

# GEORGE WASHINGTON



**Protests from the Burgesses.**  
The House of Burgesses broke, at its next session (1768), into fresh protests and remonstrances, and there was no one to restrain or rebuke it. Fauquier was dead, and gone to his reckoning; the reins of government were in the hands of gentle John Blair, president of the council, a Virginian every inch, and with never a thought of checking his fellow-colonists in the expression of their just opinion.

The autumn brought Lord Botetourt, the new governor-general, who came in showy state, and with general display of courtly manners and good feeling; but his arrival made little difference. The Burgesses smiled to see him come to open their session of 1769 with pageant of coach and six brave display of royal insignia, and the manner of a sovereign meeting Parliament; and turned from him almost in contempt to denounce once more the course of the ministers, argue again the rights of America, declare they would draw the colonies together in concerted opposition, and call upon the other colonies to concur with them alike in their principles and in their purpose.

**Out With the Governor.**  
Botetourt came hot-foot to dissolve them; but they only shifted their place of meeting, gathered again at the private house of Mr. Anthony Hay, and there resolved no longer to import the things which Parliament had taxed in despite of them. George Mason had drawn the resolutions, and Washington's request, and Washington himself presented them.

Mason's thought had hastened very far along the path of opposition under the whip of England's policy; and Washington's quite as far.

The government had not only sent troops to Boston and dissolved every assembly that protested, but had advised the king to press prosecutions for treason in the colonies, and should there be deemed sufficient ground, transport the accused to England to be tried by special commission.

**Hot Outburst from Virginia.**  
It was this last measure that had provoked the Burgesses to their hottest outburst. "At a time when our lordly masters in Great Britain will be satisfied with nothing less than the deprivation of American freedom," wrote Washington to Mason, with a sudden burst of passion, "it seems highly necessary that something should be done to avert the stroke, and maintain the liberty which we have derived from our ancestors. . . . That no man should scruple, or hesitate a moment, to use arms in defence of so valuable a blessing, on which all the good and evil of life depends, is clearly my opinion. Yet arms, I would beg leave to add, should be the last resource."

Addresses to the throne and remonstrances to Parliament had failed; it remained to try "starving their trades and manufactures," to see if that at last would arrest their attention. No doubt even that would prove of little avail; but it was at least peaceable and worth the trial.

**Washington on His Feet.**  
The next month, accordingly, he got unhesitatingly to his feet in the private meeting of the Burgesses at Mr. Hay's and moved George Mason's resolutions; nor did he forget to subscribe his quota to the fund which was to defray the expenses of the "association" there formed.

The next evening he attended the "Queen's Birth-Night" at the palace with the same naturalness of demeanor and frankness of dealing towards the governor as before. Botetourt was not all show and gallantry, but was a genuine man at bottom. He had come to Virginia thinking the colonists a pleasure-loving people who could be taken by display and cajoled by hospitality; he had been told they were such in London.

**A Manly Governor.**  
But he knew his mistake almost as soon as he had made it; and was prompt, even while he upheld prerogative, to do what he could to deal with them in a liberal and manly spirit. He had acquiesced very heartily at the outset of his administration in a decision of the council that writs of assistance could not legally be issued in Virginia—for the process had been tried there too. He made such representations with regard to the state of the colony to the ministers at home as were both just and wise; and was assured in reply that the ministers were willing to make every necessary concession; pledged his word in Virginia that there should be a substantial change of policy; and died the sooner (October 15, 1770) because the government would not, after all, redress his promises.

**A Doubtful Compliment.**  
"Your governor is becoming very popular, as we are told here," wrote Arthur Lee to his brother, from London, "and I have the worst proof of it in the increased orders for furies from the ladies." Virginians did not find it easy to break an immemorial habit in order to starve the English trades and manufactures; and it was more than once necessary to urge and renew the non-importation agreements with the Burgesses and merchants at Williamsburg and by means of local associations throughout the

colony.  
But Washington was punctilious to observe to the letter the agreements he had himself proposed. Again and again he bade his mercantile agents in London assist him to guard against any inadvertent breach of them; not to send him the articles Parliament had picked out for taxation in the colonies.

