

St. Pauli News in Detail



Summer Pulpit Supply

June 4	Kevin Reich – Communion
June 11	Kevin Reich
June 18	Pr. Joy Grainger – Communion
June 25	Kevin Reich
July 2	Kevin Reich
July 9	Pr. Joy Grainger – Communion
July 16	TBD
July 23	Kevin Reich
July 30	Hymn Sing
August 6	Kevin Reich
August 13	Kevin Reich
August 20	Kevin Reich
August 27	Pr. Joy Grainger – Communion



Greeting and Ushering

June 4	Barb Nelson
June 11	Staci Reay
June 18	Jim Rondorf
June 25	Jordan Rondorf
July 2	Arlo Rude
July 9	Wahna Smith
July 16	Mike Stickler
July 23	Jim Strandlie
July 30	Skip Swanson
August 6	Craig Torkelson
August 13	Chad Torstveit
August 20	Val Torstveit
August 27	Myles Alberg

Altar Preparation:

June:	Val Torstveit
July:	Sue Kotz
August:	Sharon Bugge

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Milestones – Anniversaries

June 18	Arlo Rude and Deb Ernst
July 1	Bruce and Shelley Mathson
July 6	Ron and Virginia Anderson
August 1	Jim and Sue Kotz
August 3	Ken and Cindy Cedergren
August 27	Wade and Marisa Benson

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THANK YOU to Cider Mill Nursery in Thief River Falls for the donation of 25 bags of mulch for our gardens.



A huge THANK YOU to Ron and Virginia Anderson for spreading the mulch – no small job!

Milestones – Birthdays

June 11	Myles Alberg
June 17	Kathy Alberg
June 17	Sharon Bugge
June 27	Jan Strandlie
July 1	Val Torstveit
July 4	Kari Torkelson
July 7	Rylan Torstveit
July 9	Sharon McCollough
July 29	Skip Swanson
July 31	Ron Anderson
August 6	Chad Torstveit
August 11	Dennis McCollough
August 17	Faye Auchenpaugh

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Forgot Something?

Please check the open shelves in the kitchen area for pans or other items that have been forgotten at the church. There is one lid that is not the correct size for a tray that was brought to the church. If you have a similar lid at your house that doesn't fit your pan, please exchange it with the one at the church so they can both have their proper homes.



In Memoriam

Connie (Alberg) Kolden

July 29, 1937 – May 7, 2023

The Albergs were long-time members of St. Pauli Church. Myles Alberg's father was Stanley and Connie was his aunt.

Connie Kolden, 85, passed away on Sunday, May 7, 2023.

Connie Louise Alberg was born July 29, 1937 on the family farm at Hazel. She was the eighth and youngest child of Carl and Louise Alberg. She was baptized at home and confirmed at St. Pauli Lutheran Church.

She attended St. Hilaire Public School and Lincoln High School, graduating in 1955. She met Jim Kolden of St. Hilaire as a teenager, and the two were married in 1957. They moved to the Cities and settled in Shoreview, where they raised their family.

Connie was preceded in death by her loving husband of 58 years, Jim. She is survived by son, David (Anne) Kolden; daughter, Laurie (Dean) Dvorak; grandchildren, Jacob, Elizabeth and John Kolden, Michael (Laura) Dvorak, Deanna (Nathaniel) Youngquist and Andrew (Larissa) Dvorak; eight great-grandchildren; nieces, nephews and friends.

A Memorial Service will be held Saturday, June 17, at 1:00 PM at North Heights Lutheran Church, 2701 N. Rice Street, Roseville, with visitation for one hour prior to the service. A light luncheon will follow. Private interment at Roselawn Cemetery. Memorials are preferred to North Heights Lutheran Church.



The Alberg Family

Back Row L to R: Helen (Peggy), Lillian, Louise, Stanley Carl, Gladys.
Middle Row L to R: Ruby, Maybelle, Cleo. Front: Connie.

