

## American Minute with Bill Federer

### Presidents' Day: George Washington's Birthday

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The tallest was Abraham Lincoln at 6 feet 4 inches and shortest was James Madison at 5 feet four inches.



The heaviest President was William Howard Taft at 332 lbs.

Four died in office: Harrison, Taylor, Harding, Franklin Roosevelt.

Four were assassinated: Lincoln, Garfield, McKinley, Kennedy.

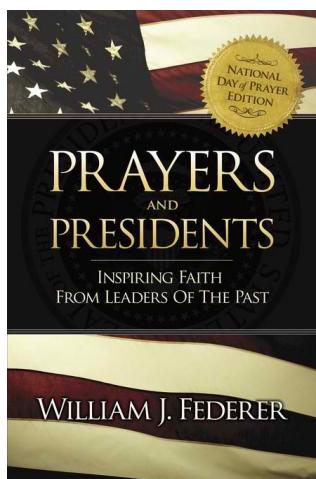
One resigned, Nixon.

The youngest elected President was John F. Kennedy, at age 43, but the youngest to serve was actually Theodore Roosevelt, who assumed the office at age 42, when William McKinley was assassinated.

The oldest person to be elected President was Donald J. Trump at 78 years and 7 months.

But did you know President's Day is actually George Washington's Birthday?... [continue reading ...](#)

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## Prayers & Presidents - Inspiring Faith from Leaders of the Past

Washington's birthday was recognized by an Act of Congress for government offices in Washington, D.C., in 1879, and for all federal offices in 1885.

In 1971, the Uniform Monday Holiday Act to create more three day weekends moved the observance of Washington's birthday to the third Monday in February.

Abraham Lincoln was also born in February so many States include him in the observance, and still other States include all the Presidents.



George Washington was born February 22, 1732. He was;

- unanimously chosen as the Army's Commander-in-Chief;
- unanimously chosen as



## President of the Constitutional Convention;

- unanimously chosen as the first U.S. President;
- unanimously re-elected to a second term.

George Washington was an Anglican, and, after the Revolution, an Episcopalian.

George's great-great-grandfather, Reverend Lawrence Washington, was an Anglican minister who taught at Oxford.



Lawrence and his wife, Amphillis Twigen, had a son named John.

When the Puritans won the English Civil War in 1651, Anglican ministers were demoted. Lawrence was reduced to being an assistant minister - a vicar - at an impoverished parish in Essex, England.

It was during this time that John Washington, George Washington's great-grandfather, apprenticed as a merchant in London.



He sailed as second officer on a ship to the Colony of Virginia to purchase tobacco.

In 1657, when a storm partially sank their vessel in the Potomac River, John swam ashore.

While the ship was being repaired, John stayed at the home of a planter Colonel Nathaniel Pope, and fell in love with his daughter, Anne. John never returned to England.

John and Anne married, and her father gave them 700 acres in Westmoreland County.

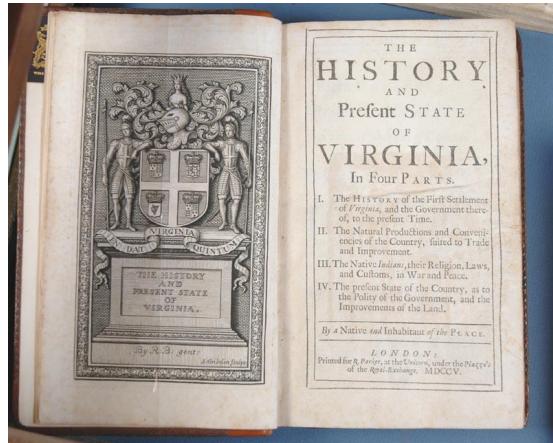
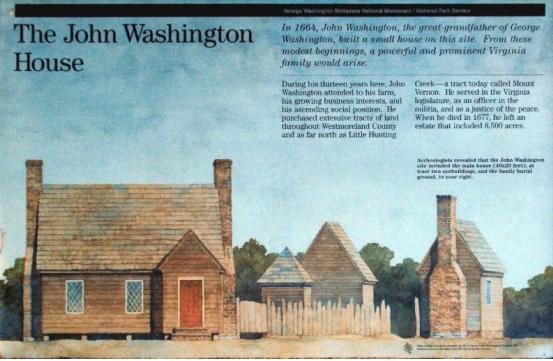
John Washington became a successful planter and a member of the Virginia House of Burgesses.

