George Washington's Final Battle

The Epic Struggle to Build a Capital City and a Nation

Robert P. Watson

George Washington is remembered for leading the Continental Army to victory, presiding over the Constitution, and forging a new nation, but few know the story of his involvement in the establishment of a capital city and how it nearly tore the United States apart.

In George Washington's Final Battle, Robert P. Watson brings this tale to life, telling how the country's first president tirelessly advocated for a capital on the shores of the Potomac. Washington envisioned and had a direct role in planning many aspects of the city that would house the young republic. In doing so, he created a landmark that gave the fledgling democracy credibility, united a fractious country, and created a sense of American identity.

Although Washington died just months before the federal government's official relocation, his vision and influence live on in the city that bears his name.

This little-known story of founding intrigue throws George Washington's political acumen into sharp relief and provides a historical lesson in leadership and consensus-building that remains relevant today. This book will fascinate anyone interested in the founding period, the American presidency, and the history of Washington, DC.

Robert P. Watson is a Distinguished Professor of American History at Lynn University and the author or editor of more than forty books, including The Ghost Ship of Brooklyn: An Untold Story of the American Revolution, The Nazi Titanic: The Incredible Untold Story of a Doomed Ship in World War II, and America’s First Crisis: The War of 1812. He is a frequent media commentator and activist who has founded three nonprofit think tanks dedicated to civic education, political reform, and fact-checking political campaigns.

A fine and full account of the much-contested founding of Washington, DC. Watson demonstrates clearly and convincingly why the first president deserved to have the nation's capital bear his name.

— Gordon S. Wood, Pulitzer Prize-winning author, National Humanities Medal recipient, and Alva O. Way University Professor, Brown
Between Freedom and Equality
The History of an African American Family in Washington, DC
Barbara Boyle Torrey and Clara Myrick Green
Forewords by James Fisher, with Tanya Gaskins Hardy, and Maurice Jackson

*Between Freedom and Equality* follows the life of Capt. George Pointer and generations of his descendants who lived and worked in Washington, DC. The story begins with an 1829 letter from Pointer which recounts his life’s work for the Potomac Company. Inspired by Pointer’s letter, which is housed at the National Archives, Barbara Boyle Torrey and Clara Myrick Green began researching this remarkable man who was a boat captain and supervisory engineer for the Potomac canal system. This thoughtfully reconstructed narrative provides unique and original insight across two centuries of Washington, DC, history as told through the lives of Pointer and his descendants.

The Pointer family faced many challenges—the fragility of freedom in a slaveholding society, racism, wars, floods, and epidemics—but their refuge was the small farm they purchased in the mid-nineteenth century. In the early twentieth century though, the government used eminent domain to force the sale of the family farm in Chevy Chase and replaced it with an all-white school. *Between Freedom and Equality* grants Pointer and his descendants their long-overdue place in American history.

This book includes forewords by historian Maurice Jackson and by eighth-generation descendant James Fisher, who shares the complex emotions he felt when he learned about his ancestors.

Royalties from the sale of the book will go to Historic Chevy Chase DC (HCCDC), which has established a fund for promoting the legacy of George Pointer and his descendants.

*Barbara Boyle Torrey* is the former executive director of the Division of the Behavioral and Social Sciences at the National Research Council of the National Academy of Sciences. She has authored two local histories and edited three books.

*Clara Myrick Green* has written a local history on a Potomac River community and coauthored two historical articles on George Pointer.

June 2021
184 pages, 6.5 x 9.5
20 b&w photos,
6 b&w illus., 14 maps

Hardcover, 978-1-64712-081-8, $29.95
Ebook, 978-1-64712-082-5, $29.95
A Georgetown Life
The Reminiscences of Britannia Wellington Peter Kennon of Tudor Place
Grant Quertermous, Editor

As a Georgetown resident for nearly a century, Britannia Wellington Peter Kennon (1815 – 1911) was close to the key political events of her time. Born into the prominent Peter family, Kennon came into contact with the many notable historical figures of the day who often visited Tudor Place, her home for over ninety years. Now published for the first time, the record of her experiences offers a unique insight into nineteenth-century American history.

