



# MOUNT VERNON LADIES' ASSOCIATION

2021 ANNUAL REPORT



**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. ★

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*The love for Washington's home and legacy will always be an influence for unity and for strength in our country. I extend a sincere thank-you for your commitment to our mission. Our work would not be possible without your unwavering support and partnership.* —MARGARET H. NICHOLS, REGENT

# Letter From the Regent

AS I BEGIN THIS LETTER FROM my desk at Mount Vernon, winter has taken hold, wrapping the home of our first president in a snowy blanket. Looks can be deceiving, however, as beneath this frosty cover is a bustle of activity. Our historic preservation and collections staff is working diligently in the Mansion—discovering, analyzing, preserving, and meeting the demands of a 288-year-old house.

Spring is not far behind; the burst of a new season ready once again to bring the story of George Washington and his beloved home to life. There are gardens to be planted, lambs to be born, the shad running on the Potomac, and nature signaling warmer days ahead.

For 164 continuous years, the Mount



Vernon Ladies' Association (MVLA) has owned and managed the home of George Washington. In October 2021, I was honored to be elected the 23rd Regent of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association. The influence and accomplishment of the Regents who served before me are indelible, and their contributions to the Association are the long-guiding thread of our mission. As George Washington once rightly said, "If we cannot find wisdom from experience, it is hard to say where it is to be found."

The past two years have been a trying period for Mount Vernon, as they have been for the rest of the world. Under the leadership of our 22nd Regent, Sarah Miller Coulson, in partnership with Doug Bradburn, President and CEO, the thoughtful guidance of our Vice Regents, and the steadfast dedication of the staff, we have navigated the ongoing pandemic through the year 2021 stronger than ever.

The MVLA does not accept government funding. Each year, we raise the funds needed to protect George Washington's home and support our national education efforts through ticket sales and food and retail operations, and with the financial support of our members and donors. We set a conservative budget in 2021, unsure of Americans' willingness and ability to travel amid the COVID-19 pandemic. I am delighted to report that we exceeded our budgeted visitation numbers for the year by 18 percent and our membership base has grown by 30 percent. We are optimistic, albeit cautiously, that our visitors are returning.

Mount Vernon's education mission has also seen great advances over the last

year. We are now reaching more teachers than ever through our George Washington Teacher Institute. This year, we once again welcomed teachers back on-site for immersive, professional development courses, and we are increasingly reaching even more teachers digitally through our virtual programming. The teachers are bringing these lessons back with them to their school districts and classrooms, impacting hundreds of thousands of students across the country.

In November, the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association launched the public phase of its most ambitious fundraising campaign to date: *Strengthening Our Foundations: The Campaign for Mount Vernon*. This multiyear effort to raise \$150 million will achieve several goals centered on all aspects of our mission—preserving the Mansion and historic structures, teaching America's story, and building our endowment to ensure the foundation of Mount Vernon is secure for generations to come.

Since the purchase of Mount Vernon in 1858, the MVLA has been a steady hand, adhering to the highest standards in preservation, education, and sound fiscal stewardship. The love for Washington's home and legacy will always be an influence for unity and for strength in our country. I extend a sincere thank-you for your commitment to our mission. Our work would not be possible without your unwavering support and partnership.

**Margaret H. Nichols**  
Regent

# Letter From the President

TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-ONE was yet another challenging year for our nation and nations around the world. The rise of misinformation, and sometimes stifling polarization, has created an environment that challenges our public institutions and tests our democratic systems of government. There has perhaps never been a time in our nation's history when the lessons of George Washington were more needed than they are right now. Washington's leadership skills stand the test of time. He was a great listener and an avid reader, seeking counsel and information from people with opposing views, and making command decisions based on what was right for the country. He was entrusted with ensuring that our fragile democracy would survive, and he did so by putting its citizens above his own interests, resigning from public service not once but twice to ensure a peaceful transition of power. He was also a man who learned from his mistakes and experiences, and who allowed his views to change when the course needed correction.

He, like all of us, was not perfect, but his virtues are still worthy to strive for today. The values that we share as Americans can be explored in the stories we tell about his singular leadership, perseverance, vision, and character. These are the parables of the founding of our nation that we share every day at Mount Vernon to young learners and old.

I am very proud of all that the team accomplished in 2021. Today, our impact and reach are greater even than in 2019. Our investments in digital resources and education enable us to speak to millions

of people worldwide. Our visitation is rebounding, and the team has handled our reopening with the utmost regard to visitor safety. We have brought home more than 100 original Washington and Custis objects into the collection, including the most significant collection of George and Martha Washington objects in more than one hundred years, thanks to the generosity of our donors and Board. In addition, our fundraising and membership numbers have never been stronger.

As an institution that accepts no government funds, the past two years have been difficult. We had to reduce our expenses and defer important preservation and infrastructure projects. But the outlook for our institution is strong. This fall, we launched the public phase of our multiyear fundraising campaign, *Strengthening Our Foundations: The Campaign for Mount Vernon*. I am happy to report that, through the generosity of supporters like you, we raised nearly \$100 million of our \$150 million goal by the close of 2021. This campaign will be transformational for the institution, enabling us to broaden our educational mission with all-new exhibits, increase our endowment to ensure our institution can financially weather future disasters, and ensure that Mount Vernon remains a leader in preservation as we secure these priceless buildings and landscapes for future generations.

I look forward to an important year, and hope to personally



welcome you soon to Mount Vernon.

This annual report is a testament to your tremendous and generous support. Thank you so much for helping to keep the legacy of George Washington alive and well.

**Douglas Bradburn**  
President & CEO

# Strengthening Our Foundations

**T**HE YEAR 2021 MARKED THE public launch of *Strengthening Our Foundations: The Campaign for Mount Vernon*. The Campaign for Mount Vernon will ensure Mount Vernon remains the most important historic site in the country and lasts for generations.

This ambitious \$150-million campaign is Mount Vernon's most significant fundraising effort since the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association's original drive to purchase and restore the estate more than 160 years ago.

*Strengthening OUR FOUNDATIONS*  
THE CAMPAIGN FOR MOUNT VERNON

In 2026, all Americans will join together to celebrate the 250th birthday of our country's founding. Because George Washington was a central figure in the fight to gain our liberty, all eyes will be on the beloved home and final resting place of our first president. This campaign will ensure that Mount Vernon will be a shining symbol of American independence on that day and for generations to come.

Through the support of this campaign, Mount Vernon will take on immediate preservation challenges, ensure educational resources and programs are second to none, and increase annual support while building a transformational endowment that will secure the financial strength of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association.

Since 2018, more than a dozen leadership gifts of \$1 million or more have combined with gifts of all sizes from thousands of donors nationwide to enable fundraising for the campaign to nearly reach the \$100 million milestone.

