

# The Father and Mother of Our Country



## A WASHINGTON POEM.

**O**f Father George and Martha, too,  
I'm proud as I can be,  
For they were parents of this land,  
Of which I'm part, you see.

By Tommy Traddles.

**T**his country ought to honor them,  
For it's mighty sure I am  
That if we'd had no Father George  
We'd have no Uncle Sam.

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## THE ELECTIONS OF WASHINGTON

By JAMES A. EDGERTON.

**N**EARLY 125 years have elapsed since General George Washington was first elected president of the United States. It is a physical impossibility for any one now living to picture the situation of the country at that time. The constitution had been adopted only after robust opposition. The colonies had been depleted by the long years of the Revolution and had not much recovered under the loose and inadequate articles of confederation. While political parties had not yet had time to form, there were bitter sectional feuds and personal and sectional jealousies.

The 3,000,000 people of the new nation were strung along the Atlantic coast. The railroad and steamship had not yet been thought of, while the other great inventions that have changed the face of the world were far in the future. Electricity was but a scientific curiosity. The steam engine had been invented, but was not yet in general use.

There was no other republic in the world. The revolution that started one in France did not open until the following year. The so-called Dutch republic was ruled by an aristocracy under a hereditary stadtholder. The Swiss cantons were under a loose confederation. Not only was the world without republics, but well nigh without parliaments. Great Britain had a form of parliamentary government, but most other nations were absolute or slightly limited monarchies.

Moreover, there had never been on earth a republic such as our forefathers outlined for us. The so-called Greek and Roman republics were really oligarchies, the mass of the population being slaves. The Italian republics were in some instances a slight advance on these, but even they fell far short of the American ideal. Our proposed form of government was largely an experiment without precedent anywhere in the world's history. The division of powers between the federal government and the states and the subdivision into co-ordinate departments of executive, legislative and judicial were new and untried departures.

It was an adventure on such an unknown political sea that Washington and the first congress elected with him were called upon to undertake. There were still large and influential elements grumbling about the constitution. One or two colonies had failed to ratify, and Rhode Island continued in that attitude. Washington was unfeignedly reluctant to embark on the task of leading the new government. He had retired from public life and had planned to spend his declining years on his Mount Vernon farm. The people of the whole country turned to him with one accord, however, and it was impossible for him to resist.

No candidates were nominated for president in those days, the presidential electors being left absolutely free to choose. These electors were chosen at the same time as the members of the new congress at the popular election in the fall of 1788. They afterward met in their several state capitals and cast every vote for Washington.

The inaugural ceremonies took place in New York. Congress was slow in assembling, and by the time it had a quorum to canvass the vote it was March 6. A messenger was immediately dispatched to notify the president elect of the vote, and he reached Mount Vernon on the 14th. On the 16th Washington wrote in his diary: "About 10 o'clock I bade adieu to

Mount Vernon, to private life and domestic felicity and, with a mind oppressed with more anxious and painful sensations than I have words to express, set out for New York."

Practically every step of the way it was a triumphal procession. If his own sensations were painful those of the country were quite the opposite. Scarcely had he got outside of his own private estate than the processions and feasting began. Every child knows the story of that flower strewn journey and the inauguration that followed.

One of the prettiest displays was at Trenton. Here, where the great American general had achieved one of the most brilliant successes of the war, the women of New Jersey had erected a triumphal arch, bearing this inscription: "The Defender of the Mothers Will Be the Protector of the Daughters." Along the way mothers and daughters, dressed in white, strewed flowers in the path and sang a song written for the occasion.

The inauguration occurred on Thursday, April 13, the oath being administered by Chancellor Livingston on the outside balcony of the Federal hall.



WASHINGTON TAKING OATH OF OFFICE.

Broad and Wall streets, New York. The United States subtreasury now occupies this site, and on the broad portico of the building, at the exact spot where the Father of His Country took the oath as the first president, there now stands a noble statue of him. Within a stone's throw is the famous New York Stock Exchange.

The president was almost as reluctant to enter a second term as he had been the first. Jefferson, his secretary of state, and Hamilton, secretary of the treasury, joined in urging him to accept. Widely as the two were divided personally and politically, they were united on this point.

One additional embarrassment at about this time occurred in the death of a nephew, George A. Washington, who had been left in charge at Mount Vernon. The president feared that this would "cause my private concerns to suffer very much."

Nevertheless he accepted. In the election he received every vote of the electoral college, as before. By this time the seat of government had been moved to Philadelphia, where the second inaugural occurred.

During the second administration war was declared between England and France, and the president and his advisers were accused of siding with England. This was denounced by friends of France as the rankest ingratitude. In view of the services rendered by France to the American revolutionists. Out of this situation grew the bitterest attacks ever made on the first president.

