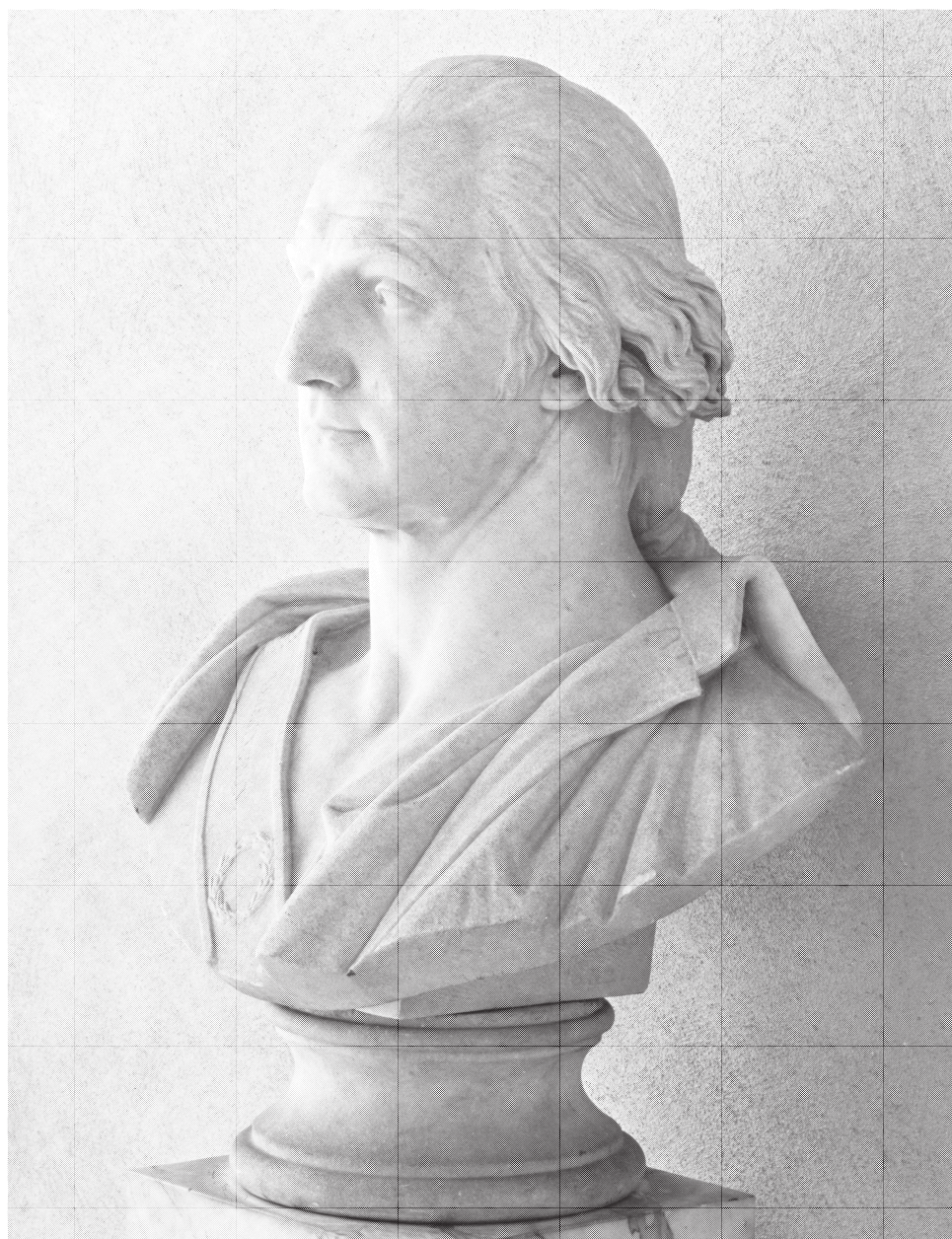


George Washington

A COLLECTION



DAVID D'ANGERS(?). *George Washington*. Marble bust.
The Huntington Library and Art Gallery,
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George Washington

A COLLECTION

COMPILED AND EDITED BY

W. B. Allen



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Contents

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS	xvii
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS	xix
EDITOR'S NOTE	xxi
CHRONOLOGY	xxiv