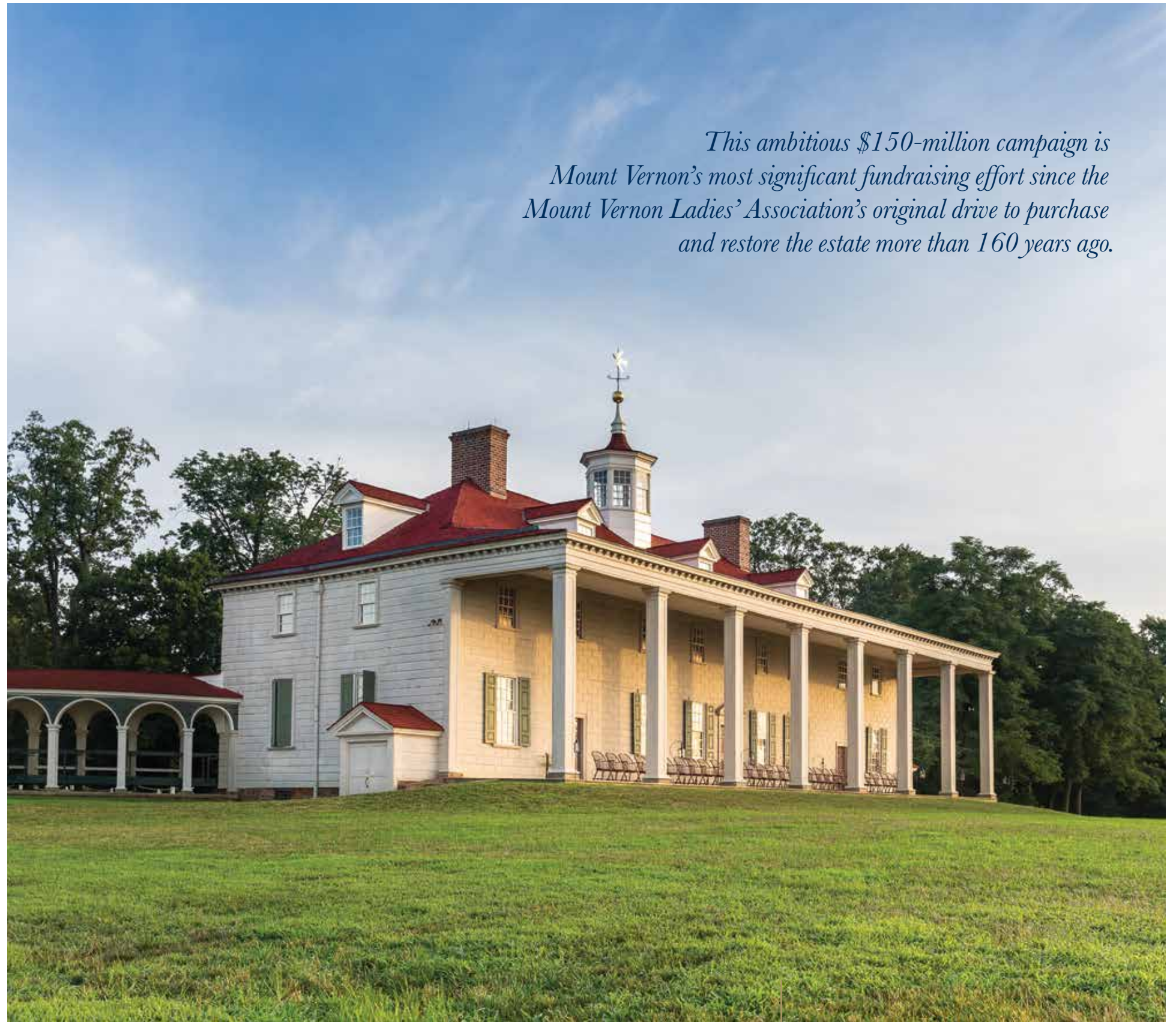
Current and emerita members of the Board have stepped forward to lead the initial phases of this campaign. The Regent and Vice Regents of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association shared a video highlighting the campaign's incredible long-term impact and its critical role in the vibrant future of Washington's estate with friends from across the country. Many Vice Regents also hosted events nationwide to emphasize the importance of George Washington and Mount Vernon.

The Campaign for Mount Vernon is co-chaired by Vice Regent for Illinois Catherine Marlette Waddell and Vice Regent for Massachusetts Andrea Notman Sahin.

The campaign's dedicated website, [campaignformountvernon.org](https://campaignformountvernon.org), launched in 2021. The site features exclusive videos about the campaign's priorities of preserving the Mansion and historic area, teaching America's story, and securing our future. The website also provides more detail about the variety of initiatives within the campaign and shares many ways to make an impact.

Opportunities remain to become involved in the campaign. Many important projects need funding, and every gift makes a difference. This campaign will strengthen the foundation of Washington's home and estate through vital preservation projects. It will strengthen Mount Vernon's financial foundation by growing our endowment. The campaign also will strengthen the foundation of America through educational initiatives to teach the next generation about civics, the founding era, and Washington's role in it.

*This ambitious \$150-million campaign is Mount Vernon's most significant fundraising effort since the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association's original drive to purchase and restore the estate more than 160 years ago.*





**PRESERVING  
THE MANSION  
AND HISTORIC  
AREA**

PETER FAMILY COLLECTION

MAJOR PROJECTS



# Peter Family Collection



LATE IN 2020, THE MOUNT Vernon Ladies' Association was afforded an extraordinary opportunity to purchase the largest collection of George and Martha Washington-owned objects remaining in private hands. At a trying moment, many of Mount Vernon's closest friends rallied together to secure this landmark acquisition. We are pleased to recognize the generous supporters to this fundraising effort, concluded in 2021.

As highlighted below, the nearly 100 objects in this collection represent a remarkable array of treasured possessions, from jewelry and clothing to presidential porcelains and fragile glassware. The assemblage comes to Mount Vernon with impeccable provenance, descending to the seller through the Peter family of Tudor Place in Georgetown. Martha Parke Custis Peter, Martha Washington's granddaughter, and her husband, Thomas Peter, acquired most of the objects either as gifts from the Washingtons or at a series of sales after Mrs. Washington's death.

Headlining the collection is the gold and enamel watch with diamond-embedded hands ordered from London for Mrs. Washington in 1785, a piece passed down to Peter family brides on their wedding days. A porcelain plaque with a bust of George Washington surrounded by delicate flowers was presented to the president during his 1791 Southern Tour. A silver and coral baby rattle that Martha Washington gave her great-grandchild Martha Eliza Eleanor Peter in 1796 is a charming reminder of the many children who graced the Washingtons' lives. The assemblage includes clothing

worn by Martha Washington, a rare group of kitchen objects used at Mount Vernon, and much more.

Viewed as a whole, the Peter Family Collection stands out among the most important acquisitions made since the Association embarked on its quest to bring home original Washington objects. Numerous items are featured in the recently opened exhibition, *Mount Vernon: The Story of an American Icon*, and they are certain to enhance our understanding of the Washingtons and their families for generations to come.

### Peter Family Collection Acquisition Highlights

Martha Washington's gold, enamel, and diamond watch, made by Richard Webster, London, 1783-1784, and gold case engraved with Washington and Dandridge arms, made by John Stillas, New York, 1793. *Acquired through the generosity of Sarah Miller Coulson, Regent and Vice Regent for Pennsylvania*

Biscuit porcelain portrait plaque of George Washington, Bristol Manufactory, c. 1779. *Acquired through the generosity of Lucy S. Rhame and the Connoisseur Society of Mount Vernon*

Child's dressing table and writing desk, c. 1784, sent by Madame de Lafayette. *Acquired through the generosity of the F.M. Kirby Foundation*

Martha Washington's white cotton dimity wrapper, c. 1800. *Acquired through the generosity of Jacqueline B. Mars*

Silver and coral teething rattle, made by Ann and Peter Bateman, London, 1795. *Acquired through the generosity of Maribeth Borthwick, Vice Regent for California, and Wm. Harold Borthwick*

White and gold porcelain icery, made at Locré Factory, Paris, c. 1785. *Acquired through the generosity of the Honorable Terri Lynn Land, Michigan Secretary of State 2003-2011, and Daniel Tedford Hibma*

"Tobacco leaf" pattern Chinese export porcelain tureen lid and stand, c. 1755. *Acquired through the generosity of the E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation*

Pearl and amethyst brooch, c. 1795, and gold locket with George Washington's hair. *Acquired through the generosity of Mary and Ed Bartlett*

Bisque porcelain figure, 1785-1795. *Acquired through the generosity of Thomas S. Kenan III*

Copper poffertjes pan, late 18th century. *Acquired through the generosity of the Dr. William M. and Betty H. Busey Family*

Two ivory fans and iron pothook. *Acquired through the generosity of Frances A. Edmonds (Mohr) and Michael D. Mohr*

Coral and gold earrings. *Acquired through the generosity of Patrick and Sheila Proby Gross*



**The following items were acquired through the generosity of contributors to the Peter Family Collection Acquisition:**

Eight serving pieces from the gold and white French porcelain table service, 1778–1788, purchased for the presidential household in 1790: Sèvres ice plate, sauce boat, butter boat, “stew dish,” confection dish, mustard pot, and oval dish; Duc D’Angoulême scalloped dish.

