

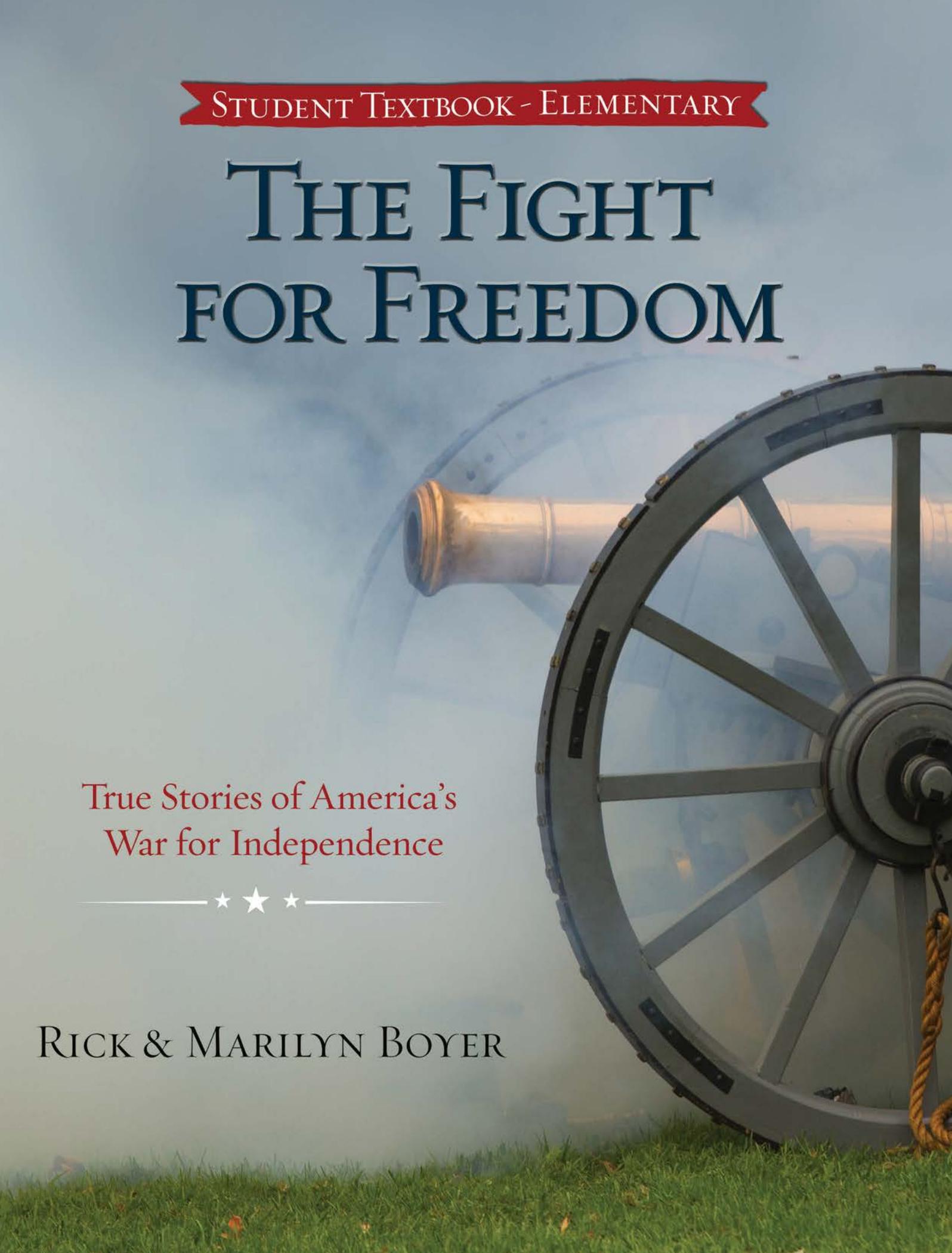
STUDENT TEXTBOOK - ELEMENTARY

# THE FIGHT FOR FREEDOM

True Stories of America's  
War for Independence



RICK & MARILYN BOYER



First printing: November 2015

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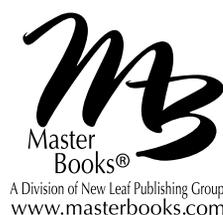
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Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord (Psalm 33:19).



