

Washington **MONUMENT**

Contents

	<i>Page</i>
Washington's Greatness in the Revolutionary Period	4
Washington, American Commander in Chief, 1775-83	5
Washington's Fame in 1783	7
Washington's Greatness After the Revolution	8
Congressional Action Regarding a Monument to Washington	9
The Formation and Early Work of the Washington National Monument Society . . .	11
The Erection of the Washington Monument .	13
The Monument, 1858-85	14
The Monument Today	14
How To Reach the Monument	15
Administration	15



The earliest known authentic portrait of Washington. It was painted by Charles Willson Peale in 1772, when Washington was 40 years of age. The original hangs in the Lee Memorial Chapel, Washington and Lee University, Lexington, Va. (Courtesy Washington Bicentennial Commission.)

THE COVER

Straight and lofty, the Washington Monument represents the admiration of Americans for the immutable, unselfish devotion to principle and to country of George Washington, their leader during the Revolution and the critical years that followed it. The Monument was built at intervals between 1848 and 1885 with funds from public subscriptions gathered by the Washington National Monument Society and by the Federal Government. It was opened to the public in 1888, three years after its formal dedication.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

HAROLD L. ICKES, *Secretary*

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE · NEWTON B. DRURY, *Director*

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WASHINGTON Monument



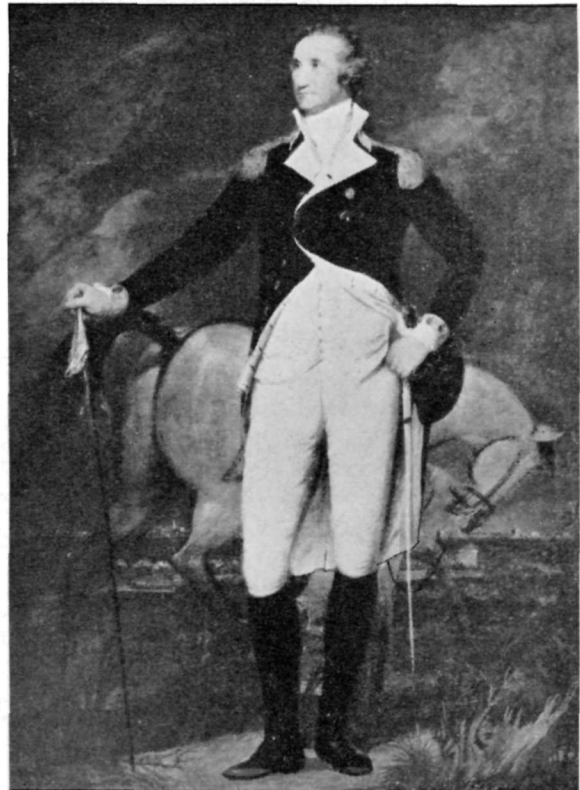
AS LONG AS THE UNITED STATES endures as a democratic country the Washington Monument will symbolize to the world its steadfast faith in the principles of its founders.

Standing on a slight elevation in the open spaces of the Mall in the District of Columbia between the Capitol and the Lincoln Memorial, the marble shaft of the Washington Monument rises in striking majesty. Built at intervals between 1848 and 1885 with funds raised by public subscription and Federal appropriation, it is the material symbol of the veneration of George Washington by the Nation which he led in war and peace and to whose formation he so greatly contributed. Here is represented the admiration of Americans for those qualities of immutable, unselfish devotion to principle and to country that constituted the greatness of George Washington. Straight and lofty, the huge obelisk symbolizes in stone his uprightness and resolution. It represents also American gratitude for his military accomplishments, his sagacious statesmanship, his stainless integrity. In its enduring marble is expressed the continuing pride and faith of the American people in the Declaration of Independence, in the Federal Constitution, and in the other liberal achievements of the Revolution.

No site for the Washington Monument could have been more appropriate than that chosen. Here, on land selected by Washington as the site of the National Capital of the young country he had helped create, in the midst of the region in which he lived and worked, was obviously the place to rear the material symbol of his countrymen's estimate of his stature among the great figures of American history. From the summit of the Monument can be seen the Potomac, winding its way south toward Mount Vernon, while to the west rise the hills of Virginia through which Washington passed so frequently on public and private errands. Directly across the Potomac appears Alexandria, in which, as a young officer, Washington drilled the Virginia militia before and after Braddock's ill-fated expedi-

tion. On the Maryland side of the river can be seen quaint old Georgetown, where Washington was often a guest of good friends, and to the north the Chesapeake & Ohio Canal, which represented the partial realization of his dream of a navigable waterway connecting the National Capital with the West.

A reproduction of John Trumbull's representation of Washington as Commander in Chief of the Continental Army. The original portrait hangs in the City Hall, Charleston, S. C. (Courtesy Washington Bicentennial Commission.)





A reproduction of a Currier and Ives print showing Washington assuming command of the Continental Army at Cambridge, Mass., at the beginning of the Revolution. (Courtesy Washington Bicentennial Commission.)

In the construction of the Washington Monument all parties, creeds, and nationalities appropriately participated. Washington was born and lived in Virginia, but he belongs to the whole United States. Indeed, in a higher sense he does not belong exclusively to the United States. To all lovers of liberty, wherever they dwell, the name of Washington is cherished and revered. It was fitting that foreign nations were permitted to contribute stones to the monument in token of their esteem. The Washington Monument, therefore, is both a national and an international expression of respect for George Washington and the Nation he led.

