George Washington is making a return trip to Western Pennsylvania. THROUGH OCTOBER 22 THE HISTORY CENTER HOSTS THE TRAVELING EXHIBIT "GEORGE WASHINGTON: THE MAN BEHIND THE MYTHS." Although one of the best known names in American history, Washington remains a distant and elusive figure obscured by time and the legends that grew up around him. Developed by the Virginia Historical Society, THIS EXHIBIT EXAMINES GEORGE WASHINGTON FROM HIS BIRTH IN WESTMORELAND COUNTY, VIRGINIA, IN 1732 TO HIS APOTHEOSIS AND LEGACY AFTER HIS DEATH IN 1799. The History Center is expanding the exhibit with additional artifacts and images to highlight Washington's connections to Western Pennsylvania. Many may not realize that WASHINGTON BEGAN HIS CAREER OF PUBLIC SERVICE HERE AT THE AGE OF 21 trekking through the wilderness to carry a message to the French at Fort LeBoeuf (now Waterford, Pa.) from Virginia Governor Robert Dinwiddie. He returned several times over the next four decades—trying to dislodge the French from Fort Duquesne, seeking to acquire land for himself, and leading an army to crush the Whiskey Rebellion. In all, WASHINGTON MADE SEVEN TRIPS THROUGH WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA AS COURIER, COLONEL, AND COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF. George Washington's legacy lives on in the Western Pennsylvania landscape. So get reacquainted with the man behind the myth. Take a day trip to follow in Washington's footsteps, find some of the places named for Washington, and test your George Washington IQ. (STORY CONTINUES ON PAGE 140.)
IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF GEORGE WASHINGTON

A DRIVING TOUR OF GEORGE WASHINGTON SITES

BASED ON THE ORIGINAL MAP THAT WASHINGTON DREW IN 1753

WASHINGTON SLEPT HERE:

1 Fort LeBoeuf, Waterford (PG 140)
2 Herr's Island, Pittsburgh (PG 140)
3 Jumonville Glen, Fayette County (PG 140)
4 Fort Necessity, Fayette County (PG 140)
5 Braddock's Defeat, Braddock (PG 141)
6 Fort Ligonier, Westmoreland County (PG 141)
7 The Point, downtown Pittsburgh (PG 141)
8 Espy House, Bedford (PG 141)
9 Perryopolis, Fayette County (PG 142)
SIGHTINGS IN WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA

FORT LEBOEUF, WATERFORD George Washington's first official mission was as a courier for Virginia Governor Robert Dinwiddie. In 1753, at the age of 21, Washington and frontier guide Christopher Gist carried a message to the French commander at Fort LeBoeuf, about 15 miles south of Erie, Pa. Dinwiddie demanded that the French troops withdraw from the territory claimed by Britain. The French refused to move. They maintained Fort LeBoeuf as the end of the portage between Lake Erie and French Creek until finally dislodged by the British in 1759. The French burned the fort and retreated north. The fort was rebuilt in 1760 by the British under Colonel Henry Bouquet. The Fort LeBoeuf Historical Museum in Waterford, Pa., is operated by Edinboro University. The museum is open for group tours by appointment. Call (814) 732-2573 for a brochure or further information.

HERR'S ISLAND, PITTSBURGH On the return trip to Virginia from Fort LeBoeuf, Washington and Gist arrived at the Allegheny River near what is now the base of Troy Hill. Although it was late December, the river was not completely frozen. The two men built a raft and attempted to cross, but a chunk of ice knocked Washington into the icy Allegheny. The men managed to get to an island in the middle of the river and spend the night there. By the following morning the river was sufficiently frozen that Washington and Gist resumed their journey on foot. The two men probably spent the night in the vicinity of Herr's Island on an island that has since been submerged or become part of the mainland. Herr's Island, now redeveloped as Washington's Landing, has a walking trail around the perimeter of the island.

JUMONVILLE GLEN, FAYETTE COUNTY In April 1754 Washington again set out for Western Pennsylvania, this time to construct a road to Redstone Creek and to help defend Fort Prince George at the Forks of the Ohio. Unknown to Washington, the British fort had already been overrun by the French who rebuilt it and renamed it Fort Duquesne. In May Washington and his men set up camp in the area known as Great Meadows. Hearing that a group of French soldiers had been sent to attack his force, Washington determined to prevent the attack and ambush the French. Except for one man, the small French force, including its commander Jumonville, was killed or captured. Jumonville Glen is approximately seven miles northwest of Fort Necessity. The site is open from April 15 through October.

