## Part 9: Introduction to the Washington Monument.

**Background.** Most visitors see the Washington Monument as a memorial to a single, great man. Actually, its architect Robert Mills had proposed an artistic treatment that would have highlighted the symbiotic relationship between George Washington, his peers, their ideals, and the nation they brought into being. Mills called for the obelisk-like shaft to highlight Washington's preeminence, but he also envisioned a colonnaded pantheon that would have housed statues of Washington's compatriots, thus honoring other Revolutionary War heroes and signers of the Declaration of Independence.

It's clear that most visitors don't come to the monument to pay homage to George Washington, but they still come. In fact, more than a million people come each year. Why?

A superficial assessment of their motives might lead you to believe that most come to gaze through the windows and take pictures. If you subscribe to that theory, this means visitors simply use the monument as a viewing and photography platform. If you look deeper into their motivation, you might decide that most visitors come here for the experience of visiting one of the world's special places, our nation's capitol.

So we are the caretakers of this special place--the monument without its proposed, circular pantheon--a monument that proclaims the name of only one hero--the Father of Our Country. But we sense that it truly honors Washington's country--our country--this fertile land of democratic ideals and seemingly boundless opportunities. That is what draws people from all over the world to see, touch, photograph, experience, and remember the Washington Monument and the time they visited.

If the Washington Monument could talk, imagine the stories it could tell, not only of Washington and his glory, but of the development of Federal City and the growth of our nation, her leaders, and the ideals of a free people. Since the stone doesn't talk, it's up to you to put this place into its historical, symbolic, and emotional context.

Generally, you won't have much time to adequately describe the life and accomplishments of George Washington and the history and symbolism of the monument that honors him. Therefore,

Park Rangers have to be creative. The monument will pose unique challenges like:

- How to instill the monument's deeper meaning in a 70-second elevator ride.

- How to interpret universal concepts like freedom when you have to search individuals' belongings before they enter the monument.

- How to foster public stewardship and ownership in the Washington Monument when members of a hostile crowd feel they have waited in line too long or when you have to inform those who could not get tickets that they cannot enter.

**Daily and Standing Operating Procedures for Duty at the Washington Monument.** Because this is the only site within the jurisdiction of Mall Operations where we regulate visitor access with a ticket process, it requires unusual operating procedures. We have to be efficient, yet we have to be visitor-oriented as well. Fight the urge to treat visitors as machine parts on an assembly line. Yes, visitors have to join lines and elevator-sized groups, but don't lose sight of the fact that lines include hundreds of individuals and elevator-sized groups are really 25-30 park patrons who deserve our personal and personable attention.

**Staffing at the Washington Monument**. Generally, a team of six to seven Park Rangers will be assigned to the Monument each day. They will be responsible for opening, closing, illuminating the structure, operating the visitor waiting line, staffing the gate at the security inspection point, and providing the full range of visitor services, including "tours" inside the Monument. Lead Rangers may employ varying schedules which allow Rangers to frequently move between the various stations at the site.

**Opening Procedures.** Each day, the first Rangers at the Monument will:

- Enter the Monument and perform a general inspection for cleanliness and condition.

- Test the elevator to ensure it is operating correctly and safely.

- Position any temporary security barriers like stanchions, chain-link fences, etc., as required by current policy or unusual circumstances.

- Greet ticket-holders and begin lining them up for monument tours.

**Operating Procedures.** Each station within the Monument requires different actions depending on weather conditions, current security restrictions, staffing, and the particular modus operandi and preferences of the Lead Ranger. Under most conditions, the following duty stations and actions apply:

- **Waiting Area (Line).** Rangers will:

  -Ensure that all visitors with timed tickets join appropriate waiting lines.

  - Mark or cancel tickets for the next group of approximately 8 visitors. This is due to the size of the security check point.

  -Explain the security point procedures to ticketed visitors

and send them to the next Ranger at the security check point.

-Talk with visitors---don't just hold them hostage!

- **Security Check Point (Door).** Contracted security guard staff the security point and search visitors' belongings. Park Rangers will:

  -Ensure that only ticket-holding visitors enter the security point.

  -Ask visitors if they were informed of the security procedures and go over if they have not.

  -Talk with visitors while waiting for the security check point to clear.

- **Monument Lobby.** Rangers will:

  -Ensure that only appropriately ticketed and cleared individuals enter the lobby. A good idea is to have them seated on the bench with no space. Everyone on the bench should be able to fit in the elevator.

  -When exiting, ensure that visitors leave along appropriate pathways and through correct gates.

  -Keep tour groups separate from one another and clear any congestion that would impede movement of subsequent groups.

  -Take the opportunity to present thematic and informative programs in the lobby of the Monument.

  -Report and react to any elevator stoppages or safety issues.

**Closing Procedures.** Each day, the last Rangers at the Monument will:

- Notify visitors/ employees of approaching closing time. Do this several times: approximately 15 minutes prior to closing and every five minutes thereafter. At closing time, ensure that all visitors board the elevator and depart the structure.

- Secure all government equipment and doors.

- Lock interior glass doors and return keys to US Park Police.

**Special Equipment.**

- **Alarms.** There are fire and elevator emergency alarms in the Monument. If any audible or visual alarms activate, notify Lead Ranger, Park Police and/ or Supervisory Ranger at Survey Lodge. Determine if there is an immediate safety threat to visitors or staff--if necessary, evacuate the building and take appropriate actions in regard to the elevator.

- **Electronic Public Address System.** The Monument has an internal communications system with speakers at the 500-foot, 490-foot, and throughout the stairwell. Rangers can make Monument-wide public announcements via this system by using the "push-to-talk" hand mike located in the northwestern-most electronic alarm cabinet in the elevator control room.

- **Elevator. In the event of an elevator problem, your primary role is to communicate--with NPS and US Park Police AND with visitors.** Immediately

ascertain the basic elevator problem and any potential injuries or medical problems among the occupants. Reassure visitors of their safety while notifying the Lead Ranger of the problem(s) over the radio. If you have any reason to believe the Lead Ranger did not hear or relay your message, contact a Supervisory Ranger at Survey Lodge. **Park Rangers should never attempt to open the elevator doors or evacuate passengers without fire department assistance.**

If the elevator will not ascend or descend and nobody is trapped inside, contact the Lead Ranger. On order, execute a standard, non-emergency "walk-down" evacuation. Gather appropriate first aid and oxygen supplies. Pay special attention to elderly or infirm individuals. One Park Ranger should lead the group down the stairs to control the speed of descent, one should accompany the group, and one should remain at the top of the Monument until it has been completely cleared and secured. For specific details on elevator problems, see the SOP section of this guidebook.

**Most Frequently Asked Questions.**

**1) When was the monument built?**
Workers began building the foundation in the spring of 1848 and the cornerstone was laid on July 4, 1848. Construction stopped in 1854 due to a lack of funds and controversy over control of the monument society that was building it. There was no construction during the Civil War era. In 1879, construction resumed under the guidance of an officer from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The monument's capstone was set on December 6, 1884. The structure was dedicated on February 21, 1885, and opened to the public on October 9, 1888.

**2) How tall is the monument?**
The official height is 555 feet, 5 and 1/8th inches tall.

**3) Why does the color of the Monument change?** About 1/3 of the way up (150-foot level), you can see an obvious change in the color of the Monument. When the construction was stopped in 1854 and resume in 1879, the color of the stone did not match even though it came from the same quarry. Above the line were newer, smooth and machine-cut stones and below were rough, hand-cut stones.

Visitors are often aware of the discoloration line and might have heard a brief explanation about why it exists. Be careful if you go into great detail about the stone--the historical record is somewhat confusing and it doesn't match the physical appearance of the building! Official records submitted by Lieutenant Colonel Casey do provide some (hopefully accurate) help, but other sources frequently contradict his reports.

Casey reported that earlier builders used marble from Thomas Symington's Baltimore area quarry (near Texas, Maryland) for the lower 156 feet of the Monument. During the nearly 25-year period of inactivity at the Monument (1856?-1879), the Symington quarry ceased marketing large marble blocks and primarily produced smaller stones used for lime production. Therefore, in August, 1879, Engineer in Charge Casey had to turn elsewhere. He authorized the purchase of 12,500 cubic feet of marble from contractor John Briggs, of Sheffield, Massachusetts.

When Casey's crews resumed construction on the shaft in 1880, masons first removed some damaged and loose marble blocks and then faced the Monument with stone from the Massachusetts quarry, beginning at the 150-foot level. Louis Torres, historian for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, relates that Casey acquired only enough of this Massachusetts stone to face six feet of the Monument. The engineer annulled the contract because Briggs' company was slow in delivering marble and the stones themselves were often of incorrect dimensions and "defective" color.

One DOI document, Building Stones of our National Capital, provides some confusing and contradictory information about the marble of the monument. This pamphlet relates that four courses (8 vertical feet) of the monument are made from the Massachusetts stone rather than six feet as stated by Torres. Moreover the DOI information calls the Massachusetts stone "Lee Marble". This causes great confusion because it was not until April, 1883, that Casey contracted for marble with the Lee Marble Company of New York, N.Y.—a contractor that obtained stone from a quarry near Lee, Massachusetts. The DOI pamphlet further claims that the Engineer-in-Chief discontinued using Massachusetts marble because the stone was too expensive. A claim that is contradictory to Casey's records. The contract that Casey annulled with the Massachusetts stone quarry provided stone at $ .88 per cubic foot. In the very next contract for marble (Sisson of Baltimore) Casey agreed to buy the stone at $1.00 per cubic foot.

Casey reported that he and his team added 22 feet to the Monument in that first season (1880). Depending upon the reference we believe, stone from the Massachusetts quarry accounted for only 6 - 8 vertical feet of that season's progress. The remaining 14 -16 vertical feet came from the July, 1880 contract with Hugh Sisson of Baltimore, Maryland. Sisson obtained his stone from the Beaver Dam Quarry near Cockeysville, Maryland, just outside Baltimore.

Today, white marble from Sisson's Beaver Dam Quarry adorns about 70% of the outside of the Monument, but that could easily have been a different story. Sisson's company was more efficient at delivering stone than the previous contractor, but the Joint Commission which authorized Casey's contracts did not renew the Sisson contract in 1883. Rather, they contracted with a lower bidder, Lee Marble Company of New York.

Interestingly, one Park Ranger believes that only three marble blocks from the Lee Marble Company actually made their way into the walls of the Washington Monument before the contract was annulled upon the contractor's request because he could not provide the stipulated quantity. The origin of that stone is probably Lee, Massachusetts.

Not only is the stone from differing quarries, but is of varying densities. The stone at the bottom is a large-grained marble, whereas the stone for the upper two-thirds is a fine-grained marble, which accounts for some of the color variation.

It sounds simple. Recite the historical record and show visitors the appropriate sections of the Monument. They should be able to discern the appropriate layers:

- The bottom 150-feet from a Baltimore quarry should be one color.

- The next band (6-8 feet wide) should appear as a different color because it came from a Massachusetts quarry.

- The upper section, from the 156 (158?) foot level to the very capstone, should be another color. And it should closely resemble the color of the first 150-foot section because both are composed of stone from Baltimore-area quarries about a mile from each other.

Unfortunately, when you look at the monument and try to explain it, it just doesn't make sense. You don't see that thin, very distinct band of Massachusetts marble---you see a band of stone that extends from the 150-foot level for at least 100 feet! Then the stone changes color again for the upper 1/3 of the Monument.
Thankfully, most visitors don't want this much detail. It's often enough to say that the Monument changes color because the stone for each section came from different quarries. Don't perpetuate the myth that the Civil War is the reason for the break in construction that led to the color lines. Any discussion about the color change can be turned into an interpretive opportunity. Explain why construction halted near that height, how money, politics and prejudice impacted progress, and how, even after the bitterness, divisiveness, and devastation of the Civil War, the country would again unite over this monument to the Father of Our Country.

**4) Who designed the monument?**
Well, here's another convoluted answer. Robert Mills, who claimed to be America's first native-born architect, submitted the winning design for the monument. However, what we see today is not what he envisioned. The grandiose, colonnaded pantheon he envisioned was to be step two if and when funds allowed its construction. As it was, construction on part one, the shaft, faltered in 1854 as funds became scarce. Mills died in 1855, politics and the national crisis posed by the Civil War preempted further construction, and the monument seemed doomed to remain incomplete.

In 1876, after 20 years of neglect, Congress passed an act that directed the completion of the monument. In 1879, construction resumed under the direction of a Joint Commission of Congress and Engineer-in-Chief, Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Lincoln Casey, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Casey, influenced by George Perkins Marsh, American Ambassador to Italy, built an obelisk that corresponded to traditional dimensions used by Egyptian obelisk builders. Thus, the monument we see today is as much Casey and Marsh's design as Mills'.

**5) Why is it an obelisk? And what is an obelisk?** Technically, the Washington Monument is not an obelisk because it is not a monolith, or a single stone. Robert Mills' winning design included an obelisk-shaped shaft protruding from a circular pantheon, but he did not explain the importance of the obelisk shape. On the other hand, he went into great detail about the symbolism for the planned pantheon.

Pamela Scott, editor of Mills' professional papers, describes several other Washington Monument designs that Mills recorded in his journal. She believes Mills' obelisk-pantheon plan was not the first one he submitted to the Washington National Monument Society competition. Among his other designs were a pyramid and a gothic-styled structure. Obviously, associating an obelisk with Washington was not paramount to Mills, otherwise, all of his plans would have included one.

Many of his designs for other public buildings incorporated classical motifs like pyramids, obelisks, columns, and sarcophagi, so it is clear he was fond of classical Egyptian and Greek elements. But none of his designs were as simple as the unadorned shaft we recognize today as the Washington Monument. He preferred elaborate architecture, embellished with symbolic, narrative sculpture---colossal works that could tell of heroic deeds.

Just as the historical record does not adequately explain Mills' preference for the obelisk, the record does not cite why the Washington National Monument Society board of managers chose the obelisk-pantheon design over others. As a matter of fact, they nearly abandoned Mills' obelisk altogether in the 1870s and authorized the creation of a gothic tower around the unadorned obelisk.

**6) Has there always been an elevator in the monument?** No. The first "elevator" was installed in 1880. It was actually a steam-powered lift used to bring stone blocks up the Monument so they could be hoisted by a derrick and placed into the upper courses of the Monument walls. That steam hoist was used until 1887 when it was rebuilt into a passenger elevator car. In 1888, the first public visitors were allowed to ride aboard the new elevator, and contrary to popular stories, several women were among the first passengers. It took nearly twelve minutes to reach the 500-foot level. In 1901, engineers converted it to an electric lift. A modern elevator car was installed in 1959. Our current elevator was installed in 2001 as part of a comprehensive, three-year renovation program.

**7) Does the Monument sway?** Yes, in a 30 mile per hour wind, the monument sways up to 1/8 of an inch.

**8) How many stairs are in the monument?** There are 896 steps—contractors rebuilt one section of the staircase and removed one step in 2000.

**9) Are the stairs open to the public? Can you walk down the stairs?** People have not had free access to the stairs since 1976. NPS officials closed them for several reasons: first, to prevent injuries to visitors, and secondly, to preserve the arguably priceless and historic commemorative stones housed in the walls of the staircase. You may use the stairs only if you are attending one of our Ranger-guided "walk-down" tours. We lead those when staffing levels and time permit.

**10) What are the glass panes for at the 500-foot level?** These are both aesthetic and functional. In addition to mimicking the masonry style of the monument, these panels protect the stone from damage. When people touch the stones, oils, acid and pH from their hands discolor the stone. Also, we want

to discourage people from writing or carving on the marble blocks.

**11) What are the carvings on the inside of the monument?** There are 193 official commemorative stones (and a few unofficial carvings) that line the inner walls of the monument. All 50 states, numerous organizations and cities, several foreign countries, and even a few private individuals donated them, beginning in the 1840s and all the way up to the 1980s.

Our new elevator allows us to slow down and take a closer look at the following stones:

**•280-foot level (West side), 8 stones:**

-Citizens of Alexandria, Virginia.

-Honesdale, Pennsylvania.

-Dramatic Profession of America.

-First Regiment of Light Infantry, Massachusetts Volunteers, Boston.

-Jefferson Medical College of Philadelphia.

-Disciples of Daguerre.

-Hibernian Society of Baltimore.

-Western Military Institute, Drennon Kentucky.

**•270-foot level (East side), 6 stones:**

-Cliosophic Society.

-Alexandrian Library, Egypt.

-Continental Guard of New Orleans.

-Jefferson Society of the University of Virginia.

-Locomotive Works, Philadelphia.

-Ladies of Manchester, New Hampshire.

**•140-foot level (West side), 10 stones:**

-City of Baltimore.

-Masons of Alabama.

-Masons of Georgia.

-Masons of Illinois.

-Company I, 4th Infantry Regiment.

-Engineers of the 2nd Division, James River and Kana. Canal.

-Fort Greene Guard, Brooklyn, NY.

-Otter's Summit, Virginia.

-Masterton and Smith, New York,.

- D.O Hitner Quarry, Pennsylvania,.

**•130-foot level (East side), 12 stones:**

-Durham, New Hampshire.

-New York City.

-Masons of Maryland.

-(Freemasons) Lodge Number 21, New York.

-American Institute of New York City

-American Whig Society

-I.O.O.F of MA.

-Masons, Lebanon, PA

-Oakland College, MS

-Sons of Temperance, CT

-Union Society, Hillsborough, NC

-Washington College, Lexington, VA

**12) What do you have to do to visit the monument?** You must have tickets to enter the Washington Monument. There are two ways to get tickets. You can get free, timed-entry tickets at the Washington Monument Lodge, the light brown stone building located on 15th street, east of the monument toward the Capitol. Be forewarned that tickets are on a first come, first serve basis and they frequently run out quickly. Your other option is to reserve tickets through www.recreation.org for a nominal fee, a process that takes at least two weeks and

months during the summer. Either way, once you get tickets, you must line up at the waiting area to the east of the Washington Monument. Every few minutes, a Park Ranger will dispatch a tour group of 8 people into the security checkpoint and the Monument.

**13) How do you get tickets in advance?** To obtain tickets in advance, you have to go online at www.recreation.org. There is a $1.50 service charge for each ticket. Visitors who have reservations will have to pick up their tickets at Will Call, same place where you get tickets.

**14) Where is the closest Metro station?** The metro stops closest to the monument are the Smithsonian Metro, located just before the Smithsonian Castle, and Federal Triangle, near the Old Post Office Tower.

**15) Where can I catch a cab?** There is no permanent cab stand nearby, but you can hail passing cabs practically anywhere depending on which direction you're traveling.

**16) Where is the nearest restroom?** The nearest restrooms are located at the Washington Monument Lodge on 15th Street.

**17) Where can I get some food?** You can get snacks just down the hill at the refreshment stand on 15th Street. There is a food court in the basement of the Reagan Federal Building on 14th Street, Old Post Office Tower on 12th Street and both the American History and Air and Space Museums have cafeterias. If you are looking for a restaurant, you can find several of them on Pennsylvania Avenue, east of the White House.

**18) How do you get to the Lincoln Memorial/ Vietnam Veterans Memorial/ Korean War Veterans Memorial?** Walk directly past the Washington Monument and continue due west, cross 17th Street and continue along the Reflecting Pool. Those locations are 3/4 mile away.

**19) How long does the tour take?** From the time we start the elevator until we reach the top floor, it takes only 70 seconds. At that point, you're on your own to enjoy the views and the exhibits. Most visitors will spend about twenty minutes inside the Monument, but you're welcome to stay as long as you like.

**20) Can I visit without tickets?** Only rarely do we have the flexibility to allow non-ticket holders in, and only if there are no "ticket holders" in line. (Make sure you coordinate very closely with the Lead Ranger if you are going to allow non-ticket holders into the Monument.)

## Description of the Cultural Resource.

**Origins of the Monument**. Over one hundred years before the capstone was set on the Washington Monument, George Washington's admirers sought to memorialize him. As author Lonnelle Aikman wrote in his essay

*The Monument: Tribute in Stone*:

> *The idea first bloomed in the earliest days of the Republic, amid widespread rejoicing over the victorious Revolution.*

**Formal Congressional Resolutions**. In August, 1783, the Continental Congress, then meeting in Princeton, resolved:

> *(Unanimously, ten States being present) That an equestrian statue of General Washington be erected at the place where the residence of Congress shall be established.*

Unfortunately, these words did not stir immediate action. Aikman explained:

> *The general was highly gratified by the action, as he wrote a former comrade-in-arms. Such flattering testimonials of regard from his country were, "and I trust ever will be," he observed, "the most pleasing reflection of my life." Later, after Congress had voted to build the new seat of government by the Potomac, President Washington approved the spot assigned to his statue by city planner Pierre L'Enfant. It should stand on the Mall, they agreed, at the intersection of lines extending west from the future Capitol and south from the President's House.*
>
> *But the fledgling Nation had more pressing problems, and Washington himself felt that the low state of the treasury scarcely warranted such unessential expenses.*

After refusing a third presidential term, Washington retired to Mount Vernon. Unexpectedly and tragically, George Washington fell ill and died less than three years after leaving office. That tragic demise on December 14, 1799 shocked America and triggered a wave of guilt. Author Aikman continues:

> *So it was not until his death in 1799 that Americans suddenly realized that they had failed to provide a monument in appreciation of the Father of their Country. As hundreds of impassioned eulogies rang out from pulpit and podium across the land, Congress passed another resolution.*
>
> *The new bill was sponsored by Representative John Marshall - destined to become the pioneering Chief Justice who would establish the power of the Supreme Court. Marshall's proposal called for a marble memorial inside the Capitol Building, to which Washington's remains were to be transferred when, and if, permission could be obtained from the family. Reluctantly, Martha Washington agreed.*
>
> *Eventually, after years of Congressional debates, resolutions, and correspondence with Washington's heirs, a mausoleum was provided under the Capitol Rotunda.*
>
> *Congress even proposed, as Washington's birthday centennial approached in 1832, that the bodies of both George and Martha should rest there.*
>
> *But the tomb was never occupied. Washington's grandnephew and Mount Vernon's owner at the time, John Augustine Washington, refused to allow the remains to be moved, citing the general's will, which had directed his burial on the Virginia estate.*

The unoccupied tomb in the Capitol.