Chinese export porcelain “image” pattern quart mug, c. 1766.

Ten pieces of English cut glass tableware, 1760–1800: pair of candlesticks, covered sugar bowl, salt cellar, two finger bowls, three jelly glasses, and sweetmeat glass.

English glass sweetmeat basket and bowl, three blue finger bowls, engraved glass rummer, and Bohemian engraved tumbler, 1760–1800.

Silver teapot and waste bowl, made by Anthony Simmons, Philadelphia, 1797, given by the Washingtons to granddaughter Martha Parke Custis Peter.

Sheffield plate candlestick, c. 1796.

Silk embroidered bird with initials “MW,” 1770–1780, and Marseilles quilt with fringe attrib. to Martha Washington, 1780–1800.

Three conch shell buttons, worn by George or Martha Washington, 1789–1797, and Martha Washington’s stays, 1785–1800.

Coral bead necklace, pearl bracelet with hair locket, and two locks of George Washington’s hair.

Martha Washington’s French armchair (bergère), c. 1785.

Mahogany fire screen, made by Philip Bell, London, 1759.

Liquor case with three bottles, 1750–1800, and linen press base, c. 1795.

Lacquered tea caddy, c. 1795.

Two pewter hot water plates, made by John Watts, London, 1760–1774.

Coffee mill, brass skillet, tin spice canister, and pinking iron, 18th century.

Bisque porcelain figure, 1785–1795.

Music book inscribed by Martha (Patty) Parke Custis Peter, *Deux Grandes Sonates pour le Clavecin ou PianoForte ...*, by Ignaz Playel, London, c. 1787.

**Contributors to the Peter Family Collection Acquisition**

**Major supporters include** John and Adrienne Mars; James L. Freeman and Laura Lofaro Freeman; The Richard S. Reynolds Foundation; Mrs. Wm. Lipscomb Davis, Jr.; Margaret and James Allison; Mr. and Mrs. P. William Moore, Jr.; Randy and Kelly Schrimsher; Bruce and Pamela Perkins; and Catherine M. and Frederick H. Waddell.

**Additional contributors include**

Una Keyes Davis; Mr. and Mrs. Richard A. Dial; Mr. and Mrs. Stanley DeForest Scott; Anonymous Donor; Ms. Tarry Faries; Mr. and Mrs. Beverly M. DuBose III; Mr. and Mrs. John R. Robinson; Mr. and Mrs. John Daniel Reaves; Mrs. Wallace S. Wilson; Ms. Karen U. Lavoie; and Andrea and Kenan Sahin.

Gift: The Jess and Grace Pavey Fund, The A. Alfred Taubman Acquisition Endowment Fund, and The William and Lisa Moore Acquisition Endowment Fund.

# Major Preservation Projects



## MANSION RESTORATION

In 2021, the architecture team completed paint removal, repairs, documentation, painting, and sand-casting of the Mansion's north and south ends—the second phase of a three-phase project. On both ends, the team found samples of original paint, further corroborating the stone color of the original exterior. In addition, the south end restoration revealed evidence that the two windows of the Washingtons' bedchamber had been raised slightly when Bushrod Washington added a two-story porch in the early 19th century; these were carefully restored and returned to their original locations, complete with precise reproductions of the original wooden sash pullies.





**WHAT LIES BENEATH ...**

A generous donation from Perfecta enabled Mount Vernon to acquire a ground penetrating radar unit (GPR), a digital technology that allows archaeologists to “see” sub-surface features without disturbing them. Initial GPR surveys have revealed a wealth of new information about the cultural landscape—including an extensive network of drains that conveyed rainwater from the Mansion downspouts to the dung repository, ingeniously supporting the production of compost. Notable findings of in-ground surveys include a 1775 George III half-penny and a fragmentary 1713 John Custis wine seal—presumably from a bottle brought here by Martha Dandridge Custis when she arrived as a bride in 1759.

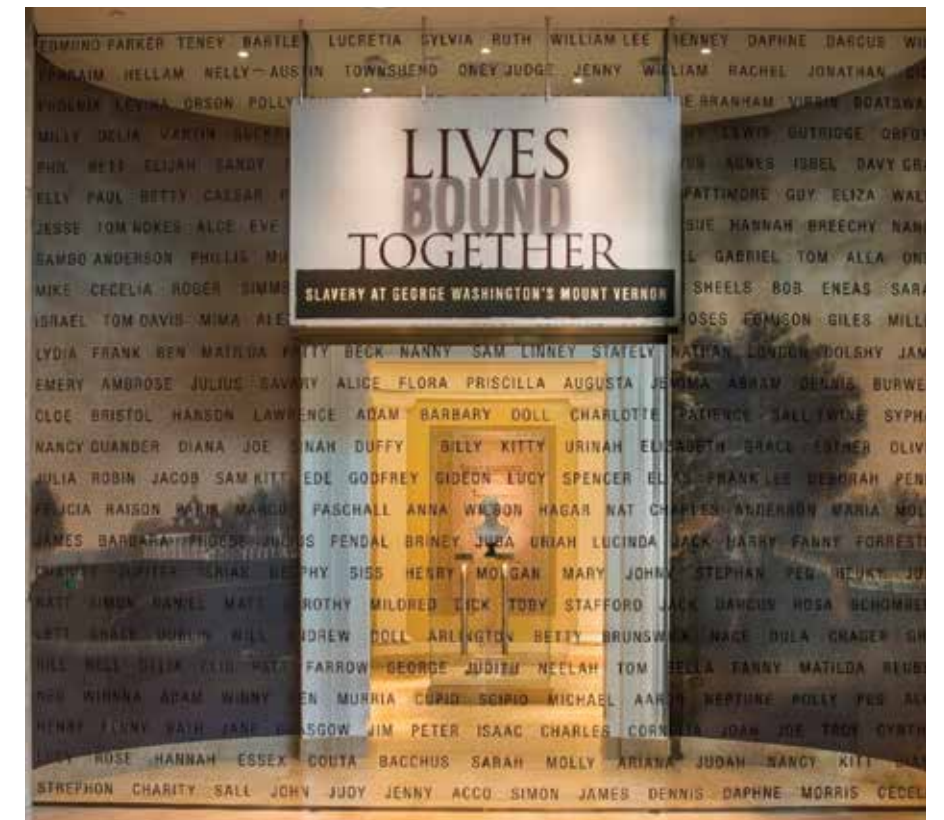


**COW HOUSE**

The replica “cow house” (left) on the pasture west of the bowling green now sports a handsome thatched roof, as specified by George Washington “for the cover of my cattle” in 1796. We are grateful for the anonymous donation that supported the restoration of this outbuilding to an authentic 18th-century appearance

**LIVES BOUND TOGETHER**

Our award-winning special exhibition, *Lives Bound Together: Slavery at George Washington’s Mount Vernon*, (right) completed its five-year run in July, with more than 677,000 visitors. Its impact continues, with ongoing staff consultations on slavery interpretation at dozens of historical sites and museums nationally and internationally.





## TEACHING AMERICA'S STORY

CIVICS EDUCATION

ON-SITE PROGRAMMING

LIBRARY EVENTS

RESEARCH FELLOWS



## Lessons From Washington's Civic Leadership

**D**URING A TUMULTUOUS YEAR for education nationwide, Mount Vernon provided steady support for strong and renewed civic education initiatives to ensure George Washington is a part of civil discussions in classrooms everywhere. We have been able to help teachers and scholars use history and the legacy of George Washington to make sense of the civic landscape they navigate with their students and with the public.

For one of our initiatives, we focus our work within the Commonwealth of Virginia, serving as the lead institution among four partners contributing to the Department of State's Declaration of Learning program. As the hosting site in 2021, Mount Vernon used its remarkable material culture collection as a tool for instructing civics alongside the Chrysler Museum of Art, the American Civil War Museum, and the Virginia Museum of History and Culture. With this collaboration, we merged the best of our traditional teacher professional development program with an interdisciplinary approach across the state with librarians, art teachers—and, of course, history educators! While most of our teacher programs are national, this one helped us focus development with Virginia teachers, not just in our region, but throughout all corners of George Washington's home state. Mount Vernon's participation was generously supported by the William R. Kenan, Jr. Charitable Trust and the Challenge Foundation.

