

Tripping Down Memory Lane
A History of the National Society of the Washington Family
Descendants
Compiled by Dr. Mildred B. Hopkins
October 2014

1954 – Kennesaw Natl. Battlefield GA – 37 attendees

This was the organizing meeting of the Washington Family Descendants, which was held on 12 May 1954. Miss Virginia Van Stone Crosby of Marietta GA was chosen as the first chairman of the organization. She is recognized as the founder of the organization. The Superintendent of the park, B.C. Yates, was host for the occasion & acted as Master of Ceremonies. The day's events concluded with a dinner at the Masonic Temple.

Highlights from the 1955 *Washington Words*:

Those attending this first meeting were:

Mrs. Edward T. Agerton	Waynesboro GA
Mr. J.W. Smith	Williamsburg OH
Mrs. David Newell	Leesburg FL
Miss Nancy Newell	Leesburg FL
Miss E. Lolacarol Green	Cedartown GA
Miss Virginia Van Stone Crosby	Marietta GA
Mrs. J. L. Stewart	Warner Robins GA
Mrs. A. G. Ursitti	Macon GA
Mr. & Mrs. Rolfe A. Johnson	Forsyth GA
Mr. Early T. Grant	Forsyth GA
Mrs. Pearl Grant Martin	Forsyth GA
Mrs. J. W. Hunter	Greensboro GA
Mrs. George Capps	Opelika AL
Mr. S. H. Yarbrough	Columbus GA
Mrs. J. L. Hoffman	Forsyth GA
Mr. & Mrs. L. J. Washington	Jackson GA
Mr. & Mrs. L. R. Washington	Jackson GA
Mr. D. L. Washington	Jackson GA
Mrs. Carter Norris	Berkeley CA
Mrs. Lester J. Miller	Mexico MO
Dr. & Mrs. Theodore Winans	Fairborn OH
Mr. & Mrs. Robert C. Davis	Atlanta GA
MRS. W. S. Dykes	Atlanta GA

Mrs. Lucy B. Johnson	Griffin GA
Miss Nellie R. Bryan	Griffin GA
Mrs. Susie B. Overstreet	Griffin GA
Mrs. Clarence B. Irwin	Atlanta GA
Mrs. Milton C. Scott	Decatur GA
Mrs. J. Nell Marchman	Greensboro GA
Mrs. J. S. Dawkins	Decatur GA
Mrs. Edward Green	Cedartown GA
Mrs. J. W. Wingate	Cedartown GA

A group picture of the above organizing members appeared in the *Marietta Daily Journal* on May 19 & had been taken by courtesy of the Cobb County Chamber of Commerce.

The Kennesaw Lodge #33, F. and A. M., Marietta Masons, hosted a dinner for the new organization. The framed piece of fringe from the sword sash of General Washington was pointed out to our guests. This was a gift to the lodge from Miss Crosby, fourth great grandniece of General Washington, and the first president of WFD.

Highlights from the 1955 *Washington Words*:

Some 37 persons met ay 12, 1954, at Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park near Marietta GA to form the first organized association of the Washington Family Descendants. The meeting opened with an introduction by Mayor Sam Welch of Marietta, followed by a prayer given by Father Walker of the Marietta Episcopal Church, concluding with the pledge to the flag.

Mr. B.C. Yates, Chamber of Commerce President, acted as Master of Ceremonies until the election of officers took place.

The Junior Members of the Fielding Lewis Chapter of the DAR graciously served refreshments in patriotic colors & designs before the business meeting. Many visitors were present from Ohio, Georgia, California, Florida, and Missouri for this historic get-together.

The Business Meeting was informally held, and Charter Members quickly elected officers...

Miss Virginia Crossley, the Washington Family Descendant who spurred the organization of the group, was elected President.

Mr. L. J. Washington, Vice-President

Mrs. J. W. Wingate, Corresponding Secretary

Mr. L. R. Washington, Treasurer

Mrs. David Newell, Historian

Mrs. E. T. Agerton, Poet Laureate

Mrs. George Capps (Opelika AL) and Miss Nancy A. Newell (Leesburg FL) were asked to compile information for a February 22 publication to be sent to all members.

It was decided that all members would pay dues of \$3 per year.

We will offer a reward for the most original name adopted at the next meeting for our yearly publication. Bring along those ideas and all other news you can find for the publication.

H. R. H. Queen Elizabeth received a Christmas Greeting from the Washington Family Descendants, sent by Miss Virginia Crosby, President. We have received a beautiful engraved "thank you", which will be placed into our files.

A generous donation of \$25 was presented by Mr. Richard C. Richardson, Senior Warden and President of St. Peter's Church Restoration Association of Tunstall, New Kent Co., VA.

1955 – Indian Springs State Park, Jackson GA

The second meeting was held on 4 June 1955, beginning at 10 AM in the open air casino of the park. A barbecue lunch was prepared for the members & brought to the park at noon time. Cost per person was approximately \$1.25. The local descendants volunteered to make iced tea & cakes for their "cousins".

From 1976 *Washington Words*:

News – 20 years ago – 1955

The second annual meeting of the Washington Family Descendants was held at Indian Springs State Park, four miles from Jackson, Georgia, and 50 miles south of Atlanta, on Saturday, June 4, 1955.

Miss Virginia was the president; the local hosts were Mr. L. J. Washington, Vice President, and Mr. L. R. Washington, Treasurer. There were 53 members & guests present.

In *Washington Words* for that year, it was noted that George Washington's best uniform – buff with a blue coat – had been sent to the cleaners for the first time in 170 years by the Smithsonian Institute's curators.

That year a 1 ½ cent stamp with the picture of Mount Vernon on it went on sale February 23, 1956.

In the 1955 business meeting, for the first time it was suggested that all members submit a proof of lineage for eligibility to membership.

A barbecue luncheon was a feature of the meeting. The main speaker was Mr. Richard Richardson, Senior Warden and President of the St. Peter's Restoration Association of Virginia. The subject of his talk was the controversy over where George Washington and Martha Custis were married January 6, 1759. He stated he had found reliable evidence that the marriage took place at St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Tunstall, New Kent County, Virginia on the date stated above.

A proposed Constitution and By-Laws were presented and printed in *Washington Words*.

Poet Laureate Zillah Lee Bostick Agerton had composed a poem which she recited called "Kinsman Hail!" which began:

"In merry England by the sea
There grew an ancient family"

And ended:

"At home, abroad, on land or sea,
Worthy the 'Heritage' we claim
A Noble line, a Noble Name!"

And plans were made to meet in 1956 in Fredericksburg VA at "Kenmore" May 12, 13, & 14, with the invitation already extended by Mr. Richardson, the guest speaker, to visit historic St. Peter's Church, not too far distant.

1956 – Fredericksburg VA

Taken from Washington Words, 22 February 1957:

"The third annual reunion of Washington Family Descendants was held May 12, 13, 14, 1956 in Fredericksburg VA. The business meeting was called to order at 8:00 P.M., May 13, at the Princess Anne Motel by Miss Virginia Crosby, President. R. H. Johnson gave the Invocation, reading "Washington's Prayer for the Nation." The Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag was given. Seventeen members were present at the opening meeting. In the absence of Mr. R. C. Davis, Recording Secretary, Mrs. H.C. Ursitti read the minutes of the last Reunion. Mr. E.T. Grant gave the Treasurer's report in the absence of Mr. L.W. Washington.

The proposed By-Laws and Constitution were read by Miss Priscilla Newell, and the organization approved them as corrected. (The adopted copy can be found on Page 12). After a discussion, it was decided a lawyer be consulted regarding copyrighting the name of Washington Family Descendants.

The following officers were elected for the 1956-57 year:

President	Miss Virginia Crosby, Marietta GA
1 st VicePresident	Mr. L. J. Washington, Jackson GA
2 nd VicePres.	Mr. J.W. Smith, Williamsburg OH

3 rd VicePres	Miss Priscilla Newell, Ann Arbor, Michigan
Recording Secretary	Mrs. A.G. Ursitti, Macon GA (due to the resignation of Mr. Davis)
Corresponding Secretary	Mrs. J.W. Wingate, Cedartown GA
Treasurer	Mr. L. R. Washington, Jackson GA
Historian/Librarian	Mr. J.C. Allen, Tucker GA
Registrar	Mrs. David Newell, Leesburg FL
Parliamentarian	Mrs. Julie S. Galban, Charlottesville VA
Poet Laureate	Mrs. E.T. Agerton, Waynesville GA
Editor of the Annual Publication, sent to all members	Miss Nancy Newell, Leesburg FL

It was announced that the next meeting would be held in Richmond, on its 350th Anniversary Celebration of the founding of the Colony of Virginia. Mrs. E.T. Agerton read her poem "Kenmore --- a Shrine with a Heart", and a motion was made & carried to send a copy to the Kenmore Association.

Mr. E.T. Grant was appointed to be chairman of the Committee on Arrangements with the approval to visit Richmond before the next Reunion to make preparations. Mrs. J.W. Wingate was appointed Chairman of the Emblem & Seals Committee, to decide on those parts of the new organization.

The 3rd Annual Meeting was adjourned at noon on May 14, 1956, after the Resolution was adopted to make Miss Virginia Van Stone Crosby an Honorary Life Member of the Washington Family Descendants."

"W.F.D. Members greatly enjoyed the guided tour and reception held at the colonial home of Col. Fielding Lewis and Betty Washington Lewis, on May 12, 1956. The Kenmore Association was most hospitable and gracious to our new organization. Evening highlights included the presentation of a petit-point purse by Misses Nancy & Priscilla Newell, Betty Washington Lewis descendants. This family heirloom is on loan to the Kenmore Association. A photograph of the occasion has been sent to the Kenmore Association for their records. Gingerbread & spiced tea was served in the Kitchen Quarters on the grounds."

"Members of the WFD gathered en masse to pay tribute to the memory of Mary Ball Washington, the mother of our First President, on a sunny Sunday, May 13, 1956. This was at the invitation of the Washington-Lewis Chapter of the DAR. Chapter Regent, Mrs. W. J. Wilkinson, presided. A man's chorus sang well-loved songs, with the audience joining in "Home Sweet Home". The Pledge of Allegiance was given, and a welcome address was presented by Mrs. Wilkinson, who kindly acknowledged the WFD members present. The Rev. Thomas G. Faulkner, Jr., Rector of St. George's Episcopal Church of Fredericksburg said the Invocation. The Rev. Dr. Frederick Brown Harris, Chaplain of the U.S. Senate, gave the address, which was broadcast over the ABC Richmond and Fredericksburg Stations, heard over the nationwide program, "Monitor". A wreath

was laid at the base of the tall, slender monument by Mrs. Tonkin, State Regent in Virginia. This was a very impressive and appropriate program for the FWD Reunion.”

1957 – Richmond VA

1958 - No info

1959 –Marietta GA

1960 – No info

1961 – No info

1962 – Forsyth GA

Taken from Washington Words. 1963:

On Easter Sunday, April 22, 1962, the Ninth Annual meeting of the Washington Family Descendants opened with the group attending morning worship services at the beautiful Ante-Bellum style Baptist Church at Forsyth, Georgia. The day was warm and sunny, and spring flowers at a peak. The minister acknowledged the members and greeted us for the town of Forsyth. Following services the group met the many friends and relatives of our president, Mr. Early T. Grant and Mrs. Grant, and the group was privileged to meet many who are related to this branch of the Washington family.

In the afternoon the group visited the “Little White House”, now a part of the Warm Springs Foundation made famous by President FDR and where he died. They toured the house and grounds and were shown the unfinished oil portrait of FDR; it was while he was sitting for this that he was stricken. Following this tour the group reassembled for a visit to the beautiful Calloway Gardens which are the grounds of the former estates of the Calloway family of cotton fame. This beautiful place is now open to all and is a memorial to the mother of the late Mr. Calloway. These gardens and lakes cover 5000 acres which abound in azaleas, rhododendron, tulips and hundreds of other varieties of trees and shrubs. A delicious buffet supper had been prepared for us at the clubhouse which overlooked a lake on the grounds.

Monday, April 23, the first business session was called to order by President Early T. Grant at the Forsyth Hotel. Mr. Grant then reported on his trip to England in September of 1961 at which time he represented the organization for the presentation of the stained glass window, bearing the Washington Coat of Arms, to the Washington Parish Church, County Durham, England. This window was a gift from the American Washington Family Descendants, and the group reported that they met some of the English branch of the family. Others attending were Mr. & Mrs. Lester Miller, Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Steptoe, Mrs. Carter Norris. The order of service was conducted by the Rev. V.J.O. Cobham, Archdeacon of Durham. A recording was made of this service and brought to the group by Mr. Grant. It was noted by Mr. Grant that the townspeople of Durham are extremely proud of their church’s historical connection with the Washington Family. Mrs. Miller reported that several historical organizations have been contacted by the Vicar of

this old church to see if there would be any interest in the restoration of the church's belfry, which has come to a state of disrepair. Anyone wishing to send a contribution for this purpose may do so by sending it to Mr. Allen, 3200 Brockett Rd., Tucker, GA, and saying that it is for "belfry repair". The Order of Service was in memory of the ancient Washington Family, the ancestors of our first president who lived at stately old Washington Hall, which has recently been restored. According to existing records, the family worshipped at this church from 1183 to 1376. The original font is still in use and the church well kept. Session brought to a close by reading of greetings and good wishes from Miss Virginia Crosby, past president and founder.

The group can all attest to something called "Southern Hospitality" for following the morning business session all members were invited to the home of Mr. & Mrs. Early Grant for luncheon. Approximately 48 attended, and fried chicken, candied yams, and hot breads were just part of the delicious meal. Following luncheon, group photographs were taken by Dr. T. H. Winans.

A banquet was held in the Crystal Room of the Forsyth Hotel on Monday evening and was extremely well attended. Mr. Early Grant presided, and following a prayer by Mrs. Warren Griffiths, dinner was served. Our own Poet Laureate, Mrs. Zillah Lee Bostick Agerton, then read her beautiful poem "Our Huguenot Heritage". Our organization is indeed blessed to have this dear and talented person. Following Mrs. Agerton's poem, three lovely young ladies from Tifts College of Forsyth entertained us with songs and readings from Mark Twain's works. We were interested to learn that Forsyth was at one time the home of the author, Joel Chandler Harris.

The Tuesday morning business session was called to order by Mr. Grant. The followed an opening prayer by Mrs. Warren Griffiths. Mrs. David Newell then reported on her work for the past year; we are all indeed grateful to Mrs. Newell -- her job as registrar is a time-consuming one, and we appreciate her efforts. The group voted to thank Mrs. Newell for her work on the behalf of all. Miss ruby Lee Edwards read the minutes of the previous session; these were approved, and Mr. J.W. Smith, past President of the organization, reported on the nominating committee. Mr. Smith, as Chairman of the Nominating Committee then read the new slate of officers.

A motion was made and passed that the group send a contribution to the Washington Parish Church to help in the repair of their belfry.

It was decided to meet in April of next year on the first week-end following the DAR convention so that members eligible for this organization can attend both DAR and WFD reunion, and attend both events since so many travel great distances for these meetings.

New officers were then installed by Mrs. E. T. Agerton. Mr. Grant, out-going President, introduced Dr. T. H. Winans, our new President. Dr. Winans then addressed the group and led the vote of thanks to Mr. Grant for his efforts on behalf of the organization. It was decided that the 1963 Washington Family Reunion be held in beautiful Williamsburg, Virginia – April 21st to 23rd.

