

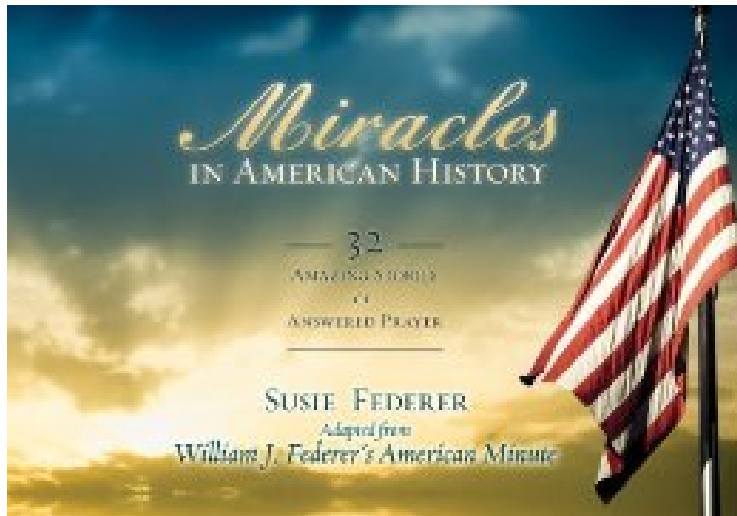
## American Minute with Bill Federer First President's Day: George Washington's Birthday

**Presidents' Day** is actually **Washington's birthday**, recognized by an Act of Congress for government offices in Washington, D.C., in 1879, and for all federal offices in 1885.



In 1971, the **Uniform Monday Holiday Act** to create more three day weekends **moved the observance of Washington's birthday to the third Monday in February.**

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[Miracles in American History- 32 Amazing Stories of Answered Prayers](#)

As **Abraham Lincoln** was also born in **February**, so many States include him in the observance, and

still other States include all the Presidents.



**George Washington** was born FEBRUARY 22, 1732.

He was:

- *unanimously* chosen as the **Army's Commander-in-Chief;**
- *unanimously* chosen as **President of the Constitutional Convention;**
- *unanimously* chosen as the **first U.S. President;**
- *unanimously* re-elected to a second term.



**George Washington** was an Anglican, and, after the Revolution, an Episcopalian.

**George's great-great-grandfather, Rev. Lawrence Washington,** was an **Anglican minister** who taught at Oxford.

**Lawrence** and his wife, **Amphyllis Twigen**, had a son named **John**.

When the the **Puritans** won the **English Civil War** in 1651, **Anglican ministers** were demoted. **Lawrence** was reduced to being an assistant minister - a vicar - at an impoverished parish in Essex, England.

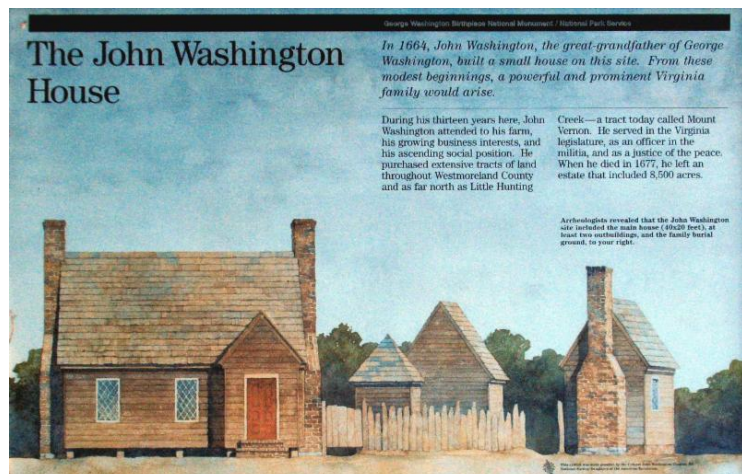


It was during this time that **John Washington, George Washington's great-grandfather**, apprenticed as a merchant in London.

He sailed as second officer on a ship to the **Colony of Virginia** to purchase tobacco.

In 1657, when a storm partially **sank their vessel** in the Potomac River, **John** swam ashore.

While the ship was being repaired,



### The John Washington House

*In 1654, John Washington, the great-grandfather of George Washington, built a small house on this site. From these modest beginnings, a powerful and prominent Virginia family would arise.*

During his thirteen years here, John Washington attended to his farm, his growing business interests, and his ascending social position. He purchased extensive tracts of land throughout Westmoreland County and as far north as Little Hunting

Creek—a tract today called Mount Vernon. He served in the Virginia legislature, as an officer in the militia, and as a justice of the peace. When he died in 1677, he left an estate that included 8,500 acres.

