

GEORGE WASHINGTON... THE FIRST... THE ONE... THE ONLY!



- ★ Henry “Light Horse Harry” Lee stated that George Washington was, “First in War, First in Peace, First in the Hearts of His Countrymen.” (Henry Lee, BTW, was the father of future Civil War Confederate General Robert E. Lee...)
- ★ Washington’s first job was a surveyor. He used these skills to plan his home at Mt. Vernon and oversee the plan of Washington, DC (though he was the only President who didn’t live in the White House!).
- ★ George Washington was the only President to be elected unanimously by the Electoral College (twice!).
- ★ He was the only president to personally lead troops into battle AND hold the highest rank in the United States Military: General of the Armies of the United States—no one can ever outrank him.

PHOTO (PORTRAIT!) BOMB



Did you notice the two gentlemen looking over George’s shoulder in his portrait? Who ARE those guys? It’s the artist James Willson Peale, and his brother Charles (also an artist—Charles painted George Washington at least four times)!

James Willson Peale painted this picture in 1790 and put himself and his brother in it to show that they’d both been at Yorktown (as can be seen in the background) AND that they had a connection to George Washington. Many artists have “hidden” themselves in paintings and sculptures—including Michaelangelo, Boticelli and Raphael!

Somerset County’s annual Weekend Journey Through The Past is an initiative of the Somerset County Board of Chosen Freeholders and the Somerset County Cultural & Heritage Commission in collaboration with many county-wide local historical organisations and commissions, and other county organisations.

SO YOU THINK YOU CAN DANCE

Our First President could—and he was a snazzy dresser as well! Dancing was one of George Washington’s favorite pastimes. Balls were regular occurrences during the Revolution, starting in the early evening with the last guests leaving at sunrise—which meant lots of time for some smooth moves on the dance floor. What kind of dances were popular in Washington’s time?

Country Dances: Couples lined up and took turns leading each set.

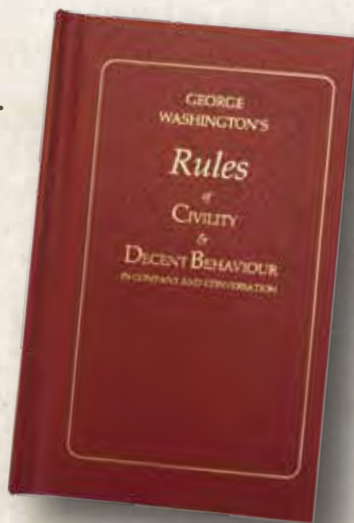
Reels: Traditional Scottish dances where instructions were given; square dancing has its roots in reels and country dances.

Gavottes, Allemandes, Rigadoons and Minuets: Learned with a special dancing master, these steps were meant to show off serious dancing skills AND etiquette.



MR. MANNERS

Our first president was a stickler for good behavior. Maybe it was because he had to hand-copy the “110 Rules of Civility” (originally from 16th century France) as part of his education. Besides improving his penmanship, Washington took these rules to heart and as a teenager, turned them into a book of his own:



George Washington's Rules of Civility and Decent Behavior. Check out some of his do's and don'ts:

- ★ *Do not Puff up the Cheeks, Loll not out the tongue rub the Hands, or beard, thrust out the lips, or bite them or keep the Lips too open or too Close.*
- ★ *Shew not yourself glad at the Misfortune of another though he were your enemy.*
- ★ *If others talk at Table be attentive but talk not with Meat in your Mouth. And while you're at it...Take no Salt or cut Bread with your Knife Greasy.*

YOU'VE GOT MAIL

George Washington's penmanship also came in handy for letter-writing. It's estimated that he wrote between 18,000 and 20,000 letters in his lifetime—many were addressed to his wife, Martha.



TRUE OR FALSE:

Did George Washington and his French ally General Jean Baptiste, comte de Rochambeau really play Rock-Paper-Scissors to decide who would be the last to leave Yorktown after the British surrendered in 1781?

False! While the game of Rock-Paper-Scissors is sometimes called “Ro-Sham-Bo”



there's no hard evidence to prove that Washington and

Rochambeau—the General who commanded

French troops

in America during the Revolution—actually played it. Besides, neither man would ever leave such an important decision to a game of chance!



DOG-GONE!

George Washington is often called the father of our country. He's also been called the, “Father of the Fox Hound.”

Washington kept a pack of 30 hunting dogs which he treated like family—we even know some of their names: True Love, Sweet Lips... and Topsy!



He also championed the use of mules in farming.

Many mules in America today are descendants of “Royal Gift,” Washington's breeding donkey!