



George Washington

1st President

Born: Feb. 22, 1732

Birthplace: Westmoreland Co., VA

Died: Dec. 14, 1799

Burial Site: Mount Vernon, VA

Spouse: Martha Custis

Occupation: Planter, soldier

Political Party: Federalist

Term: 1789-1797

Vice President: John Adams

George Washington, called the "Father of His Country," was a surveyor, plantation owner, professional soldier and president of the United States.

Born on his father's plantation, he grew up near Fredericksburg, VA, and later at Mount Vernon, the plantation of his half-brother, Lawrence. There he studied mathematics and became a surveyor. Later, he was an officer in the Virginia militia.

After the French and Indian War, Washington managed his lands around Mt. Vernon and served in the Virginia House of Burgesses.

Because of his experience in the French and Indian War, Washington was named commander-in-chief of the Continental Army when the Second Continental Congress assembled in Philadelphia in May 1775.

After the war, he hoped to retire, but Virginia sent him to the Constitutional Convention where he was president of that body. When the new Constitution was ratified, the Electoral College unanimously elected Washington the country's first president.

After two terms as president, he retired to Mount Vernon only to be recalled to Philadelphia in 1798 when war with France was expected.

He died of a throat infection Dec. 14, 1799, after he contracted a cold while riding about his estates.