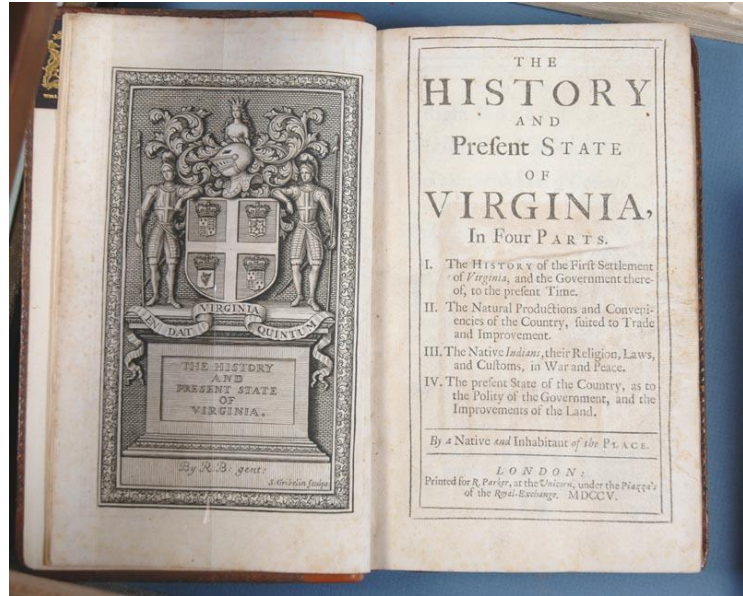
Archaeologists revealed that the John Washington site included the main house (60x20 feet), at least two outbuildings, and the family burial ground, to your right.



**John** stayed at the home of a planter **Colonel Nathaniel Pope**, and fell in love with his daughter, **Anne**. **John** never returned to England.

**John and Anne** married, and her father gave them 700 acres in **Westmoreland County**.

**John Washington** became a successful planter and a member of the **Virginia House of Burgesses**.



He was a militia leader during **Nathaniel Bacon's Rebellion** against Governor William Berkeley in 1676.

A local Anglican church was renamed "Washington" in honor of **John Washington**.

When **John** died, he left to the church a tablet of the Ten Commandments. His Will stated:

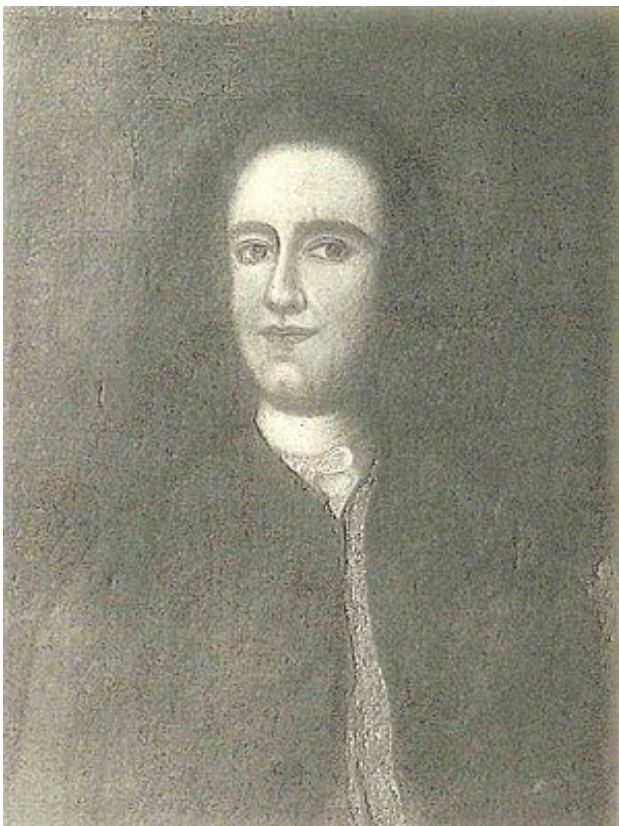


"In the **Name of God**, Amen. I, **John Washington**, of Washington Parish, in the **County of Westmoreland**, in Virginia, gentleman, being of good and perfect memory, thanks be unto **Almighty God** for it,

and calling to remembrance the uncertain state of this transitory life, that all flesh must yield unto death, do make, constitute, and ordain this **my last will and testament ...**

... First, being heartily sorry, from the bottom of my heart, for my sins past, most humbly desiring forgiveness of the same from the **Almighty God, my Savior and Redeemer**, in whom and by the merits of **Jesus Christ**, I trust and believe assuredly to be saved, and to have full remission and forgiveness of all my sins,

and that my soul with my body at the general resurrection shall rise again with joy."



The oldest of John Washington's sons was **Lawrence**, the **grandfather of George Washington**.

**Lawrence** married **Mildred Warner**, the daughter of **Col. Augustine Warner, Jr.**, an ancestor of Queen Elizabeth II.

**Lawrence and Mildred** had three children, the second being

**Augustine**, who would become **George Washington's father**.



When **Lawrence** died in 1698, **Mildred** married **George Gale** and moved **back to England** with her children.



When **Mildred** died, a relative in America petitioned to get custody of her children, including **Augustine**, and they were **returned to Virginia in 1704**.

**Augustine Washington** served as a **vestryman** in the **Anglican Truro Parish**.



He and his wife **Jane Butler** had two sons live to adulthood, **Lawrence** and **Augustine Jr.**

Both **Lawrence** and **Augustine, Jr.**, went **back to England** to study at the prestigious **Appleby Grammar School**.