Prologue

2

1	TO RICHARD HENRY LEE	5
2	THE RULES OF CIVILITY AND DECENT BEHAVIOR IN COMPANY AND CONVERSATION	6

CHAPTER ONE

The Rules of Bravery and Liberty 1756–1775

15

3	ADDRESS TO HIS COMMAND, AUGUST 1756	19
4	TO GOVERNOR ROBERT HUNTER MORRIS, APRIL 9, 1756	20
5	TO FRANCIS DANDRIDGE, SEPTEMBER 20, 1765	21
6	TO GEORGE MASON, APRIL 5, 1769	23
7	TO THOMAS JOHNSON, JULY 20, 1770	26
8	TO GEORGE WILLIAM FAIRFAX, JUNE 10, 1774	29
9	TO BRYAN FAIRFAX, JULY 4, 1774	33
10	TO BRYAN FAIRFAX, JULY 20, 1774	35
11	TO BRYAN FAIRFAX, AUGUST 24, 1774	38
12	TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECOND CONTINENTAL CONGRESS, JUNE 16, 1775	40

Contents

13	TO MRS. MARTHA WASHINGTON, JUNE 18, 1775	40
14	GENERAL ORDERS, JULY 4, 1775	42
15	TO LIEUTENANT GENERAL THOMAS GAGE, AUGUST 11, 1775	44
16	TO THE INHABITANTS OF THE ISLAND OF BERMUDA, SEPTEMBER 6, 1775	45
17	TO THE INHABITANTS OF CANADA (undated)	46

CHAPTER TWO

Tyranny: The Scourge of Liberty 1775–1777

49

18	TO JOSEPH REED, DECEMBER 15, 1775	53
19	GENERAL ORDERS, JANUARY 1, 1776	55
20	TO JOSEPH REED, JANUARY 14, 1776	57
21	TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS, FEBRUARY 9, 1776	62
22	TO JOSEPH REED, FEBRUARY 10, 1776	65
23	TO JOHN AUGUSTINE WASHINGTON, MAY 31, 1776	69
24	GENERAL ORDERS, JULY 2, 1776	70
25	GENERAL ORDERS, JULY 9, 1776	72
26	TO THE OFFICERS AND SOLDIERS OF THE PENNSYLVANIA ASSOCIATORS, AUGUST 8, 1776	74
27	TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS, SEPTEMBER 24, 1776	75
28	TO LUND WASHINGTON, SEPTEMBER 30, 1776	82
29	PROCLAMATION, JANUARY 25, 1777	84
30	TO AN UNIDENTIFIED CORRESPONDENT, FEBRUARY 14, 1777	85
31	TO PRESIDENT JAMES WARREN, MAY 23, 1777	86
32	TO MAJOR GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER, JULY 22, 1777	88

CHAPTER THREE

The Passions of Men and the Principles of Action 1778–1780

91

33	GENERAL ORDERS, MARCH 1, 1778	95
34	TO JOHN BANISTER, APRIL 21, 1778	98
35	TO JOHN AUGUSTINE WASHINGTON, JULY 4, 1778	104
36	TO COMTE D'ESTAING, SEPTEMBER 11, 1778	106
37	TO GOUVERNEUR MORRIS, OCTOBER 4, 1778	111

Contents

38	TO HENRY LAURENS, NOVEMBER 14, 1778	113
39	TO BENJAMIN HARRISON, DECEMBER 18, 1778	116
40	TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS, MARCH 15, 1779	120
41	TO THOMAS NELSON, MARCH 15, 1779	123
42	TO GEORGE MASON, MARCH 27, 1779	124
43	TO JAMES WARREN, MARCH 31, 1779	126
44	TO GOUVERNEUR MORRIS, MAY 8, 1779	129
45	SPEECH TO THE DELAWARE CHIEFS, MAY 12, 1779	131
46	CIRCULAR TO THE STATES, MAY 22, 1779	133
47	TO JOHN JAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 1779	135
48	A CONFERENCE BETWEEN CHEVALIER DE LA LUZERNE AND GENERAL WASHINGTON, SEPTEMBER 16, 1779	138
49	TO EDMUND PENDLETON, NOVEMBER 1, 1779	142
50	TO JOSEPH JONES, MAY 14, 1780	144
51	TO PRESIDENT JOSEPH REED, MAY 28, 1780	146
52	TO PRESIDENT JOSEPH REED, JULY 4, 1780	150
53	TO JOSEPH JONES, AUGUST 13, 1780	152
54	CIRCULAR TO THE STATES, AUGUST 27, 1780	154
55	TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS, OCTOBER 11, 1780	156
56	CIRCULAR TO THE STATES, OCTOBER 18, 1780	164