*Henceforth the Capitol tomb would remain a tourist curiosity, and in time the repository for the black-draped catafalque on which have rested the bodies of those Presidents, beginning with Lincoln, who have lain in state in the Rotunda above.*

*The Congress of the 1830s was still bent, however, on honoring Washington at the legislative heart of the Nation. In July, 1832, it authorized the then huge sum of $5,000 for a marble statue to be executed by "a suitable artist" and displayed in the Rotunda. Horatio Greenough, an American sculptor working in Italy, won the commission.*

*As it turned out, Greenough's classical concept of Washington, which took the form of a 20-ton seated figure, bare-chested and loosely draped, proved almost as big a fiasco as the vacant tomb.*

*The public was shocked when the statue was unveiled about 1841. The dignified general appeared, it was said, as if "entering or leaving a bath." Shortly thereafter, the figure was deemed inappropriate for the Rotunda floor. Removed to the grounds, it suffered the whims of the weather until Congress finally transferred it to the exhibit halls of the Smithsonian Institution.*

**Civic efforts to memorialize George Washington.** Congressional bickering and delays continued, eventually precipitating a public outcry over the failure to complete a suitable tribute to George Washington. The *National Intelligencer* printed a scathing article on September 24, 1833 that assailed Congress and the American population for their apathetic treatment of Mr. Washington's legacy. The article announced a meeting at City Hall for "*Those gentlemen who have expressed their desire*" to honor Washington.

That initial meeting led to the creation of a private organization that would attempt to complete what politicians could not--a fitting, national tribute to George Washington. On September 26, 1833, those Washington, D.C. citizens organized the Washington National Monument Society. This private society would aggressively solicit designs, voluntary contributions, and federal lands to build a monument to the memory of George Washington.
On October 31, 1833, society members elected Chief Justice John Marshall (a close Washington friend) as the first society president. At the same meeting, they elected three vice presidents, a secretary, a treasurer, and a board of managers composed of 13 members, symbolic of the thirteen original states. Society members seemed to understand their challenge would be a lengthy one, for they made long range plans. Their charter called for elections every three years at the society's annual meeting on February 22.

George Watterston, former Librarian of Congress, who likely originated the idea for the society, served as its secretary from its beginning until his death in February, 1854. National Geographic Society author Lonnelle Aikman described Watterston as the guiding force of the society and*:*

> *an energetic gentleman of Scottish descent who also practiced law and politics, edited newspapers, wrote novels, guidebooks, and poetry and fathered eight children.*

Somewhat lethargic itself, the Washington National Monument Society on 23 September, 1835, finally set the tone for the monument:

> ***It is proposed that the contemplated monument shall be like him in whose honor it is to be constructed, unparalleled in the world…***

As if to validate their vision of a protracted project, circumstances soon placed obstacles along their route. John Marshall died in 1835. President James Madison succeeded Marshall as society president, but that was more an honorary title than a practical position. Upon Madison's death in 1839, the Society amended its constitution to proclaim the sitting President of the United States to be the *ex officio* president of the Washington National Monument Society. Hence, Andrew Jackson was the first to hold that title under the new change. Aikman analyzed additional problems that hampered society efforts:

> *During the next half century building progress alternately zoomed and lagged with the ups and downs in the fortunes of the country at large. Andrew Jackson began his second term the same year the Monument Society was founded. But even as his joyful followers celebrated the triumph of the "People's President," a bitter political war over finance was brewing among Jackson, Congress, and the Government-chartered Bank of the United States, a power in its own right. With the national economy shaken by this dispute concerning the bank's policies, it hardly seemed an auspicious time to seek funds for an ambitious patriotic memorial.*

Committed to their cause and bent on honoring their hero, the managers of the Washington National Monument Society pressed on despite the country's plight. Shortly after its founding, the society published an address to the people of the United States, giving them an opportunity to share in the enterprise by making contributions to the project. Initially, the society restricted the amount that any single person could contribute in any one year to $1.

As early as 1835, the society carefully appointed collection agents. They were to be nominated by a Senator, Representative, or leading citizen of their district or State and were bonded for faithful performance of duty. Agents earned a 10-15 percent commission on what funds they collected. At times the society appointed a general agent to supervise collections and devise and carry out special fundraising plans.

**Design Competition.** By 1836, the society had collected $28,000 from "gentlemen of prudence and elevated moral worth," as an announcement assured contributors. The society

managers determined that was sufficient capital to announce a public design competition, so on August 10, 1836, they published an announcement that solicited designs from American architects. They wanted the design to:

***harmoniously blend durability, simplicity, and grandeur***

According to Louis Torres, historian for the U.S. Army Chief of Engineers, there was an "excellent" response to the open competition. The Society appointed a committee to review designs and they reportedly considered many plans.

One of the first submissions came from the Peter Force, the Washington, D.C. mayor. His design was a huge pyramid. Thomas McClelland submitted a a plan for a huge, multi-chambered, gothic arch. A very busy design of a statue of Washington, upon a triumphal arch, upon a column, upon a Grecian temple came from Baltimore resident E. Barabino. Yet another came from distinguished architect Robert Mills. Mills had already designed and constructed a monument to Washington, the Washington Monument in Baltimore, Maryland.

Initially, the Society liked McClelland's design, but they eventually approved Robert Mills' plan. They did not, however, technically announce him the winner. For the next nine years, controversy and confusion surrounded the design competition. During that period, it is likely, according to Pamela Scott, editor of Mills' papers, that Mills altered his design and submitted various plans to the Society.

Mills' Washington Monument, Baltimore, Maryland

Despite criticism of Mills' design and their consideration of other submissions, on April 26, 1845, the Society's board of managers moved closer to approving the plan "furnished by Mr. Mills & estimated by him to cost, when completed $200,000, with a shaft to cost $50,000." With these projected costs, it is no wonder that in 1845, the Society overturned its earlier decision to restrict annual individual contributions to $1 per person. Mills must have sensed their fiscal affairs. In June, 1845 he could minimize construction costs by changing "the ratio of the Magnitude of the work", in other words, by altering the height of the shaft. His letter indicated that he could build the monument, in varying sizes, for $100,000 to $1,000,000.

**Design Approval**. Finally, on November 18, 1845, the board approved his design and on November 20:

> *Resolved, That the design furnished by ... Mills be adopted ... & that the said design* [an obelisk surrounded by a colonnaded pantheon in the Greek Doric order] *be lithographed & sold in aid of the funds of the Society."*

**The Winning Design.** Mills' design called for a 600-foot obelisk surrounded at the base by a circular, Greek-styled temple, 250-feet in diameter and 100 feet tall. The circular pantheon would sport 30 Doric columns to commemorate the number of states then comprising the Union. Behind the columns, 30 niches stood ready to receive statues of prominent Americans.

**Architect's Ideas, Intent, and Theme.** Remember, what we see today is not what Mills designed. His structure would have been heavily ornamented. He proclaimed that "tripods of victory and fascial columns with their symbols of authority" would decorate the exterior of the pantheon. Carved into the obelisk-like shaft would be intricate reliefs that showed Washington's great victories and commemorated the whole of the Revolutionary experience. A single star would have graced the side of the shaft, 50 feet below its terminus, "emblematic of the glory which the name of Washington has attained." Such a memorial would venerate the character of George Washington above all others, but also speak of our unique "national character".

**Finding the Space.** The society applied to Congress in 1838 for a site on the public Mall, but Congress failed to act for another decade. Records indicate the Society preferred a location between 7th and 9th streets along the canal, not the spot marked by L'Enfant for Washington's statue. Author Pamela Scott, from the National Archives staff, believes that the Society did not vie for the L'Enfant site because the Jefferson Pier (Meridian) stone already graced that spot. Regardless, by a resolution of January 31, 1848 (9 Stat. 333), Congress gave the President of the United States and the board of managers permission to select a site on public grounds, and they approved the current site. The deed conveying Public Reservation No.3 (now Reservation No. 2) was executed April 12, 1848.

**Chronology of Construction.** Despite smaller than expected revenues, by 1848, the society felt it had enough funds to at least begin construction. Without dismissing the notion for the elaborate pantheon, they realized that the obelisk could be built first. When money permitted, the pantheon would be realized. In fact, money was so limited that the Society discussed the necessity of limiting the height of the monument to 300 feet so they could afford it.

On May 1, 1848, the Society appointed Mills "architect and engineer" of the monument. As architect of Public Buildings in the capital, Mills was already busy overseeing construction of the Post Office, Treasury Building, and the Patent Office, but he eagerly directed his energies upon Washington's monument.

**Groundbreaking and Initial Progress.** The Washington National Monument Society appointed a building committee to initiate and oversee construction. They contracted for stone, erected buildings on the site, and hired workers. In the spring of 1848, workers built a railway to connect the site to a wharf at the river where ships could off-load stones for the Monument. They also began excavations at the site that would become home to thousands of massive foundation stones.

Concurrent with the excavation and support facility construction , the Society appointed a "committee of arrangements" to prepare for the cornerstone laying on July 4, 1848. Author Lonnelle Aikman described that momentous day in “The Monument: Tribute in Stone”:

*“Few left the city, while great multitudes rushed into it.... The weather was most propitious.... The spectacle was beautiful to behold." So reported the National Intelligencer after the laying of the cornerstone, on July 4, 1848, at the Monument grounds. Gathered on the knoll's broad slopes were from 15 to 20 thousand people, including military in dress uniforms, fraternal groups, Indian delegations, and the Federal Government's great and near-great. President Polk attended, "though in feeble health," as he commented in his diary. So did a little-known Congressman named Abraham Lincoln, together with two other future Presidents, James Buchanan and Andrew Johnson. Also present were Martha Washington's grandson, George Washington Parke Custis; Mrs. James (the incomparable Dolley) Madison; and Mrs. Alexander Hamilton, still active at 91. Nor did commentators in the press fail to mention another notable participant -a live American eagle chained to a draped arch for symbolic atmosphere. This very bird had greeted Lafayette 24 years before when nearby Alexandria welcomed the general on his return to the country that he had helped to free.*

*The Speaker of the House of Representatives, Robert C. Winthrop, gave the main address of the Monument's inauguration, an hour-and-a-half oration on "The Character of Washington." In consecrating the cornerstone, the Grand Master of the city's Masonic Lodge wore the same apron and sash worn by Washington at the Capitol's stone-setting ritual of 1793.*

*That night, as fireworks sparkled and sputtered in honor of the occasion, the spectators had more to celebrate than they knew. President Polk at the Executive Mansion was preparing a proclamation to announce some news. It would tell the Nation that Mexico had ratified the treaty ending the Mexican War and adding half a million square miles to the American West.*

Once the cornerstone was set, Mills' crews set about building the massive, stair-stepped foundation, planned to sprawl 80 feet square and 25 feet high. In September, 1848, Mills reported in the *National Intelligencer* that his workers had begun work on the second tier of the foundation, covering up the cornerstone. They employed huge blocks of bluestone (gneiss), some as large as 16 feet by 7 feet. Once the blocks were set, they poured hydraulic cement into the joints to bind each stone to its neighbor.

Except for the occasional article in local papers, few records or eyewitness accounts mention details of the early years of the Monument construction. From contemporary prints, it is clear that stonecutters, masons, and carpenters devised a complex array of pulleys, block and tackle systems, and a top-mounted derrick to raise the enormous

blocks of stone. In several prints, beasts of labor are depicted pulling sleds weighted down with stones. Those prints also show two rectangular holes in the south side of the Monument's base, through which ropes pass, presumably to a wench. One account says that marble blocks used to fill those holes were the last ones set in the Monument, not the capstone.

By 1854, as the shaft reached 152 feet above its floor, the Society was reaching the bottom of its coffers. It appealed for renewed contributions and warned of a work stoppage as early as June, 1854, but to no avail. Society members had no idea that there existed another force which was going to derail their efforts.

**Politics and Prejudice.** As early as 1835, the Society envisioned that the monument's "material is intended to be wholly American, and to be of marble and granite brought from each State, that each State may participate in the glory of contributing in material as well as in funds to its construction." As the Monument walls rose in the summer of 1849, the Society solicited native stones from each state, specifying that any donated stones would grace the interior walls of the Monument. Later they extended the invitation to societies and foreign countries. On October 18, 1853, a stone from Pope Pious IX arrived in Washington, D.C. On March 6, 1854, the Pope's Stone was taken from the lapidary on the Monument grounds. It was never recovered and probably destroyed. Today, the Smithsonian Institution exhibits a small obelisk that its donor believed was carved from the Pope's Stone.

This vandalism was thought to be the work of local members of the American, or "Know-Nothing," political party. In that period of high unemployment, the party opposed the influx and progress of immigrants, especially into labor and politics, and took great exception that the Monument Society had accepted a stone from a Catholic Pope. On February 22, 1855, members of the Know-Nothing party took control of the Washington National Monument Society. They forced the Society to submit to a fraudulent election, and through intimidation, elected themselves as Society officers. They seized the monument, offices, and records of the Society and appointed their own collectors.

The new Know-Nothing board of managers appealed for money after the theft of the Pope's Stone but they had alienated segments of the population and their calls for money brought little result. The new board directed masons to lay several courses of stone, using many damaged or defective stones that had been rejected by earlier construction supervisors.

During the Know-Nothing party control of the Washington National Monument Society, the height of the Monument did progress to 156 feet above the floor. However, subsequent engineers had to remove all of the stone placed during the board's tenure to facilitate new construction. On October 20, 1858, the Know-Nothing board of managers surrendered the Monument, offices, and most of the existing records to the old board of managers.

**The National Crisis.** After this frustrating experience as a voluntary

association, the Washington National Monument Society applied to Congress for corporate powers. Congress granted the organization a charter on February 26, 1859 (11 Stat. 386).
The Washington National Monument Society petitioned Congress many times for assistance and financial support in order to complete the monument. On several occasions, Congressmen introduced bills in Congress on behalf of the Society but they were never passed. The Society struggled to continue its mission and accomplish its hopes. However, the whirlwind of national crisis preempted any further construction as secession and war gripped the country. Lonnelle Aikman writes of that time:

> *All during the war, the Monument stump stood as a reminder of the break between the states. Soldiers in blue drilled under the United States flag that floated over its flat top. Cattle grazed at the depot set up on the grounds to help feed the Army. Across the way, workmen raised the new iron dome of the Capitol-a sign that the Union would go on, as Lincoln had said.*
>
> *In the war's last days, in April 1865, the Monument stub saw the Capitol's completed dome spangled with gaslights celebrating the fall of Richmond, then draped in mourning for the assassinated President whose body lay in the Rotunda below. The shaft was still untouched when Mark Twain worked as a Washington newspaper man in 1867, "It has the aspect," he wrote later, "of a factory chimney with the top broken off.... Cow-sheds about its base ... contented sheep nibbling pebbles in the desert solitudes ... tired pigs dozing in the holy calm of its protecting shadow."*
>
> *By the Centennial of Independence in 1876, the sorry state of Washington's memorial had needled the conscience of Capital officials.*

**Congress and the Army Act.** In 1866, the Society held its first postwar meeting and its members attempted to make up for lost time. Neither Congress, individual states, nor individuals answered the Society's calls for money.

The future of the project looked bleak until 1873 when Congress appointed a select committee to consider the task of completing the Monument for the upcoming Centennial celebrations. The Congressional committee immediately considered a decades-old issue: the stability of the Monument's foundation.

As it had done in 1859, the Army dispatched an officer to assist. The engineer, Lt. William Marshall, reported the foundation was stable beneath a 156-foot tall obelisk, but he suggested that it could not support the full weight of a 600-foot tall shaft. The committee and Marshall agreed that the foundation could support a shaft 437 feet tall, and in May 1, 1874, the committee recommended to Congress that they pass a joint resolution to provide the necessary funding for construction. With just over two years until the Centennial, Congress again hesitated.

In October, 1874, the chairman of the select committee asked Lt. Marshall to clarify some of his earlier findings about the Monument foundation. Marshall quickly answered the chairman,

reaffirming his earlier assessment. A copy of his report made its way into Army channels and to the Board of Engineers for Fortifications in New York, N.Y. whose members disagreed and determined that the Monument foundation could not support any additional weight. Moreover, they recommended that officials entertain new designs that could finish the monument at its current height, including designs that may build upon the obelisk's. What they were proposing, without the authority to do so, was a new design competition. That well-meaning report delayed construction and rekindled old debates.

Opponents of Mills' design used the concern over the inadequate foundation to go on the attack. They attempted to convince the Society to abandon Mills' design and supplant it with something more tasteful to their cultured, mainly Victorian palettes. Although the Society never solicited input, numerous individuals submitted new designs that would replace or remodel what Mills had begun. Meanwhile, the American Centennial came and went.

After the country celebrated its first 100 years, Congress began to move forward. A joint resolution introduced July 5, 1876 unanimously passed both houses on July 7 and required Congress to "assume and direct the completion of the Washington Monument".

Congress passed a subsequent act on August 2, 1876 (19 Stat. 123) which appropriated $200,000 for the completion of the monument and directed that the ownership of the shaft and grounds be transferred to the United States. The act created a Joint Commission consisting of the President of the United States, the Supervising Architect of the Treasury Department, the Architect of the Capitol, the Chief of Engineers of the U.S. Army, and the first vice president of the Washington National Monument Society. Congress empowered this commission to direct and supervise the construction of the monument. At the first meeting of the Joint Commission, September 12, 1876, members elected William W. Corcoran (Vice President of the Society) as chairman of the Commission.

The act directed the Commission to (once again) ascertain the adequacy of the existing monument foundation. If the Commission judged the foundation inadequate, they were to delay construction until Congress reviewed the matter. It seemed as if the monument was doomed, trapped in a bureaucratic maze with no exit.

Upon the Commission's request, the Army appointed a board of engineers to inspect the Monument's foundation, this time calling for extensive test borings and detailed examinations. On April 10, 1877, the engineers reported their findings to the Joint Commission --the foundation was not strong enough to support any more weight, including any revised designs. The commission forwarded the report to the Washington National Monument Society, whose members were angered by its content and proclaimed it was based on flawed methodology.

Amidst the controversy, Congress surprisingly pressed on. On June 14, 1878, Congress, by joint resolution (20 Stat. 254) authorized a $36,000

appropriation to improve the stability of the Monument foundation.

On December 7, 1878, the Joint Commission for the Completion of the Washington Monument appointed a Building Committee. It consisted of the Supervising Architect of the Treasury Department, the Architect of the Capitol, and the Chief of Engineers of the U.S. Army. The Commission directed the committee to execute "all matters relating to the construction of the Monument."

On December 9, 1878, the President (at the request of the members of the Joint Commission) detailed Lt. Col. Thomas Lincoln Casey to serve as Engineer-in-Charge of construction of the monument. The Commission subordinated Casey to the building committee "from which the Engineer shall receive his instructions, and to which he shall make his report concerning the construction."

And although the Society and Congress were on the verge of abandoning Mills' obelisk design in favor of an Italian styled tower designed by William Welmore Story, the committee directed Engineer-in-Charge Casey to submit a plan for underpinning and reinforcing the foundation. Casey considered several options, but soon realized there was only one solution: "underpin and extend the surface of the base of the foundation so as to distribute the load over a greater area."

It may sound simple, but Casey said, "The construction of the foundation proposed will require great care, attention, and skill on the part of the workman. To undermine a structure weighing nearly 32,000 tons, (old measurement of 2,240 pounds) and to replace, to a considerable extent, with masonry, the earth upon which it rests, is evidently a delicate operation."

The operation was so sensitive that Casey tried to recruit experienced tunnel engineers from a Virginia City, Nevada tunnel project. He ended up hiring experienced workers from the Baltimore area who had been working on huge water supply tunnels. They started excavations in January, 1879 by simultaneously running two tunnels under the Monument at opposing sides. He requested more money to effect the repairs. Congress appropriated another $64,000 (joint resolution, June 27, 1879, 21 Stat. 54) to assist with foundation improvements.

While his workmen were strengthening the foundation, Casey must have been wondering what it was he would eventually build on it! In January, 1879, the commission's Building Committee asked him to address the feasibility of converting the existing shaft to the William Story design. The next month American Ambassador to Italy, George Marsh, a self-made expert on Egyptian obelisks contacted and educated Casey on Egyptian architecture. Marsh's research indicated that a true obelisk had a height about 10 times the width of its base. In order to meet that standard, Casey proposed to the building committee that the Monument's summit reach roughly 550 feet above the ground since its base was already established at 55 feet,1 ½ inches square.

Meanwhile, builders excavated beneath the old foundation, poured a new cement foundation around the old base, and fabricated masonry buttresses that

secured the new section to the old. They completed the new foundation on May 29, 1880. The Engineer-in-Charge reported that his workers had removed 51% of the old foundation and replaced the gneiss and hydraulic cement with a strong Portland cement core and masonry buttresses. The end result meant that his crews increased the size of the old foundation and enabled it to withstand greater pressure from above. The new base was twenty feet wider on each side and 13 feet deeper than the foundation of 1848. Casey said he accomplished all that "without causing the slightest crack or the least opening in any joint of that portion of the monument already constructed."

In the spring of 1880, just as crews were completing the foundation, the Joint Commission finally withdrew their support for the modifications proposed by William Story and accepted the Casey's plan for an Egyptian-styled obelisk. With the foundation solidly reinforced, builders finally turned their attention to increasing the height of the shaft.

The first order of business was to remove six feet (three courses) of stone. This was the inferior stone placed during the Know-Nothing control of the Society. Not only was the stone generally inferior when it was installed in the 1850s, but the affects of time were none to kind on the upper-most layers of the Monument. Casey studied the top of the structure and reported that: "Owing to the disintegration of the mortar on the top portion of the shaft and the displacement of some of the facing stones, it became necessary, before commencing the new masonry, to take down three courses from the top of the shaft, bringing the height of the structure to 150 feet above the level of the floor." Masons accomplished this in July and early August, 1880.

On August 7, 1880, amidst fanfare of a second "cornerstone laying" ceremony, President Hayes, engineers, masons, and Society members placed the first marble block of the "new" or second section of the shaft at the 150-foot level. Frederick L. Harvey, the Society's secretary, recorded how workers hoisted the stone on the internal steam powered lift, transferred it via a block and tackle array onto a boom that then eased it toward its final resting place. Just before workmen set the block, President Hayes, who had ridden up on the hoist, placed a coin ornamented with the date and his initials into the fresh mortar. Other members of the ceremony did the same with similar coins.

In the days following the ceremony, Lieutenant Colonel Casey made substantial progress. He encouraged his workers, often bringing them coffee and demonstrating a genuine concern for their welfare. He had ordered the attachment of safety net on the outer walls. It could be moved up as work proceeded, and it saved the lives of several workmen. Thankfully, no workers were seriously injured during the subsequent construction.

Soon, however, Casey was frustrated by inadequate and untimely marble deliveries. Moreover, Casey had to reject many of the marble blocks arriving from John Briggs' Sheffield, Massachusetts quarry because they were either the wrong size or color. Casey had that contract annulled and began using marble from Baltimore area

quarries, but he was frequently hampered by marble deliveries. He would often have to lay off marble cutters when stone was not available.

The process of raising stone and increasing the Monument's height was fascinating. He employed an inner framework of iron (Phoenix) beams that supported the elevator or hoist, and a "stone-setting machine" that consisted of an 18-foot tall mast fitted with a 20-foot long boom, replete with an array of pulleys, block, and tackle. It was basically a three-step process: add 20 feet of stone, then add 20 feet of iron frame, then relocate the "stone-setting machine" to the top of the iron frame. The elevator could carry six tons of stone at one time and masons could generally set one course of marble and granite in 1-2 days. At that pace, in 40 days, Casey's crews could build 20 feet of iron support, relocate the hoisting machinery, and lay 20 vertical feet of stone.