**Jane** died in 1729.

**Augustine** married **Mary Ball** in 1731, and together they had 6 children, with the oldest, **George Washington**,

being born  
**February 22,**  
**1732.**

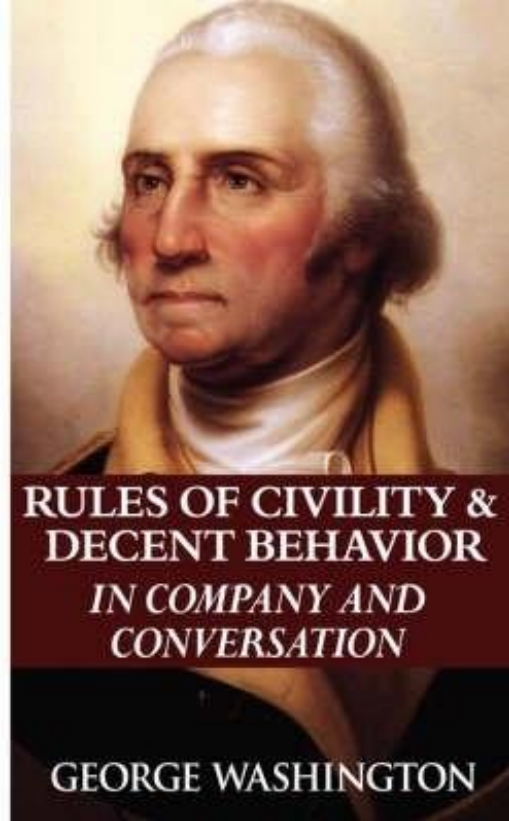


**Augustine** died in  
1743 when **George**  
was only 11-years-  
old.

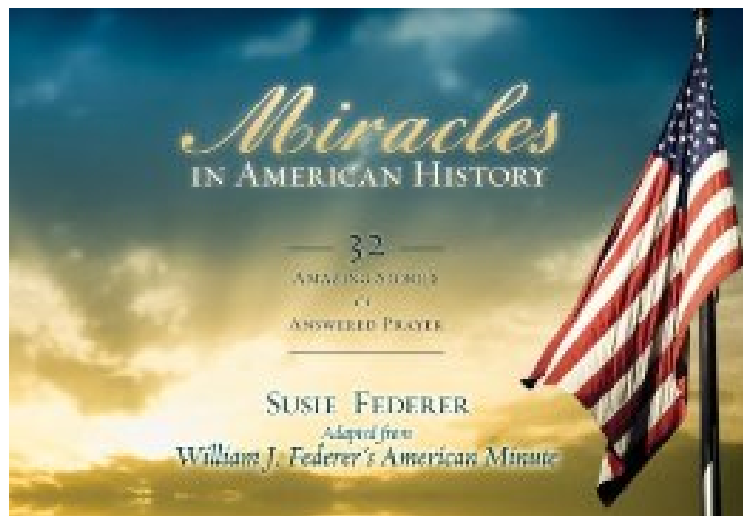


George hand copies the  
*Rules of Civility and Decent  
Behaviour in Company and  
Conversation*, 1744, which  
included Rule #110:

“Labor to keep alive in your  
breast that **little spark of  
celestial fire** called  
**conscience.**”



[Miracles in American History- 32 Amazing Stories of Answered Prayers](#)



**George's** older half-brother **Lawrence** fought in the **British** navy under **Admiral Edward Vernon**, who had captured **Porto Bello, Panama**, from **Spain** in 1739.

When **Lawrence** returned to **Virginia** in 1742, he named his farm



after his navy  
**Admiral -- Mount  
Vernon.**



**Lawrence married  
Anne Fairfax.**

Her father, **Col.  
William Fairfax**,  
had been Collector  
of Customs in  
**Barbados**, and  
**Chief Justice and  
Governor of the  
Bahamas**, as well  
as a first cousin of  
**Thomas Fairfax**,

who was **the largest land owner in America** with five  
million acres.

**Lawrence**  
arranged for  
**George**, at age  
15, to begin a  
**career in the  
British navy** as a  
cabin boy, but his  
mother, **Mary Ball  
Washington**,  
refused.

