



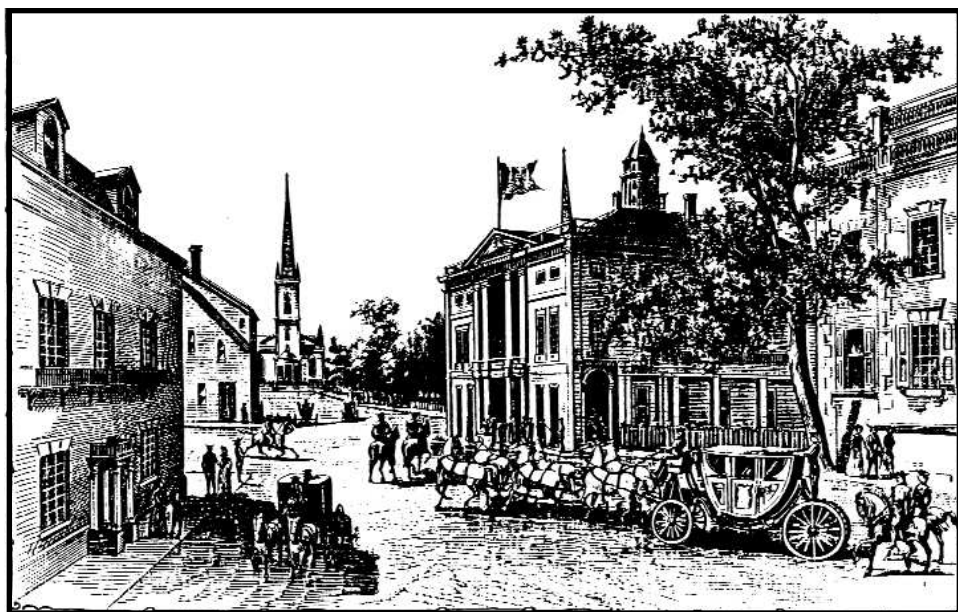
The Masonic Philatelist

A QUARTERLY

VOL. 44

SEPTEMBER 1988

NO. 3



Wall Street in 1780, showing Federal Hall. From an old print.

George Washington
and New York City

The MASONIC PHILATELIST

VOL. 44 NO. 3
SEPTEMBER 1988

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The Masonic Stamp Club of New York was organized in 1934 for the purpose of encouraging research and study in Masonic Philately, and to establish bonds of good fellowship among Masons who are stamp collectors. The need for the organization has proved itself through the years with its ever-increasing membership and the formation of other Masonic stamp clubs in the United States.

The Editor invites all members to submit items of information and articles on the subject of Masonic Philately. Typewritten copy and/or camera ready items will result in the best possible presentation of your material if it is selected for use.

ON THE COVER

April 30th, 1989 will be the 200th Anniversary of the inauguration of George Washington as the first President of the United States.

Today George Washington is as much a reality in spirit as he was when he resided here. Two hundred years have enhanced his name and his place as the first great American. He spent over 700 days of his life in New York City and many more hearby in the Hudson Highlands, New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

George Washington was also a prominent and active Mason. From his Masonic raising in 1753 to his Masonic funeral in 1799 George Washington was a central figure in the many Masonic activities of his day.

Freemasonry's debt to George Washington is beyond compare.

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George Washington and New York City

By Allan Boudreau

The American Lodge of Research — New York City

"Last night Colonel Washington arrived here from Philadelphia" the New York City newspaper *Mercury* reported on February 15, 1756, George Washington's first visit to New York City.

At that time Washington was twenty four years old, six feet three inches tall, an experienced surveyor, a combat seasoned soldier, the squire of Mount Vernon, and a member of the Masonic Lodge in Fredericksburg, Virginia where he was raised a Master Mason on August 4, 1753.

Washington was a world famous author in 1756. *The Journal of Major George Washington*, the account of his mission as emissary from the Governor of Virginia to the Commandant of the French forces in the Ohio Territory, had been printed by the Governor of Virginia and widely distributed.

This small booklet of about seven thousand words had been read throughout the Colonies. Extracts from it were printed in the Colonial newspapers.

Copies were sent to England where it had been reprinted and read by King and Parliament, and the Officers in the British Army, with the result that General Sir Edward Braddock arrived in America with two regiments of British troops to defend the English border.

Parts of *The Journal* were even translated into French, printed in Paris, and used to justify the French occupation of the Ohio Territory, and to portray the British as the aggressors.

Washington survived Braddocks ill-fated advance against the French at Fort Duquesne, where General Braddock was mortally wounded, and most of the senior officers killed or injured by the French and Indians, and even by their own comrades.