1963 – Williamsburg VA – 10th

The WFD members met on April 21-23, 1963 in Williamsburg VA. The meeting opened with worship services at Bruton Parish Church, which George Washington attended while in Williamsburg. Following the service, they heard about the history of the church. Lunch was suggested for the Motor House Cafeteria in the Information Center but was not provided. The rest of the day was spent visiting Jamestown and the Jamestown Festival Park. A Buffet Supper (compliments of the President) was served at the Holiday Inn. Colored slides of previous meetings were shown & more pictures were taken. A meeting was held on Monday morning. Mrs. Warren Griffiths presented the devotional. A Williamsburg City Official provided a welcoming address. In the afternoon the group assembled to see the movie “The Story of a Patriot” in the Info. Center, followed by a tour of Colonial Williamsburg, with special emphasis on places frequented by George Washington (tickets \$2.50 each). In the evening a banquet was held at the Holiday Inn (\$3.25 per person). Mrs. Warren Griffiths gave the devotional, Poet Laureate Mrs. E.T. Agerton read a poem, & Mrs. Preston Parish, the Director of the Kenmore Association, made a few remarks. This was followed by an address about Washington in Williamsburg by Dr. E. P. Alexander, Vice President of Colonial Williamsburg. The Reunion ended with a business meeting on Tuesday morning, however many members stayed to watch a demonstration of “George Washington’s own militia, fifty authentic costumed members of a Fife & Drum Corps, including the firing of muskets and cannon, as well as to make a garden tour of many homes in the area.

1963 Officers:

President	Dr. Theodore Winans
1 st VicePresident	Mr. J.C. Allen
2 nd VicePres.	Mrs. Warren Griffiths
Recording Secretary	Miss Ruby Lee Edwards
Corresponding Secretary	Mrs. Oscar T. Thomas
Treasurer	Mr. James C. Allen
Historian/Librarian	Mrs. Lester Miller
Chaplain	Mrs. Warren Griffiths
Registrar	Mrs. David Newell
Parliamentarian	Mr. John W. Smith
Poet Laureate	Mrs. E.T. Agerton
Editor of Washington Words	Mrs. Oscar T. Thomas

1964 – Lexington VA – 11th

Taken from Washington Words 1965:

On Sunday, April 26th, 1864, the eleventh annual meeting of Washington Family Descendants took place in Lexington in the lovely Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. Mayflower Motel, Lexington was headquarters, and staff here did all they could to make us feel at home.

After breakfast all assembled to attend services at Robert E. Lee Memorial Church, a lovely church situated on the campus of the Washington & Lee University. Students of Washington & Lee & Cadets from nearby Virginia Military Institute, resplendent in their gray uniforms, acted as ushers. The Vicar acknowledged our Society & greeted us on behalf of the Parish. 35 members and associates attended services. A group photograph was taken by a local photographer whose services had been engaged by Dr. Winans.

In the afternoon we were conducted about the Washington & Lee campus, and the tour began in Evans Hall, where we were the guests of the student body who served us a most delicious luncheon. We then were taken to Robert E. Lee Memorial Chapel where lie the bodies of this famous military leader and his wife, Mary Custis, who was the great-great granddaughter of Martha Washington. The recumbent statue of General Lee by Valentine is one of the world's most famous statues. We were especially interested in the lovely oil portrait of our kinsman, Washington, by Charles Wilson Peale, which hangs in this Memorial Chapel and which shows a young Washington in uniform.

We were reminded of the many times the Lees served Washington and our country; General Henry (Lightfoot Harry) Lee, father of Robert E. Lee, was a close friend and comrade in arms of Washington during the War of Independence period and thought so much of Washington that it was he who authored the famous epitaph "First in War, First in Peace, First in the hearts of his Countrymen". Henry Lee was one of Washington's most able officers and headed "Lee's Legion" famous for its fine cavalry unit. He was later Governor of Virginia; his kinsmen, Richard Henry Lee and Francis Lightfoot Lee, were the only brothers who were signers of the Declaration of Independence, so it was with a feeling of reverence that we visited this chapel to pay homage to the Lee's of Stratford & Mary Custis of Arlington House.

The Washington & Lee University is the 5th oldest in the nation. In 1798 George Washington granted this institution the largest Academic gift up to that time --- securities valued at \$50,000 from which the school still derives income. In gratitude, the college, which had been called Liberty Hall changed its name to Washington College. The student body voted to add "Lee" to the title after the death of Robert E. Lee in 1870 to pay homage to this man who had chosen to come and be their President & by doing so turned down many more lucrative offers --- offers that came after the War between the States.

The Confederate Museum was next on the agenda, and this, too, proved a most fascinating place and houses some of the most famous mementoes of that period. A more historic place could not be found than Lexington; it is so rich in history that the problem is time in which to see all that is offered.

Sunday evening found the group assembled in the Mayflower dining room, and a most delicious buffet supper was served. Dr. Theodore Winans presided and greeted all, then spoke of his plans and hopes for a successful reunion. Mrs. John W. Smith, wife of our Parliamentarian & Past President, then read an historical paper, "Early Life of George Washington". This paper covered the life of our kinsman, his antecedence, his childhood, his appearance, his relationship with close friends --- many things not usually covered in such papers. It was a most delightful paper, and we came away feeling more pride than ever in this wonderful man. Following presentation of Mrs. Smith's paper, Dr. Winan then entertained by showing colored slides of last reunion as well as some from earlier reunions not shown before."

Monday morning a business meeting was held. After the Chaplain read Washington's Prayer for the Nation & the group pled allegiance to the Flag, Dr. Winans introduced E.D. Brady, the newly elected mayor of Lexington. Mayor Brady greeted the group and suggested places to see in Lexington. The Poet Laureate then read her poem "In Memoriam", written in memory of Miss Virginia Crosby, our founder, who died March 5, 1964. Other members talked about the contributions Miss Crosby had made in her lifetime.

Greetings were read from the Governor of Virginia, as well as Judge Paul Holstein. Other correspondence was read, and reports offered. In the afternoon, there was an address by the "eminent Archivist, Historian, and Genealogist, George West Diehl, D.D. Dr. Diehl is a retired Presbyterian Minister and spends his days compiling documents concerning families and events of Lexington." Following his talk, the group toured Stonewall Jackson's home, where he lived while teaching at VMI. Guests at dinner that night included Dr. Frederick Cole, President of Washington & Lee University & Mrs. Cole; Prof. Rupert N. Latture, Political Sci. Dept. of W&L, and Mrs. Latture; the speaker of the evening was Dr. Allan W. Moger, Prof. of History at W&L, who talked about "Washington's Place in History."

The Tuesday morning session focused on placing a memorial to our founder, Miss Crosby. It was decided that it would be best placed in her hometown of Forsyth GA. A temporary change to the By-laws was made to enable the group to meet outside of Virginia in Forsyth for the meeting when they would dedicate the plaque. New officers were elected installed. The next meeting will be held in Danville VA.

National Officers for 1965-66:

President

Mr. James C. Allen

1 st VP		Mrs. Warren Griffiths
2 nd VP	I	Mrs. C. R. Livingstone
3 rd VP		Mrs. Carter Norris
Treasurer		Mr. Early T. Grant
Recording Secretary		Mrs. Lloyd L. Stone
Registrar		Mrs. D. Newell
Historian		Mrs. Edward Agerton
Chaplain	I	Mrs. Edwin S. Rice
Editor <i>Washington Words</i>		Mrs. Oscar T. Thomas
Parliamentarian		John W. Smith

1965 - Danville VA – 12th

From *Washington Words*, 1966:

“On Sunday, April 25, 1965, members of Washington Family Descendants met in Danville for the 12th annual reunion of this society, The new Downtowner Motor Inn, conveniently located in the center of the city, served as headquarters.

All members then present attended services at the beautiful Protestant Episcopal Church of the Epiphany which is one of the 100 churches of Danville. We wish to thank Dr. George MacClintock, Rector, Mrs. Harry Brewer, & all members of the congregation who greeted us so warmly.

The automobile tour in the afternoon was a delightful experience for all found that Danville is a charming combination of 20th Century progress and technology while still keeping lovely park and residential areas such as those we visited --- Forest Hills so beautiful with azaleas in all shades and colors; Bailou Park --- lovely trees and flowering shrubs everywhere. Danville has magnificent golf courses, tennis courts, playgrounds, as well as modern up to date hospitals, schools and colleges. The town’s apparent fondness for our kinsman is reflected in the many ways in which his name is honored: Washington St., George Washington High School, and Mount Vernon Church, to name a few.

Sunday evening found all assembled in the social rooms of the Inn, where a delicious buffet supper has been prepared for us. Our president, Mr. James C. Allen, greeted all members and guests and spoke of his wishes for a successful reunion. Those present besides Mr. & Mrs. James Allen, were: our guests of the evening, Mr. & Mrs. Charles Craig of Danville, our Poet Laureate, Mrs. Edward Agerton, and past presidents and their wives: Mr. & Mrs. John Wesley Smith, Mr. & Mrs. Early T. Grant, & Dr. & Mrs. Theodore H. Winans; also Mr. & Mrs. Warren Griffiths; Dr. & Mrs. Courtenay Livingstone of Danville; Mrs. Newton Crouch and her daughter Miss Laura Crouch, as well as Miss Hilda Grant. We were pleased to meet Mr. & Mrs. Donald Thomson who had come all the way from Palmsdale, California to be with us, and a new member, Miss Winifred Beatty. This social evening would be incomplete without slides of previous meetings which were

shown at this time by Dr. Winans, along with some very lovely ones taken at various historical places.

Monday morning session was called to order by our President following registration of all members present. Chaplain at this time conducted devotional services by reading a beautiful prayer composed by Thomas Jefferson while he was acting Vestryman of Christ Episcopal Church in Charlottesville, Virginia. It was Thomas Jefferson who said, "Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty"; this is as timely today as when Jefferson said it. "Eternal vigilance, pride in our heritage, awareness of local and national policies, for only through these will we be assured of our unalienable rights, life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." As part of our tribute to Jefferson, we were reminded by Mrs. Warren Griffiths, Vice-President, that April is the birth month of Jefferson, fellow patriot of our kinsman.

Following Pledge of Allegiance to our flag, Dr. Courtenay Livingstone introduced Mayor W.C. MacCubbins, who greeted us on behalf of Danville. Mrs. Warren Griffiths, 1st VP, responded to Mayor's greeting and spoke of our pleasure in having W.F.D. meet in Danville. Secretary then read the many greetings, letters, and telegrams that came in to us wishing us a successful reunion --- from the Governor of Virginia, as well as Col. Ludwell Montague for the Lee Society of Virginia, as well as Mr. Gerald Morgan for the Monticello Association descendants of Thomas Jefferson, Mrs. David Newell, who sent best wishes to all, Mr. & Mrs. Herbert Steptoe. Mrs. Carter Morris, Mrs. E. Slater Rice & Miss Ruby Edwards, Mrs. G.F. Garrett, Lt. Paul Orr, and many, many more. Secretary reported that she had sent thank you notes to all who had helped make our last reunion so fruitful & had sent many letters to various people interested in our organization.

President then reported on his activities for the past year and told of his representation of this group at the inauguration of the President of the United States and his trip to Washington for that purpose as well as the trip with Mr. Grant to Marietta Georgia, where they discussed with the minister of Miss Crosby's church the possibility of placing a plaque to her memory there. A figure of \$400 was given to Mr. Allen for this memorial, and it was noted at this point that \$199 had been approved by the Board at a previous business session to be taken from our treasury. Suggestion was made that all members be asked to contribute to this memorial to our Founder and First President so that the difference can be made up by their contributions. President also reported several new members.

Our beloved past President and Parliamentarian, Mr. John Welsey Smith, then spoke of his delight in once again being able to come and meet with us, his pride in the growth of our organization and our progress to date.

Mrs. John W. Smith then read a most interesting letter concerned with Mildred Warner, who married Lawrence Washington (they were the grandparents of

General George Washington. The letter was from the Reverend T.R.B. Hodgson. St. Nicholas Vicarage, White Haven, Cumberland, England, which states "The gravestone of Mildred Warner Washington Gayle is no longer in existence. Many years ago the stones were taken up, those which were still legible being laid flat at one end of the churchyard. The rest were disposed of in a reverent manner. However, a few years ago a tablet was placed on the north wall of the nave of the church to commemorate her name, the inscription says 'in memory of Mildred Warner, a daughter of Augustine Warner II, wife of Lawrence Washington who died about 1697. She later married George Gayle of White Haven. She was the Grandmother of General George Washington, First President of the United States.'" This tablet was placed over her grave by the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities in 1955.

Our Treasurer then reported \$738.82 on hand and noted that all of our obligations have been met. Mr. Grant then spoke of his part concerning the trip to Marietta and hoped that our organization can place a fitting memorial to Miss Crosby --- one that we can all be proud of. Mr. Grant also told us that Miss Crosby's beautiful old home has been donated to the city of Marietta as a museum.

Editor reported that all members were sent Washington Words as well as various historical societies who had requested copies. Rear Admiral Ernest MacNeill Ellers, head of the U.S. Navy Department of History, requested that a copy be sent to the USS George Washington nuclear submarine, in care of Fleet P.O., New York. Requested copies also sent to Lee Society of Virginia & Monticello Association.

Our beloved Poet Laureate then spoke of her hope that she can meet with us many more years, meeting was closed by the reading of poem "In the Beginning."

Monday afternoon a tour had been arranged for us by the Livingstones, and this included all the departments of the Dan River Mills, Inc., which is the largest single-unit textile mill in the world. This vast enterprise in Danville employs more than 10,000 people; it is located on the Dan River and is the home of the famous Dan River Fabrics known around the world. We visited the vast vat rooms where dyes of every color could be seen. There are 444,000 spindles and 8,000 looms. The tour was very interesting for it begins with the first step showing raw cotton as it comes from the bales and follows the process in steps until it then reaches a stage of finality and is beautiful cotton cloth all ready for manufacturing into fabrics.

Monday evening all members and guests assembled in the lovely banquet room of the Downtowner Inn where tables had been decorated beautifully. Our President greeted all and welcomed our guests of the evening, Dr. Jessie Maren Enslin, Psychiatrist and Director of Danville Mental Health Clinic, and Mrs. Louise

Epps, Director of Nursing Service at Danville Memorial Hospital. Following a most delicious dinner, our beloved Poet Laureate entertained us as always by reading two of her poems, "Crusaders" and "We are Huguenots".

Dr. Courtenay Livingstone then introduced us to Mr. John Carter, of the Danville City Council, our speaker of the evening. Mr. Carter spoke of the historical beginnings of Danville, and we learned that the city was surveyed by William Byrd in 1728 and was a trading post and tobacco center known as Wyne's Falls, and it was here that pioneering Revolutionary veterans met to trade and talk of their war experiences. We were interested and learned further that Danville is unique in having had the first municipal electric power plant in the nation as it was in January of 1886 that electric streetlights replaced the antiquated gas burners in the streets of the city. Second largest industry in Danville is the tobacco industry and Lorillard, Reynolds, and many others tobacco companies have plants here for it is here that the Virginia "bright leaf" tobacco is brought to market --- picturesque tobacco auctions and auctioneering abound --- Danville was the last Capital of the Confederacy, and this mansion house has now been restored and is now the Danville Public Library which houses more than 70,000 volumes. Mr. Carter was most entertaining, and we came away knowing much more of Danville.

Tuesday morning business session called to order following opening exercises, minutes of the previous meeting read and approved as read. First order of business was motion made and approved that Treasurer should send checks to Registrar and Editor to reimburse them for expenses incurred in carrying out duties of office. Since discussion had started as to the possibility of increasing our membership, ways in which to do this were considered. First VP suggested an appropriate Ad be placed in an issue of the DAR magazine; this plan was approved, and Mrs. Warren Griffiths designated to place an appropriate ad in a forthcoming issue of the DAR magazine.

