

George Washington

“Father of His Country,” “The Sage of Mount Vernon,” “The Foundingest Father of them all” ... Martha Washington called him “Her Old Man.”

Born in 1732 into a Virginia planter family, he learned the morals, manners and body of knowledge requisite for an 18th century Virginia gentleman.

The unexpected death of their father, when George Washington was eleven, prevented him from receiving a classical, Latin-based education at Appleby School in England.

Instead, private tutors and possibly a local school in Fredericksburg provided the young man with the only formal instruction he would receive.

He pursued two intertwined interests: military arts and western expansion.

In 1747, Washington executed his first practice surveys, and in 1749 he secured the lucrative office of county surveyor in Culpeper County, Virginia.

At 16 he helped survey Shenandoah lands for Thomas, Lord Fairfax.

Commissioned a lieutenant colonel in the British Army in 1754, he fought the first skirmishes of what grew into the French and Indian War.

From 1759 to the outbreak of the American Revolution, Washington managed his lands around Mount Vernon and served in the Virginia House of Burgesses.

When the Second Continental Congress assembled in Philadelphia in May 1775, Congress created the Continental Army on June 14, 1775, and John Adams nominated George Washington to serve as the army’s Commander-in-Chief.

While he lost more battles than he won, Washington employed a winning strategy that included victories at the Battle of Trenton in 1776 and Yorktown in 1781.

When the new Constitution was ratified, the Electoral College unanimously elected Washington President. He retired at the end of his second term.

George Washington, selected the site for the White House in 1791, but he never lived in it.



George Washington's Mount Vernon mansion is ten times the size of the average home in colonial Virginia. Mount Vernon was the home of George Washington.

Washington enjoyed less than three years of retirement at Mount Vernon; he died of a throat infection December 14, 1799. For months the Nation mourned him.

This broadsheet is dedicated to the 250th Anniversary Celebration of the Declaration of Independence for more information visit the National Society Sons of the American Revolution website at: www.sar.org

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