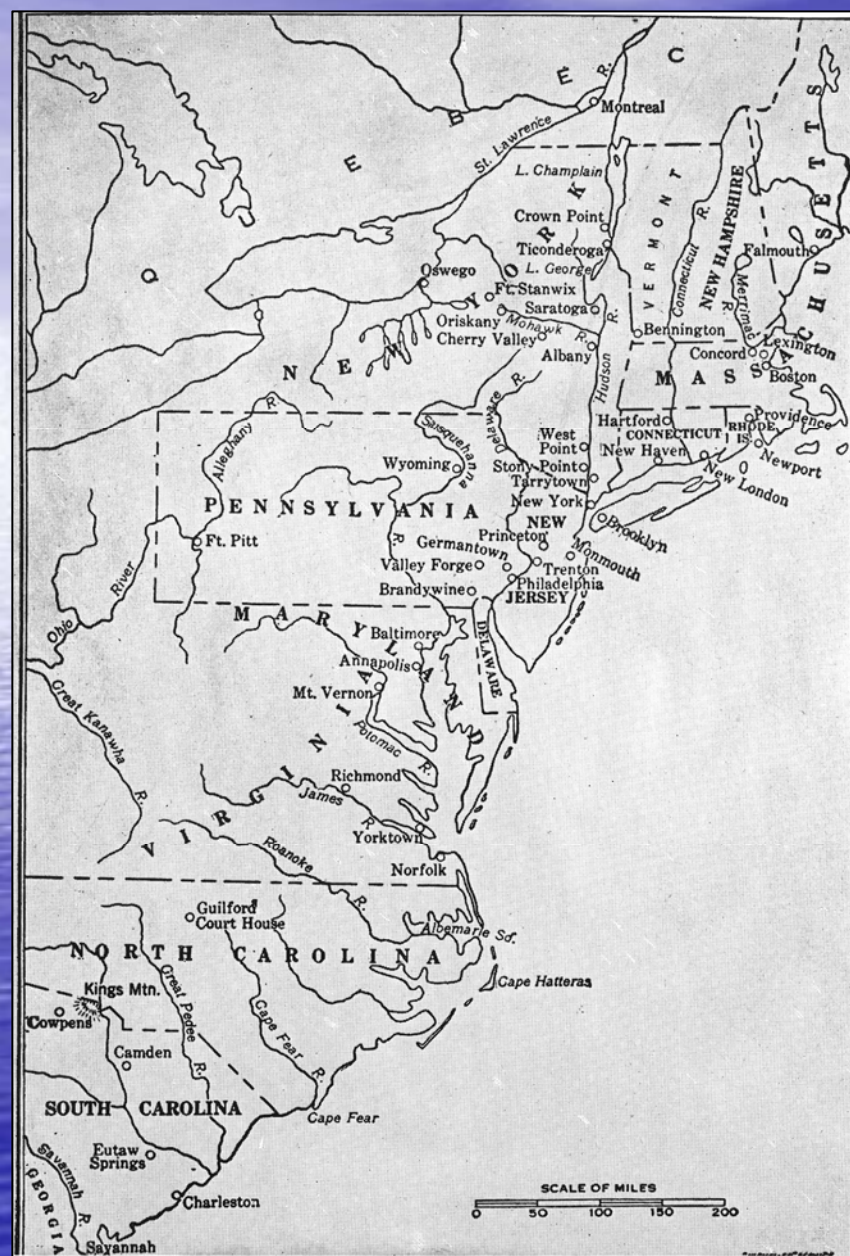


- When the British advanced on the American positions around 11 AM they could hardly believe their eyes. There in the brilliant sunlight was the abandoned American fortifications and camp – totally deserted! Some of the British soldiers ran down to the shore and shot at the last of the departing boats, but the Americans were safely out of range. Washington's army had escaped their grasps to fight another day.



# British Strategy fails

- Washington's forces managed to push the British out of Boston, but were soundly defeated by superior British forces attacking and occupying New York City in 1776.
- But, British designs on severing the Colonies along the Hudson River Valley failed at Saratoga and Oriskany, where General Burgoyne was soundly defeated by Nathaniel Greene.
- Kosciusko's defense of the Hudson at West Point succeeded in blocking the British advance upriver of that location.





# Times that try men's souls



Sensing the low spirits of his men during the winter of 1776-77, Washington gathered his forces at quarters for an important address. He read from a pamphlet titled "The Crisis" by Thomas Paine. It began **"These are the times that try men's souls. The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, sink from the service of their country..."**

- **Washington's words pierced the hearts of his weary soldiers and filled them with overpowering conviction.** They could do it...they would do it...by the Lord's grace they did do it! Paine's short treatise did what no man, no gun, nor even any sword could do; it inspired discouraged soldiers to summon a kind of courage and resolve that only comes from heartfelt conviction.
- On the evening of Christmas 1776 Washington led a force of 2400 men across the Delaware River between 11 PM and 3 AM on December 26th.
- The American force attacked the Hessian outpost at 8 AM, mortally wounding the German commander, Johannes Rall. The Americans lost only two men, with a handful of wounded.
- This victory lifted spirits and bolstered morale, keeping the struggling army alive.





# Bringing cheer to weary troops at Valley Forge

- Washington's Army wintered over at Valley Forge between Dec 1777 and June 1778, occupying the heights bounded by the river's gorge as a good defensive position.
- Weak, poorly supplied, and ill, 2,500 of the 10,000 men bivouacked there would die that winter.
- Washington's greatest skill was his ability to communicate confidence and good cheer in his troops, having survived countless privations and close encounters with death on the western frontier as a young officer.



# GW proves to be a wily foe



- Early on Washington recognized that his task was simply to **“remain in the field”**, denying the British any crushing defeat of the American forces. In doing so he prevented an English victory.
- Though they held the largest cities at various times during the war, Washington’s tactics dictated the British strategy, forcing them to take to the field, find the insurgent forces, surround them, and then, crush them decisively.
- The biggest problem facing the British was in positioning themselves for decisive battles.
- When facing annihilation, the American forces exhibited a remarkable ability to outmaneuver their foes, and escape the traps that were set for them.



# Challenges for Command



**Horatio Gates** (1728-1802) was a former regular Royal Army officer, with whom Washington was first acquainted during the march to the Forks of the Ohio with General Braddock in 1755.

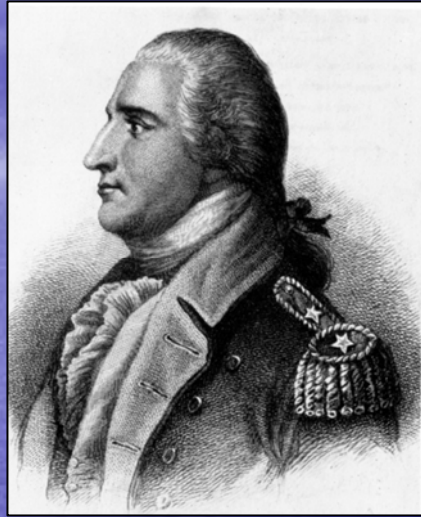
- Washington suffered grievously throughout the Revolutionary War, seldom besting his enemies as did several of his subordinates, such as General **Nathaniel Greene** at Saratoga and Oriskany.
- His command was most seriously challenged by advocates for **Horatio Gates**, who had been victorious at Saratoga whilst Washington survived a string of embarrassing defeats during the same period (1776-77).
- **Gates** may well have succeeded Washington, but his reputation was dimmed because his supporters tried to usurp Washington while the Continental Army was bivouacked at Valley Forge during the severe winter of 1777-78. Washington was eventually given the three star rank of Lieutenant General.