He was a militia leader during Nathaniel Bacon's Rebellion against Governor William Berkeley in 1676.

A local Anglican church was renamed "Washington" in honor of John Washington.

When John died, he left to the church a tablet of the Ten Commandments. His Will stated:

"In the Name of God, Amen. I, John Washington, of



Washington Parish, in the County of Westmoreland, in Virginia, gentleman, being of good and perfect memory, thanks be unto Almighty God for it,

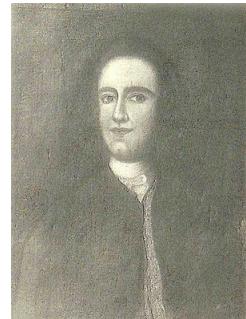
and calling to remembrance the uncertain state of this transitory life, that all flesh must yield unto death, do make, constitute, and ordain this my last will and testament ...

... First, being heartily sorry, from the bottom of my heart, for my sins past, most humbly desiring forgiveness of the same from the Almighty God, my Savior and Redeemer, in whom and by the merits of Jesus Christ, I trust and believe assuredly to be saved, and to have full remission and forgiveness of all my sins,

and that my soul with my body at the general resurrection shall rise again with joy."

The oldest of John Washington's sons was Lawrence, the grandfather of George Washington.

Lawrence married Mildred Warner, the daughter of Col. Augustine Warner, Jr., an ancestor of Queen Elizabeth II.



Lawrence and Mildred had three children, the second being Augustine, who would become George Washington's father.

When Lawrence died in 1698, Mildred married George Gale and moved back to England with her children.



When Mildred died, a relative in America petitioned to get custody of her children, including Augustine, and they were returned to Virginia in 1704.

Augustine Washington served as a vestryman in the Anglican Truro Parish.



He and his wife Jane Butler had two sons live to adulthood, Lawrence and Augustine Jr.

Both Lawrence and Augustine, Jr., went back to England to study at the prestigious Appleby Grammar School.

Jane died in 1729.

Augustine married Mary Ball in 1731, and together they had 6 children, with the oldest, George Washington, being born February 22, 1732.



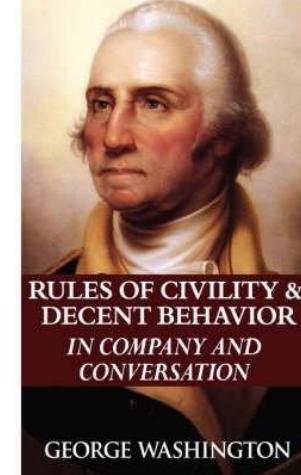
Augustine died in 1743 when George was only 11-years-old.



George hand copied the *Rules of Civility and Decent Behavior in Company and Conversation*, 1744, which included Rule #110:

“Labor to keep alive in your breast that little spark of celestial fire called

conscience."



George's older half-brother Lawrence fought in the British navy under Admiral Edward Vernon, who had captured Porto Bello, Panama, from Spain in 1739.



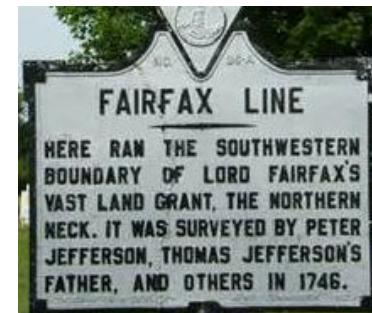
When Lawrence returned to Virginia in 1742, he named his farm after his navy Admiral -- Mount Vernon.