President then called for suggestions as to a meeting place for next year. Suggestion was made that since we must meet in Marietta, Georgia to attend placing of our memorial to Miss Virginia Crosby, it would be very practical to have our annual reunion at the same time. Our Parliamentarian offered a plan to rescind our motion made in Alexandria, Virginia in 1961 that all meetings of this organization must take place in Virginia, home state of Washington. Discussion followed, and it was unanimously adopted that we rescind the motion heretofore stated and that we now meet anywhere. Stone Mountain, Georgia was offered as a likely place as it has facilities and is still near enough o Marietta for all to attend dedication of memorial. Discussion followed. Motion made and carried that our next meeting be Stone Mountain GA.

It was observed at this time that since so many of the Lee Family Society are eligible to this organization, perhaps they would like to have their annual meeting in Stone Mountain at this time if their By-laws permit it since it was thought they

would be interested in Stone Mountain, as a 90 foot high stone figure of their kinsman, Robert E. Lee, is in the process of being carved out of the mountain. Discussion followed, and it was decided that an informal invitation be extended to any members of the Lee Family Society who wish to meet with us at Stone Mountain.

President then named Mr. John W. Smith to head the Nominating Committee and including Mr. Early T. Grant and Dr. Theo. Winans. Mr. Smith wishes the members of the committee to try to come into Stone Mountain on Saturday, 23rd, if it is possible to meet and discuss election of officers for the next year.

There being no further business, meeting adjourned by singing "Blest Be the Tie That Binds."

1966 – Stone Mountain GA – 13th

1967 – Charlottesville VA – 14th

From *Washington Words*, 1968:

"On Sunday, 23rd of April, 1967, members of the Washington Family Descendants met in Charlottesville for the fourteenth annual meeting. Headquarters for this reunion was Mt. Vernon Motel, Route 29 North.

As in the past, our first day in beautiful Charlottesville began with all then present attending services at the Episcopal Church of Our Saviour, which is about 2 miles outside Charlottesville. The Reverend James H. Cunningham is Vicar of this lovely church, and his sermon impressed us for it was timely and refreshingly patriotic. He spoke of duty to country and reemphasized the words of his Bishop, "These plains, these green hills, these forests, these men and women are ours; for most of us there is no wider stage than this, and no greater history than to be faithful to our own inheritance. I am not ashamed to love my country and to be willing to serve her as I am glad to be part of her."

Sunday after a luncheon at the Holiday Inn directly across the road from Mt. Vernon Motel. It was a pleasure once again to be together and speak of plans for a very busy three days.

Sunday evening found all assembled for dinner which was served, most attractively, buffet --- this Mrs. Livingstone had arranged for us with Blair House which is adjacent to Mt. Vernon Motel.

We were delighted to discover that our speaker for this evening was one of our own --- the wife of young David H. Livingstone, son of Dr. & Mrs. Courtenay Livingstone --- who spoke of the home life of the first President and his wife, the customs of that day, the food and its preparation (she excelled here for one of her hobbies is the collection of old and unusual cookbooks). We were delighted

to find beside each plate a copy of a delightful little cookbook "Leaves from the Table of George & Martha Washington" which was compiled by Eleanor Parke Custis and contains some of the recipes of her great-grandmother, our first lady. We indeed thank you Mrs. Livingstone for this memento which we shall treasure. Mrs. Livingstone is a reporter on the Women's staff of the Richmond Times Dispatch and editor of the Youth Page. We were delighted to learn that she recently received the Virginia Press Woman's Award for the most outstanding historical series written by a daily newspaper.

Following this supper and interesting talk, we were pleased to see colored slides of some of our other reunion shows for us by Dr. Theodore Winans, who is our family photographer.

Here we should like to mention the names of those attending this convention --- Dr. & Mrs. Courtenay Livingstone & of course their son and his wife spoken of in preceding paragraph, Mr. Early t. Grant and his daughter Miss Hilda Grant, Mr. James Allen our immediate past president, Dr. Theodore & Mrs. Winans, The Reverend & Mrs. A. Brooks Withers, Mr. & Mrs. Hammond Washington, Mrs. Leonard D. Jackson, Col. & Mrs. Benjamin Erdman, Mr. & Mrs. Harry L. Prasuhn, Capt. & Mrs. W.W. Bercaw, &, oh yes, we almost forgot Mrs. Oscar T. Thomas.

Monday morning session called to order promptly at 9 AM, Mrs. Courtenay Livingstone presiding. The Reverend A. Brooke Withers offered an opening prayer and spoke of his pleasure in meeting with us. Pledge of Allegiance to our flag then offered. President then introduced Mr. Robert S. Johnson, Vice-Mayor of the city of Charlottesville who greeted all assembled in the name of his city and for his mayor, Mr. Burkett A. Reynolds who had to be out of town but sent his best wishes for a successful reunion. Mr. Johnson spoke of the many historical shrines in Charlottesville and placed his office at our disposal hoping that we would have time to visit all of them. Dr. Theodore Winans then responded to this greeting on behalf of the Washington Family and voiced for all our delight in being in this historic place, the home of one of our earliest patriots.

Mrs. Courtenay Livingstone then spoke of her plans for us and arrangements she & Dr. Livingstone had planned with the Mt. Vernon Motel & those responsible for the tour. She also thanked those assembled for the messages received at the time of her accident (Dr. & Mrs. Livingstone were on their way to the Stone Mountain reunion when they were involved in an automobile accident) despite these injuries she, with the help of her good husband, has carried on for us, and we wish to thank her for all her efforts in our behalf.

After registration of all present, an attractive booklet "Historic Garden Week in Virginia" was distributed --- these with maps of Charlottesville were most helpful, for all historic places were plainly marked.

The President then read greetings from many of our members who usually attend but could not at this time: Mrs. John Wesley Smith, who had planned to attend with Mr. Smith, one of our early Presidents. We are sorry to realize that Mr. Smith is ailing and could not come. The President also welcomed those in our midst new to this organization and announced that we have 15 new members, most in response to the notice that we have placed in the DAR magazine. She then read greetings from the Governor of Virginia, the Honorable Mills E. Godwin, Jr., who says in his letter to us, "It is well that we can glance over our shoulder at our remarkable past, & this man, your kinsman, who contributed to the growth of our state and to our Nation."

At this time our President spoke of the recently organized Mary Ball Memorial Museum and Library in Lancaster, Virginia. This organization selected the name in honor of the mother of our first president, and its purpose is to compile and preserve all information, furnishings, and artifacts pertaining to the Ball as well as related early families. The Museum is located just 5 miles from Epping Forest Birthplace of Mary Ball.

Anyone wishing to donate: the Mary Ball Memorial Museum & Library; P.O. Box 97; Lancaster, Virginia 22503.

Treasurer then reported at this time that all obligations of our organization have been met. He then brought before the body the problem of delinquent members (many that we never hear from). Just how long are we to keep them on the roster? Discussion followed and a motion then made and seconded that if a member has not paid dues for two or more years, he can be dropped from the roster. Motion passed. An amendment to our By-Laws now reads that any member who is in arrears for 2 years or more may be dropped from the roster.

Mr. Grant then read a letter from the Reverend Dr. W. J. Smart, Vicar of Sulgrave (the Family Church and Burial Place of George Washington's ancestors) in which is stated that he thanks us so much for the support and donation given this historic old church. Restoration of the old church is progressing; Sunday attendance is better now than at any time in living memory. The people in the village are extremely proud of this church and its connection to the American first President. A new carpet down the center aisle of the nave and chancel has been given in memory of the late A. J. Cripples, an American. The next step in the restoration is the top part of the church tower so that the magnificent set of 6 bells already there can once again ring out. Those interested in this historic old church may contact: The Rev. W. J. Smart; Sulgrave Vicarage; Banbury, Oxen, England.

The Registrar's report was read, and this told of the excellent response to the notice in the DAR magazine. Registrar reports numerous inquiries to the notice, and as a result, we have 15 new members & a number of prospective members that seem qualified.

Mrs. Newell answered between 40 & 50 letters in response to this notice. (*Note: new members listed in WW, but not here*). Secretary then read several letters and greetings from members who could not be present (*see WW for these details*). This session was brought to a close by all members remembering our departed members.” *Note: (Mrs. Zillah Lee Bostick Agerton, Poet Laureate of the WFD died in January).*

1968 – Russellville KY – 15th

1969 – Stone Mountain GA – 16th

1970 – Williamsburg VA – 17th

1971 – Russellville KY – 18th

1972 – Tallahassee FL – 19th

Minutes: The nineteenth meeting of the Washington family Descendants was held in Tallahassee, Florida, April 22-25, 1972, the home of the Princess Catherine Murat, granddaughter of Betty Washington Lewis and her husband Fielding Lewis.

The “family” began arriving at our headquarters in the Rodeway Inn on Friday night, with the majority checking in on Saturday. At the time of registration, Mr. John D. Williams supplied each member with a packet of helpful and interesting information describing the various attractions of the city of Tallahassee and the state of Florida.

Saturday evening the members of the Port San Luis D.A.R. Chapter had graciously arranged a reception for us in the Rodeway Inn dining room. Beautifully arranged flowers and ribbons carrying out the red, white, & blue motif were placed around the room. Crimson fruit punch was served with dainty sandwiches, cake, & candles. Approximately 100 guests, including many from Tallahassee, passed through the receiving line which was made up of those prominent in the patriotic life of Tallahassee.

Sunday, April 23, 1972 – Our members met in the lobby of the Rodeway Inn and drove to St. John’s Episcopal Church on Monroe St. for our traditional church service. Built in 1829, this is the same church attended by Catherine Murat, and it was also the first church built in Tallahassee.

Rev. Graham, the pastor, was vacationing but was ably represented by the Curate, the rev. Paul Ritch. The Rev. Mr. Ritch welcomed our WFD members graciously. He expressed the thought that while the aims & philosophy tied in with the one word “freedom” were noble, unfortunately today the word has a

different connotation as many consider freedom to mean doing what one wants, regardless of past traditions, the past experience of history, etc.

After church our motorcade travelled 16 miles to Wakulla Springs, where a smorgasbord of delicious foods awaited. "Uncle Joe", the almost-200 yr. old alligator which had been maliciously killed in 1966 and was stuffed and on display in the lobby of the hotel. He received much attention as our line went by him to the smorgasbord.

Mrs. Vick asked Mrs. Gunn to introduce the officers so all might know them. Mrs. Gunn first introduced the past presidents who were present --- Mr. Early T. Grant (who served in 1961 & 1962), Dr. T. W. Winands, president in 1963 & 1963, and Mrs. Gunn, herself, who was president during 1969 & 1970. Following these introductions, the present officers were introduced.

Mr. Ronald Melton, Public Relations Director of the city of Tallahassee, bid us welcome on behalf of the City Manager and City Commissioners & offered his services to make our stay an enjoyable one. Mr. David Livingstone, First Vice-President, replied to Mr. Melton, indicating the pleasure of our membership in being in this beautiful city.

Mrs. Vick announced that since the entire nominating committee could not be present, we would need a third member in order to complete the work required. Dr. Winands was nominated as a member pro tem by acclamation of the membership.

New Members of our organization were asked to introduce themselves. Thus, we met Mr. & Mrs. John D. Williams, Dr. Lee Thornton Rector, Mrs. Mary Champion, Mrs. C. L. Martin and Mrs. Charles T. Wesner.

The report of Mr. Early T. Grant, Treasurer, was presented, showing a balance in our accounts totaling \$1239.45:

Checking account	\$	565.50
Savings account		<u>673.95</u>
		\$1,239.45

Mr. Grant asked that a new treasurer be elected this year, as he had been ill. He expressed his enjoyment of the post he had held for the past several years but stated he was ready to relinquish his duties to someone else.

Mr. Grant's report was accepted by a unanimous vote of the members.

A brief report was made by Miss Winifred Beatty, editor of Washington Words, and Mrs. Vick made an announcement concerning the banquet to be held in the evening. The meeting was then adjourned.

Monday afternoon – Shortly after lunch we boarded a bus for a tour of the scenic and historical sites of Tallahassee.

Our first stop was “The Grove”, the mansion occupied by former governor Leroy Collins. It was built by the third great grandfather of Mrs. Collins, Richard Keith Call, who was the third and fifth Territorial Governor of Florida. He had been brought to Florida by Andrew Jackson, who was, himself, the first Territorial Governor. “The Grove” resembles from the outside the home of Andrew Jackson known as “The Heritage” in Nashville TN. “The Grove” was framed by large magnolia trees festooned with Spanish moss, and the grounds were beautifully maintained.

Nearby was the present governor’s mansion, a large red brick structure with white columns. Although the mansion is not open to the public, we were privileged to receive a tour of the first floor where treasures of the state are preserved. Their history was recited to us, and we enjoyed all the antiques, especially impressed by the silver punch bowl decorated with oranges, pelicans, alligators, and other symbols of the state of Florida, and the small punch cups, the handles of which were in the form of tiny alligators. The next stop was the Capitol Building. The halls were lined with portraits of famous men who had helped govern the state over the past years. In the Senate Chambers two large paintings hung over the podium – one of Ponce de Leon landing on Florida shores, and the other a painting of the blast off for the moon from Cape Kennedy. The flags of the five nations which have flown over Florida are also displayed on the podium.

Our last stop was at Bellevue, west of Tallahassee, the plantation purchased by Princess Catherine Murat after the death of the Prince. It has been beautifully restored by the Murat House Association (in which Washington Family Descendants have a sustaining membership). Punch and sandwiches revived us there. The refreshments were served to us on the back veranda of the home by members of the Association, who were dressed costumes of the Civil War period. Mrs. Malcolm Johnson, wife of the editor of the Tallahassee Democrat, kept us enthralled with her account of the Prince and Princess, especially as related to Bellevue. We viewed the rooms of the house at our leisure and were impressed with the simplicity of the house, particularly for a princess of the French Republic.

1973 – Alexandria VA – 19th
(NOTE: both 1972 & 1973 were called the 19th)

Minutes of the 19th meeting in Alexandria VA, April 22-23, 1973: All who attended the three-day meeting in Alexandria agreed that it was an enjoyable and productive reunion. To make it even better, a greater number of our members attended than had ever been before.

Mrs. Charles L. (Lois) Martin was responsible for the successful arrangements for the meeting, and her competence was strikingly apparent in the smoothness with which all our meetings & banquets progressed.

The Twin Bridges Marriott Hotel was the headquarters for our 1973 meeting, and all activities were centered there. Registration began on Saturday, April 21. Those who arrived on Saturday were graciously entertained at tea by our members who reside in the Alexandria area. Mrs. Leonard D. Jackson was in charge of these arrangements. This period of relaxation with the guests enjoying refreshments which included delicate and tasty morsels of sweets did much to start our reunion off on a friendly note.

Sunday, April 22, 1973: Many of our members rose early on Easter morning and attended the Easter Sunrise Service at the Arlington National Cemetery at 7:30. This Service, under the auspices of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States, was a moving experience, ending with the Knights Templar placing a cross of lilies at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, and the playing of "Taps" by the United States Marine Band. In the afternoon, all boarded a special bus for our visit to Pohick Church and Mt. Vernon.

Pohick Church: Pohick Church was the Parish Church of Mt. Vernon and was completed in 1772. George Washington attended this church regularly until it fell into disuse after the revolution. A special vesper service was held by the pastor for our benefit, and the old-fashioned square pews, as well as the other features of the church made us feel we were, indeed, worshipping back in the days of George Washington.

Mt. Vernon: It was approaching 5:00 as we arrived at Mt. Vernon, and our members gathered at the tomb of George Washington for our Memorial Service for W.F.D. members who had passed away during the year. This was an impressive and memorable service for us all. A special tour had been arranged for our members after the grounds were closed to the public at 5:00. We roamed through the mansion and the surrounding buildings and gardens enjoying again the beautiful furnishings and authenticity of the surroundings. I'm sure all of us felt we were on hallowed ground.