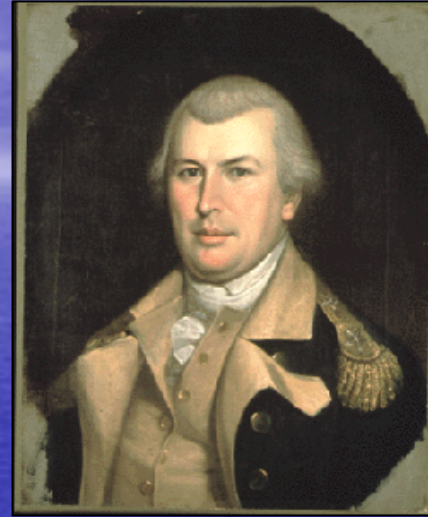
# JOCKYING FOR ADVANTAGE 1778-81



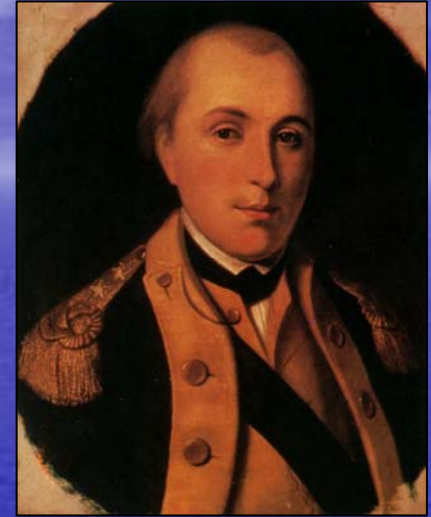
Lord Charles Cornwallis



Benedict Arnold



Nathaniel Greene



Marquis de Lafayette

- In the south **Nathaniel Greene** commended his small army so effectively that he confounded **Lord Cornwallis** and his lieutenants repeatedly, forcing them out of Georgia and the Carolinas.
- In the late spring of 1781 **Lord Cornwallis** resolved to depart the south and take the battle into Virginia, sending a string detachment into the state under renegade **Brigadier Benedict Arnold**. **Washington** initially dispatched **Lafayette** with a force of 1200 men, but soon the opportunity arose to encircle Cornwallis and **8000 British troops on the York Peninsula**.



# Routes taken by Washington and Rochambeau to Yorktown





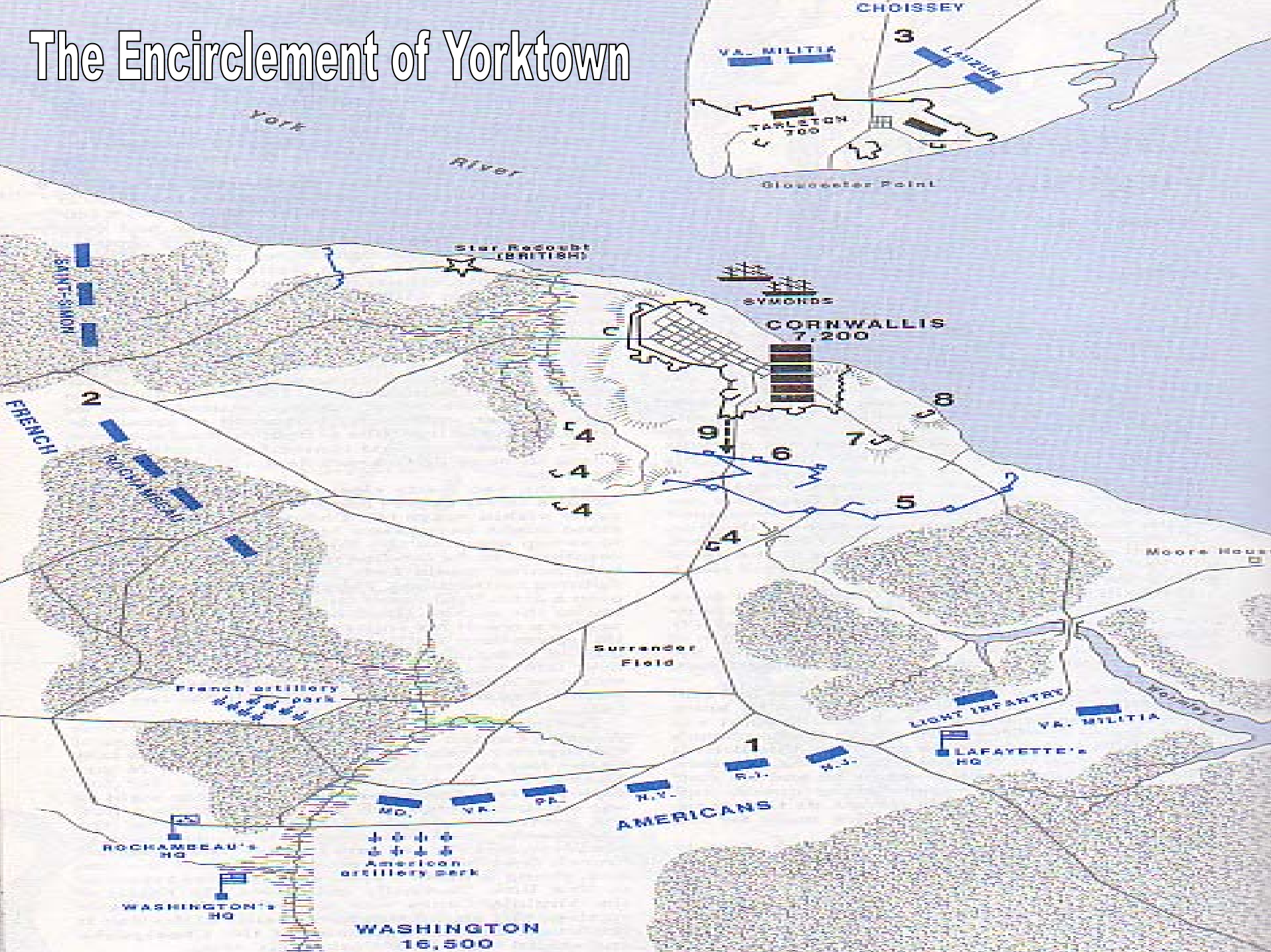
# Battle of the Capes



- **De Grasse's French squadron** arrived at the mouth of Chesapeake Bay on August 28th with 24 ships carrying 1,700 guns and 3,000 soldiers.
- The **English fleet** was a combined force commanded by **Admirals Sir Samuel Graves and Thomas Graves**, with of 29 ships. They departed New York to intercept the French squadron at the mouth of Chesapeake Bay, but did not arrive until **September 5<sup>th</sup>**.
- They battle then moved southward, maneuvering for position, leaving the Chesapeake Bay for the smaller French fleet of Admiral de Barras to arrive from Newport carrying much needed supplies and cannon.
- On **September 10<sup>th</sup>**, Graves broke contact with the French and headed his battered fleet back to New York for repairs, leaving the French in control of Chesapeake Bay and sealing Cornwallis's fate.