Lawrence married Anne Fairfax.



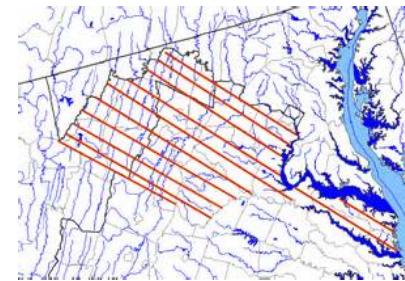
Her father, Col. William Fairfax, had been Collector of Customs in Barbados, and Chief Justice and Governor of the Bahamas, as well as a first cousin of Thomas Fairfax, who was the largest land owner in America with five million acres.

Lawrence arranged for George, at age 15, to begin a career in the British navy as a cabin boy, but his mother, Mary Ball Washington, refused.



George complied with his mother's wishes and returned home.

In 1748, Lawrence arranged for 16-year-old George Washington to be employed by Thomas Fairfax to survey the western area of his vast estate.

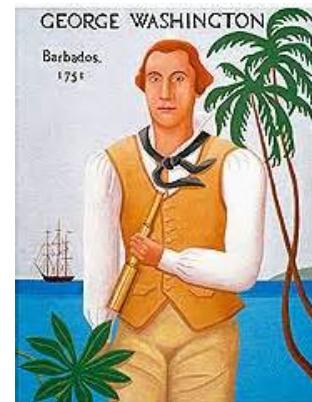


In 1751, Lawrence Washington contracted tuberculosis.



In hopes that a change of climate would help him recover, doctors recommended he travel to Barbados, where his father-in-law had been Collector of Customs.

He brought along his 17-year-old half-brother George.



This was the only time that George left the American continent.

In Barbados, George contracted smallpox, but recovered. This providentially inoculated George so that he was immune during the Revolutionary War, where it is estimated that more soldiers died of smallpox than in battle.

Lawrence died in 1752 and his Mount Vernon estate eventually was inherited by George, making him one of the youngest and largest landowners in Virginia.

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niece.

From 1753-1758, George served in the French and Indian War.

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George miraculously survived the Battle of Monongehela in 1755. Braddock was killed, leaving George in command.

On July 18, 1755, Washington wrote from Fort Cumberland to his brother, John A. Washington:

"By the All-Powerful Dispensations of Providence, I have been protected beyond all human probability or expectation; for I had four bullets through my coat, and two horses shot under me, yet escaped unhurt, although death was leveling my companions on every side of me!"

Colonel Washington wrote to Fort Loudoun, April 17, 1758:

"The last Assembly ... provided for a chaplain to our regiment. On this subject I had often without any success applied to Governor Dinwiddie. I now flatter myself, that your honor will be pleased to appoint a sober, serious man for this duty. Common decency, Sir, in a camp calls for the services of a divine."

In 1759, George fell in love with Martha "Patsy" Dandridge Custis, a 26-year-old widow and mother with two children, John "Jacky" Parke Custis and Martha "Patsy" Parke Custis.

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Washington acknowledged God throughout the Revolution, as he wrote on May 15, 1776:

"The Continental Congress having ordered Friday the 17th instant to be observed as a day of fasting, humiliation, and prayer, humbly to supplicate the mercy of Almighty God,

that it would please Him to pardon all our manifold sins and transgressions, and to prosper the arms of the United Colonies, and finally establish the peace and freedom of America upon a solid and lasting foundation;

the General commands all officers and soldiers to pay strict obedience to the orders of the Continental Congress;

that, by their unfeigned and pious observance of their religious duties, they may incline the Lord and Giver of victory to prosper our arms."

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whether their houses and farms are to be pillaged and destroyed, and themselves consigned to a state of wretchedness from which no human efforts will deliver them.

The fate of unborn millions will now depend, under God, on the courage and conduct of this army.

Our cruel and unrelenting enemy leaves us no choice but a brave resistance, or the most abject submission. We have, therefore to resolve to conquer or die ..."

