George Washington activities kick off this Thursday

ROMNEY — Hampshire County Commissioners Monday signed a proclamation declaring Thursday, April 8, George Washington Day in Hampshire County.

The proclamation states that:

Whereas, on the 8th day of April, in the year of 1748, George Washington first came to Hampshire County to assist in the surveying of Lord Fairfax's vast Northern Neck Proprietary that encompassed all of Hampshire County (then Frederick County), and,

Whereas, Mr. Washington returned as a licensed surveyor the next year to continue surveying land for our early settlers through 1752, and,

Whereas, Colonel Washington, as the commander of the Virginia Regiment, was responsible for the erection and manning of forts in Hampshire County and for the safety and security of our early settlers during the French and Indian War, a most trying time in our history, and,

Whereas, the exemplary character of George Washington continues to be a guide for our citizens today, just as many of his boundary lines continue to mark our land,

Therefore, be it resolved that Thursday, April 8, 1999, be proclaimed George Washington Day in Hampshire County, West Virginia, and,

Be it further resolved that all citizens of Hampshire County endeavor to increase in knowledge of the contributions of this great man to our national life and character that they may find encouragement to selfless contributions of time and talents to the betterment of our community, and,

Be it further resolved that our citizens be encouraged to participate in activities during this 1999 George Washington Bicentennial year in order that we may evidence to all America the role played by Hampshire County during the crucial years of George Washington's early adulthood and his first military experience on our frontier.

Given under our hands and seal this Fifth day of April, in the year of our Lord, One Thousand, Nine Hundred and Ninety-nine, at Romney, West Virginia.

And the proclamation is signed by Commissioners John D. Sitar, E. Gary Stahlholtz and O. Grady Bradfield.

Activities Scheduled

- Promulgation of Proclamation at the courthouse in Romney at 10:30 a.m.
- Hampshire County Commission President John Dan Sitar will read the proclamation and Charles Hall will speak on the importance of the Bicentennial celebration.
- The American Legion will supply a color guard for the U.S. Flag from Mount Vernon and the Romney Women's Club will provide refreshments.
- Photo opportunities with George Washington will be held at the Mytinger House on Gravel Lane and the Hampshire County Library will begin at 11:15 a.m.
- At 1:15 p.m., General Washington will visit Slanesville Elementary School and at 3 p.m., he will visit the Christian Home Educators of Hampshire County group assembled at the Augusta Church of the Brethren.

At 4:30 p.m., Mr. Washington revisits one of his survey lines in the Capon Bridge area as the final activity of the day.

For further information, contact Charles Hall at 822-4655.

April 1999
Proclamation

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John D. Sitar
President of the Commission

O. Grady Bradford
Commissioner

E. Garry Stansfield
Commissioner
Groups putting on Washington exhibit get grant

By Charlotte J. Eller

The sponsors of an exhibit highlighting George Washington's impact on the Virginia frontier in the mid-1700s have received a state grant for the retrospective during the 250th anniversary of the first president's death.

The $5,000 grant from the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities will help pay for the displays, the cases in which they will be housed and other exhibit items at the Kurtz Cultural Center, Preservation of Historic Winchester Executive Director Anna G. Thomason said at a news conference Wednesday.

The preservation group is co-sponsoring the exhibit, "George Washington and the Virginia Frontier: The Surveys, the Settlers and the Forts," with the Fort Edwards Foundation, a Capon Bridge, W.Va.-based nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving the remains of a fort Washington commanded during the French and Indian War.

"We are very pleased to have a partnership with the Fort Edwards Foundation and to be able to do a project like this at the Kurtz center," Ms. Thomason said. "It's certainly what we envisioned the Kurtz Building doing for this community."

The exhibit, including original maps, documents and artifacts from frontier forts during the Colonial period, will open in March and continue through September. It will be designed and installed by volunteers, many of whom are experienced historians, Ms. Thomason said. Admission will be free.