Our work was not limited to the local neighborhood. We retooled our Life Guard Teacher Fellowship program to center the teacher-created materials on George Washington's civic contributions. Working closely with the nonpartisan initiative Engaging American Democracy, each fellow collaborated with our primary sources to create teaching materials for all grades. Each of the nine lessons co-created by these five fellows elevated the leadership contributions of George Washington, with inspiration for students to engage in the complexities of our nation's history. Topics included forming the cabinet, Washington's character strengths and his decision to become a patriot, memorializing Washington, Native American policy, Washington as a slave owner, and the legacy of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association. Each resource provided both primary sources and contextual timelines so that students have tools to form their arguments through inquiry about Washington's leadership.

After a quick pivot in 2020 to support virtual classrooms, our digital distance learning program and resources associated with the Be Washington interactive game continue to grow in popularity and relevance to civics and history classrooms. The Whiskey Rebellion scenario remains our most popular, one easily adapted to civic discussions in the classroom as it deftly (with historical context) introduces the careful balance that must be struck between national and state governments to achieve the artful balance of



federalism. It is just one example of an issue critical to George Washington that continues to challenge political leaders today.

We are also closely attuned to the latest scholarship among educators about civic education—what works, what doesn't, and what we're learning about effective civics instruction in the 21st century. Our annual Founding Debates

event in September included a panel of some of the world's leading scholars on the subject of civic education, as the Washington Library at Mount Vernon helped continue the exploration of how we can better fulfill our educational mission. In so many ways, Mount Vernon remains committed to teaching Americans about our civic order and the rights and responsibilities of citizenship.

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## TEACHING AMERICA'S STORY

# A Reason to Return

FOR MANY GUESTS, A VISIT TO Mount Vernon is a once-in-a-lifetime experience, and we are honored to be part of that monumental moment in their lives. Mount Vernon, however, can also be a place to enjoy on multiple visits. In 2021, we changed the visitor experience to showcase the breadth of its offerings and demonstrate that one visit is not enough.

Two significant changes that impacted every visitor to Mount Vernon were the inclusion of free audio tours with admission and the introduction of a “Grounds Ticket.” The audio tour, which includes hours of content, uses handheld devices available in the Ford Orientation Center and is updated with seasonal content, such as the “Aladdin stop,” which was available after the arrival of our camel in November. Audio tour content is also available on Mount Vernon’s mobile website, which has built-in accessibility features, like text transcription for each stop, ensuring greater access to learning opportunities for every user. Our second major change, the Grounds Ticket, is for guests who may not feel the need to take a tour of the Mansion on every visit. Both of these changes allowed us to reach visitors in new ways that highlighted the many compelling reasons to visit Mount Vernon beyond a tour of its most visible icon.

Another exciting change in 2021 was introducing a new orientation film that outlines the breadth of opportunities available during a visit to Mount Vernon. This nine-minute film, which plays on a continuous loop in the Ford Orientation Center’s Eagles Theater,

uses artwork from the Orientation Map to ensure visitors leave with the confidence to explore our expansive grounds on their own. The film introduces viewers to activities on the Farm and Wharf, the unique nature of our gardens, and the multitude of stories told in the Museum. These highlights illustrate the one-of-a-kind nature of our site’s rich history, inspire visitors with a sense of exploration, and provide many reasons to return. The film was generously sponsored by Lynn and Scott Molitor.

Washington’s Distillery & Gristmill, in addition to being open on weekends from April to October, offered a new whiskey tasting experience on select days that met with great success. Nearly every ticket sold out for this in-demand public program, which inspired more than one participant to bring a bottle or two (or three!) home and increase on-site whiskey sales.

Along with our tremendously successful annual, family-friendly daytime special events, including the 4th of July, Revolutionary War Days, and Colonial Market and Fair, we added four Family Days to highlight different Mount Vernon themes that young people and the adults in their lives could explore together. Families learned about animals, the arts, archaeology, and holidays through special programming elements that included movement, interpretation, and extended learning opportunities at home. Specialty tours such as a “Founding Flowers,” “Hamilton the Musical at Mount Vernon,” and a VIP experience offering behind-the-scenes access offered visitors opportunities for

a more in-depth look at different aspects of Mount Vernon.

The final significant change of 2021 was the well-earned shift to emeritus status for our longtime interpreters of George and Martha Washington, who brought their insightful and inspiring portrayals of the founding couple to life for more than 30 years. The departure of Dean Malissa and Mary Wiseman (who will still reprise their roles on occasion) brought about the exciting announcement and introduction of Dan Shippey and Elizabeth Keaney as our new Washingtons. Their inviting and resonant portrayals of George and Martha Washington during the Revolutionary War years provide visitors with critical new ways to connect with the first couple.

*In 2021, we changed the visitor experience to showcase the breadth of its offerings and demonstrate that one visit is not enough.*

# Pivoting to a Digital Strategy

**M**OUNT VERNON IS COMMITTED TO FINDING WAYS to inform and inspire people with a richer understanding of our nation's past. The unique challenges that began in March 2020 and continued through 2021 required us to adapt our approach to public events, but the results exceeded our every expectation.

The investments in digital education across the past eight years continued to produce results. Members of Mount Vernon's team from the Washington Library, the Learning Department, and the Media and Communications Department

worked together to create informative programs, livestream them across multiple platforms, and archive them so that they could be watched later by thousands more.

Because of our online platforms, Mount Vernon now regularly reaches more people digitally than could possibly be accommodated on-site. This audience that stretches across the nation—and often the world—can also participate by asking questions of historians as they are being interviewed by Mount Vernon's own scholars.

Nonetheless, Mount Vernon moved cautiously but deter-

minedly to return to hosting on-site, in-person events. In July 2021, author David O. Stewart came to the Smith Auditorium to offer our first in-person book talk in more than a year. Thanks to the lessons learned during that previous year, a national audience was able to virtually attend his discussion of the political education of George Washington, owing to a simultaneous livestream. This new, hybrid approach to events will be transformative for Mount Vernon's ability to meet its educational mission in the years ahead. Through the second half of 2021, we hosted monthly author interviews, our annual Founding Debates event, and our fall George Washington Symposium at Mount Vernon.

In our efforts to reach teachers and students, the digital shift needed in 2020 led us to a broader reach nationwide in this arena that we are excited to continue. The Residential Teacher Program stayed digital for the summer, and we welcomed 150 new teachers into our alumni cohort, who have already reached an additional 400 teachers in their communities and school districts with a professional development session of their own. While we were so pleased to return to on-site teacher programming in the fall of 2021, we plan to continue doing digital programs in 2022 as well.

Our digital reach to students continues to grow. In coordination with the Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence, we reached thousands of fifth grade students in that state with two "one-to-many" sessions during their virtual colonial days. Our digital learning programs reached even more students through dedicated one-to-one classroom sessions that included tours through the Mansion and grounds (virtually), facilitated Be Washington experiences, and a deep dive into primary sources to help students explore the complex world of slavery in the 18th century. More than 2,500 students were able to "visit" Mount Vernon in this way in a year when field trips and travel proved more daunting than usual. California was the state with the most students served with this program, with just under 500 students attending through 17 different virtual tours. Whether on the estate or streaming directly to our audience around the nation and world, Mount Vernon's ability to meet our educational mission to teach about the life, leadership, and legacy of George Washington has never been stronger.



*Whether on the estate or streaming directly to our audience around the nation and world, Mount Vernon's ability to meet our educational mission to teach about the life, leadership, and legacy of George Washington has never been stronger.*



## 2021–2022 Research Fellows

**M**OUNT 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 Fred W. Smith National Library for the Study of George Washington. 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/](http://mountvernon.org/researchfellows/)

**Listed here are the 2021–2022 Fellows.**

Marjorie McHenry Bride

*George Washington's Wine Cooler: A Reflection of Post-Revolutionary America*

Melissa Anne DeVelvis, Ph.D.