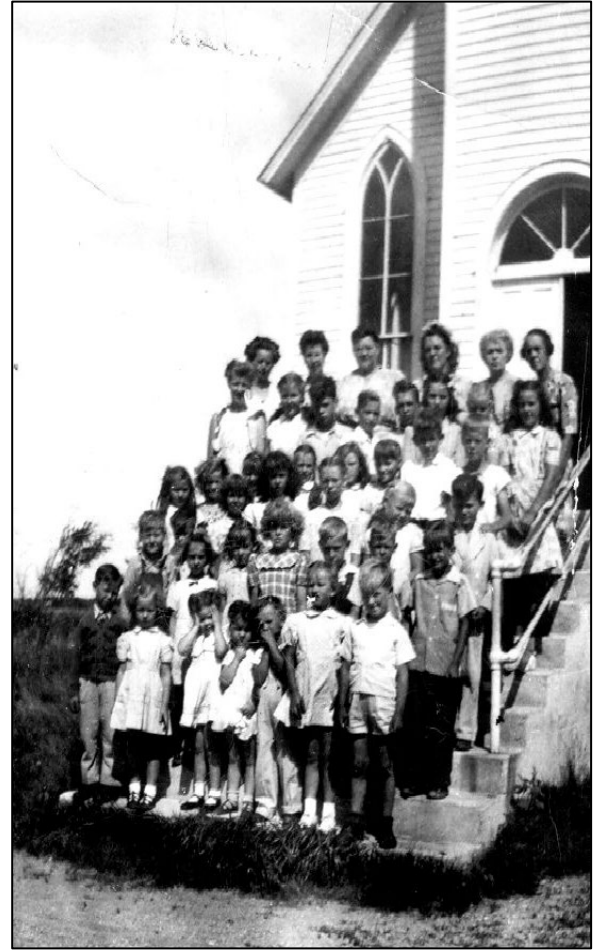


**Confirmation Class
September 16, 1951**

Front Row L to R: Doris Belange, Patricia Torkelson, Connie Alberg
Back Row L to R: Rev. Fjelstul, Marvin Torkelson

**Sunday School
1947**

Connie is in the middle of the third row from the top, with Wahna Torkelson to the left of her, and Elinor Gustafson in front of Connie.



LEFT PHOTO: Wahna (Torkelson) Smith, Faye (Torkelson) Auchenpough, and Connie (Alberg) Kolden with the Torkelson's beloved horse, Duke. (c. 1948)

A FEW NOTES ON THE ST. HILAIRE PUBLIC SCHOOL: Built in 1921. Twenty-two years later, in 1943, World War II made it very difficult to obtain teachers, so the Board of Education decided to no longer operate the high school. Fifty-seven ninth through twelfth grade students were transported to Thief River Falls that first year.

From 1943 to 1968 there were eight grades at the school. In 1968, the eight grades were reduced to six and then in 1980 to five. In 1971, the district was consolidated with Thief River Falls School District and the school was remodeled.

After the school was closed in 1982, the building was sold to a private individual for a few years, and later it was sold to the City of St. Hilaire. Over the next 10 years, the building deteriorated, causing the roof to partially collapse. In 1999, the building was used for a controlled burn by the St. Hilaire Volunteer Fire Department, and afterwards it was demolished by Forest River Salvage Company.

Minutes of the Church Council

May 11, 2023

The St. Pauli Church Council held its monthly meeting on Thursday, May 11, 2023, at 7 p.m. at St. Pauli Church. Members present: Jim Strandlie, Cindy Cedergren, and Sue Kotz.

Guests: Faye Auchenpaugh, Arlo Rude, and Gary Iverson (Call Committee representatives).

Council President Jim Strandlie called the meeting to order and opened with prayer.

Approval of Agenda: The agenda was approved as distributed.

Secretary's Report: The minutes of the February 9, 2023 meeting were previously approved via email. M/S/C (Strandlie/Kotz). The Council did not meet in March and was cancelled in April due to weather.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's report for April was approved. M/S/C (Kotz/Strandlie)

Checking Account Balance End of Mar 2023	\$ 11,123.06
Apr 2023 Revenue:	4,039.79
Apr 2023 Expenses:	<u>(3,751.50)</u>
Checking Account Balance End of Apr 2023:	\$ 11,411.35
Other Account Balances End of Apr 2023:	
Education Fund	\$ 1,413.05
Edward Jones	74,579.42
Memorial Fund	\$8,976.21
Mission Grant	\$5,483.23
Savings	<u>37,017.12</u>
Total Account Balances End of Apr 2023	\$138,880.38

Reports of Members in sickness or distress: We continue to keep Kari Torkelson, Barb Nelson, and Gary Iverson in our prayers.

New Members or Interest in Membership: No report.

Other Reports:

- 1) WELCA: Cindy Cedergren reported that the spring shipment to Lutheran World Relief was held on May 6. High school graduates Noah Haugen and Mason Haugen will be presented graduation quilts during worship on May 21.
- 2) Sunday School Committee: Sunday School students will sing during worship services on Mother's Day, May 14, their last day of Sunday School until fall. Gary Iverson reported that two students are eligible for First Communion instruction. Gary will schedule the instruction with the students and arrange for the first communion when an ordained pastor is scheduled to preach. Gabe Haugen has completed confirmation requirements and tentatively will

be scheduled for Confirmation on the last Sunday of October, as typically done, if an ordained pastor is available.