Washington, the only surviving officer of rank, after the battle of Monongahela, read the burial service for General Braddock, and supervised the retreat.

George Washington, Colonel of the Virginia Regiment, and the Commander-in-Chief of the frontier militia, made an impressive appearance as he rode through the streets of New York City that winter night.

Garbed in his striking uniform of buff-and-blue, with a brilliant scarlet and white cloak, accompanied by his aides, servants, and all the horses and trappings of a high military command, George Washington created a sensation as he rode northward, across the colonies.

He arrived in New York City by boat, from Perth Amboy, New Jersey, the usual route for travelers coming from the south and west.

He probably arrived at Whitehall Slip, in Manhattan, perhaps stopping at the "Crown and Thistle" a tavern kept by John Thompson, who was familiarly known as "Scotch Johnny." At that time New York City had about ten thousand residents, the City Hall was at 26 Wall Street, on the site now occupied by the Federal Hall National Memorial. Broadway extended only to City Hall Park and was unpaved; muddy in the winter and dusty in the summer.

Washington's host on his first visit to New York City was Beverly Robinson, the son of John Robinson a former President of the Virginia Colony. Beverly Robinson had married Susannah Phillipse in July 1748. Susannah was the oldest of the two sisters of Frederick Phillipse, the third and last Lord of the Manor of Phillipsboro, what is now Putnam County, in New York State.

Washington met Mary Phillipse, the younger sister and co-heiress of Mrs. Robinson. Washington was an admirer of the elegant Miss Phillipse. His account book shows that he spent 73 pounds 18 shillings for horses; three pounds, seven and three for a "Taylors Bill," and smaller amounts for "Servants" and "Treating Ladies to ye Mn" (micricosm). The Microcosm or World in Minature was a structure of scenery in the form of a roman temple within which mechanical devices portrayed various activities, such as birds flying, ships sailing, coaches and chariots racing, and even men at work in a carpenter's yard.

On February 23, 1756 the New York City newspaper *Mercury* reported, "Friday last (February 20) Colonel Washington set out from this City to Boston." No doubt he rode up Bowery Lane to Harlem and Kings Bridge. This was the Boston Post Road used by travelers to the north and east.

The purpose of Washington's journey from Virginia to Boston was to confer with William Shirley, then the British Governor of Massachusetts, and the highest military authority in the British Colonies in America. Maryland had raised a small military force under command of Captain Dagworthy who had seen military service in Canada where he held a King's commission as a Captain. Dagworthy

asserted that, under English Law any regular officer outranked any colonial officer, and that a Captain even outranked a Colonel. General Shirley decided in Washington's favor and he returned to Virginia with a document that concluded, "it is my order that Colonel Washington shall take command of the troops."

George Washington returned to New York City and from March 10 to March 14, 1756 again was a guest of the Robinsons. Mary Philipse married a British Officer, Roger Morris, on January 18, 1758. The Morris home at 160th Street was Washington's Headquarters during the last five weeks he spent in New York City in 1776. This colonial mansion is familiar to present day New Yorkers as the Morris-Jumel Mansion. In 1810 the house became the home of Stephen Jumel, a wealthy French wine merchant, and his wife Eliza Bowen Jume. Stephen died in 1833 and Eliza married Aaron Burr (Eliza was 58 years old and Aaron who had been a United States Senator from New York and the Vice President of the United States under Jefferson was 77) in the front parlor of the mansion. The marriage lasted six months and they were divorced in 1834. Burr died in September 1836 and Madame Jumel lived in the mansion until her death in 1865 at the age of ninety.

In September 1780, Colonel Beverly Robinson sailed up the Hudson River on the British sloop of war, Vulture with Major John Andre to meet General Benedict Arnold and arrange for the surrender of West Point. One of the unaccountable events of the American Revolution is that Major John Andre did not return to New York City with Arnold and Robinson. He remained ashore, removed his uniform, accepted a pass under an assumed name from Arnold, and attempted to return to New York City by land. Andre was captured, the plot uncovered, and West Point and the Hudson Valley saved from British military occupation. Major Andre was executed as a spy on October 2, 1789 near the present site of the George Washington Masonic Shrine at Tappan, New York. Arnold escaped and served during the rest of the war as a British Officer and eventually reached London where he died in 1801.

Washington's third visit to New York City was May 26-31, 1773 to enroll his stepson, John Parke Custis, in Kings College (now Columbia). On route, Washington visited the Governor of Maryland at Annapolis, dined with the Governor of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, and with the Governor of New Jersey, Benjamin Franklin's son William, at Burlington. At Basking Ridge, New Jersey Washington visited with William Alexander, known in America as Lord Stirling by virtue of his claim to the title "Earl of Stirling" not accepted by the House of Lords.

