



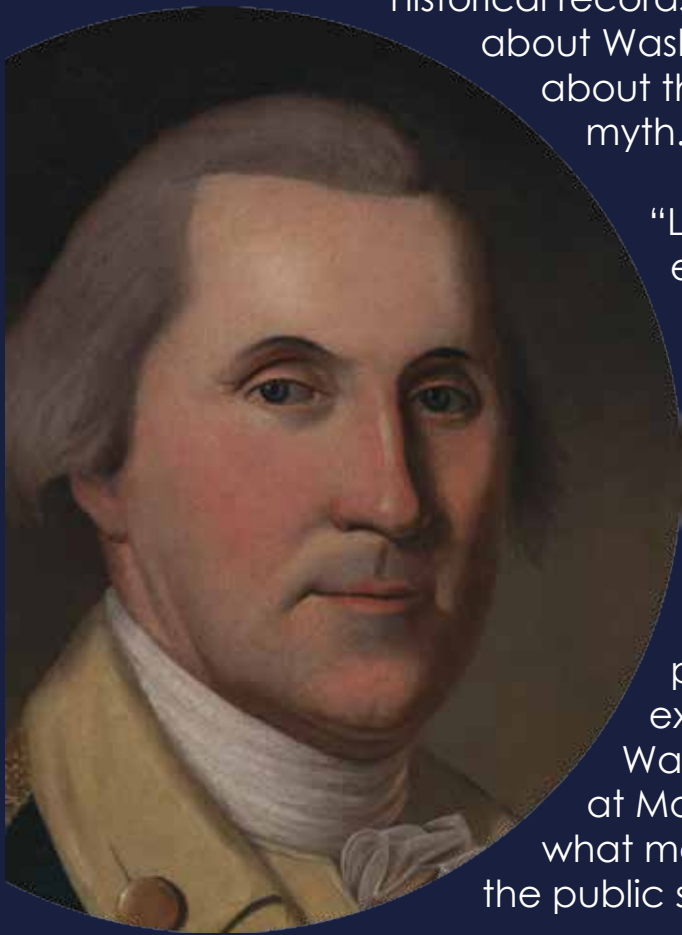
WASHINGTON

The Myths and the Man

VIRGINIA MUSEUM OF
HISTORY & CULTURE

As commander-in-chief, George Washington led the Continental Army to victory. As president of the Constitutional Convention he helped forge the independent states into a nation. As the first President of the United States he established precedents that continue to define that office. After his death in 1799 Washington was “above the clouds,” to paraphrase Mason Locke Weems, the general’s most popular biographer. The glorification of Washington continued for more than a century, culminating in the romanticized and popular history paintings of the Philadelphia artist Jean Leon Gerome Ferris (1863–1930). These canvases present a remarkably appealing and virtuous figure but provide limited reliable information about the “Father of our Country.” This exhibition presents 13 original paintings by Ferris along with 17

historical records that reveal facts about Washington’s life and about the man behind the myth.



“Lighthorse Harry” Lee eulogized that Washington was “first in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen. . . . The purity of his private character gave effulgence to his public virtues.” This exhibit focuses on Washington’s private life at Mount Vernon to reveal what motivated Washington the public servant.

The exhibition is supported in part by the Robins Foundation

WASHINGTON

The Myths and the Man

EXHIBIT SPECIFICATIONS

- 1 Main text panel
- 6 Subtext panels
- 13 Framed original paintings
- 17 Reproduction panels

Size: 1700 square feet

Rental period: 4 months

Display period: 3 months

For rental pricing and availability please contact

Jamison Davis

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Exhibit Specifications



Washington's Youth 1732-1752

George Washington
Surv of Callpaper Co.
July 22^d 1759



I then upon in conjunction with
the Halt Thing of Monaca woche, formed a disposition to attack
us on all sides, which we accordingly did and after an
Engagement of ab. 15 minutes we killed 10 wounded one
and took 29 Prisoners, amongst those that were killed
was Monsieur De Jumonville the Commander,

Virginia Soldier and Planter 1753-1775



I have been cridged upon by
the unanimous voice of the Colonies to
take the command of the Continental
Army — It is an honour I neither
ought after, or was by any means fond
of accepting

The War Years 1775–1783



American Cincinnatus 1783-1789

Endowment belonging to the State		Inventory in 1789 of the House		
Name	Age	Name	Age	Business
William	24	W. W. W.	24	Walter
Peter	41	W. W. W.	41	Jobber
John	10	W. W. W.	10	Walter
Morris	17	W. W. W.	17	Walter
John	35	W. W. W.	35	Walter
John	23	W. W. W.	23	Walter
John	36	W. W. W.	36	Walter



*You are now entering into that
stage of life when good, or bad habits are
formed:— when the mind will be turned to the
useful & praiseworthy, or to dissipation*

The First President & Retirement 1789–1799