Casey decreased the thickness of the monument walls to reduce the overall weight of the building. Inside the staircase, you can clearly see at the 160-foot level where the walls taper outward and the quality of construction improves dramatically. The seams between stones are more regular, and there are distinct patterns of parallel and perpendicular lines. At this elevation, Casey also changed the shape of stones used in the inner corners. He directed masons to round the inner surface of corner stones, thereby increasing the strength of the corners. Casey chose to back the marble with granite, which was much more durable than previously used gneiss. The granite is predominantly from Maine.

As the elevation grew, the situation called for further modifications. At the 440-foot level, the walls became so thin that masons had to use galvanized iron clamps to bind stones together and keep them from shifting. So much for the argument that there is not metal in the walls of the Washington Monument. The clamps remain hidden and bound within the mortar. From the 452-foot level up, Casey's masons stopped backing the marble with granite. At the 470-foot level, the stonecutters used special mortise and tenon cuts on 12 marble buttresses (or ribs) which would support the pyramidion. These cuts anchor the ribs to each other and the walls of the shaft.

Although weather and contractors slowed his progress, Casey managed to complete the shaft on August 9, 1884. Only the pyramidion remained to be set.

Casey and his assistants began designing and constructing the 300-ton marble pyramidion. Earlier, Casey had considered both iron and glass for materials, but Ambassador Marsh convinced him to use stone in order to mimic Egyptian obelisks. The angled shape of the monument cap required a complex inner framework of twelve stone buttresses or ribs to support pieces of the stone roof. Drawings created by one of Casey's assistants indicate that mortise and tenon joints were cut into the tops and bottoms (builds and beds) of the pyramidion stones, locking them together. Despite such complexity, the pyramidion was built in only 30 days.

After ascending an array of ladders attached to the outside of the Monument, Casey set the 3,300 pound marble

capstone on the pyramidion on December 6, 1884. Moments later, he placed the aluminum apex upon the capstone to complete the pyramidion, and arguably the structure. The following account comes from Lonnelle Aikman:

> *Hoisted inside the structure to a height of about 500 feet, the 3,300-pound- stone was drawn through a window opening to a platform, then raised by rope and pulley to higher scaffolding.*
>
> *Guests brave enough to watch the concluding ceremonies close up stood shivering at the summit on open wood platforms while a "perfect gale was blowing," as the Evening Star reported. Officiating was Col. Thomas L. Casey of the Army Engineers, who had supervised the project since the Federal Government took it over. As the aluminum tip was placed at the Monument's apex, "a shout went up," the Star recorded, "the Stars and Stripes were unfurled and a salute was fired."*
>
> *The solid aluminum tip itself was news. Weighing 100 ounces-the metal worth $1.10 an ounce -it was the largest such piece yet cast. So unusual was it for the time that it had been displayed in Tiffany's jewelry store in New York City.*

Technically, the monument was not finished on December 6, 1884. Several important things remained to be done.

In his official report, Casey explained how the wooden stairs should be replaced by iron or steel pieces, how a "dynamo" and incandescent lights were required to light the shaft and the passages, and how best to install the remaining memorial stones. He planned to close the existing doorways that Mills had designed and build a new terrace and underground entrance to preserve the dignity of a "pure and simple" obelisk. He succeeded in blocking the western doorway and reducing the height of the eastern doorway, but could not complete an ornate terrace or underground entrances.

**The Dedication Ceremony.** While the Engineer in Charge considered the finishing touches for the Washington Monument, other officials looked forward to a formal, public dedication. On May 13, 1884, Congress issued another joint resolution (23 Stat. 272), this one creating the Joint Commission on the Dedication of the Monument. The Commission was directed to make arrangements for a dedication ceremony on February 21, 1885. Their plans included a procession from the monument to the Capitol, an oration in the House of Representatives to be given by Robert C. Winthrop (who had delivered the oration at the cornerstone laying in 1848), and salutes from warships and military installations. The commission consisted of Senators, eight Representatives, three members of the Monument Society, and the Engineer in Charge. Senator John Sherman served as chairman.

On February 21, 1885, nearly 80 years after Washington's death, 50 years after the Washington National Monument Society announced a design competition, and 36 years, 7 months, and 17 days after the cornerstone was set, the Washington Monument was dedicated. Lonnelle Aikman describes that day:

*One more ritual and one more President completed the saga of the obelisk in 1885. The Monument's dedication began at the grounds on a cold February 21, since Washington's birthday fell on Sunday. President Arthur, bundled in a fur-lined overcoat, his sideburns brushed to stylish points, spoke briefly, then joined the parade to warmer quarters in the Capitol.*

*The day's main speech was composed by the venerable Robert Winthrop, who had delivered the cornerstone address 37 years before, but who was now too ill to take part.' So his Massachusetts colleague Representative John D. Long read it for him.*

*"Our matchless obelisk stands proudly before us today," Winthrop had written in his long, eloquent oration. "The storms of winter must blow and beat upon it.... The lightnings of Heaven may scar and blacken it. An earthquake may shake its foundations.... But the character which it commemorates and illustrates is secure…*

Following the dedication, workers continued to make improvements. The iron staircase was completed on April 30, 1886. Visitors wasted no time in climbing to the "top" of Washington's monument. Records indicate that by September, 1886 over 10,000 visitors had made the ascent up the stairs. By May 9, 1887, there was so much vandalism in the monument that the Joint Commission closed it on May 9, 1887 until they could hire an appropriate workforce that could ensure its protection. Otis Brothers converted the steam hoist to a passenger elevator. Even though the new elevator car was deemed safe for passengers in December, 1886, visitors were not allowed to regularly use it for another 22 months.

The Washington Monument officially opened on October 9, 1888, and within minutes, the first official passengers climbed aboard the elevator for the trip to the observation level. And contrary to accounts popular today, women were on board.

Congress dissolved the Joint Commission for the Completion of the Washington Monument on October 2, 1888. On April 3, 1888, Casey's affiliation with the Washington Monument officially ended when he was appointed Chief of Engineers and Col. John M. Wilson, Officer in Charge of Public Buildings and Grounds, became Engineer-in-Charge.

After the monument was finished, the Society used its own funds to build the Memorial Lodge for visitors. An act of October 2, 1888 (25 Stat. 533), directed the Secretary of War to "set apart a room (in the lodge) for the deposit of the archives of the. . . Society (as also for the records of the joint commission dissolved) and for the continuous use of said society." Today, this contains contract vendors and restrooms.
On October 2, 1888, the care and custody of the monument was entrusted to the Secretary of War, and in 1925 to the Director of Public Buildings and Public Parks of the National Capital. In 1933, Congress transferred control of the Monument to the Director of the National Park Service. The Washington National Monument Society exists as a

ceremonial and honorary organization, working alongside the Washington National Monument Association.

# Monument Statistics

**Height:** 555 feet, 5 1/8 inches (169.25 meters)

**Height of observation level:** 500 feet or 50 stories

**Width (at base):** 55 feet, 1 ½ inches

**Width (top of shaft):** 34 feet, 5 ½ inches

**Weight:** 90,854 tons (excluding foundation)

**Cost:** $1,187,710

**Number of blocks in monument:** 36,491

**Elevator:**

**Installed:** 2001

**Ascent/descent time:** 70 seconds/60 seconds

**Custodial Agency:**

**War Department:** October 2, 1888

**NPS:** August 10, 1933

**Type of stone:**

**Exterior:** white marble (Baltimore, MD & Sheffield, MA)

**Interior:** granite/gneiss (ME/MD)

**Number of steps:** 896

**Total commemorative stones:** 193

**Designer:** Robert Mills

**Foundation:**

**Weight:** 36,912 tons

**Depth:** 36 feet, 10 inches

**Area:** 16,002 square feet

**Pyramidion:**

**Weight**: 300 tons

**Number of Stones**: 262

**Marble Capstone:**

**Height**: 5.16 feet (base to top)

**Width, at base:** 3 feet

**Weight:** 3,300 pounds

**Aluminum Apex on Capstone:**

**Weight:** 100 ounces (6.25 lbs.)

**Width**: 5.6 inches at base

**Height:** 8.9 inches

**Thickness of walls:**

**At base**: 15 feet

**At observation level:** 7 inches

**At 500 feet:** 18 inches

**Construction Highlights:**

**Cornerstone set:** July 4, 1848

**Phase I:** (1848-1858) to the 156 foot level, under the direction of Superintendent William Daugherty

**Phase II:** (1878-1888) work completed by Army Corps of Engineers, Engineer-in-Charge, Lt. Col. Thomas Lincoln Casey

**Second cornerstone set:** (150 foot) August 7, 1880

**Capstone set:** December 6, 1884

**Dedicated:** February 21, 1885

**Officially opened:** October 9, 1888

**Abbreviated Washington Monument Timeline,** By: J. Epstein

**1783** Continental Congress resolves that a monument to Washington be erected "where the residence of Congress shall be established.

**1832** 100th anniversary of Washington's birth. A marble likeness of the President is commissioned by Congress. The resulting statue is unpopular and is removed from the Capitol.

**1833** Washington National Monument Society is formed to plan a monument to George Washington.

**1836** Architect Robert Mills submits design to the Monument Society competition for a design that would "harmoniously blend durability, simplicity and grandeur."

**1848** U.S. Government donated public land to the Monument Society for the proposed monument. On July 4th the cornerstone is laid.

**1849** The first commemorative stones donated for the monument are set in place.

**1854** The monument reaches the height of 152 ft. Vandals associated with the American Party ("Know-Nothings)," steal and probably destroy a commemorative stone donated by the Vatican.

**1855** "Know-Nothings" pack a Monument Society meeting and vote themselves in as its new governing body during an illegal election. Contributions to the Society dwindle and construction on the monument slows then stops.

**1861** The Civil War begins. Union solders use the monument grounds as a military encampment.

**1865** The Civil War ends. The country is preoccupied with national reconstruction.

**1873** A congressional committee is appointed to determine how best to complete the monument before the nation's 100th birthday.

**1877** Numerous reports and studies determine that the monument's "foundation is insufficient to sustain the weight of the completed structure."

**1878** Lieutenant Colonel Casey begins supervising work on the monument. Workers, materials and equipment are assembled to complete construction.

**1879** Lieutenant Colonel Casey oversees work on foundation.

**1880** Following Casey's specifications, construction on the monument shaft recommences.

**1884** December 6th, engineers place the solid aluminum tip on the monument's apex. A military salute is fired and a band plays *The Stars and Stripes*.

**1885** February 21st, the day before Washington's birthday, the monument is dedicated. The occasion is celebrated with fireworks and speeches.

**1888** October 9th, the monument officially declared open to the public. The steam hoist elevator takes visitors to the top in 10-12 minutes.

**1901** The first of a series of electric elevators is installed in the monument.

**1933** Administration of the monument transfers from the War Department to the National Park Service.

**1934** In the midst of the Great Depression, the National Park Service, in cooperation with a Public Works project, begins the first extensive repairs of the exterior of the monument.

**1964** The National Park Service, using hanging scaffolding, repairs the exterior of the monument.

**1994** After extensive restoration work is done on the ground level lobby by the National Park Service, a bronze replica of Jean Antoine Houdon's statue of Washington is installed.

**1998** The National Park Service enters into a public-private partnership to restore the exterior and interior of the monument.

**2001** Workers replace Monument elevator and Monument re-opens to public. Restoration is complete.

**Artwork in the Memorial.** Many of the aesthetically pleasing items we see in the Monument lobby were added after the monument was dedicated.

The elaborate Egyptian-styled "door surround" enclosing the east elevator entrance is loosely modeled after the original door surrounds that graced the eastern and western Monument doorways. The current door surround above the elevator was installed in 1993-1994 and is not an exact copy- the originals would have sported a "W" on the central, carved winged ball, surrounded by asps. The overall motif is still Egyptian, as was Mr. Casey's treatment. The architect from the 1994 project wanted to reestablish a "sense of awe and reverence upon entering the monument", and in so doing, recaptured some of the important symbolism that Robert Mills had originally intended.

Casey had his workers remove the originals in 1885 when he "dressed down" the eastern doorway from 15 feet to 8 feet in height and completely closed the west doorway. Casey wanted to remove the doorframes because they detracted from the monument's appearance and deviated from the true design of Egyptian obelisks. He actually wanted to build an underground entrance, but decided it was not structurally wise to remove part of the foundation he built.

In 1904, the south lobby was beautified by installing the carrera marble wainscot wall paneling, tile mosaics in the floors, and the bronze-lettered eulogy of Washington by Henry (Light-Horse Harry) Lee. In 1913, workers applied a series of inner concrete walls and marble wainscot to the west portal. In 1974, matching carrera marble wainscot was installed upon the walls of the east portal. In 1993-1994, the carerra marble was removed from the walls of the east and west portals, revealing the original, indigenous, dressed marble. At the same time, workers removed metal ceilings (installed in 1974) from the east and west portals, opening these areas to their original, grand height.

**The Bronzes.** In 1994, officials unveiled two new bronze works that they would add to the Washington Monument. The first, a bronze copy of Jean-Antoine Houdon's statue of George Washington was added to the recently and wonderfully restored west portal. The original, which the artist modeled after a plaster cast he made during Washington' later years, is housed in the State Capitol Building in Richmond. Washington wears the uniform of General of the Continental Armies, but his sword is sheathed to symbolize peaceful pursuits. The pedestal is adorned with the classical motif of a fasces, symbolizing authority and union. It is adorned with

The second bronze work is a relief, depicting Washington's profile, signature, and a garland of oak leaves. It greets visitors as they enter the Monument, installed above the elaborate entablature and pediment of the re-created elevator door surround.

**The Eulogy**. The words from Henry Lee's eulogy of George Washington adorn the northern wall of the south lobby.

**The Commemorative Stones.** Within the inner walls of the Washington Monument reside 193 commemorative

plaques, inlaid primarily in the east- and west-facing walls of the staircase. **V**isitors often ask about the meaning and significance of these. There are as many stories as there are stones, but there is a central theme: each contributor, be it individual, state, or foreign country, or professional group, wanted to be associated with the immortal name of George Washington and his monument. According to National Geographic Society author Lonnelle Aikman:

> *The Society had invited all the states and territories, patriotic citizens, and even friendly foreign countries to contribute stone blocks to embellish the interior walls. Among the first presented were stones from Maine, Delaware, and the Franklin Fire Company of Washington, D. C. Some went into place at the 30-foot landing as early as 1849.*
>
> *Inscriptions decorate many of the 192 memorials. Seen from landings located at 10- foot intervals, the stones impart to visitors on guided tours the pride of a growing Nation. Kansas and Wyoming were territories when they sent offerings. On a block cut in 1852, California called herself the "Youngest Sister of the Union." As sectional tension deepened before the Civil War, the word "Union" marked many a stone. "KNOWS NO NORTH, NO SOUTH. NOTHING BUT THE UNION," Indiana proclaimed proudly.*
>
> *When walkers descend from landing to landing today, they come on blocks from such donors as the Cherokee Nation "the Sons of Temperance", and the "Ladies & Gentlemen of the Dramatic Profession of America."*
>
> *Greece, "'The Mother of Ancient Liberty," sent a white marble piece from the ruins of the Parthenon. Turkey's sultan inscribed his gift with sentiments composed by his court poet. A "Company of [Chinese] Christians" presented another, covered with Oriental characters and asking ". . . can any man, in ancient or modem times, fail to pronounce Washington peerless?" However the most famous stone in the Monument's history, a marble slab that was once part of the Temple of Concord in Rome, never reached its place. Near dawn on March 6, 1854, when the obelisk had risen 152 feet, this gift of Pope Pius IX was stolen from the grounds.*

You can find more information about specific stones in the National Archives, Records Group 42 and the newspaper clippings maintained in the Jefferson Memorial library. Additionally, the rough script for a Washington Monument "walk-down" tour within this chapter provides some help, although some of the information is out-dated and of questionable accuracy.

**The Legacy: Relevant Celebrations or Gatherings at the Site.** Beyond those events associated with its namesake, the Washington Monument and its immediate environs have witnessed and hosted gatherings of both humble and historic proportion. People have stood by this monument and made history, not simply honored it.

From the time of the Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo that ended the Mexican War to today's protests and celebrations, the monument has been part of the backdrop of our country's

play, part of the national vista, part of the American experience.

Publicity stunts, domestic terrorism plots, 1st Amendment rallies, military encampments, festivals, sporting events and demonstrations—all have played out here. You don't have to look far to find something of interest that happened here, like the "March on Washington" that crossed this ground in 1963, or the fact that President Truman frequently stopped to visit with the Park Rangers here during one of his daily walks, or that he was the only Chief Executive to ever ascend the elevator to the 500-foot level, where hegot a better view of a proposed site for one of our national museums. Depending on your interests, you can probably find some event that happened here that will enhance your interpretive program and touch upon a universal concept that goes beyond memorializing the life of a great president.

**Recent Restoration Efforts.** The public may ask about the recent restoration and renovation project that took place between 1998-2001. This was the third large restoration of the monument since its dedication, with similar projects in 1934 and 1964, but this was the most expensive and comprehensive effort to repair and improve the monument in its history. The entire project cost nearly $10 million. Congress appropriated $1 million, specifically to upgrade the elevator. The additional funds were raised through a successful public-private partnership consisting of the NPS, the National Park Foundation, Target Stores, and other corporate partners.

Generally, the restoration project resulted in these improvements:

- A more water-resistant outer surface. Masons repointed (replaced) over 11.8 miles of mortar and repaired nearly 80 exterior stones, including the application of "flying dutchmen" to replace sections of damaged corner stones. Contractors sealed aircraft warning lights and replaced all windows and window seals.

- An enhanced, climate-controlled environment for the interior, consisting of new heating and air conditioning system.

- Modern, more informative, interpretive exhibits at the 490-foot level and new photographs at the 500-foot levels

- A new elevator cab with enhanced viewing opportunities.

- Meticulous cleaning, repair, and reconditioning of the 193 commemorative stones housed in the walls of the inner staircase, including new installation of the previously un-mounted Carthage stone.

**Possible Themes and Universal Concepts for Rangers at the Washington Monument.** Interpretive Rangers can all too easily get caught up in the assembly line process of the Washington Monument. The following incident is fictional, but not entirely unbelievable:

A lady approaches a Park Ranger. "Can I go up?" she asks.

The unnamed (fictional) Park Ranger, in his most helpful voice responds,

"Ma'am, you need a ticket. Where?, well you get a ticket down there. You bring your ticket back here between this time and that time. You line up here, eventually go there, have your bags searched, and you go up in the elevator to the 500-foot level."

Some time later, our Ranger sees her again and says, "Hello again, Ma'am. I see you finally made it inside the Monument. Climb aboard the elevator, please. Welcome to the Wash…What's that young man? How tall is it? The Monument is 555 feet, 5⅛ inches tall, making it the world's tallest free-standing masonry object. As I was about to say, this monument dates back to a Congressional resolution of 1783 which intended to pay tribute to George Washington's contributions as Commander-in-chief of the Continental Army. Today, this building not only honors the Father of our Country, but it exhibits many of the features of our great country--our Union."

"What is our Union all about…what does…Excuse me, Sir? How tall is the Space Needle in Seattle? I'm not sure, about twice as high as this. What would the word 'Union' mean to you, then, Sir?…I'm sorry, Miss, I didn't hear you clearly. What are those things outside the elevator…those stones we are passing? Oh, those are very historic, even priceless commemorative stones inlaid into the walls of the staircase."

"Well, I can tell by the sound of the elevator that our 70-second journey is about over-- we are approaching the 500-foot level. When you step off the elevator, you'll see two windows on each side of the building. They provide a wonderful view of the Capital, the Capitol, the District of Columbia, the National Mall, and the local areas of Virginia and Maryland. Enjoy the view and when you're ready to leave, please walk down one flight of stairs where you'll board the elevator for the return trip to the ground level. If you have any questions, I'll be up here with you. Why, you're certainly welcome, Ma'am."

So, did our fictional Ranger in our not-so-fictional scenario provide appropriate visitor services? Maybe. Did he relay any significant theme or universal concept? Maybe not.

My point is this: at the Washington Monument, you will routinely be overwhelmed with questions, distractions, interruptions, and the monotony of the mechanical process of moving thousands of people in and out of the attraction during your shift. But don't give up on interpretation. I repeat, don't give upon interpretation. You are blessed with a unique monument…it just requires some unique, fresh, aggressive (and speedy) approaches to get your message across.

**Universal Concepts.** Where do you start in your quest for a universal concept that works in a program that, at best, ranges from 70-seconds to five minutes?

Consider the site: what makes this place special? Sure, it towers above all other buildings in the city and thus provides a wonderful view of America's beautiful capital. And clearly, the monument honors George Washington for his significant military achievements and precedent-setting civil service. But isn't it more than that?

I think we have to be honest with ourselves. Only a small percentage of our visitors are beckoned here by George Washington's legacy. On the other hand, I hope it's something other than mere curiosity at work here, compelling people to brave the elements and stand in multiple lines for their chance to visit. Something else calls people back to vie for tickets today even though they waited in line yesterday and got none. I submit that the Washington Monument has a special power to attract visitors because:

The Washington Monument is inspirational, and like the Egyptian obelisks it is patterned after, it encourages us to look up into a vast sky and contemplate great things, such as:

- Great leaders and role models like George Washington.
- The great experiment of American democracy.
- Great architecture like the orignal design for this monument proposed by Robert Mills.
- Great engineering feats like this one accomplished by Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Casey and his 19th century workers.
- The great strength of a Union comprised of equal partners and equal voices.

If that poetic theme doesn't match your style, you can build on these tried and true standards:

•**Sacrifice**. Why did Washington abandon his comfortable position as a politician for the hazards of military service? What did George Washington risk to take up arms against the British? Why did he serve without pay? Why did he step down after two terms when he could have served longer? Why did the temperance movement choose him as a figurehead?

•**Freedom/ Liberty.** The Washington Monument, an international symbol of freedom, stands as a lighthouse of liberty. Perhaps you can describe how and why Washington led the military, yet, as the senior military commander, he felt it was appropriate to subjugate himself to Congress.

The monument highlights the exploits and bravado of that first generation of idealistic Americans. Today, it is altogether too easy to take life in America for granted. How can we possibly understand what Washington and his generation did during those early years? They were the brave souls who risked all, proclaimed independence, fought and won the Revolutionary War against the world's preeminent military power, and then hammered a democracy out of the ruins of an empire. Tell the bold stories of Washington and his peers and then let the shining obelisk somehow stand as the exclamation point that emphasizes their deeds.