Housed in the Tudor Place archives, “The Reminiscences of Britannia Wellington Peter Kennon” is a collection of Kennon's memories solicited and recorded by her grandchildren in the 1890s. The text includes Kennon's recollections of her mother Martha Custis Peter and spending time at Mount Vernon with her grandparents George and Martha Washington. She also recounts her childhood in Georgetown, life during the Civil War, the people enslaved at Tudor Place, and daily life in Washington, DC. Readers will also find it an essential companion to the incredible collection of objects preserved at Tudor Place.

Edited by Grant Quertermous, this richly illustrated and annotated edition gives readers a greater appreciation of life in early Georgetown. It includes a guide to the city’s streets then and now, a detailed family tree, and an appendix of the many people Britannia encountered—a who's who of the period. Notable for both its breadth and level of detail, A Georgetown Life brings a new dimension to the study of nineteenth-century America.

Grant S. Quertermous is the curator of Tudor Place Historic House and Garden. He holds a graduate degree in anthropology and has worked in the museum field, specifically focused on historic house museums and their inhabitants, for twenty years.

“
A rare gem in the literature of Washington, DC, history. Grant Quertermous has meticulously and brilliantly annotated Britannia Peter Kennon’s charming biographical reminiscences—oral histories compiled by her grandchildren—which shed light on her life and her network of friends, employees, neighbors, and many relations.

— Matthew B. Gilmore, editor, H-DC (Washington, DC History and Life)
Georgetown University’s early history, closely tied to that of the Society of Jesus in Maryland, is a microcosm of the history of American slavery: the entrenchment of chattel slavery in the tobacco economy of the Chesapeake in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries; the contradictions of liberty and slavery at the founding of the United States; the rise of the domestic slave trade to the cotton and sugar kingdoms of the Deep South in the nineteenth century; the political conflict over slavery and its overthrow amid civil war; and slavery’s persistent legacies of racism and inequality.

These essays, articles, and documents introduce readers to the history of Georgetown’s involvement in slavery and recent efforts to confront this troubling past.

Important primary sources drawn from the university’s and the Maryland Jesuits’ archives document Georgetown’s tangled history with slavery, down to the sizes of shoes distributed to enslaved people on the Jesuit plantations that subsidized the school. The volume also includes scholarship on Jesuit slaveholding in Maryland and at Georgetown, news coverage of the university’s relationship with slavery, and reflections from descendants of the people owned and sold by the Maryland Jesuits.

Adam Rothman is a professor in Georgetown University’s Department of History. He is the author of Beyond Freedom’s Reach: A Kidnapping in the Twilight of Slavery, which was named the Humanities Book of the Year by the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities and received the American Civil War Museum’s book award. He served on Georgetown’s Working Group on Slavery, Memory, and Reconciliation from 2015–16 and is currently the principal curator of the Georgetown Slavery Archive.

Elsa Barraza Mendoza is a PhD candidate in history at Georgetown University and the assistant curator of the Georgetown Slavery Archive. She is currently writing her dissertation on the history of slavery on Georgetown’s campus.

Combining primary documents and essays by historians, journalists, and descendants of the 272 enslaved men, women, and children sold by Georgetown University in 1838, this edited collection provides a rich snapshot of the history and legacies of slave-ownership by the Society of Jesus in the United States.

—Ana Lucia Araujo, author of Slavery in the Age of Memory: Engaging the Past (2020)
The Capital of Basketball
A History of DC Area High School Hoops
John McNamara
With Andrea Chamblee and David Elfin
Foreword by Coach Gary Williams

The celebration of Washington D.C. basketball is long overdue. The D.C. metro area stands second to none in its contributions to the game. Countless figures who have had a significant impact on the sport over the years have roots in the region, including E.B. Henderson, the first African-American certified to teach public school physical education, and Earl Lloyd, the first African-American to take the court in an actual NBA game. The city’s Spingarn High School produced two players - Elgin Baylor and Dave Bing - recognized among the NBA’s 50 greatest at the League’s 50th anniversary celebration. No other high school in the country can make that claim.

