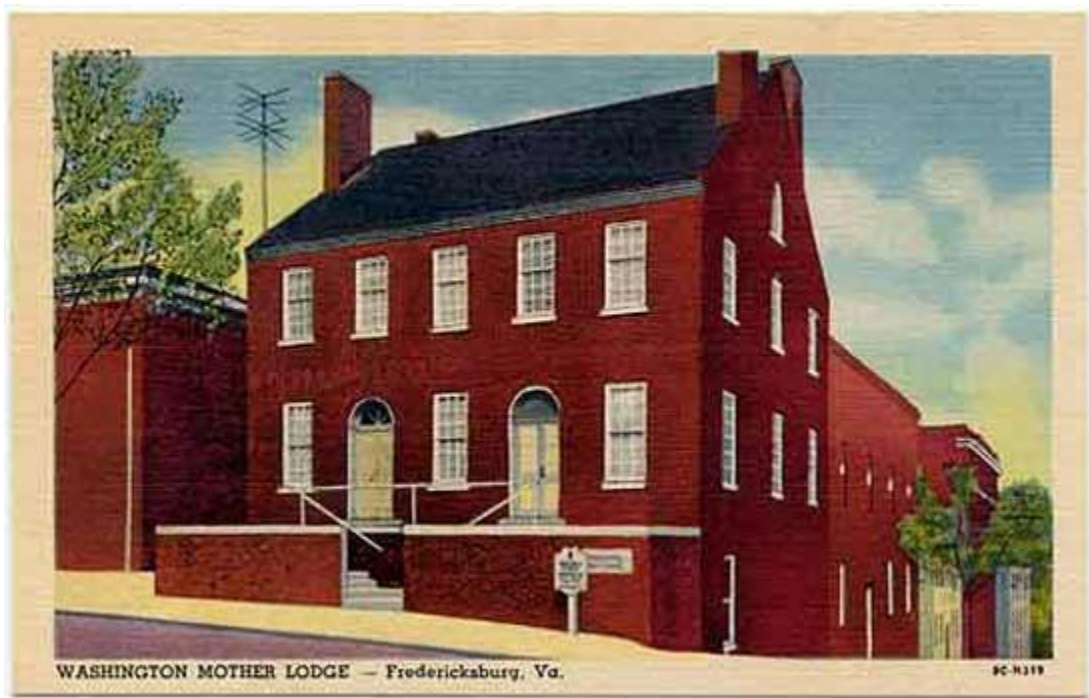




# Young George Washington and The Lodge at Fredericksburg



**1952 postcard showing Lodge #4**

*By:*  
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*Fredericksburg, VA*

*presented to:*  
*Virginia Research Lodge #1777*  
*March 5, 2016*

# TIMELINE -- GEORGE WASHINGTON

Feb. 22, 1732 ~ Feb 22, 2016 - The 284<sup>th</sup> anniversary of George Washington's birth.

Feb. 14, 1951 ~ Feb. 14, 2016 - VA Research Lodge #1777 Chartered (65 yrs) Charter Master was James Noah Hillman.

Feb. 14, 1921 ~ Feb. 14, 2016 - Babcock Lodge #322 Chartered (95 yrs). Named for Alexander Gulick Babcock, founder of the Masonic Home of Virginia.

## Year Event (# George's age)

1732 Feb 22, born at Wakefield in Westmoreland County, VA. Augustine & Mary Ball Washington, parents

1743 Father, Augustine dies (11)  
Half-brother Lawrence inherits Mt Vernon  
Half-brother Augustine inherits Wakefield  
George inherits Washington Farm, later renamed Ferry Farm

1748 March, accompanies George William Fairfax on survey trip (16)

1751 Goes to Barbados with Lawrence (19)

1752 July, Lawrence Washington dies (20)

*1752 November 4, Made an Entered Apprentice in the Lodge at Fredericksburg (20)*

*1753 March 3, Passed to Fellowcraft in The Lodge at Fredericksburg. (21)*

*1753 August 4, Raised to Master Mason in Fredericksburg (21)*

1753 Nov., British Governor of Virginia, Dinwiddie, sends George to the Ohio River Valley to expel the French from the region. (21)