**Union.** To those who look to modern, living societies for inspiration, the Washington Monument stands as a pinnacle of democratic principles. George Washington's monument draws attention to a legacy--not the story of a General, or a President, or even a single country--a legacy that says a people can determine their collective course and their united destiny. The Washington

Monument does not simply attract people because it is a tourist attraction--it beckons and inspires people because it is unique in all the world, as is the American style of government.

Our Union is based on Unity. One of the most eloquent interpretive themes for the Washington Monument comes not from a Park Ranger, but from Speaker of the House of Representatives, Robert Winthrop. In April, 1880, as the Washington National Monument Society was considering altering the appearance of the obelisk-like shaft of the incomplete monument, Winthrop said:

*It has been objected in some quarters that the ancient obelisks were all monoliths-massive single stones, cut whole from the quarry; but our country has been proud to give examples of both political and material structures which owe their strength to union…*

The engineers and the masons, the trained and the un-trained, the refined and the rough, they built this monument to Washington, stone upon stone, piece by piece. And like our American democracy, the whole monument is nothing without the piece, and the piece nothing without the whole, thus, as Winthrop stated:

*embodying the idea of our national motto, 'E pluribus unum'*

**Biographical Sketch of the Architect.**

**Robert Mills** (12 Aug. 1781-3 Mar. 1855), architect, engineer, and writer, was born in Charles Town (Charleston), South Carolina, the son of William Mills, a tailor, and Ann Taylor. Raised a Presbyterian, he was educated privately in Charleston, possibly in part by his brother Thomas. Mills studied architecture with James Hoban (1800-1802), Thomas Jefferson (1802-1803), and, most important, Benjamin Henry Latrobe (1803-1808), for whom he worked as an assistant in Philadelphia. Impressed by Mills' diligence, Latrobe introduced him to Enlightenment thought and taught him to conceive architectonically, to appreciate the abstract dimension of stylistic expression, and to apply such progressive technical methods as the use of fire-resistant, lightweight brick and cement vaulting.

The course of Mills' stylistic maturation is recorded in a series of ecclesiastical schemes, in which he increasingly adapted the heavier, more decorative Gibbs-Palladian forms to rational classical values. The series commenced with an unexecuted design for a temple-fronted church on Johns Island, South Carolina (c. 1803), continued with the Circular Congregational Church in Charleston (1806) and the plainer, neo-Greek auditorium of Dr. William Staughton's Baptist church in Philadelphia (18008-1811), and culminated in the innovative octagonal Monumental Church in Richmond, Virginia (1812-1814).

While living in Philadelphia between 1808 and 1814, Mills established his professional independence. Following the rejection of his proposal for the South Carolina penitentiary (1806-1807), which was inspired by the reforms to the planning and organization of prisons propounded by John Howard, Mills reworked the design on a reduced scale for the county jail in Mount Holly, New Jersey (1808). He undertook a broad range of commissions, including row housing for naval captain John Meany (1809), additions to Independence Hall to house state offices and the Peale Museum (1809-1812), the capacious Washington Hall (1813), and numerous houses in both Philadelphia and Richmond. Mills married Eliza Barnwell Smith in 1808; they had six children. Mills also served as secretary in 1811-1812 of the short-lived Columbian Society of Artists, which sought to promote American artists; drafted an unpublished architectural handbook; and invested in real estate.

Despite his increasing prominence, some significant commissions eluded him, including the Pennsylvania Capitol in Harrisburg (1810), the Richmond City Hall and Courthouse (1812), and a house for Philadelphia lawyer Benjamin Chew, whose dismissive view of the nascent architectural profession Mills courageously challenged by seeking proper recompense for the possible design of his house.

In 1814 Mills won a commission to design the Washington Monument in Baltimore, where he lived from 1814 to 1820. Mills initially envisioned an ornamented Greek Doric column, boldly elevated on a man triumphal arch, but budgetary constraints forced him to restrict his design to a simple plinth supporting a column capped by a statue (1814 -1829; iron railing installed 1842).

Thereafter he gravitated toward a more Jeffersonian classicism, epitomized by the Pantheon-influenced First Baptist Church in Baltimore (1816-1818) and the temple-fronted First Baptist Church in Charleston (1818-1822). A collapse of the Baltimore economy had precipitated the bankruptcy of Mills' Waterloo Row housing development (1816-1818) and the abortion of a progressively planned city workhouse scheme (1818), but patronage in South Carolina alleviated his financial difficulties.

Mills' work in South Carolina between 1820 and 1829 is characterized by functionalism tempered by an adept use of more monumental features, especially the raised portico with side steps so favored in southern Palladian architecture. His style is at its most refined in the Ainsley Hall House in Columbia (1823-1825). From 1820 to 1823 Mills was employed by the state of South Carolina, first as an acting commissioner of the Board of Public Works and then, from 1822, as superintendent of public buildings.

As a state employee he designed five standard courthouses, in which he placed the courtroom over vaulted government offices, and designed two types of district jails, intended to be secure yet to provide more humane conditions for prisoners. He best combined utility and dignity in his designs for the insane asylum in Columbia and the Fireproof Building in Charleston (1822-1827), both efficient in arrangement and elegant in their GrecoRoman Palladianism. Mills evaluated canal and road construction, and he published proposals for further internal improvements in the Atlas of the State of South Carolina (1825) and in Statistics of South Carolina (1826).

Mills moved from Columbia to Abbeville, South Carolina, in 1828, partly to supervise the erection of a courthouse to his designs and partly to reduce household expenditures. There he addressed steam locomotion and railroad development; his idea for an elevated iron-rimmed wooden track was adopted for the pioneering Charleston to Hamburg, South Carolina, line (1828-1829; later replaced because of rot).

Mills' endeavors from 1827 to secure appointment with the U.S. Army Engineers in Washington. D.C., failed. However, in 1830, again aided by southern patronage, he was engaged to reconfigure the acoustically defective Congress (executed 1833). He thereby acquired additional government work. Mills' designs for the masonry-vaulted Appraisers' Stores in Baltimore (1835-1839) and for five New England custom-houses (1834-1835; four adhering to a similar plan) exhibit a liberal use of classical motifs. Greek influences are evident in the Treasury (1836-1842) and the Patent Office (1836-1842), both commissions awarded him by Andrew Jackson; Mills' design for the latter is a revision of a design by Ithiel Town, Alexander Jackson Davis, and William P Elliott, Jr.

As unofficial "Architect of the Public Buildings," Mills effected reforms in building practice, as evidenced in the General Post Office (1839-1842), for which he melded classical and Italianate elements. Other projects include his innovative design for the Rational Gothic Washington Gaol (1839-1841) and two standard U.S. Marine hospital designs (published in 1837); Mills had earlier designed the Marine Hospital in Charleston (1832-1833) and would later implement

one of his standard designs in Key West, Florida (1844-1845).

Mills's reputation was marred by political animosity that caused his dismissal from federal employ in 1842. He was reemployed in 1849 to supervise the designs for the Patent Office east wing. Between 1842 and 1845 Mills submitted entries to the War and Navy departments, for whom he planned a conjoined building, but they were rejected, owing in part to his antipathy for revivalism and metal construction. He was successful, however, in being commissioned to design the Winder Building, leased for the War Department (1847), the National and Smithsonian institutions (1841 and 1846), and the Capitol extension (1850-1853).

Concurrent with his other activities, Mills continued promoting railroad and civic projects. In 1845 he was commissioned to design the national Washington Monument. Construction of the sublime obelisk was begun in 1848 but was temporarily halted in 1854. Completed between 1880 and 1884, the final edifice did not include the encircling American Doric Pantheon base that Mills had originally envisioned.

His last major commission was his design of a large multifacility block gracefully attached to Jefferson's rotunda at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville (1851-1852). Both this project and the Washington Monument underscore Mills' tenacity of purpose, breadth of practice, and practical and aesthetic sense.

Mills died in Washington, D.C., close to the major public edifices he designed that established the monumental symbolism of the nation. Among the first professionally trained American architects, he forged a consciously national architectural idiom that integrated current international revivalist styles with traditional Georgian conventions. He also raised the technical level of American design and the level of official patronage and contributed significantly to the implementation of progressive concepts of institutional architecture.

-Windsor Liscombe

**Quick Facts: pres/war George Washington: Quick Facts**

- 1st President of the United States (1789-97).
- Nickname: "Father of His Country".
- Born: Feb. 22, 1732, Pope's Creek, Va.
- Profession: Soldier, Planter.
- Religious Affiliation: Episcopalian.
- Marriage: Jan. 6, 1759, to Martha Dandridge Custis (1731-1802).
- Children: None.
- Political Affiliation: Federalist.
- Writings: Writings (39 vols., 1931-44), ed. by John C. Fitzpatrick.
- Died: Dec. 14, 1799, Mount Vernon, Va.
- Buried: Mount Vernon, Va. (family vault).
- Vice-President: John Adams.

**Cabinet Members**

- Secretary of State: John Jay, acting (1789-90); Thomas Jefferson (1790-93); Edmund Randolph (1794-95); Timothy Pickering (1795-97).
- Secretary of the Treasury: Alexander Hamilton (1789-95); Oliver Wolcott, Jr. (1795-97).
- Secretary of War: Henry Knox (1789-94); Timothy Pickering (1795-96); James McHenry (1796-97).
- Attorney General: Edmund Randolph (1790-94); William Bradford (1794-95); Charles Lee (1795-97).

**Biography of George Washington.**

George Washington (1732-1799), first President Of The United States. When Washington retired from public life in 1797, his homeland was vastly different from what it had been when he entered public service in 1749. To each of the principal changes he had made an outstanding contribution. Largely because of his leadership the Thirteen Colonies had become the United States, a sovereign, independent nation.

As commander in chief during the American Revolution, he built a large army, held it together, kept it in a maneuverable condition, and prevented it from being destroyed by a crushing defeat. By keeping the army close to the main force of the British, he prevented them from sending raiding parties into the interior. The British did not risk such forays because of their belief that their remaining forces might be overwhelmed. The British evacuation of Boston in 1776, under Washington's siege, gave security to nearly all New England.

Drawing from his knowledge of the American people and of the way they lived and fought, Washington took advantage of British methods of fighting that were not suited to a semi-primitive environment. He alternated between daring surprise attacks and the patient performance of routine duties. Washington's operations on land alone could not have overcome the British, for their superior navy enabled them to move troops almost at will. A timely use of the French fleet contributed to his crowning victory at Yorktown in 1781.

After the war Washington took a leading part in the making of the Constitution and the campaign for its ratification. Its success was assured by 1797, at the end of the second term of his presidency. In 1799 the country included nearly all its present-day territory between the Atlantic coast and the Mississippi River.

President Washington acted with Congress to establish the first great executive departments and to lay the foundations of the modern federal judiciary. He directed the creation of a diplomatic service. Three presidential and five congressional elections carried the new government, under the Constitution, through its initial trials.

A national army and navy came into being, and Washington acted with vigor to provide land titles, security, and trade outlets for pioneers of the trans-Allegheny West. His policy procured adequate revenue for the national government and supplied the country with a sound currency, a well-supported public credit, and an efficient network of national banks. Manufacturing and shipping received aid for continuing growth.

In the conduct of public affairs, Washington originated many practices that have survived. He withheld confidential diplomatic documents from the House of Representatives, and made treaties without discussing them in the Senate

chamber. Above all, he conferred on the presidency a prestige so great that political leaders afterward esteemed it the highest distinction to occupy the chair he had honored.

Most of the work that engaged Washington had to be achieved through people. He found that success depended on their cooperation and that they would do best if they had faith in causes and leaders. To gain and hold their approval were among his foremost objectives. He thought of people, in the main, as right-minded and dependable, and he believed that a leader should make the best of their good qualities.

As a Virginian, Washington belonged to, attended, and served as warden of the established (Anglican) church. But he did not participate in communion, nor did he adhere to a sectarian creed. He frequently expressed a faith in Divine Providence and a belief that religion is needed to sustain morality in society. As a national leader he upheld the right of every sect to freedom of worship and equality before the law, condemning all forms of bigotry, intolerance, discrimination, and persecution.

Throughout his public life, Washington contended with obstacles and difficulties. His courage and resolution steadied him in danger, and defeat steeled his will. His devotion to his country and his faith in its cause sustained him. Averse to harsh measures, he was generous in victory. "His integrity," wrote Thomas Jefferson, "was the most pure, his justice the most inflexible I have ever known. He was, indeed, in every sense of the word, a wise, a good, and a great man."

## Early Career

George Washington was born in Westmoreland county, Va., on a farm, later known as Wakefield, on Feb. 11, 1731, Old Style (Feb. 22, 1732, New Style). His first American ancestor, John Washington, came to Virginia from England in 1657. This immigrant's descendants remained in the colony and gained a respected place in society. Farming, land buying, trading, milling, and the iron industry were means by which the family rose in the world. George's father, Augustine, had four children by his first wife and six by his second wife, Mary Ball, George's mother. From 1727 to 1735, Augustine lived at Wakefield, on the Potomac River between Popes Creek and Bridges Creek, about 50 miles (80 km) inland and close to the frontier.

Of George's early life little is known. His formal education was slight. He soon revealed a skill in mathematics and surveying so marked as to suggest a gift for practical affairs akin to youthful genius in the arts. Men, plantation life, and the haunts of river, field, and forest were his principal teachers. From 1735 to 1738, Augustine lived at "Little Hunting Creek" (later Mount Vernon). In 1738 he moved to Ferry Farm opposite Fredericksburg on the Rappahannock River. Augustine died when George was 11, leaving several farms. Lawrence, George's half brother, inherited Mount Vernon, where he built the central part of the now

famous mansion. Another half brother, Augustine, received Wakefield. Ferry Farm went to George's mother, and it would pass to George after her death.

These farms bounded the world George knew as a boy. He lived and visited at each. Ambitious to gain wealth and eminence, mainly by acquiring land, he was obliged to depend chiefly on his own efforts. His mother once thought of a career for him in the British Navy but was evidently deterred by a report from her brother in England that an obscure colonial youth could not expect more at Britain's hands than a job as a common sailor. George's youthful model was Lawrence, a cultivated gentleman, whom he accompanied on a trip to Barbados, West Indies, in 1751. Here George was stricken with smallpox, which left lasting marks on his face.

When but 15, George was competent as a field surveyor. In 1748 he went as an assistant on a surveying party sent to the Shenandoah Valley by Thomas, 6th Baron Fairfax, a neighbor of Lawrence and owner of vast tracts of land in northern Virginia. A year later George secured a commission as surveyor of Culpeper county. In 1752 he became the manager of a sizable estate when he inherited Mount Vernon on the death of Lawrence.

George's early experiences had taught him the ways of living in the wilderness, had deepened his appreciation of the natural beauty of Virginia, had fostered his interest in the Great West, and had afforded opportunities for acquiring land. The days of his youth had revealed a striving nature. Strength and vigor heightened his enjoyment of activities out of doors. Quick to profit by mistakes, he was otherwise deliberate in thought. Not a fluent talker, he aspired to gain practical knowledge, to acquire agreeable manners, and to excel in his undertakings.

## French and Indian War

In the early 1750's, Britain and France both strove to occupy the upper Ohio Valley. The French erected Fort Le Boeuf, at Waterford, Pa., and seized a British post, Venango, on the Allegheny River. Alarmed by these acts, Virginia's governor, Robert Dinwiddie, sent Washington late in 1753 on a mission to assert Britain's claim. He led a small party to Fort Le Boeuf, where its commander stated France's determination to possess the disputed area. Returning to Williamsburg, Washington delivered the defiant reply. He also wrote a report which told a vivid winter's tale of wilderness adventure that enhanced his reputation for resourcefulness and daring.

Dinwiddie then put Washington in command of an expedition to guard an intended British fort at the forks of the Ohio, at the present site of Pittsburgh. En route, he learned that the French had expelled the Virginia fort builders and were completing the works, which they named Fort Duquesne. He advanced to Great Meadows, Pa., about 50 miles (80 km) southeast of the fort, where he erected Fort Necessity. On May 28, 1754, occurred one of the most disputed incidents of his career. He ambushed a small French detachment, the commander of which, Joseph Coulon de Villiers, sieur de Jumonville, was killed along with nine of his

men. The others were captured. This incident started the French and Indian War. The French claimed that their detachment was on a peaceful mission; Washington thought that it was engaged in spying. He returned to Fort Necessity, which a large French force attacked on July 3. It fell after a day's fighting. In making the surrender, Washington signed a paper that imputed to him the blame for *"l'assassinat"* (murder) of Jumonville. Not versed in French, Washington later explained that he had not understood the meaning of the incriminating word.

By the terms of the surrender, he and his men were permitted to return, disarmed, to the Virginia settlements. The news of his defeat moved Britain to send to Virginia an expedition under Gen. Edward Braddock, whom Washington joined as a voluntary aide-de-camp, without command of troops. Braddock's main force reached a point on the Monongahela River about 7 miles (11 km) southeast of Fort Duquesne where, on July 9, 1755, he suffered a surprise attack and a defeat that ended in disordered flight. Washington's part was that of inspiriting the men. His bravery under fire spread his fame to nearby colonies and abroad. Dinwiddie rewarded him by appointing him, in August, to the command of Virginia's troops, with the rank of colonel.

His new duties excluded him from leadership in the major campaigns of the war, the operations of which were directed by British officials who assigned to Virginia the humdrum task of defending its inland frontiers. No important battles were fought there. Washington drilled his rough and often unsoldierly recruits, stationed them at frontier posts, settled disputes, struggled to maintain order and discipline, labored to procure supplies and to get them transported, strove to have his men paid promptly and provided with shelter and medical care, sought support from the Virginia government, and kept it informed. His command trained him in the management of self-willed men, familiarized him with the leaders of Virginia, and schooled him in the rugged politics of a vigorous society.

The French and Indian War also estranged him from the British. Thereafter, he never expressed a feeling of affection for them. He criticized Braddock for blaming the Virginians as a whole for the shortcomings of a few local contractors. He also thought that Braddock was too slow in his marches. As commander in Virginia, he resented his subordination to a British captain, John Dagworthy, and made a trip to Boston early in 1756 in order to get confirmation of his authority from the British commander in America. He objected that one of his major plans was upset by ill-considered orders from Britain, and in 1758 he disputed with British officers about the best route for an advance to Fort Duquesne. The war ended in such a way as to withhold from him a suitable recognition for his arduous services of nearly six years and to leave him, if not embittered, a somewhat disappointed man.

## Life at Mount Vernon

Resigning his commission late in 1758, he retired to Mount Vernon. On Jan. 6, 1759, he married Martha Dandridge, widow of Daniel Parke Custis, whose estate included 15,000 acres (6,000 hectares) and 150 slaves. Washington became

devoted to Martha's two children by her first marriage, John Parke Custis and Martha Custis.

As a planter, Washington concentrated at first on tobacco raising, keeping exact accounts of costs and profits. He soon learned that it did not pay. British laws required that his exports should be sent to Britain, sold for him by British merchants, and carried in British ships. Also, he had to buy in Britain such foreign finished goods as he needed. On various occasions he complained that his tobacco was damaged on shipboard or sold in England at unduly low prices. He thought that he was often overcharged for freight and insurance, and he objected that British goods sent to him were overpriced, poor in quality, injured in transit, or not the right type or size. Unable to control buying and selling in England, he decided to free himself from bondage to British traders. Hence he reduced his production of tobacco and had his slaves make goods of the type he had imported, especially cloth. He developed a fishery on the Potomac, increased his production of wheat, and operated a mill. He sent fish, wheat, and flour to the West Indies where he obtained foreign products or money with which to buy them.

From the start he was a progressive farmer who promoted reforms to eliminate soil-exhausting practices that prevailed in his day. He strove to improve the quality of his livestock, and to increase the yield of his fields, experimenting with crop rotation, new implements, and fertilizers. His frequent absences on public business hindered his experiments, for they often required his personal direction.

He also dealt in Western lands. Virginia's greatest estates, he wrote, were made "by taking up ... at very low prices the rich back lands" which "are now the most valuable lands we possess." His Western urge had largely inspired his labors during the French and Indian War. At that time, Britain encouraged settlement in the Ohio Valley as a means of gaining it from the French. In July 1754, Governor Dinwiddie offered 200,000 acres (80,000 hectares) in the West to colonial volunteers. Washington became entitled to one of these grants. After the war he bought claims of other veterans, served as agent of the claimants in locating and surveying tracts, and obtained for himself (by July 1773) 10,000 acres (4,000 hectares) along the Ohio between the Little Kanawha and Great Kanawha rivers, and 10,000 acres on the Great Kanawha. In 1775 he sought to settle his Kanawha land with servants.

Washington lived among neighbors who acquiesced in slavery and, if opposed to it, saw no feasible means of doing away with it. In 1775 he endorsed a strong indictment of the slave trade, but in 1776 he opposed the royal governor of Virginia who had urged slaves of patriot masters to gain freedom by running away and joining the British army to fight for the king. When Washington was famous as a world figure he dissociated himself, publicly, from slavery, although he continued to own many slaves. He favored emancipation if decreed by law. In his will he ordered that his slaves be freed after the death of Mrs. Washington.

## Early Political Activity

After expelling France from North America, Britain decided to reserve most of the Ohio Valley as a fur-producing area. By the Quebec Act (1774), Britain detached from Virginia the land it claimed north of the Ohio River and added it to the royal Province of Quebec. This act struck at Washington's plans because it aimed to leave the Indians in possession of the north bank of the Ohio, where they could menace any settlers on his lands across the river. In April 1775 the governor of Virginia, John Murray, 4th earl of Dunmore, canceled Washington's Kanawha claims on the pretext that his surveyor had not been legally qualified to make surveys. At this time, also, Britain directed Dunmore to stop granting land in the West. Thus Washington stood to lose the fruits of his efforts during the French and Indian War.

As a member of the Virginia House of Burgesses from 1759 to 1774, Washington opposed the Stamp Act, which imposed crushing taxes on the colonies for the support of a large British army in America. Virginia, he said, was already paying enough to Britain: its control of Virginia's trade enabled it to acquire "our whole substance." When the Townshend Revenue Act (1767) levied taxes on tea, paper, lead, glass, and painter's colors, Washington pledged not to buy such articles ("paper only excepted"). By mid-1774 he believed that British laws, such as the Boston Port Act and the Massachusetts Government Act, showed that Britain intended to do away with self-government in the colonies and to subject them to a tyrannical rule. In May he joined other Virginia burgesses in proposing that a continental congress should be held, and that a "provincial congress" be created to take the place of the Virginia assembly, which Dunmore had disbanded.