He continued:

"Our own country's honor calls upon us for a vigorous and manly exertion, and if we now shamefully fail, we shall become infamous to the whole world.

Let us rely upon the goodness of the cause, and the aid of the Supreme Being in whose hands victory is, to animate and encourage us to great and noble actions."

When the Declaration of Independence was written, a copy was rushed out to Washington, who was fortifying New York City.

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At the Battle of Brandywine, September 1777, Washington and Polish Count Casimir Pulaski, Father of the American Calvary, were scouting in the woods.

British sharpshooter Patrick Ferguson reportedly had Washington in his sights but refused to shoot him in the back.

As recorded in The Writings of George Washington (March 10, 1778, 11:83-84, U.S. Government Printing Office, 1934), George Washington ordered:

"At a General Court Marshall ... Lieutt. Enslin of

Colo. Malcom's Regiment tried for attempting to commit sodomy, with John Monhort a soldier...and do sentence him to be dismiss'd the service with Infamy.

His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief approves the sentence and with Abhorrence and Detestation of such Infamous Crimes orders Liett. Enslin to be drummed out of Camp tomorrow morning by all the Drummers and Fifers in the Army never to return."

General Washington wrote at Valley Forge, May 2, 1778:

"To the distinguished character of Patriot, it should be our highest Glory to laud the more distinguished Character of Christian."

To the Delaware Indian Chiefs who brought three youths to be trained in American schools, General Washington stated, May 12, 1779:

"You do well to wish to learn our arts and ways of life, and above all, the religion of Jesus Christ."

The tremendous victory at the Battle of Yorktown, October 19, 1781, securing America's independence, was personally bittersweet for Washington, as his wife's son, John Parke Custis, who had been an aide-de-camp, died there of camp fever, November 5, 1781.

After the Battle of Yorktown, toward the end of the war, many soldiers had not been paid in years, as the Continental Congress had no power to tax.

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to force Congress to give them back pay.

This was dangerous, because a show of disunity could have persuaded British to renew fighting.

Washington surprised the conspiracy by showing up at their meeting in New York, March 15, 1783.

Taking a note from his pocket, he put on reading glasses, which few had seen him wear, and read:

"Gentlemen, you will permit me to put on my spectacles, for I have not only grown gray but almost blind in the service of my country ..."

Becoming aware of his personal sacrifice, officers' hearts melted. He urged them not to open the floodgates of civil discord.

With this one speech, the conspiracy collapsed.

Major General David Cobb, who was an aide-de-camp to Washington, wrote of the Newburgh affair:

"I have ever considered that the United States are indebted for their republican form of government solely to the firm and determined republicanism of George Washington at this time."

Though never having children of his own, George agreed to adopt John Parke Custis' two young children as his own: Eleanor "Nelly" Parke Custis and George Washington Parke Custis, whose daughter, Mary Anna, married Robert E. Lee.

When the Articles of Confederation proved

inadequate for the new nation George Washington agreed to preside over the Constitutional Convention in 1787.

He opened the Constitutional Convention with the line:

"The event is in the hand of God."

In 1789, he was sworn in as the first President of the United States.

President Washington thanked God for the Constitution, October 3, 1789:

"Whereas it is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the Providence of Almighty God ...

I do recommend ... rendering unto Him our sincere and humble thanks, for ... the favorable interpositions of His Providence ... we experienced in the course and conclusion of the late war ... for the peaceable and rational manner in which we have been enabled to establish constitutions of government."

On August 15, 1787, in a letter from Philadelphia to the Marquis de Lafayette, Washington wrote:

"I am not less ardent in my wish that you may succeed in your plan of toleration in religious matters.

Being no bigot myself to any mode of worship, I am disposed to indulge the professors of Christianity in the church with that road to Heaven which to them shall seem the most direct, plainest and easiest,

and the least liable to exception."