Artifacts will include remnants of fine pottery, smoking pipes and bullets, discovered in a long-buried trash disposal site used by Colonial settlers.

The exhibit, along with the renovated George Washington's Office Museum and Glen Burnie, all in Winchester, where Washington came as a 16-year-old and lived for a decade, will be featured on a statewide driving tour, The Footsteps of Washington.

The Virginia Tourism Corp. planned the tour with organizations throughout the state as part of a nationwide, yearlong observance of the bicentennial of Washington's death.

Co-curators of the exhibit will be foundation board members Robert R. Mushke and Charles C. Hall, who also is chairman of the Fort Edwards Bicentennial Committee and a historian.

Hall and Ms. Mushke said the Hampshire County, W.Va., fort was part of a chain of frontier forts Washington used from 1754 to 1766 to protect Colonial Virginia from the French, who were fighting the British over the lands to the west, both nations claimed.

In that war, Washington learned to fight Indian fashion, using guerilla warfare tactics that served him in good stead when he led troops in the American Revolution, Hall said.

Having the exhibit in Winchester is fitting, he said.

"We are not just talking about Fort Edwards. We are talking about George Washington's Virginia frontier," he said. "Winchester was the beginning of the frontier. It was the last town west. It was the base of operations that Washington used during this period. Fort Loudoun (in Winchester) was his headquarters."

All that remains of Fort Edwards are its exterior walls, which were discovered in a 1990 archaeological dig, Ms. Mushke said.

"It's impossible to know what it looked like," Hall said.

A major archaeological dig is being planned to discover the fort's exact size, and a visitors center will be built at the fort in the next couple of years, funded with a $250,000 grant from West Virginia, the curators said.

Charles C. Hall, a co-curator of the George Washington exhibit, explains the exhibit's logo Wednesday. The exhibit, including original maps, documents and artifacts from frontier forts during the Colonial period, will open in March and continue through September.
Kurtz Details Its Exhibit on Washington's Time Here

By J. PAUL SANDEFUR
The Winchester Star

Just the mention of his name brings distinct images to mind.

But long before he fathered a nation, George Washington was an ambitious young army officer whose leadership and battle tactics saved Virginia from being overrun by the French.

In a time when Frederick County marked the western border of America's frontier, Washington commanded Virginia's frontier militia, the only force opposing France's effort to capture colonial Virginia territory during the French and Indian War.

Those formidable years in Washington's life will be the focus of a special exhibition that is part of a nationwide celebration of the 200th anniversary of George Washington's death.

At a press conference Wednesday at the Kurtz Cultural Center, Preservation of Historic Winchester Executive Director Anna Thomson announced the opening of a new exhibit that is part of this cel-
Kurtz

...ebration.

Beginning March 1 in the Taylor Gallery at the Kurtz Cultural Center at 2 N. Cameron St., "George Washington & the Virginia Frontier: The Surveys, the Settlers, & the Forts" will explore how Washington's experiences in Winchester and the frontier of Frederick County helped forge his character into that of a formidable leader.

The exhibit is co-sponsored by PHW and the Fort Edwards Foundation (FEF), a non-profit organization dedicated to interpreting and preserving the remains of a colonial fort near Capon Bridge, W.Va.

Open through Oct. 31, it will feature a wide range of activities — lectures, workshops, tours, and a children's summer camp — to highlight Washington's history in the area.

The exhibit will include some of Washington's original documents, as well as artifacts from the first archeological dig at Fort Edwards in 1990.

These artifacts include refined ceramics and lead bullets from a trash pile found at the site.

FEF was founded three years ago to preserve the site of the colonial fort.

According to FEF co-curators Charles C. Hall and Roberta R. Munske, Washington designed a chain of forts from Cumberland, Md., to the Virginia-North Carolina border to defend Virginia from invading French and Native American forces.

Fort Edwards, the site of which is located about a half mile west of Capon Bridge, was one of Washington's forts, Hall said.

