

Student Handout: The Two Georges: George Mason and George Washington

Fairfax County was home to two extraordinary men who played significant roles in the national founding. No examination of the history of Fairfax County would be complete without a review of significant events in the lives of George Washington and George Mason. Identify all of the uses of George Mason's name found in the community today. Repeat the process using Washington.

George Washington

- 1732 born in Westmoreland County, Virginia
- 1752 upon the death of a brother inherits Mount Vernon estate
- 1755 becomes commander-in-chief of Virginia's militia
- 1759 marries Martha Custis one of the richest women in Virginia
- 1775-1781 commander of the Continental Army
- 1787 presides over the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia
- 1789-1797 unanimous choice of the Electoral College to be president
- 1799 dies at Mount Vernon



George Mason

- 1725 born at Gunston Hall, Fairfax County, Virginia
- 1746 assumes control of Gunston Hall plantation
- 1758-1761 represents Fairfax County in Virginia's House of Burgesses
- 1765-1766 active in the Stamp Act protests
- 1774 co-authors *Fairfax Resolves* with George Washington
- 1776 writes the *Virginia Declaration of Rights* and the *Virginia Constitution*
- 1787 represents Virginia at the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia; refuses to sign the *Constitution* because it lacks a bill of rights
- 1792 dies at Gunston Hall