CHAPTER FOUR

Trials and Triumph 1780–1781

171

57	TO GEORGE MASON, OCTOBER 22, 1780	175
58	TO WILLIAM FITZHUGH, OCTOBER 22, 1780	176
59	TO JAMES DUANE, DECEMBER 26, 1780	177
60	CIRCULAR TO THE NEW ENGLAND STATES, JANUARY 5, 1781	180
61	TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL JOHN LAURENS, JANUARY 15, 1781	182
62	GENERAL ORDERS, JANUARY 30, 1781	186
63	TO JOHN SULLIVAN, FEBRUARY 4, 1781	188
64	TO JOHN PARKE CUSTIS, FEBRUARY 28, 1781	190
65	TO LUND WASHINGTON, APRIL 30, 1781	192
66	TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS, OCTOBER 19, 1781	194
67	GENERAL ORDERS, OCTOBER 20, 1781	196

Contents

CHAPTER FIVE

Washington's Knowledge of Himself and His Army 1782–1783

199

68	TO COLONEL LEWIS NICOLA, MAY 22, 1782	203
69	TO THE SECRETARY AT WAR, OCTOBER 2, 1782	204
70	TO JOSEPH JONES, DECEMBER 14, 1782	206
71	TO MAJOR GENERAL NATHANAEL GREENE, FEBRUARY 6, 1783	207
72	GENERAL ORDERS, FEBRUARY 15, 1783	209
73	TO GOVERNOR BENJAMIN HARRISON, MARCH 4, 1783	210
74	TO ALEXANDER HAMILTON, MARCH 4, 1783	211
75	TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS, MARCH 12, 1783	214
76	TO JOSEPH JONES, MARCH 12, 1783	215
77	SPEECH TO THE OFFICERS OF THE ARMY, MARCH 15, 1783	217
78	TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS, MARCH 18, 1783	221

CHAPTER SIX

Washington's Knowledge of His Countrymen 1783

225

79	TO JOSEPH JONES, MARCH 18, 1783	227
80	TO MAJOR GENERAL NATHANAEL GREENE, MARCH 31, 1783	229
81	TO ALEXANDER HAMILTON, MARCH 31, 1783	229
82	TO THEODORICK BLAND, APRIL 4, 1783	231
83	TO MARQUIS DE LAFAYETTE, APRIL 5, 1783	233
84	GENERAL ORDERS, APRIL 18, 1783	236
85	TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL TENCH TILGHMAN, APRIL 24, 1783	238
86	CIRCULAR TO THE STATES, JUNE 14, 1783	239

CHAPTER SEVEN

The General Resigns 1783

251

87	TO JOHN AUGUSTINE WASHINGTON, JUNE 15, 1783	255
88	TO REVEREND WILLIAM GORDON, JULY 8, 1783	257
89	TO JAMES DUANE, SEPTEMBER 7, 1783	260
90	FAREWELL ORDERS TO THE ARMIES OF THE UNITED STATES, NOVEMBER 2, 1783	266
91	TO THE MINISTERS, ELDERS, DEACONS, AND MEMBERS OF THE REFORMED GERMAN CONGREGATION OF NEW YORK, NOVEMBER 27, 1783	270

Contents

92 TO THE MERCHANTS OF PHILADELPHIA, DECEMBER 9, 1783	271
93 ADDRESS TO CONGRESS ON RESIGNING HIS COMMISSION, DECEMBER 23, 1783	272

