

### THE EFFECT ON NEVADA

The uncertainty this conflict introduced means that candidates have had—and will continue to have—difficulty deciding where and when to allocate their campaign resources, ultimately limiting the amount of attention Nevada might have garnered as an early caucus state. In addition, front-loading has continued, and up to 20 states are participating in the Super Tuesday contest being held Feb. 5, 2008, less than three weeks after the Nevada caucuses. Clearly, candidates cannot wait until after Jan. 19, 2008, to campaign in Super Tuesday states, many of whom control a large number of delegates, and those campaigns will cut into the time and effort spent on Nevada.

While the projections of Nevada's impact were probably overstated when the early caucus was first announced, 2008 is not a good year to judge Nevada's potential influence on nomination politics. First, Nevada has not attracted the kind of attention expected, but the top campaigns in both parties are spending more time and money in the state than they have in previous years and this appears to be piquing voter interest. If Nevada has a strong turnout and the national media shows up in force for the caucuses, it may increase the state's clout in future nomination races. In addition, the Democrats are determined to work with the Republicans soon after the 2008 general election to identify a common nomination schedule that, among other things, will have the goal of no more than five primaries or caucuses in any one week. If Nevada remains an early caucus state and the parties can spread out the remaining primaries, this will provide more incentive for top candidates to spend resources in the state. It will also reinforce the idea that Nevada is a "must win" if candidates want to run a successful campaign to become their party's presidential nominee. ■

## George Washington

By Scott Casper, professor and chair of the Department of History

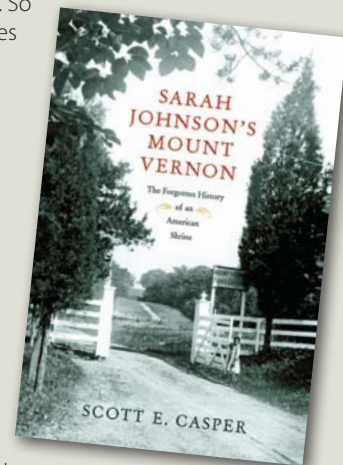
1. George Washington's great-grandfather, John Washington, came to Virginia from England in 1656. Eighteen years later, he secured the title to a tract of land that his grandson, George Washington's father, would call Eppewasson, the Indian name for a small creek on the property.
2. As a 14-year-old, George Washington wanted to go to sea, in the British Royal Navy or on a merchant ship. He was inspired by his older half-brother Lawrence, who had served in the War of Jenkins' Ear (really!) in 1740-1742. He never went because his mother and his uncle were adamantly opposed.
3. Lawrence inherited Eppewasson and renamed it after his commanding officer, the British admiral Edward Vernon.
4. George Washington took only one trip away from the North American mainland in his entire life: to Barbados, with Lawrence, in 1751.
5. Many letters and proclamations by George Washington as general and president appeared in print during his lifetime—but only one book, published when he was 22 years old. That book, *The Journal of Major George Washington*, described his 1753-1754 diplomatic mission into the Ohio Valley. Virginia's royal governor had it printed in Williamsburg in 1754, and it was reprinted in London.
6. When Washington inherited Mount Vernon, the one-and-a-half story house had four rooms on the ground floor and another four above. Over the next 40 years, he quadrupled its size, adding a third story and wings on both sides.
7. By the early 1770s, Washington abandoned tobacco farming, which

depleted the soil and increased Virginia planters' dependence on English merchants. Instead, he experimented with grain farming and started a grist mill, a fishery, and eventually a distillery. (Visitors today can see replicas of his grist mill and distillery.)

8. George Washington was immune to smallpox, because he had suffered a mild case in Barbados. During the Revolution he ordered his troops to be inoculated because British and German soldiers were carriers of the disease. Martha Washington, who spent much of the war in camp with her husband, underwent the procedure as well. So did Washington's slaves at Mount Vernon.

9. After Washington died on Dec. 14, 1799, cities and towns all over the United States staged re-enactments of his funeral, complete with processions, riderless horses, and coffins—everything except a corpse.

10. In his will, Washington stipulated that his slaves would be free upon Martha Washington's death. She released them in 1801, a year before she died. But slavery continued at Mount Vernon. George Washington's descendants who inherited the estate brought slaves of their own. And after the Civil War, the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association—which purchased the property in 1860 and governs it to this day—hired some of those African Americans as employees.



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