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# **THE CHRISTIAN HERITAGE OF OUR NATION**

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**HISTORY CURRICULUM – U.S. Presidents and Their Churches**

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**Illustrator: Maxwell Edgar**

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In the name of God amen

I George Washington of Mount Vernon, a citizen of the United States, and lately President of the same, do make, ordain and declare this Instrument, which is written with my own hand, and every page thereof subscribed with my name, to be my last Will and Testament, revoking all others.

Item. All my debts, of which there are but few, and none of magnitude, are to be punctually and speedily paid, and the legacies hereinafter bequeathed, are to be discharged as soon as circumstances will permit, and in the manner directed.

Item. To my dear and beloved wife Martha Washington I give and bequeath the use, profit and benefit of my whole Estate, real and personal, for the term of her natural life, except such parts thereof as are specifically disposed of hereafter:—  
I do give and bequeath the sum of \$1000 to my dear and beloved son George Washington Parke Custis, to be paid to him at the age of 21 years, or at such other time as he may think proper.

Household & Kitchen Furniture of every sort & kind, and the liquors and groceries which may be on hand at the time of my decease; to be used & disposed of as she may think proper.

Upon the decease of my Wife, it is my Will & desire that all the Slaves which I hold in excess of their freedom be emancipated during their lives, and earnestly wish with such inward account of their vicages with the Negroes, as to excite the most painful sensations, if not disagreeable descriptions, in the occupancy of the latter, while in the occupation of the former, it not being the tenure by which they are held, to manumit them, whereas among the free, there may be some who on account of old or bodily infirmities, will be unable to support themselves.

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That such of the latter description as have no parents living, or if living, are unable, or unwilling to provide for them, shall be bound by the Court until they shall arrive at the age of twenty five years; - and in cases when no record can be produced, whereby their ages can be ascertained, the judgment of the Court, upon its own view of the subject, shall be adequate and final. - The Negroes thus bound, are (by their Masters or Mistresses) to be taught to read & write, and to be brought up to some useful occupation, agreeably to the Laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia, providing for the support of Orphans and other poor Children. - and I do hereby expressly forbid the sale, or transportation out of the said Commonwealth, of any Slave I may die possessed of, under any pretence whatsoever. - And I do moreover most pointedly, and most solemnly enjoin it upon my Executors hereafter named, or their Survivors of them, to see that the same respecting Slaves, and every part thereof, be religiously fulfilled at the Epoch, at which it is directed to take place; without omission, neglect or delay; after the Croix which may then be on the ground unharvested, particularly as it respects

Edw. Mifflin