



**For Immediate Release**

**September 21, 2014**

**Washington Family Descendants Meet at Mount Vernon for 60th Anniversary Celebration and Annual Conference**

**Alexandria, VA**– Mount Vernon will be the setting for the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of the National Society of the Washington Family Descendants (NSWFD). Over 150 Washington Family Descendants and special guests from all across the United States will be in town October 17-19, 2014 to celebrate. NSWFD 60th Anniversary Celebration Co-Chairs Lee Hardin Woody of Roanoke, Virginia and Richard B. Weaver of Lovettsville, Virginia have planned an itinerary which includes visits to Anderson House, National Museum of American History, Pohick Church, Gunston Hall, and a black tie reception on the East Lawn of Mount Vernon on Saturday night.

An inaugural meeting was held on 12 May 1954 at Kennesaw National Battlefield Park in Georgia. This meeting was organized by Miss Virginia Van Stone Crosby of Marietta, Georgia. Thirty-seven descendants were in attendance at that first meeting. The group wished to honor George Washington through this organization --- one that is benevolent, genealogical, literary, historical, and patriotic.

Through the years the NSWFD has met in places where General Washington was known to have lived, visited, or worked, frequently returning to the family home at Mount Vernon. Since General Washington had no direct descendants, our members are all lineally descended by blood from George Washington's ancestors who lived in Colonial America between 1607 and 1732. Membership through the years has included over 1200 descendants.

Current NSWFD President General Kerry Moore Miller of Poulsbo, Washington, notes that the conference allows the Society's officers and various committees to report their accomplishments in the past year along with visiting historical sites which hold special significance to the Washington Family.

Key accomplishments include making annual donations to Mary Washington House, Mary Ball Washington Museum and Library, Mount Vernon Ladies Association, Kenmore and Ferry Farm, George Washington's Birthplace Association at Pope's Creek, Friends of Happy Retreat, and Woodlawn. Since 1982 the Society has sponsored The Washington Family Descendant Scholarship Award at Washington and Lee University in Lexington. This award is made annually to the rising senior history major who attains the highest grade point average following his or her first three years of study.

Support is not limited to writing checks. Dr. Justin Glenn, NSWFD Registrar and retired Florida State University Professor of Classics, has recently published his book, *The Washingtons: A Genealogical History*, which is a compilation of the descendants of Colonel John and Anne(Pope) Washington of Westmoreland County, Virginia. In 2012 the Society recognized Dr. Glenn's research by awarding him with the first John A. Washington Research Award. The award was established in order to support deserving projects that publish, preserve, or expand research on the Washington family. It is named for family genealogist and past NSWFD President General, John Augustine Washington, who has devoted nearly 70 years to researching the family lines.

Incoming NSWFD President General Richard B. Weaver states, "The Washington family will be re-doubling its efforts to develop innovative educational projects for our members and the public. This process began with our gift of 33 volumes of George Washington's letters to the family's ancestral home in England. Now, we are poised to begin another creative, multi-year project that will be announced at the family's meeting this October."

For more information on the work of the NSWFD, visit our web site:  
[www.washingtonfamilydescendants.org](http://www.washingtonfamilydescendants.org)

Contact: Dr. Mildred B. Hopkins  
NSWFD Historian General  
email: millyhopkins@yahoo.com  
523 North Allen Street  
State College, PA 16803-3503

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