



# George Washington

☞ How He Became the Man He is Known as Today

☞ BAB

# George Washington – The Beginning



- ☞ George Washington, the first President of the United States, was known as, “First in war, first in peace and first in the hearts of his countrymen.” –Henry Lee. He was born on February 22, 1732 to Gus and Mary Washington in Westmorland County, Virginia. When he was 6, George and his family moved to Ferry Farm, which is in Stafford County, Virginia, where I live. George Washington never truly exceeded an Elementary school education, but he did have a knack for mathematics. By the age of 15, he was out of the house surveying land. By the time of George’s death on December 14, 1799, he owned over 50,000 acres of land.

# Ferry Farm, Stafford, VA



The corner stones mark where the Washington's house is believed to have once stood at Ferry Farm in Stafford, VA. Picture taken by Brock Ann Brauer.

# Growing up on Ferry Farm



- George's formative years were spent running around the grounds of Ferry Farm. There are stories of George when he was a young boy that he and his friends would throw rocks across the river while waiting for ferries. The stories demonstrate George's physical strength. Not only did he have great physical strength, he was also very tall, and was often noted for standing out in a crowd. One story says that George once threw a rock all the way across the river behind Ferry Farm. I stood on the Ferry Farm estate and threw a rock and it barely made it three yards into the wide waters of the Rappahannock.

# The Rappahannock River



This is a picture of the Rappahannock River at Ferry Farm, Stafford, VA. George threw a piece of slate across this river at a young age. Picture taken by Brock Ann Brauer.

# George's Education



- George's education was not a formal one. He never learned a foreign language, he never attended college, and his education ended around the age of 15. However he was brilliant in mathematics, and learned how to survey land. Both of these skills came in handy in later years.
- Before he was 16, George made himself a book in which he wrote down the way to act around people. He wanted to make people feel comfortable around him, so he took etiquette very seriously.

# George Sails to Barbados



- George's older half brother, Lawrence came down with Tuberculosis, so George accompanied him to Barbados in 1751, where the climate was supposed to cure this disease. Not only did the climate not cure Lawrence, George came down with smallpox. Thankfully for George, he was able to fight off the disease and would be immune to it in later years when it could have been devastating for the Americans to lose their Commander during the Revolutionary War. This is especially important as smallpox almost destroyed the Continental Army.

# The French and Indian War (1754-1763)



- ☞ The French and Indian War was a dispute between the British and French over land. The Indians sided with the French, and the colonists with the British.
- ☞ At 21 years old George was sent by Virginia's Governor to take an ultimatum to the French in Fort Le Boeuf. The ultimatum requested that the French exit the territory that was owned by the King of Great Britain. By doing this, George's actions played a part in starting the French and Indian war.
- ☞ There was only one time that George ever surrendered in battle. According to [mountvernon.org](http://mountvernon.org), "The Battle of Great Meadows proved to be the only time that Washington surrendered to an enemy in battle." In this battle the British were completely surrounded by the French.

# Braddock's Defeat



- ☞ In the Battle of Braddock's Defeat during the French and Indian War, George wore a bright red coat and sat on top of a shockingly white steed. During the battle, George had two horses shot out from under him, four bullet holes in his jacket, and bullet fragments in his hair, yet was not wounded in battle.
- ☞ It was later noted by an Indian Chief who traveled a long way to see George that he had his best shooters trying to kill George during the Battle of Braddock's Defeat, and that he himself had shot at George several times, but no one could hit him. Then the chief made this prophecy, "...he will become the chief of nations, and a people yet unborn will hail him as the founder of a mighty empire. I am come to pay homage to the man who is the particular favorite of Heaven, and who can never die in battle." – [therealamericanhis-story.com](http://therealamericanhis-story.com)
- ☞ George was the only officer on horseback who was not hit or killed during the Battle of Braddock's Defeat.

# The Revolutionary War



- ☞ After the victory of the French and Indian war, George was called into war again; this time as Commander in Chief of the Continental Army. Although he lost more battles than he won, he led his army to ultimate victory. Commanding in the Revolutionary War was his first time commanding that large of a force.
- ☞ During the war, smallpox was the greatest killer of soldiers. In 1777, George decided to have his army inoculated against small pox. This had to be done in secret since, “inoculated soldiers were incapacitated for a period of time.”-mountvernon.org. Because it was so dangerous, Congress had ruled out inoculation. Although it was risky, George made the decision and succeeded; most of his soldiers survived smallpox because of this choice.

# Becoming President



- After the victory of the Revolution, the American people needed a leader. But who? George, of course! The American people were willing to give George everything. He could've been king, but he chose to be called president. If George had chosen not to become president and had decided to be king, America would be very different. By becoming president, George Washington set the path of America.

# Remembering George Washington



- ☞ George Washington died on December 17, 1799 from a throat infection. He died in Mount Vernon with his family at his side. Because George's father died when George was young, George pretty much taught himself how to behave. Because he was a surveyor in his early adulthood, he was able to use those skills in his days of war. Because he fought in the French and Indian war, he was able to be Commander in Chief of the Continental Army in the Revolutionary war.

# Remembering George Washington (cont.)



- Because George was Commander in Chief of the Continental Army, his country was able to trust him enough to lay the path of the future for their new country. Because George was so strong, he was able to carry his country on his shoulders. If George hadn't had some of these things happen to him, and hadn't made some of these decisions, America would be a much different place.