



THE MOUNT VERNON
LADIES' ASSOCIATION
2023 Annual Report



Thank You, Volunteers





THE MOUNT VERNON LADIES' ASSOCIATION

THE MISSION OF THE MOUNT VERNON LADIES' ASSOCIATION IS TO PRESERVE, RESTORE, AND MANAGE THE ESTATE OF GEORGE WASHINGTON TO THE HIGHEST STANDARDS AND TO EDUCATE VISITORS AND PEOPLE THROUGHOUT THE WORLD ABOUT THE LIFE AND LEGACIES OF GEORGE WASHINGTON, SO THAT HIS EXAMPLE OF CHARACTER AND LEADERSHIP WILL CONTINUE TO INFORM AND INSPIRE FUTURE GENERATIONS. ★

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

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Ladies' Association





Through research, scholarly programs, and special collections, the Washington Library continues to shed new light on the life of George Washington and is the educational base for the preservation and understanding of this historic estate.

—MARGARET H. NICHOLS, REGENT

Letter from the Regent

It is a privilege to present the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association's annual report for the year 2023. This report details the progress of many of our ongoing initiatives and the stories of those who uphold the MVLA's longstanding mission of preservation and education.

Mount Vernon remains fresh in its appeal as a place to find inspiration and common purpose in the history of our nation's founding. With a promise to future generations, the MVLA has purposefully preserved Mount Vernon as a model of dynamic stewardship, balancing innovation with the challenging directive of its founder, Ann Pamela Cunningham, -"Ladies, the Home of Washington is in your charge. See to it that you keep it the Home of Washington!" Visitors learn about the many facets of Washington's legacy layered throughout the pastoral beauty of Mount Vernon.

George Washington never stopped planning, improving, repairing, beautifying, and cherishing his home, and neither has the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association. After years of thorough research, study, and expert consultation, the Association began the Mansion Revitalization project, the most intensive preservation work on the Mansion since taking ownership in 1858. This phased project will span through 2026, offering visitors an exciting and rare opportunity to experience the MVLA's trailblazing preservation efforts firsthand as we celebrate the many anniversaries of the nation's founding. Upon completion, there will be a state-of-the-art HVAC system to protect our most treasured objects to the highest museum

standards, new perspectives through a rich interpretation of the cellar, and – perhaps most importantly – a strong, secure foundation in the Mansion to ensure the home of George Washington will endure for generations to come.

Now in its fourth decade, the Mount Vernon Volunteer Program is a shining example of service. Founded in 1992 by volunteer Jack Evans, the program has grown from 30 volunteers to more than 242 active volunteers. Whether in the archaeology lab, the gardens, or providing a warm welcome in the orientation center – our volunteers give their time and expertise to every department on the estate. This dedicated corps extends Washington's hospitality to all they meet and contributed more than 21,000 hours of service in 2023!

The George Washington Presidential Library celebrated its first decade of scholarship in 2023 after its grand opening on September 27, 2013. Through research, scholarly programs, and special collections, the Washington Library continues to shed new light on the life of George Washington and is the educational base for the preservation and understanding of this historic estate.

On a beautiful October morning, a celebration was held honoring the 40 year anniversary of the Slave Memorial Monument. Designed by architecture students from Howard University and unveiled in 1983, this Monument commemorates and ensures that all enslaved persons, especially those who lived, worked, and died at Mount Vernon, are honored for their contributions. This testament to the power of collective stewardship was hosted by Black Women United for



Action and the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association. The anniversary celebration culminated with a gala dinner raising funds for a research fellowship at the Washington Library to support African American history and leadership.

As you read this year's report noting the many accomplishments and ongoing efforts, it is clear that the MVLA's mission is as vital and relevant now as it was when the Association chose to save our first president's home in 1858. The unprecedented and foundational work on the Mansion is tangible evidence of that commitment, as is the Association's 166 years of uninterrupted stewardship. Thank you for your generosity and commitment to our mission. It is felt every day by those who visit Mount Vernon and are inspired by the legacy, leadership and life of George Washington.

Meg Nichols
Margaret H. Nichols
Regent

Letter from the President

2023 was a year of celebration and achievement. The George Washington Presidential Library celebrated a milestone 10th anniversary. The Mount Vernon Ladies' Association's vision to create an important institution that houses George Washington's personal books and papers, supports scholarship of the founding era, and produces robust public programming, among many other functions, has met with tremendous success in one short decade.

The Library has transformed our educational endeavors, bringing George Washington's values and leadership lessons to the public and classrooms worldwide. We have engaged audiences in meaningful discourse and learning by hosting symposia, lectures, book talks, leadership groups, and teacher programs. In honor of this significant anniversary, we sponsored one of our most impactful events to date, exploring the past and future of our nation's governing order in the George Washington Symposium, *The Great Experiment: Democracy from the Founding to the Future*.

We at Mount Vernon constantly think about the future while we educate the world about our past. Nothing signifies this more than our commitment to preserving and restoring George Washington's estate. We are now undertaking the largest preservation effort since the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association took over

the management of Mount Vernon more than 160 years ago. With our Mansion Revitalization Project, we are safeguarding the original building fabric and preserving this iconic home for generations to come. In 2023 we completed the first major step of this great project, the completion of the mechanical bunker underground next to the Mansion. I am happy to say we completed the bunker on time and under budget.

This huge task requires a great deal of time and resources, and we are grateful to our supporters, donors, and members like you. With your assistance, this critical work will be completed over the next few years, and we can be confident that millions of future visitors will also get the chance to walk in the footsteps of George Washington at the place he cherished most.

Preserving the Mansion is the cornerstone of *Strengthening Our Foundations: The Campaign for Mount Vernon*. The success of this Campaign also allows us to invest in exhibition work and the professional development of teachers. The ongoing Campaign will provide the support we need to continue to educate the world about the life and legacy of George Washington.

The most valuable—and scarce—resource we all have is time. Mount Vernon could not function at its high level without our volunteer army. Every day, a volunteer at Mount Vernon assists with a wide range of essential



tasks, from planting in the gardens, to driving golf carts during special events, to serving as the friendly face at the front desk. We are so grateful to the passionate volunteers who provide their time and talent to ensure Mount Vernon has the extra support necessary to succeed.

We can do all this amazing work because of you. The dedication of the entire Mount Vernon community of supporters—in all the various ways you generously contribute—is unparalleled, and we are incredibly grateful. Because of you, we are indeed strengthening our foundations for years to come.

My very best thanks,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Douglas Bradburn". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Douglas Bradburn, Ph.D.
President and CEO



STRENGTHENING OUR FOUNDATIONS

The Campaign for Mount Vernon

In 2023, fundraising was bolstered by a multi-million-dollar gift from Washington Cabinet member Karen Buchwald Wright, which was matched by Ariel Corporation, where she serves as chairman of the board. This support for the Campaign enabled the year-end Revolution to Revitalization Matching Gift Challenge and inspired contributions from others.

The cornerstone of the Campaign is the once-in-a-lifetime preservation effort to revitalize the Mansion. This multi-year project got underway in 2023. It will address both structural and

environmental concerns through work such as repairing framing and masonry, underpinning the foundation wall, rebuilding cross walls, and replacing the HVAC system. It is an honor and privilege for our generation to be the one to do this work to preserve the Mansion.

The Campaign also augments Mount Vernon's annual support and endowment to ensure adequate resources are available to maintain George Washington's estate and educate the world about his life and legacies despite any future volatility in visitation.

In addition, gifts to the Campaign are enhancing Mount Vernon's educational efforts through exhibit revitalizations and professional development programs for teachers nationwide. Mount Vernon received a \$2 million commitment from Dr. Jennifer Burkhart London to honor her family by providing support for the revitalization of the exhibition on George Washington's biography in the Donald W. Reynolds Museum and Education Center. Fifteen additional donors supported this project in 2023 for a combined \$4.7 million, including



Fundraising for *Strengthening Our Foundations: The Campaign for Mount Vernon* has topped \$160 million for the extraordinary achievements chronicled in this report.



a \$1 million commitment from Sanda and Jeremiah Lambert to sponsor the space for interactive family learning experiences.

The Campaign also benefitted from Mount Vernon's most successful fundraiser to date. The gala celebrating the 10th anniversary of the George Washington Presidential Library raised more than \$2.5 million to support the Campaign and Mount Vernon's education and preservation mission. Current and emerita members of the board provided extraordinary leadership and support for the event.

The year 2023 also marked the centennial anniversary of Henry Ford's visit to Mount Vernon and the historic philanthropic partnership between the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association and the Ford Motor Company. In addition to their annual support of the Spirit of Mount Vernon, Ford Evening Book Talks, and discounts for Title 1 schools, Ford gave a special commemorative gift. The special donation sponsored the gala celebrating the 10th anniversary of the George Washington Presidential Library, the expanded 2023 George Washington Symposium focused on democracy, and

Mount Vernon's 2024 commemorations of President's Day. Mount Vernon deeply appreciates and values this meaningful 100-year relationship.

We are also grateful to the tens of thousands of donors from across the country who have supported the Campaign at all levels. Opportunities remain to become involved. Through the efforts of this Campaign, in 2026, we look forward to presenting the revitalized Mount Vernon as a birthday gift to the country and a reminder of all we owe the indispensable father of our experiment in democracy.





PRESERVING THE MANSION AND HISTORIC AREA

Mansion Exterior Restoration

Little Parlor

Wash House

The Bunker Project

Fresh Perspectives





PRESERVING THE MANSION AND HISTORIC AREA

Mansion Exterior Restoration

Completion of painting and sanding the Mansion's east front marked the culmination of a significant preservation initiative: a landmark, multi-year campaign to restore the entire exterior of George and Martha Washington's home, protecting the structure from the

elements and refreshing its appearance to "look best and most resemble Stone," as Washington intended.

Beginning with the west front in 2019, the Architecture team systematically worked across each elevation. After removing built-up sand paint (more than two dozen layers in

some areas), they assessed the condition and made repairs to both the siding and framing. They painstakingly researched original fabric, previous treatments, and current work, then finished off by applying fresh sand paint, following the very same procedures that the General himself prescribed.



PRESERVING THE MANSION AND HISTORIC AREA

Little Parlor

New discoveries regarding wall treatments, artwork, and furnishings guided the curatorial efforts in 2023 to align the Little Parlor with its 1799 appearance, building upon the architectural work carried out in recent years. The walls display a vibrant floral-trail wallpaper with both a wide floral border and a narrow classical border—all reproduced from a rare set of surviving papers originally sold by the same supplier that George Washington patronized. Reproductions of 15 of the 20 artworks recorded in the room in his probate inventory are on display, the most complete representation to date. Architectural work in the room included rebuilding the Rumford firebox insert, restoring the window sashes, and repainting the woodwork with replica hand-ground paint to represent the 1790s cream-colored finish.









PRESERVING THE MANSION AND HISTORIC AREA

Wash House

The wash house reopened to the public following exterior carpentry repairs and a new interior scenario that captures the volume of work performed by Dolshy and Vina, enslaved laundresses, to maintain the “well-resorted tavern” that was Mount Vernon. The installation highlights the many tasks performed here, from washing, drying, and ironing personal and household linens to mending items of clothing, brushing hats, and laundering and drying fine lace. The preservation work included innovative framing repairs that enabled carpenters to test an approach that will be used in the coming months during the Mansion Revitalization Project.



