

HISTORY SECTION

WASHINGTON, THE FATHER OF HIS COUNTRY

WASHINGTON, the first president of the United States of America, was born in the state of Virginia on February 22, 1732. His ancestors were connected with the Washingtons of Northhamptonshire, England. The Washingtons were in Virginia in 1658.

Of Washington's early life little is known. As a boy his life was no different from that common to Virginia boys in easy families; plantation affairs, hunting, fishing, and a little reading made up his early life. His education was only elementary and very defective, except in mathematics, in which he was largely self taught. He must have read some good books carefully, however, for in spite of the lack of education common in that time, in matters of grammar and spelling he acquired a dignified and effective English style.

Washington left school when he was 15 years old. He then lived with his half-brother Laurence at Mount Vernon, his father having died. At the age of sixteen he became a surveyor.

He became an officer in the colonial army and was with General Braddock when the latter was defeated in Western Pennsylvania. He saved the remaining troops from being entirely destroyed.

In 1759 he married Martha Custis, and for the next fifteen years Washington's life at Mount Vernon, where he made his home after his marriage, was that of a typical Virginia planter of the more prosperous sort, a large slave-holder who was strict but considerate, and a widely trusted man of important affairs.

His marriage brought him a large increase in property, and he became one of the richest men in the colonies. He was methodical in business, liked to hunt, and had acquaintance with the leading men of the colonies.

As in the case of Lincoln, he was educated into greatness by the increasing weight of his responsibilities and the manner in which he met them.

He served in the colonial Congress, and was selected as commander-in-chief of the armies in the

Revolutionary War. After independence had been gained, the unanimous vote of the electors made him the first president of the United States. He was elected to a second term of office, but positively refused a third term.

He retired from the presidency after having served for eight years, and returned to his home, which has always been called Mount Vernon. He died there in 1799. Washington died with-



George Washington
Born February 22, 1732

EVENTS IN FEBRUARY

By TIMOTEO S. ORACION *

February 8, 1935: The delegates to the Constitutional Convention approved the Constitution of the Philippines.

February 9, 1837: Birth of Dr. Jose Burgos in Vigan, Ilocos Sur.

February 15, 1899: Appearance of the first number of the *La Solidaridad*.

February 15, 1872: Execution of the three Filipino martyrs, Fathers Burgos, Gomez, and Zamora.

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WASHINGTON THE FATHER . . .

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out any children, but the American people call him the Father of His Country.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Why is Washington called the Father of His Country?
2. Do you think Washington was to any extent a self-made man? Why do you think so?
3. Tell of Washington's life as a boy.
4. Tell of his later life.
5. What high office did he hold in the United States?
6. What is his home called?
7. Was Washington a wealthy or poor man?
8. What have you learned from this short sketch of Washington's life?
9. Do you think Washington was a wise man? Why?
10. Do you think Washington's life has been an inspiration to others? Why?



MY HOME

By SUSULAN JILHANI *

The far horizon makes me think
Of my happy home across the
sea;
Sometimes I feel a loneliness
For Mother, Father, and Sister
Rosalie.
I remember old, loving Grandma,
too,
Sitting silent in her favorite
chair,
Or telling nice fairy stories of
long ago
While I fondled her silvery
hair.
There's Dido, my faithful little
dog,
Who never ran away from
fights,
And Ming, the cat, whose glossy
fur
Would warm my feet on chilly
nights.
When I remember all of them
and all
The fun and laughter of the
days of yore,
I feel a loneliness and fondly
wish
That I were in my home once
more.

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