

# A Hero's Connection to the Hills

## George Washington in Allegany County

George Washington never lived in Allegany County, but his life and career were indelibly shaped by his many experiences here.

**1748** He first entered the region, when, at the age of 16, he worked as a surveyor in the employ of Virginia's Lord Fairfax, charged with locating the source of the Potomac River. Washington's journal recounts his stay with Thomas and Hannah Cresap at their trading post in present-day Oldtown.

**1753** Washington began a series of visits to this region as a young officer in the Virginia militia (right). The future president's time in Allegany County and nearby Pennsylvania during the 1750s was wild, dangerous, and adventure-filled. His account of the 1753 mission to meet French leaders on the Ohio was published and widely read in England.

**1754** In May, Washington and a party of 160 men under his command—Virginia militiamen and some American Indians under the Mingo leader Tanacharison (middle right)—traveled through the region to learn what the French were doing at the Forks of the Ohio. He was ordered to "act in the dilemma," but instead ambushed a party of 35 French and Canadian soldiers in Pennsylvania at present-day Jumboville Glen, killing their leader. France considered an act of war. Washington's attack thus touched off the French and Indian War.

**1754** After the battle of Jumboville Glen, Washington pulled his men back to a meadow to the south and constructed a fort, which he called Fort Necessity (bottom right). On July 3, 1754, 400 French soldiers and about 100 American Indian allies attacked the fort. Outnumbered and low on provisions, Washington was forced to surrender.

**1755** Washington arrived at Fort Cumberland to act as a volunteer guide to General Edward Braddock's army as they advanced toward the falls of the Ohio. The 2,100-mile journey was intensely difficult, with the steep and twisty mountain terrain making the trip a grueling one.



## ALLEGANY COUNTY, MARYLAND

# ENJOY OUR GEORGE WASHINGTON TRAIL 1753

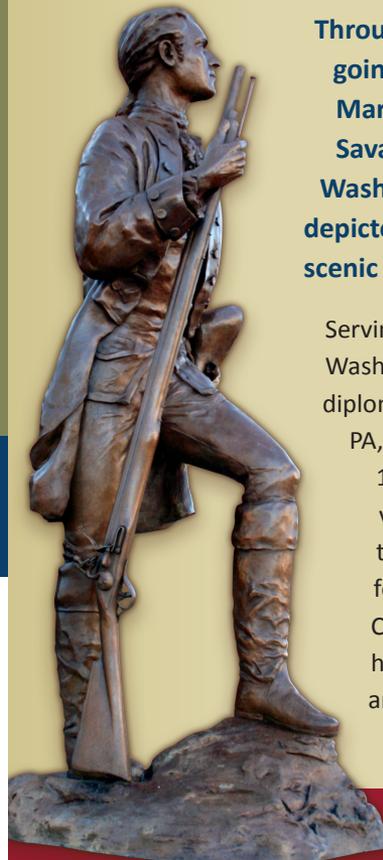


## Visit the World's Only AI Age Regression of Young George Washington

Using artificial intelligence age regression technology, a first of its kind used to recreate the likeness of a historical figure, artists and researchers from across the globe recreated the likeness of George Washington at the various ages he would have been when he visited Allegany County. Because the earliest known portrait of Washington dates to from when he was 43, the team chose to use a clay bust of George Washington at age 53, remarked by his wife and family as his most accurate portrait, as the model to formulate the digital recreation. Catch this one-of-a-kind display in the new Crossroads of America exhibit on the first floor of the Allegany Museum in Cumberland, MD.

Throughout our county, going west from Oldtown, Maryland, to the crest of Savage Mountain, George Washington's familiar profile is depicted on blue signs along our scenic byways and city streets.

Serving as a marker for George Washington's first military and diplomatic venture to Pittsburgh, PA, through Allegany County in 1753, the signs encourage visitors to travel along the route to discover the footsteps of the Father of our Country to learn more about his military career that began and ended in our mountains.



[WWW.MDMOUNTAININSIDE.COM/GEORGE-WASHINGTON-TRAIL](http://WWW.MDMOUNTAININSIDE.COM/GEORGE-WASHINGTON-TRAIL)



ALLEGANY COUNTY  
the MOUNTAIN SIDE  
OF MARYLAND



Funding for this project was provided in part by Preservation Maryland and the Maryland Historical Trust.

# EXPLORE THESE THREE LOCATIONS.

Travel the George Washington Trail 1753 to gain a historical perspective on Washington's various other visits to Allegany County in 1748, 1753, 1755-58, and one last time as President in 1794.



*Follow our signs at your leisure using the Google Maps GPS directions, and download the Clio App to your smartphone for more details on these three amazing pieces of George Washington's story.*

## **The Michael Cresap House - Oldtown, MD**

On this spot in 1748, Washington arrived as a teenage surveyor and enjoyed the hospitality of famous colonial frontiersman, Thomas Cresap. Young Washington saw his first Native American around Cresap's campfire. This site includes a museum and Thomas Cresap's grave helping visitors share the wonder and importance of this historic trading post and river crossing.

## **Prospect Square - Cumberland, MD**

On this spot in 1755, Washington served as an aide to British General Edward Braddock at Fort Cumberland during the French and Indian War. Later, in 1794, he returned to the same parade grounds to review troops preparing to shut down the Whiskey Rebellion, a protest against the first tax imposed on a domestic product by the newly formed federal government. You can feel the history in your bones touring parts of the original Fort Cumberland tunnels in the basement of Emmanuel Episcopal Church on Washington Street or at Washington's log headquarters, twice occupied by George Washington in his travels to Allegany County, located around the corner at Riverside Park on Greene Street.

## **Braddock's Road at St. John's Rock - Frostburg, MD**

Deep in the Savage River State Forest, a once-in-a-lifetime sight awaits experienced hikers. The longest stretch of Nemaocolin's Trail on public land winds west toward Fort Duquesne from the rocky precipice where Washington crossed with over 2,000 elite British troops on Braddock's ill-fated 1755 march.



**WWW.MDMOUNTAINSIDE.COM/  
GEORGE-WASHINGTON-TRAIL**