Washington gave President Myles Cooper of Kings College one hundred pounds sterling for his stepsons college expenses and requested him to keep a fatherly eye on the young man. Curtis had a short stay at Kings College. His sister Martha Custis died on June 19, 1773 and Custis returned to Mount Vernon. On February 3, 1774 he married Eleanore Calvert in Virginia.

The Rev. Dr. Myles Cooper was an ardent and vocal Loyalist. He fled to a British ship in 1775 and returned to England.

During this visit to New York City Washington recorded in his diary for the evening of May 26th, "Lodge at a Mr. Farmers" who has never been further identified

On May 27th he attended an entertainment given in honor of General Thomas Gage, then Commander of the British troops in North America, who had served with Washington under general Braddock during the campaign against the Indians in 1755.

On May 28th Washington dined with James DeLancey, the son of Peter DeLancey and Elizabeth Colden, and a business partner of Beverly Robinson. That evening he attended the theater and saw "Hamlet," paying eight shillings for his seat.

On May 29th he dined with Major William Bayard and spent the evening "with the Old Club at Hull's." What was the Old Club? The possibility is that this was a Masonic Lodge meeting as the Lodges in New York City at that time met in Hull's and other taverns.

On May 30th he again dined with General Thomas Gage and "Spent the evening in my room writing."

It is interesting to note that many of the people Washington associated with at this visit to New York City were ardent Loyalists, who would loose all their properties by the Act of Attainder passed by the New York Legislature in 1779.

Washington's fourth visit to New York City was on Sunday, June 25, 1775 as Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army, on his way to Cambridge to take command of the forces besieging Boston. He stepped ashore in New York City at Colonel Leonard Lispenard's, probably near the present Canal Street approach to the Holland Tunnel. He dined with members of the Provincial Congress and moved on to Boston before nightfall. That same evening, the King's Govenor, William Tryon, arrived in New York City on his return from England, after a year's absence.

It was reported that the very men who "pourde out flattery and adulation to the rebel General joined the Governor's train,

welcomed him to the Colony, and hoped he would remain long in government."

On April 13, 1776 Washington entered New York City for the fifth time and established his headquarters at what is now the intersection of Varick and Charlton Streets, some two and one half miles north of the southern tip of Manhattan Island. This house had been the home of Abraham Mortier, the paymaster of the British forces in North America. Martha Washington arrived in New York City later, on April 17th.

Washington's arrival in New York City spurred his Royalist enemies there to action. There were many plots against his reputation and some against his life. A member of his own bodyguard, Thomas Hickey, engaged in a plan to mix paris green, a poisonous green-powder, with Washington's food. The plot was discovered, reportedly by the daughter of Samuel Frauncis. Hickey was hanged for treason on June 28th, 1776, the first of many executions in the Continental Army.

The first weeks preparing for the defense of New York City confirmed Washington's opinion that it would be impossible to successfully defend the city. No Dorchester Heights, as at Boston, where American cannon could make the wharves of the city their target. New York City's miles of shorefront and large number of Royalist sympathizers likely to welcome the British dictated that the Continental Army must retreat into the countryside where they would be better able to resist.

On May 21st Washington set out for Philadelphia, pausing to observe the shores of Staten Island that he could not hope to defend. Martha preceded her husband to Philadelphia, probably arriving there on May 19th, where she underwent inoculation for smallpox. John Hancock had invited the General and Mrs. Washington to stay at his residence while in Philadelphia, and to have Martha inoculated there. Washington was unwilling to subject a host to inconvenience and possible risk. The exact location of Washington's headquarters in Philadelphia has not been ascertained.

Washington spent his time in Philadelphia in consultation with the Congress. On June 3rd, Hancock expressed to Washington the thanks of Congress for "unremitted attention" to his trust and especially for assistance in making plans for the defense of the Colonies. The General was free, Hancock wrote, to return to his headquarters in New York City.

Leaving Martha in Philadelphia, on the 4th of June Washington was off for New York City, where he arrived at one

o'clock in the afternoon of June 6, 1776. Both good news and bad awaited him. Good because all was quiet and progress had been made on the defences. Bad news of a defeat at the Cedars, some thirty miles from Montreal in Canada, the death of General John Thomas from smallpox, and the rumors that Howe's fleet had embarked from Halifax for New York City.

During this period the British Governor William Tryon had established his headquarters on a British ship in the New York harbor where Royalists supplied him with fresh provisions and information on the activities in New York City. Tryon awaited the arrival of the British forces.