Munske, a retired federal employee with the Defense Mapping Agency, and Hall, a farmer, said that although the fort is now just an empty field, the dig revealed stains in the ground from sections of the log walls that comprised the fort.

Munske said the exact dimensions of Fort Edwards are unknown because no drawings of the structure survive.

However, there's no doubt about its existence.

"Washington wrote letters in which Fort Edwards was referred to," she said.

Hall said Fort Edwards was an important post on the main mili-
which Fort Edwards was referred to," she said.

Hall said Fort Edwards was an important post on the main military supply line running south through Virginia.

The fort was especially critical to safe travel through the 17 miles of rugged terrain between Winchester and the fort, Hall said.

Using Winchester as his headquarters during the two-and-a-half year conflict, Hall said Washington had sole responsibility of defending Virginia from August 1755 until 1758, when the French forces were driven back to Quebec.

The site of Fort Edwards is currently closed to the public, but Munske said FEF recently received a $250,000 grant from the state of West Virginia to build a visitor center there, a project that may take a couple of years.

But you won't have to wait that long to learn about the fort.

FEF is spearheading the focus of the Washington exhibit and plans to display a great deal concerning their knowledge of Fort Edwards.

Although FEF will be setting up the exhibit, Thomson said PHW is pleased to help coordinate the event.

"It's what we envisioned the Kurtz Cultural Center to do for this community," she said.

Thomson said PHW has received a $5,000 grant from the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities to help fund the exhibit.

Despite this, the event is largely a volunteer effort, with more money needed to be raised to fund the project.

The exhibition will be free to the public.
A day in the life of young George

MICHAEL O'BRIEN
REVIEW STAFF

CAPON BRIDGE — George Washington visited Capon Bridge 250 years ago last Friday.
Those attending the gathering at the Capon Bridge Library observing that historic date got a crash course in two things: the inner workings or character of a young George Washington and the history of land surveying.

Evidently, our Founding Father kept a journal. Those familiar with his journal entries probably could better appreciate the accolades paid to young Washington during the Capon Bridge event.

And, for the lesser educated, the "I Cannot Tell A Lie" folklore about Washington received a bit of substantiation and affirmation.

It seems our first president at a young age was a man made of the "right stuff."
Local Colonial history buff Charlie Hall, in his presentation at the library, was more eloquent in his description of the personality characteristics of Washington.

According to Hall, young Washington watched, listened, questioned and learned. And probably tackling the most difficult challenge to humankind: He learned from his mistakes.

"When he came here (to Hampshire County) he began that road to adulthood that would lead him to the..."
pinnacle of American history," said Hall.

Washington came to Hampshire County in 1748 at the age of 16 as part of a survey crew. Back in those days Hampshire County and the South Branch River region were divided into land groupings called "manors."

The manors were owned by Lord Fairfax, or to be more historically accurate, Fairfax of Cameron, Thomas Fairfax, 6th Baron, according to The New American Desk Encyclopedia.

Lord Fairfax owned about five million acres "between the Rappahannock River and Potomac rivers."

Washington was a friend of Lord Fairfax’s cousin, William Fairfax.

It was with William Fairfax and surveyor James Genn that young Washington first traveled to and through Hampshire County.

Genn’s crew surveyed lots along Patterson’s Creek, the South Branch and below the Trough.

A journal entry noted that on April 10, 1748, Washington and Fairfax left Genn’s survey crew, spent the night in Romney and "travelled over Hills and Mountains ... to Coddys on Great Cappehaw ... about 40 miles."

These days the Capon Bridge Library is located on property that was once part of the Colonial Coddys or Caudy’s tract of land.

It is uncertain where the original James Caudy house was located on the tract, but Washington and Fairfax on April 10 spent the night at the house and left for Winchester the next day.

The years after

In the several years following his 1748 visit, after becoming a commissioned surveyor, Washington returned to Hampshire County.