Washington's Greatness in the Revolutionary Period

WHEN WASHINGTON, in July 1775, standing under an elm tree on Cambridge Common, took command of the raw levies of the newly formed Continental Army, his rise to enduring fame really began. Tall, dignified, impressive, in the prime of life at 43 years of age, this aristocratic Virginia planter had been given his responsible position only after much discussion in the Continental Congress. He was finally selected because of the prominence he had secured 20 years before as a young Virginia militia officer at Fort Mifflin and with Gen. Edward Braddock's ill-fated expedition, and because of the desire to unify the southern colonies in support of the Revolutionary movement. Yet,

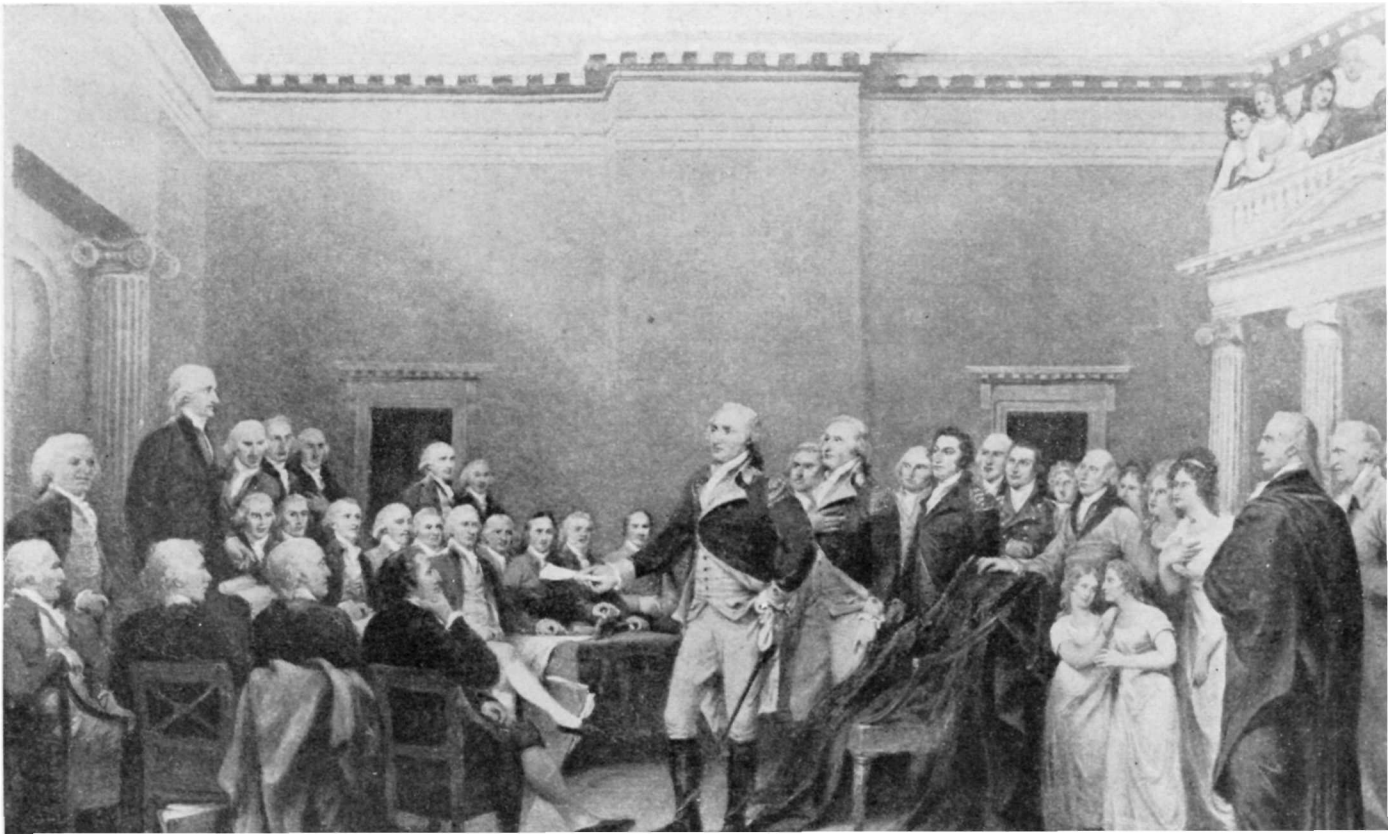
little known as Washington was to most of his countrymen, the quarter of a century that loomed ahead on that July day was to place him high in the ranks of the world's great.

The outstanding character and ability of Washington were first revealed to the country at large amid the heat and glare of war. Tested in that fiery crucible, he proved himself a truly great leader. The problem that confronted Washington was colossal. Thirteen small colonies, with potentially rich but yet undeveloped resources, had embarked on armed conflict with the richest and most powerful empire in the world, whose fleets proudly boasted that they ruled the waves and whose far-flung commerce supplied an abundance of the weapons of war. Cold logic would have pronounced the struggle for American independence hopeless from its beginning. Such, however, was the unrelenting determination of the patriotic leaders that they had dared to risk life and property for their ideals. If defeated, they could scarcely expect much mercy from the victors. Washington was himself the holder of vast landed estates and one of the wealthiest men in the American colonies. In rebelling against Great Britain, he demonstrated his willingness to sacrifice everything for the triumph of what he regarded as justice. The years of armed conflict were to prove that he was indomitable in his purpose.

WASHINGTON, AMERICAN COMMANDER IN CHIEF, 1775-83

As leader of the Continental Army, Washington exhibited a remarkable capacity to utilize to the utmost the small untrained armed force and the scanty material resources at his command. His own strenuous efforts and the respect he inspired in all who came in contact with him, more than any other factors, maintained order in an army composed in large part of men who took unkindly to discipline. His conciliatory persistence secured essential reinforcements and supplies from reluctant governors and assemblies and enabled him to strengthen the Army and feed and clothe his frequently cold and hungry troops. To an unusual degree he possessed the ability to win the support of capable men in both military and civil life. Gen. Nathanael Greene and Gen. Anthony Wayne, Alexander Hamilton, and John Jay were among the numerous prominent men who became lifelong followers of Washington. Throughout his Revolutionary career he likewise manifested a rare ability to reconcile factional dif-

Reproduction of John Trumbull's painting entitled "Washington Resigning His Commission" now in the Old State House at Annapolis, Md. (Courtesy Washington Bicentennial Commission.)