These figures and many others are chronicled in this book, the first-ever comprehensive look at the great high school players, teams and coaches in the D.C. metropolitan area.

Based on more than 150 interviews, The Capital of Basketball is first and foremost a book about basketball. But in discussing the trends and evolution of the game, McNamara also uncovers the turmoil in the lives of the players and area residents as they dealt with prejudice, educational inequities, politics, and the ways the area has changed through the years.

The finished product is a great basketball book, filled with details of big games, powerful high school basketball programs and insightful stories about the top players and coaches who, at least at one time, called Washington home. The chronicle begins in 1900, when a local newspaper first mentioned a high school basketball game, and continues through the 1990s, when DeMatha High School was dominant.

—New York Times

November 2019
336 pages
7 x 10, 60 b&w photos

Hardcover, 9781626167209, $29.95
Ebook, 9781626167216, $29.95
DC Jazz
Stories of Jazz Music in Washington, DC
Maurice Jackson and Blair A. Ruble, Editors

The familiar history of jazz music in the United States begins with its birth in New Orleans, moves upstream along the Mississippi River to Chicago, then by rail into New York before exploding across the globe. That telling of history, however, overlooks the pivotal role the nation’s capital has played for jazz for a century. Some of the most important clubs in the jazz world have opened and closed their doors in Washington, DC, some of its greatest players and promoters were born there and continue to reside in the area, and some of the institutions so critical to national support of this uniquely American form of music, including Congress, the Smithsonian Institution, the Kennedy Center, the Library of Congress and the Historical Society of Washington, D.C., are rooted in the city. Closer to the ground, a network of local schools like the Duke Ellington High School for the Performing Arts, jazz programs at the University of the District of Columbia and Howard University, churches, informal associations, locally focused media, and clubs keeps the music alive to this day.

Noted historians Maurice Jackson and Blair Ruble, editors of this book, present a collection of original and fascinating stories about the DC jazz scene throughout its history, including a portrait of the cultural hotbed of Seventh and U Streets, the role of jazz in desegregating the city, a portrait of the great Edward “Duke” Ellington’s time in DC, notable women in DC jazz, and the seminal contributions of the University of District of Columbia and Howard University to the scene. The book also includes three jazz poems by celebrated Washington, DC, poet E. Ethelbert Miller. Collectively, these stories and poems underscore the deep connection between creativity and place. A copublishing initiative with the Historical Society of Washington, DC, the book includes over thirty museum-quality photographs and a guide to resources for learning more about DC jazz.

Maurice Jackson teaches History and African American Studies at Georgetown University and is the author of Let This Voice be Heard: Anthony Benezet, Father of Atlantic Abolitionism. He is a 2009 inductee into the Washington, DC Hall of Fame and was inaugural chair of the DC Commission of African American Affairs.

Blair Ruble is distinguished fellow for programs at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars and the author of Washington’s U Street: A Biography.

[The authors] give the reader an excellent survey of the extent of jazz activity and its impact on the national and international scenes. . . . It’s a wonderful overview of a city known for many things, but whose imprint on jazz hasn’t gotten anywhere near the attention it deserves until the publication of this outstanding book.

—The Tennessee Jazz & Blues Society
Black Georgetown Remembered reveals a rich but little-known history of the Georgetown black community from the colonial period to the present. Drawing on primary sources, including oral interviews with past and current residents and extensive research in church and historical society archives, the authors record the hopes, dreams, disappointments, and successes of a vibrant neighborhood as it persevered through slavery and segregation, war and peace, prosperity and depression.

This beautifully redesigned 25th anniversary edition of *Black Georgetown Remembered*, first published in 1991, includes a foreword by Maurice Jackson and more than two hundred illustrations, including portraits of prominent community leaders, sketches, maps, and nineteenth-century and contemporary photographs. Kathleen Menzie Lesko’s new introduction describes the impact the book and its companion documentary video have had since publication and updates readers on recent changes in this Washington, DC, neighborhood.