*Secession through Washington's Eyes: The Mount Vernon Ladies' Association and the Rhetoric of Revolution on the Eve of the Civil War*

James M. Dubik, Ph.D.

*George Washington the Juggler, an Inquiry into Washington's Wartime Leadership*

Carolyn Eastman, Ph.D.

*A Plague in New York City: How the City Confronted—and Survived—the Yellow Fever Epidemic in the Founding Era*

Sam Edwards, Ph.D.

*Mount Vernon and Transatlantic Cultural Diplomacy, c.1860–1951*

Sean M. Gallagher

*Slaves of the Revolution: Enslaved Public Labor in the War for Independence*

Peter R. Henriques, Ph.D.

*Fire and Ice: The Relationship between George Washington and John Adams*

Jon Kukla, Ph.D.

*Rehearsal for Revolution: The Stamp Act Rebellion, 1764–1766*

Edward J. Larson, Ph.D.

*Liberty and Slavery in Revolutionary America*

Kathryn K. Lasdow, Ph.D.

*Wharfed Out: Improvement and Inequity on the Early American Urban Waterfront*

Miriam Liebman

*Thus Much for Politicks: American*

*Women, Diplomacy, and the Aftermath of the American Revolution*

Joyce Zankel Lindorff, DMA

*The Washington Harpsichord and Its Repertoire: The Music Books of Eleanor Parke Custis*

Grace Mallon

*George Washington and the Governors, 1789–1797*

Brian Phillips Murphy, Ph.D.

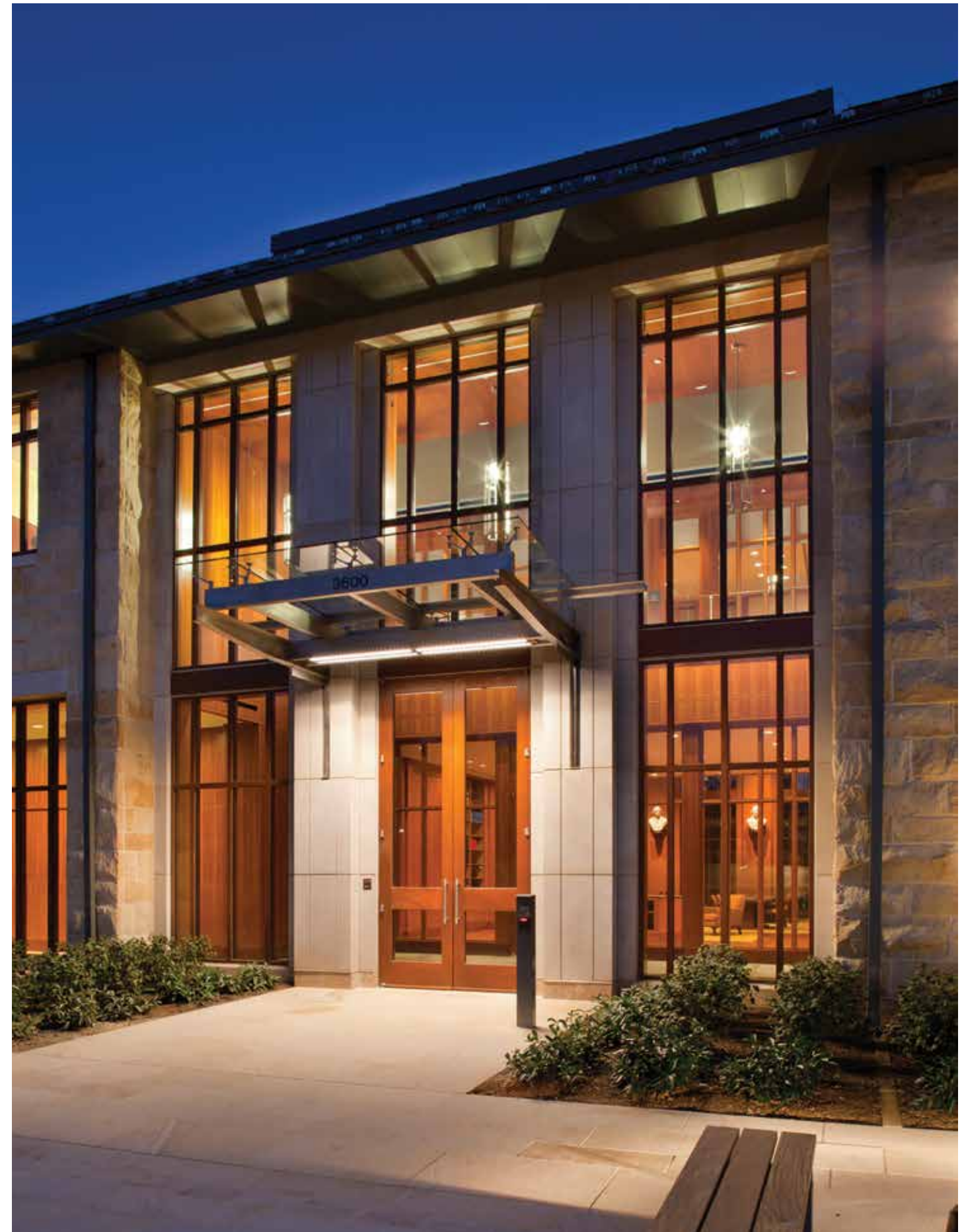
*Nature's Power: The Political Ecology of the Passaic River*

Terri L. Snyder, Ph.D.

*Claiming Liberty: A Family History of Race, Gender, and the Meaning of Freedom*

Greta K. Swain

*Mapping the Masons: Space, Place and Potomac River Networks, 1700–1825*





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# SECURING OUR FUTURE

GEORGE WASHINGTON NATIONAL  
BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

FOUNDERS

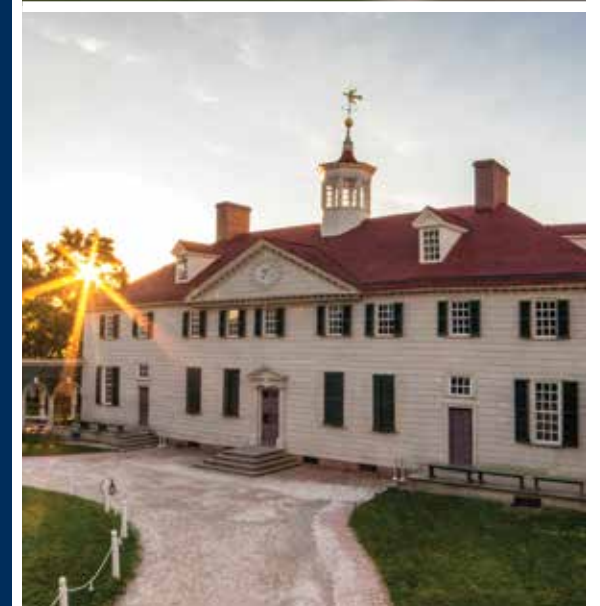
LIFE GUARD

MOUNT VERNON TRAVEL PROGRAM

CONNOISSEUR SOCIETY

SPIRIT OF MOUNT VERNON

WASHINGTON CABINET



# George Washington National Birthday Celebration

ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22, MOUNT VERNON HOSTED ITS FIRST EVER national celebration of Washington's 289th birthday with a virtual birthday party. More than 26,000 viewers from across the nation joined the event to celebrate. The broadcast featured a performance by General and Mrs. Washington; birthday wishes from actors, musicians, and historians, including Denyce Graves, Rick Atkinson, and Colin Powell; a look back on the history of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association; never-before-seen preservation and collection highlights; a virtual visit to Washington's gristmill; and more.

Hosted by the Regent and the Vice Regents of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association and organized by the Neighborhood Friends, this pinnacle fundraiser 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.