Washington was chairman of a meeting at Alexandria in July that adopted the Fairfax Resolves, and he was elected one of the delegates to the 1st Continental Congress, which met in Philadelphia in September. There the Fairfax Resolves provided the basis for the principal agreement signed by its members--the Continental Association. This forbade the importing into the colonies of all goods from Britain and all goods subject to British taxes. Moreover, it authorized all towns and counties to set up committees empowered to enforce its provisions. The Continental Congress thus enacted law and created a new government dedicated to resisting British rule. Washington spent the winter of 1774-1775 in Virginia, organizing independent military companies which were to aid the local committees in enforcing the Continental Association and, if need be, to fight against British troops.

## The American Revolution

When the 2d Continental Congress met on May 10, 1775, the fighting near Boston (Lexington-Concord) had occurred. The British Army was cooped up in Boston, surrounded by nearly 14,000 New England militiamen. On Feb. 2, 1775, the British House of Commons had declared Massachusetts to be in a state of rebellion. This imputed to the people of that colony the crime of treason.

Washington, by appearing at the 2d Congress in uniform (the only member thus attired), expressed his support of Massachusetts and his readiness to fight against Britain. In June, Congress created the Continental Army and incorporated into it the armed New Englanders around Boston, undertaking to supply and pay them and to provide them with generals. On June 15, Washington was unanimously elected general and commander in chief.

The tribute of a unanimous election reflected his influence in Congress, which endured throughout the American Revolution despite disagreements among the members. In 1775 they divided into three groups. The militants, led by Samuel Adams, Benjamin Franklin, and Richard Henry Lee, favored vigorous military action against Britain. Most of them foresaw the need of effective aid from France, which the colonies could obtain only by offering their commerce. Before that could be done they must become independent states. Another group, the moderates, represented by Benjamin Harrison and Robert Morris, hoped that a vigorous prosecution of the war would force Britain to make a pro-American settlement. Only as a last resort would the moderates turn to independence. The third group, the conciliationists, led by John Dickinson, favored defensive measures and looked to "friends of America" in England to work out a peace that would safeguard American rights of self-taxation, thereby keeping the colonies in the British Empire. Washington agreed with the militants and the moderates as to the need for offensive action. The conciliationists and the moderates, as men of fortune, trusted him not to use the army to effect an internal revolution that would strip them of their property and political influence.

Early in the war, Washington and the army had to act as if they were agents of a full-grown nation. Yet Congress, still in an embryonic state, could not provide suddenly a body of law covering all the issues that figure in a major war. Many actions had to be left to Washington's discretion. His commission (June 17, 1775) stated: "You are hereby vested with full power and authority to act as you shall think for the good and welfare of the service." There was a danger that a strong general might use the army to set up a military dictatorship. It was therefore urgent that the army would be under a civil authority. Washington agreed with the other leaders that Congress must be the superior power. Yet the army needed a good measure of freedom of action. A working arrangement gave such freedom, while preserving the authority of Congress. If there was no need for haste, Washington advised that certain steps should be taken, and Congress usually approved. In emergencies, he acted on his own authority and at once reported what he had done. If Congress disapproved, he was so informed, and the action was not repeated. If Congress did nothing, its silence signified assent. So attentive was Washington to Congress, and so careful was he when acting on his own initiative, that no serious conflict clouded his relations with the civil authority.

## Washington Takes Command

When he took command of the army at Cambridge on July 3, 1775, the majority of Congress was reluctant to adopt measures that denoted independence, although favoring an energetic conduct of the war. The government of Lord North decided

to send an overpowering army to America, and to that end tried to recruit 20,000 mercenaries in Russia. On August 23, George III issued the Royal Proclamation of Rebellion, which branded Washington as guilty of treason and threatened him with "condign punishment." Early in October, Washington concluded that in order to win the war the colonies must become independent.

In August 1775, Washington insisted to Gen. Thomas Gage, the British commander at Boston, that American officers captured by the British should be treated as prisoners of war--not as criminals (that is, rebels). In this, Washington asserted that the conflict was a war between two separate powers and that the Union was on a par with Britain. He defended the rank of American officers as being drawn from "the uncorrupted choice of a brave and free people, the purest source and original fountain of all power." In August-September he initiated an expedition for the conquest of Canada and invited the king's subjects there to join the 13 colonies in an "indissoluble union." About the same time he created a navy of six vessels, which he sent out to capture British ships bringing supplies to Boston. Congress had not favored authorizing a navy, then deemed to be an arm of an independent state. Early in November, Washington inaugurated a campaign for arresting, disarming, and detaining the Tories. Because their leaders were agents of the British crown, his policy struck at the highest symbol of Britain's authority. He urged the opening of American ports to French ships and used his prestige and the strength of the army to encourage leaders of the provincial governments to adopt measures that committed their colonies to independence. His influence was evident in the campaigns for independence in Connecticut, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Virginia, Pennsylvania, and New York. He contributed as much to the decision for independence as any man. The Declaration of Independence was formally adopted on July 4, 1776.

## The Military Campaigns

Washington's military record during the revolution is highly creditable. His first success came on March 17, 1776, when the British evacuated Boston. He had kept them surrounded and immobilized during a siege of more than eight months. He had organized a first American army and had recruited and trained a second. His little fleet had distressed the British by intercepting their supplies. Lack of powder and cannon long kept him from attacking. Once they had been procured, he occupied, on March 4-5, 1776, a strong position on Dorchester Heights, Mass., where he could threaten to bombard the British camp. The evacuation made him a hero by proving that the Americans could overcome the British in a major contest. For five months thereafter the American cause was brightened by the glow of this outstanding victory--a perilous time when confidence was needed to sustain morale.

Washington's next major achievement was made in the second half of 1776, when he avoided a serious defeat and held the army together in the face of overwhelming odds. In July and August the British invaded southern New York with 34,000 well-equipped troops. In April, Washington's force had consisted of only 7,500 effective men. Early in June, Congress had called 19,800 militia for

service in Canada and New York. In a few weeks Washington had to weld a motley throng into a unified force. Even then his men were outnumbered three to two by the British. Although he suffered a series of minor defeats (Brooklyn Heights, August 26-29; Kip's Bay, September 15; Harlem Heights, September 16; White Plains, October 28; Fort Washington, November 16), the wonder is that he escaped a catastrophe.

After the setbacks in New York, he retreated through New Jersey, crossing the Delaware River in December. The American cause now sank to its lowest ebb. Washington's main army, reduced to 3,000 men, seemed about to disintegrate. It appeared that the British could march easily to Philadelphia. Congress moved to Baltimore. In these dire straits Washington made a dramatic move that ended an agonizing campaign in a blaze of glory. On the stormy night of December 25-26 he recrossed the Delaware, surprised Britain's Hessian mercenaries at Trenton, and captured 1,000 prisoners. This move gave him a striking position in central New Jersey, whereupon the British ceased offensive operations and pulled back to the vicinity of New York.

On Oct. 17, 1777, Gen. John Burgoyne surrendered at Saratoga, N. Y., his army of 5,000 men--all that were left of the 9,500 who had invaded New York from Canada. To this great victory Washington made two contributions. First, in September 1775, he sent an expedition to conquer Canada. Although that aim was not attained, the project put the Americans in control of the approaches to northern New York, particularly Lake Champlain. Burgoyne encountered so many obstacles there that his advance was seriously delayed. That in turn gave time for the militia of New England to turn out in force and to contribute decisively to his defeat. Second, in 1777, Washington conducted a campaign near Philadelphia that prevented Gen. William Howe from using his large army for the relief of Burgoyne. Washington's success at Trenton had placed him where he could both defend Philadelphia and strike at British-held New York. Howe had thereupon undertaken a campaign with the hope of occupying Philadelphia and of crushing Washington's army. Although Washington suffered minor defeats--at Brandywine Creek on September 11 and at Germantown on October 4--he again saved his army and, by engaging Howe in Pennsylvania, made possible the isolation and eventual defeat of Burgoyne.

Unable to overcome Washington in New Jersey and Pennsylvania, the British shifted their main war effort to the South. In 1781 their invasion of Virginia enabled Washington to strike a blow that virtually ended the war. France had joined the United States as a full-fledged ally in February 1778, thereby putting French troops at Washington's disposal and, more important, giving him the support of a strong navy which he deemed essential to victory. His plan of 1781 called for an advance from New York to Virginia of a large American-French army which would act in concert with the French fleet, to which was assigned the task of controlling Chesapeake Bay, thereby preventing an escape by sea of the British forces under Lord Cornwallis. Washington's army trapped Cornwallis at Yorktown, Va., on the York River, and the French admiral, count de Grasse,

gained command of the bay. Outnumbered, surrounded on land, and cut off by sea, Cornwallis surrendered his 7,000 troops on October 19. Although Britain still had large forces in America, the Yorktown blow, along with war weariness induced by six years of failure, moved the war party in England to resign in March 1782 in favor of a ministry willing to make peace on the basis of the independence of the United States.

**Political Leadership During the War**

Washington's political leadership during the Revolution suggests that of an active president of later times. He labored constantly to keep people of all classes at work for the cause. He held a central position between two extremes. He strove to retain the support of the common people, who made up the army and--as farmers and workers--produced the supplies. Composing the left wing, they cherished democratic ideas that they hoped to realize by popular rule in the state governments. Washington appealed to them by his faith in popular sovereignty, his sponsorship of a republic and the rights of man, and his unceasing efforts to assure that his soldiers were well paid and adequately supplied with food, clothing, arms, medical care, and shelter. His personal bravery, industry, and attention to duty also endeared him to the rank and file, as did his sharing of dangers and hardships, as symbolized by his endurance at Valley Forge during the bleak winter of 1777-1778. The right wing consisted of conservatives whose leaders were men of wealth. Washington retained their confidence by refusing to use the army to their detriment and by insisting on order, discipline, and respect for leadership. It was his aim that the two wings should move in harmony. In this he succeeded so fully that the American Revolution is rare among political upheavals for its absence of purges, reigns of terror, seizures of power, and liquidation of opponents.

Before 1778, Washington was closely affiliated with the left wing. Afterward, he depended increasingly on the conservatives. In the winter of 1777-1778 there was some talk of replacing him with Gen. Horatio Gates, the popular hero of Saratoga. This estranged Washington from some of the democratic leaders who sponsored Gates. The French alliance, coming after the American people had made heavy sacrifices, tended to relax their efforts now that France would carry much of the burden. These developments lessened the importance of the popular leaders in Washington's counsels and increased the standing of the conservatives. Washington sought maximum aid from France, but also strove to keep the American war effort at a high pitch lest France should become the dominant partner--a result he wished to avoid. His character and tact won the confidence and respect of the French, as typified by the friendship of the Marquis de Lafayette.

In 1782 some of the army officers, irked by the failure of Congress to fulfill a promise concerning their pay, threatened to march to Philadelphia and to use force to obtain satisfaction. In an address on March 15, 1783, Washington persuaded the officers to respect Congress and pledged to seek a peaceful settlement. Congress responded to his appeals by granting the officers five years'

full pay, and the crisis ended. It evoked from Washington a striking statement condemning government by mere force. "If men," he wrote, "are to be precluded from offering their sentiments on a matter which may involve the most serious ... consequences, ... reason is of no use to us, the freedom of speech may be taken away, and dumb and silent we may be led, like sheep, to the slaughter."

Throughout the war, Washington retained a commanding position in the army. Generals Philip Schuyler, Henry Knox, Nathanael Green, and Henry Lee were especially attached to him. His relations with Horatio Gates became strained but not ruptured. A rebuke to Charles Lee so angered that eccentric general as to cause him eventually to retire and to denounce Washington as a demigod. General Benedict Arnold suffered a somewhat milder, though merited, rebuke shortly before he agreed to sell information to Britain about the defenses at West Point.

(In 1976 an act of Congress promoted Washington to six-star General of the Armies so that he would rank above all other American generals.)

## The Confederation Years

After the war, several states were beset with troubles that alarmed Washington and conservative leaders who were close to him. British merchants flooded the United States with British goods. Inadequate markets abroad for American products obliged American merchants to export coin or to buy imports on credit. Britain excluded American ships from the trade of the British West Indies, to the distress of New England. A shortage of money depressed the prices of American products and enhanced the difficulty of paying debts--not only those owed to British merchants but also those that had been contracted by Congress or the states to finance the war. As the debt burdens grew, debtors demanded that the states issue large quantities of paper money. About half the states did so. Such paper depreciated, to the loss of creditors. The strife between debtor and creditor in Massachusetts exploded in an uprising, Shays' Rebellion, that threatened to overthrow the state government.

Apprehensive men turned to Washington for leadership. It seemed to them, and to him, that the troubles of the times flowed from the weaknesses of the central government under the Articles of Confederation. The Union could not provide a single, stable, adequate currency because the main powers over money were vested in the states. Because Congress could not tax, it could not maintain an army and navy. Nor could it pay either the principal or the interest on the national debt. Washington believed that the central government should be strengthened so that it could safeguard property, protect creditors against hostile state laws, afford the Union a uniform, nondepreciating currency, and collect taxes in order both to pay the national debt and to obtain revenues sufficient for current needs. He also thought that Congress should be empowered to foster domestic manufacturing industries as a means of lessening the importation of foreign goods. Washington's anxieties over events in the 1780's were deepened by his memories of bitter experiences during the Revolution, when the weakness of Congress and the power of the states had handicapped the army in countless ways.

The Constitutional Convention met at Philadelphia in May 1787. Washington, a delegate of Virginia, served as its president. His closest associate then was James Madison. The Constitution, as adopted, embodied Washington's essential ideas. It provided for a "mixed" or "balanced" government of three branches, so devised that all three could not easily fall under the sway of any faction, thus assuring that every important group would have some means of exerting influence and of protecting its interests in a lawful manner. The federal government, as remodeled, was vested with powers adequate for managing the common affairs of the Union, while leaving to the states control over state-confined property and business, schools, family relations, and nonfederal crimes and lesser offenses. Washington helped to persuade the Virginia legislature to ratify the Constitution, making use of *The Federalist* papers written in its defense by James Madison, Alexander Hamilton, and John Jay.

## The Presidency

Unanimously elected the first president, Washington was inaugurated in New York City on April 30, 1789. Acting with a cooperative Congress, he and his aides constructed the foundations on which the political institutions of the country have rested since that time.

His qualifications for his task could hardly have been better. For 15 years he had contended with most of the problems that faced the infant government. By direct contact he had come to know the leaders who were to play important parts during his presidency. Having traveled widely over the country, he had become well acquainted with its economic conditions and practices. Experience had schooled him in the arts of diplomacy. He had listened closely to the debates on the Constitution and had gained a full knowledge both of its provisions and of the ideas and interests of representative leaders. He had worked out a successful method for dealing with other men and with Congress and the states. Thanks to his innumerable contacts with the soldiers of the Revolutionary army, he understood the character of the American people and knew their ways. For eight years after 1775 he had been a de facto president. The success of his work in founding a new government was a by-product of the qualifications he had acquired in the hard school of public service.

## The Executive Departments

The Constitution designated the president as the only official charged with the duty of enforcing all the federal laws. In consequence, Washington's first concern was to establish and develop the executive departments. In a sense such agencies were arms of the president--the instruments by which he could perform his primary duty of executing the laws. At the outset, Washington and his co-workers established two rules that became enduring precedents: the president has the power to select and nominate executive officers and the power to remove them if they are unworthy.

Congress did its first important work in 1789, when it made provision for five executive departments. The men heading these departments formed the president's cabinet. One act established the war department, which Washington entrusted to Gen. Henry Knox. Then came the creation of the treasury department, its beginnings celebrated by the brilliant achievements of its first secretary, Alexander Hamilton. The department of state was provided for, and Thomas Jefferson took office as its first secretary in March 1790. The office of postmaster general came into being next, and the appointment went to Samuel Osgood. Washington's first attorney general, Edmund Randolph, was selected after his office had been created.

In forming his cabinet Washington chose two liberals--Jefferson and Randolph--and two conservatives--Hamilton and Knox. The liberals looked to the South and West, the conservatives to the Northeast. On subjects in dispute, Washington could secure advice from each side and so make informed decisions.

In constructing the new government, Washington and his advisers acted with exceptional energy. The challenge of a large work for the future inspired creative efforts of the highest order. Washington was well equipped for the work of building an administrative structure. His success arose largely from his ability to blend planning and action for the attainment of a desired result. First, he acquired the necessary facts, which he weighed carefully. Once he had reached a decision, he carried it out with vigor and tenacity. Always averse to indolence and procrastination, he acted promptly and decisively. In everything he was thorough, systematic, accurate, and attentive to detail. From subordinates he expected standards like his own. In financial matters he insisted on exactitude and integrity.

## The Federalist Program

From 1790 to 1792 the elements of Washington's financial policies were expounded by Hamilton in five historic reports. Hamilton was a highly useful assistant who devised plans, worked out details, and furnished cogent arguments. The Federalist program consisted of seven laws. Together they provided for the payment, in specie, of debts incurred during the Revolution; created a sound, uniform currency based on coin; and aimed to foster home industries in order to lessen the country's dependence on European goods.

The Tariff Act (1789), the Tonnage Act (1789), and the Excise Act (1791) levied taxes, payable in coin, that gave the government ample revenues. The Funding Act (1790) made provision for paying, dollar for dollar, the old debts of both the Union and the states. The Bank Act (1791) set up a nationwide banking structure owned mainly by private citizens, which was authorized to issue paper currency that could be used for tax payments as long as it was redeemed in coin on demand. A Coinage Act (1792) directed the government to mint both gold and silver coins, and a Patent Law (1791) gave inventors exclusive rights to their inventions for 14 years.

The Funding Act, the Excise Act, and the Bank Act aroused an accelerating hostility so bitter as to bring into being an opposition group. These opponents, the Republicans, precursors of the later Democratic party, were led by Jefferson and Madison. The Funding Act enabled many holders of government certificates of debt, which had been bought at a discount, to profit as the Treasury redeemed them, in effect, at their face values in coin. Washington undoubtedly deplored this form of private gain, but he regarded it as unavoidable if the Union was to have a stable currency and a sound public credit. The Bank Act gave private citizens the sole privilege of issuing federal paper currency, which they could lend at a profit. The Excise Act, levying duties on whiskey distilled in the country, taxed a commodity that was commonly produced by farmers, especially on the frontier. The act provoked armed resistance--the Whiskey Rebellion--in western Pennsylvania, which Washington suppressed with troops, but without bloodshed or reprisals, in 1794.

The Republicans charged that the Federalist acts tended to create an all-powerful central government that would devour the states. A protective tariff that raised the prices of imported goods, a centralized banking system operated by moneyed men of the cities, national taxes that benefited the public creditors, a restricted currency, and federal securities (as good as gold) that could be used to buy foreign machines and tools needed by manufacturers--all these features of Washington's program, so necessary to industrial progress, repelled debtors, the poorer farmers, and the most zealous defenders of the states.

## The Judiciary System

Under Washington's guidance a federal court system was established by the Judiciary Act of Sept. 24, 1789. The Constitution provided for its basic features. Because the president is the chief enforcer of federal laws, it is his duty to prosecute cases before the federal courts. In this work his agent is the attorney general. To guard against domination of judges, even by the president, the Constitution endowed them with tenure during good behavior.

The Judiciary Act of 1789 was so well designed that its most essential features have survived. It provided for 13 judicial districts, each with a district court of federal judges. The districts were grouped into three circuits in which circuit courts were to hear appeals from district courts. The act also created a supreme court consisting of a chief justice and five associate justices to serve as the final arbiter in judicial matters, excepting cases of impeachment. Washington's selection of John Jay as the first chief justice was probably the best choice possible for the work of establishing the federal judiciary on a sound and enduring basis.

## Foreign Affairs

In foreign affairs, Washington aimed to keep the country at peace, lest involvement in a great European war should shatter the new government before it could acquire strength. He also sought to gain concessions from Britain and Spain

that would promote the growth of pioneer settlements in the Ohio Valley. In addition, he desired to keep up the import trade of the Union, which yielded revenue from tariff duties that enabled the government to sustain the public credit and to meet its current expenses.

## The British and French

The foreign policy of Washington took shape under the pressure of a war between Britain and revolutionary France. At the war's inception Washington had to decide whether two treaties of the French-American alliance of 1778 were still in force. Hamilton held that they were not, because they had been made with the now-defunct government of Louis XVI. Washington, however, accepted Jefferson's opinion that they were still valid because they had been made by an enduring nation--a principle that has since prevailed in American diplomacy.

Fearing that involvement in the European war would blight the infant government, Washington issued a proclamation of neutrality on April 22, 1793. This proclamation urged American citizens to be impartial and warned them against aiding or sending war materials to either belligerent.

Because Britain was the dominant sea power, France championed the doctrine of neutral rights that was asserted in the French-American alliance. The doctrine held that neutrals--the United States in this case--might lawfully trade with belligerents in articles not contraband of war. Britain acted on a contrary theory respecting wartime trade and seized American ships, thereby violating rights generally claimed by neutrals. Such seizures goaded the Republican followers of Jefferson to urge measures that might have led to a British-American war. Washington then sent John Jay on a treaty-making mission to London.

Jay's Treaty of Nov. 19, 1794, outraged France because it did not uphold the French-American alliance and because it conferred benefits on Britain. Although Washington disliked some of its features, he signed it (the Senate had ratified it by a two-thirds vote). One reason was that keeping open the import trade from Britain continued to provide the Treasury with urgently needed revenues from tariff duties.

Unable to match Britain on the sea, the French indulged in a campaign to replace Washington with their presumed partisans, in order to vitiate the treaty. They also waged war on the shipping of the United States, and relations between the two countries went from bad to worse.

## The Western Frontier

Washington's diplomacy also had to deal with events in the West that involved Britain and Spain. Pioneers in Tennessee, Kentucky, and the Ohio country, who were producers of grain, lumber, and meats, sought good titles to farmlands, protection against Indians, and outlets for their products via the Ohio and Mississippi rivers and New Orleans.

In the northern area, Britain held, within the United States, seven trading posts of which the most important were Niagara, Detroit, and Mackinac. The determination of the Indians to preserve their hunting lands against the inroads of pioneers seeking farms encouraged the British in Canada in their efforts to maintain their hold on the fur trade and their influence on the Indians of the area north of the Ohio River.

The focus of the strife was the land south of present-day Toledo. The most active Indian tribes engaged were the Ottawa, the Pottawatomi, the Chippewa, and the Shawnee. Two American commanders suffered defeats that moved Washington to wrath. British officials in Canada then backed the Indians in their efforts to expel the Americans from the country north of the Ohio River. A third U.S. force, under Gen. Anthony Wayne, defeated the Indians so decisively in 1794 in the Battle of Fallen Timbers, at the site of present-day Toledo, that they lost heart and the English withdrew their support. Wayne then imposed a victor's peace. By the Treaty of Greenville (1795) the tribes gave up nearly all their lands in Ohio, thereby clearing the way for pioneers to move in and form a new state.

In 1796 the British evacuated the seven posts that they had held within the United States. Because Jay's Treaty had called for the withdrawal, it registered another victory for Washington's diplomacy.