*Black Georgetown Remembered* is a compelling and inspiring journey through more than two hundred years of history. A one-of-a-kind book, it invites readers to share in the lives, dreams, aspirations, struggles, and triumphs of real people, to join them in their churches, at home, and on the street, and to consider how the unique heritage of this neighborhood intersects and contributes to broader themes in African American and Washington, DC, history and urban studies.

Kathleen Menzie Lesko is a former scholar-in-residence at the Folger Shakespeare Library and current research scholar at the Huntington Library in San Marino, California.

Valerie Babb is the Franklin Professor of English and director of the Institute for African American Studies at the University of Georgia.

Carroll R. Gibbs is a professional historian, lecturer, and author of numerous works on African American history.

*”Makes a great contribution to the little-known history of black Washington.”* —Washington Post Book World, reviewing a previous edition or volume
Spy Sites of Philadelphia
A Guide to the Region’s Secret History
H. Keith Melton and Robert Wallace
With Henry R. Schlesinger

Philadelphia became a battleground for spies as George Washington’s Patriot army in nearby Valley Forge struggled to survive the winter of 1776–77. In the centuries that followed—through the Civil War, the rise of fascism and communism in the twentieth century, and today’s fight against terrorism—the city has been home to international intrigue and some of America’s most celebrated spies.

Spy Sites of Philadelphia takes readers inside this shadowy world to reveal the places and people of Philadelphia’s hidden history. These fascinating entries portray details of stolen secrets, clandestine meetings, and covert communications through every era of American history. Along the way, readers will meet both heroes and villains whose daring deceptions helped shape the nation.

Authors H. Keith Melton and Robert Wallace weave incredible true stories of courage and deceit that rival even the best spy fiction. Featuring over 150 spy sites in Philadelphia and its neighboring towns and counties, this illustrated guide invites readers to follow in the footsteps of moles and sleuths.

Growing up in the Philadelphia area, I heard a lot about the region being the birthplace of American democracy but very little about its connection to espionage. Now, preeminent intelligence historians Keith Melton and Bob Wallace have filled that gap in my knowledge with their terrific book Spy Sites of Philadelphia.


H. Keith Melton is an internationally recognized intelligence historian and authority on espionage technology. He is the author of Ultimate Spy: Inside the Secret World of Espionage and coauthor of Spycraft: The Secret History of the CIA’s Spytechs, from Communism to Al-Qaeda with Robert Wallace.

Robert Wallace is the former director of the Central Intelligence Agency’s Office of Technical Service, founder of the Artemus Consulting Group, and contributor to the CIA’s Center for the Study of Intelligence. He has coauthored numerous books with H. Keith Melton, including Spy Sites of Washington, DC and Spy Sites of New York City.

Henry R. Schlesinger is a New York–based writer who has collaborated with the authors on several books, including Spycraft, Spy Sites of Washington, DC and Spy Sites of New York City.

February 2021
280 pages
5 x 8.5, 104 color photos

Paper, 9781647120177, $24.95
Ebook, 9781647120184, $24.95
Spy Sites of Washington, DC
A Guide to the Capital Region’s Secret History

Robert Wallace and H. Keith Melton
With Henry R. Schlesinger

Washington, DC, stands at the epicenter of world espionage. Mapping this history from the halls of government to tranquil suburban neighborhoods reveals scores of dead drops, covert meeting places, and secret facilities—a constellation of clandestine sites unknown to even the most avid history buffs. Until now.

Spy Sites of Washington, DC traces more than two centuries of secret history from the Mount Vernon study of spymaster George Washington to the Cleveland Park apartment of the “Queen of Cuba.” In 220 main entries as well as listings for dozens more spy sites, intelligence historians Robert Wallace and H. Keith Melton weave incredible true stories of derring-do and double-crosses that put even the best spy fiction to shame. Maps and more than three hundred photos allow readers to follow in the winding footsteps of moles and sleuths, trace the covert operations that influenced wars hot and cold, and understand the tradecraft traitors and spies alike used in the do-or-die chess games that have changed the course of history.