1754 April, Leads forces against the French at Fort Duquesne (22)

1754 George leases Mt Vernon from Lawrence's widow. (22)

1755 August, Appointed Commander of Virginia colonial forces with the rank of colonel (23)

1758 Elected to the House of Burgesses from Frederick County (26)

*1758 July 21, The Lodge at Fredericksburg receives Charter from the Grand Lodge of Scotland. (258 yrs ago)*

1759 January 6, Marries Martha Custis (27)

1761 Inherited Mt Vernon when Lawrence's widow dies (29)

1774 September, attends First Continental Congress as delegate from Virginia (42)

1775 April, battles of Lexington and Concord (43)

1775 May 10, attends Second Continental Congress as delegate from Virginia

1775 May 26, Congress sends "Olive Branch Petition" to King George III



- 1775 June 15, appointed commander in chief of Continental forces. As a gesture of civic virtue, he declines a salary but request that Congress pay his expenses at the close of the war.  
(Expense account submitted on 7/1/1783 totaled \$400, 000+)
- 1775 June, Battle of Bunker Hill
- 1775 August 23, King George, III declares the Colonies in a state of rebellion
  
- 1776 July, Washington reads the Declaration of Independence to the troops in New York.
  
- 1777 June, Marquis de Lafayette arrives in Philadelphia, from France (age 19). Congress commissioned him a major general. (45)
  
- 1781 October 19, Gen Cornwallis surrenders. (49)
- 1781 November 5, "Jacky", George Washington's stepson dies of camp fever at Yorktown.
  
- 1783 April 18, Washington's General Orders to the officers and troops of the Continental Army announce the cessation of hostilities between the United States of America and the King of Great Britain.
- 1783 December 4, resigns as commander in chief and returns to Mount Vernon. (51)
  
- 1787 January 30, Fredericksburg Lodge #4, Receives Charter from the Grand Lodge of Virginia (55) [229 yrs]*
  
- 1789 April 30, Inaugurated First President in New York (Used the Bible from St. John's Lodge #1)
  
- 1793 February 13, electoral votes counted, Washington re-elected President
  
- 1799 December 14, Dies at Mt. Vernon (67)

Family Tree:

G, G, G, G, G	Lawrence born 1500 (2 <sup>nd</sup> wife - Amy)
G, G, G, G	Robert b.1544 (m. Elizabeth)
Great, Great, Great	Lawrence b.1568 (m. Margaret)
Great, Great Grandfather	Lawrence b.1602 (m. Amphyllis)
Great Grandfather	John b.1634 (2 <sup>nd</sup> wife - Anne) [Sailed for VA in 1656]
Grandfather	Lawrence b.1659 (m. Mildred)
Father	Augustine b.1695 (2 <sup>nd</sup> wife Mary Ball) (1 <sup>st</sup> Jane Butler)
George Washington	George b.1732 d. 1799, age 67 (m. Martha, 1/6/1759)

Today I would like to address two separate but related topics: First, The Lodge at Fredericksburg and second, one of its most famous members, George Washington ..... young George Washington.

The first written evidence of a meeting of the “Lodge at Fredericksburgh” is recorded in “the old minute book” and is dated September 1, 1752. Listed are members and officers present. One interesting note – the name of the Master has been inked out. One theory is he was a sympathizer of the British during the Revolutionary War.

In 1758, The Lodge at Fredericksburg, following in the custom of the day, wanted a Charter from a Grand Lodge in Europe. Since most of the members were of Scottish decent, and Daniel Campbell, a Past Master, was traveling in Scotland, the Lodge requested he procure a Charter. The Charter from the Grand Lodge of Scotland was granted on July 21, 1758. The original Charter is still on display in the “Olde Lodge Room.”

Shortly after the Revolutionary War, six Lodges met in the Colonial capitol of Williamsburg and formed the Grand Lodge of Virginia. The Lodge at Fredericksburg was granted Charter Number 4 on January 30, 1787, about 34 years after its first recorded meeting.