Learn more at [mountvernon.org/neighborhoodfriends](http://mountvernon.org/neighborhoodfriends)

Joe and Ann Somerset, Co-chairs (*Riverwood on Union Farm*)

Eric and Danae Delman (*Mount Vernon Terrace on Union Farm*)

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Daniel and Hyunjoo Fleming (*Stratford Landing on River Farm*)

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# The Founders, Washington Committee

ON JUNE 6, THE FOUNDERS COMMITTEE HOSTED APPROXIMATELY 130 GUESTS for its annual spring fundraiser, which supported the upcoming museum exhibit, *Mount Vernon: The Story of an American Icon*. Guests enjoyed cocktails on the east lawn and viewed recently acquired Washington treasures from the Peter Family Collection that will be prominently displayed within the upcoming exhibit. This was the most successful Founders event to date.

## Founders Committee

The Founders, Washington Committee is a group of patriotic women from the Washington, DC, area. Since 1980, their fundraising has supported a multitude of programs and projects furthering the mission of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association. Their ardent work has added inestimably to the Mount Vernon experience. *Learn more at [mountvernon.org/founders](http://mountvernon.org/founders)*



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# The Life Guard Society

ON SEPTEMBER 25, THE LIFE GUARD SOCIETY HELD ITS FALL FUNDRAISER on the east lawn, supporting restoration of the Washingtons' bedchamber. Rarely shown Washington family objects were on display. The evening also included the release of a rehabilitated bald eagle by Wildlife Veterinary Care; recognition of past Life Guard Society chair Jo Carol Porter; and the announcement of the inaugural winners of the Mount Vernon Prize for Civics and History in honor of Dr. Jennifer London, member of the Life Guard Society. General Washington discussed the importance of civic education, and guests enjoyed fireworks over the Potomac. This was the most successful Life Guard event to date.

## Life Guard Society

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 give generously of time, talent, and resources to help with a wide variety of signature projects focused on Mount Vernon's mission.



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 Richard J.J. and Gail F. Sullivan



# Mount Vernon Travel Program

**T**HE MOUNT VERNON TRAVEL PROGRAM EXPLORED A VARIETY OF HISTORICAL landmarks, cultural institutions, and decorative arts collections in Boston from September 30 to October 3. The Vice Regent for Massachusetts hosted the group, and historian Nathaniel Philbrick provided a special lecture at the opening night dinner. Among the activities, the group enjoyed a curator-led tour of the Boston Athenaeum and special viewing of the library's collection of original Washington books.



# The Connoisseur Society

**T**HE CONNOISSEUR SOCIETY IS A GROUP OF GEORGE WASHINGTON enthusiasts dedicated to supporting the acquisition, preservation, and conservation of Mount Vernon's rich and diverse collections.

The Connoisseur Society's 2021 support contributed to Mount Vernon's acquisition of the Peter Family Collection, a stunning array of nearly 100 original Washington items.

**Chair**

Mrs. Lucy S. Rhame  
Alexandria VA

**Members**

- Mrs. Irene Roosevelt Aitken  
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# 2021 Spirit of Mount Vernon

ON OCTOBER 7, THE RECORD-BREAKING 20TH ANNUAL SPIRIT OF MOUNT Vernon event welcomed more than 850 guests from the Washington, DC, government affairs community, along with Capitol Hill and the presidential administration. The event recognized past co-chairs and celebrated the birthday of Mount Vernon's director of executive leadership programs Peter Cressy, who originated the event. Activities included a performance by the United States Marine Drum and Bugle Corps, fireworks, and a live auction. The event benefitted Mount Vernon's education and preservation mission.

## Event Sponsors

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# Washington Cabinet

**T**HE WASHINGTON CABINET held its inaugural gathering October 21–22. The event included a day of exclusive, behind-the-scenes tour opportunities, followed by cocktails at the west gate and dinner on the Mansion’s piazza. The group held its meeting at the Washington Library, followed by lunch at George Washington’s Distillery & Gristmill.

## Washington Cabinet Members

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

### Chair

David Rubenstein  
Washington, DC

### Members

Theodore H. Ashford  
Rockland, DE  
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2021 IN NUMBERS

**MOUNT VERNON  
AT A GLANCE**



58,600 DONORS

13,000 MEMBERS

484 STAFF

277 VOLUNTEERS

515,000 TOTAL ATTENDANCE

60,900 STUDENT GROUP IMPACT

\$231,000,000 ENDOWMENT

158 TEACHERS TRAINED DIRECTLY IMPACTING 18,644 STUDENTS

3,968,170 VIDEO VIEWS ON MOUNTVERNON.ORG

305,000 HOURS WATCHED ONLINE

8,470,390 VISITORS TO THE WEBSITE

21,281,220 WEB PAGES CONSUMED

328,082 HOURS SPENT ON MOUNTVERNON.ORG

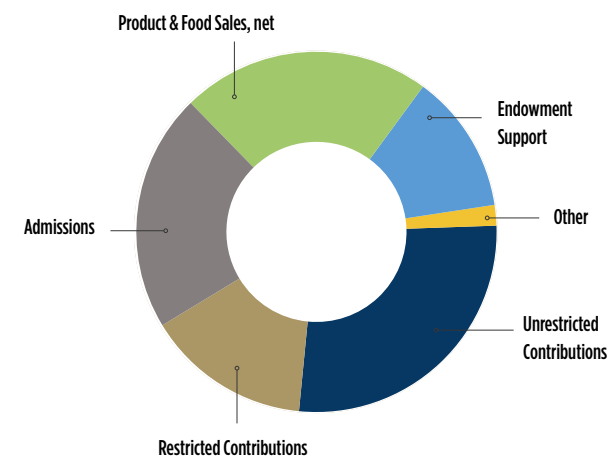
# Financial Highlights

**G**EOERGE WASHINGTON VALUED FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY in all his business ventures. The Mount Vernon Ladies' Association carries on this timeless tradition of responsible spending and engages in robust fundraising. We are proud to have spent 82 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.

Although we continued to experience a significant reduction in operating revenue due to the COVID pandemic, and inflation negatively impacted the cost of doing business, we allocated just 9 percent of the funds we raise to inspire generous citizens to support our mission. Thanks to our conservative financial management, our administrative costs accounted for a mere 9 percent of our total expenditures.

Thanks to our loyal donors and disciplined financial practices, our endowment has grown to \$231,000,000.

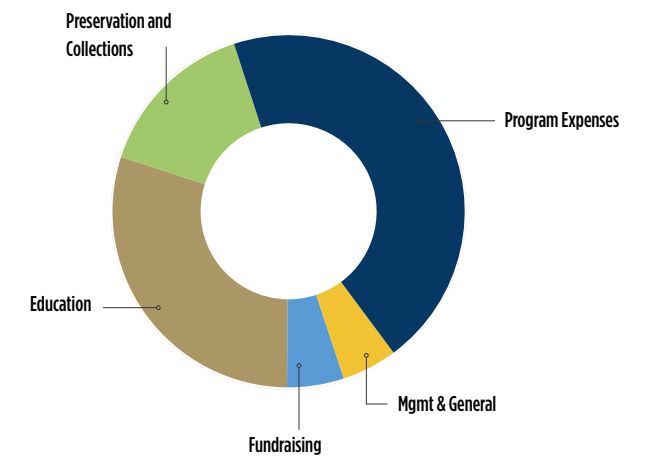
## Revenue



### Operating Revenue:

Unrestricted Contributions	\$12,500,000
Restricted Contributions	\$7,900,000
Admissions	\$10,400,000
Product & Food Sales, net	\$10,900,000
Endowment Support	\$6,100,000
Other	\$900,000
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$48,700,000</b>

## Expenses



### Operating Expenses:

(Excluding Depreciation)

Education	\$22,300,000
Preservation and Collections	\$11,200,000
<b>Program Expenses</b>	<b>\$33,500,000</b>
Mgmt & General	\$3,800,000
<b>Fundraising</b>	<b>\$3,900,000</b>
<b>Operating Expenses</b>	<b>\$41,200,000</b>



ACQUISITIONS

# Curatorial Collection Highlights

Two engravings, *Constellation & L'Insurgent –The Chase and Action between the Constellation and L'Insurgent*, by Edward Savage, 1799. Gift of Mr. and Mrs. D. Bradford Wetherell, Jr., in memory of Alice Mary Longfellow, Vice Regent for Massachusetts