Sunday evening: By Sunday evening almost all members had arrived, and we were pleased to find 71 members had registered. Dinner had been arranged in the Chesapeake Room of the Hotel, an impressive and attractive room. At the speaker's table, candlelight from pewter tiered candelabra, red roses & white spider chrysanthemum added to the beauty and festivity of the occasion. Following the invocation, given by our past president, Mrs. F. Bailey Gunn, a delicious dinner was served, during which all had an opportunity to visit with those nearby. The speaker for this evening was Mrs. Donald Spicer, President of the Daughters of the American Revolution. We were honored that she consented to take time from her busy schedule to address us. Her talk was especially

enjoyed as she spoke of Kenmore, its restoration, the restoration of Independence Hall in Philadelphia, and her dream that someday a statue of George Washington would be placed adjacent to the monument. The statue Mrs. Spicer had in mind was depicted in a drawing she had brought with her --- George Washington facing into the prevailing winds, with his cloak floating behind him, so unusual that it would receive special attention from those who viewed it ... the thought that General Washington must have often looked this way as he seemed to peer into the future, fully determined, gaining strength, perhaps, for the trials which beset him during the war.

1974 – Marietta GA – 20th

...a reception. The officers of W.F.D. and past presidents formed the receiving line to greet members and special guests. The Fielding Lewis Chapter of the NSDAR, which had been organized by Miss Virginia Crosby, served as hostesses.

Our visit with the Hamricks in this beautiful colonnaded mansion of the ante-bellum days, furnished with the most beautiful of antiques, enjoying the refreshments and delicious canapés, the time slipped by so fast, we were rushed to prepare for the banquet scheduled for that evening. Needless to say, we left Hamrick Hall with reluctance but with many fond memories of the hospitality extended to us there.

Sunday evening, our banquet in the Holiday Inn included a welcome to Marietta by Mayor Dana Eastham, and a talk by State Senator Joe L. Thompson entitled "Preservation of our American Heritage in One Nation Under God", both of whom were enjoyed immensely by their audience. Music by the Glee Club ensemble of the Campbell High School, Smyrna GA consisted of patriotic & inspirational numbers – "Oh, Beautiful for Spacious Skies" (America the Beautiful), "Battle Hymn of the Republic", "God Bless America", to name a few.

As is our tradition for Sunday night, Dr. Theo. C. Winans had brought his projector and slides of previous meetings, which he screened for our enjoyment. Commentary by Mrs. Mary Winans always adds to the interest, also.

Monday, April 22, 1974: Mr. James Edwards was the tour guide for our Gray Line Bus tour to take in additional points of interest to us in and near Marietta. Our first stop took us to the grave site of Miss Virginia Crosby in the St. James Episcopal Cemetery on Winn Street. There Mrs. Hamrick conducted a beautiful memorial service for our departed members. She was assisted by Mrs. Ruby Gunn who read the tributes to each one.

Across the street we visited the Alice McLellan Birney Memorial who was the co-founder of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers Association. Mr. George Griffin, Assistant Superintendent of the Marietta School System, invited

us into the school, where the students had prepared a snack for us, and while enjoying this refreshment pause, Mr. Griffin treated us to moving pictures & slides of Marietta. The Rose Garden, which made up the Alice McLellan Birney Memorial was visited and appreciated by the members, each one seeking out the stone presented by his or her native state as part of the courtyard of this memorial.

1975 – Cincinnati OH – 21st

Minutes of 1975 Meeting in Cincinnati: One of the special guests for this social event was Mrs. Jake Bailey, executive Secretary of the Freedom Foundation of Valley Forge PA, who had brought with her color slides of Valley Forge complex as it stands today. After dinner, Mrs. Bailey projected these slides on a large screen for our enjoyment & explained the purpose and the operation of the Valley Forge Freedom Foundation. Her talk was unusually informative and interesting. To many of us the revelation of the existence of the Valley Forge activities was a surprising feature of the evening. Mrs. Bailey also extended an invitation to the Washington Family group to go to Valley Forge for an annual meeting.

An informal period followed, during which new members were presented. Mrs. Rudy, our President, presented gifts to Dr. & Mrs. Stein and to Mrs. Tiedchen in appreciation of their extensive work in preparing for our annual meeting. Even “ye editor” received a completely unexpected scroll proclaiming membership in the famous Kentucky Colonels.

Sunday, April 27, 1975: We attended services at the Christ Episcopal Church in downtown Cincinnati, being conveniently transported there by bus. After an inspiring sermon and service, we adjourned to the Undercroft of the church, where lunch was served to us.

A Queen City Bus Tour of the beautiful and scenic surroundings of Cincinnati was scheduled for the afternoon, through which we were educated to the charms of their city by Mrs. Walter C. Langsam, Mrs. Bruce S. Taylor, & Mrs. Robert E. Boling. They were so enthusiastic about their city, and so knowledgeable, they kept their passengers interested in each new site and the bit of history it represented.

Starting with Fountain Square, just a few steps from our hotel, we viewed all the sites which sheltered the works of art, the historical archives, and the treasures of the Queen City. We traversed through Eden Park with flowering trees in bloom; to picturesque Mt. Adams close to the downtown section, where Johnny Bench’s home was proudly pointed out to us --- a home hanging on a cliff, literally --- the early churches of the German & Irish colonies in the city’s beginnings. The view from Mt. Echo Park was breathtaking as we looked down at the Ohio River winding toward the Mississippi. And there were other sites to see from the Kentucky side of the river, which had thoughtfully been included in the

tour by our enthusiastic tour guides. The two hours allotted for this tour spread by too fast, and yet we did see many, many beauty spots of Cincinnati and environs.

Sunday evening, April 27, 1975: We gathered in the Skyline Ballroom of the Terrace Hilton for our Sunday night banquet. Again, our hostesses had beautifully decorated the table – blue and silver silhouettes of George and Martha Washington, small American and French flags, favors of “clothes-pin dolls” dressed as George Washington.

President Mary Rudy opened the banquet with greetings to those present and requested Mr. Robert S. Jett, Sr., to lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance. This was followed by the singing of our National Anthem by Mrs. Walter Langsam, accompanied at the piano by Mrs. Higgs Hamilton. The invocation followed, given by our First Vice President, Mr. James Lyne.

During the delicious dinner served to us, the Breakfast Club of Mariemont High School under the direction of Robert Dominique presented a musical program for our enjoyment. Beginning with “Give me your poor, your huddled masses” to the final chords of “God Bless America – my home, sweet home”, their medley was expertly and beautifully performed, and much enjoyed by all.

Mrs. Rudy again presided, expressing her pleasure that so many were attending the meeting and her regret that Mr. Early T. Grant, a founding member who had never missed a meeting in the past 20 years, former president & treasurer, could not be with us. Former presidents, Mrs. Ruby Gunn and Mrs. Blanche Livingstone were also prevented from attending this year, and we miss them all.

Mr. James Lyne introduced Mr. Walter Eaton Langsam at this time, who had prepared a program based on the Architectural World of George Washington. His talk was absorbing and informative and covered a subject which most of us, I feel certain, had little knowledge of.

In his introduction, Mr. Langsam explained his talk would center mainly on the architecture of Mt. Vernon, the home of Washington, and other great homes of the Williamsburg area, which embodied the best in architecture of that day. He mentioned that George Washington was one of the first to appreciate the “natural look” of the grounds surrounding a home, striving to have stands of trees nearby and otherwise preserving the natural look of the countryside.

1976 – Lancaster VA – 22nd

Minutes of our 1976 meeting in Virginia: The Tide’s Lodge, Lexington VA was designated the headquarters for our 22nd annual meeting, and on Saturday, April 24, the members began to arrive and discover the plush accommodations awaiting them. During the afternoon, the registration of members and guests

progressed in the lobby, and in the evening dinner was served in the Buchanan Room.

Following dinner Mrs. Robert J. Stein gave a most interesting talk entitled "Washington – Man of Destiny", followed by highlights of the early life of Pocahontas by Mrs. Rolf E. Hovey. These contributions by members were much enjoyed and appreciated by all.

On Sunday morning our motor cavalcade took us to St. Mary's White Chapel, Lancaster Co., where we were to attend the worship service. This church goes back to 1669, the date now accepted as the date of the founding, although there have been several changes in the church structure since then.

The Reverend Morton Townsend, rector of St. Mary's White Chapel, welcomed us warmly and had prepared a service which would closely resemble a service held in George Washington's time. The only change he made was to restrict it to fewer minutes, as the sermons in George Washington's time were considerably longer than the one today.

Many visited the old burial grounds in the church yard, particularly those interested in the Ball family, for George Washington's maternal kin are buried there, as well as other early settlers and their descendants.

We enjoyed our box lunches here, prepared for us by Tide's Lodge, and the hospitality of the members of the church who lingered to entertain us; then we drove on to Epping Forest, the birthplace of Mary Ball Washington, where we toured the home and grounds of this well-known shrine.

The highlight of the afternoon was scheduled for 4:00 at the Mary Ball Memorial Library when the portrait of Mary Ball as a young lady, painted by Mrs. Claribel Jett, was to be unveiled and presented to the library. Following the impressive presentation and acceptance, a beautiful tea was served by the Ladies of the Library. During this time, there was an opportunity for all to examine the beautiful portrait and talk with Mrs. Jett concerning her work.

Sunday evening a banquet was prepared in the Tide's Lodge banquet room, with Mr. John A. Washington of Washington DC the speaker. Mr. Washington is a genealogist and his talk centered on the various lines of families whose name is Washington, stating that all of them did not bear a relationship to George Washington's family. His talk was interesting but disturbing to any of our members present.

Following, Dr. Theodore H. Winans projected his slides of previous meetings on the screen, much to the entertainment and amusement of all.

Monday, April 26 was planned as a full day, and by 9:00 AM all were in the bus headed toward Stratford Hall. Our tour of this beautiful landmark, which goes back to the Lee family, was most enjoyable. We had lunch here, also, before boarding our bus for the next destination.

We stopped at St. Peter's Church at Oak Grove, where we were welcomed cordially and ended our tour at Washington's Birthplace National Monument, where our memorial service was held amid high winds and some raindrops. The impressive service was led by our president, Mrs. William T. Rudy, and vice-president, Mrs. C. M. Hamrick, Jr. Those of our members who passed away during the past year and were remembered this day in our service were:

Mr. William Tinsley Rudy, Jr.
Mr. Hillary Baskett Posey
Mrs. Harry Forrest Willey
Mr. L. L. Washington
Rev. A. Brooke Withers
Mrs. L.D. Martin
Mrs. Oscar Ragen Baskett
Mrs. James E. Dillon

Mr. Ribble M. Eskridge, Sr.
Miss Julia Beazley
Mrs. Philip Donehoo
Mrs. L. H. Atherton
Mrs. R. Elton London

Monday evening we again dined at Tide's Lodge in their banquet room, the main speaker of the evening being Mrs. Nina Tracey Mann, head of the Millenbeck dig, Mary Ball Museum and Library. Mrs. Mann's subject was the Ball family, particularly the number of those named William Ball and their relationship to the original William Ball who purchased the Millenbeck land.

1977 – Russellville KY – 23rd

The 23rd annual meeting of the National Society of the Washington Family Descendants got under way on Saturday, April 23, 1977, with registration at the headquarters in the Town Motel, Russellville KY.

Saturday evening Mrs. W.C. Clark had invited the members to a reception at her home on West Fourth Street, which was well attended and much enjoyed. Mrs. Clark had asked Mr. and Mrs. J. Granville Clark and Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Estes to assist in hosting the reception. Mrs. Clark's home is lovely with beautiful antiques which were of interest to all, and decorated with spring flowers that brightened the rooms and the serving table where refreshments were made available to the guests. In meeting new members and friends, and renewing acquaintance with old friends, the evening was interesting and enjoyable to all, in spite of the April rain falling outside.

Sunday, April 24, 1977: Sunday morning the members and guests met outside the Episcopal Church at Main and Sixth Streets to attend services scheduled for 11 o'clock. We were invited into the church as a body and enjoyed the hymns

and the sermon offered to the church membership on that Sunday. We were cordially welcomed by the pastor into their midst.

In the afternoon a tour of Quaker Village was made, with the members forming a motorcade to the site of the village approximately 10 miles east of Russellville. Mr. John Clark was chairman of this event, and Mr. J. Granville Clark was the narrator during our tour of the premises. The history as presented by Mr. Granville Clark was very interesting and detailed, with humorous incidents included as well as the statistics.

Sunday evening at the Methodist Temple our first banquet was planned. After a delicious dinner, Mr. J. Granville Clark introduced Mr. Albert Smith, whose subject was "Welcome to Russellville KY". The second speaker of the evening was Miss Rena Milliken, one of our own, who had prepared an interesting presentation, complete with slides, entitled (*missing*)

... a record she has received from England, its title being "The Washingtons of England", narrated by Simon Williams. It covers the Washington family from 1167 forward and was of great interest.

Our officers determined that there was little business to be transacted on Tuesday, except for installation of our new officers and made the decision to hold the business meeting this evening following the banquet.

Mrs. William Tinsley Rudy, past president, presided at the installation ceremony, with the following new officers being installed:

Mrs. Robert S. Jett, Sr.	President
Mrs. Claude M. Hamrick, Jr.	1 st Vice-President
Mr. John D. Williams	2 nd Vice-President
Mrs. Lester Crump	3 rd Vice-President
Mrs. Nan Jett Perkins	Treasurer

Following this impressive ceremony, a Nominating Committee was appointed to prepare a slate of officers for the 1978 meeting, as 1978 is the scheduled election year. Those appointed were:

Dr. James Edwards
Mr. David Livingstone
Mrs. F. Bailey Gunn
Mrs. Wayne D. Seaman
Mr. Robert Jett, Jr.

Mrs. Robert J. Stein made the motion, which was seconded and approved by the members, that the following donations be made, as in past years:

Mary Ball Library & Museum	\$100.
Mary Ball Washington Home	50.

The members were again reminded that the 1978 meeting will be held at Freedom Foundation, Valley forge PA, April 24 to April 26. Our business being concluded, with the announcement a business meeting scheduled for Tuesday morning would not be held.

Around the large banquet room, all formed a large circle and, led by our president, Mr. Jett, said goodbye with our favorite "Blest Be the Tie That Binds".

1978 – Valley Forge PA – 24th

April 22, 1978. The meeting was called to order by President Jett at 4 PM. The minutes of the 1977 business meeting were read by the recording secretary, Miss Beatty. A correction to the minutes was made by Mrs. Perkins, that she had invited the members to hold their 1979 meeting in Irving TX, rather than Dallas, as recorded in the minutes. This correction was so noted by the members. The minutes were declared approved, with this one correction.

The question of our new eligibility requirements was now presented. Mrs. Elmer Lybrand read paragraphs from the letter Dr. James Edwards had prepared concerning the committee's recommendations, which letter all members had received. If we were to go back no further than Lawrence Washington of Sulgrave Manor, this would include the lines we have accepted on both the Washington and the collateral lines. He felt that reference to collateral lines was not necessary and that we should also omit the reference to proofs recognized by "other patriotic societies" as mentioned in the Edwards letter.

(Paragraphs omitted here)

Mrs. Benjamin Daversa suggested that Williamsburg VA be the scene of our meeting in 1980 and volunteered to act as chairman of arrangements. This was also approved by the membership. --- Winifred Beatty, National Recording Secretary.