CHAPTER EIGHT

The Citizen Stirs 1784–1786

275

94 TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL, JR., JANUARY 5, 1784	277
95 TO GOVERNOR BENJAMIN HARRISON, JANUARY 18, 1784	278
96 TO MARQUIS DE LAFAYETTE, FEBRUARY 1, 1784	280
97 TO DR. JAMES CRAIK, MARCH 25, 1784	282
98 TO THOMAS JEFFERSON, MARCH 29, 1784	283
99 TO JAMES MADISON, JUNE 12, 1784	286
100 TO GOVERNOR BENJAMIN HARRISON, OCTOBER 10, 1784	287
101 TO THOMAS JOHNSON, OCTOBER 15, 1784	294
102 TO BENJAMIN HARRISON, JANUARY 22, 1785	295
103 TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS, FEBRUARY 8, 1785	297
104 TO WILLIAM GRAYSON, JUNE 22, 1785	300
105 TO DAVID HUMPHREYS, JULY 25, 1785	301
106 TO MARQUIS DE LAFAYETTE, JULY 25, 1785	304
107 TO EDMUND RANDOLPH, JULY 30, 1785	308
108 TO JAMES McHENRY, AUGUST 22, 1785	309
109 TO GEORGE MASON, OCTOBER 3, 1785	311
110 TO JAMES WARREN, OCTOBER 7, 1785	312
111 TO JAMES MADISON, NOVEMBER 30, 1785	314
112 TO HENRY LEE, APRIL 5, 1786	316
113 TO ROBERT MORRIS, APRIL 12, 1786	318
114 TO MARQUIS DE LAFAYETTE, MAY 10, 1786	319
115 TO THE SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, MAY 18, 1786	323
116 TO MARQUIS DE LAFAYETTE, AUGUST 15, 1786	324

CHAPTER NINE

Making a Constitution 1786–1788

329

117 TO JOHN JAY, AUGUST 15, 1786	333
118 TO BUSHROD WASHINGTON, SEPTEMBER 30, 1786	335
119 TO HENRY LEE, OCTOBER 31, 1786	337

Contents

120	TO JAMES MADISON, NOVEMBER 5, 1786	339
121	TO BUSHROD WASHINGTON, NOVEMBER 15, 1786	341
122	TO JAMES MADISON, NOVEMBER 18, 1786	343
123	TO JAMES MADISON, DECEMBER 16, 1786	344
124	TO GOVERNOR EDMUND RANDOLPH, DECEMBER 21, 1786	347
125	TO HENRY KNOX, DECEMBER 26, 1786	348
126	TO DAVID HUMPHREYS, DECEMBER 26, 1786	350
127	TO HENRY KNOX, FEBRUARY 3, 1787	354
128	TO HENRY KNOX, MARCH 8, 1787	356
129	TO THE SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, MARCH 10, 1787	357
130	TO GOVERNOR EDMUND RANDOLPH, MARCH 28, 1787	359
131	TO JAMES MADISON, MARCH 31, 1787	360
132	TO HENRY KNOX, APRIL 2, 1787	363
133	SUMMARY OF LETTERS FROM JAY, KNOX, AND MADISON, SPRING 1787	365
134	TO ALEXANDER HAMILTON, JULY 10, 1787	369
135	TO PATRICK HENRY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1787	370
136	TO ALEXANDER HAMILTON, NOVEMBER 10, 1787	370
137	TO BUSHROD WASHINGTON, NOVEMBER 10, 1787	371
138	TO DAVID STUART, NOVEMBER 30, 1787	374
139	TO JAMES MADISON, DECEMBER 7, 1787	376
140	TO GOVERNOR EDMUND RANDOLPH, JANUARY 8, 1788	378
141	TO JAMES MADISON, JANUARY 10, 1788	379
142	TO JAMES MADISON, FEBRUARY 5, 1788	380
143	TO MARQUIS DE LAFAYETTE, FEBRUARY 7, 1788	382
144	TO JAMES MADISON, MARCH 2, 1788	385
145	TO JOHN ARMSTRONG, APRIL 25, 1788	386
146	TO MARQUIS DE LAFAYETTE, APRIL 28, 1788	389
147	TO MARQUIS DE CHASTELLUX, APRIL 25 [– MAY 1], 1788	393
148	TO REVEREND FRANCIS ADRIAN VANDERKEMP, MAY 28, 1788	395
149	TO MARQUIS DE LAFAYETTE, MAY 28, 1788	396
150	TO HENRY KNOX, JUNE 17, 1788	398
151	TO MARQUIS DE LAFAYETTE, JUNE 19, 1788	400
152	TO BENJAMIN LINCOLN, JUNE 29, 1788	403