Mount Vernon in 1800, from a water color engraved by Francis Jukes after Alexander Robertson. The original is in the William L. Clements Library, Ann Arbor, Mich. (Courtesy Washington Bicentennial Commission.)

ferences. Men instinctively looked to him as the arbiter of clashing views, as one on whose fairness and justice all could depend. Not the least notable of his achievements was his aptitude in the selection of subordinates who, on the whole, developed into competent officers. In the early years of the war Washington had been handicapped by the system of voluntary enlistment for short periods of service, by the scarcity of experienced officers, and by the lack of adequately trained and equipped troops. Nevertheless, he made the Continental Army an easily maneuverable force which survived the worst blows of its foes and even won significant victories in the first 3 years of the war. He thus assured the all-important alliance with France which was to guarantee the achievement of American independence.

Through victory and defeat, Washington husbanded his limited resources, skillfully avoiding

general actions until necessity compelled them, and thus gaining the precious time required to build a strong, experienced army able to meet the veteran British forces on more even terms. Commanding, persuading, anticipating, Washington busily devoted himself to the work of organizing and supplying the Army. Patiently and tirelessly he performed this tremendous task in spite of almost insuperable difficulties. Even when most of his colleagues despaired, Washington gave the same striking impression of calm force and resolution intent solely on forging the military weapons that would bring American victory.

Amid the hardships and sufferings of the retreat across New Jersey in 1776, the bitter winters at Valley Forge and Morristown, and many other equally trying episodes, Washington was sustained by unwavering faith in the righteousness of the cause for which he fought and in its ultimate victory. When the faith of other men faltered, that of Washington inspired the Army, Congress, and the people with fresh determination. No episode

more tellingly revealed his imperturbable resolution than his attitude in the dark days of the autumn and early winter of 1776, when gloom was everywhere rife because of the American evacuation of the vital center of New York and the exhausting retreat across New Jersey. During that distressing period when most British military leaders thought that the Revolution was already defeated, he is said to have decided to abandon, if necessary, the Atlantic seaboard, retire to the wild frontier of Augusta County, Virginia, and if resistance was still impossible even there, to cross the Allegheny Mountains and conduct a predatory war. In making this decision Washington manifested the unconquerable spirit of the newborn American nationalism, convinced of the justice of its cause and determined to establish its political independence, no matter how overwhelming the adverse odds might be.

It was at this critical juncture that Washington executed the superb counterstrokes at Trenton and Princeton that forced the British to relinquish most of New Jersey, thus giving new hope to the discouraged Americans. From this point in his career Washington's activities attracted mounting attention abroad, particularly in France, where the Government hoped American resistance would be sufficiently strong to justify an alliance with the United States and a subsequent war for the revenge of past French defeats at the hands of Great Britain.

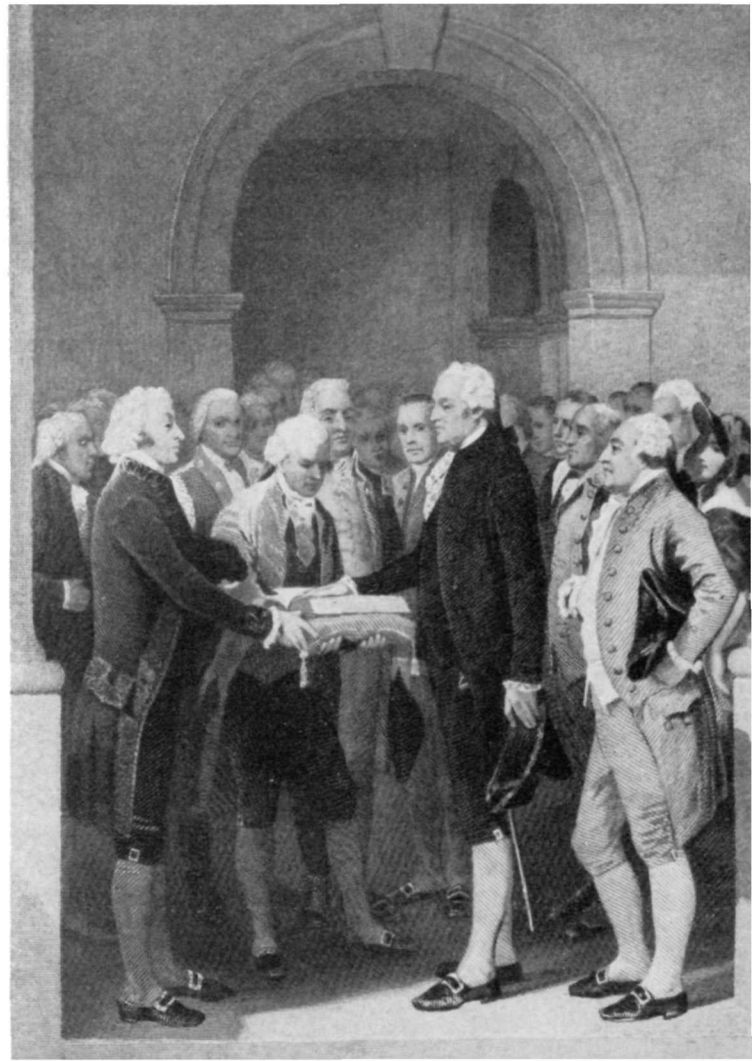
During the latter years of the Revolutionary struggle Washington's services were equally notable. Following the conclusion of the Franco-American alliance in 1778, his tact established a fruitful cooperation with the French naval and military forces that finally led to the overwhelming victory of the allied forces at Yorktown, which, in turn, compelled the British to recognize American independence. His tactful persuasion aroused a lethargic Congress to enact legislation essential to the building of a vigorous army. His personal influence obtained necessary funds from Robert Morris and food and other supplies from other wealthy persons.