1979 - Irving TX – 25th

May 5, 1979. The general meeting of the National Society of the Washington Family Descendants was held in the Corpus Room at the Villa Inn in Irving TX, on May 5, 1979 at 10 AM, with Mrs. Robert S. Jett, Sr., National President, presiding. After the meeting was called to order, Mrs. Gerald Fling, Chaplin, gave the invocation. Because of the absence of rs. Robert J. Stein due to illness, the secretary was asked to read the registrar's report, which read as follows: 45 new members, 2 of which are Junior Members; 17 associate members; Mrs. Stein also expressed her thanks to all who were helpful to her, especially Mrs. V. I. Ritchie, who typed much genealogy data for the Archives. (Above has been shortened for Scrapbook – D.G.W.)

1980 – Williamsburg VA – 26th

1980. The National Society of the Washington Family Descendants held its 26th annual meeting on May 2, 3, 4 at the Cascades in Williamsburg VA – President Mr. Robert S. Jett, Sr.; Registrar: absent. Mrs. Stein's report was read as follows: As of April 25, 1980: 375 active members; 32 new members, 3 of whom are junior members, 9 Associate members. The Registrar urged that all members sponsor new members who are eligible, especially young people.

1981 – Savannah GA – 27th

From Unidentified Newspaper Clipping:

“Mother's Day was made even more special than it already is as several families gathered here for large reunions. Here this weekend are approximately 60 members of the National Society of the Washington family Descendants, those people who can prove a blood relationship to George Washington (he had no children). This is the Society's first meeting in Savannah. Savannah descendants include Hammon W. Washington, his daughter Beverly Shimkus, Dottie Wright, and Hallie Fling, who is serving as Chaplain of the Society and as conference chairman.

Yesterday, Mrs. Craig Barrow opened her family home, Wormsloe, for an afternoon reception. Last night was a dinner; speaker was Dr. F. Bland Tucker, retired rector of Christ Church. Although Dr. Tucker is not a society member, he is eligible, as his mother was the last of the Washingtons to be born at Mt. Vernon. Today Society members are attending the 11:15 service at Christ Church, the same church where Washington is said to have worshipped in May of 1791, 190 years ago. Weekend activities conclude tonight with a banquet.”

Minutes. 27th Annual Meeting, Savannah GA: The 27th annual meeting of the National Society of the Washington Family Descendants was held May 8,9, and 10, 1981, at the Hyatt Regency, Savannah GA. President Mrs. Claude Hamrick called the meeting to order. There were 27 members present. Chaplain Mr. Gerald Fling led the pledge of allegiance to the flag. Mrs. Hamrick recognized the past presidents present. They were Dr. Theodore Winans, Mrs. F Bailey Gunn, Mrs. David Livingstone, Mrs. William T. Rudy, Mr. Robert Jett, Sr.

Convention Chairman Mrs. Fling welcomed us to Savannah. She introduce our hosts, Mr. and Mrs. Hammond Washington. Mrs. Carlton Wright was not present but will be at the reception. Mrs. Hammond Washington extended an invitation to Wormsloe Plantation, the home of Mrs. Craig Barrow Jr. There was a board recommendation that Mrs. Harris Adams fill the vacancy of recording secretary. A motion was made by Dr. James Edwards, seconded and voted upon unanimously. The national officers made their reports at this time. Second VP Mrs. Walter Davis represented WFD as a speaker at the Polish-American Heritage Days at Kosciusko, Mississippi in Jan. 1981. Third VP Dr. Charles Witt reported on his activities as chairman of the public relations committee. He sent a

list of national officers for inclusion in the register of the National Genealogical Society. He also had articles about the WFD in the Larchmont Chronicle and the Marietta Daily Journal. Treasurer Elmer Lybrand gave his report (which is printed elsewhere in Washington Words). Corresponding Secretary David Livingstone reported upon the problem of undelivered copies of Washington Words due to incorrect addresses. He brought some returned letters and hoped to correct some of the incorrect addresses during this meeting. Dr. James Edwards made a motion, which was seconded, to dispense with the reading of the minutes, since they were in Washington Words. Registrar Mrs. Stein reported she had mailed 172 letters on WFD matters. She purchased King George Will Book for our genealogical library. Chaplain Mrs. Fling reminded members to report deaths to her or the president for inclusion in the memorial service. Historian Mrs. Tiedchien had three scrapbooks at the meeting for members to see. Parliamentarian Dr. Edwards had the revised bylaws which will be reported on later. Mrs. Davis took the chair for the president's report. Mrs. Ruby Gunn reported on Washington Old Hall and Sulgrave Manor. She asked for support of members as individuals to maintain Washington burial grounds in England. Mr. Edwin Knight brought greetings from the Marquis Jean Pierre de Chambrun.

As there was no unfinished business, the recommendations from the board were read and voted on unanimously:

1. That the 1983 annual meeting be held in Jackson MS at the invitation of Mrs. Walter Davis. Mrs. Stein made a motion to accept.
2. That a written invitation be sent to new members. Mrs. Stein made the motion to accept.
3. That membership dues be raised to \$10.00, associate dues to \$2.00 in 1982. Mrs. Posey made the motion to accept.
4. That life membership fees be set in a special reserve and only the interest from such to be put in the general account to begin at the termination of the 1981 annual meeting. Motion to accept made by Dr. Edwards.
5. That a \$10.00 registration fee be charged at future meetings. Motion to accept made by Mrs. Gunn.
6. That life membership be suspended by the 1982 meeting. Mrs. Stein's motion amends board recommendations to stop life memberships today. Mrs. Stein also made a motion to send \$100.00 to the Mary Ball Museum, to send \$100.00 to the Mary Ball House in Fredericksburg VA (toward the air-conditioning project), and to send \$150.00 to Sulgrave Manor.

Parliamentarian Dr. James Edwards gave the proposed by-law changes. The nominating committee was elected. Those to serve are Dr. Edwards, Mrs. Ruby Gunn, Mr. Hollie Fling, Hammond Washington, and Mrs. Peg Stein. Mrs. Hamrick announced a board meeting for Sunday night. She also extended an invitation to the 1982 meeting in Marietta GA. Chaplain Mrs. Fling conducted a memorial for eight deceased members.

1982 – Marietta GA – 28th

The meeting began on Friday evening April 30, with an informal reception, and ended on Sunday evening, May 2, with a banquet and installation of new officers. The hotel headquarters was the Northwest Hilton Inn, Marietta GA. Washington Family Descendants was founded in the city of Marietta GA in 1954 by the late Miss Virginia Van Stone Crosby.

1983 – Jackson MS – 29th

Our 29th meeting of the National Society of Washington Family Descendants met in Jackson MS April 29, 30, and May 1, 1983. We met at the Holiday Inn Downtown. The Holiday Inn was most cooperative and gave us a room where we could go and visit or meet any time we wanted to. The management even went so far as to put in a nice sofa and some comfortable chairs for our use.

The meeting got off to a glorious start with the informal reception at the University Club on Friday night. This was a beautiful affair given by our President General Charles B. Witt and his wife. This was held in the Eudora Welty Room, and the food, the drinks, and the service were outstanding. The University Club is on the top floor of the Deposit Guaranty Plaza, which is just across the street from the Holiday Inn. After this most enjoyable party, we had our board meeting in the President's suite.

Saturday at 10:30 AM we were honored with a tour of the Governor's Mansion and served coffee and cake. Mrs. William Winter, wife of the governor, was a most gracious hostess and even introduced us to her new 6-month old grandson. The Mansion was two blocks from our hotel, so we had a pleasant walk there. Even the weather cooperated. At 3:00 PM we had our business meeting. Saturday night at our banquet our guest speaker was Gov. William Winter. As usual, he made a very good and interesting talk.

Sunday we attended morning worship at St. Andrew's Episcopal Cathedral. The church members were expecting us, but not as early as we arrived. We were to be there at 11:15, but we were so early that we had to wait for one service to be over before we could go in. Back at the hotel we had a good cold-plate lunch together. We surprised Claribel Jett with a beautiful birthday cake and ice cream in honor of her birthday. At 3:30 we had our memorial service. Ruby Gunn gave one of the most beautiful memorial services we have ever had.

Saturday night our speaker was Elbert R. Hilliard, director of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History. After the program, Dr. Ted Winans showed some slides taken in Savannah GA and Marietta GA at previous meetings. After our "sing-along" with Dr. Charles Witt at the piano, we left very reluctantly to meet again in 1984 at Charlottesville VA. Many wished that every one of our members could have been with us in Jackson MS. We had several people there who had

never been to a meeting before, but it is anticipated that they will be coming to our other meetings.

1984 – Charlottesville VA – 30th

The meeting was called to order by President General D. Charles B. Witt. Members voted that records of members of the Society remain with the registrar. On a motion by Vernon Pierce, members voted that copies of records be kept at Kennesaw College. Motion by Carolyn Reiver, members voted that “the President General, 1st VP General, Treasure General, or 3 board members, with advice and consent together, may remove any officer from the board for non-performance of duties as outlined in Article 6 of the Constitution.

1985 – Charleston SC – 31st

Minutes of the 31st Annual Business Meeting: The Society of the Washington family Dependents convened its 31st annual meeting May 3, 4, & 5, 1985 in Charleston SC, Mrs. Burton E. (Mary Jane) Moore, meeting chairman.

On Friday night, members enjoyed the reception of President General Dr. James M. Edwards in the garden of the Heyward-Washington House and afterwards went on a tour of the house, which President George Washington made his headquarters during his visit to Charleston in 1791.

On Saturday morning members of the Society went by bus on a tour of nearby Charleston area historical sites. The first stop was the gravesite of Col. William Washington (1752-1810), where the rev. William A. Edwards, Chaplain General, President General Edwards, and Editor-in-chief Mrs. Claude M. (Laura Alice) Hamrick led the memorial service to the memory of Society members who died within the past year. The names read at the service for the known deceased members were Julia Langsam, Ruth R. Thomas, Mae Haase, Mary LeBorde, and Elizabeth H. Kessler. To the memory of each known deceased member, an iris was inserted in a floral wreath that was laid on the gravestone. Dr. Edwards then inserted an additional iris into the wreath to the memory of any deceased members whose passing was unknown at the time of the service.

Following that, Society members went by bus to Middleton Place, where a May Day Faire was in progress. Middleton Place, settled in the late 17th Century and acquired by Henry Middleton through marriage in 1741, was developed into a family seat that lasted for generations that included Henry who was a president of the First Continental Congress; and Arthur, who was a signer of the Declaration of Independence. The gardens of Middleton Place are a National Historic Landmark. The Society then went by bus to Drayton Hall, where a catered lunch was served on the lawn. After lunch, members toured the house, which was built between 1738 and 1742. It is being preserved by the National

Trust for Historic Preservation as one of the finest examples of Georgian Palladian architecture in America.

1986 – Richmond VA – 32nd

David Livingstone, Laura Hill Cook, and James Bolton, Jr. did a superb job of coordinating everything so that each event went off on time and no one had to wait. Too, it gave everyone a chance to meet each other and enjoy table talk and conversation on the varied buses, as well as at the luncheon provided for those on the tour. The hotel was spotless in every corner other than those spots not completed by the time we arrived, and the food was great. To those of you who, because of illness and other events, were unable to attend the Richmond Convention, you missed a truly great tie, and the weather was perfect --- cool during the day time, sunny and bright --- and every event went off without a hitch.

1987 – Fredericksburg VA – 33rd

The 33rd annual meeting of the National Society of the Washington Family Descendants was held at the Sheraton-Fredericksburg Resort and Conference Center June 12, 13, and 14, 1987. President General Elmer E. Lybrand was convention chairman. Members enjoyed an informal reception Friday night in the suite of President General Lybrand. On Saturday morning members took a tour of Fredericksburg. The first stop was George Washington Masonic Museum. Next, the group visited the Rising Sun Tavern, which was built about 1760 by Charles Washington, youngest brighter of George. The tavern is now owned by the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities. Next on the tour was Kenmore, which was built in 1752 by Fielding Lewis, husband of Betty Washington Lewis, the only adult sister of George Washington. Finally, the members toured the Mary Ball Washington home, where the mother of Washington lived.

1988 – Philadelphia PA – 34th

The 34th annual meeting of the National Society of the Washington Family Descendants was held at the Palace Hotel, President General Elmer E. Lybrand was convention chairman.

On Friday morning members boarded a bus to begin our tour. Our first stop was Bartram's Garden for a Tree Planting Ceremony in honor of George Washington. Representing the Washington Family the Hon. Elmer Ellsworth Lybrand, President General of the National Society of the Washington Family Descendants; representing the Marquis General Lafayette, the Marquis de Chambrun, third great grandson, Mrs. Robert V. Weir, Historian General NSDAR, Mr. Howard Bartram, 6th generation, of John Bartram Descendant. The planting of the White Cedar has historical significance in that it was used in 1784 by Samuel Vaughn, a wealthy Jamaican sugar planter then living in Philadelphia.

The White Cedar (*Cupreses thyoides*) was chosen as the memorial tree, ie., “with the return of peace, interest was again awakened in improving the grounds of the State House. Landscaping was begun about 1784 under the direction of Samuel Vaughn. During the winter holes were dug in preparation for the planting of trees in the spring of 1785. On April 15th, 1786, Samuel Vaughn, Esq., “...bought of John Bartram trees and shrubs for the State House Garden.” (Thanks to Mrs. Mary Charlesworth for this historical information). Bartram’s Garden was purchased in 1728. John Bartram was made Royal Botanist by King George III. Bartram was considered the greatest natural botanist in the world during his lifetime. Our White Cedar has great history, and its planting will long be remembered by Washington Descendants.

1989 – Alexandria VA – 35th

The reunion of the Washington Family Descendants began on Friday afternoon with a reception given by the Marquis Jean Pierre de Chambrun at the Anderson House. At 5:30 PM we gathered at Mt. Vernon for a private tour and reception given in honor of our President General James Westlake. Light hors d’oeuvres and wine were served. Mrs. Mary Washington Shaffner, last descendant to be married at Mount Vernon, and her daughter Beth attended. At 7:45 PM we gathered for dinner at the Old Colony Inn. Mary Ball’s Portrait painted and donated by Mrs. R.S. (Claribel) Jett Sr. hangs in the Mary Ball Washington Museum in Lancaster VA. Sunday the group were special guests at the Bicentennial Celebration at Mt. Vernon.

1990 – Williamsburg VA – 36th

The National Society of the Washington Family Descendants honoring Mary Ball Washington, Mother of George Washington was held in historic Williamsburg VA on May 4-6, 1990. Festivities began on Friday evening with a cocktail hour honoring our President General, James Westlake and Mrs. Westlake. Saturday, May 5, after our general meeting our group boarded buses for a tour of Jamestown and Yorktown. A delightful box lunch was served enroute. Sunday members attended Bruton Parish Church. Our Society gave the altar flowers in memory of our departed members. Our outgoing President General James R. Westlake installed our new officers our new officers for the ensuing two years.

1991 – Charles Town WV – 37th

Charles Town, WV, May 4, 1991. President General Mrs. Peg Stein called the meeting to order. Mr. Elmer Lybrand, Membership Chairperson, reviewed SAR literature for prospective members for our Society. He asked DAR women to do the same and supply him with lists of names. Mr. Jim Westlake volunteered to pay for an ad describing our Society to run in the SAR Magazine.

