

Washington Daylight Lodge #14

Commemoration of George Washington's Birthday
2006



George Washington



Born: February 22 1732
Died: December 14, 1799

George Washington was Commanding General of the American Continental Army during their War of Independence (1776-1781). He was President of the Constitutional Convention in 1787 and from 1789 to 1796 was the first president of the USA.

Initiated: November 4, 1752. (Age 20)

Passed: March 3, 1753

Raised: August 4, 1753

Fredericksburg Lodge, Virginia,

Worshipful Master: May 29, 1788-1799

Lodge No. 22 [39], Alexandria, Virginia,

Masonic History

George Washington is revered as few men are. Not only was he a great President and Man, but he was a Master Mason of special note. George was initiated an Entered Apprentice Mason in Fredericksburg No. 4, Fredericksburg, Virginia on November 4, 1752. He was Passed on March 3, 1753 and Raised to the Sublime degree of Master Mason on August 4, 1753. He was a member for the rest of his life.

Washington was appointed Worshipful Master in the charter for Alexandria Lodge #39 on April 28, 1788. He was re-elected to this position on December 27, 1788 -- a year before becoming our first President. He served his lodge

Washington Daylight Lodge #14

Commemoration of George Washington's Birthday
2006

most honorably until his death eleven years later.

George Washington laid the cornerstone of the United States Capitol at Washington, D.C. at the request of the Grand Lodge of Maryland. He was wearing the Masonic Apron presented him by General Lafayette. See the picture above of this ceremony.

The trowel he used in this historical event may be viewed by a visit to the House Of Temple in Washington, D.C.

George Washington was unanimously elected the Grand Master of Masons of the American Colonies in 1779. However, the war and conditions at that time prohibited him from serving at that time. But American Masons still consider him the first and only Grand Master of American Freemasons.

Washington Daylight Lodge #14 was chartered in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of George Washington's Masonic raising. Since that time, it has become an annual tradition for Washington Daylight Lodge to travel to Mount Vernon for a wreath laying to celebrate the Birthday of Most Worshipful Brother George Washington.

It is sometimes difficult to see just how large a role Masonry played in the formation of our nation. But George Washington -- the Mason -- believed strongly that the morals exemplified by the Brotherhood was a value needed for a strong country.

More details about Brother Washington can be found in the book, "George Washington, Master Mason" by Allen C. Roberts.



George Washington took the oath of office, becoming the first President of the United States, on Thursday, April 30, 1789. The ceremony took place on the balcony of the Senate Chamber at Federal Hall, Wall and Nassaug Streets, New York City. The oath was administered by the Chancellor of New York State, Robert R. Livingston. The Bible on which Washington took his oath was borrowed from St John's Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons. His hand rested on Psalm 127:1 when he took the oath

Alexander Olbrich
Worshipful Master
Washington Daylight Lodge #14

Washington Daylight Lodge #14

Commemoration of George Washington's Birthday
2006

Trivia

The first President of the United States.

The first Master Mason to become President of the United States

Obtained the first quorum in the House of Representatives on April 6, 1789.

The first President to appear on a United States postage stamp. George's likeness appeared on the ten-cent black stamp which was authorized on March 3, 1847 and effective on July 1, 1847. However, this stamp was declared invalid as of July 1, 1851.

Invoked first tariff act placing duties on imports.

Nicknamed the "Father of His Country" although Washington himself had no children.

During the Civil War, Washington's home (Mount Vernon) was treated as neutral territory by arrangement between both sides.

First federal navigation act.

Created the Department of War on Aug. 7, 1789.

Created the Treasury Department on Sept. 2, 1789.

Created the Attorney General on Sept. 24, 1789.

The first ten amendments to the Constitution were enacted by Congress on Sept. 25, 1789.

The twelfth state ratified the Constitution on Nov. 21, 1789.

Rhode Island adopted the Constitution on May 29, 1790. This was the last of the original thirteen colonies to sign.

The first copyright law was signed on May 29, 1790.