Old Business:

- 1) Call Committee Report: Faye Auchenpaugh shared the schedule for the summer months for pulpit supply as follows:
June 4 - Kevin Reich, with Pastor Gary Johnson overseeing communion distribution.
June 11- Kevin Reich
June 18 – Pastor Joy Grainger, Holy Communion
June 25 – Kevin Reich
July 2 – Kevin Reich
July 9 – Pastor Joy Grainger, Holy Communion
July 16 – Kari Torkelson
July 23 – Kevin Reich
July 30 – 5th Sunday – Hymn Sing, Volunteers needed to help with service.
Aug. 6 – Kevin Reich
Aug. 13 – Kevin Reich
Aug. 20 – Kevin Reich
Aug. 27 – Pastor Joy Grainger, Holy Communion
- 2) Cleaning Contract: Cindy Cedergren reported that Tammy Swick has been secured to clean the church in late May or early June. WELCA officers identified tasks that need to be done.
- 3) Stained Glass Window Project: Tabled until Marisa is available to report progress.

New Business:

- 1) Well Water Status: Complaints have been voiced about the quality of the water this spring. Discussion was held on the fact that due to infrequent usage, the water needs to be run for an hour or more periodically to flush out the water pipes. Arlo Rude will take care of this.
- 2) "Atlantic Crossing" Series: Jim reported there has been favorable attendance and positive feedback on this series. This may be something we'll continue to do next year.
- 3) Lawn Mowing: Jim will contact Justin Folkedahl to see if he is interested in mowing again.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Next meeting date: Thursday, June 15, 2023. It will be determined in June whether a July meeting is necessary.

Cindy Cedergren
St. Pauli Church Council Secretary

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St. Pauli WELCA Minutes

April 19, 2023

The St. Pauli Women of the ELCA met at the church on Wednesday, April 19, 2023 at 7:00 pm with seven members present.

Virginia opened with devotions titled "The Importance of Awe" based on Psalm 65:8.

Secretary's Report: Accepted as read.

Treasurer's Report: Checking balance as of 4/19/2023: \$2,493.49; Savings as of 3/31/2023: \$577.59; CD as of 12/31/2022 \$6,258.88.

Stewardship: Shipping is scheduled for May 6. Jan will box everything up and Virginia and Ron will deliver. Jan still has not received the Tally Sheet form that goes with the shipment. She will search online.

Council report: Kari Torkelson will be our pulpit supply for May 7. Kevin Reich is scheduled for the remainder of May. Pastor Joy Grainger is serving this Sunday, April 23.

At the request of the council, we drafted a list of duties we would expect a cleaning service to do twice yearly. Cindy has a list of cleaning services that she will contact.

Communications: Thank you cards for the Valentine's soup lunch received from Val Torstveit and Jim and Joan Nelson. We also received a thank you letter from Hospice of the Red River Valley for our online donation on Giving Hearts Day.

Old Business: Thank you to the Mary Circle for serving our Easter breakfast. The hard-boiled, decorated eggs were a treat.

New Business: Potluck is this Sunday with donations going to Lutheran Social Services. It is also Blanket Sunday, and the ladies brought the 25 quilts, 14 baby care kits, and 19 personal care kits made this winter up to the sanctuary to be blessed by Pastor Grainger. Thank you to everyone who donated toward the personal care kits during Lent.

The Conference 2 gathering is this Saturday at Nazareth Church in Holt. The Fair Hills Women's Retreat is June 12-13 in Detroit Lakes. You can go for one or both days. Kate Mulvey is the speaker.

We received a letter from Sheriff Seth Vettleson asking for support for their National Child Safety Council project. M/S/C Sharon/Virginia to donate \$75.

We do not have programs set for our May or June meeting. Kathy has contacted Ally Hopperstad, volunteer leader of Bio-Girls, to see if she could speak at our May program and she has agreed.

Thank you to Faye for serving tonight. Lydia Circle meeting on May 10 is potluck.

Offering was taken, prayer partners shared, and the Lord's Prayer prayed.

Faye Auchenpaugh, Secretary

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Updates on Members Needing our Prayers

Gary Iverson: Gary is at home and recovering well from triple-bypass surgery and was back in church as soon as he could move well enough. His sister, Eileen, was a godsend during the recovery process.