On July 9, 1776 Washington received from Philadelphia the resolution of Congress stating that "The United States of America were free and independent and . . . absolved from all allegiances to the British Crown." Washington announced in his general orders that the several brigades are to be drawn up this evening on their respective parades, at six o'clock, when the declaration of Congress, showing the grounds and reasons of this measure, is to be read with audible voice." With the Declaration of Independence the die was cast. That evening the equestrian statue of King George III, at Bowling Green was toppled and broken up with much of the metal carried to Litchfield, Connecticut and melted into bullets.

On July 19th the British man-of-war Eagle arrived in New York harbor with Vice Admiral Lord Richard Howe aboard. Admiral Howe had command of the British fleet in America. His younger brother General William Howe, had replaced General Thomas Gage in May 1775 as Commander of the British troops in North America. The British forces landed unopposed at Staten Island, and later moved to Long Island, landing at Fort Hamilton and Gravesend Bay, locations too far from the American positions for any effective opposition.

On August 28th Washington was on Long Island overseeing the defenses in Brooklyn where the most intensive fighting took place at the Cortelyou House, Fifth Avenue and Third Street, and at Battle Pass, in Prospect Park. After three days of fighting and heavy losses, the estimate being a total of fourteen hundred killed, wounded, missing, and prisoners of war, Washington's Council of War, the seven Generals then engaged in the defense of Brooklyn, determined upon retreat.

Washington hastened across the East River and ordered all boats from the Battery to Harlem assembled. Under cover of fog and darkness, the men and guns of the defeated army were transported to Manhattan. The next morning, August 30, 1776, the British discovered that the Americans had slipped away. The opportunity to

capture Washington's Army was lost.

Four days later the British crossed the East River landing on Manhattan at Kipps Bay, now 34th Street, with the intention of separating the American forces at the southern end of the island from the troops to the north. However, General Israel Putnam was able to march his 4,000 troops from lower Manhattan along the west road near the Hudson River and join with the main army at Harlem Heights.

On September 16th the retreating Americans stiffened and turned on the advancing British. What at first seemed only a skirmish between the withdrawing Continentals and their pursuers developed into a major engagement. The heaviest fighting occurred about where the General Grant National Memorial stands at 122nd Street.

On September 21st a fire destroyed about twenty-five percent of New York City. Although Congress had decided not to burn the city a fire broke out near Whitehall Slip. The British claimed that the fire had broken out at various places and that the Americans had set the city on fire. Washington wrote, "Providence, or some good honest fellow, has done more for us than we were disposed to do for ourselves."

American defensive positions at 147th Street and 154 Street slowed the British advance northward along the thirteen miles of Manhattan Island. New York City then occupied less than the southern three miles of the island. North of the city was Greenwich and further north, about five miles from city hall, the area known as Bloomingdale. The northern end of the island contained few houses at that time, the finest being the Morris mansion. Washington used the Morris house as his headquarters after the British landing at Kipps Bay on September 3rd and his retreat to White Plains in October.

Washington did not return to New York City until the end of the war in 1783. Fort Washington at the northern end of Manhattan fell to the British forces on November 16, 1776 with the surrender of its garrison of over 2,000 men and much valuable military supplies and artillery. The loss of Fort Washington was the worst military disaster suffered by the Americans during the war, except, perhaps, the loss of Charlestown, South Carolina in May 1780.

At various times throughout the following years of conflict Washington suggested attempts to recover New York City. In 1781 he consulted the Count de Rochambeau and proposed a plan utilizing the French fleet, at the same time requesting estimates from his chief engineer and chief of artillery for the "intended operations

against New York City." Naturally this information found its way to the British high command and served to keep a substantial part of the British forces in New York City. In the middle of 1781, General Sir Henry Clinton, then commander of the British forces, believed Washington's attack on New York City was imminent, while Washington and his army moved through New Jersey to Yorktown to assist Lafayette in trapping Cornwallis.

After the surrender of Lord Cornwallis at Yorktown, Virginia on October 19, 1781 the British abandoned the efforts to suppress the rebellion. New York City remained occupied by the British troops until November 25, 1783.

On November 20, 1783 Washington was at the house of Mrs. Frederick Van Cortlandt the beautiful stone house built by Frederick Van Cortlandt in 1748 on the Banks of Moshulu Brook. This was not New York City in 1783 but today this house is the oldest residence in Bronx County, the northernmost borough of New York City.