Life still continued to go, it is true, with something of the old sumptuousness at Mount Vernon.  
It was in June, 1768, that Colonel Washington ordered a new chariot, "made in the newest taste, handsome, genteel, and light to be made of the best seasoned wood, and by a celebrated workman," which was to cost him, fittings and all, £133.

For all he grew uneasy lest the colonies' disagreement with England should come at last to a conflict of arms, he pushed his private interests with no abatement of thoroughness or self-possession, as if there were no fear but that things would long enough stand as they were.

**Washington Acquires Lands.**  
He had not run surveyor's lines for Lord Fairfax, or assisted to drive the French from the Ohio, without seeing what fair lands lay upon the western rivers awaiting the owner; and, though there was still doubt how titles were to be established in that wilderness, he took care, through the good offices of an old comrade in arms, at least to be quietly beforehand with other claimants in setting up such titles as might be where the land lay, richest and most accessible.

"A silent management" was what he advised, "smugly carried on under the guise of hunting other game," lest there should be a premature rush thither that would set rival interests a-clashing. A strange mixture of the shrewdness of the speculator and the honesty of the gentleman—claims pushed with privacy, but without trickery of chicanery—ran through his letters to Captain Crawford, and drew as canny replies from the frontered soldier.

**Continues His Outdoor Sports.**  
Business gave way often to sport and pleasure, too, as of old, when politics fell dull between sessions. Now it was the hunt; then a gunning party in the woods; and again a day or two aboard his schooner, dropping down the river, and drawing the seine for sheepheads upon the bar at Cedar Point.

Even politics was mixed with diversion. He must needs give a ball at Alexandria on the evening of his election to the house which was to meet Lord Botetourt, no less than on other like occasions, of whatever kind the business of the assembly was likely to be.

**Goes to Philadelphia Races.**  
He did not lose his passion for fine horseflesh, either, at the thickest of the plot. In 1770 he was with Governor Eden of North Carolina at the Jockey club races in Philadelphia, no doubt relieved by the news that all but the tea tax had been repealed.

The next year it was the races in Annapolis that claimed him; and in 1773 Jacky Custis held him again at Philadelphia on the same errand.  
It was wholesome to be thus calmly, in pursuit of diversion in the intervals of trying business. It bespoke a hearty life and a fine balance in the man.

There was one matter to which Washington felt it his bounded duty as a soldier and a man of honor to devote his time and energies, whether politics pressed or not. A grant of two hundred thousand acres of the western lands had been promised by the government of the colony to those who enlisted for the war against the French and Indians in 1754; but nothing had ever been done to fulfill the promise, and Washington undertook to act as agent for his comrades in the business.

**Selects Farms for Fellow Soldiers.**  
In the autumn of 1770, accordingly, he turned away for a space from the deepening trouble in the east to plunge once more into the western ways and search out proper tracts for the grant along the reaches of the Ohio.  
"Twas a two months' journey, for he did not stop till he had gone close three hundred miles beyond Fort Pitt. And when he was home again no one in the government who could lend a hand in the matter got any peace from the stirring, thorough man until the business was put finally into shape.  
There was a tidy profit in the grant for himself; for his own share was large, and he providently bought, besides, the shares of others who were unwilling to spend or co-operate in the matter. But there were months upon months of weary, unrequited service for his comrades, too, given with hearty diligence and without grudging.

**Buyers Great Meadows.**  
Their portions were so well placed as his own, they were to find, when it came to the survey. He came off from the business very rich in western lands—buying the Great Meadows, among the rest, for memory's sake—but richer still in the gratitude and admiration of the men for whom he had labored.