1992 – Annapolis MD – 38th

Annapolis MD. The Maryland State Capitol is the oldest in continual use in the country. The Revolutionary War ended when the Treaty of Paris was ratified in its chambers. It is here that General George Washington relinquished his command of American forces in 1783. He was looking forward to returning to life as a Virginia planter. Little did he realize that in a few short years he would be called upon to serve as the first President of the United States of America. This was included in our tour. We took the historic tour of Annapolis and the United States Naval Academy. Included was Fort McHenry, made famous during the War of 1812. Francis Scott Key wrote the words to our National Anthem, while being held prisoner aboard a British vessel outside the Fort. Sunday morning we carpooled to the US Naval Academy to attend church services with the Midshipmen at the Academy Chapel. Brunch was served at the Naval Academy Officer's Club. Sunday evening dinner at 7 PM. Our speaker was John Augustine Washington. His topic was "Family Lineages". He stated that John of Surry and Robert Beverly Washington lines were not related.

1993 – Fredericksburg VA – 39th

Fredericksburg VA, 1993. The general meeting of the Washington Family descendants was called to order by Miss Carolyn Reiver, President General at 2:30 PM. Mrs. Stein, Registrar, reported that there are 29 new members and 5 papers out. Mrs. Dorothy Wright moved that the Society give \$300 for one year to the Registrar to purchase material for the Genealogical Library. Mrs. Rosa Bagby seconded. The motion was adopted. On Saturday night the members enjoyed a dinner in the Fredericksburg Ballroom of the Sheraton. The speaker, Dr. Witt, reflected on the early life of George Washington. Sunday morning, members boarded the chartered buses to go to Westmoreland County. The first stop was Blenheim House, the home of Lawrence W. Latne, Jr., a member of the Society and the tour guide for the day. He explained that bricks for the construction of the Home were taken for the original brick house at Wakefield, where George Washington was born. The house burned on Christmas Day, 1779. We attended a short worship service in the Washington Parish Church, St. Peter's Episcopal. After the service the members enjoyed a lunch in the tourist dining room at Stratford Hall.

1994 – Charlottesville VA – 40th

The 40th annual Reunion was held in Charlottesville VA, April 29 to May 1, 1994. Registration was on Friday. It was wonderful to see our cousins and friends again, but we were saddened to learn of the death of our President, Carolyn Reiver, of cancer on April 3. Peg Stein and Gertrude Deversa completed arrangements for the meeting, and Dottie Wright took the reservations for the group. Saturday, we boarded the buses for our trip to Montpelier, the home of James Madison. Lunch at Michie's Tavern had a colonial atmosphere. After lunch we drove up the mountain to Monticello, the home of Thomas Jefferson. Our speaker at the Saturday night dinner was Juanita Allen. She gave a

wonderful talk on the history of Mt. Vernon from the time of George Washington's death to the present. The last Washington to own the house sold it to a ladies group right before the Civil War. The speaker at the Sunday night dinner was Farris Hotchkiss, Vice President of University Relations for Washington and Lee University. He told of George Washington's interest in it.

1995 – Lancaster Co., VA – 41st

Lancaster Co. VA, 1995. Windmill Point Resort, at the tip of the Northern Neck of VA, was the headquarters of our 41st annual meeting. Fifty-three members attended. Registration began at 2 PM on April 28th. Saturday morning, April 29th, we boarded a bus for Westmoreland Co. for a tour of Ingleside Plantation and Ingleside Winery. We toured the Winery and were served a delightful lunch at Ingleside. After lunch we proceeded to Washington's Birthplace. We were honored to have the Quantico Marine Brass Quintet play for the event --- I full uniform. Our memorial services were conducted by James R. Westlake, Chaplain General, at the old burial grounds. Members and guests were welcomed by our President General, John Augustine Washington. Sunday, we attended services at the historic St. Mary's White Chapel, built by David Fox. This was the Ball Family Church and was celebrating its 324th year. Following services we had a box lunch. Early afternoon we were met at the Mary Ball Washington Library by our charming cousin, Ann Merriweather Lewis Barrows. Sunday evening was concluded with a business meeting. We left with very pleasant memories of the "good ole" Northern Neck of VA!

1996 – Alexandria VA – 42nd

Alexandria VA, 1996. Members began arriving Friday afternoon, May 3, at the Holiday Inn in Alexandria. Mr. Harrison Clark was present in the lobby to sign copies of his book, "All Cloudless Glory", on the life of George Washington. Dinner the first night was at historic Gadsby's Tavern. A short business meeting followed. Sat., May 4, we left early for Mt. Vernon. We were allowed to go on the 3rd floor, which regular tourists were not allowed to do. After our inspiring tour of the house and grounds, we met at the George Washington Room of the Mt. Vernon Inn for lunch. Sunday morning we attended Pohick Church. Following the service, a docent told us about Washington's connection to Pohick Church and the restoration of this historic church. Lunch Sunday was at Gunston Hall, the home of Washington's friend, James Mason. Following lunch we toured the house and grounds. Our next stop was Woodlawn, the home of Nellie Custis Lewis. Dinner Sunday night with speaker Mr. James Rees, Resident Director off Mt. Vernon. A business meeting followed, concluding with the installation of new officers.

1997 – Richmond VA – 43rd

The National Society of the Washington Family Descendants met for the 43rd annual meeting in Richmond VA, May 2,3, & 4, 1997 staying at the Jefferson Hotel. Fri. dinner was served in the Dominion Room. Guest speaker Bob Clay, archivist of the VA State Library, spoke about Research & Archives at the New state Library. A general business meeting followed. Sat. morning busses arrived to take members on a tour of the James River Manor Houses, followed by a luncheon at Berkley Plantation. Dinner that night was served in the Flemish room. Speaker was Carlos Ricketson, Past President of VA SAR; his topic was "The Washington Trail".

Sunday the members worshipped together at St. John's Church. There, Mike Goodwin, a professional actor, delivered Patrick Henry's famous "Give me Liberty or Give me Death" speech. Luncheon was then served at the nearby 2300 Club. Members were then given free time to explore on their own. That evening a Black Tie Banquet was held in the Empire Room. The program for that was by Col. Frank Duling & the Sojourners: "Building the Flag". Committee chairmen were Jim Bolton, Laura Hill Cook, and Julia Nofsinger. (Written by MBH from the Itinerary).

1998 – Charleston SC – 44th

The 44th Annual Meeting of the National Society of Washington Family Descendants was held in historic Charleston SC April 24-26, 1998 in the beautiful Town and Country Inn, located in the downtown historic district. Jim and Peggy Mathis were the meeting chairpersons. Following an Executive Board meeting at 3 PM, chaired by President General Wilma Thomas, members met in the Hospitality Suite for pastries, coffee, and beverages, served by Peggy & Jim Mathis. At 7PM a buffet dinner was served in the Oak Room. The Invocation was given by Richard Jordan, followed by a warm welcome issued by President General Thomas. Guest speaker for the evening was Ms. Cindy Clark, who presented a slide show on "Low Country, South Carolina" and a very interesting talk.

Sat. morning buses took us on a tour of Charleston. Luncheon was served at the Million Restaurant, followed by more touring: the Old exchange Building, the Provost Dungeon, a Washington house, the Battery, the famous Rainbow Row, and the Market. Saturday dinner was served in the beautiful Oak Room. Chaplain General Jim Westlake gave the invocation; 1st Vice-President Janet Miller led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag. Our special guest speaker for the evening was Retired Rear Admiral Arthur M. Wilcox, who was accompanied by his wife. His topic was "Washington's 1791 Charleston Tour and revolutionary War Battles in South Carolina." The Admiral was presented with a Washington family certificate by President General Thomas. Following dinner a general meeting was held. Janet Miller announced that the 1999 Annual Meeting will be held at Valley Forge.

Sunday morning our members attended worship services at historic St. Michael's Church, where we were given a special welcome and enjoyed a very impressive service. Afterwards, we traveled to Middleton Plantation for a luncheon. Following lunch we gathered on the beautiful grounds, with huge, lovely old oak trees, for a memorial service for our deceased members, Princess Diana, and our soldiers who lost their lives in SC. Performing the service was our Chaplain, Mr. Jim Westlake, with flowers for each of the deceased presented by Wilma Thomas and Mary Devera. After the service, we toured the Plantation house and gardens. Sunday evening dinner was again served in the Oak Room. Mrs. Janet Miller was elected to be our new President General, and once sworn in, outgoing President General Wilma Thomas presented her with the colors, gavel, & pin of the office.

1999 – Valley Forge PA – 45th

The 45th Annual Meeting of the National Society of Washington Family Descendants was held at the Park Ridge Hotel, Valley Forge PA on June 4-6, 1999. On Friday evening a buffet dinner was held at the Hotel. We were welcomed to Valley Forge by Rear Admiral Richard Ustich, Director of Freedom's Foundation there. On Sat. morning we boarded a bus for a guided tour of Historic Philadelphia, including Independence Hall, the Liberty Bell, Christ Church, Congress Hall, Benjamin Franklin's home, City Tavern, and the Samuel Powell Home. A buffet luncheon was served at the Freedom Foundation at Valley Forge, followed by a guided tour of Valley Forge Park. We made several stops of historic interest. That evening we had dinner at the Park Ridge Hotel, where George Washington himself (Bill Sutherland) spoke to us and answered questions.

Sunday morning we attended church services at the Washington Memorial Chapel at Valley Forge. Members were free to explore the Park during the afternoon. Some visited Washington Headquarters, while others journeyed to Washington Crossing State Park. Our banquet that evening was again at the Park Ridge Hotel. Our speaker was Bill Troppman, National Park Ranger at Valley Forge. (Written by MBH from the Itinerary).

2000 – Middletown VA – 46th

The 46th annual NSWFD meeting is now history but not soon to be forgotten by the 60+ members and guests who attended. The historic Wayside Inn in Middletown VA where we stayed was all it had been said to be and then some. The three banquet dinners served were excellent, and the speakers and music programs that followed were outstanding. Our tour of three of the historic warner Washington homes (Fairfield – 1769, Audley – 1777, & Llewellyn – 1818) on Saturday was a real treat. The present owners graciously opened their homes and invited us in. At Llewellyn we were their guests for lunch. How nice. Our memorial service to remember our members that had passed on since our last

meeting was held at the grave site. Sunday after the church service, we visited George Washington's surveying office in Winchester and then had a picnic lunch in the garden at Glen Burnie, and then toured the house. It is a magnificent historic house in Winchester. We all said our goodbyes after breakfast Monday morning and began making plans for next year's meeting.

2001 – Williamsburg VA – 47th

The 47th annual meeting of the Washington Family Descendants was a meeting to remember! We all gathered in historic Williamsburg VA to share this experience which started on May 4th and ended with the main banquet on the evening of May 6, 2001. Williamsburg was such an important place during the early colonial times that the presence of our founding fathers could be sensed everywhere. The many events where George Washington was present and was a part of, made Williamsburg a most appropriate place for our annual meeting. Our headquarters was the Williamsburg Hospitality House, a fine hotel just a few blocks from the Historic District with excellent guest and meeting facilities. At the Friday evening dinner we had a briefing on the Jamestown Rediscovery Project presented by the project's curator, and we then visited the Jamestown Settlement and Jamestown Island the next day for a first-hand look. We spent time visiting the various houses and events in Colonial Williamsburg Village. Some took other side trips to Yorktown and to Jamestown Island. Several drove to the location of "Highgate" where John Washington and his wife Catherine lived. Catherine and her daughters' graves are still there. The Saturday dinner meeting program was a noted archeologist's findings on the discovery of Nicholas Martiau's fort at Yorktown.

Sunday morning we attended church at the historic Bruton Parish Church and were able to sit in the Washington Family pew and the pews of other prominent families. The church bulletin for that morning carried the following announcement: "The Altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in honor of George Washington by the National Society of Washington Family Descendants". For many the highlight of the meeting was the visit to Warner Hall for lunch. This house has been beautifully restored to its elegant beauty and is being operated as a Bed and Breakfast by the new owners. (See www.warnerhall.com) This was the home of Augustine Warner, Jr. and Mildred Reade, George's great grandparents, and also their daughter Mildred Warner who married Lawrence Washington and were George's grandparents. Our main banquet Sunday night featured one of our very own. A past President General and longtime member Dr. Charles B. Witt, Jr., who presented the medical evidence to judge a perplexing question, "George Washington's Final Illness – Did Malpractice Occur?" A very interesting discussion followed this presentation! Did it occur???? A short business meeting was conducted that evening to consider where are 2002 meeting should be held. Several locations were discussed, and the final selection will be announced as soon as the location and schedule can be finalized. As we all say at the conclusion of every meeting: "We

do not believe we can have a better meeting than the one we just had!" We seem to be wrong every time.

2002 – Fredericksburg VA – 48th

Sunday evening, June 9th, saw the conclusion of a spectacular meeting coming to a close with the traditional singing of the hymn "Blest Be the Tie That Binds". A fitting closing with everyone standing and joining hands in one large circle. It imparts the feeling of being in one large family. Fredericksburg VA was the perfect place for this 48th annual gathering of the Washington Family Descendants. It is a place where so much history was made by the Washingtons and Lewises and allied families of early Colonial America, and we were able to visit many of these sites. Our meeting events started with the visit to the registration desk in the lobby of the Holiday Inn Select, a hotel with facilities geared for large groups. After picking up name tags, programs, and meeting details at the registration desk, you became a part of a changing group of 'cousins' gathered in the lobby greeting and hugging one another as new arrivals came and others went off to get ready for the evening's dinner and program.

Friday evening in the ballroom after the desserts had been finished and the tables cleared, John Washington, our genealogist and past President General, presented us with an overview of the Fredericksburg historic sites linked with the Washingtons that we would visit during our stay. His knowledge of the families and their interactions with each other and the happenings of the time made for a very enjoyable and enlightening evening. Before leaving the dinner, President General Janet Miller called for a short business meeting to consider a few items needing membership approval. The main item was an affirmative vote on the proposed dues increase from \$20 to \$25 for Active Members. Postage is a major expense, and rates are again being raised the last of June.

Saturday morning the coach was boarded for a day filled with visits to places John had told us about the previous night. Our first stop was at Washington's Birthplace National Monument on Pope's Creek. This traditional home of the Washington family and the house known as Wakefield has been replicated and was toured. We then went to the Washington Cemetery at Wakefield. Here we conducted our Memorial Service for our family members deceased in the past year. We next went to Stratford Hall, the Lee family home, where General Robert E. Lee was born and grew up. We had lunch served here and then toured the house and grounds. We boarded our coach and drove to Ferry Farm, the boyhood home of George Washington and then on to the home of Mary Ball Washington. This is the house George bought for his mother in town when she moved from the farm. It is in the center of Fredericksburg. Our last stop of the day was at the Rising Sun Tavern. The structure was built by George's younger brother, Charles for his home. It was turned into a tavern by subsequent owners.

After the Saturday evening dinner the program featured our meeting host, Dr. Michael Frost. He presented a paper prepared by the noted author, Paula S. Felder who has published several outstanding books on Fredericksburg and its early residents. She was prepared to present the work herself but a last minute illness prevented her being with us. Dr. Frost made an excellent presentation using her material.

Sunday morning found us boarding the old fashion trolley buses for the trip to St. George's Episcopal Church to attend the morning worship service. This is the church where the Washington family worshiped. After church we boarded the trolley buses and headed for the city's boat landing on the Rappahannock River. There we boarded the "City of Fredericksburg", a paddlewheel boat for a cruise on the river while we had a delicious lunch. The trolley buses were waiting to take us to Kenmore, the home of Betty Washington and Fielding Lewis. The house is undergoing extensive repairs and restoration. In its day, Kenmore was one of the most elegant houses in Virginia. The plaster decorations on the ceilings and walls are outstanding. Fielding Lewis built and operated a retail store in Fredericksburg. It is said that it is the first store to have a display window for items offered for sale within. We were treated to an unexpected extra by the building being opened for our inspection. The restoration is not complete and it will be opened to the public at a later date. Before boarding the trolley buses for the hotel, we gathered on the steps of the Library for a group picture. We had one more stop this Sunday afternoon. This was at the James Monroe Museum and Memorial Library on Charles Street. There we met Dr. John Pearce the curator. We would see him again that evening at the hotel.