Despite this temporary cloud, Washington was yet held in such esteem by the American people that he was being urged to accept a third term. He felt, however, that he had sacrificed enough and was determined to retire to a well earned repose at Mount Vernon. It was at this time that he issued his celebrated farewell address, which was published in the Philadelphia Advertiser in September, 1796.

While this was the beginning of the powerful tradition against a third term in the presidency, it is but just to say that Washington himself made no arguments against a third term. He explained that his reasons for withdrawing were personal. He would have taken such a step earlier, but was convinced that it would have been against public policy. Now, however, that difficulty had been removed, Washington says:

"I rejoice that the state of your concerns, external as well as internal, no longer renders the pursuit of inclination incompatible with the sentiment of duty or propriety and am persuaded, whatever partially may be retained for my services, that in the present circumstances of our country you will not disapprove of my determination to retire."

As though the first president had a prophetic glimpse of the future, the burden of the farewell address was an argument for union and a warning against the perils of partisan division and passion. In the memorable closing paragraph he said: "Though in reviewing the incidents of my administration I am unconscious of intentional error, I am nevertheless too sensible of my defects not to think it probable that I have committed many errors. Whatever they may be, I fervently beseech the Almighty to avert or mitigate the evils to which they may tend. I shall also carry with me the hope that my country will never cease to view them with indulgence and that, after forty-five years of my life dedicated to its service with upright zeal, the faults of incompetent abilities will be consigned to oblivion, as myself must soon be to the mansions of rest."

Both his country and the world have certainly carried out this wish.

## THE SHORTEST INAUGURAL.

Washington's Second Address Only 135 Words Long.

The first president was never given to much speaking. His first inaugural was, however, of average length. This was delivered in New York at the very beginning of our national life under the constitution, and the occasion demanded a more extended utterance than the Father of His Country was wont to give. The second inaugural, delivered four years later in Philadelphia, was more in line with his custom and was exceedingly brief, only 135 words long, in fact. It is believed to be the shortest ever delivered by an elected president. The address follows in full:

"Fellow Citizens—I am again called upon by the voice of my country to execute the functions of its chief magistrate. When the occasion proper for it shall arrive I shall endeavor to express the high sense I entertain of this distinguished honor and of the confidence which has been reposed in me by the people of united America.

"Previous to the execution of any official act of the president the constitution requires an oath of office. This oath I am now about to take and in your presence: That if it shall be found during my administration of the government I have in any instance violated willingly or knowingly the injunctions thereof I may (besides incurring constitutional punishment) be subject to the upbraidings of all who are now witnesses of the present solemn ceremony."

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## U. S. CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATIONS

Examinations to be Held in the Spring of 1913

The following named examinations will be held on various dates between March 1 and May 1, 1913:

Apprentice map engraver; clerk, departments and offices at Washington, D.C.; electrotypist, finisher, government printing office; electrotypist, molder, government printing office; elevator conductor, Departmental Service; press feeder, government printing office; stenographer, all services; stenographer and typewriter, all services; stereotypist, government printing office; subclerical (messenger, skilled laborer, and watchman), Departmental Service (men only); typewriter, all services.

The following named examinations will be held on March 12, 1913:

Aid, Coast and Geodetic Survey; apprentice plate cleaner, transferrer and engraver, Bureau of Engraving and Printing; assistant, Philippine service (men only); assistant engineer, reclamation service; assistant inspector of boilers; assistant inspector of hulls; bookkeeper, departmental service (men only); clerk, Isthmian Canal service (men only); computer, coast and geodetic survey (men only); computer, supervising architect's office. Draftsman: architectural, supervising architect's office; copyist topographic, departmental service; engineer, supervising architect's office; heating and ventilating, supervising architect's office; junior architectural, supervising architect's office; junior engineer, engineer dept. at large; topographic, departmental service. Forest assistant, forest service; forest assistant, Philippine service; industrial teacher, Philippine service (men only); junior engineer, reclamation service; kindergarten teacher, Indian service; local inspector of boilers; local inspector of hulls; matron, Indian service; physician, all services (men only); superintendent public instruction; teacher, Philippine service; veterinarian.

The following named examinations will be held on April 9, 1913:

Agricultural inspector, Philippine service; aid, lighthouse service; assistant examiner, Patent Office; assistant observer (men only); cadet engineer, lighthouse service; cadet officer, lighthouse service; civil engineer and draftsman; civil engineer student; computer, Nautical Almanac office and Naval Observatory (men only); draftsman, mechanical, Isthmian canal service (men only); draftsman, topographic, Isthmian canal service (men only); engineer, Indian service; farmer, Indian service; Eah culturist; junior engineer (civil), engineer department at large; junior engineer (mechanical and electrical), engineer dept. at large; junior engineer (mining), bureau of mines; scientific assistant, Dept. of Agriculture; surveyor, Philippine service; teacher, Indian service; trained nurse, all services; wireman.

The railway mail clerk examination will be held on May 3, 1913.

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