



FATHER *of the* LAND WE LOVE

WRITTEN FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE
BY

GEORGE M. COHAN

TO COMMEMORATE THE
TWO HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE BIRTH OF

GEORGE WASHINGTON

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The Story of Washington



"FIRST IN WAR"

George Washington was truly "First in War," not from any militant disposition of his character, but because of his environment and the times in which he lived.

Born at Bridges Creek, Virginia, February 22, 1732, upon a plantation known later as Wakefield, the boy inherited the blood and stamina of those early colonial pioneers who were almost constantly armed and alert against the invasion of warlike enemies. It was the same blood and stamina that inspired the pioneers of America everywhere to push outward and establish homes amid hostile surroundings.

When George Washington was seven years old, the family moved to a farm on the Rappahannock River, opposite the town of Fredericksburg. It was in this locality that George began his schooling, which consisted principally of reading, writing and arithmetic.

When he was eleven the first great tragedy came into George's life. His father died. Three years later he wanted to join the British Navy, but his mother persuaded him to give up this idea. Shortly thereafter he went to live with his half-brother Lawrence at Mount Vernon, who had inherited the estate from his father. He soon became deeply interested in surveying and assisted in surveying the lands of Lord Fairfax, whose home, Belvoir, was only a few miles distant. At sixteen he made a month's surveying journey beyond the Alleghenies.

The military career of Washington began when he was twenty-one. He was commissioned by Governor Dinwiddie to deliver a message to the French on the Ohio, who were encroaching upon what was then Virginia territory. His subsequent activities during the Braddock campaign are all well known.

At the age of twenty, Washington came into possession of Mount Vernon through the death of his half-brother Lawrence, and the latter's daughter.

In 1759 he married Martha Dandridge Custis and brought her to Mount Vernon which was their home the remainder of their lives, and where he died, December 14, 1799.

George Washington was not only "First in War," but he was among the very first to be prepared for war in the event that England persisted in her crushing attitude toward the colonies.

Washington was one of the leading members of the First Continental Congress.

When called to serve in the Second Continental Congress, he said: "It is my full intention to devote my life and my fortune to this cause."

Upon assuming command of the American Army at Cambridge, July 3, 1775, he solemnly vowed that he would fight until America gained its liberty. This was the beginning of seven years of warfare that was destined to change the history of the world, and bring happiness and prosperity to millions of people.

Never in all history did a commander conduct a war under such discouraging

In all history no other human being has merited and received such universal homage as George Washington. Nor has any other human being, in the full light of his character and achievements, been so fortunate in escaping criticism and engendering controversy. It is fitting, therefore, that the government of the United States, which he did more than any other man to establish, should promote in 1932, the nation-wide celebration in his honor. This celebration is not intended to add new glories to Washington's name, or place one new leaf in the laurel crown of immortal reverence which his memory inspires. That would be impossible.

The thought behind this Celebration of the Two Hundredth Anniversary of the Birth of George Washington, is to benefit the living by reviving in the minds and hearts of the American people a just appreciation of the part played by George Washington and his great compatriots upon the stage of history at a time when human liberties were at their lowest ebb, and in inaugurating a new era of political and social independence that has spread throughout the world.

Responding to this appeal the people of America and other countries have joined with enthusiasm in the plans for celebrating the Bicentennial of Washington's birth. Americans are again learning the lessons of their own history. They are again placing proper values upon the sacrifices and patriotic devotion of the men and women who "brought forth on this continent a new nation conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal."

By reviving among us the lessons of our national life, by fresh consecration to the fundamentals of the newer freedom of mankind that has shed the glory of equal opportunity upon a world of strife and social and political oppression, by stirring among us all a more exalted appreciation of the priceless heritage left us by the founders of the Republic, the *United States Commission for the Celebration of the Two Hundredth Anniversary of the Birth of George Washington*, seeks to carry to successful fulfillment the charge laid upon it by the Congress.

"FIRST IN THE HEARTS OF HIS COUNTRYMEN"

conditions. But discouragements to this hardy pioneer meant nothing. His first work was to convert an aggregation of 16,000 men, mostly farmers, into a disciplined fighting machine.

His next big job was so to arouse the love and patriotism of his soldiers for the cause for which they were fighting, that they would be willing to endure hunger, sickness, disease, and go shoeless and well-nigh naked.

In a short time Washington drove the enemy out of Boston and took a position before New York. When the British thought they had him cornered there, he quietly moved his army of 10,000 across the river. His retreats were as annoying to the enemy as his victories. He could always turn a defeat into a reason for more determined fighting.

Today all the world applauds his midnight crossing of the ice-flowing Delaware and the dramatic battle of Trenton, where he surprised the Hessians and won a victory that electrified the nation.

The Battle of Monmouth, in New Jersey, has a remarkable place in history. The fight was almost lost through the disobedience of General Charles Lee. Washington discovered his unsoldierly conduct in time to snatch victory from defeat.

The Battles of Brandywine and Germantown will always be remembered for the remarkable generalship displayed by Washington.

Military geniuses throughout the world have ever marveled at the brilliant success of Washington's manoeuvring across New Jersey.

From Valley Forge, during the winter of 1777-78, Washington wrote

Congress saying of his soldiers: "Their marches might be traced by the blood of their feet." There was never a finer example of the loyalty of soldiers to their leader.