The final function was our Sunday night banquet and annual member meeting. Our program was presented by Dr. John Pearce, Professor at William and Mary College. He spoke about the legacy left by James Monroe and of his accomplishments as statesman and President. Dr. Pearce is trying to boost the public's understanding of this great man's contributions to our country. A short business meeting was conducted that evening to elect officers for the next term ending in May/June 2004 and to complete a few administrative 'house-keeping' chores. The final business was to consider where our 2003 meeting should be held. Several locations were discussed and the final selection will be announced as soon as the location and schedule can be finalized. This was an outstanding meeting and our meeting hosts, Dr. Michael Frost and his sister Judy Frost received the accolades of the group for their organization and preparations resulting in a memorable event.

2003 – Savannah GA – 49th

Our 2003 meeting was the 49th time our Society has gathered to celebrate the life of our kinsman, George Washington. Savannah, Georgia was selected because it was a major stop on the 1791 'Southern Tour' that Washington made during his second term as President. Much of the revolution was fought in the south and

Washington wanted to show his appreciation for the decisive support that was given which led to the ultimate victory. Savannah is lovely in May, as those attending our last meeting discovered. We stayed at Days Inn, right in the heart of the historic district. Our three dinner meetings were held right across the street at Chart House. The restaurant is in an historic building overlooking the Savannah River. Saturday morning we boarded buses for a tour of historic sites, and a visit to the Owen-Thomas House. The architect of the Regency style mansion, built between 1816 and 1819, was William Jay, who married into the Bolton family. There are portraits in the house of two ancestors of our member, Jim Bolton, both of whom were named Robert Bolton. Lunch was at Pirate House and we were honored to have as speaker a member of the Chatham Artillery. Jim Westlake later distributed samples of the famous Artillery punch that had been made especially for us. The samples were small, as the punch is as lethal as artillery fire. After lunch we toured the Andrew Low House, built in 1820, where the Girl Scouts of America was founded by Juliet Gordon Low in 1912. It is a Greek revival house with a beautiful collection of furniture.

Savannah is a city of squares. It was America's first planned city and each of the twenty-one squares has its own character, with beautiful homes facing into the garden center. We toured the squares on our bus, and stopped at Colonial Cemetery, burial site for colonists from 1750 to 1853.

On Sunday morning the group attended services at Christ Episcopal Church, the first established in the colony, called Georgia's Mother Church. John Wesley preached there and established a Sunday school in 1736. Our memorial service for members who had died in the past year was held right across from the church in Johnson Square, which contains the grave of Gen. Nathaniel Greene, Revolutionary War hero. After a quick stop back at the motel for walking shoes, the group boarded our buses for a picnic lunch at Wormsloe Plantation. We walked among beautiful old oaks to the ruins of the fortified home constructed by Noble Jones between 1739 and 1745. Some of the walls still exist, and are made of tabby that is fortified with seashells.

Our speakers for our three dinner meetings were all prominent local historians, and we really enjoyed their programs, our tours, the river front site, and most of all, each other's company. *Linda Cummings*, Recording Secretary

2004 – Washington GA – 50th

On the first weekend of October, 2004, 54 descendants, family, & friends arrived in historic Washington-Wilkes, coming from 15 states to celebrate our 50th Anniversary. What better place to honor George Washington than in the town first incorporated in his name on 23 January 1790? As each arrived at headquarters, located in the recently restored 1898 Fitzpatrick Hotel, they were presented with goodie bags and sent off to tour the National Register 1832 Tupper-Barnett House, then shop in the vibrant downtown and play the number

game to receive prizes from merchants. Members were housed in the Fitzpatrick Hotel, elegantly furnished with period antiques, and in stately columned antebellum and Victorian Bed and Breakfasts. Friday evening we gathered at the Woman's Club, which was festively decorated in red, white, & blue. We enjoyed a revolutionary period dinner and heard local historian, Robert M. "Skeet" Willingham, Jr. speak about the Battle of Kettle Creek fought in Wilkes County on Feb. 14, 1779. After dinner and a short business meeting, we strolled up Robert Toombs Avenue to Wisteria Hall, built in 1775, where we enjoyed a sumptuous dessert buffet prepared by the homeowner.

Saturday morning we boarded buses for a day of touring. Our first stop was the Kettle Creek Battlefield, which was discussed the night before, and toured the 1800 Blackburn home, Kettle Creek Manor. From there we returned to town to visit the Robert Toombs House State Historic Site and enjoyed a picnic lunch on the grounds. Our lunch was charmingly presented in white wicker baskets lined with American flag motifs, which were gifts presented by our meeting chairman. The group then toured the Washington Historical Museum and two other private homes, one of which served as the home of the first woman newspaper editor in Georgia, and possibly the South. "Skeet" served as our guide for the day. President General Jim Westlake, along with Joyce and Joyce Ann, opened their suite for an evening reception prior to dinner held in the Fitzpatrick Ballroom. After the buffet, members of the cast of "Postmarked Wilkes County", an annual outdoor drama, read letters written during the War Between the States to and from Jefferson Davis and his wife, Varina. The last cabinet meeting of the Confederacy was held here in downtown Washington in May of 1865, and Mrs. Davis was a guest in one of the local homes.

Everyone met at the Fitzpatrick early Sunday morning for a trip to Augusta GA, where President Washington had visited on his Southern tour. We attended services at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, where the original building had been designed by Frederick Ball. The memorial service was held in the churchyard, after which the ladies of the church provided a delicious lunch for us and even presented everyone with a copy of their cookbook. We heard Erik Montgomery, Executive Director of Historic Augusta, speak about George Washington's 1791 visit to Augusta. The group then visited Meadow Garden, the home of George Walton, signer of the Declaration of Independence, followed by the boyhood home of President Woodrow Wilson. We were guided by the very knowledgeable Erik Montgomery. As we returned to Washington, we stopped to tour the Griggs home, Mt. Pleasant, built in 1790 and the location where Eli Whitney perfected his cotton gin. We assembled again in the Fitzpatrick Ballroom Sunday evening for our final night to celebrate our 50 years, so pass the gavel to new President General Richard Jordan, and to honor Peg Stein for her outstanding contribution of service to the Society. Unfortunately, due to illness, she was unable to attend. It was a most enjoyable time, visiting a beautiful and historic town, meeting new members and enjoying old friends. *C. Carol Cartledge, Chairman*

2005 – Lexington VA – 51st

On the third weekend of October, 2005, eighty-two descendants, family, and friend marched into historic Lexington VA. Attendees hailed from England, California, Texas, Kentucky, Georgia, Kansas, Missouri, Pennsylvania, Ohio, New Jersey, Florida, North Carolina, Idaho, New Mexico, and Virginia. For those who were able to arrive on Friday morning, a special treat awaited them. Vaughan Stanley, Special collection Librarian at Washington & Lee University made available their prized Washington letter for our inspection. In it George Washington thanked the trustees for naming the school in his honor. Attendees stayed at the historic Hampton Inn Col Alto. The manor house, owned at one time by Virginia Governor James McDowell, was built in 1827 and is listed on the National register of Historic Places. One could easily imagine meeting Robert E. Lee, Stonewall Jackson, or George Marshall as we enjoyed the hot apple cider and delicious snacks that were set out for us while we registered and greeted old friends. We had time to visit VMI for the Cadet's Dress Parade, or to enjoy a show at the Virginia Horse Center. Our dinner Friday evening was at Maple Hall. We enjoyed cocktails in their exquisite garden on one of those cool, crisp fall evenings that the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia are famous for. After dinner and a short business meeting we enjoyed an informative talk by George W. Warren, IV, Executive Director of the Rockbridge Historical Society. Mr. Warren, a 1964 VMI graduate and retired attorney, shared with us the history of Rockbridge Co.

Sunday morning found us bright-eyed and ready to tour Lexington. We began at the Stonewall Jackson Memorial Cemetery with our traditional Memorial service for members lost during the past year. Mary Devera, Chaplain General, led us in the service, and a flower was placed for each one at the grave of William D. Washington, a noted painter and professor of art at VMI. We then visited the very interesting George Marshall and VMI Cadet Museums on the campus. Returning to Washington and Lee, we were escorted by a very knowledgeable docent through Lee Chapel, and were able to pay our respects to the General and his family who are buried there. Lunch was enjoyed at the Willson-Walker House Restaurant prepared especially for us by the chef. A tour of the Stonewall Jackson house followed, and at the headquarters of the Rockbridge Historical Society we were treated to an exhibit of William D. Washington's lithograph, "The Burial of Latane". These prints were in most Southern homes and became a symbol of the sacrifices and service of Southern women. In addition, the city of Lexington's Fall Festival was in full swing. We were able to enjoy local potters and artisans, listen to music, and make apple cider as we soaked up the charm of Lexington.

The evening's festivities began on the Bottomly Terrace hosted by the event chairpersons. The reception was dedicated to our President General, Dick Jordan, who was unable to attend due to illness. In his honor the host and hostess served VA Tech wine from Chateau Morrisette Winery in Floyd County

VA. We know how pleased Dick, a VA Tech graduate, would have been to receive our toasts. Dinner was served in the Rockbridge Room. After dinner, Brian Hilton, a history teacher at St. John's College High School in Washington DC, regaled us with tales about General Washington. Mr. Hilton, a graduate of George Mason University, has been honored as the 2004-2005 Teacher of the Year by the VA Society, Sons of the American Revolution.

On Sunday morning we boarded a bus for the R.E. Lee Memorial Episcopal Church where we filled 6 pews at the worship service. We heard an inspiring sermon by the Rev. Thomas O'Dell and enjoyed a reception in the courtyard hosted by the members of the congregation. Following church, we changed clothes, boarded the bus, and meandered up the Shenandoah Valley of VA to Walnut Grove, the home of Cyrus McCormick, inventor of the mechanical reaper. Under giant walnut trees we enjoyed a delicious picnic lunch prepared for us by Pat Ohleger of Main Street Market, while David Fiske, Executive Director of Cyrus McCormick's Farm, gave an informative talk about the McCormicks and the development of the reaper. Mid-afternoon found us on the bus again, as we headed south to Natural Bridge, one of the Seven Wonders of the World. Surveyed for Lord Fairfax by our very own George Washington, we were delighted to see where he had carved his initials. An unforgettable moment was experienced as we walked along the trail with the babbling creek beside us, a gentle Virginia breeze rustling the fall leaves and our heads upturned looking in awe and wonder at this rock bridge soaring many feet above us.

After the evening hospitality hour we assembled in the Rockbridge Room for our final night together as family. Following another delicious meal prepared for us by the staff of the Wilson-Walker House Restaurant, First Vice-President General Mary Shaffner presided over a brief business meeting. We were then held spell-bound for almost two hours by our very own John Washington and Justin Glenn, as they each gave a brief talk about our family lines and answered questions from us about our ancestors. When we finally agreed it was time to go to bed, we joined hands and sang "Blest Be the Ties That Bind," our traditional goodbye.

The weekend was a magical one filled with many charming happy memories as the family gathered together for another annual meeting. The people of Lexington opened their hearts and arms to us as we visited their beautiful and historic town. For those who were able to attend it will always be a treasured memory. *Mr. & Mrs. Samuel Fishburn Woody, II, Annual Meeting Chairpersons*

2006 – Williamsburg VA – 52nd

There were 80 attendees at the 52nd Annual Meeting of the National Society of Washington Family Descendants. Friday night's dinner was held in Christiana Campbell's Tavern. "Christiana" spoke to us about the 99 dinners in which George Washington partook at this tavern. "Thomas Jefferson" also greeted us as we arrived. Saturday we went to Yorktown to help celebrate the 225th

Anniversary of the Victory at Yorktown & our independence from England. Our day there began with a Memorial service for our departed members at the gravestones of Thomas Nelson, Jr., Nicholas Martiau, & Col. George & Elizabeth Reade at Grace Episcopal Church (Circa 1697). Our deceased members honored this year are: Peg Stein, Jackie Hunton, Mary Alice Sayford, Enid Davison, Caroline Hovey, Lawrence Latane, & Robert J. Stevenson.

We then visited the Thomas Nelson Jr. House, The Customhouse, & York Hall & Gallery before having box lunches in the garden of the Customhouse. Our speaker during lunch was Mr. John V. Quarstein, the Director of the Virginia War Museum, who spoke about "Washington at Yorktown." In the afternoon we visited the National Parks Visitor Center, Redoubts 9 & 10, the Surrender Field, & the Moore House, site of the negotiations for the surrender of the British at Yorktown. Following dinner at the Woodlands Conference Center, our speaker, Tom Mort, talked about "George Washington, still first in our Hearts". Sunday we attended services at Bruton Parish Church, followed by more touring of Williamsburg, & lunch at the King's Arms Tavern.

National Officers 2006-07:

President General	Mary Shaffner
1 st VP General	Vacant
2 nd VP General	Dr. Michael D. Frost
3 rd VP General	Charles Crabtree
Treasurer General	John H. Wilshusen
Corresponding Secretary	Peggy Mathis
Recording Secretary	Lee Woody
Registrar General	Dr. Justin M. Glenn
Historian General	Dr. Milly Hopkins
Chaplain General	Mary Devera
Editor <i>Washington Words</i>	Barbara Hopper
Parliamentarian General	Janet Miller Fry

2007 – Alexandria/Mt. Vernon VA – 53rd

There were 159 attendees at the 53rd Annual Meeting of the National Society of Washington Family Descendants. Friday night started with a candlelight tour of Mt. Vernon. Members sat on the veranda & enjoyed the view of the Potomac River. A group photo was taken of members attending this meeting. The next day we visited the tomb of Martha & George Washington, where we also held a Memorial Service for our deceased members: Howard Ford, Mrs. Madeline Adele Allison Ford, Mrs. Mary Alice Jarrett Sayford, Mr. Lawrence Washington, & Mrs. Jack Zylke. After spending the morning seeing the Mt. Vernon estate, we were bused to Woodlawn, home of Nellie Parke Custis & her husband, Lawrence Lewis. Our guest speaker at the evening banquet was Ellen Clark, former librarian at Mt. Vernon. On Sunday we worshipped together at the National

Cathedral in Washington DC (The Cathedral Church of St. Peter & St. Paul).
Lunch was then served at the Mt. Vernon Inn.

Officers for 2007-08 are:

President General	Mrs. Edward E. (Mary) Shaffner
1 st VP General	Dr. Michael D. Frost
2 nd VP General	Mrs. Samuel E. (Lee) Woody II
3 rd VP General	M. Carol Cartledge
Treasurer General	Mr. John H. Wilshusen
Corresponding Secretary	Mrs. James B. (Peggy) Mathis
Recording Secretary Gen.	Cindy Jeffries Barr
Registrar General	Dr. Justin M. Glenn
Historian General	Dr. Mildred B. "Milly" Hopkins
Chaplain General	Mrs. John A. (Mary) Devera
Editor <i>Washington Words</i>	Mrs. Carl (Barbara) Hopper
Parliamentarian General	Mrs. Janet Miller Fry
Genealogist	John A. Washington

2008 – Fredericksburg VA – 54th

The 60 members in attendance at the 54th Annual Meeting of the National Society of Washington Family Descendants began our weekend with a private tour of Kenmore Mansion, the home of Betty Washington & Fielding Lewis. A group picture was taken on the steps of the mansion. Following the tour, we were served dinner in a large "wedding" tent placed on the lawn. We were entertained by period musicians and costumed people playing games from the early days & wandering around the yard. We had several historical tours on Saturday. We first visited the Mary Ball Washington home, which George bought for his mother when he moved her into Fredericksburg from Ferry Farm. We then went to Washington's birthplace at Pope's Creek, where we toured the house & grounds, including a visit with the curator to the new onsite museum of Washington artifacts. Lunch was served to "the family" by the George Washington Birthplace Association in the picnic area of Pope's Creek overlooking the Potomac. Our memorial service was held at the nearby Washington Family Cemetery, which had been established by John Washington, George's great grandfather. Those remembered today were: Loren Cole, Lorene Elizabeth Poag Grasty, Porter Craig Peeler, Dr. Robert J. Stein, James Roger Westlake, & Jack Zylka.