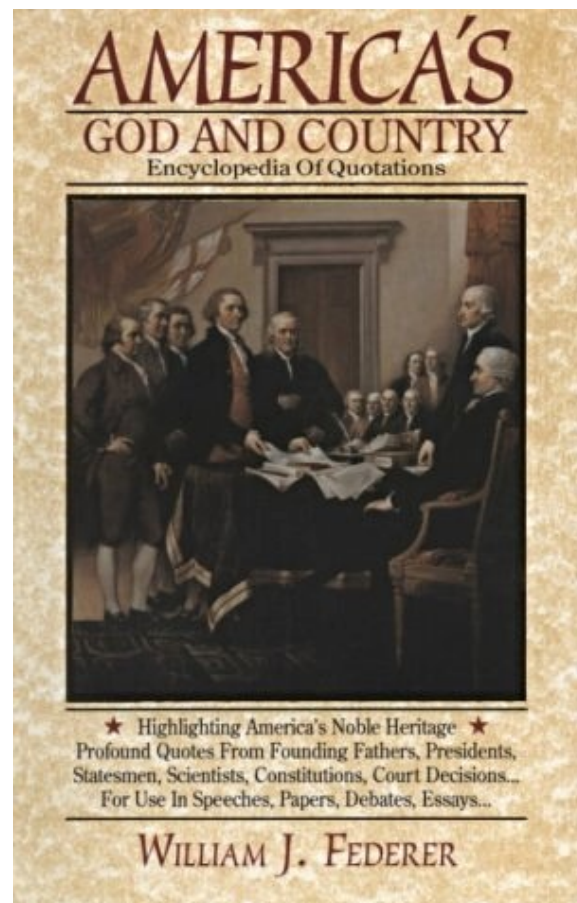


**George** complied with his mother's wishes and returned home.



In 1748, the 16-year-old **George Washington** was employed by **Thomas Fairfax** to survey the western area of his vast estate.

[America's God and Country Encyclopedia of Quotations](#)



In 1751, **Lawrence Washington** contracted tuberculosis.

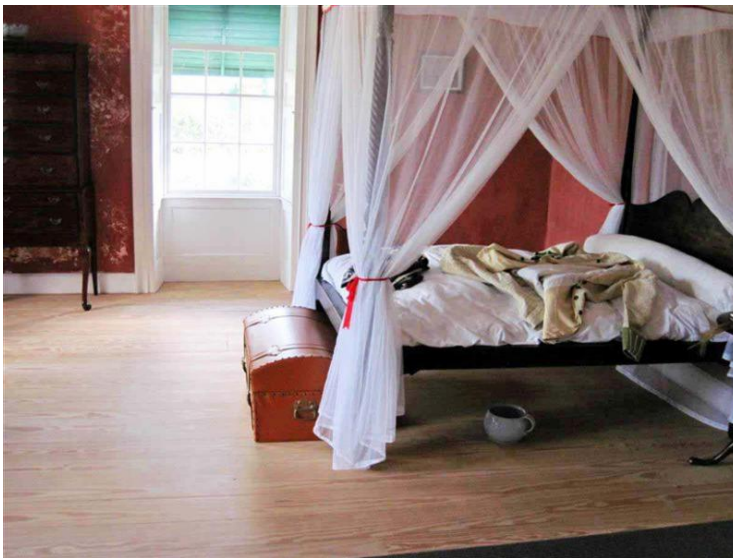
In hopes that a change of climate would help him



recover, doctors recommended he travel to **Barbados**, where his father-in-law had been Collector of Customs.

He brought along his 17-year-old half-brother **George**.

This was the only time that **George** left the American continent.



In **Barbados**, **George** contracted **smallpox**, but recovered. This providentially **inoculated** **George** so that he was immune during the **Revolutionary**

**War**, where it is estimated that **more soldiers died of smallpox than in battle**.

**Lawrence** died in 1752 and his Mount Vernon estate eventually was inherited by



**George**, making him one of the youngest and largest landowners in Virginia.



**George** became vestryman in **Truro Parish**, and was godfather in baptism to several nephews and a niece.

From 1753-1758, **George** served in the **French and Indian War**.

He was a colonel under **General Edward Braddock**, Commander of the British forces in America.



**George** miraculously survived the **Battle of Monongehela** in 1755. **Braddock** was killed, leaving **George** in



command.

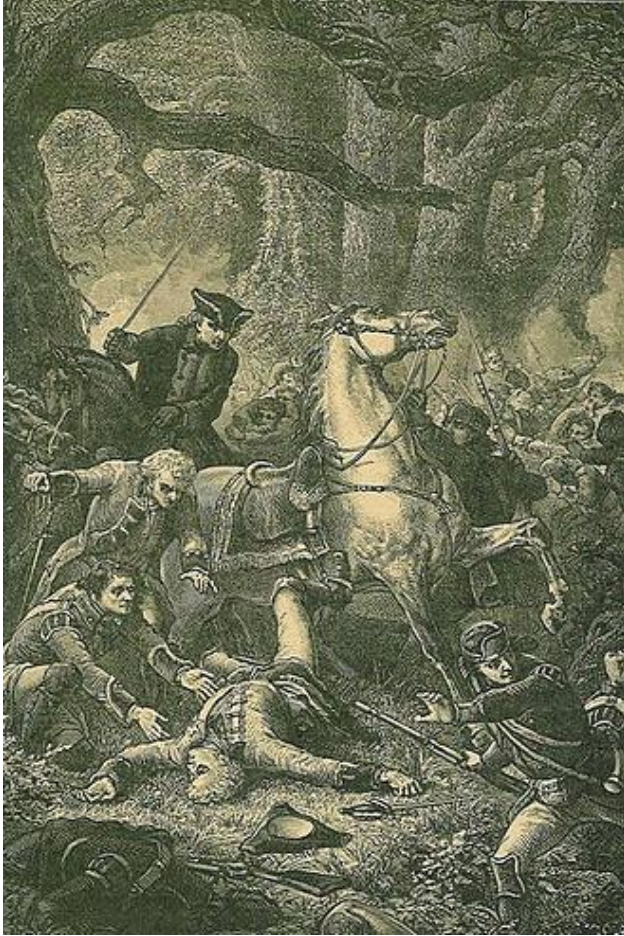
On July 18, 1755,  
**Washington** wrote from  
Fort Cumberland to his  
brother, **John A.  
Washington**:

