

George Washington Booklist February 2014

Wolfner Library compiled the following booklist for the upcoming celebration of Presidents Week.

George Washington was born on February 22, 1732, in Virginia. Washington served as a general and commander-in-chief of the colonial armies during the American Revolution, and later became the first president of the United States.

To order any of these titles, contact Talking Books Plus library by [email](#), phone or mail. You may also request these titles online through the [RI OPAC](#). All books listed are linked to [Braille and Audio Reading Download](#) site (BARD) for downloading.

1776 by David G. McCullough

Read by Alec Volz. Reading time: 13 hours, 11 minutes.

Pulitzer Prize-winning historian chronicles the struggles of the Continental Army during the disastrous year of 1776. Highlights George Washington's failed New York campaign and the retreat across New Jersey. Assesses the political, economic, and social problems the young nation encountered during the turbulent months from August to December. Bestseller. 2005.

[Download 1776](#) DB 60330

American Heroes: Profiles of Men and Women who Shaped Early America by Edmund S. Morgan

Read by Butch Hoover. Reading time: 11 hours, 30 minutes.

Pulitzer Prize-winning historian and author of Benjamin Franklin (RC 54936) compiles seventeen essays he penned over a span of nearly seventy years that portray aspects of American Puritanism. Covers politicians William Penn and George Washington, religious leader Anne Hutchinson, and accused witches Giles Cory and Mary Easty. 2009.

[Download American heroes: profiles of men and women who shaped early America](#) DB 69242

The Crucible of War: The Seven Years' War and the Fate of Empire in British North America, 1754-1766 by Fred Anderson

Read by Bill Wallace. Reading time: 33 hours, 3 minutes.

Interpretive chronicle of the Seven Years' (French and Indian) War, its origins, and

its aftermath. Posits that this conflict dramatically reshaped the destinies of North America and Europe. Traces the roles of George Washington and participant Native Americans and tells the stories of individual settlers, land speculators, and politicians. 2000.

[Download The crucible of war: the Seven Years' War and the fate of empire in British North America, 1754-1766](#) DB 51382

For Liberty and Glory: Washington, Lafayette, and Their Revolutions by James R. Gaines

Read by Peter Johnson. Reading time: 19 hours, 54 minutes.

Chronicles the intricate friendship between two generals, the American George Washington and the French Marquis de Lafayette. Discusses the complex rebellions in the United States and France that forged an enduring alliance between the countries. Analyzes the generals' collaborations and conflicts and covers Lafayette's tumultuous life in Europe. 2007.

[Download For liberty and glory: Washington, Lafayette, and their revolutions](#) DB 66070

Founding Brothers: The Revolutionary Generation by Joseph J. Ellis

Read by Annie Wauters. Reading time: 12 hours, 25 minutes.

Author of American Sphinx (DB 44729) explains the importance of a few prominent leaders in the development of democracy after the American Revolution. Describes significant contributions to the new nation made by John Adams, Aaron Burr, Benjamin Franklin, Alexander Hamilton, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, and George Washington. Bestseller. 2000.

[Download Founding brothers: the revolutionary generation](#) DB 51469

Founding Father: Rediscovering George Washington by Richard Brookhiser

Read by Ted Stoddard. Reading time: 6 hours, 39 minutes.

A "moral biography" of the founder and father of the United States. Surveys Washington's role in the Revolutionary War and in forming the new government. Explores his nature, morals, and ideas as they relate to his public career. Examines the implications of the title "political father" of the nation. Bestseller.

[Download Founding father: rediscovering George Washington](#) DB 43942

George Washington and the American Revolution by Burke Davis

Read by Randy Atcher. Reading time: 19 hours, 31 minutes.

A dramatic one-volume account that emphasizes the human aspects of Washington and the revolution: the hardships of the Valley Forge winter, the mutiny of the Pennsylvania Line and other troops, the suspense of the attack at Trenton and at the Delaware Crossing, the despair over desertions, and the Yorktown campaign.

[Download George Washington and the American Revolution](#) DB 21085

George Washington and Slavery: A Documentary Portrayal by Fritz Hirschfeld

Read by Michael Consoli. Reading time: 10 hours, 53 minutes.