The Lodge met in several locations until 1816 when its members assisted in building a private school on the corner of Hanover and Princess Anne Streets. In return for their efforts, the Lodge was allowed to meet on the third floor. A short time later, the Lodge purchased the building and has been meeting there for the last 200 years. Her members and visitors have included everyone from a common shopkeeper to a President of the United States. In addition to a U.S. President, nine members were in the U.S. Congress; 83 members were in the Virginia General Assembly or House of Burgesses; 179 members served on City Council and 34 members served as Mayor. The Marquis de Lafayette was made an Honorary Member in 1824. In addition, nine members of Lodge #4 have served as Grand Master of Masons in Virginia:

James Mercer	2 <sup>nd</sup> Grand Master	1786
Robert Brook	7 <sup>th</sup> Grand Master	1795
Benjamin Day	8 <sup>th</sup> Grand Master	1797 Gov 1794-1796, Atty Gen 1798
Oscar Minor Crutchfield	30 <sup>th</sup> Grand Master	1840
Beverly Randolph Wellford, Jr.	50 <sup>th</sup> Grand Master	1877
Silvanus Jackson Quinn	68 <sup>th</sup> Grand Master	1907 (GHP – RAM in VA)
Philip Kuszner Bauman	72 <sup>nd</sup> Grand Master	1914
Edward Herman Cann	118 <sup>th</sup> Grand Master	1962
Oscar Wood Tate	142 <sup>nd</sup> Grand Master	1986

Don Robey, GM in 1987, George Chapin, GM in 1999 and Ali Bongo Ondimba, GM of the GL of Gabon-West Africa are honorary members. Brother Ali is also the President of Gabon. Jeff Hodges, GM in 2009 and Buck Buchanan GM of the ACGI in 2002 are affiliate members.

On November 4, 1752, a young man, aged 20 years and 9 months, knocked on the door of the Lodge at Fredericksburg. That evening, young George Washington was made an Entered Apprentice. He was passed to the Degree of Fellowcraft on March 3, 1753, and raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason on August 4, 1753.

Tonight I would like to take a few minutes to present a different view of Washington's real dimensions by introducing the little-known story of his early years, before greatness transformed him into an unapproachable hero. Due to time constraints, we will not be able to dwell on his heroic efforts during the Revolutionary War, his attendance at the Continental Congress or his Presidency. I want

you to join me as we travel back in time. Back to colonial Virginia, to the shores of the Rappahannock and Potomac Rivers. Back to the early 1700's. Back more than 250 years.

Americans have been trying for more than two hundred years to understand George Washington. For most, Washington seems too majestic and aloof ever to have been a boy. A half-century after George's death, Nathaniel Hawthorne commented that Washington seemed to have been "born with his clothes on and his hair powdered," and to have "made a stately bow on his first appearance in the world."

Little is known of George Washington's early childhood, spent largely on Ferry Farm on the Rappahannock River, opposite Fredericksburg, Virginia. George Washington was born on February 22, 1732 on the family's farm on Pope's Creek in Westmoreland County, on the banks of the Potomac River. The Washington family moved to Ferry Farm in 1738, when George was six years old. Ferry Farm was the principal home of Washington's formative years. He lived there until he reached young manhood and moved to Mount Vernon, which he inherited from his brother Lawrence.

He attended school irregularly from his seventh to his 15th year, first with the local church sexton and later with a schoolmaster named Williams.

Some of his schoolboy papers survive. The copybook in which he transcribed, at age 14, a set of moral precepts or *Rules of Civility and Decent Behavior in Company and Conversation* was carefully preserved. He was fairly well trained in practical mathematics, such as trigonometry as was useful in surveying. He studied geography, possibly had a little Latin, and certainly read some of *The Spectator* and other English classics. His best training, however, was given to him by practical men and outdoor occupations, not by books. He mastered tobacco growing and stock raising, and early in his teens he was sufficiently familiar with surveying to plot the fields about him.

Washington received his formal education during these years, and forged friendships in the Ferry Farm neighborhood that lasted the rest of his life.

(Attached is a survey of a turnip patch on brother Lawrence's farm done in 1747 when George was 14 years old.)

George Washington learned to deal with adversity at Ferry Farm. The hard lessons of these years helped form the strong will, stubborn patience, and determination to overcome obstacles that would enable him to lead the armies of the new nation to victory in the American Revolution. Washington owed much of that strong will to the example of his mother, Mary Ball Washington, who lived most of her adult life at Ferry Farm. A woman of independent spirit, she never remarried. Contemporaries remembered her as stern and serious, qualities that characterized her famous son.