*Mount Vernon in 1857*, painting by Eastman Johnson, 1858. Acquired through the generosity of Mike and Patti Sipple

Eight English gothic-back mahogany chairs and washstand, 1755–1775. Virginia walnut side chair, attrib. Robert Walker, 1760–1775. Acquired through the generosity of Jim and Jo Carol Porter

Eight engravings: Claudian landscapes; portraits of George Washington, Marquis de Lafayette, and Admiral Edward Vernon; and view of Mount Vernon, c. 1750–1807. Gift of James Langhorne

*Washington at Home*, painting by Alonzo Chappel, 1867. Purchased by the A. Alfred Taubman Acquisition Endowment Fund and partial gift of the Dr. Morris and Rita Shelanski Collection, Wynnewood, Pennsylvania

*Washington at Home*, lithograph after Alonzo Chappel, 1867. Gift of James L. Freeman

*Harry Washington Saddling Nelson*, painting by Marion Miller, 2020. Donated to Mount Vernon in honor of Mary Thompson's legacy

Portrait of Martha Washington, painting by Francis Meade, 1869, and *Washington Meeting Rochambeau*, painting by Edward Percy Moran, c. 1915. Bequest of Raymond H. Robinson

Mount Vernon pattern transfer-printed covered vegetable dish, John & William Ridgway, 1822–1830. Gift of Steven W. Spandle and Kev Massoyan

Pontypool tray, made in Wales, 1770–1800. Gift of Dr. David D. Nelson of Tuscaloosa, Alabama

Pair of late 18th-century andirons and fireplace fender. Acquired through the generosity of Dr. and Mrs. H. William Marling

Sheffield silverplate tea urn, 1780s. Acquired through the generosity of William and Susan P. Schoelwer

Two commemorative George Washington medallions, made by James Crutchett, 1859, 1860. Bequest of Christopher Monkhouse

George Washington Inaugural Centennial Press Medal, 1889. Gift of Beverly Lemon

Engraving, *Key to Washington's Triumphant Entry into New York, Nov. 25th, 1783*, 1860. Gift of Janice Vernon Slocum

Watercolor of George Washington's tomb, c. 1850. Gift of Samuel R. Peterson

*Washington: Our Most Hon. Gen'l at ease*, drawing by David Omar White, 1967. Gift of Amy Pratt, daughter of the artist

Reproduction hunting horn, made by Richard Seraphinoff, 2020. Gift of Richard Seraphinoff and Celeste Holler Seraphinoff

Four pieces of white on white embroidery, 2020, reproduced from originals attrib. to Martha Washington, made by Doreen Arnold, Michele Chavez, Ruth Franconeri, and Cheryl Sharp. Gifts of Doreen Arnold, Michele Chavez, Ruth Franconeri, and Cheryl Sharp

**The following items were acquired as Gift: Jess and Grace Pavey Fund:**

George Washington English transfer-printed creamware mug, 1795–1800

Washington and Franklin transfer-printed Liverpool creamware punch bowl, c. 1798

Eight Sèvres porcelain plates, 18th century

Pair of silver casters, London, 1753–1754



## ACQUISITIONS

### The following items were purchased by the A. Alfred Taubman Acquisition Endowment Fund:

Fragment from striped silk gown worn by Martha Washington, c. 1795

Three pieces of needlework, by Eleanor (Nelly) Parke Custis Lewis, 1820–1850

Two printed handkerchiefs, *The Love of Truth: Mark the Boy* and *The Effect of Principle: Behold the Man*, 1806–1830

George Washington transfer-printed plate, attrib. John Harrison, Stoke-on-Trent, England, c. 1795

Embroidered sampler depicting Mount Vernon, 1827

Embroidered fire screen depicting George Washington, c. 1799

Five pair of andirons, 1740–1800

Four transfer-printed blue Staffordshire tea cups and saucers, sugar bowl, and waste bowl, Mount Vernon pattern, c. 1825

Silver calling card case depicting the New Tomb, 1840–1860

### Selected Loans to the Association

The Association is grateful to the many 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:

Last Will and Testament of George Washington, July 9, 1799, p. 22. *Courtesy of Fairfax County Circuit Court*

Portraits of Martha Dandridge Custis, Daniel Parke Custis, and John Parke and Martha Parke Custis, by John Wollaston, 1757. Portrait of the Marquis de Lafayette, by Charles Willson Peale, 1779. Portraits of Elizabeth Parke Custis and George Washington Parke Custis, by Robert Edge Pine, 1785. *Courtesy of Museums at Washington and Lee University, Lexington, Virginia*

Society of the Cincinnati Eagle insignia, 1784. *Courtesy of the Society of the Cincinnati*

Pair of silver wine goblets, made by John Carter, London, 1774–1775. *Courtesy of Susan and Paul Vogel*

Silver punch ladle, c. 1775. *Courtesy of an anonymous lender*

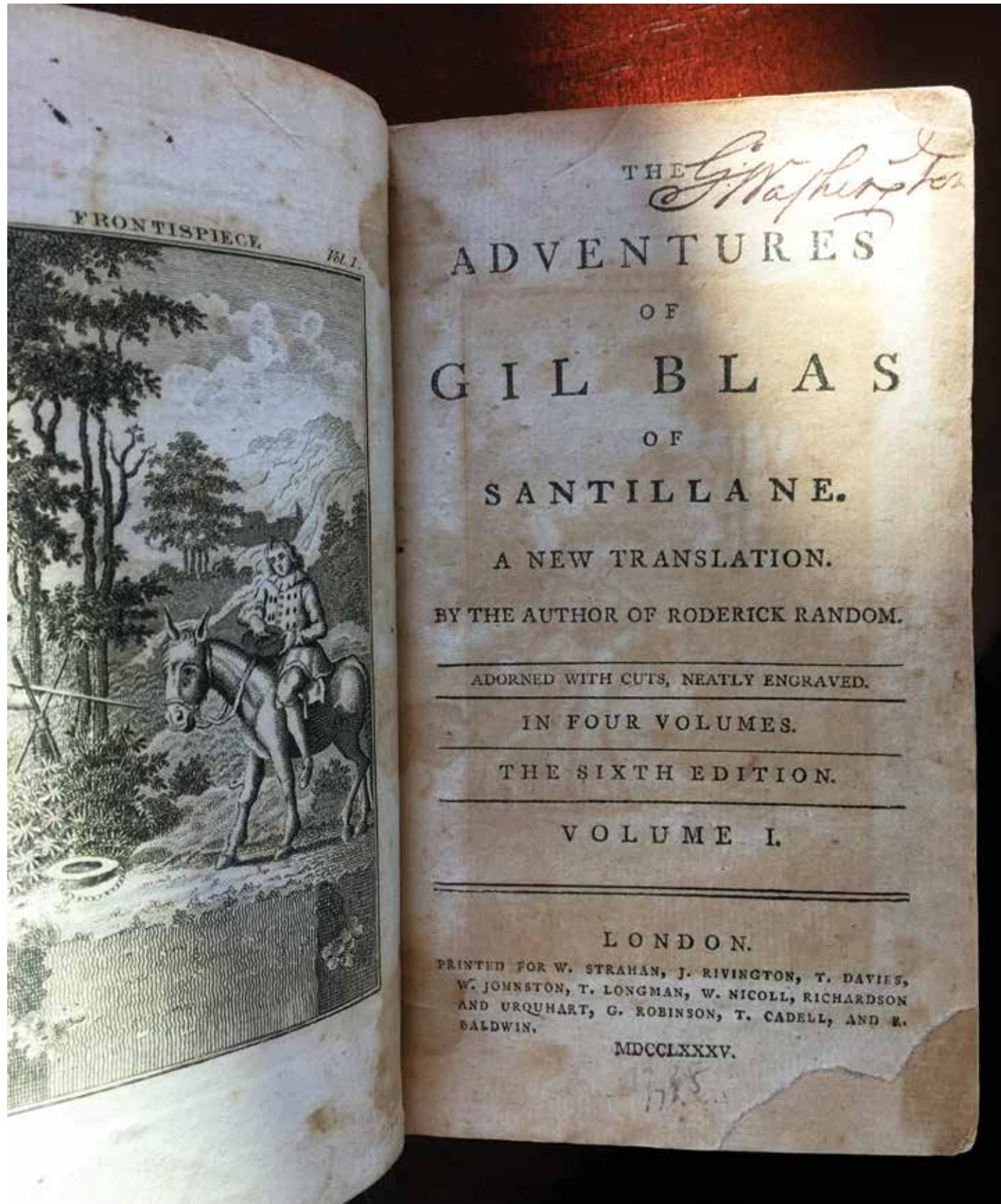


Lacquer lap desk, c. 1795, given by Marquis de Lafayette to Elizabeth Parke Custis. *Courtesy of an anonymous lender*