Contents

CHAPTER TEN

The Drama of Founding 1788–1789

405

153	TO THE SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, JULY 18, 1788	409
154	TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL, JULY 20, 1788	411
155	TO NOAH WEBSTER, ESQ., JULY 31, 1788	413
156	TO BENJAMIN LINCOLN, AUGUST 28, 1788	415
157	TO ALEXANDER HAMILTON, AUGUST 28, 1788	416
158	TO THOMAS JEFFERSON, AUGUST 31, 1788	418
159	TO ALEXANDER HAMILTON, OCTOBER 3, 1788	421
160	TO BENJAMIN LINCOLN, OCTOBER 26, 1788	423
161	TO MARQUIS DE LAFAYETTE, JANUARY 29, 1789	427
162	TO BENJAMIN LINCOLN, JANUARY 31, 1789	429
163	TO FRANCIS HOPKINSON, FEBRUARY 5, 1789	430
164	TO GEORGE STEPTOE WASHINGTON, MARCH 23, 1789	431
165	TO JAMES MADISON, MARCH 30, 1789	434
166	TO THE MAYOR, CORPORATION, AND CITIZENS OF ALEXANDRIA, APRIL 16, 1789	436

CHAPTER ELEVEN

Presidential Addresses 1789–1796

439

167	FRAGMENTS OF THE DISCARDED FIRST INAUGURAL ADDRESS, APRIL 1789	445
168	THE FIRST INAUGURAL SPEECH, APRIL 30, 1789	460
169	FIRST ANNUAL MESSAGE, JANUARY 8, 1790	467
170	SECOND ANNUAL MESSAGE, DECEMBER 8, 1790	470
171	THIRD ANNUAL MESSAGE, OCTOBER 25, 1791	474
172	FOURTH ANNUAL MESSAGE, NOVEMBER 6, 1792	480
173	THE SECOND INAUGURAL SPEECH, MARCH 4, 1793	486
174	FIFTH ANNUAL MESSAGE, DECEMBER 3, 1793	486
175	SIXTH ANNUAL MESSAGE, NOVEMBER 19, 1794	492
176	SEVENTH ANNUAL MESSAGE, DECEMBER 8, 1795	499
177	EIGHTH ANNUAL MESSAGE, DECEMBER 7, 1796	505
178	FAREWELL ADDRESS, SEPTEMBER 19, 1796	512

Contents

CHAPTER TWELVE

Washington the President 1789–1791 529

179	TO JAMES MADISON, MAY 5, 1789	531
180	TO THE UNITED BAPTIST CHURCHES IN VIRGINIA, MAY 10, 1789	531
181	TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PRESBYTERIAN CHURCHES, MAY 1789	533
182	TO THE ANNUAL MEETING OF QUAKERS, SEPTEMBER 1789	533
183	THANKSGIVING PROCLAMATION, OCTOBER 3, 1789	534
184	SKETCH OF A PLAN OF AMERICAN FINANCE, OCTOBER 1789	535
185	TO CATHERINE MACAULAY GRAHAM, JANUARY 9, 1790	537
186	TO DAVID STUART, MARCH 28, 1790	539
187	TO DAVID STUART, JUNE 15, 1790	541
188	TO THE HEBREW CONGREGATIONS, JANUARY 1790	545
189	TO THE ROMAN CATHOLICS, MARCH 1790	546
190	TO THE HEBREW CONGREGATION IN NEWPORT, AUGUST 7, 1790	547
191	TO THE HEBREW CONGREGATIONS OF THE CITY OF SAVANNAH, GEORGIA (undated)	549
192	TO THE CHIEFS AND COUNSELORS OF THE SENECA NATION, DECEMBER 29, 1790	550
193	TO MARQUIS DE LAFAYETTE, JULY 28, 1791	553
194	TO GOUVERNEUR MORRIS, JULY 28, 1791	555
195	TO ARTHUR YOUNG, DECEMBER 5, 1791	558

CHAPTER THIRTEEN

Trials of Division 1792–1796 563

196	TO JAMES MADISON, MAY 20, 1792	567
197	TO MARQUIS DE LAFAYETTE, JUNE 10, 1792	570
198	TO THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY, JULY 29, 1792	572
199	TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE, AUGUST 23, 1792	576
200	TO THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY, AUGUST 26, 1792	579
201	TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, AUGUST 26, 1792	581
202	PROCLAMATION, SEPTEMBER 15, 1792	583
203	TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE, OCTOBER 18, 1792	584