"By the **All-Powerful  
Dispensations of  
Providence**, I have  
been protected beyond  
all human probability or  
expectation; for I had  
**four bullets through  
my coat, and two  
horses shot under me**,  
yet escaped unhurt,

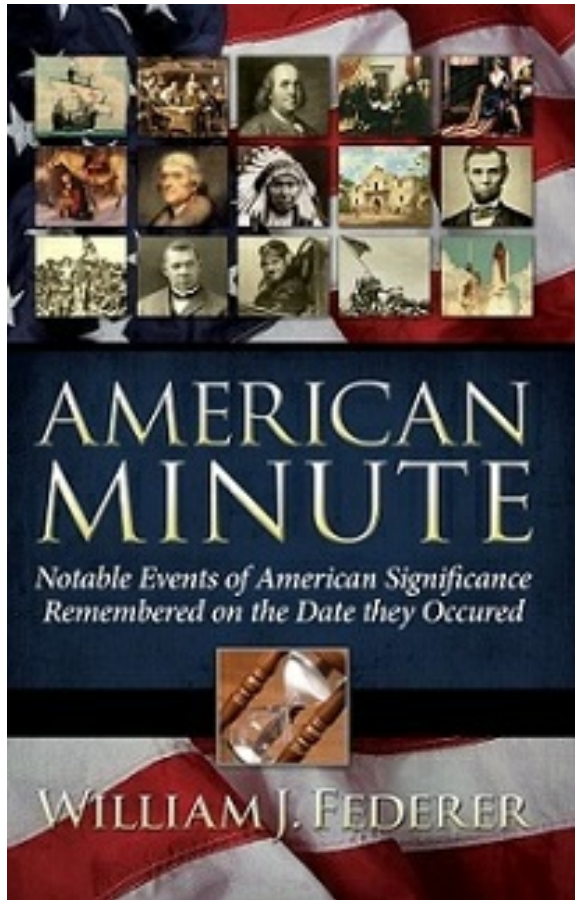
although death was leveling my companions on every  
side of me!"

**Colonel Washington**  
wrote to Fort  
Loudoun, April 17,  
1758:

"The last Assembly ...  
provided for a  
chaplain to our  
regiment. On this  
subject I had often  
without any success  
applied to Governor  
Dinwiddie. I now flatter  
myself, that your  
honor will be pleased  
to appoint a sober,  
serious man for this  
duty. Common decency, Sir, in a camp calls for the



services of a divine."



[American Minute-Notable Events of American Significance Remembered on the Date They Occurred](#)

In 1759, **George** fell in love **Martha "Patsy" Dandridge Custis**, a 26-year-old widow and mother with two children, **John "Jacky" Parke Custis** and **Martha "Patsy" Parke Custis**.





**Martha** had inherited five plantations totaling 17,500 acres.

**Martha's** daughter **Patsy** died at age 16 of an **epileptic seizure** in 1773, while **George** held her in his arms. He wrote:



"The sweet, innocent girl entered into a more happy and peaceful abode than she had met in the afflicted path she had hitherto trod."

In 1775, after the Battle of Bunker Hill, **George Washington** was commissioned as the **General of the Continental Army**.

He wrote to **Martha**, June 18, 1775:

"My Dearest ... It has been determined in Congress, that **the whole army raised for the defense of the American cause shall be put under my care**, and that it is necessary for me to proceed **immediately to Boston** to take up command of it.



You may believe me, my dear **Patsy**, when I assure you, in the most solemn manner that, so far from seeking this appointment, I have used every endeavor in my power to avoid it ...

But as it has been a **kind of Destiny**, that has thrown me upon **this service**, I shall hope that my undertaking it is **designed to answer some good purpose** ...

I shall rely, therefore, confidently on that **Providence** **which** has heretofore **preserved** and **been bountiful to me**, not doubting but that I shall return safely to you in the fall."



On July 4, 1775,  
**General Washington**  
ordered:

"The **General** ...  
requires ...  
observance of those  
articles of war ...  
which forbid profane  
cursing, swearing and  
drunkenness; And ...  
requires ... punctual  
attendance of Divine  
Services."

On October 2, 1775,  
**General George**  
**Washington** issued the  
order:

"Any ... soldier who shall  
hereafter be detected  
playing at toss-up, pitch,

and hustle, or any other games of chance ... shall without delay be confined and punished ...

The General does not mean by the above to discourage sports of exercise or recreation, he only means to discountenance and punish gaming."



On February 26, 1776, **General Washington** issued the orders:

"All ... soldiers are positively forbid playing at cards and other games of chance. At this time of public distress men may find enough to do in the service of their God and their country, without abandoning themselves to vice and immorality."