# The Encirclement of Yorktown





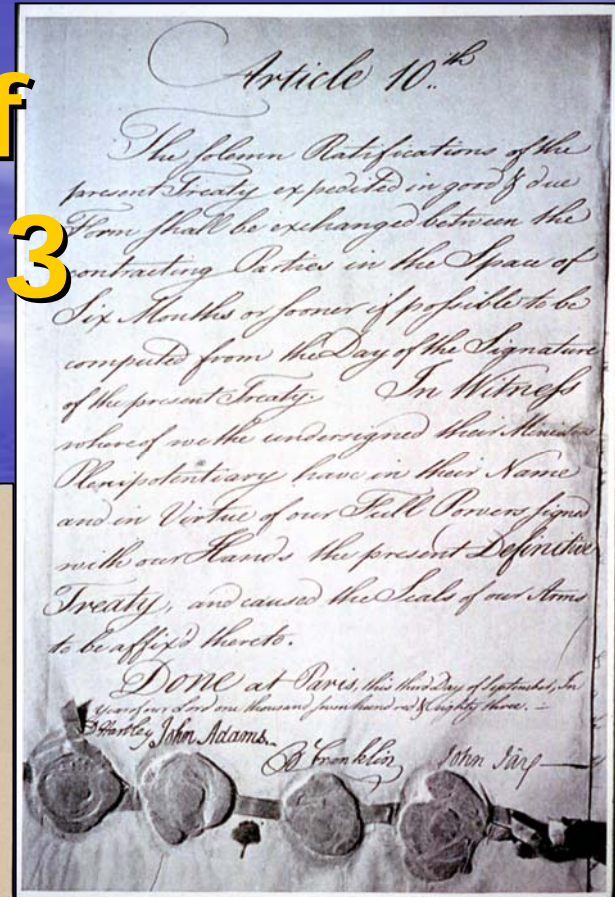
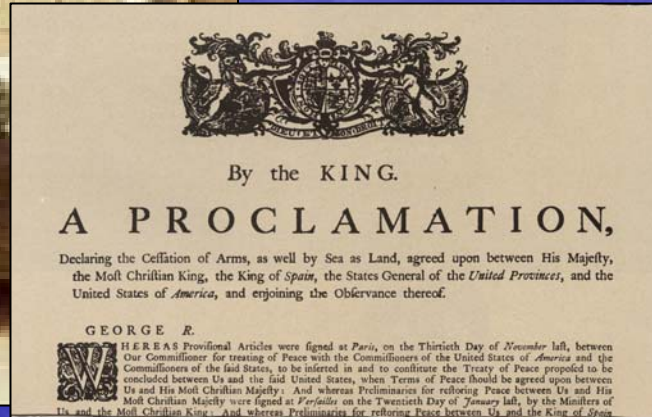
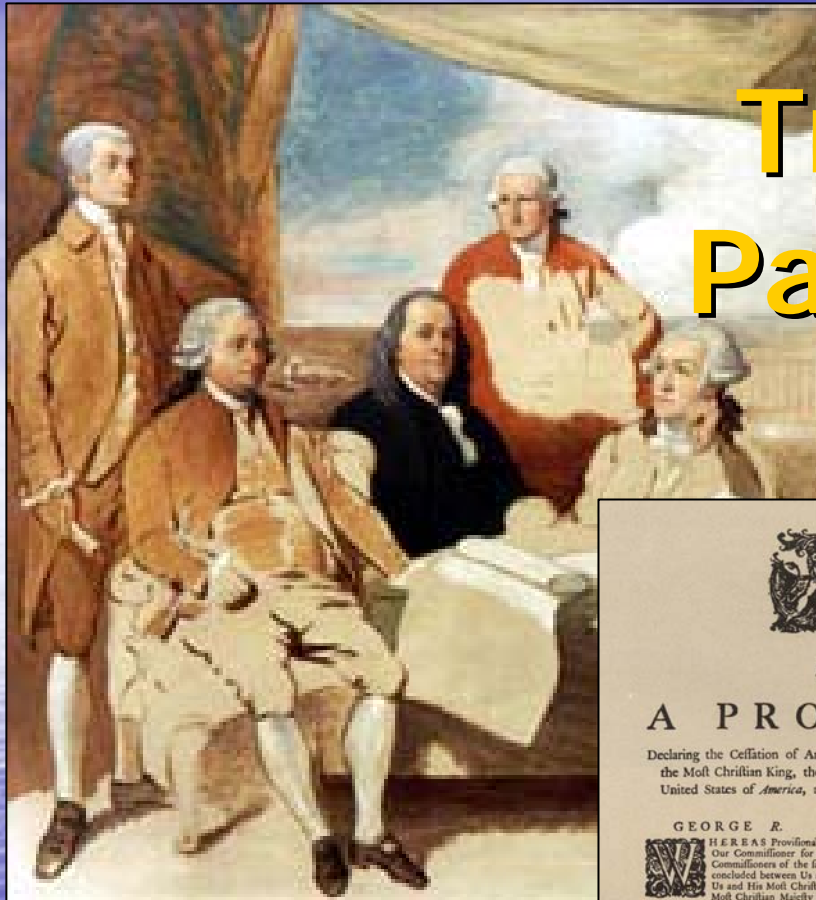


Cornwallis' second-in-command, **Charles O'Hara**, attempted to deliver Cornwallis's sword to French General **Comte de Rochambeau**. But, Rochambeau directed O'Hara to American General **George Washington**, who coolly steered the British officer to Washington's own second in command, **Major General Benjamin Lincoln**.

- **Yorktown will be remembered as Washington's one convincing defeat of the British forces. Lord General Charles Cornwallis was forced to surrender 9,700 troops on October 17th, 1781.**
- **The colonist's alliance with the French secured the victory. Washington was aided on land by French General Rochambeau's 6,000 regulars, while French Admiral de Grasse's fleet raced north from the West Indies to block any hope Cornwallis had for retreat or reinforcement via the Chesapeake Bay.**
- **Without the French Naval Blockade, the British would have extracted themselves and the war would most certainly have dragged on.**
- **It was the greatest American triumph during a long and bitter war.**



# Treaty of Paris 1783



- Even though the English were tired of the 6-1/2 year conflict, it took another two years to hammer out the **Treaty of Paris**, which was not signed until **September 3, 1783**, a date that should be a national holiday. America's negotiators were Benjamin Franklin, John Jay and John Adams.





# Lands Ceded by the Treaty of Paris in March 1783 after 1-1/2 years of negotiation

- The Americans were ceded all the lands between the Atlantic seaboard and the Mississippi River, shown here in blue. The Spanish were given Florida and the lands west of the Mississippi River, including New Orleans.



# Farewell Address to troops - 1783



- Washington bade farewell to his troops on Constitution Island across the Hudson from West Point on March 15, 1783. He was 51 years old and was obliged to use spectacles to read his speech, at right. His apology drew tears from everyone gathered at quarters.

Head Quarters Newburgh  
15<sup>th</sup> of March 1783.

Gentlemen,

By an anonymous sum-  
mons, an attempt has been made to con-  
vulse you together — how inconsis-  
tent with the Rules of propriety! —  
how un-military! — and how sub-  
versive of all order and discipline  
— let the good sense of the Army  
decide. —

In the moment of this sum-  
mons, another anonymous production  
was sent into circulation; ad-  
dressed more to the feelings of pepsi-  
ons, than to the reason & judgment  
of the Army. — The author of the  
piece, is entitled to much credit for  
the goodness of his Pen: — and I could  
wish he had as much credit for the  
sincerity of his Heart. for as men  
see thro' different Optics, and are  
induced by the reflecting faculties  
of the Mind, to use different means  
to attain the same end; — the Author  
of the Address, should have had  
more charity, than to mark for  
Suspicion