PRESERVING THE MANSION AND HISTORIC AREA

The Bunker Project

Visitors to Mount Vernon this year encountered an unusual sight: outside the New Room's grand Venetian window, excavators, drills, and cement trucks were hard at work, expanding the underground mechanical bunker north of the Mansion. First, the Archaeology team excavated the site to ensure all cultural resources were documented and removed. Then, construction crews excavated a swimming-pool-sized hole, lined it with concrete, and covered it over so that nothing remains visible. The expanded bunker will support a new HVAC unit to better control environmental conditions in the Mansion—a key element of our landmark Mansion Revitalization Project. Officially launching in 2024, this visionary effort will safeguard the Mansion for another century of educating and inspiring its visitors.





PRESERVING THE MANSION AND HISTORIC AREA

Fresh Perspectives

Washington and Mount Vernon Commemoratives on Display

In celebration of the Washington Library's 10th anniversary, the Fine and Decorative Arts staff installed a new exhibit in the Ann and John Bookout Reception Hall. *George Washington in the American Home, 1795–1870*, curated by curatorial intern Georgina Ohrstrom, showcases decorative glass and china wares, an enameled copper portrait, silver chalices, and an iconic gilt-bronze mantel clock.



Promising Discoveries at Union Farm

Our summer archaeological field school at George Washington's Union Farm made significant strides in this landmark investigation of an outlying agricultural slave quarter. In addition to several thousand artifacts, archaeologists discovered evidence of quarter dwellings, potentially with two wells and a compost midden or planting beds (likely those described by a Mount Vernon visitor in 1798).



Textile Storage: Strong Foundations

With the generous funding of the Connoisseur Society, 90 percent of our unparalleled textile collection now has custom storage mounts. This preventive conservation measure provides external and internal support for fragile textiles, allowing them to be clearly seen and studied while minimizing their movement and handling and the risk of damage. The Connoisseur Society also funded critical conservation needs for important individual pieces, such as Martha Washington's brown silk gown and purple silk wedding shoes.





TEACHING AMERICA'S STORY

The George Washington Presidential Library:
10 Years of Excellence

The Founding Debates

The Democracy Symposium

Celebrating Excellence with Our
Student of the Year Award Winners

Interpreting Together

Slave Memorial Commemoration

Research Fellows



TEACHING AMERICA'S STORY

The George Washington Presidential Library: 10 Years of Excellence

The George Washington Presidential Library at Mount Vernon stands as a testament to the enduring legacy of George Washington and his role in the founding of the United States. Rooted in its mission to illuminate the life and times of the nation's first president, the Washington Library serves as a beacon of historical preservation, scholarship, and education. Over the past decade, the Library has emerged as a leading institution for knowledge creation and exchange, shaping the discussion surrounding Washington's contributions to the nation's history and guiding the understanding of our past.

Central to the Library's mission is its extensive collection of original Washington books and manuscripts, meticulously curated and continuously augmented with new acquisitions. These materials serve as primary sources for researchers, educators, students, and the public, offering invaluable insights into Washington's character, leadership style, and enduring influence on American society. From personal correspondence to official documents, the Library's archives provide a window into the life of a revolutionary leader and the turbulent times in which he lived.

One of the hallmarks of the Washington Library is its annual gatherings of research fellows, comprised of scholars dedicated to advancing our understanding of Washington

and his era through innovative research. In its first 10 years, the Library has welcomed more than 150 scholars from around the globe. These fellows delve into various aspects of Washington's life and times, exploring themes such as his military leadership, political philosophy, entrepreneurship, and experimental farming. Their scholarly contributions not only enrich the Library's collection but also inform a wide range of programmed events, including lectures, symposia, conferences, book talks, and gatherings of thought leaders.

Furthermore, the Library's commitment to scholarship extends beyond its physical walls, fostering international collaboration through fellowships and conferences. Dignitaries and foreign leaders alike are drawn to the Library's resources, recognizing its place as a global center for the study of Washington and the founding era. It has hosted major gatherings abroad, in Turin, Paris, and Madrid, and has plans for one in London in 2025. By facilitating dialogue and exchange on an international scale, the Library strengthens its impact and relevance in an increasingly interconnected world.

In addition to its scholarly endeavors, the Washington Library is dedicated to education, ensuring that the lessons of Washington's life and legacy reach audiences of all ages and backgrounds. On-site and virtual teacher programs provide educators with the tools and resources to incorporate



“Today, in this beautiful setting on this magnificent morning, we are opening a library at Mount Vernon. How thrilling. How important. Not just because it is long overdue but because of the influence, the inspiration, the effect, the impact that this gathering place, this center of learning, will have on future generations of all people of all kinds from all over the world.”

—David McCullough | September 27, 2013



Washington's story into their curricula, while free digital educational resources make historical knowledge accessible to students worldwide. Through innovative initiatives such as the Center for Digital History, the Library leverages technology to engage with the next generation, producing research databases, award-winning videos, digital programming, and podcasts that bring history to life in new and captivating ways.

Looking ahead to the next decade, the Washington Library remains committed to its mission of fostering excellence in education and preservation. As the custodian of George Washington's life and legacy, the Library recognizes the importance of acquiring additional items that document this pivotal era and ensuring that scholars have the resources to uncover new insights and narratives. By embracing emerging technologies, the Library seeks to extend its reach beyond

physical boundaries, sharing its collections and stories with audiences around the globe.

Moreover, as the nation approaches significant anniversaries, including the 250th of American Independence in 2026 and the 300th of Washington's birth in 2032, the Library will play a central role in commemorating these milestones and shaping public interest. By convening important conversations and fostering dialogue on the meaning and relevance of America's founding principles, the Library reaffirms its commitment to advancing historical understanding and civic engagement in American life.

As Washington emphasized, a democracy's strength hinges on the historical literacy of its citizens, a role the Library is poised to fulfill in the years to come.



TEACHING AMERICA'S STORY

The Founding Debates



The George Washington Presidential Library hosted a memorable Founding Debates program on September 29, 2023, in honor of its 10th anniversary.

Fox News Chief Political Anchor & Executive Editor Bret Baier opened the event in conversation with Executive Director of the Washington Library Patrick Spero in which Baier discussed his new book, *To Rescue the Constitution: George Washington and the Fragile American Experiment*. While the book's release date was still 10 days away, Baier surprised the audience by announcing that his publisher had provided complimentary copies to everyone in attendance.

Baier then took over as interviewer and was joined by his All-Star Panel, which included Washington Times columnist Charlie Hurt and USA TODAY's Washington Bureau chief Susan Page. They explored George Washington's indispensable role in enacting the Constitution and its lasting effects on America today. Their conversation also covered George Washington's famed "Farewell Address," highlighting his prescient warning of political polarization, the risk of foreign entanglements, and his precedent of a peaceful transfer of power.

Following the program, the guest speakers joined the audience for a cocktail reception. Baier graciously signed hundreds of copies of his book *To Rescue the Constitution*.

Prior to the event, *Special Report* filmed the show live from the George Washington Presidential Library. Mount Vernon President & CEO Doug Bradburn was interviewed for a show segment.



The Founding Debates are sponsored by the Ammerman Family Foundation, Dr. Denis Franks and Joy Ammerman Franks, and Michael and Stephanie Franks to honor former Mount Vernon President and CEO James C. Rees, whose vision lives on in the Washington Library.



TEACHING AMERICA'S STORY

The Democracy Symposium

On November 2–4, 2023, in honor of the George Washington Presidential Library's tenth anniversary, Mount Vernon assembled many of the nation's most respected and thoughtful historians, authors, journalists, and leaders to examine American democracy in the symposium, *The Great Experiment: Democracy from the Founding to the Future*.

At the event, virtually every speaker agreed that there are significant threats to democracy in America and that there is a grave need to improve civics education.

The program started with a black-tie dinner at the State Department's Diplomatic Reception Rooms. The topic of the evening was America's role in the world. CNN's Natasha Bertrand moderated a conversation between US Deputy Secretary of State Richard Verma and president emeritus of the Council on Foreign Relations Richard Haass.

The following two days at Mount Vernon offered thoughtful discussions and insights on the history and future of democracy and the new challenges America faces to protect its democratic form of government. A key highlight of the symposium was top retired military leaders—General Joseph Dunford, Jr., General John Kelly, and General Jim Mattis—together on stage for the first time since their retirement, discussing the military's role in democracy with Pulitzer Prize-winning author Rick Atkinson.

At the symposium, retired General Kelly said, "What's the greatest thing that George Washington did, in my opinion? He did it twice. He went home. All the other stuff that he did, unbelievable stuff that he did, took us to victory in the Revolutionary War and then began to establish how to be a president when there was no guidebook for him to do it. All of that remarkable stuff. But he went home twice. And that lesson

is a lesson that, certainly, people in the military understand, and I think has set the standard for politicians and military men and women since then. He went home."

Additionally, experts discussed Constitutional interpretation today. U.S. Court of Appeals Judge David S. Tatel reflected, "I have been around a long time, and my perspective is based pretty much on my own experience, but . . . the country and the courts themselves are far more polarized than they were 25 years ago. And you see that in our courts in terms of the increasing, large number of ideologically divided, not just Supreme Court decisions, but decisions of the lower federal courts where I sit.

"There's a huge debate going on in the Supreme Court about some pretty fundamental constitutional questions. The role of the federal administrative state, voting rights, affirmative action, abortion, all of these issues are being debated at the same time. I'm not aware of a time in American history where that's happened, at least not in current American history."

The event also featured a new national poll on Americans' views on the future of democracy. Sponsored by the George Washington Presidential Library in publicity partnership with the University of Virginia Center for Politics, this national survey found that Americans have deep concerns about the health of American Democracy, with younger generations skeptical of democracy. More than two-thirds of Americans (67 percent) said democracy in the U.S. is on the wrong track, and 77 percent think democracy is in jeopardy.

The Democracy Symposium was presented by Ford and sponsored by Lee & Toni Verstandig. The annual George Washington Symposium is supported by a generous endowment established by The Barra Foundation.

To view the conversations, please visit mountvernon.org/democracy



James Byrd



Riki Karamura

TEACHING AMERICA'S STORY

Celebrating Excellence with Our Student of the Year Award Winners

In our third year of awarding the Mount Vernon Prize for Excellence in Civics and History in Honor of Dr. Jennifer London, our commitment to supporting student achievement extends across the country to Washington State, for High School Winner James Byrd, and Hawaii, for Middle School Winner Riki Karamura. This prize is made possible by the generous legacy gift of Jack London in honor of his wife Dr. London, who continues to champion the students and the program that elevates the sharing of George Washington's story to future generations.

Our High School Winner, James Byrd, stood out for his intent, engaging delivery, and commitment to civic engagement. He wrote and performed a one-act play about Washington's early years to promote a greater relatability with and understanding of Washington for younger audiences. James is a member of the Chickasaw Nation and a member of the Children of the American Revolution (C.A.R.), and part of his performance addressed Washington's recognition of Indigenous nations and Chickasaw sovereignty. While crisscrossing the state giving his performances, James emphasized the importance of civic participation among young people and the importance of learning more about the man for whom their state was named. His creativity, effort, scholarship, and success in reaching so many people made him the unanimous recommendation for the award by our Student Advisory panel.