"He came here to practice what he thought would be his life’s profession," explained Hall.

event, say plans are in the works for Hampshire County to be part of that nationwide celebration.

Hall and Munske are also members of the Fort Edward’s Foundation.

The foundation is a volunteer group committed to the historic preservation of the French and Indian War site in Capon Bridge known as Fort Edwards.

The fort was erected on the Joseph Edwards’ property. Edwards was a neighbor of James Caudy.

The fort was one of a series of frontier fortifications that were constructed upon instructions from French and Indian War Colonel George Washington.

Benchmark

So, where does the crash course in land surveying come in?

After Hall’s talk, Scott Marsh of the Virginia Association of Surveyors provided a brief history of land surveying, which dates back, to Egyptian times, furthered by the Capon Bridge Library, it also serves as a commemorative installation to mark Washington’s overnight stay.

The Washington benchmark in Capon Bridge is also the second in a planned series of benchmarks to be installed as part of the Washington observance.

The first was installed at Abram’s Delight in Winchester, Va.

Abram’s Delight is the oldest standing house in Winchester and serves as a museum and welcome center in its present-day capacity, explained Judge Robert K. Woltz, president of the Winchester-Frederick County Historical Society.

Judge Woltz attended the Capon Bridge event.

Library collection

Those Hampshire Countians wanting to learn more about George Washington and/or Colonial Hampshire County need only visit the collection of books at the Capon Bridge Library. It is also the second in a planned series of benchmarks to be installed as part of the Washington observance.

The Washington benchmark in Capon Bridge is also the second in a planned series of benchmarks to be installed as part of the Washington observance.

Part of each Friday’s event was a ribbon-cutting ceremony to initiate and promote the use of the collection.

Also, it is hoped that the collection will grow. Residents interested in making monetary or book donations to the collection may contact Capon Bridge Librarian Kathy Haines at 856-3777 or Roberta Munske at 856-3019.

A special book plate will be placed in each book to recognize the donor. Books may also be donated in memory of a loved one, or as a special birthday remembrance, said Haines and Munske.
The years after
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1748 visit, after becoming a
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on returned to Hampshire County.
“He came here to practice what
he thought would be his life’s
profession,” explained Hall.

Events like the French and Indian
War and the Revolutionary War
changed Washington’s career plans.

But the seeds were planted in
young Washington to enable him to
harness personal strength and wis-
dom to be a leader of a young
nation, said Hall.

Some of those seeds came from
his experiences in Hampshire
County.

Next year, a national observance
is planned to celebrate the life and
times of George Washington.

Hall and Roberta Munske, the
two key organizers of last Friday’s

Benchmark

So, where does the crash course
in land surveying come in?

After Hall’s talk, Scot Marsh of
the Virginia Associations of
Surveyors provided a brief history
of land surveying, which dates back
to Egyptian times, furthered by
Roman mathematics and 18th and
19th century technical thinking.

Marsh’s presentation was a lead
into inviting those attending the
gathering to walk to a grassy area
outside the library along U.S. Route
50.

There, in the ground, was a
recently placed surveyor’s brass
disk-shaped benchmark.

Benchmarks are used to indicate
the elevation of a given location and
provide a topographical reference
point.

In the case of the benchmark at

BENCHMARK FOR HISTORY — Members of the Potomac Valley chap-
ter of the West Virginia Surveyors Association assisted in the place-
ment of a benchmark in commemoration of George Washington’s
first visit to Hampshire County 250 years ago. Pictured from the left are
Charles Wells, Curtis Keplinger, Scot Marsh (of the Virginia Association
of Surveyors), Rickie Davy and, kneeling, Andy Wilkins.
Supporting the Bicentennial

ROMNEY — The First National Bank of Romney and The Bank of Romney are the first two businesses in Hampshire County to display the Proclamation promulgated by the Hampshire County Commission concerning the 1999 George Washington Bicentennial. Pictured in the top photo are Mr. Walter Layman, President of the First National Bank of Romney and Mr. Ken Edmonds, President of The Fort Edwards Foundation.