The Ferry Farm years were challenging and difficult ones. Though the family was moderately wealthy, they suffered the usual rigors of eighteenth-century life. George's infant sister Mildred, born at Ferry Farm in 1739, died in the fall of 1740. A few weeks later, on Christmas Eve, the family's house burned, forcing them to take refuge in the kitchen dependency, where they spent a cheerless Christmas Day. The Washingtons rebuilt, but their troubles did not end there. In early 1743 George's father, Augustine Washington, died at the age of forty-nine, leaving Mary Ball Washington to care for George, his sister Betty, and three younger brothers.

The young George Washington is an approachable person, not yet the larger-than-life hero. The challenges he faced are not so different from those faced by young people today, when many grow up in single-parent households and confront unexpected adversities. The difficulties of his early life made Washington stronger, forming him for remarkable accomplishments.

Washington had a lighter side as well. His earliest letters describe the familiar frustrations of youthful romance. His love of horses - Thomas Jefferson once described him as the greatest horseman of his age - developed at Ferry Farm. His love of fishing was also undoubtedly formed on the banks of the Rappahannock River. The young Washington developed early the strength and physical endurance that would serve him so well in the trials of adulthood.

When George Washington turned sixteen years of age, his family helped establish him in the profession of surveying. Since his older half-brother, Lawrence, inherited most of his late father's estate, young George had to find a respectable way to make a living.

Surveying was a profession acceptable to someone of his social rank and reasonably lucrative for someone willing to endure the hardships of life on the frontier. Since Washington's family had such a close relationship with Lord Fairfax's family, there was certainly the probability of a great deal of work surveying the Northern Neck lands.

With the approval of Lord Fairfax, George Washington made his first trip to the Virginia frontier west of the Shenandoah Valley in early 1748 at the age of 16. The next year, William and Mary College had certified his surveying skills, and Washington received an appointment as the surveyor of Culpepper County.

Washington's work on the frontier brought him in contact with the more influential members of the community. He also met many of the poorer immigrants who were looking for opportunities to build a home in this fertile land. His acquaintance with these settlers and with the common soldiers who would later protect them would have a lasting effect on the young Washington. He would come to respect the part they played in the development of the country.

When Lawrence Washington died in 1752, young George came in line to inherit his half-brother's estate, Mount Vernon. [*A side note here .... When Lawrence inherited Mount Vernon, it was called Little Hunting Creek Farm. Lawrence renamed it after Admiral Edward Vernon with whom he had served in the British Navy.*] The death of his beloved half-brother opened another door to the future for George. Lawrence had held the post of adjutant in the colonial militia. This was a full-time salaried appointment, carrying the rank of major, and involved the inspection, mustering, and regulation of various militia companies. Washington seems to have been confident he could make an efficient adjutant though he was then without military experience. In November 1752, at the age of 20 he was appointed adjutant of the southern district of Virginia by Governor Robert Dinwiddie.

The years 1751-52 marked a turning point in Washington's life, for they placed him in control of Mount Vernon. His half-brother Lawrence, stricken by tuberculosis, went to Barbados in 1751 for his health, taking George along. In July of the next year, Lawrence died, making George executor and residuary heir of his estate. Washington, at the age of 20, became head of one of the largest Virginia estates. He always thought farming the "most delectable" of pursuits. "It is honorable," he wrote, "it is amusing, and, with superior judgment, it is profitable." And of all the spots for farming, he thought Mount Vernon the best. "No estate in United America," he assured an English correspondent, "is more pleasantly situated than this." His greatest pride in later days was to be regarded as the first farmer of the land.

The Father of His Country was not always that stellar commander and stern first president who gazes serenely from the famous portraits we have of him. George Washington was once, in fact, a proud, ambitious, and sometimes foolhardy young man whose brashness triggered a major war between the superpowers of his time.

During the following summer, Virginia was alarmed by reports that a French expedition from Canada was establishing posts on the headwaters of the Ohio River and seeking to make treaties with the Native American peoples.