Our Middle School Winner, Riki Karamura, wrote an essay about George Washington's military successes. The paper is much more than a mere retelling of military battles fought by Washington; it delves into the lessons learned from each. His nuanced understanding of leadership shines through as he identifies qualities such as integrity, courage, and adaptability that made Washington a great military leader—encouraging the reader to look beyond Washington's military record to understand his military greatness. Riki made thorough use of Mount Vernon's digital resources, such as the Digital Encyclopedia, in his in-depth research for this paper.

The Student of the Year Award is one way Mount Vernon elevates and centers student voices in our work to prepare for future generations. The Student Advisory Board, a select group of eight local high school students committed to Mount Vernon's success with younger audiences, served as part of this year's review committee. In 2024, these students will take an expanded role in the award. In collaboration with the board, we plan to involve them in the creation of promotional content, seeking their insights on how to encourage more submissions.

As we celebrate the achievements of James and Riki, we invite our readers to join us in recognizing outstanding students in your circles. If you know a student making significant contributions to research and sharing the leadership and legacy of George Washington, we encourage you to nominate them for consideration in future award cycles.

To nominate a student, please visit mountvernon.org/studentoftheyear



TEACHING AMERICA'S STORY

Interpreting Together

Each year, George Washington's Mount Vernon welcomes hundreds of thousands of guests, each eager to see the home of our nation's first president. From the gate to the gift shop and everywhere in between, guests immerse themselves in history as they explore the grounds. Getting lost in the 18th century at Mount Vernon doesn't happen by accident; it takes a dedicated team of professionals, across several departments, to research, develop, deploy, and support all the work that goes on at the estate. One department in particular, Interpretation, engages with nearly every single visitor Mount Vernon welcomes with its focus on educational tours and programs.

Interpretation is responsible for distilling an immense amount of information about George Washington into accessible and informative content for visitors of all ages. Each of the three sub-departments, History Interpretation, Historic Trades, and Character Interpretation, has its own unique areas of expertise. History Interpretation guides guests through the Mansion, New Tomb, and grounds. Historic Trades interprets the Farm, blacksmith shop, Distillery, and Gristmill and provides demonstrations of trades common in the late 1700s. Character Interpretation transports guests to Washington's time, emotionally connecting the past to the present. Though each group has its unique areas of focus, 2023 was a year of cooperation between teams.

Staff intentionally broke down barriers between departments to enhance the expertise shared and improve the engagement of our student audience. History and Character Interpreters cross-trained at the Farm site, which included at the 16-sided treading barn and slave cabin, and Don Francisco, History Interpretation's Resident Fifer, led students in marches and drills. The additional staffing on the Farm allowed Historic Trades to focus on increasing their demonstrations of cooking, baking, spinning, and fishing while also staffing the spinning house and blacksmith shop in the historic area.

The benefits of this cross-training were highlighted during Mount Vernon's 2023 Colonial Days programming. This popular offering brings local school systems, particularly students in grades 2–5, to Mount Vernon to learn about life in colonial America. Students who attend Colonial Days see demonstrations and learn about farming, play 18th-century games, pay tribute to the Washingtons at the New Tomb, and tour the Mansion. In the past, Historic Trades staffed the Farm, while History Interpretation covered the New Tomb and Mansion. The cross-training this year provided a more robust experience, including increased demonstrations and broader access to experts for students while also increasing staff knowledge and encouraging camaraderie across departments.



“This gathering is a testament to the tenacity of the power and the presence of the life of ancestors; their story matters; this place matters.”

—Jason Boroughs, Ph.D., Mount Vernon
Research Archaeologist

TEACHING AMERICA’S STORY

Slave Memorial Commemoration

The Slave Memorial at Mount Vernon has stood for 40 years, honoring the hundreds of enslaved individuals who labored, lived, and loved on the Mount Vernon estate and serving as a testament to the power of collective stewardship. Esteemed local and international guests were welcomed to participate in a series of powerful events to commemorate the Slave Memorial in 2023. A poignant public memorial ceremony was held, along with a fundraising gala to support the creation of an African American history research fellowship to advance the study of the contributions of enslaved and free black people at the George Washington Presidential Library.

Black Women United for Action, a local civic organization, hosted the annual Slave Memorial Commemoration on Saturday, October 7. The event served as a reminder of the lives and legacies of enslaved people at Mount Vernon. It celebrated the 40th anniversary of the Slave Memorial’s installation and dedication and the 33rd year of Black Women United for Action’s involvement.

On September 21, 1983, the Slave Memorial was dedicated and opened to the public thanks to the efforts of concerned citizens, including descendants of the enslaved community, Black Women United for Action, and the Mount Vernon

Ladies’ Association. Howard University architecture students designed the memorial, which features a truncated granite column in the center of three concentric brick circles inscribed with the words “Faith,” “Hope,” and “Love.” This memorial rededicated this sacred bluff above the Potomac River as the final resting place for enslaved and free black people who lived and labored at Mount Vernon in the 18th and 19th centuries.

The commemoration event was an opportunity for remembrance and reflection, an amalgamation of talented and determined individuals dedicated to remembering the past and educating the future. Black Women United for Action founder Sheila Coates delivered remarks, underscoring the significance of honoring the enslaved community and recognizing the work done by past community members to bring about the memorial. The Regent of the Mount Vernon Ladies’ Association Meg Nichols, Mount Vernon President & CEO Dr. Doug Bradburn, Research Archaeologist Dr. Jason Boroughs, and various international guests added their voices to the ceremony, highlighting the importance of acknowledging Mount Vernon’s diverse history and sharing the work of the MVLA and its partners in recognizing and elevating the history and stories of the enslaved community.



For moments when spoken words proved not enough to express the gravity of the day, performances filled the space. Djembe drumming opened the ceremony, providing a heartbeat that gave life to the day's events. George Washington Presidential Library Fellow Dominic Shodekeh Talifero performed an original piece during the ceremony that marked the culmination of his fellowship, exploring the histories of the enslaved community through breath. Musical interludes, performed by the Virginia State Choir, resonated throughout the Robert H. and Clarice Smith Auditorium, carrying the ceremony's weight to other areas of the estate.

At the ceremony's close, guests were invited to participate and pay their respects by laying boxwood sprigs at the center of the Slave Memorial, a simple act symbolizing remembrance, honoring the lives of the enslaved community, and promising never to forget their stories.

The remembrance celebration concluded with a gala dinner inspired by Hercules Posey, the enslaved chef of the Washingtons, widely admired for his culinary skills, followed by celebratory fireworks on October 20.



Event photos by Monroe Anderson Jr. LLC



TEACHING AMERICA'S STORY

Research Fellows

Mount Vernon continues to foster academic research on George Washington and the founding era. The Research Fellowships program offers short- and long-term fellowships for scholars. This program provides funding and living space at the Richard and Helen DeVos House on the grounds of the George Washington Presidential Library at Mount Vernon. Fellows gain access to the Library's collections and interact with Mount Vernon staff to advance their academic pursuits.

Learn more at mountvernon.org/researchfellows

2023–2024 Research Fellows

Daniel J. Burge, Ph.D.

Kentucky Historical Society, *The Washington Doctrine: A Continental History, 1800–1920*

Sarah F. Donovan

The College of William & Mary, *Transplanted Whiteboys and Sons of Paxton: Patterns of Extralegal Violence in the British Atlantic World (The Society of Colonial Wars Fellowship)*

Lindsey M. Fisher-Hunt, Ph.D.

Middle Tennessee State University, *Mapping Their Influence: The Widespread Reach of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association (The Amelie W. Cagle Fellowship)*

Edward P. Green

Penn State University, *Power, Diplomacy, and Interdependent Sovereignty in the Choctaw Nation, 1720–1924*

Sally Hadden, Ph.D.

Western Michigan University, *One Supreme Court*

Matthieu Haroux

University of Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, *Rochambeau and the American War of Independence, 1780–1783 (The James C. Rees Fellowship on the Leadership of George Washington)*

Cynthia A. Kierner, Ph.D.

George Mason University, *George Washington and the Ladies of Trenton*

Timothy A. Long

Hindman Auctions, *George Washington's black velvet suits and the formative years of the United States of America (Dr. William M. and Betty H. Busey Family Fellowship)*

Laurence Machet, Ph.D.

Bordeaux-Montaigne University, *George Washington, the Environment, and National Identity*

Dael A. Norwood, Ph.D.

University of Delaware, *The Beginnings of the Businessman (James C. Rees Fellowship on the Entrepreneurship of George Washington)*

John Phibbs

Debois Landscape Survey Group, *The Influence of English Design on Mount Vernon's Landscape*

Meg Roberts

University of Cambridge, *Caregiving and Crisis in the American Revolutionary War*

Lindsay Schakenbach Regele, Ph.D.

Miami University, Ohio, *The Miranda Affair: A Venezuelan Patriot and the United States*

Lucy Smith

University of Michigan, *The Atlantic Bite: Circulation, Economy, and the Meaning of Teeth in George Washington's World*

Dominic Shodekeh Talifero

4-VA: *Advancing the Commonwealth,
Breaths Along the Potomac*

David Williard, Ph.D.

University of St. Thomas, *“One Part
Against Another”: George Washington,
Memory, and the Limits of the Second
American Revolution*