## The Spanish Frontier

On the southwestern frontier the United States faced Spain, then the possessor of the land south of the 31st parallel, from the Atlantic coast to the Mississippi River. Intent upon checking the growth of settlement south of the Ohio River, the Spaniards used their control of the mouth of the Mississippi at New Orleans to obstruct the export of American products to foreign markets. The two countries each claimed a large area, known as the Yazoo Strip, north of the 31st parallel.

In dealing with Spain, Washington sought both to gain for the western settlers the right to export their products, duty free, by way of New Orleans, and to make good the claim of the United States to the territory in dispute. The land held by Spain domiciled some 25,000 people of European stocks, who were generally preferred by the resident Indians (Cherokee, Creek, Choctaw, and Chickasaw, with 14,000 warriors), to the 150,000 frontiersmen who had pushed into Kentucky, Tennessee, and western Georgia.

The selection of Jefferson as the first secretary of state reflected the purpose of Washington to aid the West. But before 1795 he failed to attain that goal. His task was complicated by a tangle of frontier plots, grandiose land-speculation schemes, Indian wars, and preparations for war that involved Spanish officials, European fur traders, and the Indian tribes, along with settlers, adventurers, military chieftains, and speculators from the United States.

Conditions in Europe forced Washington to neglect the Southwest until 1795, when a series of misfortunes moved Spain to yield and agree to the Treaty of San

Lorenzo. The treaty recognized the 31st parallel as the southern boundary of the United States and granted to Americans the right to navigate the whole of the Mississippi, as well as a three-year privilege of landing goods at New Orleans for shipment abroad.

When Washington left office the objectives of his foreign policy had been attained. By avoiding war he had enabled the new government to take root, he had prepared the way for the growth of the West, and by maintaining the import trade he had safeguarded the national revenues and the public credit.

## Washington Steps Down

By the end of 1795, Washington's creative work had been done. Thereafter he and his collaborators devoted their efforts largely to defending what they had accomplished. A conservative spirit became dominant and an era of "High Federalism" dawned. As his health declined, Washington became saddened by attacks made by his Republican opponents, who alleged that Hamilton had seized control of the administration, that a once-faithful ally, France, had been cast aside, that the Federalists were plotting to create a monarchy on the British model, and that they had corrupted Congress in order to effect their program. The attack reached its high (or low) point when Washington's foes reprinted forged letters that had been published to impugn his loyalty during the Revolution. He made no reply to his detractors.

Washington had been reelected unanimously in 1792. His decision not to seek a third term established a tradition that has been broken only once and is now embedded in the 22d Amendment of the Constitution. In his Farewell Address of Sept. 17, 1796, he summarized the results of his varied experience, offering a guide both for that time and for the future. He urged his countrymen to cherish the Union, to support the public credit, to be alert to "the insidious wiles of foreign influence," to respect the Constitution and the nation's laws, to abide by the results of elections, and to eschew political parties of a sectional cast. Asserting that America and Europe had different interests, he declared that it "is our true policy to steer clear of permanent alliances with any portion of the foreign world," trusting to temporary alliances for emergencies. He also warned against indulging in either habitual favoritism or habitual hostility toward particular nations, lest such attitudes should provoke or involve the country in needless wars.

## Last Years

Washington's retirement at Mount Vernon was interrupted in 1798 when he assumed nominal command of a projected army intended to fight against France in an anticipated war. Early in 1799 he became convinced that France desired peace and that Americans were unwilling to enlist in the proposed army. He successfully encouraged President John Adams to break with the war party, headed by Hamilton, and to end the quarrel.

Washington's last public efforts were devoted to opposing the Virginia and Kentucky Resolutions of 1798, which challenged his conviction that the Constitution decreed that federal acts should be the supreme law of the land. Continuing to work at his plantation, he contracted a cold and died on Dec. 14, 1799, after an illness of two days.

Among Americans, Washington is unusual in that he combined in one career many outstanding achievements in business, warfare, and government. He took the leading part in three great historic events that extended over a period of 20 years. After 1775 he was animated by the purpose of creating a new nation dedicated to the rights of man. His success in fulfilling that purpose places him in the first rank among the figures of world history.

Curtis P. Nettels, Cornell University

**Freemasons and the Monument.**

Like George Washington, Robert Mills, the architect of the Washington Monument, was a Freemason, as were many of the Washington National Monument Society members, key government officials who decided the fate of this monument, and many of the workers who built it. Many Masonic organizations contributed money to the construction effort or contributed commemorative stones to be placed in the Washington Monument. So what is Freemasonry?

The following is provided courtesy of the Alexandria-Washington Masonic Lodge:

*Freemasonry is the oldest and the largest fraternal order in the world. It is a universal brotherhood of men dedicated to serving God, family, fellowman and country. The heritage of modern Freemasonry is derived from the organized guilds or unions of stone masons who constructed the beautiful cathedrals and other stately structures throughout Europe during the middle ages. The skills and architectural genius of these craftsmen and their commitment to the highest standards of moral and ethical values were universally applauded, and unlike other classes of people, they were allowed to travel freely from country to country. Thus, during this period, the word "Free" was prefixed to the word mason, and these craftsmen and the generations of masons who followed, were referred to as Freemasons.*

*Early in the seventeenth century, membership in these unions or operating lodges of stone masons began to decline, and probably to compensate for their loss in members, they began to admit certain men of prominence in society who were not craftsmen or stone masons. This class of members were initially considered patrons of the Fraternity, and over the years became known as "accepted masons".*

*At the conclusion of the seventeenth century, a radical transformation had evolved; these accepted masons had become predominant, and the older lodges of Freemasons began to emphasize and teach moral philosophy rather than the technical and operative art of earlier centuries. Tools of the stone masons are still used in the Fraternity today, but only to symbolize moral virtue, not to build cathedrals. Although the moral philosophy of Freemasonry is founded upon religious principles, it is not a religion, nor is it a substitute for religion. Candidates for membership (adult males) are however, expected to profess a belief in God, and be of good moral character.*

**Masonic Elements**. During the cornerstone laying ceremony, the officiating Grand Master described some of the masonic symbology:

"I shall now proceed to place upon the stone the ancient elements of consecration, the corn, wine, and oil. In placing upon this stone this corn, I invoke the blessing of plenty to the nation whose monument this is to be. May bread, that great staff of our existence, never be wanting to feed the hungry. In pouring upon it the wine, permit me to express a hope that the wine of joy may ever be found in our broad land…In pouring upon it the oil, I invoke for all who may be in affliction the healing oil of consolation."

**Assorted Writings or Speeches.**

**George Washington's First inaugural address, New York, Thursday, April 30, 1789**

George Washington delivered his first inaugural address to a joint session of Congress, assembled in Federal Hall, New York City, on 30 April 1789. The newly elected president delivered the speech in a deep, low voice that betrayed what one observer called "manifest embarrassment." Aside from recommending constitutional amendments to satisfy citizens demanding a Bill of Rights, Washington confined himself to generalities. He closed by asking for a "divine blessing" on the American people and their elected representatives. In delivering an inaugural address, Washington went beyond the constitutional requirement of taking an oath of office and thus established a precedent that has been followed since by every elected president.

The Confederation Congress had set the date of the first inauguration as Wednesday, 4 March 1789. Members of the new Congress, however, were delayed in arriving in New York and were unable to count the electoral ballots as early as anticipated. Consequently, the inauguration was postponed until Congress officially notified Washington and the president-elect traveled from Virginia to New York. Subsequent inaugurations took place on either 4 March (or 5 March when the fourth fell on a Sunday), until 1937 when the Twentieth (or Lame-Duck) Amendment changed the date to 20 January (or 21 January when the twentieth fell on a Sunday).

Fellow-Citizens of the Senate and of the House of Representatives:

Among the vicissitudes incident to life no event could have filled me with greater anxieties than that of which the notification was transmitted by your order, and received on the 14th day of the present month. On the one hand, I was summoned by my country, whose voice I can never hear but with veneration and love, from a retreat which I had chosen with the fondest predilection, and, in my flattering hopes, with an immutable decision, as the asylum of my declining years--a retreat which was rendered every day more necessary as well as more dear to me by the addition of habit to inclination, and of frequent interruptions in my health to the gradual waste committed on it by time. On the other hand, the magnitude and difficulty of the trust to which the voice of my country called me, being sufficient to awaken in the wisest and most experienced of her citizens a distrustful scrutiny into his qualifications, could not but overwhelm with despondence one who (inheriting inferior endowments from nature and unpracticed in the duties of civil administration) ought to be peculiarly conscious of his own deficiencies. In this conflict of emotions all I dare aver is that it has been my faithful study to collect my duty from a just appreciation of every circumstance by which it might be affected. All I dare hope is that if, in executing this task, I have been too much swayed by a grateful remembrance of former instances, or by an affectionate

sensibility to this transcendent proof of the confidence of my fellow-citizens, and have thence too little consulted my incapacity as well as disinclination for the weighty and untried cares before me, my error will be palliated by the motives which mislead me, and its consequences be judged by my country with some share of the partiality in which they originated.

Such being the impressions under which I have, in obedience to the public summons, repaired to the present station, it would be peculiarly improper to omit in this first official act my fervent supplications to that Almighty Being who rules over the universe, who presides in the councils of nations, and whose providential aids can supply every human defect, that His benediction may consecrate to the liberties and happiness of the people of the United States a Government instituted by themselves for these essential purposes, and may enable every instrument employed in its administration to execute with success the functions allotted to his charge. In tendering this homage to the Great Author of every public and private good, I assure myself that it expresses your sentiments not less than my own, nor those of my fellow-citizens at large less than either. No people can be bound to acknowledge and adore the Invisible Hand which conducts the affairs of men more than those of the United States. Every step by which they have advanced to the character of an independent nation seems to have been distinguished by some token of providential agency; and in the important revolution just accomplished in the system of their united government the tranquil deliberations and voluntary consent of so many distinct communities from which the event has resulted can not be compared with the means by which most governments have been established without some return of pious gratitude, along with an humble anticipation of the future blessings which the past seem to presage. These reflections, arising out of the present crisis, have forced themselves too strongly on my mind to be suppressed. You will join with me, I trust, in thinking that there are none under the influence of which the proceedings of a new and free government can more auspiciously commence.

By the article establishing the executive department it is made the duty of the President "to recommend to your consideration such measures as he shall judge necessary and expedient." The circumstances under which I now meet you will acquit me from entering into that subject further than to refer to the great constitutional charter under which you are assembled, and which, in defining your powers, designates the objects to which your attention is to be given. It will be more consistent with those circumstances, and far more congenial with the feelings which actuate me, to substitute, in place of a recommendation of particular measures, the tribute that is due to the talents, the rectitude, and the patriotism which adorn the characters selected to devise and adopt them. In these honorable qualifications I behold the surest pledges that as on one side

no local prejudices or attachments, no separate views nor party animosities, will misdirect the comprehensive and equal eye which ought to watch over this great assemblage of communities and interests, so, on another, that the foundation of our national policy will be laid in the pure and immutable principles of private morality, and the preeminence of free government be exemplified by all the attributes which can win the affections of its citizens and command the respect of the world. I dwell on this prospect with every satisfaction which an ardent love for my country can inspire, since there is no truth more thoroughly established than that there exists in the economy and course of nature an indissoluble union between virtue and happiness; between duty and advantage; between the genuine maxims of an honest and magnanimous policy and the solid rewards of public prosperity and felicity; since we ought to be no less persuaded that the propitious smiles of Heaven can never be expected on a nation that disregards the eternal rules of order and right which Heaven itself has ordained; and since the preservation of the sacred fire of liberty and the destiny of the republican model of government are justly considered, perhaps, as 'deeply', as 'finally', staked on the experiment entrusted to the hands of the American people.

Besides the ordinary objects submitted to your care, it will remain with your judgment to decide how far an exercise of the occasional power delegated by the fifth article of the Constitution is rendered expedient at the present juncture by the nature of objections which have been urged against the system, or by the degree of inquietude which has given birth to them. Instead of undertaking particular recommendations on this subject, in which I could be guided by no lights derived from official opportunities, I shall again give way to my entire confidence in your discernment and pursuit of the public good; for I assure myself that whilst you carefully avoid every alteration which might endanger the benefits of an united and effective government, or which ought to await the future lessons of experience, a reverence for the characteristic rights of freemen and a regard for the public harmony will sufficiently influence your deliberations on the question how far the former can be impregnably fortified or the latter be safely and advantageously promoted.

To the foregoing observations I have one to add, which will be most properly addressed to the House of Representatives. It concerns myself, and will therefore be as brief as possible. When I was first honored with a call into the service of my country, then on the eve of an arduous struggle for its liberties, the light in which I contemplated my duty required that I should renounce every pecuniary compensation. From this resolution I have in no instance departed; and being still under the impressions which produced it, I must decline as inapplicable to myself any share in the personal emoluments which may be indispensably included in a permanent provision for the executive department, and must

accordingly pray that the pecuniary estimates for the station in which I am placed may during my continuance in it be limited to such actual expenditures as the public good may be thought to require.

Having thus imparted to you my sentiments as they have been awakened by the occasion which brings us together, I shall take my present leave; but not without resorting once more to the benign Parent of the Human Race in humble supplication that, since He has been pleased to favor the American people with opportunities for deliberating in perfect tranquillity, and dispositions for deciding with unparalleled unanimity on a form of government for the security of their union and the advancement of their happiness, so His divine blessing may be equally 'conspicuous' in the enlarged views, the temperate consultations, and the wise measures on which the success of this Government must depend.

## Washington's Second inaugural address, Philadelphia, Monday, March 4, 1793

Fellow Citizens:
I am again called upon by the voice of my country to execute the functions of its Chief Magistrate. When the occasion proper for it shall arrive, I shall endeavor to express the high sense I entertain of this distinguished honor, and of the confidence which has been reposed in me by the people of united America.

Previous to the execution of any official act of the President the Constitution requires an oath of office. This oath I am now about to take, and in your presence: That if it shall be found during my administration of the Government I have in any instance violated willingly or knowingly the injunctions thereof, I may (besides incurring constitutional punishment) be subject to the upbraidings of all who are now witnesses of the present solemn ceremony.

**George Washington's Letter: Recruiting and Maintaining an Army Recruiting and Maintaining an Army**

TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS,

Colonel Morris's, on the Heights of Harlem, September 24, 1776.
Sir: From the hours allotted to Sleep, I will borrow a few Moments to convey my thoughts on sundry important matters to Congress. I shall offer them, with that sincerity which ought to characterize a man of candour; and with the freedom which may be used in giving useful information, without incurring the imputation of presumption.

We are now as it were, upon the eve of another dissolution of our Army; the remembrance of the difficulties which happened upon that occasion last year, the consequences which might have followed the change, if proper advantages had been taken by the Enemy; added to a knowledge of the present temper and Situation of the Troops, reflect but a very gloomy prospect upon the appearance of things now, and satisfie me, beyond the possibility of doubt, that unless some speedy, and effectual measures are adopted by Congress, our cause will be lost.

It is in vain to expect, that any (or more than a trifling) part of this Army will again engage in the Service on the encouragement offered by Congress. When Men find that their Townsmen and Companions are receiving 20, 30, and more Dollars, for a few Months Service, (which is truely the case) it cannot be expected; without using compulsion; and to force them into the Service would answer no valuable purpose. When Men are irritated, and the Passions inflamed, they fly hastely and chearfully to Arms; but after the first emotions are over, to expect, among such People, as compose the bulk of an Army, that they are influenced by any other principles than those of Interest, is to look for what never did, and I fear never will happen; the Congress will deceive themselves therefore if they expect it.

A Soldier reasoned with upon the goodness of the cause he is engaged in, and the inestimable rights he is contending for, hears you with patience, and acknowledges the truth of your observations, but adds, that it is of no more Importance to him than others. The Officer makes you the same reply, with this further remark, that his pay will not support him, and he cannot ruin himself and Family to serve his Country, when every Member of the community is equally Interested and benefitted by his Labours. The few therefore, who act upon Principles of disinterestedness, are, comparatively speaking, no more than a drop in the Ocean. It becomes evidently clear then, that as this Contest is not likely to be the Work of a day; as the War must be carried on systematically, and to do it, you must have good Officers, there are, in my Judgment, no other possible

means to obtain them but by establishing your Army upon a permanent footing; and giving your Officers good pay; this will induce Gentlemen, and Men of Character to engage; and till the bulk of your Officers are composed of such persons as are actuated by Principles of honour, and a spirit of enterprize, you have little to expect from them.-They ought to have such allowances as will enable them to live like, and support the Characters of Gentlemen; and not be driven by a scanty pittance to the low, and dirty arts which many of them practice, to filch the Public of more than the difference of pay would amount to upon an ample allowe. Besides, something is due to the Man who puts his life in his hands, hazards his health, and forsakes the Sweets of domestic enjoyments. Why a Captn. in the Continental Service should receive no more than 51. Curry per day, for performing the same duties that an officer of the same Rank in the British Service receives 101. Sterlg. for, I never could conceive; especially when the latter is provided with every necessary he requires, upon the best terms, and the former can scarce procure them, at any Rate. There is nothing that gives a Man consequence, and renders him fit for Command, like a support that renders him Independant of every body but the State he Serves.

With respect to the Men, nothing but a good bounty can obtain them upon a permanent establishment; and for no shorter time than the continuance of the War, ought they to be engaged; as Facts incontestibly prove, that the difficulty, and cost of Inlistments, increase with time. When the Army was first raised at Cambridge, I am persuaded the Men might have been got without a bounty for the War: after this, they began to see that the Contest was not likely to end so speedily as was immagined, and to feel their consequence, by remarking, that to get the Militia In, in the course of last year, many Towns were induced to give them a bounty. Foreseeing the Evils resulting from this, and the destructive consequences which unavoidably would follow short Inlistments, I took the Liberty in a long Letter, written by myself (date not now recollected, as my Letter Book is not here) to recommend the InIistments for and during the War; assigning such Reasons for it, as experience has since convinced me were well founded. At that time twenty Dollars would, I am persuaded, have engaged the Men for this term. But it will not do to look back, and if the present opportunity is slip'd, I am perswaded that twelve months more will Increase our difficulties fourfold. I shall therefore take the freedom of giving it as my opinion, that a good Bounty be immediately offered, aided by the proffer of at least 100, or 150 Acres of Land and a suit of Cloaths and Blankt, to each non-Comd. Officer and Soldier; as I have good authority for saying, that however high the Men's pay may appear, it is barely sufficient in the present scarcity and dearness of all kinds of goods, to keep them in Cloaths, much less afford support to their Families. If this encouragement then is given to the Men, and such Pay allowed the Officers as will induce Gentlemen of Character and liberal

Sentiments to engage; and proper care and precaution are used in the nomination (having more regard to the Characters of Persons, than the Number of Men they can InIist) we should in a little time have an Army able to cope with any that can be opposed to it, as there are excellent Materials to form one out of: but while the only merit an Officer possesses is his ability to raise Men; while those Men consider, and treat him as an equal; and (in the Character of an Officer) regard him no more than a broomstick, being mixed together as one common herd; no order, nor no discipline can prevail; nor will the Officer ever meet with that respect which is essentially necessary to due subordination.

To place any dependance upon Militia, is, assuredly, resting upon a broken staff. Men just dragged from the tender Scenes of domestick life; unaccustomed to the din of Arms; totally unacquainted with every kind of Military skill, which being followed by a want of confidence in themselves, when opposed to Troops regulary train'd, disciplined, and appointed, superior in knowledge, and superior in Arms, makes them timid, and ready to fly from their own shadows. Besides, the sudden change in their manner of living, (particularly in the lodging) brings on sickness in many; impatience in all, and such an unconquerable desire of returning to their respective homes that it not only produces shameful, and scandalous Desertions among themselves, but infuses the like spirit in others. Again, Men accustomed to unbounded freedom, and no controul, cannot brook the Restraint which is indispensably necessary to the good order and Government of an Army; without which, licentiousness, and every kind of disorder triumpantly reign. To bring Men to a proper degree of Subordination, is not the work of a day, a Month or even a year; and unhappily for us, and the cause we are Engaged in, the little discipline I have been labouring to establish in the Army under my immediate Command, is in a manner done away by having such a mixture of Troops as have been called together within these few Months.

Relaxed, and unfit, as our Rules and Regulations of War are, for the Government of an Army, the Militia (those properly so called, for of these we have two sorts, the Six Months Men and those sent in as a temporary aid) do not think themselves subject to `em, and therefore take liberties, which the Soldier is punished for; this creates jealousy; jealousy begets dissatisfaction, and these by degrees ripen into Mutiny; keeping the whole Army in a confused, and disordered State; rendering the time of those who wish to see regularity and good Order prevail more unhappy than Words can describe. Besides this, such repeated changes take place, that all arrangement is set at nought, and the constant fluctuation of things, deranges every plan, as fast as adopted. These Sir, Congress may be assured, are but a small part of the Inconveniences which might be enumerated and attributed to Militia; but there is one that merits particular attention, and that is the expence. Certain I am, that it would

be cheaper to keep 50, or 100,000 Men in constant pay than to depend upon half the number, and supply the other half occasionally by Militia. The time the latter is in pay before and after they are in Camp, assembling and Marching; the waste of Ammunition; the consumption of Stores, which in spite of every Resolution, and requisition of Congress they must be furnished with, or sent home, added to other incidental expences consequent upon their coming, and conduct in Camp, surpasses all Idea, and destroys every kind of regularity and economy which you could establish among fixed and Settled Troops; and will, in my opinion prove (if the scheme is adhered to) the Ruin of our Cause.

The Jealousies of a standing Army, and the Evils to be apprehended from one, are remote; and in my judgment, situated and circumstanced as we are, not at all to be dreaded; but the consequence of wanting one, according to my Ideas, formed from the present view of things, is certain, and inevitable Ruin; for if I was called upon to declare upon Oath, whether the Militia have been most serviceable or hurtful upon the whole; I should subscribe to the latter. I do not mean by this however to arraign the Conduct of Congress, in so doing I should equally condemn my own measures, (if I did not my judgment); but experience, which is the best criterion to work by, so fully, clearly, and decisively reprobates the practice of trusting to Militia, that no Man who regards order, regularity, and (e]conomy; or who has any regard for his own honour, Character, or peace of Mind, will risk them upon this Issue.

Another matter highly worthy of attention, is, that other Rules and Regulation's may be adopted for the Government of the Army than those now in existence, otherwise the Army, but for the name, might as well be disbanded. For the most attrocious offences, (one or two Instances only excepted) a Man receives no more than 39 Lashes; and these perhaps (thro' the collusion of the Officer who is to see it inflicted), are given in such a manner as to become rather a matter of sport than punishment; but when inflicted as they ought, many hardend fellows who have been the Subjects, have declared that for a bottle of Rum they would undergo a Second operation; it is evident therefore that this punishment is inadequate to many Crimes it is assigned to, as a proof of it, thirty and 40 Soldiers will desert at a time; and of late, a practice prevails, (as you will see by my Letter of the 22d) of the most alarming nature; and which will, if it cannot be checked, prove fatal both to the Country and Army; I mean the infamous practice of Plundering, for under the Idea of Tory property, or property which may fall into the hands of the Enemy, no Man is secure in his effects, and scarcely in his Person; for in order to get at them, we have several Instances of People being frightened out of their Houses under pretence of those Houses being ordered to be burnt, and this is done with a view of siezing the Goods; nay, in order that the villany may be more effectually concealed, some Houses have actually been

burnt to cover the theft.