Governor Dinwiddie received orders from Britain to demand an immediate French withdrawal, and Major Washington promptly volunteered to carry the governor's message to the French commander. His ambition at this time was to secure royal preference for a commission in the regular British army, and this expedition promised to bring him to the king's attention.

Using Washington's diaries as a source, we can tell the story of George's uneven beginning steps into greatness. With French and British facing off for control of North America, the 21-year-old Virginian took on military responsibilities far beyond his ability. Sent to warn the French out of the Ohio Valley, he wound up ambushing them in peacetime, being nearly wiped out in return, and being branded as an "assassin."

Washington delivered Gov. Dinwiddie's demand that the French vacate the territory claimed by the British. The answer was polite but firm: The French were there to stay. Returning to Williamsburg, Washington delivered this word to the governor in mid-January 1754, having made a hard wilderness journey of more than 1000 miles in less than three months. With his report, he submitted a map of his route and a strong recommendation that an English fort be erected at the forks of the Ohio as quickly as possible, before the French returned to that strategic position in the spring.

Governor Dinwiddie, who was himself a large stockholder in companies exploiting western lands, acted promptly on this suggestion. He sent William Trent with a small force to start building the fort. Major Washington was to raise a column of 200 men to follow and reinforce the advance party.

He was with Braddock when that British general's force was nearly annihilated; later, he struggled to maintain discipline over his militia, while he argued with his superiors to the point of insubordination, both about battle tactics and to the preferment's of rank.

In October 1758, Colonel Washington led his Virginia troops as part of the successful Forbes expedition to capture the French at Fort Duquesne. The fall of Fort Duquesne in November 1758 removed much of the threat from the Virginia frontier.

In December, Col. Washington retired from the Regiment and turned his thoughts toward Mount Vernon and his coming marriage to Martha Custis. Thus ended a period of ten years (1748-1758) when Washington had learned the lessons of manhood and leadership.

These ten years that Washington spent on the Virginia frontier were among the most crucial, formative years of his life. His experiences during this time of learning, leadership and achievement prepared him for the coming years of the Revolution, and the establishment of our Republic and the greater challenges that lay ahead both for himself personally and for his country.

As a planter at Mt. Vernon, Washington showed eager interest in improving the productivity of his fields and the quality of his livestock. He read all available works on progressive agriculture and constantly experimented in crop rotation. He invested in new implements and used new methods and fertilizers. He found that planting only tobacco, the chief cash crop of Virginia, did not pay. It was too dependent on the weather, the state of the British market, and the honesty of the British agents who managed the overseas end of the transactions. He decreased his tobacco production and

developed fisheries, increased his production of wheat, set up a mill and an ironworks, and taught his slaves cloth weaving and other handicrafts.

During his years as a gentleman farmer, Washington matured from an ambitious youth into the patriarch of the Washington clan and a solid member of Virginia society. He remained somewhat shy and reserved throughout his life. He was sensitive and emotional, with a violent temper that he usually held firmly in check. But most of all he was a man of great personal dignity.

His connection with the wealthy and powerful Fairfax family, through his half-brother Lawrence's marriage, perhaps as much as his own energies, made him a wealthy landowner and, from 1759 to 1774, a member of the House of Burgesses, the lower chamber of the Virginia legislature. In all, as Washington prospered and his responsibilities grew, his character was enriched and grew to keep pace.

George Washington always had courage and great ambition. What he learned as a young man was how to deal with the Indian allies, fight in the woods, keep control of troops, provision his men, and most of all curb his fiery temper. These were the things that would pave his way to greatness seventeen years later when he was called to lead the Continental Army into battle and lead a new nation into greatness.

His courage, loyalty, devotion to duty, and determination to succeed are timeless virtues, as relevant to modern life as they were two hundred and fifty years ago.