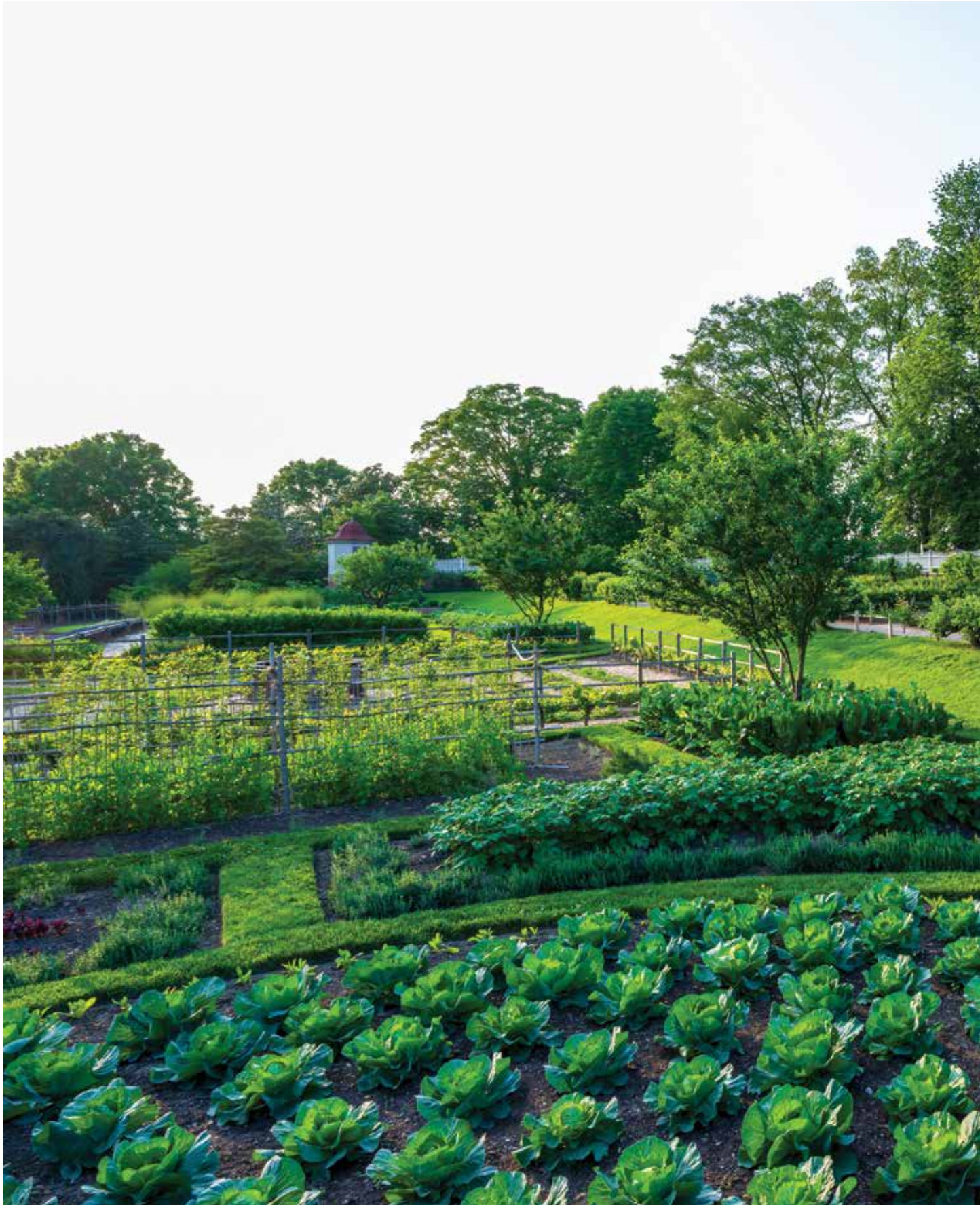
Career stages

7 university faculty members
5 Ph.D. candidates
4 independent scholars

Fellowship length

11 one-month fellows
4 three-month fellows
1 six-month fellow







SECURING OUR FUTURE

Library 10th Anniversary Gala

Birthnight Supper and Ball

The Founders, Washington Committee
for Historic Mount Vernon

The Life Guard Society of
Historic Mount Vernon

Mount Vernon Travel Program

The Connoisseur Society

Spirit of Mount Vernon

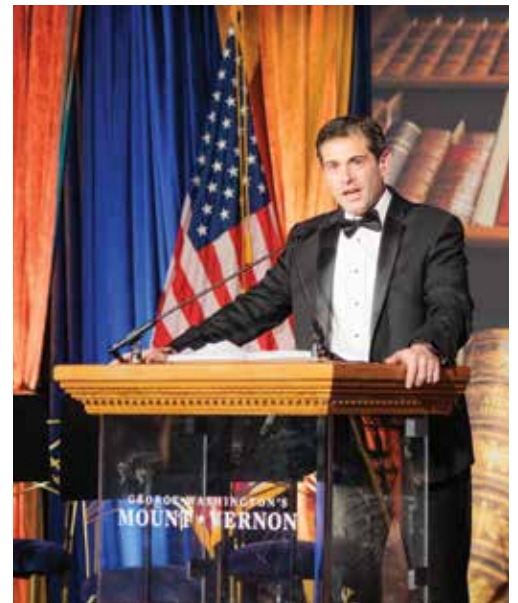
Washington Cabinet



SECURING OUR FUTURE

Library 10th Anniversary Gala

The gala celebrating the 10th anniversary of the George Washington Presidential Library was held on September 30. The event made history as Mount Vernon’s most successful fundraiser to date. The gala was chaired by the Vice Regents for Massachusetts and the District of Columbia. The Vice Regents Emeritae for Florida and Wyoming served as honorary co-chairs. More than 550 guests enjoyed a seated dinner under a tent on the east lawn as well as fireworks, dancing, and a performance by the American Pops Orchestra. Before the event, guests enjoyed complimentary tours of the Mansion and historic area as well as lunch and an open house at the Library. Tours of the Distillery and Gristmill rounded out the festive weekend. Proceeds from the event supported the Campaign for Mount Vernon.



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SECURING OUR FUTURE

Birthnight Supper and Ball

On February 19, 218 guests gathered for the 76th annual Birthnight Supper and Ball—Mount Vernon’s longest-running fundraiser. This tradition celebrates the birth of George Washington. Organized by the Neighborhood Friends, this sold-out black-tie gala supported the restoration and preservation of George Washington’s beloved home.



Neighborhood Friends Steering Committee

The Neighborhood Friends are Mount Vernon members who live on one of George Washington’s original five farms. They support the estate’s mission of education and preservation through their membership contributions.



- Joseph and Ann Somerset, Co-Chairs, *Riverwood on Union Farm*
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- Scott and Gayla Keller, *Tower House on River Farm*
- Ralph and Jennifer Letizia, *Waynewood on River Farm*
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- David McCallum and Victoria Grady, *Wellington on River Farm*
- Paul and Janis Mikolashek, *Surrey-at-the-Potomac on Forest adjacent to Mansion House Farm*
- Michael and Magda Patrick, *River Farm*
- Mark Platt and Julia McLellan, *Fields of Woodlawn on Dogue Run Farm*
- Gregory and Melissa Prunchak, *Riverwood on Union Farm*
- Larry and Kathleen Spoth, *Surrey-at-the-Potomac on Forest adjacent to Mansion House Farm*
- Gregory and Kristin Try, *Waynewood on River Farm*
- John and Pat Veatch, *Collingwood on the Potomac at River Farm*



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SECURING OUR FUTURE

The Founders, Washington Committee for Historic Mount Vernon



The Founders Committee hosted their annual fundraising event on the east lawn on June 4. Proceeds supported the restoration of the Mansion's Old Chamber, the only bedchamber on the first floor. Nearly 200 guests enjoyed Mansion tours, music, a buffet dinner, and views of the Potomac River. The event surpassed its fundraising goal.

Founders Committee Members

The Founders, Washington Committee, is a group of patriotic women from the Washington metropolitan area. Since 1980, their fundraising has supported myriad programs and projects furthering the mission of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association. Their ardent work has added inestimably to the Mount Vernon experience.

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Miss Eleonore Wotherspoon



SECURING OUR FUTURE

The Life Guard Society of Historic Mount Vernon

Members of the Life Guard Society came together to sponsor and support the gala celebration of the 10th anniversary of the George Washington Presidential Library. The Life Guard has been a steadfast supporter of the Library since it opened in 2013. Over the course of the year, members also furthered efforts to pool their personal giving toward a generous gift from the Life Guard to support and name a gallery in the revitalized exhibition on George Washington's biography.

Life Guard Society Members

Named after the elite group of soldiers responsible for ensuring the safety of George Washington, today's members of the Life Guard Society hold fundraising events to support specific projects at Mount Vernon and support the estate through personal contributions. Membership in the Life Guard Society is not considered an honorary role but rather a call to action—members generously give their time, talent, and resources to help with a wide variety of signature projects focused on Mount Vernon's mission.

Ms. Cricket Bauer, Chair, *Alexandria, VA*
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SECURING OUR FUTURE

Mount Vernon Travel Program

Members of the Connoisseur Society embarked on *The Treasures of Houston with Mount Vernon* tour from March 10–12. The Vice Regent for Texas hosted the trip and facilitated access to many behind-the-scenes experiences. Highlights of the visit included a tour of Memorial Park with landscape architect Thomas Woltz; a private tour of Bayou Bend's exquisite collection and gardens; curator-led tours of Reinzi, Museum of Fine Arts Houston, and Rothko Chapel; and two exclusive visits to private homes with extraordinary collections.



SECURING OUR FUTURE

The Connoisseur Society

The Connoisseur Society's 2023 contributions supported the acquisition of the Peter Presidential Collection of Washington family objects. Twenty-two members from across the country gathered at Mount Vernon for a special dinner and after-hours Mansion tour on June 1, followed by a luncheon and morning tours on June 2.

Connoisseur Society Members

The Connoisseur Society is a group of George Washington enthusiasts who are dedicated to the acquisition, preservation, conservation, and exhibition of Mount Vernon's rich and diverse collections.



Mrs. Lucy S. Rhame, Chair, *Alexandria, VA*

Mrs. Irene Roosevelt Aitken, *New York, NY*

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Mr. David E. Weisman and Ms. Jacqui Michel, *Palm Beach, FL*

Mrs. Wallace S. Wilson, *Houston, TX*

† = Deceased



SECURING OUR FUTURE

Spirit of Mount Vernon

The 22nd Spirit of Mount Vernon was held on October 5. A record-breaking 950 guests from the corporate, association, and government affairs communities attended the event, which raised funds for Mount Vernon's education and preservation mission. The evening included a sunset reception, a performance by the Marine Drum and Bugle Corps, fireworks, dinner, and a live auction. General John F. Kelly provided remarks. The event continues to be a centerpiece of the government affairs community's philanthropic giving.

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Airports Council International,
North America*

Steve Caldeira

*President & CEO
Household & Commercial Products
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Lorraine Riffle Caron

*Vice President, Global Government
Affairs
Kimberly-Clark*

Shannon Meade

*Executive Director, Workplace Policy
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SECURING OUR FUTURE

Washington Cabinet

The Washington Cabinet's annual gathering took place on November 1-2 and was attended by 35 Cabinet members. The event included a day of exclusive, behind-the-scenes tours; lunch in the greenhouse; a special dinner celebrating Washington's love of the Potomac River; and an annual meeting where members heard a presentation on Mount Vernon's critical projects and looked ahead to 2026. Many members stayed for the expanded George Washington Symposium, *The Great Experiment: Democracy from the Founding to the Future*.



Washington Cabinet Members

Members of the Washington Cabinet serve as ambassadors for Mount Vernon, raising the estate's national profile and advocating for its mission and efforts. Through their investments of time, influence, and resources, members of the Washington Cabinet are committed to supporting Mount Vernon's education and preservation mission.