November 21st saw Washington at Day's Tavern in Harlem some nine miles north of New York City in 1783. Today that location is where St. Nicholas Avenue crosses 126th Street in uptown Manhattan.

Tuesday, November 25, 1783 was the day the British were to evacuate New York City. Major General Knox, in command of the American troops, marched into the city and took possession. George Washington and Governor George Clinton made their formal entrance escorted by the West Chester light horse under the command of Captain Delavan. The procession proceeded down Pearl Street and through Broadway to "Cape's Tavern." John Cape had been a lieutenant in the Continental line. Before the evacuation by the British Cape had entered the city and secured control of the old Province Arms Tavern. He removed the old sign and replaced it with the Arms of the State of New York. From this time the establishment was known as the State Arms, or more generally as the City Tavern.

At the City Tavern, on Friday, November 28th 1783 an elegant entertainment was given by, "the citizens lately returned from exile." On the following Tuesday, December 2nd, at the same establishment, another entertainment was given by Governor Clinton for the French Ambassador. For this event Cape rendered a bill to the state for 120 dinners, 135 bottles of Madeira, 36 bottles of Port, 60 bottles of English beer, and 30 bowls of punch. Cape also included a charge for 60 broken wine glasses and 8 cut glass decanters.

On the morning of December 4, 1783 Washington and his officers met for the last time as soldiers of the Revolutionary Army in

the Long Room of Fraunces Tavern. The room was thirty eight feet long and eighteen feet wide, just as it is today in the restored house, the Fraunces Tavern Museum. Washington bade farewell to his officers "with a heart full of love and gratitude," departed that same day for Annapolis, where the Continental Congress was in session. He resigned his commission on December 23, 1783 and returned to his home at Mount Vernon in Virginia.

Washington's next, his eighth and final, visit to New York City was as President-elect of the United States of America. The new Constitution had been ratified by the necessary nine states, New Hampshire was the ninth to ratify on June 21, 1788. On April 5th, 1789 both Houses of Congress met in Joint Session to count the electoral votes. Every elector had been instructed to vote for two candidates, Washington received sixty nine votes, the entire number, and was unanimously elected President. John Adams received thirty four votes and was named Vice-president. New York State had ratified the Constitution on July 26, 1788 but did not chose electors to vote in the election of a President. Washington was also elected unanimously president for a second term, receiving 132 of the 264 votes cast in 1792.

Washington left Mount Vernon on April 16, 1789 for the journey to New York City and his inauguration as the first President of the United States. The trip required seven days due to the many receptions and ovations along the way.

On April 23rd Washington embarked from Elizabeth Town Point in New Jersey on board a new barge, with an awning, red curtains, and thirteen oars on either side. As the barge crossed Newark bay and reached the "Kills" opposite Staten Island many other vessels joined the barge and the flotilla proceeded up the East River to Murray's Wharf, at the foot of Wall Street. As Washington debarked and mounted the steps to the wharf thirteen guns sounded from the Battery and the church bells rang. He was received by Governor George Clinton, General Henry Knox with military escort, and throngs of officials and private citizens. A coach was waiting but Washington chose to walk in a procession to the Franklin House on Cherry Street, previously used by the President of Congress and now assigned to Washington. The French Ambassador descended from his carriage to walk beside Washington.

After his arrival at the Franklin House, now the Presidential Mansion, Washington held a short reception, receiving national and state officials and the French and Spanish Ambassadors. Governor Clinton's coach arrived and the President and the Governor of New

York State proceeded to the Governor's residence for a banquet in honor of George Washington.

The inauguration of the President of the United States was delayed for several days while Congress deliberated the question of a suitable title for the chief executive. Eventually the date was set as the thirtieth of April 1789 at Federal Hall, which was the New York City Hall on Wall Street. The building had been newly decorated for the two Houses of Congress but much of the work was not completed.

Washington wore a suit of brown broadcloth spun at Hartford, purchased and forwarded to Mount Vernon by Henry Knox. This apparel was to advertise American industry. The buttons were decorated with a wing-spread eagle. Washington's stockings were white silk and his shoe buckles silver.

A joint committee of Congress arrived at Washington's residence to escort him to Federal Hall. Discussion continued as to whether the congress should sit or stand during the ceremonies. Precisely at noon, the procession which had been forming since sunrise started from the Presidential Mansion and proceeded along the city streets to Federal Hall. Washington rode in a cream colored coach that was decorated with his coat of arms and drawn by four horses.

Once inside Federal Hall Washington climbed the stairs to the Senate Chamber where both Houses were assembled. John Adams, who had been sworn in as vice President, greeted Washington and advised him that all was ready. Washington led the way to the portico overlooking Wall and Broad Streets. Beyond the balcony he looked at streets, rooftops, and windows filled with cheering Americans. The small area of balcony was quickly filled.