Barb Nelson: Is continuing with physical therapy after breaking her pelvis during a fall. She developed sciatica on her right side, likely from overuse, and this has been more painful by far than the fracture. She says there is not much they can do for it but physical therapy, exercises at home and, of course, pain meds. She is driving now, but not walking very well, and can't sit in one place for very long.

Kari Torkelson: Broke her ankle from a nasty fall on her bicycle while in Bismarck, ND and had immediate surgery there with plates and pins. She had to go all the way back to Bismarck for her follow up because Sanford and Altru orthopedics wouldn't see her in Grand Forks. The surgeon said it looked "perfect" considering the severe breaks. She has a boot that she can rest on the floor – no cast, no splint. She is allowed to move the ankle any way she can tolerate. Still no weight bearing for 6 weeks!!!

They all say thank you all for our cards, emails and prayers.

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Congratulations to our High School Graduates!

WELCA President Kathy Alberg presented our 2023 high



school graduates with quilts handmade by our quilting ladies.

Noah (left) is the son of Marc and Heidi Haugen.

Mason (center) is the son of Jerod and Tammy Haugen.

We wish them the very best for their futures and, as Kathy told them, they will always be a part of our St. Pauli family!

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A Heartwarming Story

Especially for fans of Simon & Garfunkel

"Hello darkness, my old friend..." Everyone knows the iconic Simon & Garfunkel song, but do you know the amazing story behind the first line of "The Sounds of Silence?"

It began 62 years ago, when Arthur "Art" Garfunkel, a Jewish kid from Queens, NY, enrolled in Columbia University. During freshman orientation, Art met a student from Buffalo named Sandy Greenberg, and they immediately bonded over their shared passion for literature and music. Art and Sandy became roommates and best friends. With the idealism of youth, they promised to be there for each other no matter what.

Soon after starting college, Sandy was struck by tragedy. His vision became blurry and although doctors diagnosed it as temporary conjunctivitis, the problem grew worse. Finally, after seeing a specialist, Sandy received the devastating news that severe glaucoma was destroying his optic nerves. The young man with such a bright future would soon be completely blind.

Sandy was devastated and fell into a deep depression. He gave up his dream of becoming a lawyer and moved back to Buffalo, where he worried about being a burden to his financially struggling family. Consumed with shame and fear, Sandy cut off contact with his old friends, refusing to answer letters or return phone calls.

Then suddenly, to Sandy's shock, his buddy Art showed up at the front door. He was not going to allow his best friend to give up on life, so he bought a ticket and flew up to Buffalo unannounced. Art convinced Sandy to give college another go and promised that he would be right by his side to make sure he didn't fall - literally or figuratively.

Art kept his promise, faithfully escorting Sandy around campus and effectively serving as his eyes. It was important to Art that even though Sandy had been plunged into a world of darkness, he should never feel alone. Art started calling himself "Darkness" to demonstrate his empathy with his friend. He'd say things like, "Darkness is going to read to you now." Art organized his life around helping Sandy.

One day, Art was guiding Sandy through crowded Grand Central Station when he suddenly said he had to go and left his friend alone and petrified. Sandy stumbled, bumped into people, and fell, cutting a gash in his shin. After a couple of hellish hours, Sandy finally got on the right subway train. After exiting the station at 116th street, Sandy bumped into someone who quickly apologized - and Sandy immediately recognized Art's voice! It turned out his trusty friend had followed him the whole way home, making sure he was safe, and giving him the priceless gift of independence. Sandy later said, "That moment was the spark that caused me to live a completely different life, without fear, without doubt. For that I am tremendously grateful to my friend."

Sandy graduated from Columbia and then earned graduate degrees at Harvard and Oxford. He married his high school sweetheart and became an extremely successful entrepreneur and philanthropist.

While at Oxford, Sandy got a call from Art. This time Art was the one who needed help. He'd formed a folk-rock duo with his high school pal Paul Simon, and they desperately needed \$400 to record their first album. Sandy and his wife Sue had literally \$404 in their bank account, but without hesitation Sandy gave his old friend what he needed.

Art and Paul's first album was not a success, but one of the songs, The Sounds of Silence, became a #1 hit a year later. The opening line echoed the way Sandy always greeted Art. Simon & Garfunkel went on to become one of the most beloved musical acts in history.

The two Columbia graduates, each of whom has added so much to the world in his own way, are still best friends. Art Garfunkel said that when he became friends with Sandy, "my real life emerged. I became a better guy in my own eyes and began to see who I was - somebody who gives to a friend." Sandy describes himself as "the luckiest man in the world."

