



GEORGE WASHINGTON *and* DELAWARE

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By

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1795, July 15. "Left Phila. with Mrs. Washington and my family for Mt. Vernon. Dined at Chester and lodged at Wilmington."

1795, July 16. "Breakfasted at Christa. [Christiana, Del.], dined at Elkton, and lodged at Susquehanna. One of my horses overcame with heat."

President Washington's route after crossing northern Delaware was down the Western Shore of Chesapeake Bay to Baltimore, thence to Bladenburgh and Georgetown. His diary for July 20th says: "After doing business with the Comrs. of the fedl. City [Washington] I proceeded my journey and got home to dinner."

1795, Aug. 10. "Breakfasted at Elkton. Dined at Newcastle and lodged at Wilmington."

President Washington was now on his way from Mt. Vernon to Philadelphia. His expense account memorandum shows:—"Bill at Bear [Bear Tavern, Delaware] 3.10½. Bill at Newcastle 11.10. Ferry over Christa. [Christiana Ferry] 2.10." He had left Mt. Vernon on August 6th and had traveled via Georgetown, Bladensburgh, Baltimore, Hartford, Susquehannah and Charlestown in Maryland.

1795, Sept. 8. "Left Phila. for Mt. Vernon, dined at Chester, and lodged at Wilmington."

Sept. 9. "Breakfasted at Christiana, dined at Elkton, and lodged at Charlestown."

Washington's route on this occasion was the familiar one via Susquehannah River, Hartford, Baltimore, Bladensburgh and Georgetown. He reached Mt. Vernon on September 13.

1795, Oct. 19. "Do [lodged] at Wilmington."

Washington had left Mt. Vernon for Philadelphia on October 12. His route had been via Georgetown, Bladensburgh, Baltimore, Hartford, Elkton and Christiana Bridge, at which last named place he had dined.

1797, March 9. "Wind changed to No. Wt. blew very hard and turned very cold. Mer: at 28 left Phila. on my return to Mt. Vernon, dined at Chester and lodged at Wilmington."

The persons in this party were General and Mrs. Washington, Eleanor Parke Custis, George Washington Lafayette and

Felix Frestal, his tutor. Washington had relinquished his office as President of the United States five days previously, John Adams having been inaugurated as his successor on March 4. President Adams, writing to his wife on the 5th described the inauguration in part as follows: "Your dearest friend never had a more trying day than yesterday. A solemn scene it was indeed, and it was made affecting to me by the presence of the General, whose countenance was as serene and unclouded as the day. He seemed to me to enjoy a triumph over me. Me thought I heard him say, 'Ay! I am fairly out and you fairly in!' When the ceremony was over, he came and made me a visit, and cordially congratulated me, and wished my administration might be happy, successful and honourable. . . . In the chamber of the House of Representatives was a multitude as great as the space could contain, and I believe scarcely a dry eye but Washington's."

1798, Nov. 8. "Breakfasted at Susquehanna, escorted by the Hartford horse; dined at Elkton and lodged at Christiana bridge."

1798, Nov. 9. "Breakfasted in Wilmington and dined and lodged at Chester, wait'g at the latter the Return of an Exps."

Washington had been appointed by President Adams as Lieutenant General of the United States Army on account of the threatened war with France. He was now on his way from Mt. Vernon to Philadelphia to meet the Secretary of War and Major-Generals Hamilton and Pinckney at Philadelphia to make the necessary arrangements for the provisional army, it being understood that Alexander Hamilton was to have active command of the Army on account of Washington's age. This was Washington's last visit to Philadelphia. He remained there from November 10 to December 14.

1798, Dec. 15. "Breakfasted at Wilmington, bated at Christiana, and dined and lodged at Elkton."

On this day Washington was on Delaware soil for the last time. He was returning from Philadelphia to his home at Mt. Vernon, where he died a year later almost to the day, December 14, 1799.