Robert R. Livingston, the Chancellor of the state of New York, and Grand Master of Masons in New York State since 1781 moved to the front of the balcony. Jacob Morton was the Marshall for the parade and the Master of St. John's Masonic Lodge, and provided the bible of the lodge for the ceremony. The bible was printed by Mark Baskett, "Printer to the King's Moste Excellent Majesty," in London, in 1767, and included a steel engraved portrait of King George the second. The bible had been presented to the St. John's Lodge by Jonathan Hampton, in 1770, and is the King James version complete with apocrypha. The bible is treasured by St. John's Masonic Lodge and the Masonic Fraternity and is carefully preserved in the Masonic Hall in New York City.

Washington placed his right hand on Chapters forty-nine and fifty of Genesis, Jacob calleth his sons together to bless them and The mourning for Jacob, "Do you solemnly swear," asked the Chancellor, "that you will faithfully execute the office of President of the United States and will, to the best of your ability, preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States?" "I solemnly swear" Washington replied. He bent forward as he spoke and kissed the bible.

"It is done" Chancellor Livingston announced and, turning to the crowd's proclaimed, "Long live George Washington, President of the United States. President Washington did not address the crowd, he bowed his acknowledgement of the cheers and, before the ovation ended, entered the Senate Chamber and took his place on the dais. When the members and guests had assumed their places Washington rose and read his inaugural address.

After the inaugural address had been delivered, the President walked with the Senators, Representatives and guests through the crowded streets to St. Paul's Chapel where congress had voted to go "to hear divine service, performed by the chaplain of congress."

Congress has authorized two chaplains of different denominations, one chosen by the House and the other by the Senate, with a transfer weekly of each clergyman to the other chamber. On the 25th of April the Senate named the Rev. Samuel Provoost, Episcopal Bishop of New York and the Rector of Trinity Church. The reconstruction of Trinity Church after the fire of 1776 had not been completed and St. Paul's Chapel was designated for the service.

Washington's pew was on the north side and marked with the letters "G.W." and on the wall above it was the coat-of-arms of the United States. Governor Clinton sat with his family, and his nephew DeWitt Clinton, on the opposite side of the church.

The scope and complexity of the task facing Washington as the first President defies description or comprehension. He was well aware that his every act would create a precedent which successors would be inclined or required to follow. Washington did not accept any salary during the revolution accepting only his expenses and, at first, declined a salary as President. After realizing that others, especially Vice-President John Adams, could not afford to follow this precedent, Washington accepted a salary of \$25,000 a year but used it for his expenses.

The details of Washington's actions during the first 493 days as President when he was based in New York City are the cornerstone of the United States Government and deserve far more detail than time and space now permit.

On May 4, 1789 Samuel Frauncis, a member of Holland Masonic Lodge was delegated as the President's steward and announced to the merchants of New York City that all purchases for the President's household would be in cash, and cautioned against the advancement of credit to any who might represent themselves as the President's servants.

The Inaugural Ball was held on May 7th at the assembly Rooms, on the east side of Broadway north of Wall Street and attended by most of Congress. The newspaper *Daily Advertiser* described in detail the gowns worn by some of the ladies. The previous day, May 6th Washington attended the commencement exercises of Columbia College and endured ten orations by graduating students, the first graduate being DeWitt Clinton.

The Franklin House on Cherry Street had been acquired for the first Presidential Mansion. Built in 1770 by Walter Franklin, a prosperous merchant, it was inherited by his widow, now the wife of Samuel Osgood the new Postmaster General. Mrs. Osgood and the daughter of Lord Stirling, Kitty Duer, spent much time, labor, and expense equipping it with furniture, carpets, and china. Martha Washington arrived in New York City on May 27th with two of her grandchildren, Eleanor and George Washington Custis. She described the house as, "a very good one...handsomely furnished all new for the general." Others had a different opinion. The French Ambassador reported that he "followed the President to the squalid (chétive) house provided for this residence."

In fact, the house was not adequate for the expanding needs of the President of the United States. When Washington learned that the Macomb house was to be vacated by the French Minister he arranged to lease it. On February 23-24, 1790, before some of the improvements were completed, Washington moved in and had his first reception there on February 23, 1790.