**Washington** acknowledged God throughout the



Revolution, as he wrote on May 15, 1776:

"The Continental Congress having ordered Friday the 17th instant to be observed as a **day of fasting**, humiliation, and prayer, humbly to supplicate **the mercy of Almighty God**,

**that it would please Him to pardon all our manifold sins and transgressions**,

and to prosper the arms of the United Colonies, and finally establish the peace and freedom of America upon a solid and lasting foundation;

the General commands all officers and soldiers to pay strict obedience to the orders of the Continental Congress;

that, by their unfeigned and pious observance of their religious duties, they may incline **the Lord and Giver of victory** to prosper our arms."



On July 2, 1776, from his Head Quarters in New York, **General Washington** issued his General Orders:



"The time is now near at hand which must probably determine whether Americans are to be freemen or slaves; whether they are to have any property they can call their own;

whether their houses and farms are to be pillaged and destroyed, and themselves consigned to a state of wretchedness from which no human efforts will deliver them.

The fate of **unborn millions** will now depend, **under God**, on the courage and conduct of this army.

Our cruel and unrelenting enemy leaves us no choice but a brave resistance, or the most abject submission. **We have, therefore to resolve to conquer or die ..."**

He continued:

"Our own country's honor calls upon us for a vigorous and manly exertion, and **if we now shamefully fail, we shall become infamous to the whole world.**



**Let us rely** upon the goodness of the cause, and **the aid of the Supreme Being** in whose hands victory is, to

animate and encourage us to great and noble actions."



When the **Declaration of Independence** was written, a copy was rushed out to **Washington**, who was fortifying New York City.

He had it read to his troops, then ordered chaplains placed in each regiment, stating July 9, 1776:

"The General hopes and trusts, that every officer and man, will endeavour so to live, and act, as becomes a

**Christian Soldier**, defending the dearest Rights and Liberties of his country."

As recorded in *The Writings of George Washington* (March 10, 1778, 11:83-84, U.S. Government Printing Office, 1934), **George Washington** ordered:

"At a General Court Marshall ... Lieutt. Enslin of Colo. Malcom's Regiment tried for attempting to commit sodomy, with John Monhort a soldier...and do sentence him to be dismiss'd the service





with Infamy.

**His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief** approves the sentence and with Abhorrence and Detestation of such Infamous Crimes orders Liett. Enslin to be drummed out of Camp tomorrow morning by all the Drummers and Fifers in the Army **never to return."**



**General Washington** wrote at Valley Forge, May 2, 1778:

"To the distinguished character of

Patriot, it should be our highest Glory to laud the more distinguished **Character of Christian."**

To the **Delaware Indian Chiefs** who brought three youths to be trained in American schools, **General Washington** stated, May 12, 1779:



"You do well to wish to learn our arts and ways of life, and above all, **the religion of Jesus Christ."**

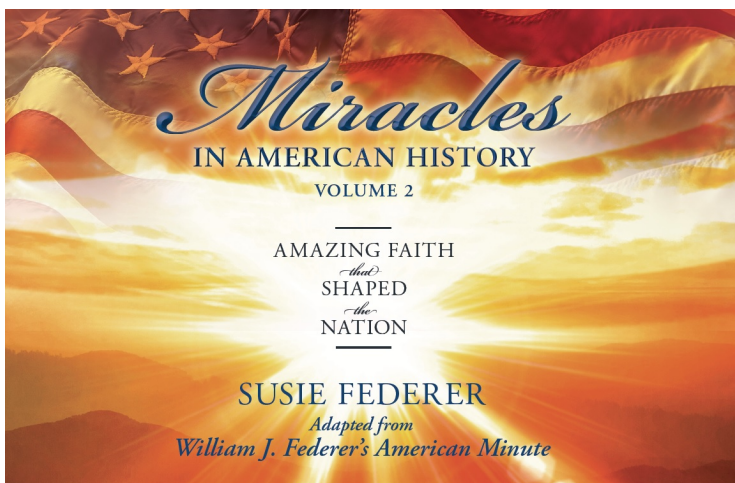
The tremendous victory at the **Battle of Yorktown**, October 19, 1781, securing America's



independence, was personally bittersweet for **Washington**, as his wife's son, **John Parke Custis**, who had been an aide-de-camp, **died there**