# The Society of the Cincinnati



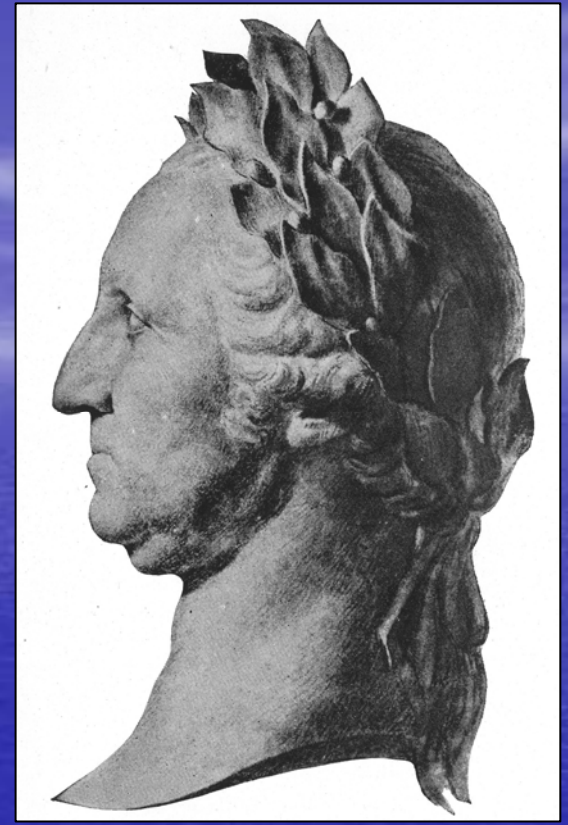
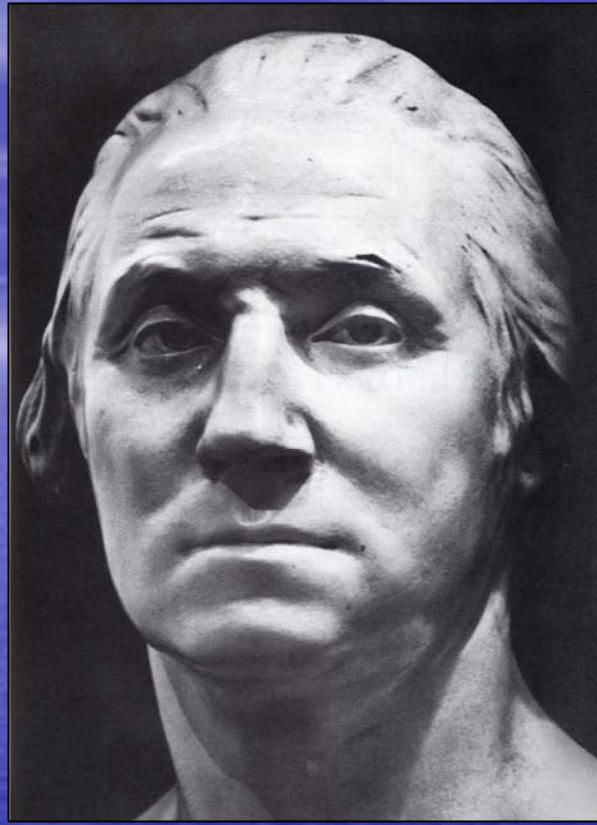
- The **General Society of the Cincinnati** was founded in May 1783 in Fishkill, New York, by Continental Army officers who fought in the American Revolution, before the Treaty of Peace was signed and the British had evacuated New York.
- General Baron von Steuben, being the senior officer, presided at the organizational meetings. Within 12 months, Constituent Societies were established in the 13 original states and in France under the auspices of the General Society of the Cincinnati. Of the 5,500 officers who were eligible to join, about 2,150 did so.
- **George Washington was elected the first President General of the Society in December 1783 until his death in 1799.** He was succeeded by Alexander Hamilton.
- The Society is named for Lucius Quintus Cincinnatus, a Roman farmer of the Fifth Century B.C, who, like Washington, was called from his fields to lead his country's army in battle. Cincinnatus, as did Washington, returned from war a triumphant leader, declined honors, and went back to his farm. Washington, as did Cincinnatus, lived up to the Society's Motto: "***He gave up everything to serve the republic.***"





- With Jacky Custis' death in 1781 George and Martha adopted Jack's two youngest children (their mother keeping the eldest two), **George Washington Parke Custis** (just 6 months old) and **Eleanor Parke Custis** (age 3), whom they adopted and raised as their own children, seeing them through to adulthood.





- Known internationally as **"The American Caesar,"** Washington availed himself to several sculptors and artists. The French sculptor Houdon made a detailed life mask in 1785, which is felt to be the most representative of his likeness, shown middle and left above.



# Dove of Peace Weather Vane



- Washington's prized weather vane sits atop the cupola at Mount Vernon. The vane is in the shape of a dove of peace, the copper body bound with iron strips and the bill with olive branch fashioned from a piece of iron.
- The bird is forty inches long, and the wing from tip to tip measures thirty-five inches. The vane was made in Philadelphia, by Joseph Rakestraw, in July or Aug. 1787, and was sent immediately to Mount Vernon.
- Washington wrote his nephew George Augustine Washington on August 12, 1787, that the bill of the dove was to be painted black and the olive branch green.





- “Washington” Custis was the younger of the grandchildren and the pet of the family. In 1804 he married Mary Lee Fitzhugh, and their daughter, Mary Anna Randolph Custis (born in 1808), would marry Robert E. Lee in 1831!
- Washington Custis provided American history with some of the most tender insights about his step grandfather George Washington, who raised him as a son.
- Nellie Custis married Washington’s nephew and aide-de-camp, Lawrence Lewis on Washington’s birthday (February 22nd) in 1799.





# Christ Church

George and Martha and their grandchildren faithfully attended Christ Episcopal Church in Alexandria all the years they lived at Mount Vernon, 7 miles distant.

This church is still in existence and can be visited today in downtown Alexandria.





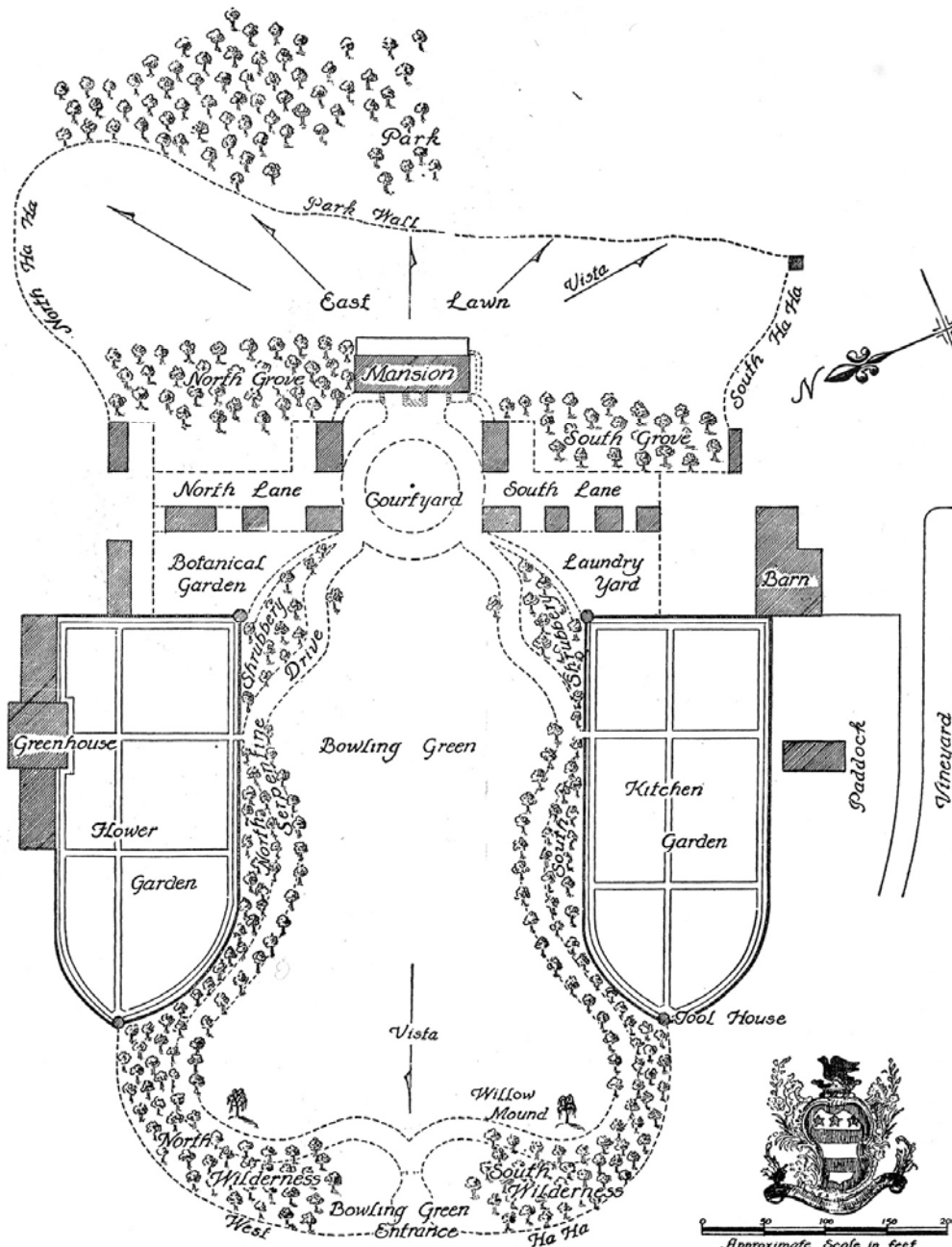
The size, layout, and appearance of **Mount Vernon** continued to evolve after the war of Independence, reaching its present configuration in the 1790s, while Washington was President.