Traces the first president's private and public concerns about slavery, relying on diaries, letters, eyewitness accounts, and other documents. Describes how abolitionists advocated the elimination of slavery after the Revolutionary War, while others emphasized the economic necessity of cheap labor. Portrays Washington's main concern as the preservation of the new country.

[Download George Washington and slavery: a documentary portrayal](#) DB 47650

George Washington's Great Gamble: and the Sea Battle that Won the American Revolution by James L. Nelson

Read by Patrick Downer. Reading time: 15 hours, 29 minutes.

Maritime historian details the Battle of the Capes, when a French armada defeated the British Navy at the entrance to the Chesapeake Bay in late summer 1781. This decisive combat led to Lord Charles Cornwallis's surrender to George Washington at Yorktown that October. 2010.

[Download George Washington's great gamble: and the sea battle that won the American Revolution](#) DB 77166

George Washington's Secret Navy: How the American Revolution Went to Sea by James L. Nelson

Read by Ray Childs. Reading time: 16 hours, 46 minutes.

Award-winning author examines the establishment of an American navy during the Revolutionary War. Discusses the roles of the Continental Congress and George Washington in the October 1775 authorization for the first ships. Details the scrimmages between Washington's armed schooners and the British fleet. 2008.

[Download George Washington's secret navy: how the American revolution went to sea](#) DB 67398

The Grand Idea: George Washington's Potomac and the Race to the West by Joel Achenbach

Read by Geoffrey Centlivre. Reading time: 12 hours, 37 minutes.

Washington Post writer documents George Washington's plans to transform the Potomac River into a commercial artery linking the Atlantic to the Mississippi Valley. Chronicles his 1784 journey across the Appalachians to speculate on inland navigation and explains how his ambitions spawned the National Road, B&O Railroad, and C&O Canal. 2004.

[Download The grand idea: George Washington's Potomac and the race to the west](#) DB 59392

His Excellency: George Washington by Joseph J. Ellis

Read by Mike Scherer. Reading time: 11 hours, 44 minutes.

Author of *Founding Brothers* (DB 51469) delves into the life and times of America's first president. Uses personal papers and historical accounts to recreate the man who was a French and Indian War soldier, plantation owner, businessman, and savvy politician who forged a new nation. Bestseller. 2004.

[Download His Excellency: George Washington](#) DB 59070

Inaugural Addresses of the Presidents of the United States

Read by Jack Fox. Reading time: 14 hours, 6 minutes.

Inaugural speeches reveal American presidents' visions and policies. Features George Washington's address to the first U.S. Congress, Abraham Lincoln's two Civil War-era appeals to citizens, and Franklin Roosevelt's fourth address during World War II. 2009.

[Download Inaugural addresses of the presidents of the United States](#) DB 75274

The Intimate Lives of the Founding Fathers by Thomas J. Fleming

Read by Jim Zeiger. Reading time: 20 hours, 39 minutes.

Historian explores the personal lives of founding fathers George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, Alexander Hamilton, Thomas Jefferson, and James Madison. Discusses their marriages and the characters of their wives, lovers, and children. Speculates on the first ladies' influence and the erosion of some reputations. 2009.

[Download The intimate lives of the founding fathers](#) DB 72044

Martha Washington: An American Life by Patricia Brady

Read by Kerry Cundiff. Reading time: 11 hours, 2 minutes.

Biography of widow Martha "Patsy" Dandridge Custis (1731-1802) who married Virginia planter George Washington in 1759 when both were in their late twenties. The author uses primary sources to explore Martha's influence on her husband, her involvement during the Revolutionary War, and her role in developing the presidency. 2005.

[Download Martha Washington: an American life](#) DB 61531

Mount Vernon Family by Elswyth Thane

Read by Michael McCullough. Reading time: 4 hours, 22 minutes.

Account of George Washington's affectionate relationship with his own nieces and nephews and Martha's children and grandchildren from her first marriage. Based on letters and other documents that reveal personal glimpses of American history. 1968.

[Download Mount Vernon family](#) DB 12184

Our Sacred Honor: Words of Advice From the Founders in Stories, Letters, Poems, and Speeches by William J. Bennett

Read by Jake Williams. Reading time: 15 hours, 42 minutes.