FORT NECESSITY, FAYETTE COUNTY Within a month of the death of Jumonville, a French contingent was on its way east from Fort Duquesne. Washington and his men retreated to Great Meadows and quickly built Fort Necessity. The troops engaged in battle on July 3rd and Washington, suffering substantial losses, was forced to surrender. He and his troops returned to Virginia the following day, and the French burned Fort Necessity. Fort Necessity is located on Route 40, 11 miles east of Uniontown. It is open daily from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. except for major holidays. For further information call (724) 329-5512.
BRADDOCK'S DEFEAT, BRADDOCK  British General Edward Braddock assembled his troops at Fort Cumberland (now Cumberland, Md.) and in June 1755 marched northwest to capture Fort Duquesne. His engineers widened an old Indian trail to accommodate the troops, wagons, and artillery. On July 9th Braddock's forces crossed the banks of the Monongahela River about 10 miles east of Fort Duquesne. Lying in wait for them was a contingent of French and Indians. Caught unaware, the British were easily scattered and routed, and General Braddock was mortally wounded. Washington, with four bullet holes through his coat, escaped unharmed. Kennywood Park in West Mifflin has a kitschy recreation of the battle on its train ride (right). The Braddock's Field Historical Society is housed in the Carnegie Library in Braddock. Call (412) 351-5356.

FORT LIGONIER, WESTMORELAND COUNTY  Britain's final attempt to capture Fort Duquesne came in 1758. Troops again arrived at Fort Cumberland, this time under General John Forbes. The First Virginia Regiment was led by Colonel George Washington. Forbes headed north, then west, building a road and a series of forts along the way, including Fort Bedford (see below) and Fort Ligonier. In a skirmish with French and Indian forces just east of the fort on November 12, the Virginia troops mistakenly fired on one another, compelling an appalled Washington to run into the crossfire, pushing aside muskets with his sword while shouting for a cease-fire. He later claimed the incident was the closest he ever came to death during his long military career. A few days later, a 2,500-man force under Forbes' command, with Washington as one of three temporary brigadiers, advanced from Fort Ligonier toward Fort Duquesne at the Forks of the Ohio. Fort Ligonier sits at U.S. 30 and PA Route 711. It is open daily Monday–Friday 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m. and Sundays 12–4:30 p.m., May 1–October 31. Fort Ligonier Days October 14 & 15, 2000. Call (724) 238-9701.

THE POINT, DOWNTOWN PITTSBURGH  Forbes sent Major James Grant ahead to scout Fort Duquesne with explicit directions not to attack. Grant did attack, however, and his men were routed, suffering heavy casualties. The rest of Forbes' troops, including Washington's regiment, then pushed on toward the fort. On the night of November 24, 1758, the French burned the fort and fled the advancing army. The following day Forbes and his men beheld the ruins of Fort Duquesne, at last under British control. The Fort Pitt Museum in downtown Pittsburgh is open Wednesday through Sunday. Call (412) 281-9285 for further information. The Blockhouse, owned and maintained by the Daughters of the American Revolution, is open Wednesday through Sunday. Admission is free. Call (412) 471-1764 for further information.

ESPY HOUSE, BEDFORD  The Whiskey Rebellion was a series of protests in 1794 against a federal tax on whiskey. Farmers in Western Pennsylvania often distilled their grain into whiskey to lower transportation costs and raise profits. The hated tax collectors were often threatened and some met with armed resistance. President George Washington was urged to put down this threat to federal authority and led over 13,000 troops from Carlisle to Bedford to end the rebellion. Washington made his headquarters in Bedford at the David Espy house. From Bedford the army marched west under the command of General Henry Lee. The Whiskey Rebellion is best remembered as the first test of the federal government's authority. It was also Washington's last journey into Western Pennsylvania. The Espy House, located at 123 East Pitt Street in downtown Bedford, is currently for sale. There's also Fort Bedford, a French and Indian War site, which Washington had a part in building. Call (814) 623-8891 for information.
IN 1769 GEORGE WASHINGTON DISPATCHED HIS FRIEND AND LAND AGENT CAPTAIN WILLIAM CRAWFORD TO SURVEY AND PURCHASE LAND IN WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA. CRAWFORD WAS SUCCESSFUL IN SECURING MORE THAN 1,600 ACRES FOR WASHINGTON IN FAYETTE COUNTY. TODAY ONE CAN SEE THE LAST PHYSICAL EVIDENCE OF WASHINGTON'S LARGE LANDHOLDINGS JUST OUTSIDE OF PERRYPOLIS ALONG THE STREAM THAT IS NOW CALLED WASHINGTON'S RUN. SITUATED ALONG THE STREAM, JUST OFF OF LAYTON ROAD, IS A RECONSTRUCTED THREE-STORY GRISTMILL THAT WASHINGTON ONCE OWNED.