The wood siding is textured with sand and whitewash to give the appearance of being masonry.

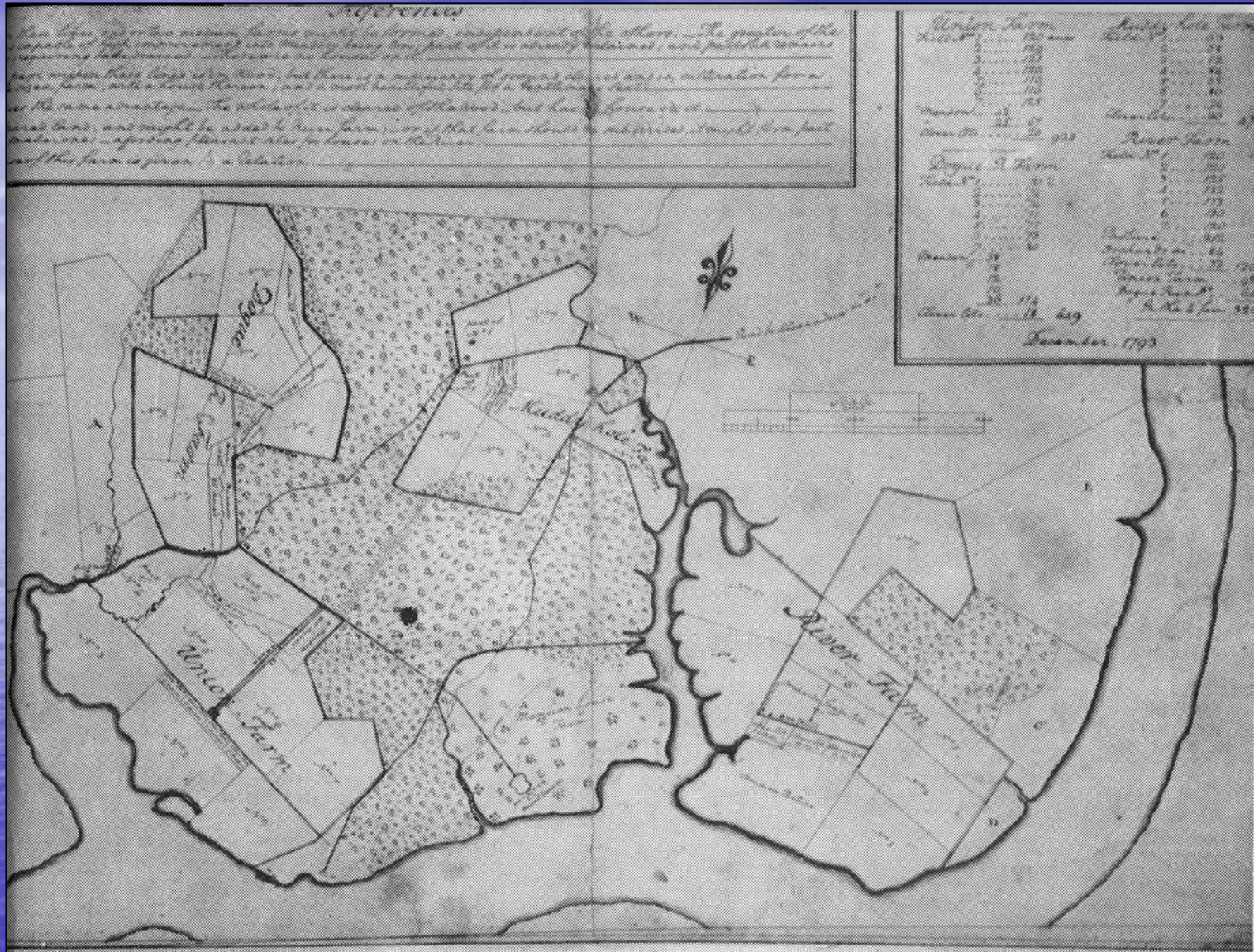


# Final layout and configuration of Mt. Vernon

This sketch shows the final layout of the mansion, out buildings, carriage ways, and gardens surrounding the Mt. Vernon mansion. All of this had Washington's person touch and his engineer's eye for symmetry.







Washington's last survey of his Hunting Creek-Mount Vernon holdings. These were inherited by his nephew George Augustine Washington after Martha died in 1802 because he had no direct male heirs.



# First Constitutional Convention - 1787



- Washington was summoned to the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia in the summer of 1787, where he was elected Chairman.
- The Constitution was drafted at this meeting, but it took another year to be ratified by each of the 13 states. The new constitution included provisions for a chief executive, a congress made up of senators and congressmen, and a supreme judiciary.
- On February 4, 1789 electoral representatives from each state cast their ballots for a chief executive and all 69 cast their vote for Washington. **It was the first and last unanimous vote for President in American history.**



# A national treasure



- Washington was notified of his unanimous selection as president at Mt. Vernon on April 14<sup>th</sup>, 1789 by Charles Thomson, secretary of the Continental Congress since 1774.
- Two days later, accompanied by Thomson and David Humphreys, a wartime aide then engaged in writing a biography of Washington, they stepped into Washington's personal coach and departed Mt. Vernon for a new life in New York City, the temporary capitol.
- Along their route towns turned out en masse to greet the new President, and parades, dinners, fireworks, speeches and fetes of every description were accorded him along his path.
- He arrived in New York by barge on April 23, 1789, and was inaugurated in New York's Federal Hall six days later.





# ASKING FOR DIVINE GUIDANCE

- Immediately following his inauguration, Washington walked to **St. Paul's Chapel**, where the Episcopal Bishop of New York offered his prayers for divine guidance.
- Washington worshiped at St. Paul's until the capitol was moved to Philadelphia the following year (1790).
- Built in 1766, much of the ornamentation in St. Paul's was the work of **Major Pierre L'Enfant**, the French war hero, architect and engineer who Washington soon chose to design the "*Federal City on the Potomac*".





- The Government House in New York served as the first presidential mansion, until the capitol was moved to Philadelphia in 1790.
- Washington wrote: *"From the time I had done breakfast and thence til dinner and afterwards till bedtime I could not get relieved from the ceremony of one visit before I had to attend another."*
- Americans expected that they all could gain an audience with their humble chief executive, wearing Washington down.