Sèvres and Angoulême porcelain serving dishes. *Courtesy of Walter Gibson Peter III*



*Action between the Constellation and L'Insurgent*, by Edward Savage, 1799



ACQUISITIONS

# Library Collections

*The Adventures of Gil Blas of Santillane*, vol. 1, English edition (1785), by Alain René Le Sage. George Washington's personal copy. A popular novel referenced by Washington in writing and conversation. *Purchased by the David M. Rubenstein Rare Books and Manuscripts Endowment*

French Intelligence Map of New York City and harbor, with related documents, 1781. A hand-drawn map with directions for navigating the approach to New York, in preparation for an invasion, with intelligence reports. *Purchased by the David M. Rubenstein Rare Books and Manuscripts Endowment, with the assistance of Richard H. Brown*

George Washington's list of shareholders in the Great Dismal Swamp Company, 1785. A land investment and improvement project Washington pursued during his first retirement. *Purchased by the David M. Rubenstein Rare Books and Manuscripts Endowment*

Plan of the Route of the Army Under the Command of Brigadier General Harmer, 1790. Visual account of Josiah Harmer's ill-fated military expedition against American Indian tribal nations of the Old Northwest Territory. *Purchased with funds provided by Mary Mochary and Richard H. Brown*

*A Dictionary of Religious Opinions: or, Concise Account of the Various Denominations, Into Which Christianity is Divided*, by William Jones (1815). Bushrod Washington's personal copy. *Purchased by the David M. Rubenstein Rare Books and Manuscripts Endowment*

*A Little Plain English, Addressed to the People of the United States, on the Treaty Negotiated with His Britannic Majesty* by Peter Porcupine (William Cobbett), 1795. A compilation of essays in favor of the Jay Treaty. A matching edition to a title in George Washington's library. *Purchased with funds provided by Charles Tharp*

Letter from West Ford to John Augustine Washington III, 27 August 1842. One of a few surviving manuscripts by someone enslaved and emancipated by the Washington family. *Purchased by the David M. Rubenstein Rare Books and Manuscripts Endowment*

*The Recollections of Richard Roberts*, 1865-1874. Autobiographical account of life in Fairfax County and the vicinity of Mount Vernon in the immediate aftermath of the Civil War. *Purchased by the David M. Rubenstein Rare Books and Manuscripts Endowment*

*Common Sense, Addressed to the Inhabitants of North America*, 3rd ed., by Thomas Paine (1776). An early edition of the polemic that inspired the American Revolution. *Gift of Wayne and Grace Rickert as part of the Rickert Signers of the Declaration of Independence Collection*

Letter from George Washington to Burgess Ball, 2 March 1795. Washington writes regarding the placement of a federal arsenal on Ball's property. *Gift of Wayne and Grace Rickert as part of the Rickert Signers of the Declaration of Independence Collection*

Letter from Benjamin Franklin to Charles Lee, 19 February 1776. Franklin writes to the Continental Army general to introduce Thomas Paine. *Gift of Wayne and Grace Rickert as part of the Rickert Signers of the Declaration of Independence Collection*





# Mount Vernon Ladies' Association

## Program Committees

### COLLECTIONS

Andrea Sahin, Chair  
 Mary Bishop  
 Maribeth Borthwick  
 Helen Laughery  
 Ann Pyne  
 Susan Townsend

### PRESERVATION

Liz Mauran, Chair  
 Elizabeth Hale  
 Karen Kirby  
 Virginia Lane  
 Catherine Mayton  
 Jean Sherrill  
 Hilary West

### EDUCATION

Ann Bookout, Chair  
 Karen Kirby  
 Anne Petri  
 Ann Pyne  
 Susan Reeder  
 Ann Scott  
 Catherine Waddell

### LIBRARY & LEADERSHIP

Sarah Coulson, Chair  
 Ann Bookout  
 Maribeth Borthwick  
 Anne Petri

Ann Scott  
 Catherine Waddell  
 Hilary West

### MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS

Laura Rutherford, Chair  
 Elizabeth Hale  
 Lucia Henderson  
 Cammie Mayer  
 Margaret Nichols

### Key Function Committees

#### Executive Officers

Sarah Coulson, Regent (2016–2021)  
 Ann Scott, Secretary (2016–2021)  
 Margaret Nichols, Treasurer (2016–2021)

#### Members-at-Large

Ann Bookout (2020–2022)  
 Laura Rutherford (2019–2021)

#### GOVERNANCE

Susan Townsend, Chair  
 2nd term 2019–2021  
 Mary Bishop  
 1st term 2020–2022  
 Lucia Henderson  
 1st term, 2020–2022  
 Helen Laughery  
 2nd term 2019–2021

Catherine Mayton  
 1st term 2019–2021  
 Andrea Sahin  
 1st term 2020–2022  
 Jean Sherrill  
 2nd term, 2019–2021

#### AUDIT

Lucia Henderson, Chair  
 Elizabeth Hale  
 Karen Kirby  
 Liz Mauran  
 Cammie Mayer  
 Susan Reeder  
 Hilary West

#### CAMPAIGN FOR MOUNT VERNON

Catherine Waddell, Co-Chair  
 Andrea Sahin, Co-Chair  
 Ann Scott, Development liaison

#### DEVELOPMENT

Ann Scott, Chair  
 Helen Laughery  
 Laura Rutherford  
 Jean Sherrill

#### FINANCE

Margaret Nichols, Chair  
 Mary Bishop  
 Ann Bookout  
 Maribeth Borthwick  
 Cammie Mayer

Anne Petri  
 Susan Townsend

#### HORTICULTURE, LIVESTOCK, & FORESTRY

Catherine Mayton, Chair  
 Mary Bishop  
 Elizabeth Hale  
 Virginia Lane  
 Liz Mauran  
 Anne Petri  
 Susan Townsend

#### INVESTMENT

Catherine Waddell, Chair  
 Maribeth Borthwick  
 Helen Laughery  
 Cammie Mayer  
 Margaret Nichols  
 Susan Townsend

#### OPERATIONS, EVENTS, & PROTOCOL

Maribeth Borthwick  
 Margaret Nichols  
 Laura Rutherford  
 Ann Scott

#### VIEWSHED

Virginia Lane, Chair  
 Susan Reeder  
 Laura Rutherford  
 Jean Sherrill

## Record of the Members of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association

### 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 Morrisette, 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 Morrisette, 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

### 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 Bockstoe, 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 Lentilhon 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  
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 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

#### 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; died in 2019, Vice Regent Emerita 1990  
Mrs. Stewart Gammill III, 1991; resigned 2011; Vice Regent Emerita 2011  
Susan Stevens Reeder, 2011

#### 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  
Ann Cady Scott, 2011

#### 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, elected 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, elected 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  
Jean Armfield Sherrill, 2002

#### 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. Crumpacker, 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 McAadoo (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

#### 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.

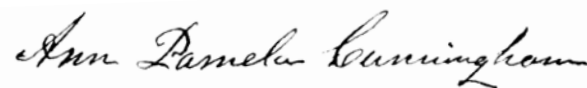
Such was the pledge made to the American heart when an appeal was made to it to save the Home and Tomb of Washington, of the Father of his Country, from all changes, whether by law or desecration. Such, to the last owner of Mt. Vernon, ere he was willing to permit it to pass from his hands. Such to the 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



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