



GEORGE WASHINGTON COMES TO JONESBOROUGH

Well, not literally. However, a portrait of our first president and the namesake of our county was recently installed in the archives' Reading Room. The work is a reproduction of the original painting done by American artist Gilbert Stuart and was purchased by the Friends of the Archives for the archives from the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, where the original resides. If you look at a one dollar bill, you will see the image that we now have in reverse.

The Washington District that became Washington County was established by North Carolina to govern its western territories in 1776. This was one of the earliest political units to be named for George Washington. The following year, the district was renamed Washington County, the first county of what became Tennessee. Today 31 states have a Washington County.

President Washington never visited the county named for him, but there are some local connections with him. Before becoming one of Tennessee's early pioneer leaders, Evan Shelby served as a captain with Washington during the French and Indian War, where Captain Christopher Taylor may also have known him. John Tipton knew him in the Virginia legislature. And a young soldier named Hugh Harris was in the encampment at Valley Forge under Washington's command, where he would have seen him on a daily basis. Harris moved to the county after the war and is buried in its soil.

Come by and view the picture sometime.

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