On October 19, 1781, Washington, for all time to come, became a world-figure in military history. That was the day that Cornwallis surrendered at Yorktown. That was the day that America forever won her political and industrial freedom from the oppressing land beyond the sea. It was the true beginning of the United States of America.

And then came peace and quiet. Cannons ceased to roar. Muskets occupied a place of honor behind the kitchen door. Swords were hammered into scythes. Old war horses were hitched to plows and wagons. Crops were planted. Houses and barns were repaired. Churches and schools were put in order.

Washington again became the outstanding American farmer. He was happy at his beloved Mount Vernon, beautifying his estate, enriching his fields, improving his crops and livestock, and doing everything possible to bring happiness and contentment to his loved ones.

The wise and far-seeing statesmanship of Washington was clearly and effectively shown in his last circular letter to the governors of the states, dated June 8, 1783, shortly before resigning his commission. This is a most remarkable document. It contained what he considered the necessary requirements for the very existence of the country.

Always a wise citizen, he kept a watchful eye on the ship of state. It was no great task for this versatile man to change from soldier to statesman. When the time came to place the struggling young country on a more permanent foundation, Washington was made President of the convention which

"FIRST IN PEACE"

framed the Constitution under which we now live. His advice and diplomacy were invaluable.

And now it was time to elect a President. Washington was unanimously chosen. How he got Congress to function, how he appointed a cabinet, how he created our courts, how he established our entire governmental machinery, and how he won the honor and respect of the entire civilized world has long been a matter of history.

Why was George Washington "First in the Hearts of his Countrymen" and why does he continue to hold that place?

Because, he was courageous enough to go to war with one of the most powerful nations on earth for the freedom of his own country. He built an army out of the raw material that came to him from the farms and the towns. He held this army together through almost unbelievable hardships, and with it he outmanoeuvred and defeated some of the best generals of which Europe could boast. By his own example of patient, dogged determination he inspired his men to persevere in the face of privation and discouragement.

Because, after independence had been won he gave one of the finest examples of patriotic generosity that the world has ever known. He laid aside his sword and the commission which had placed him at the head of a great army and voluntarily returned to the quiet of his beloved home. He sought no honors or personal glory. When he saw his country free he asked nothing from her, but unostentatiously resumed the happy life of a private citizen which had been interrupted by the war.

Because, when the Constitutional Convention was called to frame a new government, he yielded to the importunities of his countrymen and became a delegate to that meeting. He was immediately elected president of the Convention. During those stormy sessions when sectional and other differences divided the delegates so that the existence of the Union was threatened, Washington exerted a powerful influence for compromise that cannot be over-estimated.

Because, as First President of the United States, he started this country on her career as one of the greatest nations in all history. It has been said that the framers of the Constitution created the Presidency of the United States with George Washington in mind as the ideal man for the office.

Because, he possessed the qualities of leadership and knowledge of men that inspired confidence among all classes of people. Faith in him was well-nigh universal. Complete understanding existed between him and the people. His general conduct was such as to hold the affection of the public. He was the one man in the country who could harmonize all factions and bring men together in the adjustment of important measures. He quietly and effectively overcame the contentious elements which sought to create national disturbances.

Because, in addition to all this, he was kind, helpful, considerate and generous. In private and public life he was above reproach. He lived and died devoted and faithful to his high ideals of true American manhood.

To Commemorate the Two Hundredth Anniversary of the Birth of George Washington

Father of the Land We Love

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Written for the
American People

George M. Collier

Moderato

Piano introduction musical notation in G major, 2/4 time, marked Moderato. It features a melody in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand, starting with a forte (f) dynamic and ending with a fortissimo (fz) dynamic.

VOICE

Ev-'ry lit-tle lad and lass, Boys and Girls of ev-'ry class, Here be-neath the
When to man-hood comes the youth, With the knowl-edge and the truth, Of the rev-o-

Piano accompaniment for the first vocal line, featuring chords and a bass line in G major, 2/4 time.

flag of stripe and star _____ From the time they start to school,
lu-tion-ar-y fray _____ Proud he is to be a son

Piano accompaniment for the second vocal line, featuring chords and a bass line in G major, 2/4 time.

When they learn the gold-en rule Al-ways have been proud of what they are. _____ And
Of Im-mor-tal Wash-ing-ton Sac-red is the mem-'ry of his day. _____ When

Piano accompaniment for the third vocal line, featuring chords and a bass line in G major, 2/4 time.

ev - 'ry day with les - sons done, They sing their song of Wash - ing - ton, A
 ev - er drums be - gin to roll, With - in the na - tions heart and soul, A

song of love that reach - es near and far: _____
 pat - ri - ot - ic some - thing seems to say: _____

CHORUS

First in War, First in Peace, First in the hearts of his

coun - try - men That is the sto - ry of Wash - ing - ton,

That is the glo - ry of Wash - ing - ton, His spir - it is here

His spir - it is here — He's stand - ing, com - mand - ing a -

bove — In word and deed we fol - low the lead —

of the Fath - er — Of the land we love. love.



FIRST READING OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE



WAKEFIELD, VIRGINIA BIRTHPLACE OF GEORGE WASHINGTON



MOUNT VERNON



THE SURRENDER OF CORNWALLIS



THE FIRST INAUGURATION



THE CAPITOL