Above photo shows: Mr. Lawrence Foley of The Bank of Romney. It is hoped that all citizens will note the Proclamation’s admonition: “Be it further resolved that our citizens be encouraged to participate in activities during this 1999 George Washington Bicentennial year in order that we may evidence to all America the role played by Hampshire County during the crucial years of George Washington’s early adulthood and his first military experience on our frontier.” Any business that is interested in displaying the Proclamation should contact Charles Hall 822-4655.
George Washington’s life to be featured weekly

During 1999 the United States of America will have a national celebration honoring George Washington, “The Father of Our Country.” This two hundredth anniversary of the death of our first president and Revolutionary War Commander is a great opportunity for us to participate in memorializing not only the man, but also the qualities of honor, courage, selflessness and perseverance that made General Washington’s name a household word around the world, even in his day.

West Virginia played an important part both in the formative years of George Washington’s life and in his plans to extend our country's frontier while increasing his own land holdings. Our state was both the cradle that nurtured and the cauldron that forged the qualities of leadership so important in his later life. He came to our verdant valleys and rugged mountains in his adolescence and learned of the beauty and fertility of what was then the frontier and of the hardiness of the people who settled here. He returned a the young commander of the Virginia Regiment to experience the horror and frustrations of the French and Indian War and to develop the qualities of leadership that served him so well later in the Revolutionary War. His military service earned him the right to ownership of vast tracts of western lands, some of them in our western counties along the Ohio River.

It was the experience of Col. Washington and his contemporaries in the French and Indian War that proved to the Colonists they could stand up to any military power. It was the opening of the lands along the Ohio River that initiated the great westward movement that extended our borders to the Pacific Ocean and created the seeds of our notion of America’s “manifest destiny.” It was George Washington’s qualities of leadership that placed him in a position to guide the other great men of the time to create our unique and innovative forms of democratic government.

This column is part of our celebration of the Bicentennial. Each week the column will highlight dates in Mr. Washington’s life. Some dates will deal directly with activities in and around Hampshire County; other dates will relate to the Revolution or the years of his presidency. Some might simply deal with his life as a husband and farmer. Hopefully, the reader might be encouraged to further study the life and times of this great man. Hampshire County can still be the fertile ground for forming men and women of character and integrity who will leave a lasting shadow upon this community and upon our nation.

For those who are interested in further study, our two libraries have many books on George Washington and his times. The Capon Bridge Library has a special collection dedicated to the Bicentennial celebration. For those who have access to the Internet, the Bicentennial homepage will be www.gwashington1999.org. Bicentennial activities in the county will begin in April and run until October coinciding with two important dates of George Washington’s visits to Hampshire County.
A stately visit

ROMNEY — General George Washington made another visit to Hampshire County last week. This time he stopped at Romney Elementary School. The reenactor visited the school as part of a celebration of the George Washington Bicentennial. It was 200 years ago on April 8 that George Washington first came to Hampshire County as a surveyor.

Washington sat casually in his rocking chair last Friday and talked to the elementary school students about his life and his many contributions to history, including becoming the first president of the United States.

Pictured with Mr. Washington is (LEFT TO RIGHT) third-grade teacher Mrs. Tamela Coyle, and third-grade students Holly Vance and Julie Ritz. The two girls are students in Miss Mayhew's class.
Historical society picks George Washington log house

The year 1999 is filled with special events and ceremonies remembering our first President George Washington on the 200th anniversary of his death. It seems fitting for the Hampshire County Historical Society to select a structure for the 1999 “Christmas In Old Hampshire” series which has a connection to this historical figure. Although the log house is no longer standing and is a deviation from the group’s usual procedure of choosing an existing dwelling, documentation and a likeness of the cabin are proof of its existence. “The Truth,” Volume 4, May 1940, a magazine published by the Romney parish of Baptist churches, contains a photograph and a short article detailing George Washington’s overnight stay in Romney, Virginia. The information was supplied by Mrs. Jewel Rannells of Romney while Janet Hartlow, a county artist, produced the artwork for the ornament. An 8 x 10 print, suitable for framing, is available from the Fort Edwards Foundation and is also Janet’s work.