**of camp fever, November 5, 1781.**

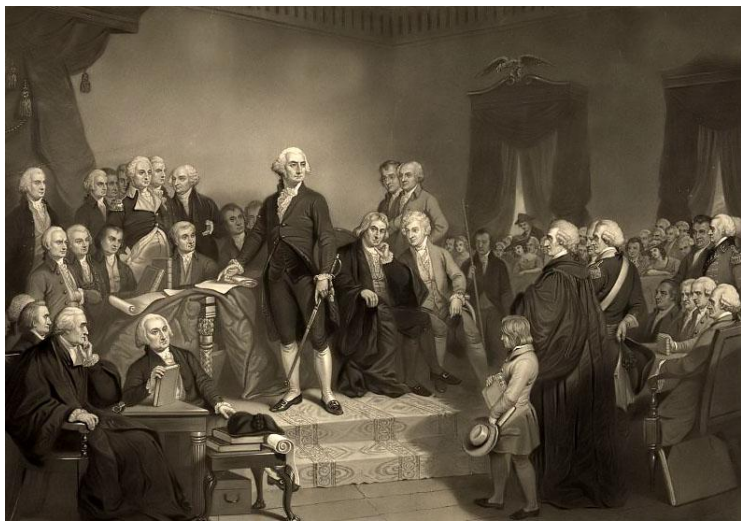
Though never having children of his own, **George** agreed to adopt **John Parke Custis'** two young children as his own: **Eleanor "Nelly" Parke Custis** and **George Washington Parke Custis**, whose daughter, **Mary Anna**, married **Robert E. Lee.**



[Miracles in American History- Vol. TWO: Amazing Faith that Shaped the Nation](#)



When the **Articles of Confederation** proved inadequate for the new nation **George Washington** agreed to preside over the **Constitutional Convention** in 1787.



He opened the Constitutional Convention with the line:

"The event is in the **hand of God.**"

In 1789, he was sworn in as the **first President of the United States.**



**President Washington** thanked God for the Constitution, October 3, 1789:

"Whereas it is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the **Providence of**

**Almighty God ...**

I do recommend ... **rendering unto Him our sincere and humble thanks**, for ... the favorable interpositions of **His Providence** ... we experienced in the course and conclusion of the late war ... for the peaceable and rational manner in which we have been enabled to establish **constitutions of government.**"

On August 15,



1787, in a letter from Philadelphia to the **Marquis de Lafayette, Washington** wrote:

"I am not less ardent in my wish that you may succeed in your plan of **toleration in religious matters.**"



Being no bigot myself to any mode of worship, I am **disposed to indulge the professors of Christianity in the church with that road to Heaven** which to them shall seem the **most direct, plainest and easiest, and the least liable to exception."**



Washington sent a letters to the **Jewish Congregation in Newport, Rhode Island, and in Savannah, Georgia, stating:**

"May the same **wonder-working**

**Deity, who long since delivered the Hebrews from their Egyptian oppressors, planted them in a promised land, whose providential agency has lately been conspicuous in establishing these United States as an independent nation, still continue to water them with the dews of heaven."**

In 1794, during the

Whiskey Rebellion, **Washington** became the **only sitting President, as Commander-in-Chief, to lead the United States Army into the field.**



**Washington** chose only to served **two terms as President**, leaving an example which every succeeding President follow till **Franklin Roosevelt**, necessitating the **22nd Amendment**.

**Washington** continually had toothaches. By the time of his Inauguration, he had only one tooth.

Several dentists made make-shift dentures for him.



**Washington** had slaves from inheritance, marriage, and purchase, as did almost half of the





founders.

As the influence of **Baptists, Methodists and Quakers** spread, many founders abandoned

slavery -- similar to today, how more and more pro-abortion supporters are becoming pro-life.

**Washington** freed his mulatto man William:

"And to my **Mulatto man William** (calling himself William Lee) I **give immediate freedom** ... I allow him an annuity of thirty dollars during his natural life...& this I give him as a testimony of my sense of his attachment to me, and **for his faithful services during the Revolutionary War.**"

In his Will, **Washington** freed the rest of his slaves upon his wife **Martha's** death. **Martha** freed them the year after **Washington** died.

In his Will, **George** also made provision that **elderly and sick slaves** were to be **supported by his estate in perpetuity.**

On May 10, 1786, **George Washington** wrote from to **Marquis de Lafayette:**



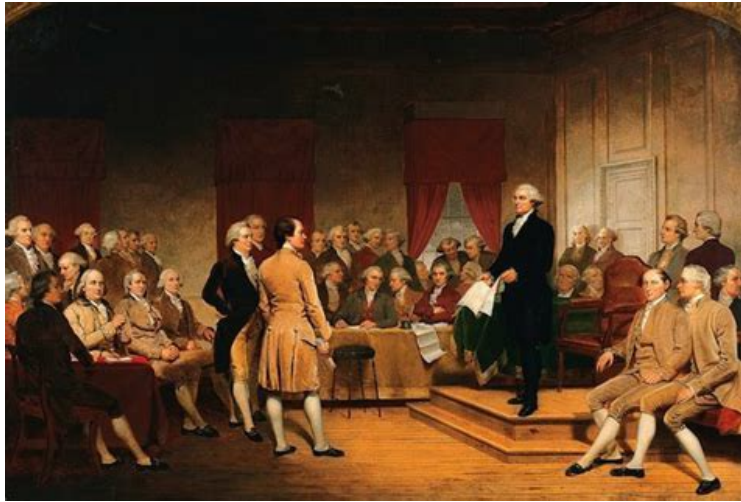
"Your late purchase of an **estate in the colony of Cayenne**, with a view of **emancipating the slaves** on it, is a generous and **noble proof of your humanity** ...

**Would to God a like spirit** would diffuse itself generally



into the minds of the people of this country."