The house was erected in 1787 by Alexander Macomb, "four story and an attic high, with a width of fifty six feet." From the rear of the main floor glass doors opened on a balcony with a direct view of the Hudson River. The entrance hall led to a continuous flight of stairs to the top of the house. On each side of the hall were spacious, high-ceiling rooms, used for levees (receptions for men only) and receptions, and always referred to by Washington as "public rooms." This house was later converted to a hotel known as "Bunkers Mansion House" and, in 1928 a 36 story office building was erected on the site. Today a plaque on the building marks this site of the second Presidential Mansion.

Washington frequently asked the advice of others but often

found his own judgment proved his best guide. He chose, as he said, "the line of conduct which combined the public advantage with private convenience, and which in my judgement, was unexceptional in itself,"

Washington was off for a tour of New England from October 15th to November 13, 1789. He particularly avoided traveling to Rhode Island which had not yet ratified the Constitution.

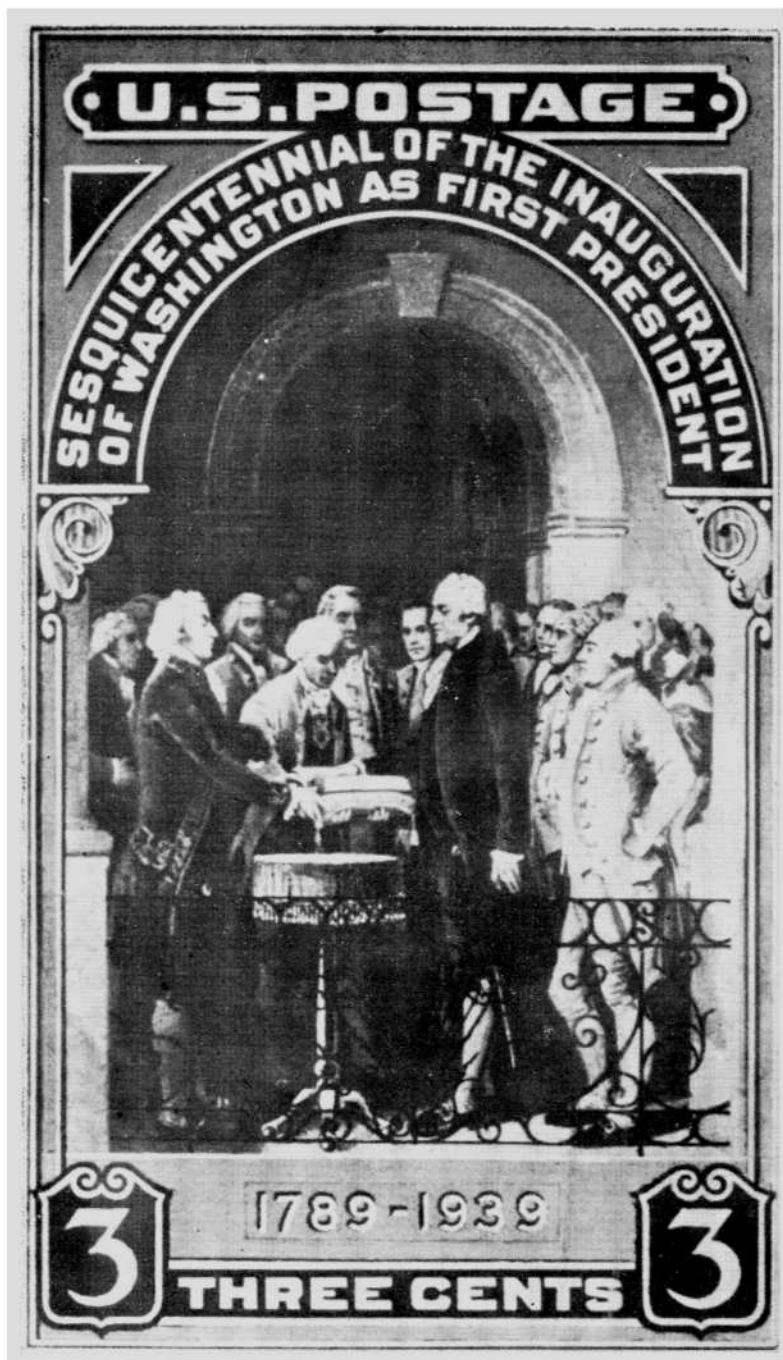
The first Act of Congress approved by Washington was on June 1, 1789, legislation regulating the administration of oaths. On October 3, 1789 he issued a Proclamation requested by both Houses of Congress assigning Thursday, the 26th day of November 1789 as a "day of public thanksgiving and prayer."