Adapted from Sandy Greenberg's memoir: "Hello Darkness, My Old Friend: How Daring Dreams and Unyielding Friendship Turned One Man's Blindness into an Extraordinary Vision for Life."

Parental Advice from “The Father of Our Country”

George Washington had no biological children of his own, and it took many years for Washington to come to grips with the fact that he was not going to father his own children. Despite this difficulty, the Washingtons' home at Mount Vernon was filled with children for nearly all forty years of his marriage to Martha Dandridge Custis. For most of these children, George Washington stood in the role of father or grandfather.

Unlike the majority of women in Virginia in the 1700s, Martha had learned both to read and write at an early age. Throughout her entire life, Martha found pleasure and solace in reading. She read the Bible and other devotional literature for religious edification, and novels and magazines for entertainment and instruction. Martha was also known as a regular and active letter writer, and a collection of her surviving letters are housed in the collections of the Mount Vernon library.

Martha was described as a lovely and attractive woman with a lively personality. She was generally strong-willed, though also charming, sincere, warm, and socially adept. These characteristics allowed her to overcome obstacles and forge her own path in the world.

In colonial Virginia, most women of Martha's social class met their potential mates through friends and family, or at church, court day, or a ball held at a neighbor's house. Tradition holds that Martha met her first husband, Daniel Parke Custis, at their local Anglican church.

Daniel Parke Custis began courting Martha Dandridge when he was in his late thirties. He lived on his own plantation, White House, situated four miles downstream from the Dandridge home on the Pamunkey River. Custis's imperious father had quashed a number of Daniel's previous efforts to wed. When word of his son's interest in Martha surfaced, John Parke Custis IV initially opposed the match. He insisted that the Dandrighes lacked sufficient wealth and status to marry into his family and threatened to disinherit his son.

At 38, Daniel Parke Custis was nearly twenty years older than his new wife, who was 18. He was also significantly older than the average Virginia man who married for the first time at age 27. Yet by waiting until he found a woman of whom his father approved, Custis guaranteed his own financial future as well as that of his future heirs – and of Martha herself.

Martha's first child was a son, named Daniel Parke Custis, born on November 19, 1751, followed in April 1753 by a daughter, Frances Parke Custis. Although the first names were traditional family names, the children's great-grandfather had imposed a strict condition on inheritance: only children bearing the name “Parke” as part of their given name would receive a portion of the family estate.

Despite their socially and economically privileged lives, neither Daniel nor Frances would reach the age of five. In the colonial era, childhood was the period of greatest vulnerability to death and disease. Only about 60% of children born at this time lived to the age of 20. In 1754 Daniel died, probably of malaria; Frances died in 1757.

Martha had two other children with Daniel Parke Custis, John Parke Custis, born in 1754, and Martha Parke Custis, born in 1756.

Martha's marriage to Daniel Parke Custis, who died on July 8, 1757, was a happy union by all accounts and lasted just over seven years.

As a young, attractive, wealthy widow, Martha Dandridge Custis probably enjoyed more freedom to choose her own destiny than at any other point in her life. At the time she and George Washington were married, she was only twenty-seven years old, owned nearly 300 enslaved people and had more than 17,500 acres of land— worth more than £40,000 (roughly \$2 million today).

The attraction between George and Martha was mutual, powerful, and immediate. Martha was charming, attractive, and wealthy. George had his own appeal. Standing over six feet two inches tall, he was an imposing figure with a formidable reputation as a military leader.

At the end of 1758, Washington resigned his military commission. On January 6, 1759, Martha Dandridge Custis married George Washington at her home, White House. As a result of the marriage, Washington became legal guardian of her surviving children.



John Parke Custis (known as Jacky when younger, and Jack as he got older) was around four years old when his mother married George Washington. Martha Parke Custis, known as Patsy, was about two years old at the time of the wedding and had a particularly difficult life. Only a toddler when her mother and stepfather were married, she grew into a gentle teenager who showed great promise. However, by the time Patsy was around eleven or twelve she became plagued with frequent seizures, which grew worse over time. After a particularly violent episode on June 19, 1773, Patsy died at age seventeen.

Jacky's education began at Mount Vernon under the eye of his mother, but became more serious in the fall of 1761 with the arrival of a Scottish tutor named Walter Magowan. After Magowan left for England in the fall of 1767, George Washington wrote to the Reverend Jonathan Boucher, an Anglican minister who ran a school for boys in Caroline County, Virginia, to see if he would be willing to “add” Custis “to the number of your Pupils.”