As the early country took shape, partisan politics became increasingly vicious, with **Washington** even being the victim of ungracious attacks.



He warned how ambitious politicians would be tempted to use crises as opportunities to usurp power.

In his **Farewell Address**, 1796, **Washington** warned of those who would usurp power and rule through executive orders:

"Disorders and miseries, which result, gradually incline the minds of men to seek security and repose in the absolute power of an Individual ... (who) turns this disposition to the purposes of his own elevation, on the ruins of Public Liberty ...

The spirit of encroachment tends to consolidate the powers of all the departments in one, and thus to create, whatever the form of government, a real despotism ...

Let there be no change by **usurpation**; for though this, in one instance, may be **the instrument of good**, it is the **customary weapon by which free governments are destroyed**.

**The precedent (of usurpation)** must always greatly overbalance in **permanent evil** any partial or **transient benefit** which the use can at any time yield."

Earlier, in 1783, the

American-born painter **Benjamin West** was in England painting the portrait of **King George III**.



When the **King** asked what General Washington planned to do now that he had won the war.

**West** replied:

"They say he will return to his farm."

**King George** exclaimed:

"If he does that, he will be the greatest man in the world."

**Poet Robert Frost** once wrote:

"I often say of **George Washington** that he was one of the few men in the whole history of the worlds who was not carried away by power."



**Charles Francis Adams**, the grandson of John Adams, wrote:

"More than all, and above all, **Washington** was master of himself. If there be one quality more than another in his character which may exercise a useful control over the men of the present hour, it is **the total disregard of self**



when in the most elevated positions for influence and example."



**George Washington** added a warning in his **Farewell Address, 1796:**

"Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political

prosperity, **Religion and Morality** are **indispensable supports.**

In vain would that man claim the tribute of **Patriotism**, who should labor to subvert **these great Pillars of human happiness.**"

--

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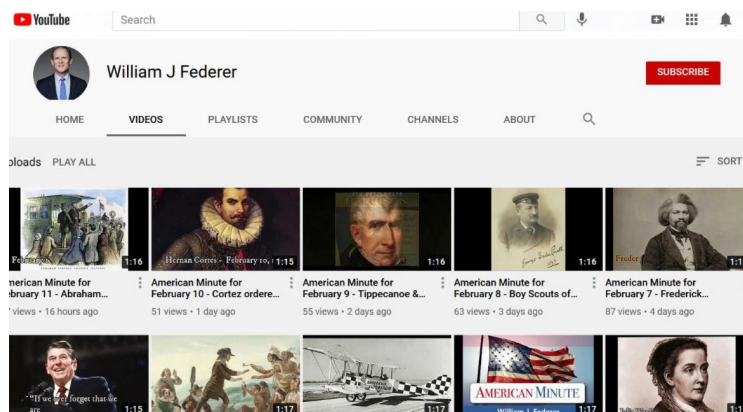
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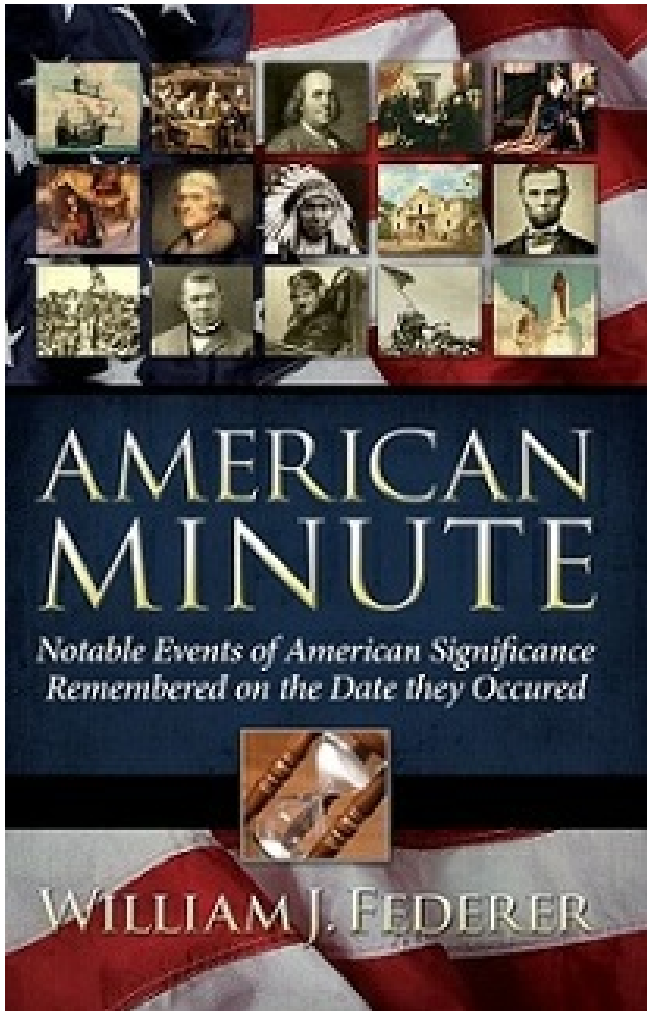
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