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 George and Carol † Overend, *Atlanta, GA*
 Dailey and Gordon Pattee, *Sagaponack, NY*
 Bruce A. Ragsdale and Richard G. Scobey, *Cambridge, United Kingdom*
 Mr. and Mrs. Thomas D. Rutherford, Jr., *Washington, DC*
 Jordan D. Schnitzer, *Portland, OR*
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 Shelby and Andrew Silvernail, *Lake Forest, IL*
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 Alice M. Starr, *Waco, TX*
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 Rob and Jamie Taylor, *Park City, UT*
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 Toni G. Verstandig, *Washington, DC*
 Kim and Finn Wentworth, *Morristown, NJ*
 Karen Buchwald Wright, *Mount Vernon, OH*
 Jaime and Christine Yordán, *Vero Beach, FL*

† = Deceased



MOUNT VERNON AT A GLANCE

Volunteer Year in Numbers

1,833

HOURS

volunteering in the
archaeology lab



2,496

HOURS

volunteering in
Guest Services



1,445
HOURS

sewing and
mending costuming



3,255 HOURS staffing
administration front desks



76
HOURS

Flying Flags



373
HOURS

of
transportation
coordination
and driving

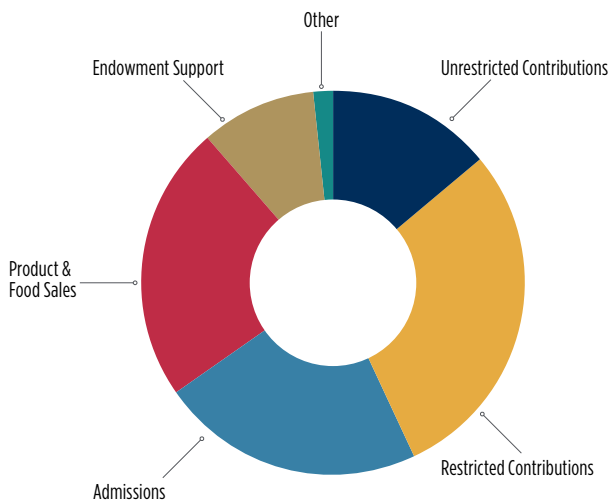


856 HOURS assisting
Mount Vernon's fifer

Financial Highlights

George Washington valued fiscal responsibility in all his business ventures. The MVLA carries on this timeless tradition of responsible spending and engages in robust fundraising. We are proud to have spent 86 cents of every dollar received directly on programs connected to our mission, including historic preservation and collections initiatives, educational outreach efforts, and enhancements to the guest experience. We allocated just 8 percent of our funds to inspire generous citizens to support our mission. Thanks to our conservative financial management, our administrative costs accounted for only 6 percent of our total expenditures. Our 2023 audited financial statements are available at mountvernon.org/about or by request from our Finance Department.

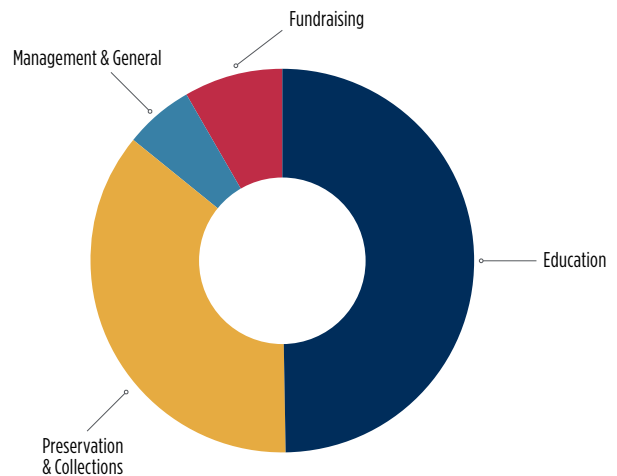
Operating Revenue



Unrestricted Contributions	\$	10,345,000
Restricted Contributions		21,295,000
Admissions		16,455,000
Product & Food Sales		17,136,000
Endowment Support		7,094,000
Other		1,197,000
Total Operating Revenue	\$	73,522,000

Operating Expenses

(Excluding Depreciation)



Program Services:	
Education	\$ 35,043,000
Preservation & Collections	25,300,000
Program Services total	60,343,000
Support Services:	
Management & General	4,157,000
Fundraising	5,740,000
Support Services total	9,897,000
Total Operating Expenses	\$ 70,240,000



Engraving of Emanuel Leutze's *Washington Crossing the Delaware*,
published by Goupil et Cie, New York, 1853, in period frame
Acquired through the generosity of John Pyne

ACQUISITIONS

Fine and Decorative Arts Collection

Two fragments from Martha Washington's garments: silver tissue from her wedding petticoat, c. 1759, and striped floral silk, 1770–1800
Gift: Jess and Grace Pavey Fund

Two Chinese export porcelain tureen bases in the “tobacco leaf” pattern, which match lids and stands owned by George and Martha Washington, 1760–1790
Gift: Jess and Grace Pavey Fund

A two-bottle silverplate wine cooler, owned by George Washington, 1790
Gift of the Estate of Mary Lee Bowman

Five pieces of blue and white Chinese export porcelain, in the deer and pine trees pattern, similar to tablewares owned by George and Martha Washington, 1760–1775: sauceboat, tureen, plate, and two octagonal platters
Purchased by the A. Alfred Taubman Acquisition Endowment Fund

Comitia Americana medal, Lt. Colonel François-Louis Teissédre de Fleury at Stony Point, 1779, struck in bronze from US Mint dies, 1880
Purchased by the A. Alfred Taubman Acquisition Endowment Fund

Anti-slavery medallion, Josiah Wedgwood & Sons, jasperware, c. 1788
Purchased in honor of Jessie MacLeod, Associate Curator (2012–2023)



French porcelain dessert plate, presented to the Washingtons by the Comte de Custine and made by the Niderviller Pottery and Porcelain Factory, c. 1782
Gift of the Estate of Mary Lee Bowman



Blue and white Chinese-export porcelain plate featuring a central basket of flowers, similar to examples found archaeologically at Mount Vernon, 1730–1750
Gift of Natalie and Bruce Larson



Fragment of Argentan lace from George Washington's shirt ruffle, c. 1795
Acquired through the generosity of the Connoisseur Society of Mount Vernon, in honor of Lucy S. Rhame



Glass presentation tumbler, inscribed "Washington," attributed to John Frederick Amelung, New Bremen Glass Manufactory, Frederick County, Maryland, 1788–1795
Acquired through the generosity of Walter E. and Sylvia H. Button



*Lafayette at Washington's Tomb, watercolor and silk embroidery, 1824–1835
Gift of Marta Hallowell Black*

George Washington transfer-printed creamware jug, printed by Francis Morris after Joseph Wright, Staffordshire, England, 1800–1815
Gift of Marilyn B.C. Wandrus

George Washington Canova statue transfer-printed earthenware plate, made by Enoch Wood & Sons, Staffordshire, England, 1833
Gift of Arlene and Wilmont Schwind

Cane made from wood found at George Washington's tomb, 1827
Purchased by the A. Alfred Taubman Acquisition Endowment Fund

A silver Mount Vernon commemorative child's mug, made by Gorham and Co., Providence, Rhode Island, c. 1853
Purchased by the A. Alfred Taubman Acquisition Endowment Fund

A white glass bust of George Washington attributed to Bakewell, Pears & Company, Pittsburgh, 1876
Purchased by the A. Alfred Taubman Acquisition Endowment Fund

Comitia Americana medal, General Anthony Wayne at Stony Point, 1779, struck in bronze from US Mint dies, 1887
Purchased by the William and Lisa Moore Acquisition Endowment Fund



Eight pieces of white English salt-glazed stoneware, with a dot, diaper, and basketweave pattern, similar to tableware owned by George and Martha Washington: tureen and stand, three platters, four plates, 1745–1770
Gift: Jess and Grace Pavey Fund

Selected Loans

The MVLA is grateful to the individuals and institutions that have placed on loan to Mount Vernon original art, artifacts, books, documents, and period objects. We would like to acknowledge in particular the following items:

Society of Cincinnati membership certificate for George Ogier, signed by George Washington, March 31, 1787

Society of Cincinnati eagle medal, sketched by Pierre Charles L'Enfant, 1783

Courtesy of the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History

A pair of silver salt cellars with the Fairfax crest, made by Robert Hennell, London, c. 1760

Courtesy of Sarah F. Whiting

Thirteen portrait medallions featuring George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, the Marquis de Lafayette, and other notable figures of the American Revolution, made by Josiah Wedgwood and Wedgwood & Bentley, stoneware (jasperware, basalt), 1776–1800

Promised gift from Rosalind Pretzfelder



George Washington portrait medallion, 1778–1780



“Tobacco leaf” Chinese-export porcelain tureen lid and stand, c. 1755
Acquired through the generosity of Steven W. Spandle and Kev Massoyan



Small pot (*pot à jus*), white and gold Sèvres porcelain, 1778
Acquired through the generosity of an anonymous donor

ACQUISITIONS

Peter Presidential Collection

Thanks to the generosity of the Connoisseur Society and its individual members, the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association (MVLA) succeeded in “bringing home” a significant collection of original Washington pieces, many of which were used to entertain guests in the president’s houses in New York and Philadelphia. Comprising approximately 90 items, the collection descended with impeccable provenance in the family of Martha Washington’s second oldest granddaughter, Martha (Patty) Custis Peter. Prior to the collection’s acquisition, it was the largest assemblage of original Washington objects remaining in private hands.

Headlining the collection is an extraordinary French chess set, a reminder of Washington’s close associations with French military officers who played the game and are known to have brought sets with them to America. In addition, a needlework cushion stitched by Martha Washington brings the total number of examples of her artistry to eight (out of the original set of 12).

The many pieces of white and gold porcelain from the set George Washington acquired from the departing French minister in 1790—three dozen pieces of dinner, dessert, coffee,

and tea wares—dramatically enhance our ability to set the Washingtons’ table in the appropriate neoclassical style, accompanied by rarely surviving glassware (Washington himself complained that the glassware in the presidential residence had been “worn out, broken, stolen, and replaced” and that the couple had replaced it “at private expense, over and over again”).

Equally rare are the large piece of gold silk lampas cut from the curtains in the president’s drawing room and two examples of Mrs. Washington’s quilting frames—all items typically reused or discarded rather than saved for posterity. Fragments of silk and velvet from garments worn by both the General and Mrs. Washington strengthen our unparalleled holdings of these very evocative personal items.

The return of original Washington objects has long been the MVLA’s highest collecting priority, making this acquisition a stunning accomplishment and testimonial to the dedication and commitment of all who made it possible. We are so grateful to all who supported this landmark acquisition.



George and Martha Washington's chess set and box, France, c. 1785
Acquired through the generosity of Lucy S. Rhame in honor of Adam T. Erby



Shell pattern canvas work chair cushion,
made by Martha Washington, 1765–1802
*Acquired through the generosity of John Bookout
and Ann Bookout, Vice Regent for Texas*



Glass sugar bowl and lid, England, 1765–1780
*Acquired through the generosity
of Marta Hallowell Black*

Peter Presidential Collection Acquisition Highlights

Twelve pieces of white and gold French porcelain: nine Sèvres plates (*assiettes*), 1778; two Angoulême shells (*compotiers à coquille*), 1781–1787; and an Angoulême square stew dish (*compotier carré*), 1781–1787

Martha Washington’s quilting frame, 1750–1800

A gold locket containing George Washington’s hair in the shape of the Washington coat-of-arms, 19th century
Acquired through the generosity of Mr. and Mrs. Randall A. Schrimsher

Nine pieces of English glassware:

A decanter, 1755–1765

Six wine glasses, 1790–1800

A sugar bowl lid, 1765–1780

A salt dish, 1790–1800

Acquired through the generosity of Marta Hallowell Black

Seven white and gold Angoulême porcelain plates (*assiettes*), 1781–1787
Acquired through the generosity of Mr. and Mrs. P. William Moore, Jr.