Washington sent a letters to the Jewish Congregation in Newport, Rhode Island, and in Savannah, Georgia, stating:

"May the same wonder-working Deity, who long since delivered the Hebrews from their Egyptian oppressors, planted them in a promised land, whose providential agency has lately been conspicuous in establishing these United States as an independent nation, still continue to water them with the dews of heaven."

In 1794, during the Whiskey Rebellion, Washington became the only sitting President, as Commander-in-Chief, to lead the United States Army into the field.

The insurrection dissolved and Washington forgave the insurrectionists. This was in sharp contrast to the harsh behavior of European kings.

Washington chose only to served two terms as President, leaving an example which every succeeding President follow till Franklin Roosevelt, necessitating the 22nd Amendment.

Twice Washington had supreme power, -- as the General who defeated the most powerful army in the world, and as President who could have served for life; and twice he gave it up.

As the early country took shape, partisan politics became increasingly vicious, with Washington even being the victim of ungracious attacks.

He warned how ambitious politicians would be

tempted to use crises as opportunities to usurp power.

In his Farewell Address, 1796, Washington warned of those who would usurp power and rule through executive orders:

"Disorders and miseries, which result, gradually incline the minds of men to seek security and repose in the absolute power of an Individual ... (who) turns this disposition to the purposes of his own elevation, on the ruins of Public Liberty ...

The spirit of encroachment tends to consolidate the powers of all the departments in one, and thus to create, whatever the form of government, a real despotism ...

Let there be no change by usurpation; for though this, in one instance, may be the instrument of good, it is the customary weapon by which free governments are destroyed.

The precedent (of usurpation) must always greatly overbalance in permanent evil any partial or transient benefit which the use can at any time yield."

Earlier, in 1783, the American-born painter Benjamin West was in England painting the portrait of King George III.

When the King asked what General Washington planned to do now that he had won the war.

West replied:

"They say he will return to his farm."

King George exclaimed:

"If he does that, he will be the greatest man in the world."

Poet Robert Frost once wrote:

"I often say of George Washington that he was one of the few men in the whole history of the world who was not carried away by power."

Charles Francis Adams, the grandson of John Adams, wrote:

"More than all, and above all, Washington was master of himself. If there be one quality more than another in his character which may exercise a useful control over the men of the present hour, it is the total disregard of self when in the most elevated positions for influence and example."

Washington continually had toothaches. By the time of his Inauguration, he had only one tooth.

Several dentists made make-shift dentures for him.

Washington had slaves from inheritance, marriage, and purchase, as did almost half of the founders.

As the influence of Baptists, Methodists and Quakers spread, many founders abandoned slavery -- similar to today, how more and more pro-abortion supporters are becoming pro-life.

Washington freed his mulatto man William:

"And to my Mulatto man William (calling himself William Lee) I give immediate freedom ... I allow him an annuity of thirty dollars during his natural life ... & this I give him as a testimony of my sense of his attachment to me, and for his faithful services during the Revolutionary War."

In his Will, Washington freed the rest of his slaves upon his wife Martha's death. Martha freed them the year after Washington died.

In his Will, George also made provision that elderly and sick slaves were to be supported by his estate in perpetuity.

On May 10, 1786, George Washington wrote from to Marquis de Lafayette:

"Your late purchase of an estate in the colony of Cayenne, with a view of emancipating the slaves on it, is a generous and noble proof of your humanity ...

Would to God a like spirit would diffuse itself generally into the minds of the people of this country."

George Washington added a warning in his Farewell Address, 1796:

"Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, Religion and Morality are indispensable supports.

In vain would that man claim the tribute of Patriotism, who should labor to subvert these great Pillars of human happiness."