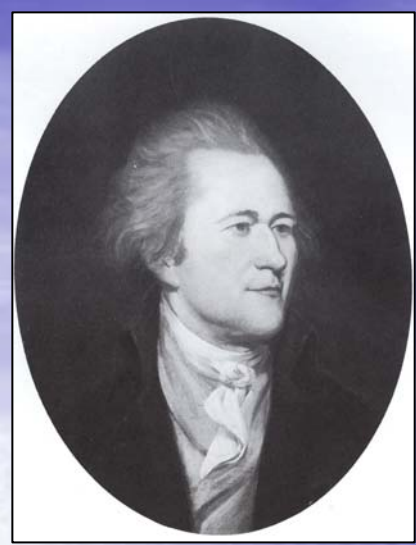
# FRACTIOUS CABINET

- His cabinet consisted of only four men: **Thomas Jefferson** as Secretary of State, **Alexander Hamilton** as Secretary of the Treasury; **Henry Knox** as Secretary of War, and **Edmund Randolph** as Attorney General.



- **Hamilton** had been Washington's personal secretary for four years of the Revolutionary War, as well as his aide-de-camp. **Jefferson** was never aligned with Washington and Hamilton's political philosophies, and almost from the outset, Hamilton and Jefferson became engaged in a bitter rivalry that was the bane of Washington's two terms as President.





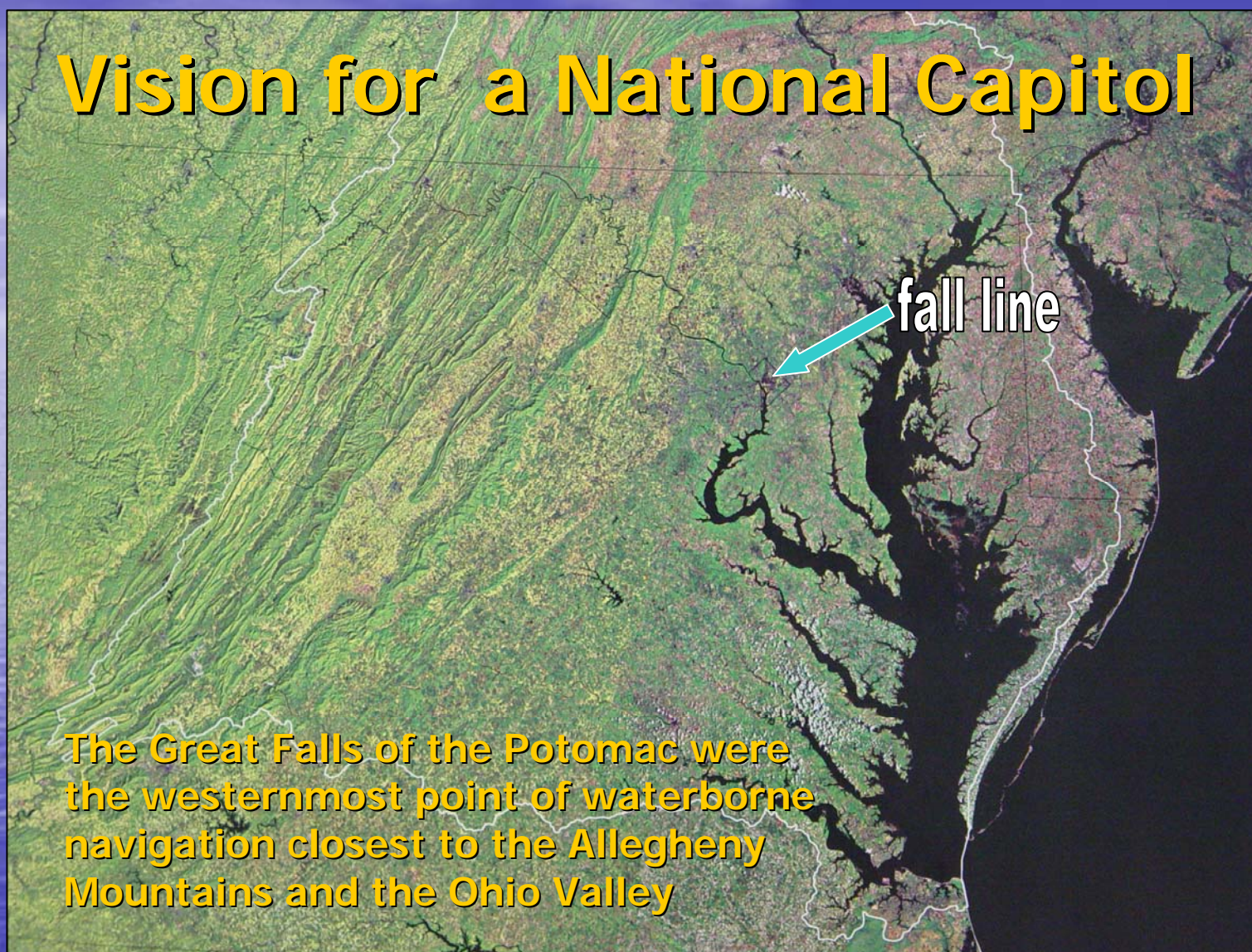
# Federalist versus Anti-Federalists viewpoints



- **Hamilton favored the encouragement of industry, commerce, finance and a strong central government dominated by propertied men.** Only men who owned property could vote in those days; the logic being these were the fellows who paid the taxes, so they should be the only ones who had any say in the affairs of government! This was the Federalist point-of-view.
- **Jefferson represented the Antifederalists, or Republicans, who believed in a decentralized government, which held that the young nation's future lay in agricultural exploitation of the tremendous expanse of land that lay to the west.** The Antifederalists feared that Washington and Hamilton were leading the nation towards a monarchy.
- On the Federalist side, Hamilton and his followers worried that Jefferson would turn the nation over to the rabble, following France's recent example, which Jefferson had personally witnessed.
- Jefferson broke ranks with President Washington in 1793 and Alexander Hamilton resigned in 1795.



