By George, Washington’s Back!

More than 250 years after capturing Fort Duquesne alongside General Forbes in 1758, George Washington has finally returned to Pittsburgh.

Earlier this spring, the History Center welcomed the world premiere of Discover the Real George Washington: New Views from Mount Vernon, a groundbreaking exhibition featuring highlights from Mount Vernon’s world-class collection.

The History Center is delighted to serve as the first venue of what might well be the best George Washington traveling exhibition ever mounted. This astounding collection of rare Washington materials appeals to a wide audience and goes a long way to reveal the man behind the myth.

Visitors can discover the true personality and character of “The Father of Our Country” and experience a new and refreshing perspective on Washington, his achievements and foibles, his family and times, and most importantly, his dentures and entrepreneurial ventures, here in Western Pennsylvania and beyond.

Much of the scholarship used in the life-like reconstructions of Washington is based on the latest research conducted by Dr. Jeffrey Schwartz and his team of forensic anthropologists at the University of Pittsburgh as seen in this issue.

Utilizing Dr. Schwartz’s research, we are able to see Washington at various stages of his life: a teenaged, red-haired surveyor from Virginia just prior to the French & Indian War; a Revolutionary War hero atop his horse in a snow-covered forest at Valley Forge; and during his presidential inauguration ceremony at Federal Hall in New York City.

The reconstructions complement nearly 100 attributed artifacts from Mount Vernon, the Smithsonian, and the American Revolution Center. These collections include architectural models, decorative and fine art items, maps, manuscripts, and paintings that will help visitors get to know Washington as an entrepreneur, farmer, and businessman.

But what may entice visitors most is an original set of Washington’s dentures. No, they are not wooden! This remarkable artifact – made of pewter, human teeth, and animal teeth – is sure to elicit its fair share of “oohs,” “ahhs,” and “ouches.”

The exhibition will be featured at the History Center through July 18 before embarking on a tour of eight cities across the U.S. Please join us to learn more about the real George Washington.