Fifteen pieces of white and gold French porcelain: a Sèvres platter (*compotier rond*) and three tea saucers, 1778; four Sèvres coffee cups (*tasses litron* or *gobelets litron*) and five saucers, 1778–1787; and two Nast porcelain chocolate cups, 1783–1787

Three fragments of Martha Washington’s English yellow silk lampas wedding dress, 1718–1730

Two English wool rose blankets, 1775–1800

A table cover, possibly made at Mount Vernon, 1790–1800

A pincushion, 1790–1830

A pinking iron, 1750–1800

Acquired through the generosity of the Connoisseur Society of Mount Vernon

Three white and gold Angoulême porcelain soup plates (*assiettes à potage*), 1781–1787

Purchased by the William and Lisa Moore Acquisition Endowment Fund

A jelly glass, retailed by Richard Farrar, London, c. 1759

Acquired through the generosity of The Honorable Mary Mochary

A white and gold Sèvres porcelain

teacup (*tasse à thé*), 1778

Acquired through the generosity of Liz Rollins Mauran, Vice Regent for Rhode Island

A white and gold Sèvres porcelain teacup (*tasse à thé*), 1778

Acquired through the generosity of Mrs. Stanley D. Scott

A white and gold Sèvres porcelain egg cup (*coquetier*), 1778

Acquired through the generosity of Elizabeth Whitesides Holdsworth, Vice Regent Emerita for New Jersey

A glass salt dish, English, 1790–1800

Acquired through the generosity of Eleanor R. Seaman, Vice Regent Emerita for Wisconsin

A glass decanter stopper, 1790–1800

Acquired through the generosity of M. L. Coolidge

Martha Washington’s quilting frame, 1750–1800

Acquired through the generosity of an anonymous donor



Three fragments of English gold silk lampas used in the Yellow Drawing Room of the President's Houses in Philadelphia and New York, 1750–1760
Acquired through the generosity of Mr. and Mrs. Randall A. Schrimsher



The Mount Vernon Ladies' Association

Program Committees

EXECUTIVE Officers

Margaret Nichols, Regent (2021–2024)
 Andrea Sahin, Secretary (2021–2024)
 Anne Petri, Treasurer (2021–2024)

Members-at-Large

Catherine Waddell (2021–2023)
 Susan Townsend (2022–2024)
 Adrian Jay (2023–2025)

GOVERNANCE

Lucia Henderson, Chair
 Mary Bishop
 Maribeth Borthwick
 Sarah Coulson
 Andrea Sahin
 Catherine Waddell
 Hilary West

AUDIT

Cammie Mayer, Chair
 Elizabeth Hale
 Karen Kirby
 Liz Mauran
 Susan McCarthy
 Hilary West

COLLECTIONS

Ann Bookout, Chair
 Sarah Coulson
 Adrian Jay
 Helen Laughery
 Catherine Mayton
 Susan McCarthy
 Ann Pyne

DEVELOPMENT

Karen Kirby, Chair
 Mary Bishop
 Helen Laughery
 Catherine Mayton
 Ann Scott
 Susan Townsend

EDUCATION

Catherine Waddell, Chair
 Helen Laughery
 Liz Mauran
 Susan McCarthy
 Anne Petri
 Ann Pyne
 Ann Scott
 Hilary West

FINANCE

Ann Bookout, Chair
 Maribeth Borthwick
 Sarah Coulson
 Lucia Henderson
 Anne Petri
 Ann Scott

HORTICULTURE, LIVESTOCK, & FORESTRY

Catherine Mayton, Chair
 Sarah Alijani
 Mary Bishop
 Elizabeth Hale
 Virginia Lane
 Cammie Mayer
 Anne Petri
 Susan Townsend
 Hilary West

INVESTMENT

Maribeth Borthwick, Chair
 Sarah Alijani
 Adrian Jay
 Helen Laughery
 Catherine Mayton
 Susan Townsend
 Catherine Waddell

LIBRARY & LEADERSHIP

Sarah Coulson, Chair
 Ann Bookout
 Maribeth Borthwick
 Karen Kirby
 Anne Petri
 Catherine Waddell
 Hilary West

MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS

Liz Mauran, Chair
 Elizabeth Hale
 Lucia Henderson
 Adrian Jay
 Laura Rutherford

PRESERVATION

Susan Townsend, Chair
 Sarah Alijani
 Elizabeth Hale
 Lucia Henderson
 Karen Kirby
 Cammie Mayer
 Liz Mauran
 Andrea Sahin

VIEWSHED

Virginia Lane, Chair
 Elizabeth Hale
 Adrian Jay
 Liz Mauran
 Laura Rutherford
 Hilary West



Ad Hoc Committees & Task Forces

CAMPAIGN FOR MOUNT VERNON

Andrea Sahin, Co-Chair
Catherine Waddell, Co-Chair
Karen Kirby, Development Liaison

LIBRARY CELEBRATION

Andrea Sahin, Co-Chair
Hilary West, Co-Chair

PAVILION TASK FORCE

Ann Scott, Chair
Lucia Henderson
Helen Laughery
Cammie Mayer
Susan Townsend

QUARTERS TASK FORCE

Sarah Coulson, Chair
Maribeth Borthwick
Ann Pyne
Susan Townsend

TRADITIONS & GRACIOUSNESS

Laura Rutherford, Chair
Mary Bishop
Catherine Mayton

Record of the Members of the MVLA

Regents

Miss Ann Pamela Cunningham, 1853–1874; resigned 1874; died May 1, 1875
Mrs. J. Scott Laughton, (née Lily Macalester, later Madame Berghmans), 1874; died 1891
Mrs. Howard Townsend, 1891–1909; died 1912
Miss Harriet Clayton Comegys, 1909; died 1927
Mrs. Alice Haliburton Richards, 1927; died 1936
Mrs. Horace Mann Towner, 1937; died 1942
Mrs. Lucien M. Hanks, 1943–1948; died 1959
Mrs. Albert Harkness, (formerly Mrs. Thomas Ives Hare Powel), 1948–1958; died 1974
Mrs. Francis F. Beirne, 1958–1968; died 1969
Mrs. Thomas Turner Cooke, 1968–1976; died 1993
Mrs. John H. Guy, Jr., 1976–1982; died 2016
Mrs. Thomas Dunaway Anderson, 1982–1986; died 2013
Mrs. Robert Channing Seamans, Jr., 1986–1990; died 2010
Mrs. Clarence Morton Bishop, Jr., 1990–1993; died 2007
Mrs. H. Taylor Morrissette, 1993–1996
Mrs. Robert E. Lee IV, 1996–1999; died 2019
Mrs. James M. Walton, 1999–2004
Mrs. Stanley N. Gaines, 2004–2007
Mrs. Shepard B. Ansley, 2007–2010; died 2016

Ann Haunschild Bookout, 2010–2013
Barbara Bourgeois Lucas, 2013–2016
Sarah Miller Coulson, 2016–2021
Margaret Hartman Nichols, 2021

Vice Regents

ALABAMA

Madame Henry S. LeVert, 1858; died 1877
Mrs. Hilary Herbert, 1882; died 1884
Miss Leila Herbert, 1894; died 1897
Mrs. Robert D. Johnston, 1900; died 1934
Mrs. Morris Williams Bush, 1946; resigned 1959; died 1971
Mrs. Preston H. Haskell, Jr., 1963; died 1971
Mrs. H. Taylor Morrissette, 1983; resigned 2001; Regent 1993–1996; Vice Regent Emerita 2002
Laura Peebles Rutherford, 2005

ARIZONA

Mrs. Arthur Newton Pack, 1962; resigned 1984; Vice Regent Emerita 1985; died 2000

ARKANSAS

Mrs. Robert Ward Johnson, 1859; died 1862
Mrs. Charles Gordon Scott, 1872; resigned 1878; died 1910
Mrs. Celsus Price Perrie, 1919; resigned 1922; died 1938
Mrs. J. Fairfax Loughborough, 1932; died 1962

Mrs. Henry Hollenberg (formerly Mrs. John McCaughey Harrison), 1970; resigned 1982; Associate Vice Regent 1982; died 2011
Mrs. Sam Buchanan, 1995; resigned 2006; Vice Regent Emerita 2007
Catherine Hamilton Mayton, 2012

CALIFORNIA

Mrs. William Blanding, 1859; resigned 1884; died 1885
Mrs. George Hearst, 1889; resigned 1918; died 1919
Mrs. Charles S. Wheeler, 1920; resigned 1940; died 1952
Mrs. Lockwood de Forest, 1956; died 1984
Mrs. Richard W. Call, 1984; resigned 2001; Vice Regent Emerita 2002
Maribeth Armstrong Borthwick, 2002

COLORADO

Mrs. Nathaniel P. Hill, 1889; died 1908
Mrs. Horton Pope, 1919; resigned 1947; died 1950
Mrs. David A. Pfaelzer, 1970; resigned 1986; Vice Regent Emerita 1986; died 2019
Mrs. Eileen M. Olander, formerly Vice Regent for Kansas, 1986; resigned 1995; Vice Regent Emerita 1995; died 2015
Mrs. Andrew W. Armour IV, 1996; resigned 2000
Judith Wilson Grant, 2017; died 2020
Sarah Seaman Alijani, 2022

CONNECTICUT

Mrs. Samuel G. Goodrich, 1858; resigned 1864; died 1868
Mrs. Susan E. Johnson Hudson, 1870; died 1913
Miss Annie Burr Jennings, 1915; died 1939
Mrs. Wilmarth S. Lewis, 1942; died 1959
Mrs. Clifton McCausland Bockstoce, 1965; resigned 1990; Vice Regent Emerita 1990; died 1995
Clare N. Cooley Edwards, 1992; resigned 2017; Vice Regent Emerita 2018

DELAWARE

Mrs. Joseph P. Comegys, 1858; died 1888
Miss Harriet Clayton Comegys, 1888; resigned 1927; Regent 1909–1927; died 1927
Mrs. Antoine Lenthilhon Foster, 1911; died 1934
Mrs. Thomas F. Bayard, 1937; resigned 1958; died 1975
Mrs. C. Lalor Burdick, 1961; resigned 1983; Vice Regent Emerita 1985; died 2007
Miss Elizabeth N. du Pont, 1985; resigned 1986; died 1989
Mrs. Nelson T. Shields III, 1987; resigned 2001; Vice Regent Emerita 2002
Mrs. Calhoun W. Wick, 2001; resigned 2004
Susan Marshall Townsend, 2005

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Mrs. George W. Riggs, Acting Vice Regent 1858; appointed 1867; resigned 1868; died 1871
Mrs. William H. Emory, 1870; resigned 1871; died 1900
Mrs. Joseph K. Barnes, 1873; died 1912
Miss Jane A. Riggs, 1912; died 1930
Miss Helen Louise Sargent, 1931; died 1948
Miss Constance Ellen Tyler, 1952; died 1963
Mrs. Randall H. Hagner, Jr., 1965; resigned 1991; died 2007
Mrs. Richard H. Streeter, 1992; resigned 2000; Associate Vice Regent 2000
Lucia Bosqui Henderson, 1999; resigned 2014 to become Vice Regent for Virginia
Mrs. Togo D. West, Jr., 2014; resigned 2017; Vice Regent Emerita 2018
Hilary Carter West, 2020