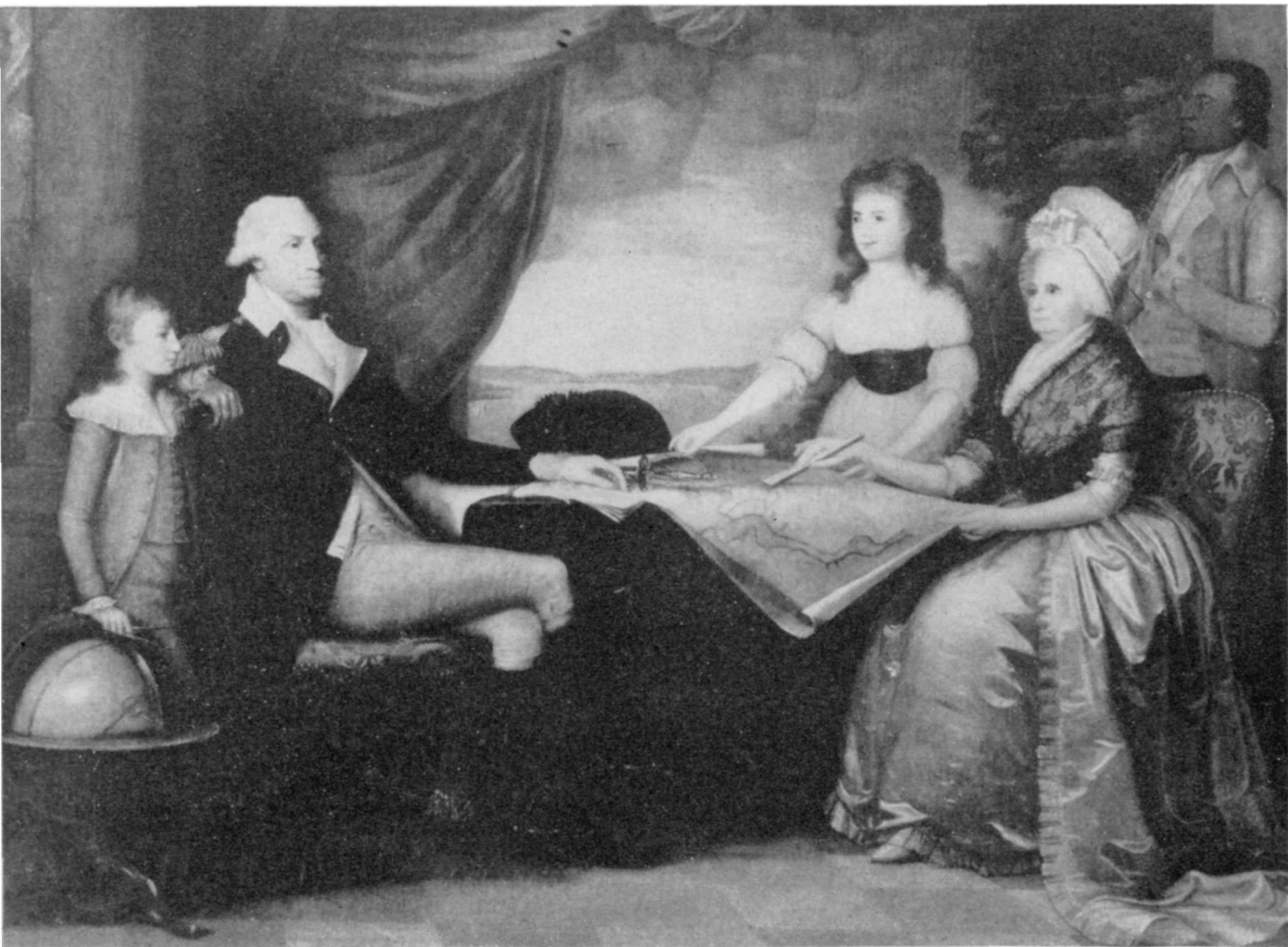
WASHINGTON'S FAME IN 1783

By the close of the Revolution the outstanding position of Washington in the minds of the American people was generally recognized. More than any other American he symbolized the Revolution

and its triumphant conclusion. He had been its military leader for more than 8 years, and no figure in American military or civil life commanded the same general respect and admiration as were given to the great Commander in Chief, who at times by the strength of his character as much as by military ability had prevented the Revolution from collapsing. There have probably been greater military tacticians and strategists in American history than Washington, but none of them possessed in equal measure so many outstanding qualities of leadership. It is not strange, then, that Washington enjoyed, as few men have in their lifetime, the almost universal affection of his people. The Abbé C. C. Robin, traveling through the United States

Washington's inauguration as first President of the United States at Federal Hall, New York City. The figures are, left to right—Livingston, St. Clair, Otis, Knox, Sherman, Washington, Steuben, Adams. From the painting by Alonzo Chappel. (Courtesy Washington Bicentennial Commission.)





A reproduction of Edward Savage's painting of the Washington family made from life. The painting was completed in 1796 and is now in the custody of the National Gallery of Art, Washington, D. C. It shows George and Martha Washington, George Washington Parke Custis, and Eleanor Parke Custis. (Courtesy Washington Bicentennial Commission.)

in 1783, noted that "The Americans, that cool and sedate people . . . are aroused, animated and inflamed at the very mention of his name." Visible manifestations of the truth of the abbé's observations were the ringing church bells, the reception committees, the swarming crowds, and the flower-strewn streets that greeted Washington in almost royal fashion on his entrance into the towns and cities of the young republic.

Washington's Greatness After the Revolution

THE YEARS THAT FOLLOWED the Revolution further added to the fame of Washington. This was a critical period in the life of the young republic. Its very existence was endangered by the weak central government established under the Articles of Confederation. As a result of the failure of the States to fill congressional requisitions for money and soldiers, as they were required to do by the Articles, even routine functions of the central government suffered, and the Army all but disappeared.

The public debt remained unpaid, and public credit declined. The States levied their own customs duties and disputed among themselves over the regulation of interstate commerce and other vital matters. In this national crisis Washington was again summoned to serve his country. He was indisposed to leave his beloved home at Mount Vernon and wished to pass his remaining years quietly as an unpretentious Virginia gentleman. However, his repute as a just arbiter was so widespread that he was unanimously chosen president of the Constitutional Convention that met at Philadelphia in 1787 to devise a new fundamental law which would obviate the danger of the dissolution of the republic into 13 separate States. Two years later the outstanding rank of Washington was again recognized by his unanimous election as first President of the United States.