I have with some others, used my utmost endeavours to stop this horrid practice, but under the present lust after plunder, and want of Laws to punish Offenders, I might almost as well attempt to remove Mouth Atlas.-I have ordered instant corporal Punishment upon every Man who passes our Lines, or is seen with Plunder, that the Offenders might be punished for disobedience of Orders; and Inclose you the proceedings of a Court Martial held upon an Officer, who with a Party of Men had robbd a House a little beyond our Lines of a Number of valuable Goods; among which (to shew that nothing escapes) were four large Pier looking Glasses, Women's Cloaths, and other Articles which one would think, could be of no Earthly use to him. He was met by a Major of Brigade who ordered him to return the Goods, as taken contrary to Genl. Orders, which he not only peremptorily refused to do, but drew up his Party and swore he would defend them at the hazard of his Life; on which I ordered him to be arrested, and tryed for Plundering, Disobedience of Orders, and Mutiny.

**George Washington's Speech - Preventing the Revolt of his Officers**

At the close of the Revolutionary War in America, a perilous moment in the life of the fledgling American democracy occurred as officers of the Continental Army met in Newburgh, New York, to discuss grievances and consider a possible insurrection against the rule of Congress. They were angry over the failure of Congress to honor its promises to the army regarding salary, bounties and life pensions. The officers had heard from Philadelphia that the American government was going broke and that they might not be compensated at all.

On March 10, 1783, an anonymous letter was circulated among the officers of General Washington's main camp at Newburgh. It addressed those complaints and called for an unauthorized meeting of officers to be held the next day to consider possible military solutions to the problems of the civilian government and its financial woes.

General Washington stopped that meeting from happening by forbidding the officers to meet at the unauthorized meeting. Instead, he suggested they meet a few days later, on March 15th, at the regular meeting of his officers. Meanwhile, another anonymous letter was circulated, this time suggesting Washington himself was sympathetic to the claims of the malcontent officers. And so on March 15, 1783, Washington's officers gathered in a church building in Newburgh, effectively holding the fate of democracy in America in their hands. Unexpectedly, General Washington himself showed up. He was not entirely welcomed by his men, but nevertheless, personally addressed them...

*Gentlemen:*

*By an anonymous summons, an attempt has been made to convene you together; how inconsistent with the rules of propriety, how unmilitary, and how subversive of all order and discipline, let the good sense of the army decide...*

*Thus much, gentlemen, I have thought it incumbent on me to observe to you, to show upon what principles I opposed the irregular and hasty meeting which was proposed to have been held on Tuesday last - and not because I wanted a disposition to give you every opportunity consistent with your own honor, and the dignity of the army, to make known your grievances. If my conduct heretofore has not evinced to you that I have been a faithful friend to the army, my declaration of it at this time would be equally unavailing and improper. But as I was among the first who embarked in the cause of our common country. As I have never left your side one moment, but when called from you on public duty. As I have been the constant companion and witness of your distresses, and not among the last to feel and acknowledge your merits. As I have ever considered my own military reputation as inseparably connected with that of the army. As my heart has ever expanded with joy, when I have heard its praises, and my indignation has arisen, when the mouth of detraction has been opened against it, it can scarcely be supposed, at this late stage of the war, that I am indifferent to its interests.*

*But how are they to be promoted? The way is plain, says the anonymous addresser. If war continues, remove into the unsettled country, there establish yourselves, and leave an ungrateful country to defend itself. But who are they to defend? Our wives, our children, our farms, and other property which we leave behind us. Or, in this state of hostile separation, are we to take the two first (the latter cannot be removed) to perish in a wilderness, with hunger, cold, and nakedness? If peace takes place, never sheathe your swords, says he, until you have obtained full and ample justice; this dreadful alternative, of either deserting our country in the extremest hour of her distress or turning our arms against it (which is the apparent object, unless Congress can be compelled into instant compliance), has something so shocking in it that humanity revolts at the idea. My God! What can this writer have in view, by recommending such measures? Can he be a friend to the army? Can he be a friend to this country? Rather, is he not an insidious foe? Some emissary, perhaps, from New York, plotting the ruin of both, by sowing the seeds of discord and separation between the civil and military powers of the continent? And what a compliment does he pay to our understandings when he recommends measures in either alternative, impracticable in their nature?*

*I cannot, in justice to my own belief, and what I have great reason to conceive is the intention of Congress, conclude this address, without giving it as my decided opinion, that that honorable body entertain exalted sentiments of the services of the army; and, from a full conviction of its merits and sufferings, will do it complete justice. That their endeavors to discover and establish funds for this purpose have been unwearied, and will not cease till they have succeeded, I have not a doubt. But, like all other large bodies, where there is a variety of different interests to reconcile, their deliberations are slow. Why, then, should we distrust them? And, in consequence of that distrust, adopt measures which may cast a shade over that glory which has been so justly acquired; and tarnish the reputation of an army which is celebrated through all Europe, for its fortitude and patriotism? And for what is this done? To bring the object we seek nearer? No! most certainly, in my opinion, it will cast it at a greater distance.*

*For myself (and I take no merit in giving the assurance, being induced to it from principles of gratitude, veracity, and justice), a grateful sense of the confidence you have ever placed in me, a recollection of the cheerful assistance and prompt obedience I have experienced from you, under every vicissitude of fortune, and the sincere affection I feel for an army I have so long had the honor to command will oblige me to declare, in this public and solemn manner, that, in the attainment of complete justice for all your toils and dangers, and in the gratification of every wish, so far as may be done consistently with the great duty I owe my country and those powers we are bound to respect, you may freely command my services to the utmost of my abilities.*

*While I give you these assurances, and pledge myself in the most unequivocal manner to exert whatever ability I am possessed of in your favor, let me entreat you, gentlemen, on your part, not to take any measures which, viewed in the calm light of reason, will lessen the dignity and sully the glory you have hitherto maintained; let me request you to rely on the plighted faith of your country, and place a full confidence in the purity of the intentions of Congress; that, previous to your dissolution as an army, they will cause all your accounts to be fairly liquidated, as directed in their resolutions, which were published to you two days ago, and that they will adopt the most effectual measures in their power to render ample justice to you, for your faithful and meritorious services. And let me conjure you, in the name of our common country, as you value your own sacred honor, as you respect the rights of humanity, and as you regard the military and national character of America, to express your utmost horror and detestation of the man who wishes, under any specious pretenses, to overturn the liberties of our country, and who wickedly attempts to open the floodgates of civil discord and deluge our rising empire in blood.*

*By thus determining and thus acting, you will pursue the plain and direct road to the attainment of your wishes. You will defeat the insidious designs of our enemies, who are compelled to resort from open force to secret artifice. You will give one more distinguished proof of unexampled patriotism and patient virtue, rising superior to the pressure of the most complicated sufferings. And you will, by the dignity of your conduct, afford occasion for posterity to say, when speaking of the glorious example you have exhibited to mankind, "Had this day been wanting, the world had never seen the last stage of perfection to which human nature is capable of attaining."*-George Washington - March 15, 1783

This speech was not very well received by his men. Washington then took out a letter from a member of Congress explaining the financial difficulties of the government. After reading a portion of the letter with his eyes squinting at the small writing, Washington suddenly stopped. His officers stared at him, wondering. Washington then reached into his coat pocket and took out a pair of reading glasses. Few of them knew he wore glasses, and were surprised.

"Gentlemen," said Washington, "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."

In that moment of utter vulnerability, Washington's men were deeply moved, even shamed, and many were quickly in tears, now looking with great affection at this aging man who had led them through so much. Washington read the remainder of the letter, then left without saying another word, realizing their sentiments.
His officers then cast a unanimous vote, essentially agreeing to the rule of Congress. Thus, the civilian government was preserved and the young experiment of democracy in America continued.

**Program Outline: Washington Monument Walkdown Tour**
**(from a variation transcribed By: J. Epstein)**

Currently the Walkdown Tour has been suspended until further notice. Plans of reviving the program are under way. Below is an example of the talk/walk.

Welcome to the Washington Monument Walk-down Tour.

Before we begin, let's review some facts and figures.

---The Monument is 555 feet, 5-1/8 inches tall, measured from the mosaic floor in the elevator waiting room to the tip of the very top. The reason for the change from the 600 foot original design was that the US Ambassador to Italy discovered that the height of a true obelisk is ten times the width of its base. The base had already been started with a width of 55 feet 1 inch, so they multiplied that by ten, and cut the Monument off at the 555 foot level.

---The capstone, set in place on December 6, 1884, is made of a material that was considered quite precious at that time—on a par with gold and silver. We don't think it is quite so precious today; it is made of 100 ounces of solid aluminum, at that time the largest existing piece of aluminum in the world.

---The walls at the base are 15 feet thick, tapering to 13 feet at the 152 foot level where work halted; then abruptly dropping back to 9 feet and continuing to taper down to 18 inches thick at the top. The reason for the sudden decrease in thickness in attributable to the improved engineering techniques the Army Corps was able to use. They enlarged and strengthened the foundation while at the same time lightening the overall load by decreasing the wall thickness.

---The Monument is made up of approximately 36,000 individual blocks of marble and granite, and weighs between 90,000 and 110,000 tons depending on what you read.

---Although the Monument sways approximately $1/8^{th}$ of an inch in a 30 mile an hour wind, such movement is imperceptible to human senses, despite the fact that people will swear they can feel it move.

---There are 896 steps in 50 flights—you will cover them all today. Walking down is the equivalent of walking down a 50-story building. If you don't feel you are up to it or if you don't have an hour and a half to devote to this tour, there is still time to change your mind. We will be walking down at the pace of the slowest walker.

We need to discuss some rules and regulations.

There will be no smoking or eating from this point until we are completely outside the Monument.

Do not stick fingers or anything else through the grate/fence that surrounds the elevator shaft. The elevator travels by at a rate of 490 feet per minute and the shaft also contains high-voltage electrical cables. There is the potential for serious injury.

NO ONE IS TO PASS ME ON THE STAIRS. For your own safety, the National Park Service requires that I be the first one down the stairs at all times. Children in particular like to run ahead –parents, please watch your children.

DO NOT TOUCH ANY OF THE MEMORIAL STONES. From here to the ground level, the walls are lined with memorial stones and plaques given in memory of George Washington. These stones are quite old, quite fragile, and quite valuable. For the first ninety years of the Monument's history, the public had free access to these stairs, and as you might expect, they couldn't keep their hands off the memorial stones. The damage they caused resulted in the eventual closing of the stairs, denying the public access to view the interior except on tours such as this.

If at any time you find that I am going too fast or if you have a question or comment, please let me know.

Let's go.

## 450 LEVEL

As I mentioned, from here to the ground level, there are 193 memorial stones dedicated to George Washington. This is the first of those stones we come to and it also the second newest in the Monument—it is the gift from the state of **Alaska.** All the stones in the Monument are considered quite valuable for their historical value, but in terms of actual dollar worth, this is one of the most-highly valued. It is made from a single piece of solid green **Alaskan jade** and goes back into the wall for approximately six inches.
Up here at the top of the Monument, you will find that the memorial stones are fairly well scattered, but I promise that as we get further down, they will start to come much faster.

## 440 LEVEL

At this point, you will notice that the walls have a checkerboard pattern. This is called patch-working or pigeon-holing. Up here near the top, the walls are only two layers of stone thick—an outer layer of marble and an inner layer of granite. Engineers came up with this design---these white blocks are solid pieces of marble which go clear through to the outside, thereby binding the inner and outer walls. As we go further down and the walls thicken, you will notice this effect will disappear.

## 400 LEVEL

The next stone we come to is from the state of **Idaho**. As is the case with nearly all fifty state stones, Idaho has given us a stone made from a material native to its own area—in this case, **native sandstone**. They framed the stone in polished slate and inscribed the date 1928 in roman numerals at the bottom—that's the year Idaho gave this stone to the

Monument. If you look closely at the frame, you will see initials carved in the slate—this is a relatively minor example of the kind of vandalism that eventually resulted in the closing of the stairway.

**380 LEVEL**

New Location for the **Carthage Stone.** We used to exhibit the Carthage Stone on the stairs at the 340-foot level. This stone was finally installed here during the restoration of 1998-2000. When the previous elevator was installed in 1959, the Carthage Stone was found buried in the rubble in the bottom of the elevator shaft, possibly thrown there in the 1854 by the same Know-Nothing vandals who may have destroyed the Pope's Stone. It was first placed on display in a corner niche at the 340-foot level.

**360 LEVEL**

Here we have the contribution from the state of **Hawaii**. The words at the bottom are the Hawaii state motto—anybody want to give that a try? What that translates to is "The life of the land is perpetuated through righteousness."

**350 LEVEL**

Here we have the **North Dakota** state stone—made of North Dakota native **red granite** and depicting the North Dakota state seal. "Dakota" is an Indian word that means friend, comrade, or ally.

**340 LEVEL**

We see here a relatively new stone, the replacement for the original **"Pope's Stone".** It is probably the most interesting stone in the Monument. In order to understand the Pope's Stone, it is necessary to go back to the early 1850s.

At that time there was a political party in the United States called the American Party; but they were more commonly known as the "Know-Nothings." They were called that because if you asked them what they stood for, they would reply that they "knew nothing." But they actually and vehemently opposed foreigners and foreign influence on the US government. This was a period of great immigration and the Know-Nothings feared that these new immigrants would somehow take over the government. In particular, they hated Roman Catholics foreigners.

In 1854, Pope Pius IX in Rome obtained a piece of white Italian Carrera marble from the ruins of the Temple of Concord, had the words "A Roma Americae" (From Rome to America) inscribed on it and had it shipped to the United States as the Vatican's tribute to George Washington. The stone was stored in a warehouse on the Monument grounds to await installation in the Monument.

In February, 1855, the Know-Nothings managed to gain control of the Washington National Monument Society by attending the Society's annual meeting, intimidating their

officials, calling for a new election, and subsequently electing their own members to the board.

The night of March 6, 1854, a group of masked men broke into the warehouse, overpowered the guard, shot his dog, and stole the Pope's stone. Many believe that these intruders were members of the Know-Nothing party, and according to popular beliefs, they took the Pope's Stone to a barge in the Potomac River and threw it overboard. A subsequent story says workers found the stone many decades later when they dredged the Potomac River, but the stone was stolen again! (The Smithsonian Museum of American History displays a piece of red marble carved in the shape of an obelisk which they claim is a portion of the original Pope's stone, retrieved from the Potomac and carved by one of the original thieves. Records show that the stone was made from white marble, not red.) In 1982, a Roman Catholic priest decided the Pope's Stone should assume its rightful place in the Washington Monument. He went to Rome at his own expense and obtained a copy of the original slab of white marble, had the same inscription carved, and had the new Pope's Stone sent to Washington, where it was finally installed in 1982, almost 130 years after the original.

Previous Location for the **Carthage Stone.** Remember, at the 380-foot level, we talked about the Carthage Stone that was found in 1959, buried in the rubble in the bottom of the elevator shaft. It was first displayed up there in that niche. This stone now resides at the 380-foot level, as we discussed on the way down.

## 330 LEVEL

Here we have the **red sandstone plaque** from the State of **New Mexico**, featuring the Zuni Indian Sun Sign in the center and the Latin state motto which translates to "It grows as it goes."

The stone marked **"Top of the Statue on Capitol"** is fairly self-explanatory. The Capitol Dome was completed in 1865 and was the tallest structure in the city. In the early 1880s during construction of the Monument at this level, the builders wanted to graphically demonstrate that their structure would surpass that height; so they installed this stone. The horizontal line is exactly level with the top of the Indian headdress on the statue of Freedom on top of the Capitol dome---approximately 335 feet.

## 320 LEVEL

As I mentioned, each state liked to donate a material which was native to their area. Can anyone tell me what **Arizona** gave? These are, of course, cross sections of **petrified trees** from the Humboldt National Forest in Arizona. They are approximately 195 million years old (give or take a year).

## 310 LEVEL

This **sandstone plaque** came from the **State of Washington** and features a three-dimensional reproduction of the Washington State Seal. If we look at Washington's nose, we can see the detrimental effects caused by thousands of visitors rubbing the stone. This kind of damage, although innocent, resulted in our decision to close the stairs.
**Okinawa Stone (Ryukyuan Stone)**

## 300 LEVEL

Next, the plaque from the State of **South Dakota**—again, depicting the South Dakota State Seal. The material is native **green granite**. The damage below is probably nothing more than shoddy workmanship, nineteenth century style—when they chiseled out the place for the plaque, they broke the granite block below.

## 290 LEVEL

At this point, you will notice that the stones will start to come much more rapidly. I will not stop to discuss each plaque but I will point out all fifty state stones, and also those which I find most interesting. If I pass one by that you are curious about or know something about, please feel free to stop me. If you have questions, I may or may not know the answers.

The first of the three stones at this level is that from the **State of Oklahoma**. It is made of **black granite** and shows us the Oklahoma State tribes which originally occupied the Territory of Oklahoma.

In the center, **Colorado**—the Centennial State—which entered the Union on the one hundredth anniversary of its birth. The material in this stone in **Colorado Yule Marble,** the same stone used in the exterior construction of the Lincoln Memorial.

On the right, we have the **gray granite** stone from the State of **Texas** with a **bronze reproduction of the Texas State Seal.**

## 280 LEVEL

Now we start to see plaques from other than states which represent the political and social mood of the country in the 1850's. For example, as I mentioned, that was a period of great immigration and a number of those immigrants were Irish. A group of Irish immigrants in Baltimore formed a debating club called the Hibernian Society and donated this plaque to the Monument.

Next over on the right is a plaque from two disciples of Daguerre. Daguerre was, of course, an early pioneer photographer and one of those two disciples was in fact Matthew Brady, later to gain fame as a Civil War photographer.

The stone directly above is fairly interesting because it seems that the mid-nineteenth century, there was hardly any profession (except one, and they aren't mentioned because they didn't give a plaque) which was considered lower than the acting profession. In an attempt to improve their image, the actors contributed this stone to the Monument—that was sort of "the thing to do" at that time. And what better way to add even more class than to put William Shakespeare's image on the plaque. So this is called the Shakespeare stone. At the top is a stone from the Citizens of Alexandria. If you are visiting in the area and have not had a chance to do so, I highly recommend a visit to Old Town Alexandria.

A few years ago, the Washington Monument Society contacted Honesdale, Wayne County, Pennsylvania, to see what they knew about their stone—they didn't know they had one!

## 270 LEVEL

What we have here is an example of some blatant billboard advertising, 1850's-style. At that time railroading was brand new in the country, and for the most part, the American people didn't trust it—anything that traveled at the unheard speed of 40 miles an hour couldn't possibly be safe! So this locomotive works decided to get some free publicity by contributing this stone to the Monument. This is also a prime example of vandalism—these wheels used to have spokes. In the earliest days of the Monument, the ultimate Washington souvenir was to take home a piece of the Washington Monument. And what better souvenir than a nice piece of the Monument. If you look at the outside corners around the base, you will notice that all four appear to be made of newer stone. Again, during the early years, people would come up to touch the Monument, see the opportunity, and knock off a chunk of the corner for their souvenir. The circular bench and the passing of time have served to prevent that happening lately, although bullet damage from the 1982 take-over attempt can be seen on the exterior to the right of the entry door about eight feet up near the corner.

The stone above is from the Alexandria Library in Egypt which is believed to be the oldest library in the world—beyond that, we know little of the history of this stone. We don't know who G.G. Baker is . (Smallest stone.)

The large stone in the center has a nice reproduction of the Louisiana Seal but more interestingly, one has to wonder whose name may have originally been in this space. Perhaps someone who fell from grace and had his name chiseled out and replaced.

Here on the right is the contribution from the Cliosophic Society which still exists as a debating society at Princeton University. Also, this is another example of vandalism—these figures once had arms and legs.

## 260 LEVEL

The quite handsome stone here in the center is from the Fire Department of the City of New York. According to a fireman, this is the story that the stone tells. The man on the left is a fireman who has died in the line of duty, the woman at the table represents New York City and is handing him his discharge for a job well done, the angel behind him is waiting to take him to Heaven, the coat is folded and placed away with his helmet because he no longer needs it, and finally, the lady again, with her shield is to protect the widow and the orphan. You can take it from that point. In the mid-1800's a fire department was not quite the service organization we think of today. In order to insure that this fire department would put out a fire at your house, you had to pay them an annual fee or dues. In exchange, they would give you a metal plaque similar to the bottom design here which you would display on the exterior of your house. If you had a fire and they arrived and saw your plaque, they would put it out, if they did not see the plaque, not only would they not put out the fire, they would picket while your house burned.

Here on the upper right is the first of the stones from the City of Newark, New Jersey—the only place we know which gave two. We don't know why.

## 250 LEVEL

The black plaque here in the corner is interesting because it is from the Citizens of the United States residing in Foo Chow Foo, China, in 1857. You wouldn't think there were too many of us there at that time, but there were enough to come up with this plaque.

In the center is a nice, if somewhat vandalized, reproduction of a modern 1850's fire fighting apparatus, from the Philadelphia Fire Department.

The letters on the plaque from Stockton, California, are covered in gold leaf. The original gold on the plaque dated from the California Gold Rush.

## 240 LEVEL

If you saw the mini-series on General Washington, you may recall the character of General Braddock. He was the British colonial general who led the attack on Fort Duquesne, now the city of Pittsburgh, during the French & Indian War. General Braddock was killed in that battle but his troops were led to safety by a young Virginia Militia colonel named George Washington. This stone, from that battlefield, was donated by James Buchanan, later to become President Buchanan.

The **black granite** stone at the top is from the nation of **Wales**. The words on the top line say "My language, My Country, My Birthplace" and at the bottom is the Welsh national motto, "Wales Forever".

Here below is the plaque from the American Medical Association, which at one point was in need of some medical attention. During the time that the stairway was open to the public, the public broke off heads, arms, legs, and part of the base to take home as a

souvenir. The AMA decided to repair the stone, at their expense, to its original form and beauty. Prevention of further damage is why the stairs have been closed to the public except for the guided tour which you are now participating.

## 230 LEVEL

Here you will start to see stones which reflect the political mood of the day. We were in the years leading up to the Civil War and some southern states were thinking in terms of forming their own nation. **Tennessee,** says, "The Federal Union—it must be preserved."