**Meanwhile events darkened ominously.**  
A new administration had been formed in England under Lord North, and had begun its government by repealing all the taxes of 1769 except that on tea. But it was parliament's right to tax them that the colonists were fighting, not the taxes themselves, and one tax was as hateful as a hundred.

**The Boston Affair.**  
The year had been marked in sinister fashion, moreover, by a broil between townsmen and troops in the streets of Boston, in which arms had been used and men slain, and in the heated imaginations of the colonists the affair had taken on the ugly aspect of a massacre.  
The year 1771 went quietly enough for Virginians. Botetourt was dead, and that good merchant of York, William Nelson, president of the council, sat in the place of authority throughout the year. Although the whole country refused the taxed tea, the attention of the ministers, as it happened, was fixed chiefly upon Massachusetts, where trade (sterted at a growing port and opposition had a local habitation.

**Quiet in Virginia.**  
In Virginia there was no place to send troops to, unless the whole country were occupied, and so long as Mr. Nelson was acting governor, Colonel Washington could go without reproach to the races, and gentlemen everywhere follow their own devices in the quiet counties.

**There was rioting—rebellion, even—in North Carolina, so uneasily did affairs go there; but Governor Tryon was a soldier as well as a despot, and did not need to trouble his neighbors about that.**  
**An Unpopular Governor.**  
It was not until the first months of 1772 that Virginians began to read plain signs of change in the face of their new governor, John Murray, earl of Dummore—a dark and distant man, who seemed to the Virginians to come like a satrap to his province, who brought a soldier with him for secretary and confidential adviser, set up a fixed etiquette to be observed by all who would approach him, spoke abruptly and without courtesy, displayed in all things an arbitrary temper, and took more interest, it presently appeared, in acquiring tracts of western land than in conducting the government of the colony.

**The year of his coming was marked by the secret destruction of the revenue schooner Gaspe in Rhode Island, and by many significant flaws of temper here and there throughout the colonies; and 1775 saw affairs at last come to a crisis.**  
**Dummore and the Burgesses.**  
Dummore had summoned the burgesses to meet him upon his first coming, but had liked their proud temper as little as they liked his, and was careful not to call them together again till March, 1773, though he had promised to convene them earlier.

**There was instant trouble.**  
In view of the affair of the Gaspe, parliament had again resolved upon the trial of malcontents in England, and the burgesses were hot at seeing the sentiments of the colonies so flouted. Conservative men would still have waited to try events, but their fellow-members of quicker pulse were diligent to disappoint them.  
Leadership fell to those who were bold enough to take it; and Patrick Henry, Richard Henry Lee, Dabney Carr and Thomas Jefferson, radicals all, drew together, a self-constituted committee of guidance.

**Evening after evening they met in a private room at the Raleigh, with now and again one or two other like spirits called into counsel, to consult what should be done.**  
Richard Henry Lee proposed that the colonies should be invited to join Virginia in appointing committees of correspondence, through which to devise steady concert of action, and that Virginia's committee, to be appointed at once, should be instructed to look into the character of the new court of trial lately established in Rhode Island.

**An Understanding With New England.**  
Dabney Carr was directed to move the resolutions, and the eloquence of Lee and Henry won for them an instant and hearty acceptance.  
Dummore promptly dissolved the assembly, and Washington was free to set out for New York to place Jacky Custis at King's college, lingering on the way in Philadelphia to see the races, and pick up the talk of the hour during half a dozen evenings at the rooms of the Jockey club, at the balls and assemblies of the gay town, and at the hospitable tables of his friends.

**Washington's Amusing Letters.**  
The opening of the year had found Washington in a very genial humor, his letters touched with pleasantry and gossip. "Our celebrated fortune, Miss French, whom half the world was in pursuit of," he wrote, in February, to Colonel Bassett, "bestowed her hand on Wednesday last, being her birthday (you perceive, I think myself under a necessity of accounting for the choice), on Mr. Ben Dulany, who is to take her to Maryland. . . . Mentioning of one wedding puts me in mind of another"—and so through the news of Miss More, "remarkable for a very frizzled head and good singing," and the rest of the neighborhood talk.