In his new office Washington showed those same high administrative qualifications that had characterized his work as Commander in Chief of the Continental Army. His choice of executive officers again proved his capacity to select men of the highest competence and to place them in positions where their ability could be used to the best advantage. Throughout his administration his powerful influence supported and contributed greatly to the enactment of those wise measures which at last established a strong government. The danger of public disorders like those that marked Shays' Rebellion in Massachusetts in 1786-87, ever present under the old system of weak and inefficient government, was eliminated. The public credit was restored with the use of the power of direct taxation of citizens which had been conferred on the Federal Government by the new Constitution. Vexatious disputes among the States over domestic commerce disappeared with the regulation of interstate commerce by the Federal Government. In the field of foreign relations the prestige of the United States was heightened by the creation of an efficient government and by the establishment of a regular army and navy which, though small, demonstrated the determination of the United States to preserve its political independence in a world of rival imperialisms. While the enactment of these measures was accompanied by bitter recriminations directed partly against Washington himself, the laws which successfully launched the new government on its course have won the approbation of posterity.

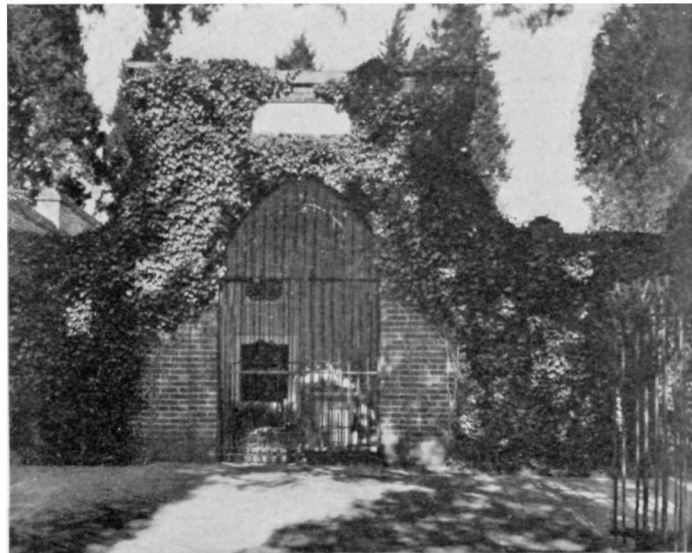
When, in March 1797, Washington at last set out for Mount Vernon to pass the two remaining years of life at his beautiful estate on the Potomac, he left behind him a great work successfully executed. As the Nation had looked to him for leadership in war, so it had looked to him for leadership in peace, and he had not disappointed his people.

Steadily through the years that have elapsed since Washington's death, his fame has burned brightly. All sections of the country, North and South, East and West, have recognized him as a truly great man whom all citizens could admire. Indeed, no other American has been accorded such general admiration. Abroad, the fame of Washington grew as the French Revolution enunciated in unforgettable phrases the republicanism and the nationalism that he symbolized. As acceptance of democratic principles increasingly became the fashion in nineteenth-century Europe, liberals and nationalists everywhere spread his fame. As Chateaubriand, celebrated French commentator on America, said: "The name of Washington will spread with liberty from age to age."

Congressional Action Regarding a Monument to Washington

IN RECOGNITION of the general admiration already felt for Washington by 1783, Congress on August 7 of that year resolved that an equestrian statue of him be erected "at the place where the residence of Congress shall be established." On it should be inscribed the statement that the statue was built "in honor of George Washington, the illustrious Commander in Chief of the armies of the United States of America during the war which vindicated and secured their liberty, sovereignty, and independence." The "principal events of the war in which George Washington commanded in person, viz: The evacuation of Boston, the capture of the Hessians at Trenton, the battle of Princeton, the action of Monmouth, and the surrender of York (town)" also were to be represented. The passage of this resolution was not followed, however, by legislative provision for its execution.

On December 23, 1799, only 8 days after Washington's death, on the motion of John Marshall, later the celebrated Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, Congress resolved "that a marble monument be erected by the United States in the Cap-



Present-day view of Mount Vernon and the tomb of George Washington. (Courtesy Mount Vernon Ladies Association.)

itol, at the city of Washington, and that the family of George Washington be requested to permit his body to be deposited under it." In the following May, Congress recommended that instead of the equestrian statue contemplated in the resolution of 1783 a "mausoleum of American granite and marble, in pyramidal form, one hundred feet square at the base and of a proportionate height" should be erected in Washington.

Although the House of Representatives on January 1, 1801, passed a bill appropriating \$200,000 for the erection of the proposed mausoleum, the Senate did not concur. Not until 1816 was the subject again seriously considered. In that year, as a result of the efforts of the State of Virginia to have the remains of Washington buried in Richmond, a congressional committee proposed that a tomb be placed in the foundations of the Capitol and that a monument be erected to his memory. Bushrod Washington, nephew of the great Commander in Chief and proprietor of Mount Vernon, refused to consent to the removal of the remains, because Washington had expressly requested that he be buried at Mount Vernon. Congress thereupon indefinitely postponed consideration of the bill. In 1832, another congressional request, vigorously supported by Henry Clay, the great Whig

leader, that the remains be brought to Washington for burial in the Capitol, was again refused, this time by John A. Washington, who had come into possession of Mount Vernon. However, Congress authorized the erection of a marble statue of the first President. It was executed by Horatio Greenough, a noted American sculptor of the time, who worked on it for 8 years. Placed in the Rotunda of the Capitol, this neoclassic statue portraying Washington in Roman toga was widely criticized as an affectation. Its weight being too heavy for the floor, it was soon removed to the plaza in front of the Capitol. Since 1908 it has been in the National Museum.

In 1853, Congress finally provided for the execution of the resolution of 1783 for the erection of an equestrian statue of Washington in the District of Columbia, appropriating \$50,000 for this purpose. Clark Mills, a popular sculptor, who had recently completed the celebrated statue of Andrew Jackson which still stands in Lafayette Square in the National Capital, was selected to undertake the work. The Mills statue was erected in Washington Circle at Pennsylvania Avenue and Twenty-third Street Northwest and was unveiled on February 22, 1860, with impressive ceremonies in the presence of a distinguished gathering. Washing-

ton is represented in the uniform of the Commander in Chief of the Continental Army and is shown as he rallied his shaken troops on the line at the Battle of Princeton for the furious assault that drove the enemy from the field.

Although Congress thus provided for the erection of two statues of Washington in the National Capital, it had taken no steps before the War Between the States to construct the magnificent monument contemplated in the resolution passed in May 1800.

