

# George Washington

First in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts  
of his countrymen, he was second to none in the  
humble and endearing scenes of private life.

– Henry Lee, *December 26, 1799*

## A Brief Washington - Mount Vernon Chronology

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|-----------|--|-----------|---|
| 1674      | John Washington, great grandfather of George, patents the Mount Vernon homesite.   |           | distant prospect of finding abroad if my stay were to be seven times seven years.”  |
| 1726      | Augustine Washington, father of George, acquires Mount Vernon from his sister Mildred.   | 1781      | Stops briefly at Mount Vernon en route to and from Yorktown. John Parke Custis dies at the seige of Yorktown; Washington adopts his two youngest children, Eleanor “Nellie” Parke and George Washington Parke Custis.   |
| 1732      | George, first child of Augustine and Mary (Ball) Washington, born at the family home on the Potomac River in Westmoreland County, Virginia.  | 1783      | Resigns his commission to Congress and retires to Mount Vernon.   |
| 1735-1738 | Augustine Washington in resident at Mount Vernon with his young family.  | 1787      | Presides over the Consitutional Convention in Philadelphia.   |
| 1743      | Augustine Washington dies. Lawrence Washington, George’s elder half brother, marries and settles at Mount Vernon.  | 1789-1797 | Years of the Presidency. Visits Mount Vernon  |
| 1752      | Lawrence Washington dies at Mount Vernon.  | 1799      | George Washington dies and is buried in the old family vault.   |
| 1754      | George Washington acquires Mount Vernon by release from Lawrence Washington’s widow.   | 1802      | Martha Washington dies and is buried beside her husband. Mount Vernon passes to Washington’s nephew, Bushrod Washington.  |
| 1759      | Marries Martha Dandridge Custis, widow of Daniel Parke Custis, and settles at Mount Vernon with his wife and two young stepchildren, John Parke and Martha “Patsy” Parke Custis.       | 1829      | Bushrod Washington dies, leaving Mount Vernon to his nephew, John Augustine Washington.   |
|           | Tribute of a fellow countrywoman:  | 1858      | Ann Pamela Cunningham purchases Mount Vernon from John A. Washington, Jr., and founds the <i>Mount Vernon Ladies’ Associataion</i> . “Mount Vernon shall be forever held by it sacred to the Father of His Country.” (Virginia Charter of the <i>Association</i> .) |
|           | “Martha Washington was a remarkable woman. Suddenly placed in a position of eminence, she was so well poised that she never challenged criticism, nor called forth the darts of envy.” | 1874      | Ann Pamela Cunningham delivers her farewell address, as founder and first Regent of the <i>Mount Vernon Ladies’ Association</i> :   |
| 1775      | Elected General to command all Continental forces. Washington writes to his wife from Philadelphia:  |           | “Ladies, the home of Washington is in your charge – see to it that you keep it the home of Washington... Those who go to the home in which he lived and died wish to see in what he lived and died... Upon you rests this duty.”                                    |
|           | “I should enjoy more real happiness in one month with you at home than I have the most   |           |   |



*Mount Vernon, home of George and Martha Washington. The “Dove of Peace” (Genesis 8), tops the cupola. It was ordered by General Washington in 1787. Illustrator: Helen Weir. From, A Children’s Companion Guide to America’s History, © copyright 1993 by Catherine Millard.*