Contents

204	PROCLAMATION, DECEMBER 12, 1792	585
205	PROCLAMATION OF NEUTRALITY, APRIL 22, 1793	585
206	TO GOVERNOR HENRY LEE, JULY 21, 1793	586
207	PROCLAMATION, MARCH 24, 1794	588
208	PROCLAMATION, AUGUST 7, 1794	589
209	TO GOVERNOR HENRY LEE, AUGUST 26, 1794	593
210	TO BURGESS BALL, SEPTEMBER 25, 1794	596
211	PROCLAMATION, SEPTEMBER 25, 1794	598
212	TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE, OCTOBER 16, 1794	600
213	TO JOHN JAY, NOVEMBER 1794	602
214	TO THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, JANUARY 28, 1795	605
215	TO THOMAS JEFFERSON, MARCH 15, 1795	607
216	TO ALEXANDER HAMILTON, JULY 3, 1795	609
217	TO ALEXANDER HAMILTON, JULY 29, 1795	611
218	TO ALEXANDER HAMILTON, OCTOBER 29, 1795	613
219	TO GOUVERNEUR MORRIS, DECEMBER 22, 1795	617
220	TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, MARCH 30, 1796	622

CHAPTER FOURTEEN

A Work Completed 1796–1799 627

221	TO ALEXANDER HAMILTON, MAY 8, 1796	629
222	TO THE EMPEROR OF GERMANY, MAY 15, 1796	632
223	TO ALEXANDER HAMILTON, MAY 15, 1796	633
224	TO THOMAS PINCKNEY, MAY 22, 1796	636
225	TO ALEXANDER HAMILTON, JUNE 26, 1796	637
226	TO THOMAS JEFFERSON, JULY 6, 1796	640
227	TO ALEXANDER HAMILTON, AUGUST 25, 1796	643
228	TALK TO THE CHEROKEE NATION, AUGUST 29, 1796	645
229	TO ALEXANDER HAMILTON, SEPTEMBER 1, 1796	649
230	TO ALEXANDER HAMILTON, NOVEMBER 2, 1796	651
231	TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL, MARCH 3, 1797	654
232	TO MARQUIS DE LAFAYETTE, DECEMBER 25, 1798	655
233	TO PATRICK HENRY, JANUARY 15, 1799	660

Contents

Epilogue

664

234 TO GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL, AUGUST 30, 1799 665

235 LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT, JULY 9, 1799 667

INDEX OF RECIPIENTS 681

SUBJECT INDEX 683

Illustrations

GEORGE WASHINGTON by David d'Angers(?) <i>Courtesy of The Henry E. Huntington Library and Art Gallery, San Marino, Calif.</i>	<i>Frontispiece</i>
WASHINGTON TAKING COMMAND OF THE ARMY AT CAMBRIDGE, 1775 <i>Engraving by J. Rogers, from a painting by M. A. Wageman</i> <i>Benson J. Lossing, Life of Washington (Virtue and Co., 1860), Vol. I, p. 585*</i>	15
WASHINGTON ENTERING TRENTON <i>Engraving by J. Rogers, from a painting by M. A. Wageman</i> <i>Lossing, Vol. III, p. 87</i>	49
WASHINGTON AT VALLEY FORGE <i>Engraving by J. M. Griffin</i> <i>Washington Irving, The Life of George Washington (G. P. Putnam & Sons, 1889), Vol. III, p. 282*</i>	91
WASHINGTON AND HIS GENERALS AT YORKTOWN by Charles Willson Peale <i>Collections of the Maryland Historical Society</i>	171
WASHINGTON, bust by Houdon <i>Courtesy of the Mt. Vernon Ladies' Association</i>	199
PATRIAE PATER by Rembrandt Peale <i>Architect of the Capitol,</i> <i>Courtesy of United States Capitol Collection, Washington, D.C.</i>	225
WASHINGTON PARTING WITH HIS OFFICERS <i>Engraving by J. Rogers, from a painting by Chapin</i> <i>Lossing, Vol. III, p. 35</i>	251
WASHINGTON by R. E. Pine <i>Courtesy of Independence National Historical Park Collection</i>	275

*Each of the Lossing and Irving facsimiles courtesy of The Huntington Library, San Marino, Calif.