The Formation and Early Work of the Washington National Monument Society

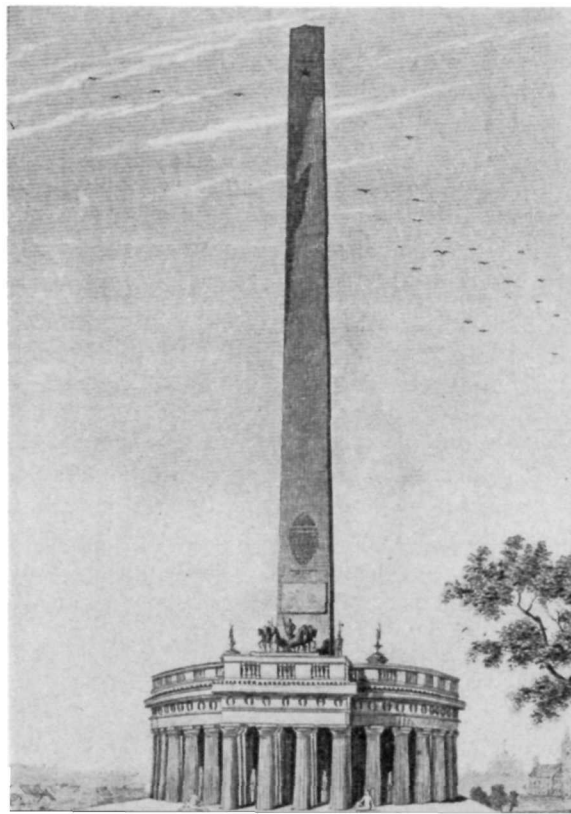
THE CONTINUAL FAILURE of Congress to provide for the erection of the proposed national monument to Washington in the District of Columbia was a source of deep disappointment to public-spirited citizens. This feeling was intensified by the fact that local monuments to Washington had been either planned or completed in many communities by the 1830's. As early as 1814, Robert Mills, a famous architect of South Carolina, had won a competition for a Washington monument with simple Doric shaft to be built in Baltimore. The sum of \$150,000 required to erect this monument was raised by popular subscription in Baltimore, by the proceeds of a lottery, and by appropriations from the State of Maryland. Finished in 1829, it was 204 feet high and towered high over the city. The completion of this magnificent work intensified the feeling that national honor required the erection of a monument in the National Capital, if necessary through private efforts. Such a monument, it was felt, should be even more majestic than the one in Baltimore, in order that the national veneration for Washington might be truly expressed.

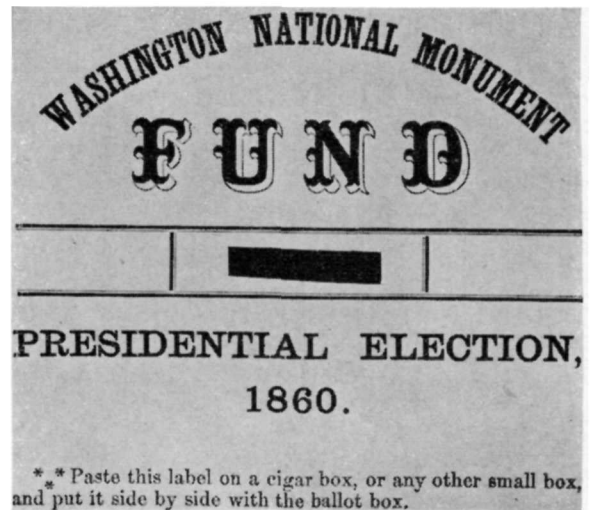
Following the failure of Henry Clay's efforts to secure appropriations for a national monument in 1832, the Washington National Monument Society was formed in the District of Columbia in September of the following year, largely as a result of the energetic efforts of George Watterston, Librarian of Congress. Its purpose was to redeem the congressional pledge that a national monument worthy of Washington would be erected in the District of Columbia. The first president of

the Society was the venerable Chief Justice John Marshall. On his death, in 1835, ex-President James Madison succeeded him. During the period of Madison's leadership, the systematic collection of funds began. As the Society wished the enterprise to be really popular and national in scope, contributions were limited to one dollar a year from any one person. Agents for the collection of contributions were appointed for each State and Territory. In addition to individual contributions, money was collected on special occasions at public gatherings. The economic distress that spread over the whole country for several years after the Panic of 1837, however, greatly interfered with the initial efforts of the Society to collect funds, and by the end of 1838 only slightly more than \$30,000 had been raised.

Meanwhile, however, in 1836 the Society had advertised a competition for designs of the proposed monument. Of those submitted, that of Robert Mills, architect of the Washington Monument in Baltimore, was chosen. It called for a Doric obelisk 600 feet high, surrounded at the base by a circular colonnaded building 250 feet in diameter, surmounted by a colossal figure of Wash-

The Washington Monument as planned in Robert Mills' prize-winning design of 1836. It shows the proposed National Pantheon 250 feet in diameter and 100 feet in height and the 600-foot shaft as Mills designed it. Mills' design was not followed in the actual construction of the Monument. (Courtesy The National Archives.)





Two examples of the form of public appeals for funds made by the Washington National Monument Society. (Courtesy The National Archives.)

ington. This colonnaded building was to be known as the "National Pantheon." Statues of the signers of the Declaration of Independence were to be placed about the outside of the rotunda under the colonnade. Space also was allotted for statues of other leaders of the Revolution and for paintings of battle and other scenes of that period. The obelisk was to rise from the center of the rotunda, diminishing as it rose to the apex. In the center of the monument provision was to be made for the tomb of Washington, in order that his remains might be received should it ever be desired to bury them in the National Capital.

With only \$30,000 in hand, difficulty in collecting the required funds made financial problems the immediate concern of the Society. In 1839, therefore, the limitation of contributions to one dollar a person was temporarily removed so that the takers of the national census in 1840 could freely solicit donations. Contributions, however, were still woefully inadequate, and in 1845 the Society definitely removed the limitation on gifts to one dollar. More vigorous efforts were then made to raise the required funds. In order to encourage donations, large numbers of lithographs of the proposed monument and of Stuart's portrait of Washington in Faneuil Hall, Boston, were made for distribution to contributors. Entertainments, fairs, and social gatherings were held in many communi-

ties by groups of interested women to augment the funds raised by direct contribution. As a result of these efforts, a total of about \$87,000 was gathered by 1847.