**Kentucky** here in the center proclaims that she will be the last to give up the union and shows us Clay and Crittenden agreeing on the Missouri Compromise whereby certain future states would be allowed to enter the Union as slave states and others as free states, maintaining a political balance.

The Hopkins County, Tennessee, stone is remarkable only as a fine example of three-dimensional carving.

Here at the bottom is an example of a stone that suffered weather damage. In the years before the interior of the Monument was dehumidified, on a typical Washington summer day, the humidity would build up inside the Monument to such a degree that at night when it cooled off, it would literally rain inside the Monument. Some of the softest sandstone plaques simply could not withstand that dampness and eroded away. You will see another example at the next level down.

## 220 LEVEL

The stone at the top was probably quite beautiful when it was new. It represents the state of **Oregon** and is made from a very soft brown sandstone. During those years of high humidity, it simply rotted away.

Directly below is the contribution from the State of **Wyoming**.

Next over on the top is from **Montana.**

Below is the contribution from **Japan.** While it looks like it should say something quite impressive, it actually just says this stone was quarried on a certain island and brought to the US in 1857.

The Cherokee Nation mentioned at the top is the Western Cherokees—by the 1850's the Eastern Cherokees had been driven into hiding.

The large stone in the center is from the nation of **China**. It is written in a quite old, quite formal dialect, and its translation compares the attributes and qualities of George Washington to those of great leaders through the centuries.

The stone from **Minnesota** is made from a material called Red Pipe Stone which looks like, and sounds like it could be made from some sort of terra cotta.

Directly below is the sandstone plaque from **Nebraska**, again a victim of moisture damage.

The stone marked **"Deseret"** was sent from Salt Lake City in a covered wagon by Brigham Young. At that time Salt Lake City was the capital of the Territory of Deseret. Later when the name was changed to the Territory of and subsequently the State of **Utah**, this second stone was sent to indicate that the first was, in fact, the Utah contribution.

Finally, we have the gray granite stone from the State of **Nevada**.

## 210 LEVEL

At the upper right is the sandstone plaque from the State of **Kansas,** with a reproduction of the Kansas State Seal.

Here in the center, we have the one state stone which is, in face, not stone at all. This represents the State of **Michigan** and is made of solid copper from the Lake Superior region. Also, unlike the other stones which average about seven inches in thickness, this plaque goes back into the wall for about six feet and weighs 2,100 pounds. As I said, it is solid copper—with one exception. The state seal on the front is reproduced in sterling silver. Obviously, in terms of material value, this is probably the single most valuable stone in the Monument.

The stone here in the corner from the Grand Lodge of Iowa, AF & AM, is fairly unremarkable, and I would otherwise pass it by, except for one thing. This is the only stone in the Monument which is radioactive. Something inside of or behind the stone causes a Geiger counter to click.

## 200 LEVEL

Here we have the stone from the State of **West Virginia**, made of limestone. The stone in the top center, from Richmond, Virginia, is quite obviously the most beautiful and elegant in the Monument.

You will notice many stones in the Monument pertaining to the subject of temperance. Temperance was a big issue in the mid-nineteenth century; a lot of people wanted to do away with the evils of strong drink. This is probably the best of the temperance stones. It is full of all kinds of symbolism, but the most obvious seems to be that you should enjoy an ice cream sundae instead of a cocktail.

## 190 LEVEL

All the stones at this level are from foreign areas. At the left is **Brazil,** at the upper left the **Greek Archipelago,** and at the bottom, black stone represents **Siam**, which is modern-day Thailand. If you have seen the movie or play "The King and I", the character portrayed by Yul Brynner is, in fact, the man who gave this stone to the Monument. He was such a fan of George Washington that he even asked his friends to address him by the nickname "Prince George Washington." The beautiful and ornate stone with the Arabic writing at the top center is from the nation of **Turkey**. The white stone at the bottom is from **Greece** and the actual marble itself comes from the ruins of the Parthenon on the Acropolis in Athens. At the top right is a gift from the **City of Bremen, Germany** and the large stone on the right is from **Switzerland.** We do have the translations for all these stones and, in general, they all say the same thing—"to the great and glorious George Washington."

## 180 LEVEL

The large stone in the center is generally thought to be the most beautiful in the Monument. It represents the City of Philadelphia. It was earlier thought that these pieces had survived all these years, but much to my dismay, I find that they have been replaced.

On the right is the stone from the State of **Pennsylvania**. The figures on the left represent William Penn making a deal with the Indians. We don't know what the figure on his knees in the back is doing.

## 170 LEVEL

At this level we have five stones representing five cities and towns in the State of Massachusetts.

On the right is the state stone from **Vermont** in **white marble.** This is another example of vandalism, especially if you look closely at the cow. You might call it "udder destruction."

## 160 LEVEL

Here we have that second stone from the City of Newark, New Jersey. As I said, we don't know why they gave two stones.

In the center is the **black marble** stone from the State of **New York.** It is at this point that we will take that break I promised while I go through a little history of the.

## 140 LEVEL

You are now in the original pre-1854 construction. You will notice a marked change in the appearance of the walls since the granite blocks above were all machine cut and are uniform in size and appearance. Down here, the blocks were hand cut to fit the next available space and are of very irregular size and shape. Also, during that twenty-six year period, the top shaft was exposed to the elements. The walls are quite weathered and you will also notice a bit of weather damage to the memorial stones which were all built into the Monument during construction and were also exposed during those twenty-six years.

There is an interesting story about how the Army Corps of Engineers were able to resume construction at this level. It may or may not be true, but it seems that in 1879 the Corps needed to get a man up to this level to inspect the top to determine what damage had occurred and what needed to be done to resume work. The interior scaffolding, being made of wood, had all rotted away, and of course, this was long before helicopters, so someone in the Army Corps (no doubt, an officer) came up with the idea of tying a string around a pigeon's leg. They brought the pigeon into the bottom of the shaft and let him go. He flew upward toward the light and when he appeared over the top of the Monument, someone (no doubt an enlisted man) shot him. He fell back to earth bringing the string with him. They were then able to tie succeedingly larger strings and ropes to the original string, pulling them through each time, until they had a sufficiently strong rope to pull a man to the top. I don't guarantee these stories, I only tell 'em; but if you believe that one, we're going to have a condominium sale at the top right after this tour!

The chief stone of note at this level is the top center and is from the City of Baltimore, depicting that city's Washington Monument. It is generally considered to be the largest stone in the Monument.

## 130 LEVEL

The large and quite ornate and beautiful stone in the center is from the City of New York. It is made of marble and is particularly remarkable when you consider that it has withstood the elements for twenty-six years up here near the open top. If you look at the stone just to the left on the top row, from the American Whig Society, you will see an example of a stone that did not survive those years. With the constant freezing and thawing, it simply gave up and cracked.

## 120 LEVEL

The "S of T, R.I." are the Sons of Temperance of Rhode Island.

At the top center you will see the black marble plaque from the State of **California.**

## 110 LEVEL

If you are familiar with American geography, then you know that there is only one state whose borders are formed by both the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers. That state is

**Iowa**—hence, her plaque reads "Her affections like the rivers of her borders flow to an inseparable union."

Peter Force directly below was an early mayor of the City of Washington and was an original member of the Washington National Monument Society.

**100 LEVEL**

**Wisconsin**, the Dairy State.

At the top center is the stone form the State of **North Carolina.**

On the right is the state stone from **Rhode Island.**

**90 LEVEL**

The **Missouri** Stone.

At the top center is the contribution from the State of **Ohio.**

On the top right is the **Mississippi** state stone.

**80 LEVEL**

At this level we have the three local jurisdictions:

---the Commonwealth of **Virginia;**

---the **City of Washington,** and;

---the State of **Maryland**.

**70 LEVEL**

Here you see the state contributions from **New Jersey, Massachusetts,** and **Connecticut.**

Also, if you will look at the wall behind me, directly up under the stair, you will see the only plaque which is not located in the West or East walls. It is also the only plaque which is not dedicated to the memory of George Washington. This plaque honors the construction foreman who in the 1850s was able to raise a structure to the unheard of height of 100 feet.

**60 LEVEL**

Here we have the plaques from the states of **South Carolina, New Hampshire,** and **Florida.**

The plaque from Florida is not made from natural material, but from man-made material native to Florida. You will notice that the stone appears to be on the modern side, that is due to the fact that the original plaque was destroyed by weather and a new plaque was sent in replacement.

**50 LEVEL**

Again at this level, we see the political mood of the day. **Indiana** knows no North—no South—only the union. A similar sentiment, but from a different point of view by **Georgia**, and still another by the State of **Illinois.**

**40 LEVEL**

At the top center you see the **Louisiana** plaque with a nice reproduction of the state seal featuring the pelican.

Directly below is the very well done if somewhat cluttered plaque from the stonecutters of Philadelphia.

And here at the top right is the gift from the State of **Alabama.** This stone is noteworthy because it was the first to be given to the Monument. Back in the 1830's the Washington Monument Society sent letters to each state asking for money to use in building this Monument. Alabama officials could not send money, but donated this marble. This set the precedent for the 193 stones you are seeing on this tour.

**30 LEVEL**

Here you see the last of the stones—those from the States of **Maine, Delaware,** and **Arkansas.**

**20 LEVEL**

This brings us back down to within 20 feet of the ground level. Notice the frame of the old western door. This was part of Robert Mills' design which called for two large doorways. Engineer-in-Charge Thomas Casey had this door closed up in 1885. If you look at the outside walls, on the west side toward the Lincoln Memorial, about 15 feet up, you will see the outline of the old doorway.

It has been my pleasure bringing you down the stairs today—you are now part of the select few who get to see the interior of the Monument since the closing of the stairs. I hope you enjoyed it.

Because of the slow pace you have taken, you may not realize that you have walked down 50 flights of stairs.

## Alphabetical Listing of Commemorative Stones in WAMO

| | |
|---|---|
| A Roma America | 340 |
| Alabama, State of | 40 |
| Alaska, State of | 450 |
| American Institute of New York City, NY | 130 |
| American Medical Association | 240 |
| American Whig Society, College of NJ | 130 |
| Anacostia Tribe No.3, I.O.R.M., DC | 60 |
| Ancient York Masons, Washington Naval Lodge | 50 |
| Arizona, State Of | 320 |
| Arkansas, State of | 30 |
| Baltimore, MD | 140 |
| Battlegnound, Long Island, Kings Co., NY | 240 |
| Fort Greene, Battleground of Long Island | 140 |
| Bremen, Germany | 190 |
| Bostonia Condita | 170 |
| Brazil | 190 |
| Buffalo, New York, Public School Teachers | 250 |
| Building Committee Presentation (view from 65' level) | 80 |
| California, State of | 120 |
| Charlestown, MA | 170 |
| Cherokee Nation | 220 |
| China Stone | 220 |
| Citizens of Alexandria, Virginia | 280 |
| Citizens of U.S. in Foo Chow Foo, China | 250 |
| Cliosophic Society, Nassau Hall, NJ | 270 |
| Colorado, State of | 290 |
| Columbia Typographical Society | 40 |
| Company I, 4th Regiment, U.S. Infantry | 140 |
| Connecticut, State of | 70 |
| Continental Guard of New Orleans | 270 |
| Engineers, 2nd Division, James River and Kan(a) Canal | 140 |
| Delaware, State Of | 30 |
| District of Columbia, Washington, DC | 80 |
| Dramatic Profession of America | 280 |
| Durham, New Hampshire | 130 |
| Employees of Norris Locomotive Works, PA | 270 |
| Engine and Hose Companies of Frankford, etc | 250 |
| Engine, Hose and Ladder Corps, Germantown, etc | 250 |
| Fire Company No. 5, Cincinnati, Ohio | 80 |
| Fire Department of New York City, NY | 260 |
| Fire Department of Philadelphia | 250 |
| Fire Engine & Hose Company of Cincinnati | 260 |
| First Regiment of Light Infantry, MA | 280 |
| Florida, State of | 60 |
| Franklin Fire Company, DC | 30 |
| Frederick, MD | 120 |
| Free Swiss Confederation | 190 |
| From Braddock's Field | 240 |
| From Temple of Carthage - David P. Heap, MD | 380 |
| From the Alexandrian Library, Egypt | 270 |

| | |
|---|---|
| General Assembly of Presbyterian Church | 240 |
| Georgia Convention | 230 |
| Georgia, State of | 50 |
| German Benevolent Society, DC | 40 |
| Greece (Greek Society) | 190 |
| Hawaii, State of | 360 |
| Hawkins County, Tennessee | 230 |
| Hibernian Society of Baltimore, MD | 280 |
| Home of Knox, Thomaston, ME | 100 |
| Home of Stark, Ladies of Manchester, NH | 270 |
| Honesdale, Wayne County, PA | 280 |
| I.O.O.F., Grand Lodge of Indiana | 80 |
| I.O.O.F., Grand Lodge of Kentucky | 230 |
| I.O.O.F., Grand Lodge of Maryland | 200 |
| I.O.O.F., Grand Lodge of Mississippi | 210 |
| I.O.O.F., Grand Lodge of Virginia | 100 |
| l.O.O.F. of Germantown, PA | 120 |
| I.O.O.F. of MA | 130 |
| I.O.O.F. of New York City, #177 New York | 160 |
| l.O.O.F. of NJ | 60 |
| I.O.O.F. of Ohio | 90 |
| l.O.O.F. of Philadeiphia, PA | 180 |
| I.O.O.F. of Troy, NY | 160 |
| Idaho, State of | 400 |
| Illinois, State of | 50 |
| Independent Order of United Brothers, MD | 100 |
| Indiana, State of | 50 |
| Iowa, State of | 110 |
| Island of Paros & Naxos, Greek Islands | 190 |
| Japan Stone | 220 |
| Jefferson Medical College, PA, Class of 53-54 | 280 |
| Jefferson Society of the Univ. of VA | 270 |
| Journeymen Stonecutters of Philadelphia | 40 |
| Kansas, State of | 210 |
| Kentucky, State of | 230 |
| Ladies of Lowell, MA | 250 |
| L + Fallon 1879 | 90 |
| Little Falls Quarry, District of Columbia | 30 |
| Lirtle Rock, Arkansas | 90 |
| Louisiana, Stare of | 40 |
| Maine, State of | 30 |
| Maryland Pilgrims Assoc. of Baltimore | 80 |
| Maryland, State of | 80 |
| Masons,#20, Ellicotts Mills, MD | 120 |
| Masons, Grand Lodge of Alabama | 140 |
| Masons, Grand Lodge of Arkansas | 210 |
| Masons, Grand Lodge of Florida | 230 |
| Masons, Grand Lodge of Georgia | 140 |
| Masons, Grand Lodge of Illinois | 140 |
| Masons, Grand Lodge of Iowa | 210 |
| Masons, Grand Lodge of Kentucky | 110 |
| Masons, Grand Lodge of Maryland | 130 |

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| Masons, Grand Lodge of Mississippi | 210 |
| Masons, Grand Lodge of New York | 110 |
| Masons, Grand Lodge of Ohio | 110 |
| Masons, Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania | 180 |
| Masons, Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia | 50 |
| Masons, Grand Lodge of Virginia | 200 |
| Masons, Lebanon, Pennsylvania | 130 |
| Masons, Lodge #36 of Richmond, VA | 200 |
| Masons of New York City, #64, New York | 160 |
| Masons of New York City, Lodge 21 | 130 |
| Masons of Roxbury, MA | 170 |
| Massachusetts, State of | 70 |
| Mechanics of Raleigh, NC | 90 |
| Methodist Episcopal Sunday Schools, NYC | 260 |
| Michigan, State of | 210 |
| Minnesota, State of | 220 |
| Mississippi, State of | 90 |
| Missouri Tribute | 90 |
| Montana, State of | 220 |
| Nashville, Tennessee | 40 |
| National Greys, DC | 30 |
| Nebraska, State of | 220 |
| Nevada, State of | 220 |
| New Bedford,MA | 170 |
| New England Society in Montreal | 260 |
| New Hampshire, State of | 60 |
| New Jersey, State of | 70 |
| New Mexico, State of | 330 |
| New York City, New York | 130 |
| New York, Masterton and Smith | 140 |
| New York, State of | 160 |
| Newark, New Jersey | 160 |
| Newark, New Jersey, Wash. Erina Guard | 260 |
| North Carolina, State of | 100 |
| North Dakota, State of | 350 |
| Oakland College, Mississippi | 130 |
| Odd Fellows, Grand Lodge of the U.S | 200 |
| Ohio, State of | 90 |
| Okinawa Stone (Ryukyuan Stone) | 310 |
| Oklahoma, State of | 290 |
| Oldest Inhabitants of D.C | 240 |
| Oregon, State of | 220 |
| Otter's Summit, Virginia | 140 |
| Pennsylvania, D.D. Hitner Quarry | 140 |
| Pennsylvania, State of | 180 |
| Peter Force | 110 |
| Philadelphia, Pennsylvania | 180 |
| Postmasters and Assistants, IN | 110 |
| Proprietors of Cincinnati Commercial | 250 |
| Pupils of Public Schools, Baltimore, MD | 260 |
| Rhode Island, State of | 100 |
| Richmond, VA | 200 |

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| Roxbury, MA | 120 |
| Sabbath School Children of Philadelphia .- | 260 |
| Salem, Massachusetts | 170 |
| Siam | 190 |
| Sons of Temperance, Connecticut | 130 |
| Sons of Temperance, Grand Division, IL | 210 |
| Sons of Temperance, Grand Division, NC | 70 |
| Sons of Temperance, Grand Division, OH | 210 |
| Sons of Temperance, Pennsylvania .- | 180 |
| Sons of Temperance, Rhode Island | 120 |
| Sons of Temperance, Supreme Council | 200 |
| Sons of Temperance, Virginia | 70 |
| South Carolina, State of | 60 |
| South Dakota, State of | 300 |
| Stockton, San Joaquin County, CA | 250 |
| Tennessee, State of | 230 |
| Texas, State of | 290 |
| Thalian Assoc., Wilmington, NC | 250 |
| Top of Statue on Capital (Dome) | 330 |
| Turkey (Arabic Stone) | 190 |
| Tuscarora Tribe No. 5, I.O.R.M., DC | 240 |
| Two Disciples of Daguerre | 280 |
| Union Society, Hillsborough, NC | 130 |
| United American Mechanics, PA | 240 |
| United Sons of America, PA | 70 |
| Utah State "Deseret" | 220 |
| Utah, State of | 220 |
| Vermont, State of | 170 |
| Virginia, State of | 80 |
| Wales | 240 |
| Warren, RI | 160 |
| Washington College, Lexington, VA | 130 |
| Washington Light Infantry, DC | 50 |
| Washington Monument Society, G. Walkerson | 30 |
| Washington, State of | 310 |
| West Virginia, State of | 200 |
| Western Military Institute, Kentucky | 280 |
| Westmoreland County, VA, Birthplace | 60 |
| Wisconsin, State of | 100 |
| Wyoming Territory | 220 |
| Young Mens Mercantile Assoc. of America | 250 |

**For Further Information:**

**Source Documents for this compilation:** Vertical Files, Jefferson Library, compliments of John Lockwood.

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**Websites:**

- *George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate and Gardens*
  Access at: http://www.mountvernon.org/
  Includes biographical information and a special section entitled "George Washington And Slavery."

- *The Papers of George Washington*
  Access at: http://www.virginia.edu/gwpapers/
  Includes presidential and revolutionary documents. Also includes "Rules of Civility And Decent Behaviour In Company and Conversation" -exercises Washington wrote while a schoolboy. There are also five acrostics written about Washington and published in newspapers during his lifetime.

**Researching Official Records** In 1901 some records of the Washington National Monument Society, including the records of the Joint Commission and its building committee, were sent to the Library of Congress for safekeeping. Later, the Office of Public Buildings and Public Parks wanted the whole building for the use of visitors. By a resolution adopted at the Society's annual meeting, February 23, 1931, the Society relinquished the record room in the lodge on condition that the Director of the Office of Public Buildings and Public Parks provide a safe place for the records in that room as well as those at the Library of Congress and ensure them a place when a national archives was built. On May 15, the Library of Congress turned over the transferred records to the Office of Public Buildings and Public Parks.

When the Society's records were accessioned by the National Archives, they had no discernible arrangement. Since then, the records of some officers-particularly the

secretary and treasurer-and committees have been segregated or their order reconstructed. Most of the secretary's correspondence has been arranged chronologically by year or sometimes by subject. The inventory has carried the arrangement work further by making separate series of correspondence or letters received on specific subjects. In order to be maximally useful, besides the usual cross-references, descriptions of series have been made rather full, indicating, where possible, records that probably belong together and related records.

The Thomas Lincoln Casey Papers in the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities, Boston, MA, include some letters received, drafts of letters, notes, reports, estimates, and other documents (1874-95) concerning completion of the monument under Casey's direction. Also part of the collection are a few original reports of Robert Mills and other documents (1848-54) written by or to him concerning construction of the monument.

National Archives, Records Group 42 includes the following collections of importance:

Records of the Washington National Monument Society, 1833-1951.

Records of the Joint Commission for the Completion of the Washington Monument, 1876-1892

Records of the Building Committee, 1876-1892.

Records of the Engineer in Charge, 1876-1892.

Records of the Joint Commission on the Dedication of the Monument, 1884-1885

Researching the Papers of Robert Mills A sizable body of Mills' personal and professional papers and designs remain, concentrated chiefly in Washington, D.C., at the U.S. National Archives, Library of Congress, Office of the Architect of the Capitol, and Archive of American Art in the Smithsonian Institution. Other repositories include the South Carolina Library at the University of South Carolina and the South Carolina Department of Archives and History, Columbia; the South Carolina Historical Society and the City Archives, Charleston; and the Southeastern Architectural Archive of the Howard-Tilton Memorial Library at Tulane University. Further documents are preserved at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania and the Athenaeum, Philadelphia; Huntington Library, San Marino, Calif.; City Archives. Historical Society of Maryland, and Peale Museum, Baltimore; the libraries of the University of North Carolina and the University of Virginia; Massachusetts Historical Society and particularly valuable regarding Mills' private life, in the Richard X. Evans Collection at Georgetown University. The majority of these documents have been gathered on microfilm under the editorship of Pamela Scott as *Papers of Robert Mills* (1990).

The chief studies of Mills are John M. Bryan, ed., *Robert Mills, Architect* (1989), the catalog of an exhibition concentrating on his architectural practice, with critical essays;

and R. Windsor Liscombe, Altogether American, Robert Mills, Architect and Engineer, 1781-1855 (1994), which examines Mills' design and thought in the context of his private life and the contemporary United States and which includes a full bibliography. Aspects of his career in South Carolina are related in greater depth in Gene Waddell, Mills's Atlas of the State of South Carolina (1980); Waddell and Liscombe, Robert Mills's Courthouses and Jails (1981); and Liscombe, The Church Architecture of Robert Mills (1985).