FLORIDA

Madame Achille Murat, 1858; died 1867
Mrs. David Levy Yulee, 1868; died 1884
Mrs. James M. Baker, 1888; died 1901
Mrs. Thomas Palmer Denham, 1913; resigned 1948; died 1950
Mrs. LeRoy Collins, 1961; resigned 1982; Vice Regent Emerita 1985; died 2009
Mrs. John K. Aurell, 1985; resigned 2000; Vice Regent Emerita 2000
Mrs. Stanley N. Gaines, 2000; resigned 2013; Regent 2004–2007; Vice Regent Emerita 2014
Claudia Puig Amundsen, 2014; resigned 2019; Vice Regent Emerita 2019

GEORGIA

Mrs. William J. Eve, 1858; died 1889
Mrs. Joseph John Wilder, 1891; died 1914
Mrs. Jefferson Randolph Anderson, 1919; resigned 1949; died 1956
Mrs. Barnwell Cubbedge, 1958; resigned 1969; died 1985
Mrs. Frank Anderson Chisholm, 1971; resigned 1986; Vice Regent Emerita 1986; died 2015
Boyce Lineberger Ansley, 1987; Regent 2007–2010; died 2016
Elizabeth Medlin Hale, 2018

IDAHO

Mrs. Richard R. Simplot, 1999; resigned 2010; Vice Regent Emerita 2011

ILLINOIS

Mrs. William Barry, 1859; died 1883
Mrs. Levi Z. Leiter, 1885; died 1913
Mrs. George A. Carpenter, 1916; resigned 1947; died 1948
Mrs. Henry Porter Isham, 1949; resigned 1972; died 1986
Mrs. Erskine Phelps Wilder, Jr., 1976; resigned 1992; Vice Regent Emerita 1992; died 2005
Mrs. Tyler R. Cain, 1994; resigned 2001; Associate Vice Regent 2001; died 2013
Catherine Marlette Waddell, 2013

INDIANA

Mrs. Graham Newell Fitch, 1859; died 1880
Mrs. Charles Denby, 1901; died 1906
Mrs. Benjamin D. Walcott, 1914; resigned 1932; died 1933
Mrs. Benjamin D. Hitz, 1936; resigned 1978; Honorary Vice Regent 1978; died 1979
Mrs. James T. Neal, 1982; resigned 1994; Vice Regent Emerita, 1994; died 2023
Mrs. Alpha Coles Blackburn, 2008; resigned 2014; Vice Regent Emerita 2014

IOWA

Mrs. VerPlanck Van Antwerp, 1858; died 1870
Mrs. John F. Dillon, 1872; resigned 1873; died 1898
Mrs. Horace Mann Towner, 1913; Regent 1937–1942; died 1942
Mrs. Charles Leslie Brockett (formerly Mrs. Douglas Nelson Gibson), 1955; resigned 1983; Vice Regent Emerita 1985; died 2000

KANSAS

Mrs. Milan Lester Ward, 1876; died 1910
Mrs. John V. Abrahams, 1916; resigned 1921
Mrs. John Reynolds Shelton, 1923; resigned 1930; died 1936
Mrs. Earl K. Lord, 1930; died 1956
Mrs. Eileen M. Olander, 1970; resigned 1986 to become Vice Regent for Colorado; resigned 1995; Vice Regent Emerita 1995; died 2015
Mrs. J. Craig McIlvain, 1993; resigned 2003; Associate Vice Regent, 2003

KENTUCKY

Mrs. Alexander Jeffrey, 1858; resigned 1885; died 1894
Mrs. George W. Woodward, 1885; resigned 1889, re-appointed 1891; died 1897
Mrs. William F. Barret, 1901; died 1920
Miss Mary Mason Scott, 1923; died 1934
Mrs. Mason Barret, 1938; resigned 1953; died 1955
Mrs. Walter N. Haldeman, 1960; resigned 1974; died 1984
Mrs. Phillip B. Newman III, 1985; resigned 2000; Vice Regent Emerita 2000; died 2017

LOUISIANA

Mrs. Isaac F. Morse, 1858; resigned 1872; died 1893
Mrs. David Urquhart, 1873; resigned 1876
Mrs. Tobias G. Richardson, 1880; died 1910
Miss Annie Ragan King, 1912; died 1933
Miss Sarah Duncan Butler, 1936; resigned 1960; died 1966
Mrs. Frank G. Strachan, 1963; resigned 1987; Vice Regent Emerita 1987; died 2000
Mrs. Donald J. Nalty, 1990; resigned 1999; Vice Regent Emerita 1999
Cameron Kock Mayer, 2000

MAINE

Mrs. Josiah S. Little, 1858; resigned 1866; died 1893
Mrs. Lorenzo M. Sweat, 1866; died 1908
Mrs. Alice Haliburton Richards, 1911; Regent 1927; died 1936
Mrs. Harold Lee Berry, 1930; resigned 1968; died 1971
Mrs. William L. Vaughan, 1971; resigned 1987; Vice Regent Emerita 1987; died 2003
Mrs. Everett B. Carson, 1989; resigned 1992
Margaret Hartman Nichols, 2012; Regent 2021–

MARYLAND

Miss Emily L. Harper, 1866; died 1892
Mrs. George R. Goldsborough, 1893; resigned 1904; died 1906
Mrs. Henry W. Rogers, 1905; died 1931
Mrs. DeCourcy W. Thom, 1935; resigned 1946; died 1963
Mrs. Francis F. Beirne, 1948; Regent 1958–1968; died 1969
Mrs. Robert E. Lee IV (formerly Mrs. Carew C. Rice), 1972; resigned 2006; Regent 1996–1999; Vice Regent Emerita 2007; died 2019
Barbara Bourgeois Lucas, 2008, Regent 2013–2016; resigned 2017; Vice Regent Emerita 2018

MASSACHUSETTS

Mrs. Horatio Greenough, 1858; resigned 1865; died 1891
Miss Alice M. Longfellow, 1879; died 1928
Mrs. Nathaniel Thayer, 1930; died 1934
Mrs. John Templeman Coolidge, 1940; resigned 1948; died 1964
Mrs. Samuel Cabot, 1949; died 1969

Mrs. Robert Channing Seamans, Jr., 1975; Regent 1986–1990; resigned 1993; Vice Regent Emerita 1993; died 2010
Ms. Elizabeth M. Chapin, 1994; resigned 2008; Vice Regent Emerita 2008
Andrea Notman Sahin, 2011

MICHIGAN

Mrs. Elon Farnsworth 1858; resigned 1877; died 1879
Mrs. Joshua Henry Rathbone, 1885; resigned 1918; died 1923
Mrs. Edward H. Parker, 1923; died 1924
Mrs. Benjamin S. Warren, 1925; resigned 1959; died 1968
Mrs. Alexander L. Wiener, 1964; resigned 1989; Vice Regent Emerita 1989; died 1995
Mrs. Lloyd A. Semple, 1990; resigned 2006; Vice Regent Emerita 2007

MINNESOTA

Mrs. Henry H. Sibley, 1859; died 1869
Mrs. Charles Eugene Flandrau, 1889; died 1911
Mrs. Charles Eliot Furness, 1914; died 1935
Miss Anna E. Ramsey Furness, 1940; died 1964
Mrs. David Bradford, 1982; resigned 1992; Associate Vice Regent 1994; died 2004
Mrs. J. Hap Fauth, 1995; resigned 2007; Vice Regent Emerita 2008
Susan Brewster McCarthy, 2023

MISSISSIPPI

Mrs. William McWillie, 1858; died 1873
Mrs. William Balfour, 1873; resigned 1885; died 1887
Mrs. Kate Walthall Freeman, 1885; resigned 1888; died 1919
Mrs. Benjamin Sherrod Ricks, 1907; resigned 1914; died 1918
Miss Mary Govan Billups, 1916; resigned 1963; died 1971
Mrs. Stewart J. Gilchrist, 1974; resigned 1990; Vice Regent Emerita 1990; died 2019
Mrs. Stewart Gammill III, 1991; resigned 2011; Vice Regent Emerita 2011
Susan Stevens Reeder, 2011; resigned 2022; Vice Regent Emerita 2022

MISSOURI

Mrs. Robert R. Walton, 1858; resigned 1859; died 1860
Mrs. Wilson Price Hunt, 1860; died 1878
Mrs. Robert Campbell, 1879; died 1882
Mrs. Benjamin Graham, 1893; died 1915
Mrs. Charles Nagel, 1916; resigned 1943; died 1951
Mrs. Marvin E. Holderness, 1948; resigned 1959 to become Vice Regent for Tennessee; died 1970
Mrs. Robert Neill, Jr., 1964; resigned 1973
Mrs. Tom K. Smith, Jr., 1982; resigned 1997; Vice Regent Emerita 1997; died 2023
Ann Cady Scott, 2010

NEBRASKA

Mrs. Robert H. Clarkson, 1894; resigned 1900; died 1902

Mrs. Charles F. Manderson, 1900; died 1916
Mrs. Alexander C. Troup, 1923; died 1950

NEVADA

Mrs. M. E. Hickman, 1866; resigned 1874
Mrs. John P. Jones, 1875; resigned 1876; died 1936

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Mrs. Salma Hale, 1858; resigned 1861; died 1865
Mrs. Onslow Stearns, 1866; resigned 1873; died 1895
Mrs. Abby Godwin Winder, 1890; died 1906
Miss Harriet L. Huntress, 1914; died 1922
Mrs. Gordon Woodbury, 1929; resigned 1949; died 1966
Mrs. John Lawrence Sullivan, 1952; resigned 1985; Vice Regent Emerita 1985; died 1994

NEW JERSEY

Miss Phebe A. Ogden, 1858; died 1865
Mrs. Nathaniel Norris Halsted, 1868; died 1891
Mrs. Francis S. Conover, 1893; died 1914
Mrs. Willard Hall Bradford, 1915; resigned 1939; died 1941
Mrs. Thomas Turner Cooke, 1946; resigned 1987; Regent 1968–1976; Vice Regent Emerita 1987; died 1993
Mrs. Stephen K. West, 1989; resigned 2005; Vice Regent Emerita 2006; died 2020
Elizabeth Whitesides Holdsworth, 2006; resigned 2017; Vice Regent Emerita 2018
Karen McCabe Kirby, 2020

NEW YORK

Miss Mary M. Hamilton (later Mrs. George Lee Schuyler), 1858; resigned 1866; died 1877
Mrs. James Brooks, 1867; resigned 1876; died 1882
Mrs. Howard Townsend, 1876; Regent 1891–1909; resigned 1909; died 1912
Mrs. Philip Schuyler, 1893; resigned 1894; died 1915
Miss Amy Townsend, 1894; died 1920
Mrs. Henry Gold Danforth, 1922; resigned 1948; died 1961
Ms. Thomas Stilwell Lamont, 1952; died 1972
Mrs. Douglas Williams, 1975; resigned 1994; Vice Regent Emerita 1994; died 2006
Mrs. Randolph H. Guthrie, 1996; resigned 2008; Vice Regent Emerita 2009
Ann Sherrill Pyne, 2019

NORTH CAROLINA

Mrs. P. K. Dickinson, 1858; resigned 1859; died 1881
Mrs. William Richmond Walker, 1859; died 1908
Mrs. Alexander Boyd Andrews, 1909; died 1915
Mrs. William Ewen Shipp, 1919; died 1936
Mrs. John Witherspoon Labouisse, 1944; resigned 1978; Honorary Vice Regent 1978; died 1985