The Society now considered that it had collected sufficient money to begin the erection of the Monument. No site had yet been acquired, however. In 1838, and again in 1844, Congress had discussed the proposal of the Society that the Federal Government authorize the erection of the Monument on public land in the city of Washington, but favorable action had not been taken. In view of the current success of the money-raising activities of the Society, however, Congress early in 1848 passed a resolution authorizing the Washington National Monument Society to erect the Monument upon such portion of the public grounds in the city of Washington as might be selected by the President of the United States and by the Society. The site selected consisted of some 30 acres, where the Monument now stands.

This particular site was chosen because it commanded a beautiful view of the Potomac and was so elevated that it could be seen readily from all parts of the city and the surrounding country. The Monument, moreover, was in the same locality as had been suggested by Washington in 1795 as the site of the proposed monument to the American Revolution and lay near the site indicated in Major

L'Enfant's plan of the city of Washington as that of the equestrian statue of General Washington authorized by Congress in 1783.

The Erection of the Washington Monument

ON JULY 4, 1848, the cornerstone of the Monument was laid with Masonic rites. In attendance were the President and Vice President of the United States, members of the Cabinet and Congress, and the Supreme Court, representatives of the diplomatic corps, the States and Territories, and patriotic and military associations and crowds of visitors brought into the city by excursion trains. The trowel used by Washington in laying the cornerstone of the National Capitol in 1793 was employed. In the evening the President held a reception in the East Room of the White House, thus concluding what was described as "one of the most splendid and agreeable days Washington has ever witnessed."

Considerations of economy induced the Washington National Monument Society to modify Robert Mills' design by fixing the maximum height of the shaft at 500 feet and by holding in abeyance the execution of the plans for the base and the National Pantheon. But the work of construction progressed satisfactorily for several years as the widespread interest aroused by the actual inauguration of building combined with reviving economic prosperity to augment the funds of the Society. Fraternal organizations, patriotic bodies, and school children were the groups to which appeals for funds were particularly directed. The rise in contributions, however, was far less than had been hoped for, and, as the period of prosperity waned, about 1855, financial problems once more became disturbing.

In order to make the erection of the Monument as expressive as possible of the leading position occupied by Washington in the public mind, regardless of class or section, the Society had meanwhile encouraged States, municipalities, and societies to contribute stones for the interior walls. These stones were to be products of the contributing locality, were to be approximately 4 feet long and 2 feet high, and were to bear patriotic inscriptions. Eventually, all the States and more than a score of municipalities contributed memorial blocks. Even Americans living in distant Foo-Chow-Foo, China, in 1857, gave a stone. There are also blocks given by counties of the different States.

Foreign countries were likewise invited to send stones indicative of their respect for George Washington and the United States. From Greece, "the mother of ancient liberty," came a block of white marble from the ruins of the Parthenon. A stone from Japan, sent in 1853, the year of Matthew G. Perry's famous expedition which opened that country to western influence, was one of the first exports to the United States from the island empire. Stones also came from Turkey, China, and other distant lands.

A marble block from the Temple of Concord in Rome was presented the United States by Pope Pius IX for incorporation in the monument. Acceptance of the gift was objected to by the American Party, a secret antialien political organization often called the "Know-Nothing Party" so named because when asked about their activities its members replied, "I don't know." On the night of March 5, 1854, a group of masked men attacked the watchman at the Monument and stole "the marble block from Rome." It was never seen again and is believed to have been shattered and dropped to the bottom of the neighboring Potomac River.

By the beginning of 1855 about \$230,000 had already been spent on the structure, which had reached a height of about 153 feet. Its available funds being exhausted and prospects of securing more at that time being dark as business prosperity once more receded, the Society appealed to Congress for assistance. Plans had been made to pass a resolution on February 22, 1855, appropriating \$200,000 for the erection of the Monument. Its adoption seemed assured, when word was received that on the previous night members of the American Party had seized the Society's official records and called a meeting for the election of new officers. On receipt of this news the proposed appropriation was laid on the table. Meanwhile, adherents of the American Party who held certificates of membership in the Society met, ousted the old officers, and chose their own representatives. For several years there were, in effect, two Washington National Monument Societies, the American Party body and the old body which refused to recognize the legality of the action of the rival organization.

This anomalous situation was finally clarified by the disintegration of the American Party. Its popular following largely deserting it and being unable to raise funds to continue construction of the Monument, the American Party board surrendered

control of the old Society's records to the former board in October 1858.

THE MONUMENT, 1858-85

The crying need now was money to enable work to be resumed on the Monument, and a new plan of raising funds was adopted. Postmasters throughout the country were constituted agents for the collection of contributions, and high hopes of large returns were entertained. But relatively few postmasters participated in the plan, and in 2 years only a few thousand dollars were collected from this source. By this time sectional antagonisms between the North and the South so absorbed public attention that it was impossible to stir general interest in the Monument. The outbreak of the War Between the States in 1861 paralyzed the work of the Society and not until 1871 was it again possible to issue a general appeal to the public.

Meanwhile, the unfinished shaft had stood desolate in the Mall since 1859, when it had reached a height of 156 feet, still almost 400 feet short of its ultimate goal. Finally, fate intervened to revive construction on the Monument and push it to completion. In 1876 the Senate had rejected a bill, which had already passed the House, providing that Congress meet in Independence Hall to commemorate the signing of the Declaration of Independence. The patriotic feelings of citizens had been stirred by the approaching centennial of American independence, and the action of the Senate was widely denounced as unpatriotic. That body, therefore, passed a measure appropriating \$100,000 for the completion of the Washington Monument. The House of Representatives raised the appropriation to \$200,000, and in this form the bill was approved. In January 1877, the Monument was formally deeded to the Federal Government, which assumed responsibility for its completion.