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# HOW TO USE THIS BOOK:

There are 34 chapters in all, one for each week of the school year. Each chapter is divided into three sections, and there are at least two ways you can use this text, depending on what best fits your schedule. You may chose to adapt the material in whatever way best suits your specific needs.

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## SUGGESTED PLAN: FIVE DAYS PER WEEK

Student will read selections (outlined in detail in the available Teacher Guide) on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. Projects suggested in the Teacher Guide will be done on Thursday. On Friday, students may listen to the free audio selection supplied on UncleRickAudios.com, which serves as a fun way to review what they've learned, and then complete the test questions provided in the Teacher Guide.

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## ALTERNATIVE PLAN: FOUR DAYS PER WEEK

Students will read selections on any three days of the week you choose. They will then answer 1/3 of the questions supplied in the Teacher Guide each day when they finish reading. On the fourth day, they may listen to the free audio selection provided, and do the projects from the Teacher Guide.

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## HOW TO ACCESS THE AUDIO SELECTIONS:

Each chapter has an audio selection. You can access the download at <http://UncleRickAudios.com/fightforfreedom> and save to your computer, put on a mobile device, or make into a CD, whichever you prefer. Use code FREEDOM for free access to the audio files. Publisher's Note: Since the audio selections do concern a time of war, we recommend that all audios be previewed by an adult to determine the age-appropriateness of the material.



The Grand Union flag (left) is considered the first American flag, prior to the Stars and Stripes (right).

# WHO IS UNCLE RICK?



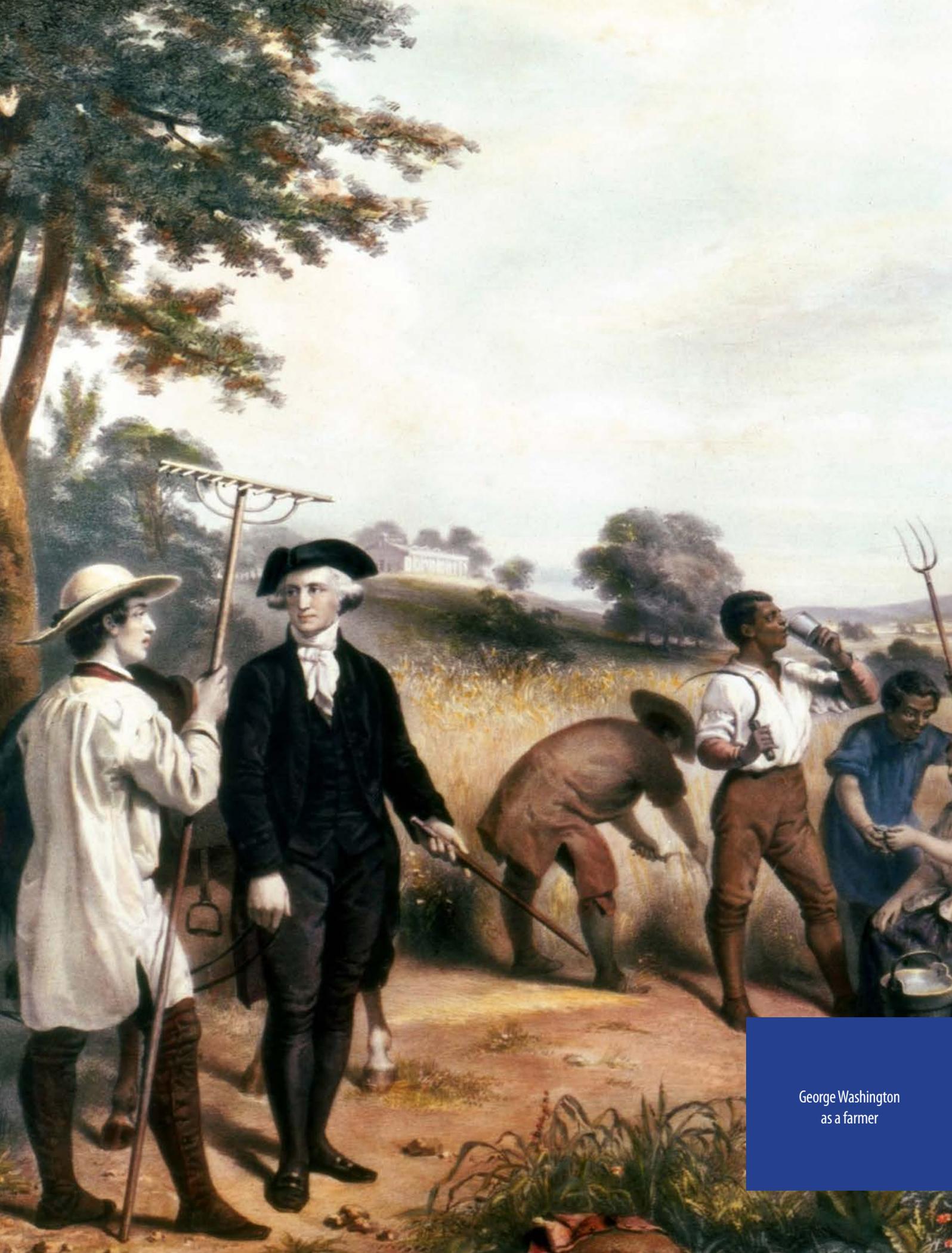
Hi! I'm Uncle Rick, the family storyteller. I love to tell boys and girls exciting true stories about America's history. I also like to record wonderful old books about America. God's hand is so plain in the history of our country!