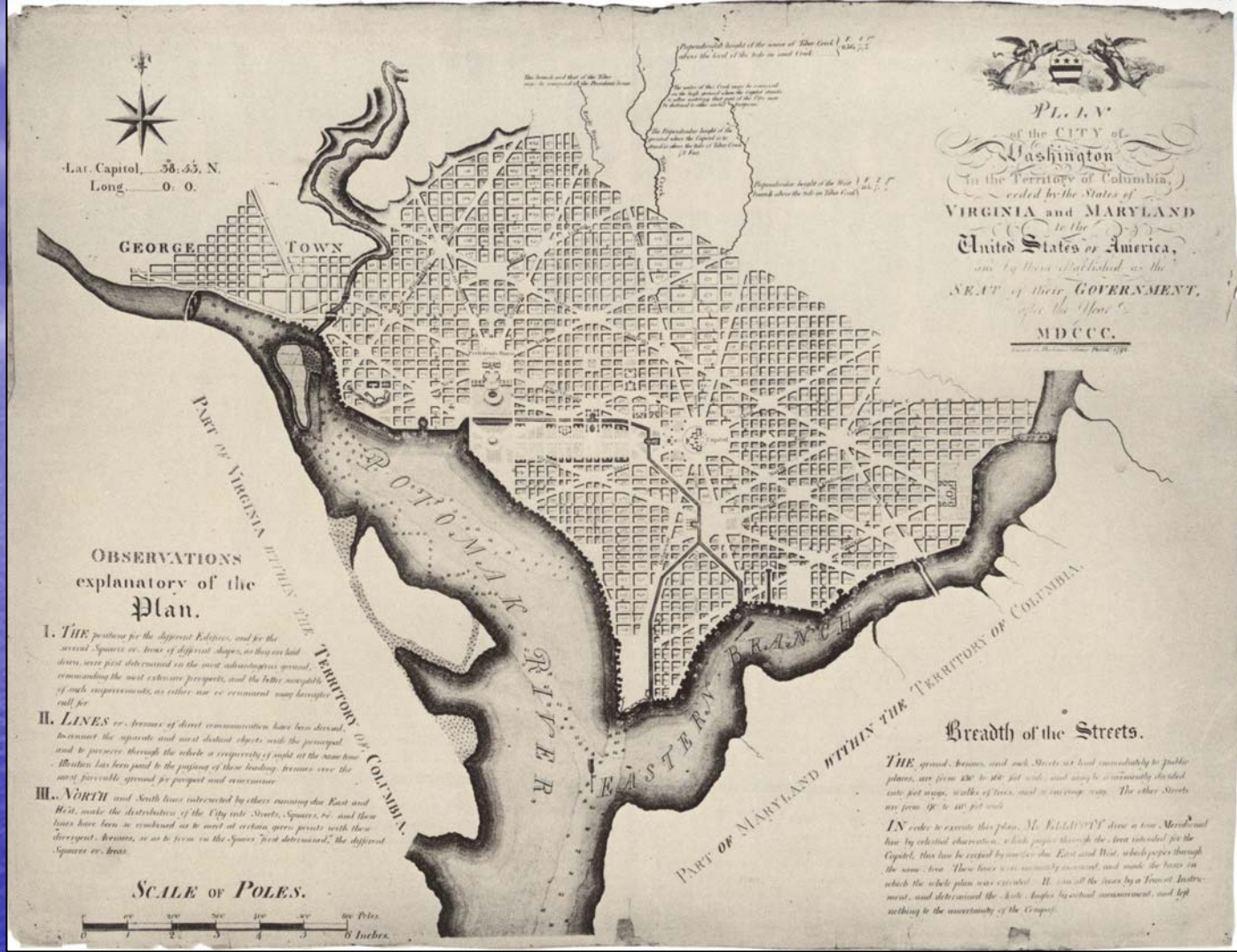
# Vision for a National Capitol



The Great Falls of the Potomac were the westernmost point of waterborne navigation closest to the Allegheny Mountains and the Ohio Valley

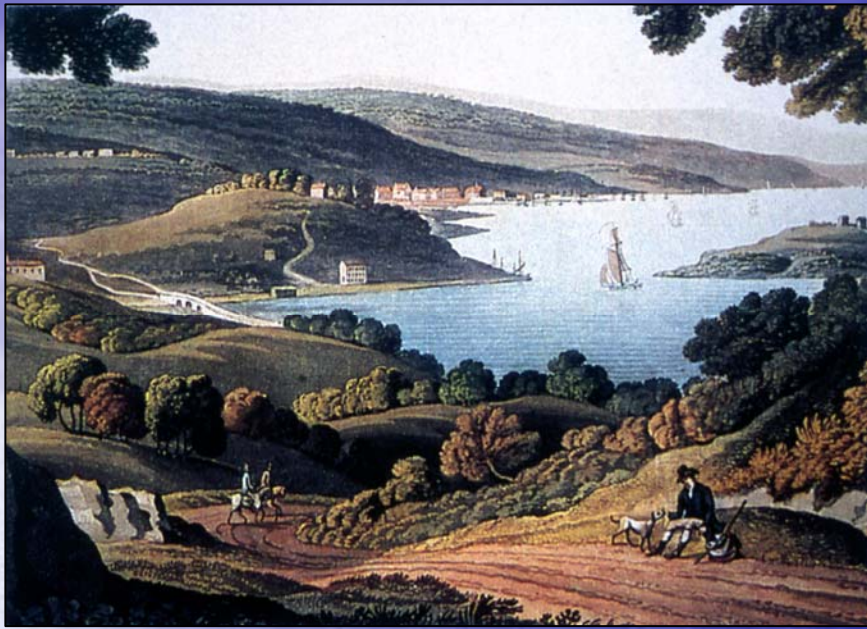
- The **District of Columbia**, founded on July 16, 1790 as a federal district, as specified in the new Constitution. Washington suggested a location at the head of navigation on the Potomac River, just below the Fall Line.





- Major Pierre L'Enfant's design for the national capitol was selected by Congress in 1791, after strong lobbying by President Washington. Congress voted to name the city **Washington, D.C.** in **1814**, during the **War of 1812** with Great Britain.





**The hamlet of Foggy Bottom would become Georgetown**



**The Great Falls of the Potomac River are comprised of granite**

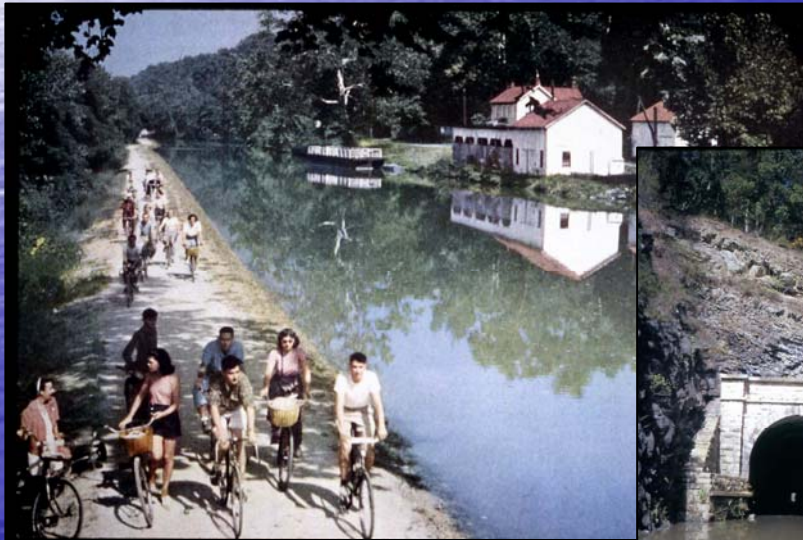
- **Washington had a vision for constructing a canal between Foggy Bottom and the drainage divide at Cumberland Gap, a distance of 185 miles. This would allow easy passage of commerce from the Ohio and Shenandoah Valleys, where he had considerable land holdings.**
- **The original company was called the Pawtomak Company, and Washington owned stock in this enterprise.**



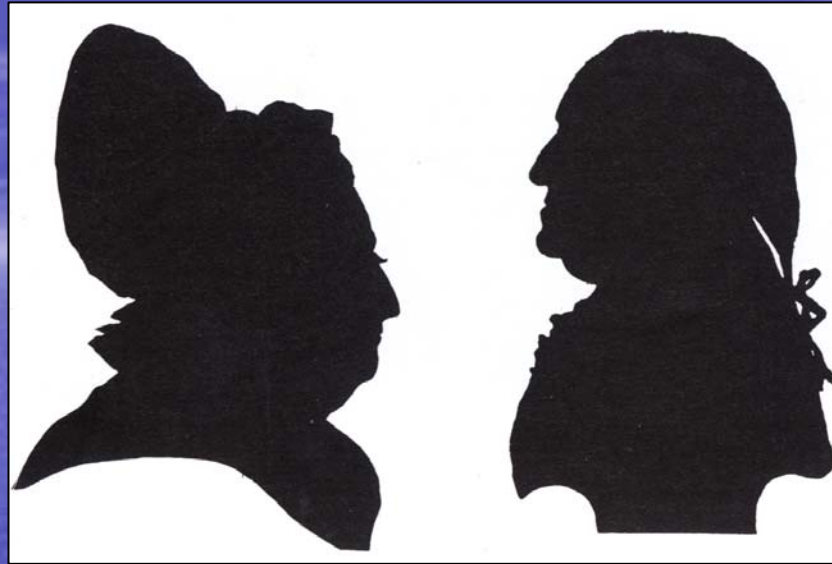
# C & O Canal



- Washington's vision was realized in the construction of the **Chesapeake & Ohio Canal** between 1828-50
- The canal operated from 1828-1924 as a transportation route, primarily hauling coal