**Trouble at Mount Vernon.**  
But the year turned out a very sad one for him.  
He had been scarcely ten days back from New York when Patsy Custis, whom he loved as his own daughter, died. It called forth all the latent Christian faith of the thoughtful, steadfast man to withstand the shock. And Master Jack Custis, the girl's wayward brother, gave him little but anxiety. He would not study, for all Washington was so solicitous he should have the liberalizing outlook of books, and he made "it for more useful purposes than horse-races," and though he was but twenty, could hard-

ly be induced to see the year out at college before getting married.

**The Boston Tea Party.**  
It was no doubt very well that public affairs of the first consequence called Washington's mind imperatively off from these private anxieties, which could not but be dwarfed in the presence of transactions which threatened to shake the continent.

As the year drew on, the government in England undertook to force cargoes of the East India company's tea into the ports. When all resisted, and Boston, more forward even than the rest, threw three hundred and forty odd chests of tea into the harbor, acts passed parliament giving dangerous increase of power to the governor of Massachusetts, and directing that Boston port be closed to all commerce on and after the first day of June; and it became evident that vigorous action must be taken in response.

**A Day of Prayer and Fasting.**  
The Burgesses in Virginia (May, 1774) resolved that June 1st should be set apart as a day of fasting and prayer—prayer that civil war might be averted and the people of America united in a common cause.  
(To Be Continued.)

### SOME GOOD HINTS.

**A Corn Cure.**  
Soak feet in warm water to which a little borax and soda has been added. Repeat several days and corn will come out.

**Drying Nails Into Plaster.**  
The nail to be driven in should have two small notches filed in it, one near the end on one side and the other toward the head on the other side. Before being driven into the wall, the nail should be dipped in liquid glue until well covered, and then driven in place. As soon as the glue hardens, it will become as firm as the plaster itself.

**Home-Made Dustless Mop.**  
Dip a mop, made of old stocking legs, into a mixture of one quart of kerosene and one-half pint of boiled linseed oil. Hang in open air about two hours, when mop will be ready for use. This will last for months, is cheaper than the boughten ones, and gives as good results.

**Crack Filler.**  
When fixing old floors, use crack filler, made as follows: Cut old paper into small pieces and soak in water until paper is like pulp. Squeeze out water and mix this pulp with a little of the paint used for first coat. This filler will not harden and come out as does putty, and is less expensive than the regular crack filler.

**Mother's Easy Biscuit.**  
Sift one cup of flour with a pinch of salt; add two teaspoonfuls of baking powder; work into it two tablespoonfuls of lard or butter and add one-half cup of mixed milk and water, beating hard for a moment to smooth out the lumps. The dough should be only a rather stiff batter. Put in gempans and bake in a hot oven 20 or 30 minutes.

**Quick Pudding.**  
When hurried, butter a pudding dish well and put in a layer of stoned raisins cut in halves; then fill up with small bread crumbs or rolled crackers, beat an egg and add a little milk, a pinch of salt and a spoonful of sugar; stir well and pour over bread crumbs and bake in a moderate oven. Serve at once.

**Oatmeal Cook ies.**  
Take one and one-half cups flour, two and one-half cups oatmeal, one cup sugar, three-fourths cup of shortening, three-fourths cup of sour milk and one teaspoon of soda. If butter is not used for shortening, add one salt-spoonful of salt, otherwise the cookies will have a flat taste.

**Grape Cup.**  
Pour half a cupful of boiling water over four tablespoonfuls of grape jelly and stir until dissolved. Add the same quantity of cold water, one tablespoonful of sugar, and a little lemon juice.

Place a lump of ice in a glass pitcher and pour the liquid over. Any kind of jelly will answer if the grape is not at hand. If currant jelly is used then less lemon juice will be required, currants being rather tart.

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