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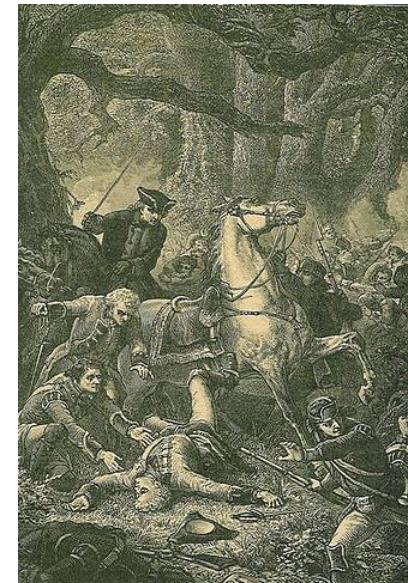


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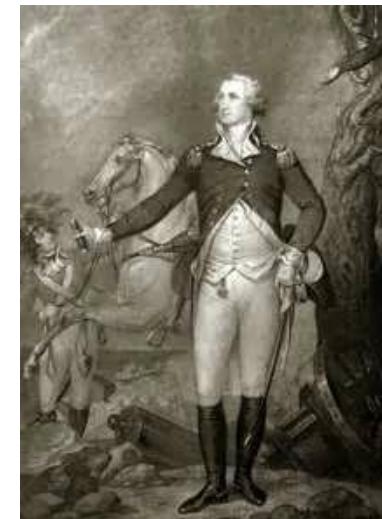
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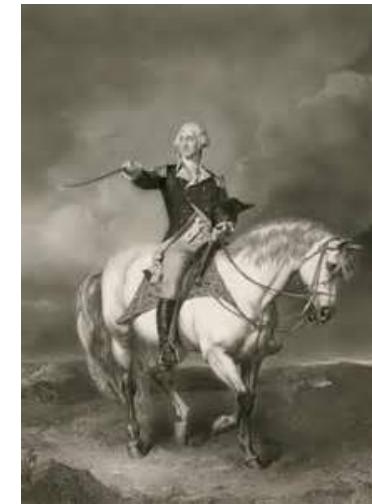
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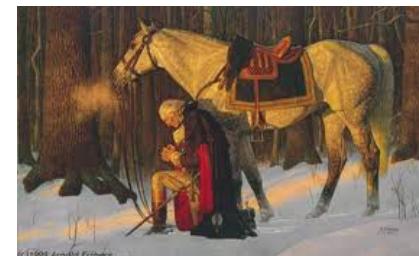
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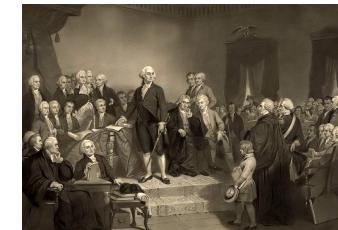
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In 1789, he was sworn in as the first President of the United States.

President Washington thanked God for the Constitution, October

3, 1789:

"Whereas it is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the Providence of Almighty God ...



I do recommend ... rendering unto Him our sincere and humble thanks, for ... the favorable interpositions of His Providence ... we experienced in the course and conclusion of the late war ... for the peaceable and rational manner in which we have been enabled to establish constitutions of government."

On August 15, 1787, in a letter from Philadelphia to the Marquis de Lafayette, Washington wrote:

"I am not less ardent in my wish that you may succeed in your plan of toleration in religious matters.

Being no bigot myself to any mode of worship, I am disposed to indulge the professors of Christianity in the church with that road to Heaven which to them shall seem the most direct, plainest and easiest, and the least liable to exception."

Washington sent a letters to the Jewish Congregation in Newport, Rhode Island, and in Savannah, Georgia, stating:

"May the same wonder-working Deity, who long since delivered the Hebrews from their Egyptian oppressors, planted them in a promised land, whose providential agency has lately been conspicuous in establishing these



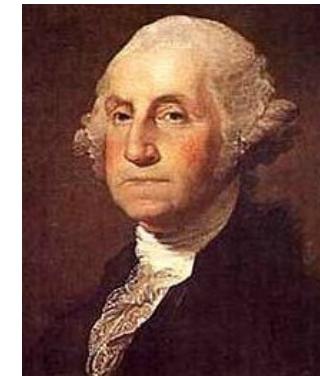
United States as an independent nation, still continue to water them with the dews of heaven."