In this book, you'll often see me dressed in my founding era outfit. That's because, whatever period of American history I'm teaching about, I always want to call our attention back to the godly principles of America's founding.

I hope you love America as much as I do. God has blessed our nation with freedom, prosperity, and peace. He has made America the leading nation of the world. Millions of people have come here from other countries seeking a better life. Millions more hope to come someday.

The people who built America gave us a nation founded on the principles of Scripture. It is that wonderful heritage that gave us liberty in the beginning and has kept us free for over two hundred years. I hope you will enjoy learning about our country's history with me. The freedom and justice that we enjoy today are God's gift to us. Let us treasure and protect that gift so we can pass it on to future generations.

(You can listen to my audiobooks at [UncleRickAudios.com](http://UncleRickAudios.com).)



George Washington  
as a farmer

# GEORGE WASHINGTON

## Growing in Greatness

### A PROMISING START



When we think of the beginning of America, we often think of George Washington. After all, he led the American army to win our independence from England. Then he led the Constitutional Convention — the meeting that formed the government of the new United States of America. And when the new country elected its first president, people chose George Washington to lead them once again.

George was born on a big farm in Virginia on February 22, 1732. His father was a wealthy man who owned several farms. He also owned part of a business that made and sold iron. George's father died when the boy was only 11, so young George was raised by his mother and his older brother, Lawrence.

George only went to school for a few years, but he had a very good education. He learned about the business of farming by helping his mother run the family farms. He was an excellent horseman. He loved to gallop around the fields and chase foxes through the woods. He also loved his dogs, who hunted the foxes with him.<sup>1</sup> George grew up strong and healthy.

At school, George was already becoming a leader. He could run, jump, and wrestle better than the other boys. He could throw farther than any of them.<sup>2</sup> The story is told that he once threw a stone across the Rappahannock River. Another time, it is said, he threw a rock from the ground below to the top of Natural



The initials G. W. carved in the stone at the bottom of Natural Bridge. Some people say that George Washington carved them there. It is believed that as a young man, Washington surveyed the area including Natural Bridge. Before the Revolution Thomas Jefferson bought the huge bridge from King George for just 20 shillings—only a few dollars today.



Bridge, a distance of 200 feet.<sup>3</sup> That's a long way to throw a rock straight up! All the boys expected to be soldiers one day. When they played soldiers in the schoolyard, George was always chosen to be a leader.

## THE YOUNG SURVEYOR

George loved the outdoors. With only a dog and his gun, he would often take long trips into the wild Virginia woods. He learned how to shoot and trap animals for food, cross rivers, cook over an open fire, and make his bed upon the ground. This experience was good training for the soldier's life that George would one day live.

George admired his mother very much. She taught him to be strong, responsible, and hardworking. She loved her son, and he loved and respected her. All through his life, George told other people what a wonderful mother he had been raised by. When he was 14 years old and wanted to become a sailor, his mother did not like the idea. She thought he was too young to leave his family. George obeyed his mother and stayed home to help on the farm.

He went back to school for a while and learned how to measure large pieces of land. This is called surveying. Because North America was still being explored, there was a great need for surveyors. George became an expert at marking off boundaries and laying out roads.

George had a friend named Lord Fairfax. Lord Fairfax was an old man, but he liked George very much. He liked George's adult-like qualities, though George was only 16 years of age. Lord Fairfax asked George to go with a team of surveyors to measure some of his land in the western part of Virginia. So, one spring day George and his companions started over the mountains with their tools.