Illustrations

WASHINGTON PRESIDING IN THE CONVENTION, 1787 <i>Engraving by J. Rogers, from a painting by M. A. Wageman</i> <i>Lossing, Vol. III, p. 62</i>	329
WASHINGTON BEFORE PRINCETON by Charles Willson Peale <i>Courtesy of the Mt. Vernon Ladies' Association</i>	405
THE INAUGURATION OF WASHINGTON on the balcony of the old City Hall, New York <i>Engraving by G. R. Hall, from a painting by Darley</i> <i>Irving, Vol. IV, p. 392</i>	439
WASHINGTON, daguerreotype of the statue by Houdon in the Capitol, Richmond, Virginia <i>Engraving by George Parker</i> <i>Irving, Vol. III, p. 40</i>	529
PRESIDENT WASHINGTON by John Trumbull <i>Copyright Yale University Art Gallery</i>	563
LIFE MASK OF WASHINGTON by Houdon <i>Courtesy of Pierpont Morgan Library, New York, N.Y.</i>	627

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W.B.A.

Claremont, California

Editor's Note

THE MATERIALS reproduced here derive almost entirely from John C. Fitzpatrick, *The Writings of George Washington*. Where feasible, his versions have been checked against the manuscripts. Some other materials derive directly from manuscripts or other published sources.

With the exception of Chapter Eleven, where the major addresses of Washington's presidency are brought together, the materials here are presented in a straightforwardly chronological order. Critical apparatus has been held to an absolute minimum in this collection. This work is designed to be a tool of general information rather than a tool of critical study. While this work has been thoroughly checked to conform to the most recent critical judgments, readers seeking a tool of critical analysis should consult the multivolume *Papers of George Washington* in progress under the editorship of W. W. Abbott at the University of Virginia Press.

The reader will note bracketed words and phrases in the text. Except in the discarded inaugural, these are Fitzpatrick's, used to indicate that portions of the text have been crossed out, mutilated, or left out inadvertently by Washington or an aide to whom he dictated his words. Brackets sometimes enclose words that Fitzpatrick provides to fill the gap, sometimes enclose variant wordings, and sometimes indicate that the handwriting has suddenly shifted to that of another person. In the discarded inaugural, brackets have been inserted by the present editor to indicate similar textual conditions.

Modernization of spelling and grammar were applied inconsistently in Fitzpatrick. However, because it remains the

Editor's Note

most complete collection of Washington's writings published to date, we have adhered to Fitzpatrick. Changes have been introduced only in those very few cases where it is conceived that meaning would otherwise be lost. Of course, materials reprinted from other sources have not been forced to conform to the Fitzpatrick standard.

ABOUT THE FRONTISPIECE

This "best" representation of Washington remains clouded in mystery as to its provenance. Said to be the work of David d'Angers, it has also been termed a fake by some scholars. The difficulty is that this particular work, which is in marble, was uncovered earlier in this century as the "lost" David gift to the United States that, reportedly, had burned in a fire at the Library of Congress in 1851. When it surfaced, it was purchased by Henry Huntington and now forms part of the collection at The Huntington Library in San Marino, California. Because of the controversy surrounding it, it had never been publicly exhibited prior to September 1985, when it was resurrected from storage as a consequence of our researches.

Apart from the technical difficulties touching the improbability of so fine a representation in marble having survived a fire without noticeable damage, the major obstacle to considering this the work of David is the possibility that the David statue was in bronze. Indeed, a committee of French artists and statesmen in 1904 replaced the "lost" statute with a bronze copy, which now rests in the rotunda of the Capitol. Further, records of the Library of Congress contemporaneous with the fire either refer to the original as bronze or make no mention of it at all. Nor are there any other extant records uncovered to this date which make any reference to the statue. The bronze copy of 1904 was fashioned from a cast model reportedly located at David d'Angers' studio in France.

The story of the marble bust (as well as the story of the original gift), therefore, remains inconclusive. One may nevertheless attest to the extraordinarily high merit of the bronze bust attributed to David and to the virtually pinpoint precision with which its dimensions and attitudes are reproduced in the marble version now in California.