



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

George Washington Birthplace National Monument
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George Washington Birthplace - News Release

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George Washington Birthplace Celebrates Christmas on December 26

Join the staff and volunteers of George Washington Birthplace National Monument on Saturday, December 26, 2009 in celebrating the Washington Family Christmas. The event will run from 10:00 am – 7:00 pm.

Colonial Virginians—black and white, rich and poor--vigorously celebrated Christmas for 12 days--the period stretching from Christmas Day to the feast of the Epiphany in January. Advent, the period before Christmas Day, was considered a period of spiritual preparation without decorations or feasting.

Costumed volunteers and staff members will be hosting a Christmas party much like the Washington family might have done in the 1730s. Cooks will prepare a lavish feast while visitors enjoy the mouth-watering smells from their creations. Children will be play with their Christmas toys and enjoy the decorations in the house. A fiddler and harpsichordist will be teach young people the latest steps as the colonial dancers display their beautiful new clothes.

Visitors to the birthplace will enjoy all of this as well as some of the plantation work—like blacksmithing and spinning—that took place holiday or not. Ginger snaps and hot cider will be served in the Visitor Center, and those staying until dusk will be treated to



The Memorial House at Christmas.

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the once-a-year lighting of candle lamps from the Visitor Center to the Memorial House. The Bookstore will be open until 7 p.m. as well.

Admission is free on December 26.

George Washington Birthplace National Monument is located on Route 204, 2 miles off of Route 3, 38 miles east of Fredericksburg, VA and 11 miles west of Montross, VA. Additional information about George Washington Birthplace National Monument is available by phone at (804) 224-1732 or on the web at www.nps.gov/gewa.



Dancing was popular in 1732 and 2008.

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