WASHINGTON'S MILL AT PERRYPOLIS
BY TOM WHITE, HSWP LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES

Washington could not personally oversee his Western Pennsylvania land from Virginia, so he entered into a partnership with Gilbert Simpson. Simpson served as caretaker and landlord to the property near Perryopolis and would supervise all improvements made to the land. The first improvement that Washington ordered was the construction of a gristmill. It would be one of the first built west of the Appalachians. He had hoped that the mill would make his Fayette County lands more profitable. Construction began in 1774, but work was periodically delayed by border conflicts with the Indians. In the summer of 1776 work was completed, and the mill began operation. In a letter to Washington written in September of that year William Crawford stated, "I think it is the best mill I ever saw anywhere."

The mill did not become as productive as Washington had hoped. The Revolution caused the mill to shut down for several years. Washington's correspondence and diaries also indicate that he felt that Simpson was mismanaging his property and the mill. By the time the general returned to view his mill in 1784, it had fallen into disuse. In his diary Washington wrote, "The mill was quite destitute of water—the works and house appear to be in very bad condition." After the construction of a new stone milldam to increase the water flow, Washington attempted to lease the land and end his partnership with Simpson. No one was interested when the land was auctioned.

In 1789, five years after the original auction, the mill and the property were leased to Colonel Israel Shreve. Shreve eventually agreed to purchase the property, but Washington had difficulty extracting timely payments from him. Washington made almost no profit from the mill, but future owners were more successful. The mill had functioned for more than 100 years when it closed in 1918. When Shreve died in 1803 the mill passed to his heirs. It changed hands several times during the 19th and 20th centuries. One owner, George Anderson, made extensive repairs to the mill around the time of the Civil War. The mill stood until 1936, when a windstorm collapsed the wooden walls. Vandals and souvenir hunters looted the site until the Perryopolis Area Historical Society purchased the remaining stone foundation and the property in 1968. Efforts were made to restore the mill and the surrounding buildings, but lack of funding caused the effort to fold. In 1989 a new organization, the Perryopolis Area Heritage Society, took over the property and the efforts to restore the gristmill. Those efforts came to fruition last year when the mill reopened fully reconstructed.
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SIGHTINGS IN PITTSBURGH

Revered as the “Father of Our Country,” Washington has been memorialized from coast to coast. Namesake of Washington state, Washington, D.C., streets, bridges, and counties; a physical presence in statues, on plaques and his own Washington monument; not to mention quarters and dollar bills. Washington’s name and face are everywhere. Here are just a few of the places Washington appears on the landscape in the Pittsburgh area.

ABOVE: PHOTO OF GEORGE WASHINGTON STATUE, WEST PARK, NORTH SIDE, PITTSBURGH This equestrian statue was commissioned by the Junior Order of United American Mechanics of Western Pennsylvania in 1891. It was unveiled on February 23 after a parade in honor of Washington’s birthday.

ABOVE: AERIAL VIEW OF HERR’S ISLAND
Washington’s crossing of the Allegheny River between present-day Troy Hill and Lawrenceville is commemorated in the naming of two adjacent landmarks. In the 1980s and 1990s, Herr’s Island was transformed and renamed. Reclaimed

ABOVE: WASHINGTON BLVD, AERIAL VIEW
In 1910 a portion of Beechwood Boulevard was renamed Washington Blvd.

ABOVE: WASHINGTON COUNTY COURTHOUSE POSTCARD
Carved out of Westmoreland County in 1781, Washington County was named for the Commander of the Continental Army.

ABOVE: WASHINGTON CROSSING BRIDGE
from its notorious past as a stockyard it is now upscale housing known as Washington’s Landing. The Washington Crossing Bridge (also known as the 40th Street Bridge) is about 10 blocks north of Washington’s Landing.
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SO YOU THINK YOU KNOW GEORGE WASHINGTON?

1. What was the name of GW's favorite horse?
2. How many trips did GW make to Western Pennsylvania?
3. What did Martha Washington call her husband?
4. What was GW's civilian occupation?
5. What were GW's false teeth made of?
6. Who was GW's Vice President?
7. What was GW's hair color as a young man?
8. Where was GW born?
9. What trader and guide accompanied GW on his trip to Fort LeBoeuf, via present-day Pittsburgh, in 1753?
10. What river were GW and Gist crossing when GW fell in and nearly drowned?
11. What woman initiated the rescue, preservation, and restoration of Mount Vernon decades after Washington's death?
12. What site did GW describe as "A charming field for an encounter?"
13. What precious metal was used to form a pyramid capping the Washington Monument in Washington, D.C., in 1884?
14. What did GW have built on his land in Perryopolis?
15. Which river did Washington cross to surprise Hessian troops at Trenton during the Revolutionary War?
16. When Fort Duquesne was captured by the British in 1758, what did they rename it?
17. During the Whiskey Rebellion to whom did GW turn over his 13,000-man militia at Bedford?
18. What was GW's nickname among American Indians in the 1750s?
19. What were GW's reported final deathbed words?
DESTINATION:
HOMECOMING

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