A board of Army Engineers was now appointed to investigate the soundness of the foundations. Its report showed that they were insufficient, and the Monument was accordingly underpinned before work was resumed on the shaft. The new foundation consisted of a mass of concrete 126½ feet square and 13½ feet deep. It rested upon a layer of sand 2 feet thick, below which lay a bed of gravel and rock. To strengthen the foundation

still further a buttress was constructed under the shaft and extended out upon the concrete slab in order to distribute the pressure of the Monument more evenly.

The plan of the Monument was modified at this time to make it conform to the classic proportions of obelisks. It was to be about 550 feet high, faced with white marble and backed with granite. Work on the shaft was resumed in 1880. It was finally completed in December 1884, when the capstone surmounted by a small pyramid of pure aluminum was put in place as an artillery salute was fired. The finished structure cost almost \$1,200,000, of which the Washington National Monument Society furnished \$300,000 and the Federal Government the balance.

On February 21, 1885, the Monument was formally dedicated in the presence of several descendants of the Washington family, a brilliant military escort, and a vast throng of visitors from all over the country.

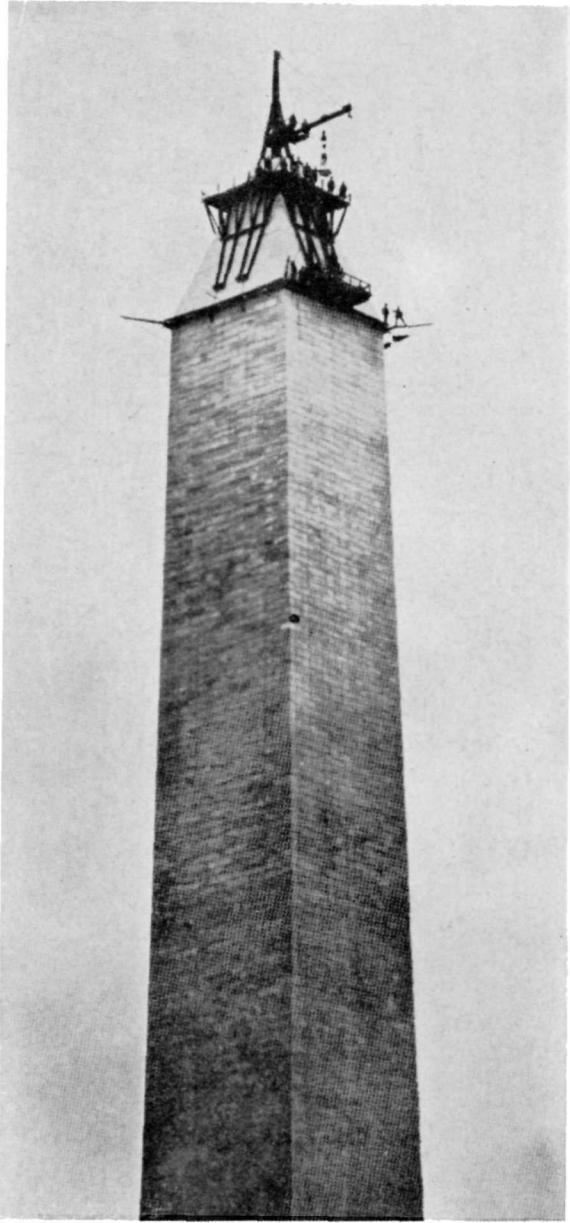
Thus the efforts of the Washington National Monument Society to realize the dream of a great monument to the memory of George Washington in the capital of the United States were finally brought to fruition.

The Monument Today

THE SHAFT OF THE MONUMENT rises 555 feet above ground. When it was completed, the Monument was the tallest piece of masonry in the world. The exterior walls are built almost entirely of white Maryland marble. Slightly above the 170-foot level can be observed a variation in color which has been caused by the different texture and weathering of the newer stone obtained from the same vein as that used in the lower portion but from a different section. The structure's weight of 81,120 tons is so well distributed that a wind of 145 miles an hour would still leave a large margin of safety against the overturning of the Monument.

At its base the obelisk measures 55½ feet square on the outside and 25 feet on the interior. The taper of the shaft, calculated according to the best principles of design, is about one-quarter of an inch to a foot.

In 1934 and 1935 the Washington Monument was cleaned for the first time and given extensive repairs. Tubular steel scaffolding was erected



The laying of the capstone, marking the final completion of the shaft of the Monument. It was dedicated on February 21, 1885, and opened to the public on October 9, 1888.

which enabled workmen to repoint the masonry and completely clean the marble. The cost of erecting and dismantling the scaffolding, together with that for the repair and cleaning, was more than \$88,000.

Some of the more vigorous of the visitors to the Monument prefer to reach the top by climbing the

898 steps. In time of war, however, the steps are closed to visitors. At the top of each 10-foot flight a landing is built across one side of the shaft. At these points may be seen the 188 carved memorial stones presented by cities, States, foreign governments, societies, and individuals. The majority of the visitors prefer the elevator, which makes the ascent in less than a minute. Thirty-five people can be accommodated each trip. The visitor will find the trip to the top of the shaft well worth his time and effort. From the large windows on each side of the pyramidion the view is unsurpassed. The entire District of Columbia, and many sections beyond its boundaries, is visible from this point. To the east, looking up the Mall, lies the Capitol; to the west, down the Mall, are the Lincoln Memorial and Reflecting Pool; north, across the Ellipse, the White House may be seen. Across the Tidal Basin to the south is the Thomas Jefferson Memorial.



How To Reach the Monument

THE WASHINGTON MONUMENT stands approximately one city block west of Fourteenth Street Southwest and one city block south of Constitution Avenue Northwest. It may be reached by car along park drives leading toward its base from each of these thoroughfares. Streetcars and buses stop within easy walking distance of the memorial.

Administration

THE WASHINGTON MONUMENT is administered by National Capital Parks for the National Park Service, Department of the Interior. It is open daily to the public from 9 a. m. to 5 p. m., but, as has already been pointed out, the steps are closed to visitors during periods of war. All inquiries should be directed to Irving C. Root, Superintendent, National Capital Parks, Washington, D. C.