Selected historic writings reflecting the "founders' vision of the virtues that they believed necessary for sustaining the American experiment." Presents the words of George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Abigail Adams, and others on such themes as justice, patriotism, love, and piety.

[Download Our sacred honor: words of advice from the Founders in stories, letters, poems, and speeches](#) DB 46472

Patriot Sage: George Washington and the American Political Tradition by Gary L. Gregg and Matthew Spalding

Read by Butch Hoover. Reading time: 9 hours, 41 minutes.

Twelve essays commemorate the life and legacy of George Washington and the role he played in shaping the American nation. The authors, including Forrest McDonald, William B. Allen, and Mark Thistlethwaite, suggest ways in which Washington's life, thought, and character are relevant today. Foreword by William J. Bennett. 1999.

[Download Patriot sage: George Washington and the American political tradition](#) DB 55625

Setting the World Ablaze: Washington, Adams, Jefferson, and the American Revolution by John E. Ferling

Read by Geoffrey Centlivre. Reading time: 17 hours, 22 minutes.

Drawing on primary sources and focusing on the Revolutionary War years, compares the lives of George Washington, John Adams, and Thomas Jefferson. Places them among the most important leaders of the struggle for American independence. Discusses their transformation from colonial elites into democratic reformers. 2000.

[Download Setting the world ablaze: Washington, Adams, Jefferson, and the American Revolution](#) DB 56654

Shays's Rebellion: The American Revolution's Final Battle by Leonard L. Richards

Read by Fred Major. Reading time: 7 hours, 21 minutes.

Author of *The California Gold Rush and the Coming of the Civil War* (RC 66763) analyzes the armed insurrection that brought George Washington out of retirement. Describes the 1786 tax revolt that farmer/veteran Daniel Shays led against the state of Massachusetts and which hastened adoption of the U.S. Constitution. 2002.

[Download Shays's Rebellion: the American Revolution's final battle](#) DB 68561

The Summer of 1787: The Men who Invented the Constitution By David O. Stewart

Read by Alec Volz. Reading time: 11 hours, 28 minutes.

Attorney studies the debates held on political and economic issues during the 1787 Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia. Highlights the roles of George Washington, George Mason, James Madison, and John Rutledge, among others. Contrasts the New Jersey and the Virginia plans and the problems concerning slavery and new territories. 2007.

[Download The summer of 1787: the men who invented the Constitution / David O. Stewart.](#) DB 65222

Washington: The Indispensable Man by James Thomas Flexner

Read by Kerry Cundiff. Reading time: 15 hours, 15 minutes.

Biography of George Washington (1732-1799), America's first president and the "most conspicuous and influential man in the United States" during his later life. Investigates the man behind the myths from his early military leadership during the French and Indian War to his retirement days at Mount Vernon. 1969.

[Download Washington: the indispensable man](#) DB 58802

Washington's Crossing by David Hackett Fischer

Read by Robert Sams. Reading time: 25 hours, 5 minutes.

Details George Washington's December 1776 campaign to lead the Continental Army from Pennsylvania and across the frozen Delaware River to attack a Hessian garrison at Trenton and a British brigade at Princeton. Examines strategic, operational, and tactical decisions and the crucial victory's significance to the Revolution. 2004.

[Download Washington's crossing](#) DB 58946

Washington's Lady by Elswyth Thane

Read by Virginia Cromer. Reading time: 12 hours, 11 minutes.

A reconstruction of Martha Custis Washington's days as the wife of one of the most prominent citizens of Virginia and of the new nation. Mrs. Washington destroyed their letters after her husband's death; this account is based on contemporary documents including first-person accounts and the profuse correspondence between George Washington and many other people. 1960.

[Download Washington's lady](#) DB 12058

Washington's Secret War: The Hidden History of Valley Forge by Thomas J. Fleming

Read by Bill Wallace. Reading time: 14 hours, 18 minutes.

Historian, using primary documents, describes how General George Washington kept the ragged Continental Army intact in Pennsylvania during the winter of 1777-1778. Argues that after the British captured Philadelphia, Washington's rivals conspired to have him removed but he "outmaneuvered his political enemies, and rescued the Revolution from extremism." 2005.