Washington noted that Jacky had been introduced to both Greek and Latin by his tutor and described his stepson as “a boy of good genius, about 14 yrs. of age, untainted in his morals, and of innocent manners.” He considered him “a

promising boy” and expressed “anxiety” that as “the last of his Family,” who would be coming into “a very large Fortune,” he wanted to see the boy made “fit for more useful purposes, than a horse Racer.” However, as early as Custis’ teenage years, George Washington began worrying about his stepson’s work ethic.

Writing on January 26, 1769, George Washington sent a short note to Boucher. In the letter, Washington explained why Custis was late getting back to school after the Christmas holidays and expressed the hope that “Jacky will apply close to his Studies and retrieve the hours he has lost...he promises to do so, & I hope he will.” Schoolwork, however, frequently took second place in the teenager’s priorities, which caused his stepfather considerable grief. Custis attended Boucher’s school from 1768 to 1773, remaining even after the institution moved to Annapolis, Maryland.

These were very frustrating years for both Washington and Reverend Boucher. Washington, whose own education had been curtailed by the death of his father, read widely to make up for his deficiencies. He very much wanted the young people in his care to be given the educational opportunities he himself had missed. Washington could not understand why the young man he helped to raise could not or would not see the need to apply himself at school. In a particularly telling exchange, written when Custis was only sixteen, Washington noted to Boucher that his stepson’s mind was centered on “Dogs Horses & Guns,” as well as “Dress & equipage.” Almost as damning, from Washington’s perspective, was Boucher’s opinion that “one of the worst Symptoms” about Custis was the fact that “He does not much like Books,” even though his schoolmaster had been “endeavouring to allure Him to it, by every Artifice I cou’d think of.”

One reason why Jack was so distracted from his schoolwork became obvious in the spring of 1773, when the nineteen-year-old announced his engagement to Eleanor Calvert, the fifteen-year-old daughter of a prominent Maryland family. George Washington was initially able to convince the young couple to postpone the marriage until after Jack had finished college and could “thereby render himself more deserving of the Lady & useful to Society.” Custis was sent off to King’s College (now Columbia University) in New York City in May of 1773. But less than a year later, on February 3, 1774, Custis and Calvert were married. In the intervening months, Martha Washington’s remaining daughter Patsy had died at Mount Vernon, and the grieving mother wanted her son nearby, and Custis departed New York City.

In a letter sent to the president of King’s College, Washington explained in December of 1773 that his stepson was leaving for good: “The favourable account you was pleas’d to transmit me of Mr Custis’s conduct at College, gave me very great satisfaction...but these hopes are at an end; & at length, I have yielded, contrary to my judgment, & much against my wishes, to his quitting College; in order that he may enter soon into a new scene of Life, which I think he would be much fitter for some years hence, than now; but having his own inclination—the desires of his mother—& the acquiescence of almost all his relatives, to encounter, I did not care, as he is the last of the family, to push my opposition too far; & therefore have submitted to a Kind of necessity.”

Jack and Nelly lived at Abingdon Plantation and had seven children over the next seven years, four of whom would survive. Despite Washington’s frequent disappointments in Custis, the young man described their relationship fondly. In

looking back on their relationship, Custis noted in a letter to Washington that, “It pleased the Almighty to deprive me at a very early Period of Life of my Father, but I cannot sufficiently adore His Goodness in sending Me so good a Guardian as you Sir.” He went on to assure his stepfather that, “He best deserves the Name of Father who acts the Part of one. . . .”

After Washington left Mount Vernon in 1775, he would not return again for over six years. Every year, during the long winter months when the fighting was at a standstill, the General asked Martha to join him at his winter encampment.

Every year she made the arduous journey to his camp, whether it was at Cambridge, Valley Forge, Philadelphia, Morristown, Newburgh, or elsewhere. She stayed with him for months at a time. In fact, during the period from April 1775 until December 1783, Martha was able to be with her husband for almost half the time he was away. The General regarded his wife’s presence as so essential to the cause that he sought reimbursement from Congress for her traveling expenses.

Before she could make the first trip, however, Martha had to undergo her own ordeal. She had to be inoculated for smallpox, one of the deadliest enemies soldiers faced during wartime. After successfully weathering the inoculation, Martha could then travel to the soldiers’ camp without fear of contracting the disease or transmitting it to others.