During the afternoon we toured Ferry Farm and saw the archeological site which shows where the Washington homestead originally stood. Archeologist Dave Muraca explained the site to us. It is being recovered to protect what is there. Following dinner at the hotel, we were treated to a theatrical presentation of "Mary's Story", narrated by Jan Beckett.

Sunday morning we were taken by trolley to St. George's Episcopal Church, where George & his family worshipped when he was growing up. Before the service, we had a private tour of the church. During our lunch in the hotel, Wendy Barnes, a curator from Sulgrave Manor in England, the English home of the Washingtons, spoke about that home. Later we toured the Rising Sun Tavern, built by Charles Washington, George's brother.

Officers for 2008-09:

President General	Dr. Michael D. Frost
1 st VP General	Mrs. Samuel E. (Lee) Woody II
2 nd VP General	M. Carol Cartledge
3 rd VP General	Victoria Alicia Jordan Riegert "Tori"
Treasurer General	Cindy Jeffries Barr
Corresponding Secretary	Mrs. James B. (Peggy) Mathis
Recording Secretary Gen.	Kerry Moore Miller (Mrs. Brian)
Registrar General	Dr. Justin M. Glenn
Historian General	Dr. Mildred B. "Milly" Hopkins
Chaplain General	Barbara Schusterman
Editor <i>Washington Words</i>	Monica Ann Pesek
Parliamentarian General	Ricardo Arzac
Genealogist	John A. Washington

2009 – Charles Town WV – 55th

The 67 members and friends attending the 55th Annual Meeting of the National Society of Washington Family Descendants first visited Harewood, built in 1770 by Samuel Washington on 1600 acres of land inherited from Lawrence Washington in 1752. Harewood is the only Washington family home still owned and occupied by a Washington descendant --- Walter Washington. Walter welcomed the family to his home, and we were served tea on the back lawn after touring the house. The paint on the walls is original to 1770. The marble mantel piece was a gift from Lafayette to George Washington. Dollye Payne Todd married James Madison at Harewood in front of this mantel. We also visited Happy Retreat, the home of Mildred & Charles Washington, who inherited his land from his older brother, Lawrence. Charles & Mildred Washington are buried on the property. Two other Washington properties were also visited: Beallair, the former plantation of Lewis & Ella Washington. We also visited Claymont Court, built by Bushrod Corbin Washington, George's nephew. Bushrod's brother, John Augustine Washington, built Blakeley across the valley from Claymont Court. The two brothers were married to sisters, who liked to wave to each other from their respective porches. The weekend included attendance at Zion Episcopal Church, in whose graveyard many Washingtons are buried. Speakers for the weekend included Walter Washington, speaking about Harewood & the Washington family, Dr. Philander Chase, Editor Emeritus of the Papers of George Washington, and Roger Perry, who spoke about the church.

2010 – Philadelphia – 56th

The 56th Annual Meeting of the National Society of Washington Family Descendants met in Philadelphia PA on September 24-26 at the Sheraton Society Hill Hotel. Following the afternoon registration, a reception was held at the hotel. A buffet dinner was then served. Barbara Hopper, Acting Chaplain, returned Grace. The entree was Stuffed Breast of Chicken with Mango & Dried Cherries, lightly spiced with ginger sauce. Dessert was a Chocolate Caramel Mousse, blended with imported Belgian Chocolate & Caramel. Our speaker for the evening was “Benjamin Franklin” talking about “His Life in Philadelphia and His Interaction with George.”

Saturday morning was spent touring Valley Forge, where we met many costumed tour guides, visited replicas of the huts built by Washington’s soldiers when they were at Valley Forge, saw Washington’s Headquarters, and visited the Train Station. A picnic lunch was served in a picnic grove in the park. It was a beautiful day to be outdoors. We then drove back to Philadelphia for a tour of the city. We visited President’s House site, where George Washington spent over 6 years of his presidency. Next we saw the Liberty Bell, which was last rung on Washington’s Birthday in 1864 (after which it was discovered to be cracked). The portrait gallery displays some of the most famous paintings of George and Martha Washington. Some of our members toured the Samuel Powel House, where Washington frequently stayed when he was in Philadelphia. The Washington’s celebrated their 20th anniversary here. We returned to the hotel where members had a chance to rest before coming to a pre-dinner reception. An elegant dinner was served featuring Seared Filet Mignon topped with boursin cheese with port wine reduction. Tonight our speaker was “George Washington” whose topic was “Reminiscences about my Years in Philadelphia.” Our younger members especially enjoyed interacting with “George”. Our member Page Warden also appeared in Colonial Dress. In the business meeting that followed, new officers were elected and installed. Our new officers are:

President General	Mrs. Lee Woody
1 st Vice-President General	Ms. Monica Pesek
2 nd Vice-President General	Mrs. Kerry Miller
3 rd Vice-President General	Maj. Reginald Blackwell
Treasurer General	Mrs. Cindy Barr
Corresponding Secretary General	Mrs. Peggy Mathis
Recording Secretary General	Mrs. Lisa Saxton
Registrar General	Dr. Justin Glenn
Historian General	Dr. Milly Hopkins
Parliamentarian General	Mrs. Page Warden
Chaplain General	Mrs. Barbara Schusterman
Editor, <i>Washington Words</i>	Ms. Monica Pesek
Genealogist	Mr. John A. Washington

Sunday morning trolleys took us to Independence Hall, where we had a special tour before departing for St. Peter's Episcopal Church. Washington often attended this church & sat in the Powel pew. Following the service we had a Memorial Service for our departed members. Those remembered were: Mr. James Bolton, Jr., Mrs. Ann Louise Jeffries Cary, Mrs. Beverly Jan Peeler Holston, Mr. J. Alan Hunton, Mrs. Jackie Darryl Hunton, Mrs. Eileen Washington Murphy, Mrs. Anne Marie Moulton Peterson, Mr. Elmer Vernon Peterson, Mrs. Kate Scott Patterson Roberts, Mr. Wayne Wahineokai, and Mr. John A. Washington III. We then assembled at the City Tavern, where George had a table reserved for his party every night during the Second Continental Congress. Food served was that typically served during the Revolutionary Period --- Lancaster Field Greens Salad with Raspberry Shrub Vinaigrette, Colonial Turkey Pot Pie, and Seasonal Bread Pudding. The 60 members present adjourned to head for home after enjoying this tasty & interesting meal. (MBH)

2011 – Annapolis MD – 57th

The 57th Annual Meeting of the National Society of Washington Family Descendants was held Sept. 23-25, 2011 in Annapolis MD. Those who arrived early on Thursday shared dinner together at Mike's Crab House while enjoying a magnificent sunset. Following registration on Friday afternoon, members boarded a bus for a tour of the Maryland State House. We were welcomed there by Dr. Edward C. Papenfuse, Maryland State Archivist and Commissioner of Land Patents. We were privileged to view one of the two original copies of George Washington's Resignation Speech of Dec. 23, 1783, which he read to Congress when he resigned his commission in the army. A NSWFD group photo was taken in this room where he actually gave his speech in 1783. Following our visit to the State House, we adjourned to the Doubletree Hotel for cocktails, followed by a buffet dinner. After dinner we held a memorial service for our deceased loved ones: Mrs. Anne Marshall Magruder Cole, Mrs. Sarah Ruth Kilpatrick Coleman, Mr. Charles Franklin Crabtree III, Mr. Thomas Seale Davison, Mrs. Estella Louise Wright Poremba, Mr. Luke Tornwall Saunders (son of Karen & Fleming Saunders), Mrs. Sarah Ann Riesenbeck Stein, Mrs. Mary Alice Seibert Sullivan, Mrs. Patricia Ann Hanes Walker, Senator Nathaniel Washington, and Mr. Robert Wells Woody (father of Samuel Woody II & father-in-law to Lee Hardin Woody). After the Memorial we heard our speaker, Mrs. Page Warden, the past president of the Nicholas Martiau Descendants Association, talking about Nicholas Martiau. Dinner ended with a brief business meeting.

Saturday morning found our members on a Trolley Tour of Annapolis, which culminated in a house tour of the Chase-Lloyd House, and the Hammond-Harwood House. We then had lunch at the Drydock Restaurant. After some free time in the Dock area, we had a tour of Belvoir, Scott's Plantation. After a tour of the house, cocktails and hors-d'oeuvres were served. A lovely dinner was served under the stars in a large tent. We held our annual meeting following dinner.

Sunday morning we attended church service at the Naval Academy Chapel. A brunch buffet was then served in the Naval Academy Club, and our members headed out in many directions to return home, after a most successful meeting. (MBH)

2012 – Gloucester & Richmond VA – 58th

Prior to the start of the annual meeting of the NSWFD, several members met at the Inn at Warner Hall to dedicate the new tombstone for Mildred Reade Warner, who is buried in the family cemetery there. Other special guests included Winona Pearson, Regent of the Augustine Warner Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, Gloucester VA; Bonnie Daughtry, Vice Regent, Gloucester DAR; Ed Truslow, President of the Williamsburg Chapter of the SAR, & his wife; Ann Darst, Secretary of the Colonial Dames of America, Chapter 23, VA, & Chairman of the Susan Constant Committee of the National Society of the Colonial Dames in the Commonwealth of Virginia; Dr. H. Jackson Darst, Registrar of the Society of the Cincinnati in the State of Virginia, & Registrar for the Society of the Colonial Wars in the State of Virginia; Mrs. P. William Moore, Jr., Vice Regent for Mount Vernon for Virginia; Dale Sayers, Regent of the Nicholas Martiau Society, & her husband Jim Sayers; and the following A. W. Withers Descendants: Virginia Amiss, David Addison, & wife Marian, Betty Boteler and husband, George, Kathy Boteler, Bruce Laubach, wife, Peggy, & daughter, Monica Page Laubach; Breck Ingles, Attorney, Gloucester Co. VA, and his wife, Amy; Chip Marin, author; Jerry Andrews, owner, Andrews Funeral Home; Rev. Sven L. vanBaars, Rector of Abingdon Episcopal Church, Gloucester VA; and Pete Glubiak, President of the King & Queen County Historical Society, & his wife, Anne.

As part of the Dedication a communion service using the 1620 Prayer Book was held. Communion was served in the Chalice which was in use when Augustine & Mildred Reade Warner attended Abingdon Church over 300 years ago. We had earlier toured Abingdon Church.

In Richmond the next day, a cocktail reception was held at the Virginia Historical Society for our 63 attendees, with a welcome by Paul Levengood, CEO & Executive Director of the VHS. The following day we visited the John Marshall House, toured Monument Ave. to see all of the statues, and toured the Capitol Building. On Sunday we worshipped together at St. John's Episcopal Church, where Patrick Henry gave his "Give me liberty, or give me death" speech. A memorial service was held in the church graveyard for our recently deceased members. Those remembered were: Mrs. Mary S. Grandstaff, Mr. Walter Max Grandstaff, Mrs. Elizabeth McGehee Foute Graveline, Mr. David Layton, Mrs. Alice Lacey Washington, Mr. Carol J. Hopper, Mrs. Dorothy Mildred Grandstaff Wright, Mrs. Elvin Elizabeth Holder Little, Mr. Paul Theodore Riegert, and Mr. Edward J. Schultz. Lunch was served in the Jefferson Hotel.

New Officers elected were:

President General	Mrs. Kerry Moore Miller
1 st VP	Major Reginald T. Blackwell
2 nd VP	Mrs. Barbara Click Schusterman
3 rd VP	Mr. Samuel "Sandy" Mcdonough
Treasurer	Mrs. Cindy Jeffries Barr
Corresponding Secretary	Mrs. Anne Davison
Recording Secretary	Mrs. Lisa Miller Saxton
Registrar	Dr. Justin M. Glenn
Historian	Dr. Mildred B. "Milly" Hopkins
Chaplain	Mr. James Bird
Editor Washington Words	Mrs. Janice Ringold
Parliamentarian	Mrs. Page Laubach Warden
Genealogist	Mr. John A. Washington

2013 – Gloucester VA – 59th

On Oct. 18-20, 2013 in Gloucester VA the National Society of Washington Family Descendants gathered for its 59th Annual Meeting. Sixty-eight members & friends met at the Hampton Inn for this meeting which was planned by Richard Weaver. From there we went to the "6655 Main Restaurant" for appetizers, which were then followed by an excellent dinner with a choice of seafood, chicken parmesan, or steak. This restaurant stepped in at the last minute when the place where we were originally scheduled filed for bankruptcy. The food was outstanding. Our speaker for the evening was Nicholas M. Lucchetti, Principal Archaeologist and Partner, James River Institute for Archaeology, Inc. He spoke about his examination of the home sites of Nicholas Martiau and Augustine Warner I. Re-enactors dressed in Revolutionary attire wandered through as we ate, sometimes stopping to explain who they represented.

Saturday morning our members boarded a bus for Yorktown, where their annual Yorktown Day was in full swing. Representatives of the NSWFD (Peggy Mathis and President General Kerry Miller) took part in the laying of wreaths at the grave of Governor Nelson at Grace Episcopal Church. This church is also where Washington's ancestors, Nicholas Martiau and George Reade, are buried. At 10:00 AM the Yorktown Day Parade marched through Yorktown's Main Street, passing in front of the Yorktown Victory Monument, erected in 1881 to commemorate the military victory a century before. Patriotic exercises commenced at that site about 11:00 AM with a backdrop of colorful American and French national colors, the flags of the 50 states and the District of Columbia, and the flags of the 13 Yorktown Day Association members. At the conclusion of the Patriotic Exercises, a wreath was placed on the Yorktown Victory Monument in memory of those who fought and died during the siege of Yorktown in 1781. A Brunswick Stew Lunch was served at Grace Episcopal Church by the Yorktown Women's Club. Members then returned to Gloucester

for a free afternoon. Plans were for our Barbeque dinner to be served on the grounds of the ruins of Rosewell, the former home of generations of the Page family, including John Page, who served under George Washington in an expedition during the French and Indian War. However, it began to rain, so dinner was hurriedly set up in the Rosewell Visitor Center. Following dinner and a short business meeting, we returned to the Hampton Inn where we visited with each other while eating home-made brownies, compliments of Janet Ringold.

Church services on Sunday morning were at Ware Church, where we were served communion on communion silver given by Augustine Warner II, great grandfather of George Washington. We were warmly welcomed by the parishioners. Following the service, we were bused to Warner Hall, where a very lovely brunch was served. While we ate, we could watch the re-enactors assembling for the "Battle of the Hook". These 1500 re-enactors were encamped all around the grounds of Warner Hall. Following brunch we walked to the graveyard where we had a service of remembrance for our deceased members & family. Remembered this day were Alta L. Culbertson Moore, mother of our President General, Kerry Miller; James Arthur Jones; Virginia Peyton Mcdonough, mother of Sandy Mcdonough, our 3rd Vice-President General; and Robert Gray Hardin, father of our former President General, Lee Hardin Woody. Flowers were placed on the grave of Mildred Reade Warner to remember our loved ones. We were then able to wander around to watch the battle enactment, which was very colorful and exciting and an interesting way to end our weekend. (MBH)