Washington Daylight Lodge #14

Commemoration of George Washington's Birthday
2006

Vermont ratified the Constitution on Jan. 10, 1790.

On Feb. 18, 1791, Vermont was admitted as the 14th state.

The District of Columbia was established on Mar. 3, 1791.

The first ten amendments to the Constitution was ratified on Dec. 15, 1791.

Secretary of State Thomas Jefferson announced the adoption of the first ten amendments.

The U.S. Mint was established on Apr. 2, 1792.

President Washington vetoed the apportionment bill on Apr. 5, 1792.

On Oct. 13, 1792 a significant historical event took place -- the laying of the White House cornerstone.

On Sept. 18, 1793 an even more significant event took place (at least as far as Masons are concerned) -- the laying of the cornerstone of the Capitol was laid. See the House of Temple for more information about the Masonic significance.

On Feb. 7, 1795 the Eleventh Amendment to the Constitution was ratified.

Tennessee was admitted as the 16th state on June 1, 1796.

On Sept. 17, 1797, President Washington issued his Farewell Address.

Owned a jackass named "Royal Gift."

Once returned a missing dog to the Commander-in-Chief of the British Army (Sir William Howe). This event occurred during the Valley Forge winter of 1777. Washington was discussing the severity of their situation when a dog appeared out of the night. It turned out to be a lost and hungry dog seeking shelter. Ironically, the dog belonged to Sir William Howe. Washington understood how a man felt about his dog and being the sportsman he was, gave immediate orders to have the animal fed, groomed, and returned (under a flag of truce) to the owner. Howe was suitably impressed with this gesture and sent back a warm note of thanks.

Washington was the first President to refuse renomination for a third term in office.

He was one of the only two presidents to sign the Constitution -- the other was President Madison.

When Washington died, Napoleon Bonaparte ordered ten days of mourning throughout France.

Washington Daylight Lodge #14

Commemoration of George Washington's Birthday
2006

He was awarded the Badge of Military Merit. Today, this is known as the "Purple Heart" which bears his likeness.

He was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor on May 25, 1776 while he was a soldier.

The first lady of the land (Martha Washington) was known as Lady Washington.

The seat of the government when Washington was first inaugurated was at New York City, however, this was later moved to Philadelphia, PA.

Washington was the only President who did not live in Washington, D.C.

An attempt to kidnap Washington took place on June 28, 1776 -- just prior to Washington's inauguration. The plot involved the Tory Governor of New York City (David Matthews) and several others including one of Washington's bodyguards, Thomas Hickey.

Washington disapproved of swearing and even issued a General Order on August 3, 1776 against it.

Washington had to borrow money to attend his own inauguration. It was true that he was wealthy, however, he was land poor.

George Washington took the oath of office, becoming the first President of the United States, on Thursday, April 30, 1789. The ceremony took place on the balcony of the Senate Chamber at Federal Hall, Wall and Nassau Streets, New York City. The oath was administered by the Chancellor of New York State, Robert R. Livingston. The Bible on which Washington took his oath was borrowed from St John's Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons. His hand rested on Psalm 127:1 when he took the oath.

Washington purchased two lots of land in what was then called the "Federal city" on October 3, 1798. This is now Washington, D.C.

George Washington owned and operated a ferry from 1769 to 1790. This ferry crossed the Potomac landing as what is now Marshall Hall, Md.

George Washington bequeathed five swords, one each to his five nephews. He required that none of these weapons should be unsheathed for the purpose of shedding blood. There were some exceptions for this -- they could be used for self-defense, defense of the country.

Washington's was one of our (early) richest presidents with an estate valued at more than a half million dollars. This is quite a sum at that time.

The first town named for George Washington was Forks of Tar River, N.C. The name was changed to Washington in 1775.

Washington Daylight Lodge #14

Commemoration of George Washington's Birthday
2006

Washington appointed the first presidential commission. The purpose of this commission was to deal with the rebellious elements in Washington and Allegheny counties.