[Download Washington's secret war: the hidden history of Valley Forge](#) DB 61803

The Whiskey Rebellion: George Washington, Alexander Hamilton, and the Frontier Rebels who Challenged America's Newfound Sovereignty by William Hogeland

Read by Roy Avers. Reading time: 12 hours, 0 minutes.

Describes the crisis that evolved after Secretary of the Treasury Alexander Hamilton imposed the first American excise tax in 1791--on hard liquor. Chronicles the skirmishes during which frontiersmen west of the Appalachians rebelled, harassed the tax agents, threatened secession, and, in 1794, forced President Washington to send in troops. 2006.

[Download The Whiskey Rebellion: George Washington, Alexander Hamilton, and the frontier rebels who challenged America's newfound sovereignty](#) DB 63613

Braille books

1776 by David G. McCullough

5 volumes.

Pulitzer Prize-winning historian chronicles the struggles of the Continental Army during the disastrous year of 1776. Highlights George Washington's failed New York campaign and the retreat across New Jersey. Assesses the political, economic, and social problems the young nation encountered during the turbulent months from August to December. Bestseller. 2005.

[1776 BR 16114](#)

Adopted Son: Washington, Lafayette, and the Friendship that Saved the Revolution by David A. Clary

6 volumes.

Historian uses archives to detail the personal relationship between the Marquis de Lafayette and George Washington during the American Revolution. Explores the development of both men into military and political leaders and their bond, which extended through Lafayette's doomed democratic experiment and imprisonment in France. 2007.

[Adopted Son: Washington, Lafayette, and the Friendship that Saved the Revolution BR 17456](#)

American Heroes: Profiles of Men and Women who Shaped Early America by Edmund S. Morgan

3 volumes.

Pulitzer Prize-winning historian compiles seventeen essays he penned over a span of nearly seventy years that portray aspects of American Puritanism. Covers politicians William Penn and George Washington, religious leader Anne Hutchinson, and accused witches Giles Cory and Mary Easty. 2009.

[American Heroes: Profiles of Men and Women who Whaped Early America BR 18677](#)

Founding Brothers: The Revolutionary Generation by Joseph J. Ellis

3 volumes.

Author of American Sphinx (RC 44729) explains the importance of a few prominent leaders in the development of democracy after the American Revolution. Describes significant contributions to the new nation made by John Adams, Aaron Burr, Benjamin Franklin, Alexander Hamilton, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, and George Washington. Bestseller. 2000.

[Founding Brothers: The Revolutionary Generation BR 12931](#)

George Washington by James MacGregor Burns and Susan Dunn

2 volumes.

Two historians analyze the strengths and weaknesses of Washington's presidency. While commending his creation of a strong executive and sense of national unity, Burns and Dunn criticize his denunciation of political parties and public silence on slavery. They also contrast his self-effacing persona with intense craving for "esteem and notice." 2004.

[George Washington BR 15441](#)

His Excellency: George Washington by Joseph J. Ellis

4 volumes.

Author of *Founding Brothers* (BR 12931) delves into the life and times of America's first president. Uses personal papers and historical accounts to recreate the man who was a French and Indian War soldier, plantation owner, businessman, and savvy politician who forged a new nation. Bestseller. 2004.

[His Excellency: George Washington BR 15564](#)

Martha Washington: An American Life by Patricia Brady

3 volumes.

Biography of widow Martha "Patsy" Dandridge Custis (1731-1802) who married Virginia planter George Washington in 1759 when both were in their late twenties. The author uses primary sources to explore Martha's influence on her husband, her involvement during the Revolutionary War, and her role in developing the presidency. 2005.

[Martha Washington: An American life BR 16431](#)

Martha Washington: First Lady of Liberty by Helen Bryan

5 volumes.

Presents the life of the first United States president's wife, Martha Washington (1731-1802), in the social, political, and economic context of early America, especially colonial Virginia. The chronicle depicts Martha as her husband's "active, indispensable partner," who "commanded respect in her own right," and reflects her instrumental role in George's success. 2002.

[Martha Washington: First Lady of Liberty BR 14900](#)