Mrs. Thomas B. Battle, 1982; resigned 1999; Vice Regent Emerita 1999; died 2023
Jean Armfield Sherrill, 2002; resigned 2022; Vice Regent Emerita 2022
Carolyn Sherrill Fuller, 2023

OHIO

Mrs. George H. Pendleton, 1858; resigned 1863; died 1886
Mrs. Emily R. McIlvaine Hewson, 1866; resigned 1873; died 1904
Mrs. Samuel J. Broadwell, 1875; died 1890
Miss Mary Lloyd Pendleton, 1893; resigned 1897; died 1929
Mrs. James E. Campbell, 1897; resigned 1902; died 1913
Mrs. Lewis W. Irwin, 1907; died 1916
Mrs. Charles J. Livingood, 1919; resigned 1935; died 1936
Mrs. Chester C. Bolton, 1938; died 1977
Mrs. Kenyon C. Bolton, 1978; resigned 1989; Honorary Vice Regent 1989; died 2014
Mrs. Charles D. Weller, 1996; resigned 2001; Associate Vice Regent 2001
Melody Sawyer Richardson, 2003; resigned 2017; Vice Regent Emerita 2018

OKLAHOMA

Mrs. Russell Story Tarr, 1947; resigned 1974; died 1988
Mrs. William Vilas Hanks, 1978; resigned 1996; Vice Regent Emerita 1996; died 2006
Mary Elizabeth Creekmore Henke, 1999; resigned 2016; Vice Regent Emerita 2017

OREGON

Miss Mary F. Failing, 1907; died 1947
Mrs. Clarence M. Bishop, Jr., 1976; Regent 1990–1993; resigned 1996; Vice Regent Emerita 1997; died 2007
Mrs. James F. Crumacker, 2001; resigned 2014; Vice Regent Emerita 2014
Mary Lang Bishop, 2017

PENNSYLVANIA

Mrs. J. Scott Laughton (née Lily Lytle Macalester; later, Madame Berghmans), 1859; Second Regent 1874–1891; died 1891
Mrs. J. Dundas Lippincott, 1893; died 1894
Mrs. Charles Custis Harrison, 1896; died 1922
Mrs. William R. Mercer, Jr., 1924; resigned 1928; died 1960
Mrs. Benjamin Franklin Pepper, 1929; resigned 1948; died 1955
Mrs. Henry Norris Platt, 1948; resigned 1983; died 1984
Mrs. Robert McAdoo (formerly Mrs. F. Woodson Hancock, Jr.), 1985; resigned 1988
Mrs. James M. Walton, 1991; Regent 1999–2004; resigned 2007; Vice Regent Emerita 2008
Sarah Miller Coulson, 2011; Regent 2016–2021

RHODE ISLAND

Mrs. George I. Chace, 1858; died 1893
Mrs. William Ames, 1894; died 1904
Mrs. John Carter Brown, 1907; resigned 1935; Honorary Vice Regent 1935; died 1936
Mrs. Albert Harkness (formerly Mrs. Thomas Ives Hare Powel), 1936; Regent 1948–1958; resigned 1971; died 1974
Mrs. Richard Alexander, 1978; resigned 1996; Vice Regent Emerita 1996; died 2019
Liz Rollins Mauran, 2009

SOUTH CAROLINA

Miss Ann Pamela Cunningham, Regent 1853–1874; resigned 1874; died 1875
Mrs. James Chesnut, Sr., 1860; died 1864
Mrs. Francis Wilkinson Pickens, 1866; died 1899
Mrs. John Julius Pringle, 1901; died 1921
Miss Virginia Leigh Porcher, 1924; died 1940
Mrs. Benjamin Allston Moore, 1948; resigned 1967; died 1987
Mrs. Daniel W. Hollis, 1970; resigned 1985; Vice Regent Emerita 1985; died 2015
Mrs. Benjamin A. Hagood, 1987; resigned 2002; Vice Regent Emerita 2003
Virginia Dawson Lane, 2003

TENNESSEE

Mrs. Francis B. Fogg, 1858; died 1872
Mrs. Aaron V. Brown, 1874; died 1889
Mrs. Thomas Shapard Webb (née Mary Polk Yeatman), 1893; died 1917
Mrs. Horace Van Deventer, 1920; died 1956
Mrs. Marvin E. Holderness, former Vice Regent for Missouri, 1959; died 1970
Mrs. Alex Pirtle, Jr., 1980; resigned 2000; Vice Regent Emerita 2000; died 2012
Mrs. David Bowlin, 2003; resigned 2003
Mrs. William Lipscomb Davis, Jr., 2006; resigned 2012; Vice Regent Emerita 2013
Adrian MacLean Jay, 2022

TEXAS

Miss Ella Hutchins, 1866; resigned 1872; died 1913
Miss Mary E. Maverick, 1873; resigned 1873; died 1891
Mrs. Thomas S. Maxey, 1896; Honorary Vice Regent 1937; died 1938
Mrs. John Mirza Bennett, 1940; died 1963
Mrs. Thomas Dunaway Anderson, 1967; Regent 1982–1986; resigned 1991; Vice Regent Emerita 1991; died 2013
Mrs. W. Temple Webber, Jr., 1992; resigned 2001; Associate Vice Regent 2001
Ann Haunschild Bookout, 2002; Regent 2010–2013

VERMONT

Mrs. Hampden Cutts, 1859; resigned 1878; died 1879
Mrs. J. Gregory Smith, 1878; resigned 1884; died 1905

Mrs. Cornelius Low King, 1885; died 1896
Miss Mary Everts, 1911; resigned 1923; reappointed 1924; died 1928
Mrs. Horace Brown, 1930; resigned 1940; died 1943
Mrs. James Shepard Dennis, 1946; died 1946
Mrs. A. John Holden, Jr., 1961; resigned 1978; Associate Vice Regent 1993; died 2004
Mrs. Arthur J. Dewey, Jr., 1984; resigned 1993; Associate Vice Regent 1994; died 2016
Mrs. Frederick West, 1998; resigned 2000

VIRGINIA

Mrs. William F. Ritchie, 1858; resigned 1866; died 1870
Mrs. Thomson Francis Mason, 1872; died 1873
Mrs. Charles B. Ball, 1874; died 1918
Mrs. William R. Cox, 1921; died 1925
Mrs. Fairfax Harrison, 1927; died 1943
Mrs. Edward Clifford Anderson, 1947; resigned 1960; died 1994
Mrs. John H. Guy, Jr., 1963; Regent 1976; resigned 1995; Vice Regent Emerita 1995; died 2016
Mrs. P. William Moore, Jr., 1996; resigned 2014; Vice Regent Emerita 2014
Lucia Bosqui Henderson, formerly Vice Regent for the District of Columbia, 2014

WASHINGTON

Mrs. John Leary, 1907; died 1935
Mrs. Stanley D. Lyle, 1944; died 1955
Margaret Appleton Allison, 1985; resigned 2019; Vice Regent Emerita 2019

WEST VIRGINIA

Mrs. Lewis William Washington, 1870; died 1898
Mrs. Eugene Van Rensselaer, 1900; died 1923
Miss Constance Lee Peterkin, 1924; resigned 1946; died 1948
Mrs. Augustine Jaquelin Todd, 1955; resigned 1985; Vice Regent Emerita 1985; died 1987
Mrs. Robert W. Lawson III, 1987; resigned 2009; Vice Regent Emerita 2009

WISCONSIN

Mrs. Alexander Mitchell, 1858; died 1902
Mrs. Lucien M. Hanks, 1914; Regent 1943; resigned 1956; died 1959
Mrs. John Cunningham Lobb, 1960; resigned 1962; died 2005
Mrs. Douglas Seaman, 1989; resigned 2001; Vice Regent Emerita 2001
Anne Neal Petri, 2008

WYOMING

Mrs. Thomas S. Taliaferro, Jr., 1936; resigned 1950; died 1953
Mrs. John F. Mars, 2003; resigned 2012; Vice Regent Emerita 2013
Helen Herboth Laughery, 2013

Farewell Address

To The Council of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association of June, 1874:

LADIES:

It was my intention as well as my duty to have met you at this time, and conformed in person to the legal requisition accompanying a resignation so important as mine, but Providence does not permit.

I am at present not only unequal to such a journey, but the serious state of my health requires me, instead of turning my face towards the "spot" for which, since 1853, I have lived, labored and almost died, to seek the best medical skill, with the hope of prolonging, if possible, a life yet needed to finish what I began so many long years ago. One more duty is before me—one I regard as important—though circumstances have combined to make it now a very sad one.

It would have been a pleasure to have met, once more, those who have labored with me in our vineyard from the "early hour," though now their numbers are so few; those who appreciated my work; its motives, its sacrifices; whether they were of the "early" or "eleventh" hour sister laborers; and to have taken a kindly farewell of all whose hearts have been, like my own, single unto their patriotic work—but it is not to be.

I will not yet, however, utterly resign the hope that I may be permitted to reappear among you some day, with my last self-imposed task performed; ready to say, "Now let thy servant depart in peace."

But in parting, I feel it due to you as to me; to the responsibilities I solemnly assumed, which were so important in their results; to those you have taken upon yourselves, to say a few words as to those responsibilities, or duties laid down in the beginning of our work—not to be lightly regarded, for they were pledges to future generations as well as to ours. The minds and hearts which conceived the rescue of the Home of Washington; of the completion of a worthy "tribute" to public integrity, private virtue; an expression of the gratitude due and felt by a country destined to act such an important part in the drama of the world; conceived it with all the reverence felt in older regions for the resting places of their honored dead; where only pious hands are permitted to be in "charge," so as to have them carried down to admiring ages in the same condition as when left.

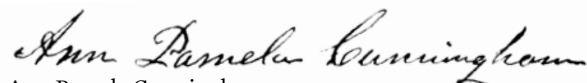
Such was the pledge made to the American heart when an appeal was made to it to save the Home and Tomb of Washington, of the Father of his Country, from all changes, whether by law or desecration. Such, to the last owner of Mt. Vernon, ere he was willing to permit it to pass from his hands. Such to the Legislature of his mother State, ere she gave us legal rights over it. Such we are bound to keep. Our honor is concerned, as well as our intelligence and legal obligations. The mansion, and the grounds around it, should be religiously guarded from changes—should be kept as Washington left them.

Ladies, the Home of Washington is in your charge. See to it that you keep it the Home of Washington! Let no irreverent hand change it; no vandal hands desecrate with the fingers of—progress! Those who go to the Home in which he lived and died, wish to see in what he lived and died! Let one spot in this grand country of ours be saved from "change!" Upon you rests this duty.

When the Centennial comes, bringing with it its thousands from the ends of the earth, to whom the Home of Washington will be the place of places in our country, let them see that, though we slay our forests, remove our dead, pull down our churches, remove from home to home till the "hearthstone" seems to have no resting place in America; let them see that we do know how to care for the Home of our Hero! Farewell!

Ladies, I return to your hands the office held—so long under another name—since December 2d, 1853.

Respectfully,



Ann Pamela Cunningham



Charity Navigator evaluates a nonprofit organization's financial health, including measures of stability, efficiency, and sustainability. We also track accountability and transparency policies to ensure the good governance and integrity of the organization. The Mount Vernon Ladies' Association has been awarded a four-star rating, the organization's highest recognition.



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