As the Revolutionary War came to a close, Jack Custis decided to join his stepfather at Yorktown, the site of Washington’s most celebrated victory. Soon after Cornwallis’ surrender, however, young Jack was one of the hundreds of men who died of camp fever as contagions spread through the crowded camps of both American and British troops.

Jacky and Patsy were not, however, the only children who viewed George Washington as a surrogate father. The death of Martha’s son during the Yorktown campaign in 1781 left Jack’s three daughters—Eliza, Martha, and Eleanor—as well as his infant son, George Washington Parke Custis, in the care of their sick and grieving twenty-three-year-old mother. Washington tried to convince his wife’s brother, Bartholomew Dandridge, to oversee their upbringing and their estate.

Dandridge eventually agreed to oversee the Custis family estate for the children, while George and Martha Washington took the two youngest children, Nelly and George Washington Parke Custis (called Washy) into their own home to be raised as their children. In addition to Martha Washington’s children and grandchildren, George Washington also found himself in the role of surrogate father to several nieces and nephews. Foremost among them were the children of his younger brother, Samuel who died in 1781.

One of the most noticeable differences between George Washington and his wife in regard to raising children had to do with their approach to discipline. George Washington, with his experience as a soldier, tried to take a rather hard line toward young people who acted inappropriately and was not against the judicious use of corporal punishment. Martha Washington, however, tended to be much more lenient with the children in her care.

Education was extremely important to George Washington. The death of his own father when he was only eleven meant that Washington did not have the opportunity to study in England, as had his two older half-brothers. With education being such an important topic in his life, George Washington could not understand why the young men he helped to raise

either could not or would not see the need to apply themselves at school.

George Washington Parke Custis (1781–1857), the youngest child of John “Jack” Parke and Eleanor Calvert Custis, spent most of his youth with his grandparents George and Martha Washington and in the fall of 1796 he enrolled at the College of New Jersey (now Princeton University). Washington, as he was called by his relatives, was not a particularly diligent student and the family worried that he might not properly apply himself to his studies. While Washington Custis’s letters to his grandfather during his first months away at school have not survived, George Washington’s letters to his step-grandson provide insight into his role as father figure to the young man. Both the president and the grandson lost their fathers at an early age: George Washington at eleven, and George Washington Parke Custis at only six months. By writing these letters of advice, the father of our country was imparting wisdom similar to what he might have received from his own parent.



The Washington Family, Edward Savage, 1789-96, National Gallery of Art

George Washington, who never attended college, explained to his grandson the importance of making the most of his education. He encouraged Custis to show obedience to his professors and the president of the college and to devote his time to reading serious, not trivial works: “Light reading (by this, I mean books of little importance) may amuse for the moment, but leaves nothing solid behind.” According to his grandfather, the purpose of Custis’s schooling was to “see you enter upon the grand theatre of life, with the advantages of a finished education, a highly cultivated mind; and a proper sense of your duties to God & Man.” George Washington knew the hours Washington Custis spent studying “may feel irksome at first,” but the president advised him that “the advantages resulting from” his education would outweigh the irritations. Washington warned his grandson to avoid acquiring habits that would lead to “idleness and vice,” but equally instructed him not to “deprive yourself in the intervals of study, of any recreation ... which reason approves.”

As an adult George Washington had many acquaintances but few whom he considered close friends; this fact explains the guidance he gave his grandson about forming ties with his classmates. While he advised Washington Custis to “Endeavor to conciliate the good will of all your fellow students, rendering them every act of kindness in your power,” he also counselled him to reserve friendship until he knew his fellow students well, and then to “select the most

deserving only,” noting that “True friendship is a plant of slow growth.” He cautioned his grandson against becoming friendly with immoral youths who might become “a stumbling block in your way; and act like a Millstone hung to your neck.” However, he also advised Custis not to form “hasty, & unfavourable impressions of any one: let your judgment always balance well, before you decide.” If adequate time had not yet occurred to form an opinion, the grandfather suggested that “it is best to be silent; for there is nothing more certain than that it is, at all times, more easy to make enemies, than friends.”

George Washington, himself a life-long (albeit laconic) diarist, encouraged his grandson to keep a diary while at school to make a record “of the occurrences which happen to you, or within your sphere.” Writing from personal experience, Washington noted that while the practice may appear “Trifling” at the time, “by carefully preserving” his thoughts Custis would gain more “satisfaction” in returning to these diaries at a future date “than what you may conceive at present.”