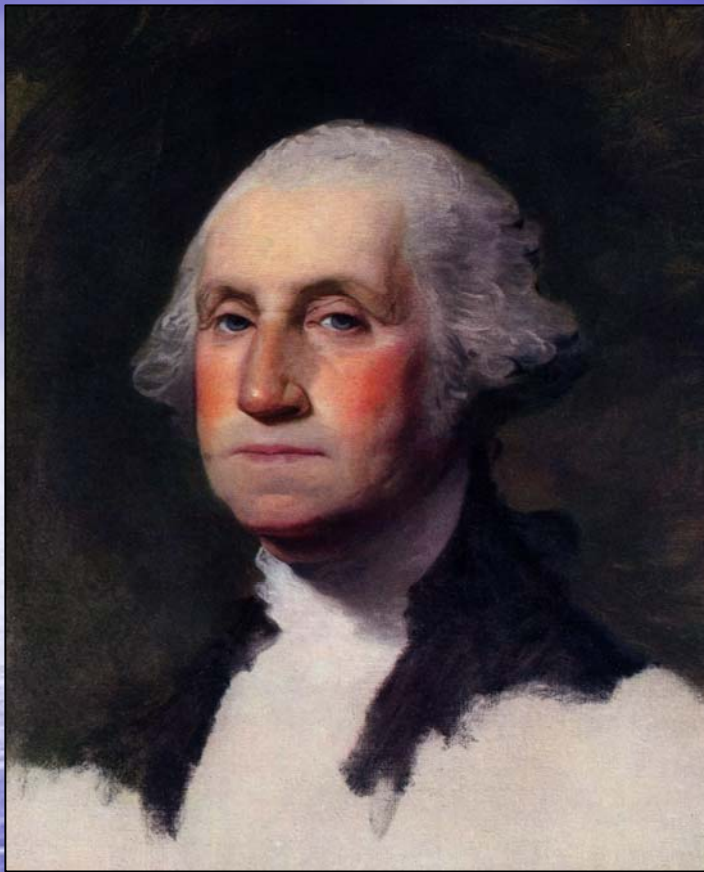




- The President and Mrs. Washington spent 7 of their 8 years as the nation's first President in Philadelphia, where they were surrounded by high society and feted at numerous events. Washington always referred to Martha as "the best of friends", and described his marriage as a "*uniformly happy relationship.*"



# A stiff lip and stern gaze



- Of all the busts and paintings made of Washington in his later years, the unfinished painting by noted artist Gilbert Stuart was the least favored by Martha Washington. She thought it made him appear far too stern and unnatural, but the artist desired an image that would convey Washington's indomitable determination
- The reverse image of the Stuart portrait has adorned American stamps since 1861 and the American one dollar bill since 1869.

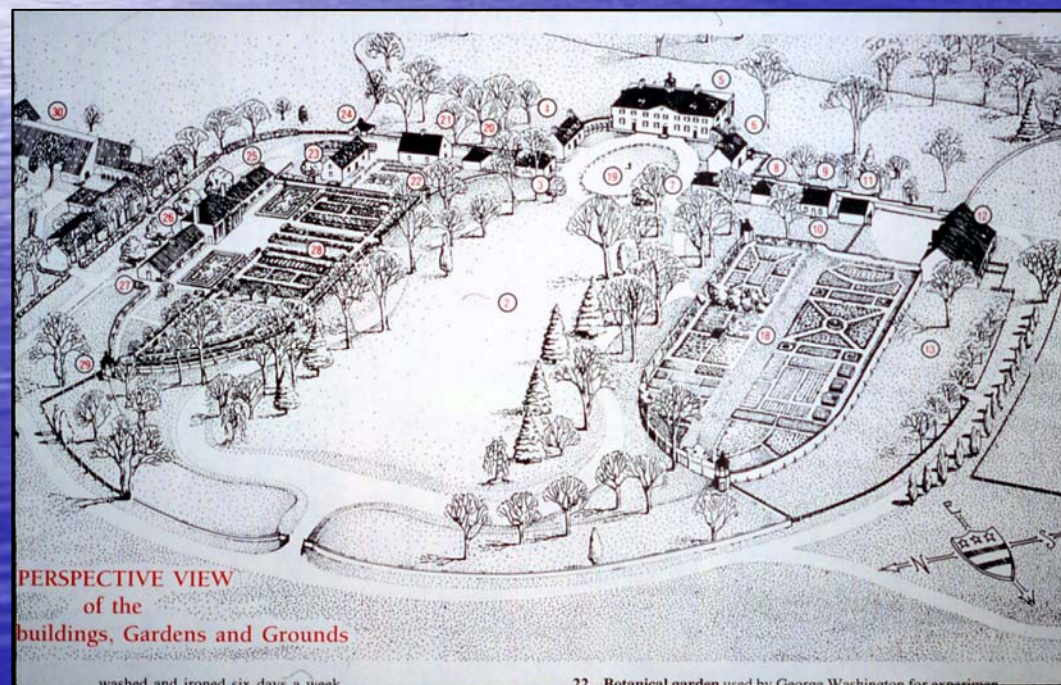
The unfinished painting by Gilbert Stuart in 1796 is the image of Washington most familiar to Americans



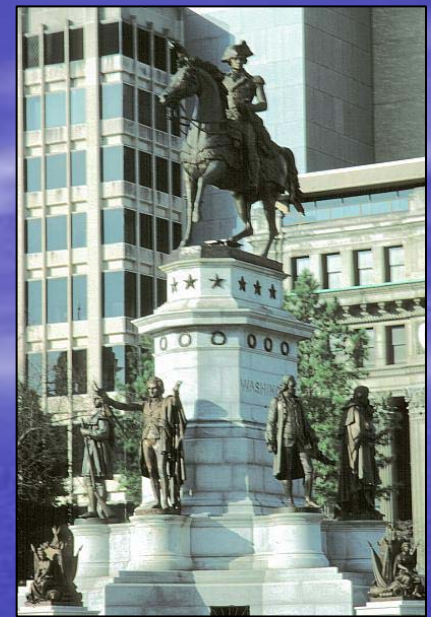
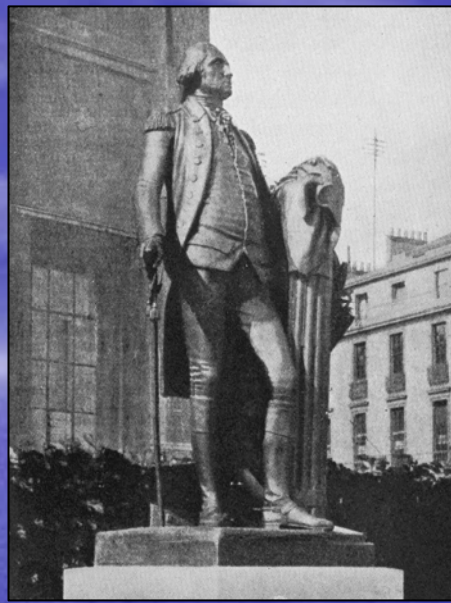


# Return to Mt. Vernon - 1797

- The Washingtons returned to Mt. Vernon after John Adams was sworn in as the nation's second President in March 1797.
- Washington was happiest managing the affairs of Mount Vernon, busying himself with the design of improvements and managing the affairs of his considerable estate.
- During his last year he prepared a detailed last will and testament, and saw his granddaughter married to one of his former aides







**Statue in Trafalgar Square-London  
Even his former enemies paid tribute to him**