As a young lad of sixteen, George Washington visited Hampshire County surveying under the employment of Lord Fairfax who claimed large tracts of land west of the Blue Ridge. Prior to 1749 surveying in the Romney area was done by James Bean for Lord Fairfax. In 1748, Washington was working on Patterson’s Creek and along the South Branch below “The Trough.”

Washington traveled this way again in the autumn of 1753, carrying a message from Governor Dinwiddie of Virginia to the Frenchmen requesting they withdraw from the much-contented Forks of the Ohio. When the French refused, Virginia gathered a force of 400 settlers to drive them out. While waiting for the arrival of these troops, Washington stayed overnight at Job Peartail’s on April 19, 1754. He was defeated by an overwhelming number of French and Indians. The ensuing professional struggle with the French and Indians caused settlers to flee Hampshire County in large numbers until hostilities ceased.

Again on October 9, 1770, Washington traveled to Romney, remained overnight in a log cabin belonging to Colonel George Wilson and then ventured west the next day to examine lands along the Monongahela and Kanawha rivers. His journals are filled with references to people, places, and the geography of the region.

The dwelling in which Washington spent the night was designated number 48 on the 1790 plat of Romney and was the property of several owners over the years. The first owner was Lord Thomas Fairfax who in 1762 had the area near Peartail’s Flat laid off into streets, alleys and blocks. Soon afterwards on May 16, 1763, Fairfax bestowed the lot to Colonel George Wilson. In Col. Wilson’s will he indicated the property was purchased from him by Hugh Murphy and also that there was an existing house on the lot. This structure was undoubtedly the Mytinger House. On the corner of that same lot at the intersection of gravel Lane and Marsham Street stood a log cabin. It was in this abode that George Washington spent the night on October 9, 1770. Washington described Col. Wilson as brave and active in a dispatch to the House of Burgesses. The relationship between the two soldiers probably evolved during the days of the French and Indian War and at Fort Cumberland.

Colonel Wilson died of pleurisy during February 1777, leaving the property to his daughter Elizabeth Kincade, wife of Samuel Kincade.

The Kincades, who were living in Fayette County, sold the lot to Elizabeth’s sister and brother-in-law, Andrew and Mary Ann Woodrow, for twelve pounds, five shillings on May 4, 1788. The parcel remained in the hands of Andrew and Mary Woodrow for over 30 years. Executors of the estate of Andrew Woodrow, James Dailey and Andrew Woodrow Jr., transferred ownership of lot 48 to John McDowell on November 17, 1818. Owning the property for one day, John McDowell and his wife sold it to Charles T. McGill for the sum of fifteen hundred dollars on November 18, 1818.

Charles and Mary D. McGill owned the property for nearly 13 years. In October 1831 Washington G. Williams of Lenoir purchased it for one thousand dollars. Williams and his wife Jane held title to the lot until April 16, 1832, when they sold it to Moses McClinton for the sum of one dollar. Mr. and Mrs. McClinton owned the lot for over nine years until it was purchased by Dr. John M. Snyder on July 21, 1841, for fourteen hundred dollars. Dr. Snyder probably purchased the property to be his home and his office. A separate office and a location on the main street in town would have made this a convenient place to practice medicine. Dr. Snyder and his wife Lavina sold the property to Neal Allen on December 9, 1858, for twelve hundred dollars. Allen purchased the property on credit providing among other securities a two-year bond from John G. Allen, C.W. Doll, and Joshua Hamrick. He also agreed to make a “good buggy” for the Snyders. Presumably, Allen was not able to conclude the business arrangement as he had planned. On Tuesday, May 13, 1861, he and his wife Susan sold their interest in the lot to Tobias Mytinger for one dollar. Fort Sumter had been fired on one month before, and Virginia Governor John Letcher had called out the State Militia for the defense against northern aggression. It is not known whether Allen accompanied the first wave of southern troops who left Hampshire County five days later on Sunday, May 18, 1861, or if he decided to head north. His wife and first child were born in Pennsylvania, and he was well past military age. The urgency of the times played a significant role in his forfeiture of Lot 48. If Allen did leave, he returned after the war as his name appears on the Hampshire County Census of Manufacturers for the year 1870. Tobias Mytinger, however, retained the property.