Informing and entertaining, Spy Sites of Washington, DC is the comprehensive guidebook to the shadow history of our nation’s capital.

Robert Wallace is the former director of the Central Intelligence Agency’s Office of Technical Service. He and H. Keith Melton have co-authored four books, including Spycraft: The Secret History of the CIA’s Spymen, from Communism to Al-Qaeda, The Official CIA Manual of Trickery and Deception, Spy Sites of New York City, and Spy Sites of Philadelphia.

H. Keith Melton is an intelligence historian and author of several books, including Ultimate Spy: Inside the Secret World of Espionage. He owns one of the largest collections of spy paraphernalia in the world.

Henry R. Schlesinger is a New York-based writer who has collaborated previously with the authors on Spycraft, Spy Sites of Philadelphia and Spy Sites of New York City.

Readers can trust the expertise of the authors. . . . A guide book that should be invaluable for weeks of Sunday afternoon spy walks or drives. . . . A first-rate spy read: five cloaks, five daggers.

—Intelligencer: Journal of US Intelligence Studies
Through every era of American history, New York City has been a battleground for international espionage, where secrets are created, stolen, and passed through clandestine meetings and covert communications. Some spies do their work and escape, while others are compromised, imprisoned, and--a few--executed. Spy Sites of New York City takes you inside this shadowy world and reveals the places where it all happened.

In 233 main entries as well as listings for scores more spy sites, H. Keith Melton and Robert Wallace weave incredible true stories of derring-do and double-crosses that put even the best spy fiction to shame. The cases and sites follow espionage history from the Revolutionary War and Civil War, to the rise of communism and fascism in the twentieth century, to Russian sleeper agents in the twenty-first century. The spy sites are not only in Manhattan, Brooklyn, Queens, and the Bronx but also on Long Island and in New Jersey. Maps and 380 photographs allow readers to follow in the footsteps of spies and spy-hunters to explore the city, tradecraft, and operations that influenced wars hot and cold. Informing and entertaining, Spy Sites of New York City is a must-have guidebook to the espionage history of the Big Apple.

H. Keith Melton is an internationally recognized intelligence historian and authority on espionage technology. He is the author of Ultimate Spy: Inside the Secret World of Espionage and coauthor of Spycraft: The Secret History of the CIA’s Spytechs, from Communism to al-Qaeda with Robert Wallace.

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Henry R. Schlesinger is a New York-based writer who has collaborated with the authors on several books, including Spy Sites of Washington, DC and Spycraft.

“...The history is extraordinary and, until now, never told in this way. This is a must read for anyone interested in the ins and outs of espionage, and they will discover that, once again, New York City plays center stage.”

—David Cohen, CIA Deputy Director for Operations (1995-97); NYPD Deputy Commissioner, Intelligence (2002-14)
This deeply felt memoir is a love letter to Washington, DC. Carol Lancaster, a third-generation Washingtonian who knew the city like few others, takes readers on a tour of the nation's capital from its swamp-infested beginnings to the present day, with an insider's view of the gritty politics, environment, society, culture, and larger-than-life heroes that characterize her beloved hometown. The former dean of Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service, a friend of presidents and dignitaries all over the globe, Lancaster colorfully describes the city's three near-death experiences and the many triumphs and tribulations that emerged as the city took shape. Along the way she provides brief biographies of three of the most influential figures in the city's history: urban designer Pierre Charles L'Enfant, whose vision for the city was realized only after his death; civic leader “Boss” Shepherd, whose strong-arm tactics cleaned up the downtown area and helped create the walking mall we know today; and controversial mayor Marion Barry, whose rise and fall and resurrection underscored the contemporary challenges of home rule.

Teeming with informative anecdotes and two dozen illustrations of landmarks and key characters, Lancaster’s memoir is a personal and passionate paean to the most powerful city in the world—from one of its most illustrious native daughters.