The grandfather also recommended entering all his expenses into an account book, which would “initiate you into a habit, from which considerable advantages would result. Where no account of this sort is kept—there can be no investigation; no correction of errors; no discovery from a recurrence thereto, wherein too much, or too little has been appropriated to particular uses. From an early attention to these matters, important & lasting benefits may follow.” Washington further instructed Custis to promptly acknowledge receiving letters “to remove doubts of their miscarriage” by the sender, and implored him to “Never let an indigent person ask, without receiving something” if he had the means.

Writing on 27 February 1797, shortly before he left the presidency, George Washington was gratified to hear that Washington Custis seemed to enjoy his studies and hoped his grandson would “reward my cares & anxieties to see you a polished Scholar, & a useful member of society, by persevering with assiduity & steadiness in the course you are now in.” Custis, however, only attended the College of New Jersey at Princeton until October; he subsequently matriculated at St. John’s College in Annapolis, Maryland, but left in September 1798 without graduating.

George Washington’s female stepchildren and step-grandchildren approached education in a far more positive manner. When told by her teacher that the only suitable subjects for women were “mending, writing, Arithmetic, & Music,” Eliza Parke Custis reacted despondently, often thinking of those words “with deep regret” throughout her life because of her desire for formal education. During the years of George Washington’s presidency, younger sister Nelly studied at some of the best schools available to young women in both New York and Philadelphia.

Among the parenting duties George Washington found himself undertaking as his wife’s granddaughters grew into young women was counseling them on the subjects of love and marriage. In the late summer of 1794, the oldest granddaughter Eliza (then eighteen years old), was feeling dejected because her next youngest sister Martha had just become engaged. Her step-grandfather seemed to think some fatherly encouragement was called for, explaining that a good marriage required that the proposed partner “should possess good sense, good dispositions, and the means of

supporting you in the way you have been brought up," as well as having the respect and esteem of his social circle.

In the last years of his life George Washington saw all three of his step-granddaughters marry and give birth to the next generation of his adopted family. By the time of his death on December 14th of 1799, there were five great-grandchildren, including Nelly's two-and-a-half week old daughter, Frances Parke Lewis.

Thus the man, known throughout the world as the father of his own country but had no biological children of his own, spent the forty years of his married life in a home filled with children. In the process of raising Nelly, Jack and the other children who came into his life, Washington learned that being a father was much more than a simple biological process, but involved years of care, worry, advice, money, humor, and joy.

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THE BACK HALF-PAGE

What would you call a flock of flamingos, a swarm of swallows, or a group of eagles? Different birds have different collective nouns to describe large groups, such as a raft, a band, a host, a chime, and even a kettle. Many flock names are descriptive not only of the group of birds but also of their behavior or personalities. While many of these terms are obsolete, seldom used, or just plain silly, they are still unique and distinctive names that are familiar to birders.

- CAULDRON of Hawks
- WAKE of Buzzards
- VATICAN of Cardinals
- BANDITRY of Chickadees
- BROOD or PEEP of Chickens
- CLUTCH of Eggs
- MURDER of Crows
- DOLE of Doves
- DANCE of Cranes
- RAFT of Ducks
- MOB of Emus
- FLAMBOYANCE or STAND of Flamingos
- GAGGLE or SKEIN of Geese
- SIEGE of Herons
- GLITTERING of Hummingbirds
- ASYLUM of Loons
- PARLIAMENT or STUDY of Owls
- PANDEMONIUM of Parrots
- RACE of Roadrunners
- CHATTERING of Starlings
- GANG of Turkeys
- SQUADRON, POD or SCOOP of Pelicans
- SWARM of Swallows
- CHAIN of Bobolinks
- MEWING of Catbirds
- CONVOCATION or CONGREGATION of Eagles
- CHARM or TREMBLING of Finches
- FLEET or FLOTILLA of Frigatebirds
- SIEGE of Herons
- BAND, PARTY, SCOLD or CAST of Jays
- DECEIT of Lapwings
- WATCH of Nightingales
- PARTY or OSTENTATION of Peafowl
- BEVY or BOUQUET of Pheasants
- BATTERY, DRIFT or FLUSH of Quail
- SLURP of Sapsuckers
- WALK or WISP of Snipe
- LAMENTATION or BALLETT of Swans
- SPRING of Teals
- COTILLION of Terns
- PITYING of Turtledoves
- COMMITTEE, VENUE or VOLT of Vultures
- CONFUSION, WRENCH or FALL of Warblers
- DESCENT or DRUMMING of Woodpeckers
- HERD or CHIME of Wrens
- FLIGHT or GULP of Cormorants
- COVER of Coots
- SPIRAL of Creepers
- CROOKEDNESS or WARP of Crossbills