On October 9, 1999, two hundred years after Washington’s last visit to Hampshire County, county executive Don DeHaven will visit lot 48 and the Mytinger House in Romney. This event sponsored by the Fort Edwards Foundation is open to all. Please be patient to see and hear a voice from our past.

This year the signed, limited edition Christmas ornament will be displayed and sold during the Hampshire County Fair and Hampshire County Heritage Days by the Hampshire County Historical Society.

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Local Masons Remember Most Famous Brother
20-Year-Old George Washington Became Member of Group in 1752

By Brian C. Brehm
The Winchester Star

Before he became America's first president.
Before he was elected to be the Frederick County representative in the Virginia House of Burgesses...
Before he defended Virginia's western frontier in the French and Indian War...

Before all this, George Washington was a poorly educated teen-ager, surveying land for Thomas Lord Fairfax in the northern Shenandoah Valley.

Today is Washington's 267th birthday.

Also, 1999 marks the bicentennial of Washington's death.

As the bicentennial of Washington's career in the United States approaches, the celebrations of Washington's legacy comes a message from noted historian Charles Hall, co-curator of the Fort Edwards restoration project in Cople Springs, Va.

"I think the residents of old Frederick County and Hampshire County (W.Va.) should stand up and let it be known that the 10 most crucial, formative years of Washington's life happened right here."

Hall spoke Sunday at the Winchester Masonic Lodge during a program on Washington's early years in and around Fredericktown (the original name of Winchester).

About 75 people crowded into Hiram Lodge No. 121 on the Loudoun Street Mall to hear Hall describe Washington's ascension from youth to leader of Virginia's expansive western boundary.

Prior to Hall's address, retired Circuit Court Judge Robert K. Waltz discussed the 16-year-old Washington's arrival in Fredericktown in 1764.

During the young surveyor's subsequent 10-year residence, Waltz said Washington offered "outstanding indications of the man he was, and the great accomplishments he would have in the future."

"He started his vocation as a surveyor. He started his military career. He started his political career. Finally, he laid the foundation for his wealth — he was one of the richest men in America — by buying land around here," Waltz said.

"George Washington had, in his heart and in his mind at all times, the principals of a Freemason," said Winchester Masonic Lodge officer William C. Copahaver.

"George followed a set of 110 rules of civility," said Copahaver. Included among these rules were, "It is better to be alone than in bad company," and, "Think before you speak."

At the age of 20, Copahaver said the Masons also teach those rules, along with friendship, morality, brotherly love, charity, and faith in a supreme being. Copahaver said those were the same principals cherished by Washington.
said, Washington became a member of the Masons. However, since the Winchester Masonic Charter was not issued until 1768 — 16 years after Washington joined the organization — Washington was initiated at a Masonic Lodge in Fredericksburg.

Copenhaver said Washington viewed the Masons as “the only organization that gave any sense of community, brotherhood, charity, and temperance.”

Hall said Washington relied on those values as he matured and grew into the man honored by countless historians.

Washington’s first true test as a military leader, Hall said, came in 1754, when the English and French governments were embroiled in a territorial dispute over the unexplored American frontier west of the Blue Ridge mountains.

Col. George Washington and 40 of his militia members engaged in a skirmish with several French soldiers. During the brief battle, a French officer was killed.