It was a rough and dangerous trip. There were no roads or bridges to make travel easier. There were no houses to

“  
*Nothing can be more hurtful to the service than the neglect of discipline; for that discipline, more than numbers, gives one army the superiority over another.*”<sup>4</sup>

George Washington

George Washington Birthplace National Monument, Westmoreland County, Virginia., photo by James G. Howes, 2007.





Mary Ball Washington



George Washington and Christopher Gist cross the Allegheny on a raft (a painting by Daniel Huntington)

sleep in at night. Deep rivers, wild animals, and enemies were all around. Some nights they slept beside the dying campfire. When the weather was bad, they slept in tents or built huts. One night they saw some Indians doing a war dance! George and his friends quietly slipped away.

In about a month, George returned with maps and figures showing the lands of Lord Fairfax. Few men could have done a better job. Lord Fairfax gave him the job of head surveyor of Culpepper County. He was only 17 years old!

George and Lord Fairfax became great friends. George spent three years in the wilderness marking out land boundaries. He often visited Lord Fairfax, reading the many books in the Fairfax home library and having long conversations with the older man. He found that he learned much by spending time at the Fairfax plantation.<sup>6</sup>

When he was 20, George lost his older brother, Lawrence, to a sickness called tuberculosis.

A map of General Washington's farm of Mount Vernon from a drawing transmitted by the general. Surveyed and drawn by George Washington, and printed in 1801.



*My mother was the most beautiful woman I ever saw. All that I am I owe to my mother. I attribute all my success in life to the moral, intellectual, and physical education I received from her.<sup>5</sup>*

George Washington





The earliest authenticated portrait of George Washington shows him wearing his colonel's uniform of the Virginia Regiment.

Lawrence had inherited the beautiful plantation Mount Vernon when his father died. Now he left Mount Vernon to George, and the young man found himself running two large plantations with many hired workers and slaves. It was a big job, but young Washington was up to the task. Then, his whole life changed. War broke out between England and France.

## THE FRENCH AND INDIAN WAR

You remember that at this time Virginia was one of 13 English colonies in America. There was no United States yet. So George Washington was an Englishman. That meant he would fight for the English in the war with France.

France had colonies in America, too. Most of them were in what is now Canada, but some were further south. Some of these were in lands claimed by England, also.

Governor Dinwiddie of Virginia sent messengers to the French army in this area to leave and go back to Canada. But none of the messengers were successful in getting to where the French soldiers were.

Governor Dinwiddie needed a strong man to lead another group of messengers. The man needed to be someone who knew the wilderness and was strong enough to make the long, hard journey. He had to be a man who was not afraid of French officers. He chose George Washington, though he was only 21 years old. Perhaps Lord Fairfax told the governor what a good man Washington was.

The little group fought its way through woods, across rivers, and over rough mountains. When they finally came to the French fort, the French commander received them politely. But when Washington delivered the message from Governor Dinwiddie, the French commander did not like the answer he got.<sup>7</sup>

“Mr. Washington, I am afraid I cannot oblige you,” said the man in his bright uniform. “We need forts in this Ohio River country so that we can more easily reach our trading posts on the Mississippi. I have orders to hold this region, and I must obey them.”<sup>8</sup>



Virginia colonial governor Robert Dinwiddie, by unknown artist.



Reconstructed Fort Necessity, southern Pennsylvania (CCO 1.0).

The French officer treated the men kindly and asked them to stay with him for many days. But once Washington saw that he could not change the commander's mind, he hurried back toward eastern Virginia with his answer for the governor.