I would like to close my remarks by reading a letter our Illustrious Brother wrote on January 3, 1792, to the Masons in York, Pennsylvania:

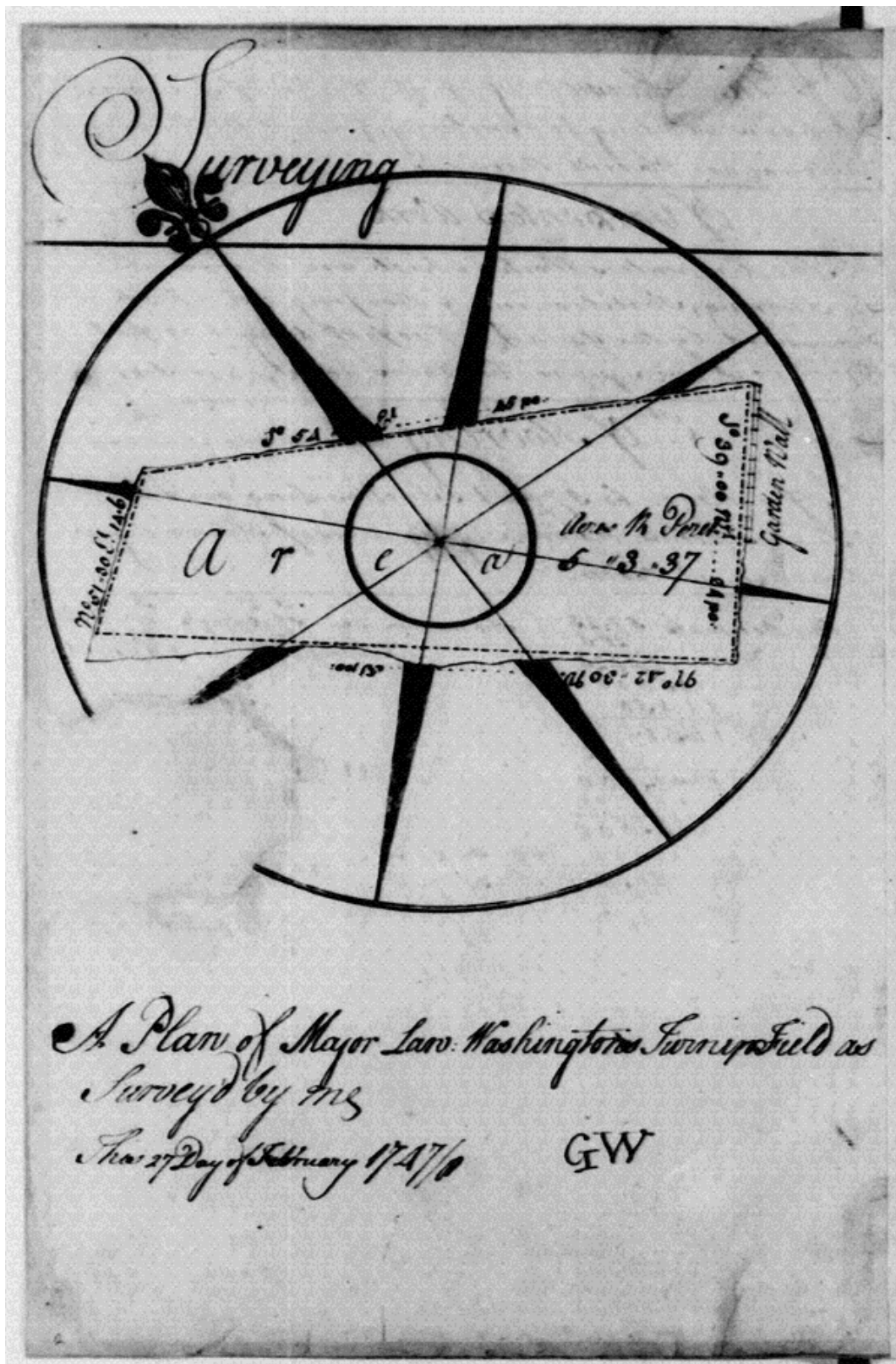
*Gentlemen & Brothers,*

*I receive your kind congratulations with the purest sensations of fraternal affection; and from a heart deeply impressed with your generous wishes for my present and future happiness, I beg you to accept my thanks.*

*At the same time, I request you will be assured of my best wishes and earnest prayers for your happiness while you remain in this terrestrial mansion and that we may hereafter meet as brethren in the eternal Temple of the Supreme Architect.*

*G. Washington*





“A Plan of Major Lawrence Washington’s Turnip Field as Surveyed by me this 27 Day of February 1747”  
(George was 15)