Hall said Washington realized that his actions would inevitably lead to war.

In 1756, during the ensuing French and Indian War, Virginia Gov. Robert Dinwiddie assigned Washington the task of building a line of defensive forts along Virginia’s western edge — from what is now Cumberland, Md., to the North Carolina border.

Up until that point, Hall said, the French had been holding the upper hand in their war against the English colonists. However, Washington’s forts brought a halt to the bloody French and Indian raids into Virginia.

Hall said Washington’s accomplishments helped forged an America that eventually won its independence from the British crown.

“George Washington faced tests of courage that most of us would fail. This is a man who learned about life from every opportunity. He never made the same mistake twice,” Hall said.

“We should be asking the question that he asked ‘What can I do to be a better person?’”
Summer art camp marks third year

MICHAEL O'BRIEN
REVIEW-NEWS

ROMNEY — For the third consecutive year,a group of Hampshire County children explored the creative side of things by attending the week-long Summer Arts Camp. The camp is sponsored by the Hampshire County Arts Council.

Luckily this year the camp was held in the air-conditioned environs of the West Virginia School for the Blind. Also, the camp this year came with a special theme: A celebration and observance of the life and times of George Washington.

The kids went on a hands-on adventure into the Colonial world of music, art, and crafts.

Calligraphy, wool braiding, book illustration, bead work, stenciling, metal punch and stenciling were among the many camp activities.

This year Nancy Joel of Romney coordinated the camp.

Also volunteering their time and talents were Janet Harlow, Patti Perry, Ann Warner, Robin Pancake, Jade Stone and Dottie Edis.

See more photos page 8A.

RECOGNITION — Fort Edwards Foundation member Charlie Hall presented each art camp participant a commendation for observing the George Washington Bicentennial. Janet Harlow looks on as Hope Lands receives the award from Hall.
George visited
But he didn’t spend the night

SLANESVILLE — General George Washington, who went on to become the first president of the United States, paid a visit to Hampshire County last Thursday. Actually, the reenactor helped in celebrating George Washington Day in Hampshire County. Washington made stops at the courthouse, the Mytinger House, the Hampshire County Public Library and the Slanesville Elementary School as well as visited a group of home school students. For more information and pictures, see page 3.
George Washington Bicentennial officially closes

ROMNEY — On Saturday, October 9, the 1999 George Washington Bicentennial celebration was officially closed in Hampshire County. Although activities will continue across the United States during the rest of the calendar year, the celebration was confined in Hampshire County from April 9, the anniversary of Mr. Washington's first visit to the county in 1746, to October 9, the anniversary of Mr. Washington’s last visit to Romney and the county in 1770.

A short ceremony was held at the Mytinger House on Gravel Lane in Romney at 11 a.m. The center section of this building was standing when Mr. Washington spent the night in a cabin next door. In the afternoon, Mr. Washington gathered with some of Hampshire County’s more senior citizens at Hampshire Health Care Center to reminisce about earlier times and the importance of passing on our history and traditions to the coming generations.

Both of the day’s events were sponsored by The Fort Edwards Foundation with the assistance of Hampshire County Boy Scout Troop 32.

Residents of the Hampshire Health Care Center reminisce with Fort Edwards Foundation member, Charles Hall, about their memories of earlier times.

George Washington reenactor, Don Dehavan, addresses the citizens of Hampshire County who welcomed him to the Mytinger House on the anniversary of Mr. Washington’s last visit to Romney with Dr. James Cook in 1770.

Augusta Vol. Fire Company
1st Prize—Remington 700 BDL SS DM 300 Wby Mag.
2nd Prize—Remington 700 BDL 243
3rd Prize—T/C Black Diamond SS 50 cal. (in-line)
4th Prize—Marlin 882 SS .22 Mag
5th Prize—500 yard Bushnell Range Finder
6th Prize—Buck Knife

Augusta Vol. Fire Company would like to thank the following sponsors:
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