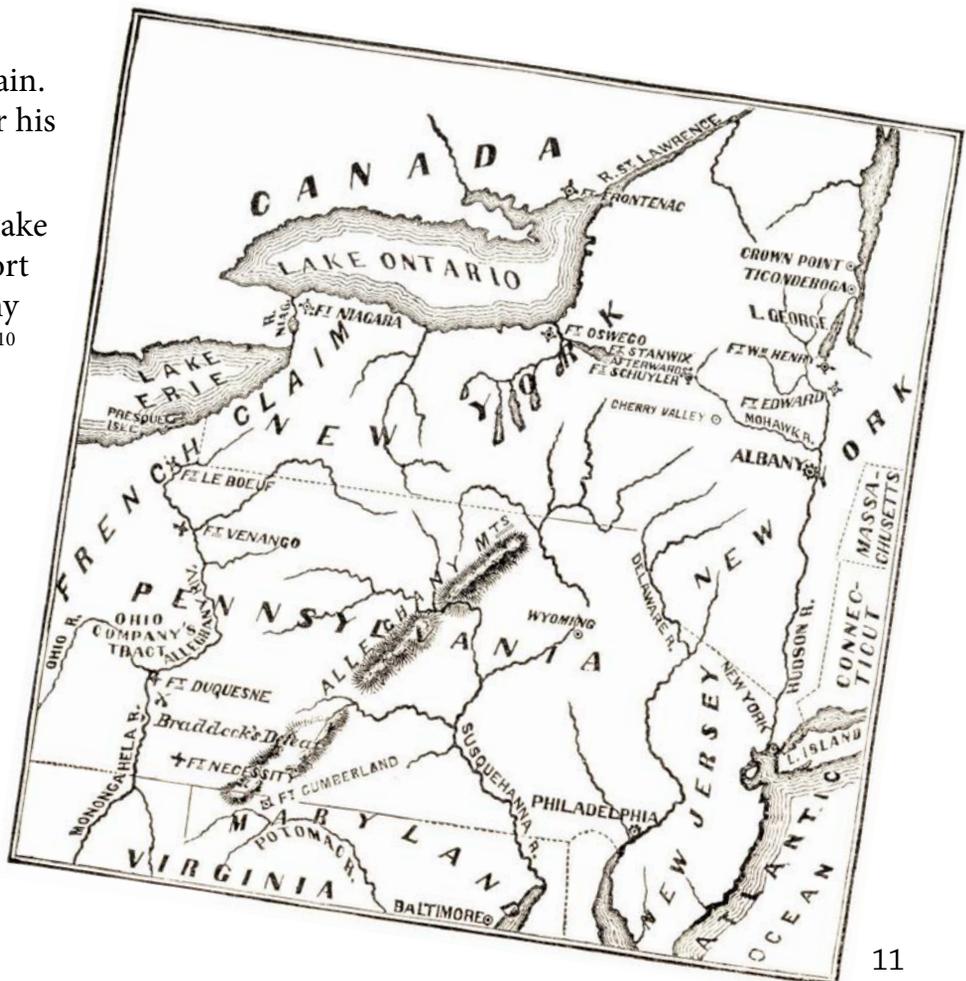
Washington's party traveled through rain and snow, fighting through dense forests where enemies waited to attack. Once an Indian shot at Washington, but he missed. The horses got too tired to travel. Rather than waiting for them to rest up, Washington and his woodsman friend, Christopher Gist, plunged into the forest alone and on foot. No time could be lost! At last, they reached Williamsburg.<sup>9</sup>

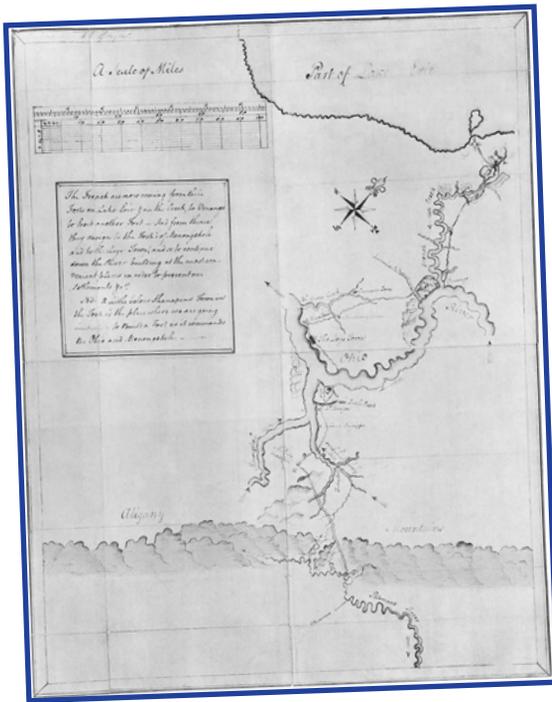
Now it seemed that war was certain. The governor had another job for his young messenger.