In 1794, during the Whiskey Rebellion, Washington became the only sitting President, as Commander-in-Chief, to lead the United States Army into the field.



The insurrection dissolved and Washington forgave the insurrectionists. This was in sharp contrast to the harsh behavior of European kings.

Washington chose only to serve two terms as President, leaving an example which every succeeding President followed till Franklin Roosevelt, necessitating the 22nd Amendment.



Twice Washington had supreme power, -- as the General who defeated the most powerful army in the world, and as President who could have served for life; and twice he gave it up.

As the early country took shape, partisan politics became increasingly vicious, with Washington even being the victim of ungracious attacks.

He warned how ambitious politicians would be tempted to use crises as opportunities to usurp power.

In his Farewell Address, 1796, Washington warned of those who would usurp power and rule through executive orders:

"Disorders and miseries, which result, gradually incline the minds of men to seek security and repose in the absolute power of an Individual ... (who) turns this disposition to the purposes of his own elevation, on the ruins of Public Liberty ...

The spirit of encroachment tends to consolidate the powers of all the departments in one, and thus to create, whatever the form of government, a real despotism ...

Let there be no change by usurpation; for though this, in one instance, may be the instrument of good, it is the customary weapon by which free governments are destroyed.

The precedent (of usurpation) must always greatly overbalance in permanent evil any partial or transient benefit which the use can at any time yield."

Earlier, in 1783, the American-born painter Benjamin West was in England painting the portrait of King George III.

When the King asked what General Washington planned to do now that he had won the war.



West replied:

"They say he will return to his farm."

King George exclaimed:

"If he does that, he will be the greatest man in the world."

Poet Robert Frost once wrote:

"I often say of George Washington that he was one of the few men in the whole history of the world who was not carried away by power."



Charles Francis Adams, the grandson of John Adams, wrote:

"More than all, and above all, Washington was master of himself. If there be one quality more than another in his character which may exercise a useful control over the men of the present hour, it is the total disregard of self when in the most elevated positions for influence and example."

Washington continually had toothaches. By the time of his Inauguration, he had only one tooth.



Several dentists made make-shift dentures for him.

Washington had slaves from inheritance, marriage, and purchase, as did almost half of the founders.



As the influence of Baptists, Methodists and

Quakers spread, many founders abandoned slavery -- similar to today, how more and more pro-abortion supporters are becoming pro-life.

Washington freed his mulatto man William:

"And to my Mulatto man William (calling himself William Lee) I give immediate freedom ... I allow him an annuity of thirty dollars during his natural life ... & this I give him as a testimony of my sense of his attachment to me, and for his faithful services during the Revolutionary War."

In his Will, Washington freed the rest of his slaves upon his wife Martha's death. Martha freed them the year after Washington died.

In his Will, George also made provision that elderly and sick slaves were to be supported by his estate in perpetuity.

On May 10, 1786, George Washington wrote from to Marquis de Lafayette:



"Your late purchase of an estate in the colony of Cayenne, with a view of emancipating the slaves on it, is a generous and noble proof of your humanity ...

Would to God a like spirit would diffuse itself generally into the minds of the people of this country."

George Washington added a warning in his Farewell Address, 1796:

"Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, Religion and Morality are indispensable supports.

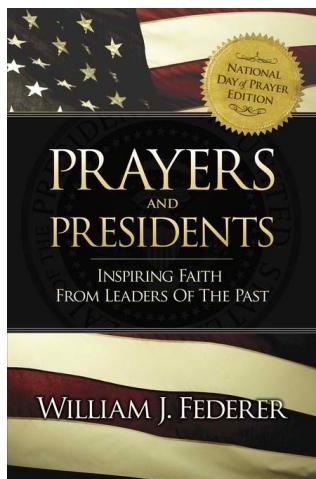


In vain would that man claim the tribute of Patriotism, who should labor to subvert these great Pillars of human happiness."

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