After much discussion and debate Congress determined that Philadelphia was to be the seat of the government until 1800 and after that year the Capitol was to be near Georgetown, on the Potomac River. The bill for establishing the temporary and permanent seat of government was passed and presented to Washington on July 12, 1790. The first filibuster occurred during the debate on this legislation when Elbridge Gerry of Massachusetts spoke at length in opposition. Those who favored New York City as the permanent capital were furious and the New York City newspapers presented an argument that the proposal was unconstitutional. After conferring with his Cabinet and being assured that this was not so Washington signed the bill on July 16, 1790.

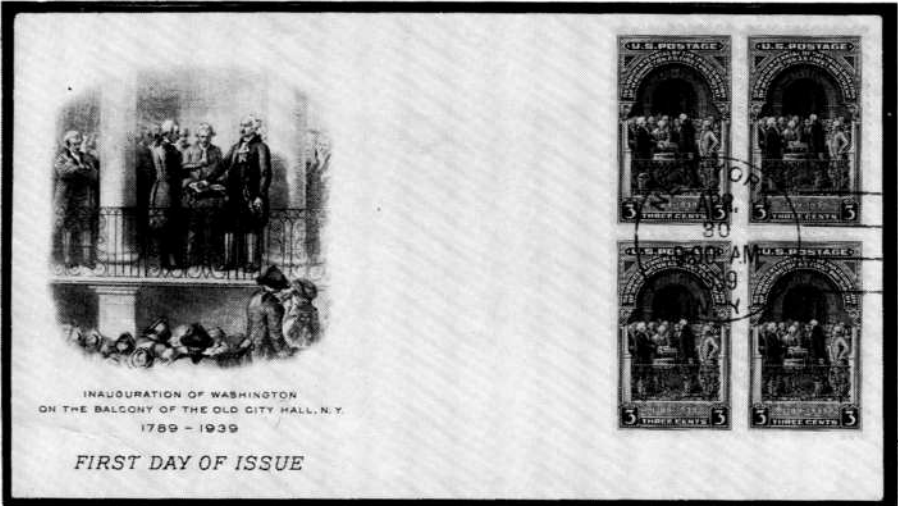
Tobias Lear, Esquire, the Secretary to George Washington during his time as President reported that Washington had spent \$41,268.47 during his residence in New York City, approximately seventeen months. Washington withdrew from the Treasury \$41,500 during this period and had on hand a balance of \$1,300 to transfer to Philadelphia.

On August 30, 1790, in spite of Washington's request for "an unceremonious leave-taking" he was escorted to the wharf by a procession including Governor Clinton, Chief Justice Jay, officers of government, clergy and citizens.

New York City lost both the seat of government and George Washington. He never returned to New York City.









GEORGE WASHINGTON STAMP

George Washington, "Father of His Country," was an ardent Mason. Born Feb. 22, 1732, he became a Mason at the age of 21 in what is now Fredericksburg, (Va.) Lodge No. 4. He was first Master of Alexandria Lodge No. 22 (now Alexandria-Washington Lodge) under a Grand Lodge of Virginia charter in 1788. Masons were his chief aides during the Revolutionary War. His oath of office as first president of the United States was taken on a Bible borrowed from St. John's Lodge No. 1, New York, and was administered by the Grand Master of New York. In 1793, Washington laid the cornerstone of the U. S. Capitol at Washington with Masonic ceremonies. He was buried with Masonic rites at Mt. Vernon, Dec. 18, 1799.

—John A. Mirt, Chicago



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**225th ANNIVERSARY
ST. JOHN'S LODGE NO. 1
A.Y.M., F. & A.M.
1757—DECEMBER 7—1982**



St. John's Lodge Altar Bible
used April 30, 1789 at the
Inauguration of George Washington
as President of the United States.

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Attention: Nicholas Batalias - President

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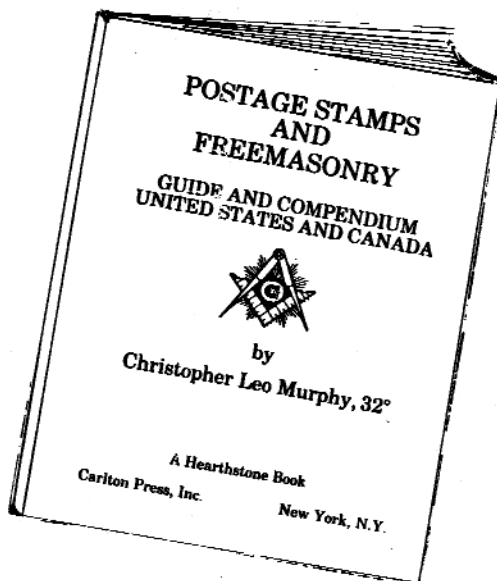
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