"Mr. Washington, I need you to take 150 men and cut a road out to Fort Duquesne. We must send an army out there and defeat the French."<sup>10</sup>

But the French were also ready to fight the English. Just after Washington crossed the mountains, he ran into a group of French scouts. In the fight that followed,

Map of the "scene of operations" of the French and Indian War. *Harper's Encyclopedia of United States History*, Harper & Brothers, 1905 (PD-US).





Hand-drawn map by George Washington, accompanying a printing of the journal he kept of his 1753 expedition into the Ohio Country, 1753 (PD-US).

the French commander was killed, and his men were all captured. It was Washington's first real battle.

More men came to help Washington. He knew the French would send more soldiers to the region, also. So he built Fort Necessity so he could fight better. But the French force that arrived had four times as many men as Washington! His men fought bravely in the knee-deep mud and water, firing at the enemies hidden in the woods around them. Finally, they ran out of bullets and had to give up their fort and leave.

## THE FALL OF A PROUD GENERAL

The English king sent a general named Braddock to fight the French. General Braddock was a brave man, but he did not know how to fight in the woods. He was used to fighting on open battlefields with one army lined up neatly facing the other. He thought his men were too brave to hide behind rocks and trees as the Americans and Indians did.

General Braddock liked young Washington and gave him a job as a staff officer. That meant that George worked close to the general and carried messages for him. Washington tried to explain that the French would fight like their Indian friends, shooting from hiding places where they were hard to see. Benjamin Franklin said the same thing.<sup>11</sup>

But General Braddock had confidence in his soldiers. These Indians “may be dangerous to your raw Virginia militia,” he replied to Franklin. “But it is impossible that they should make any impression on the King's troops.”<sup>12</sup> He said the same thing to Washington. But he would soon learn how wrong he was.

Braddock and his army set out to take Fort Duquesne from the French. It was a large army with 2,000 men, many wagons, and cannons. It could not move very fast along the wilderness road, so it stretched out for many miles. Washington nervously looked at the woods around them. He was afraid that the French and Indians would attack their line and cut it to pieces.

— “ —  
*Nothing is a greater stranger to my breast, or a sin that my soul more abhors, than that black and detestable one, ingratitude.*<sup>15</sup>

George Washington,  
in a letter to Governor Dinwiddie,  
May 29, 1754

— ” —



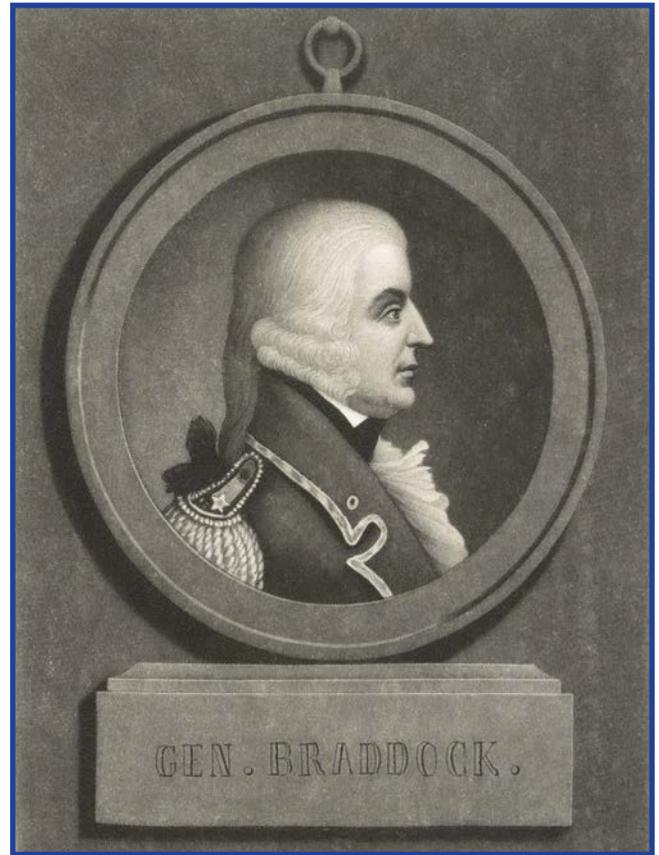
George Washington on horse, soldiers fighting during the battle of the Monongahela, 1854 (PD-US).

Finally, it happened. The leading soldiers of Braddock's force saw an Indian ahead on the path. The man disappeared into the woods, and Braddock's men ran back to the main force to tell the general that there were enemies ahead. But it was too late. The French and Indian fighters ran through the woods and lined up on both sides of the British column. Hundreds of rifles boomed from the bushes, but the British soldiers could not see their enemies to fire back.

Washington's men knew how to fight in the woods. At the first shots, they broke from their lines or columns and scattered, hiding behind bushes and waiting to see a puff of smoke from an enemy rifle so they had a target to shoot at. But the English troops formed up in a neat line on the road, just as they had been trained to do in Europe. They were cut down like cornstalks.

Washington begged Braddock to order his men to take cover. But the general thought he knew more about fighting than a young colonel in the Virginia militia. He kept his men in formation until more than half of them were killed or wounded. Then Braddock himself was shot down, and the army fell apart.<sup>13</sup>

Though Washington had no real authority over the British soldiers, he managed to organize a retreat. The panicked British soldiers were willing to listen to anyone who could lead them out of this awful battle. Washington got the army turned around and moving. Then, with his 100 militiamen, he kept the French and Indians back so the army could escape. They left behind so many supplies that the Indians were willing to let them go while they searched through the abandoned wagons for things to steal. From that day on, George Washington was known as the hero who saved Braddock's army from being wiped out.<sup>14</sup>



An engraving of General Edward Braddock.

*Pride goeth before destruction,  
and an haughty spirit before a fall.*

Proverbs 16:18

## THE MAN BULLETS COULDN'T KILL

Most historians believe that without George Washington, there would have been no United States of America.

After all, he was commander of the American army in the Revolutionary War. He was our first president. Perhaps even more important, he was president of the Constitutional Convention. So Washington led us to victory in the War for Independence, led us in creating the government of the new nation, and led us as president in our first few years as a nation.

And we almost didn't have him.

Well, humanly speaking, anyway. You see, when George was 23 years old and we were still English subjects, he was a colonel in the militia that helped the British Army during the French and Indian War. And he was part of the fighting in a major battle of that war, one in which every other officer was shot off his horse. But not George.

Washington went with British General Braddock on a march to take Fort Duquesne (near present-day Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania) from the French. The British and colonial forces far outnumbered the French and their

Indian allies. It should have been easy. But when the two armies ran into each other a few miles from the fort, Braddock's men in their bright red coats formed up in neat lines to fight as they had on open European battlefields. The French and Indians dove for cover in the bushes. The British were shot down, standing in even ranks like sitting ducks.

Officer after officer was killed or wounded. Soon only Braddock remained to shout orders and only

The Tragedy of Braddocks Defeat.



Washington to carry them to the various units scattered through the woods. Then a bullet caught Braddock in the chest, and he hit the ground.

Washington, with the help of his Virginia woodsmen, knew how to fight in the woods. He organized his men for a rear guard action and covered the retreat of the redcoats, which was by now a frantic race to the rear. It was his first major action with a large force.

As he put distance between his shattered force and the enemy, Washington finally found a moment to examine himself for wounds. He had been shot at. He found four bullet holes in his coat and bullet fragments in his hair, but he was unhurt — the only officer alive and still mounted. A few days later, he wrote to his family:

By the all-powerful dispensations of Providence, I have been protected beyond all human probability or expectation; for I had four bullets through my coat, and two horses shot under me yet escaped unhurt, although death was leveling my companions on every side of me.<sup>16</sup>

However, the story doesn't end there. Years afterward, in 1770, George Washington and his friend Dr. James Craik returned to the neighborhood of the battle. Washington got word that an old Indian chief wished to see him. The two sat down beside a council fire, and the chief informed Washington that he had been one of the warriors helping the French in that battle 15 years before.

The chief said he had instructed his braves to single out the men on horseback, knowing that they were the leaders of the British. As fewer and fewer remained mounted, he personally turned his attention to Washington. He told Washington that he had fired his own rifle at him 17 times but could not hit him.

He decided that Washington was under special care of the Great Spirit. He stopped shooting at him and ordered his braves to cease trying as well. Then he said:

I have traveled a long and weary path that I might see the young warrior of the great battle ... I am come to pay homage to the man who is the particular favorite of Heaven, and who can never die in battle.<sup>17</sup>

This true story is just one of many times when God acted mightily to preserve Washington and make him successful in battle. You'll hear this much and more in the audio book, *Uncle Rick Reads The True Story of George Washington* by the famous historian, Elbridge Brooks.





Wedding of George Washington and Martha Dandridge Custis on January 6, 1759, at her estate in Virginia.