

# “Cousin” George Washington

The family bible of my 4th great-grandmother, Anne Hughson Lovelace (1742–1820), is in the D.A.R. library in Natchez, Mississippi. In the flyleaf she noted that her mother was Ann Washington (1820–1890), a cousin of President George Washington. She also wrote that she was herself born at Popes Creek, Westmoreland, Virginia, in the same house in which George Washington had been born. However, no genealogical evidence has been found documenting her relationship to George Washington’s immediate family. Exploring old records and genealogical research available on the Web, I can now explain Ann Hughson Lovelace’s family history in her bible: Her mother was indeed a cousin of George Washington—albeit a distant cousin!



Her mother, Ann Washington, was a granddaughter of Edward Washington, an immigrant from Britain to Westmoreland County VA. Family histories reveal that this Edward Washington had visited with Colonel John Washington (George’s great-grandfather) and they agreed they were indeed cousins, although they could not identify the exact relationship. Edward married Mary Lansdowne, inheritor of a plantation nearby to Popes Creek in Westmoreland County. (A court record reveals that Mary Lansdowne’s father Nicholas had sold property to George Washington’s grandfather.) Edward Washington was appointed constable of Westmoreland County.

Among Edward Washington’s children was a son Thomas born in 1677 in Westmoreland County. (Thomas’s name appears as a witness to several property sales and personal wills in the region). His daughter Ann Washington was born circa 1720, when Thomas would have been age 43. And of course, Thomas indeed did have a nephew named George Washington—son of his older brother Lansdowne Washington. And importantly, there is genealogical evidence that Ann Washington shared an ancestor with President Washington 7 generations back in England. So I can now claim to be a “13th cousin, 8X removed” of President George Washington!

Historical Addendum: In 1740 Ann Washington married Edward Hughson, also born in Virginia. The Hughson family moved to South Carolina. In 1762, their daughter Anne Hughson married John Lovelace. They emigrated with his brother to Natchez, Mississippi, then an administrative capital for Spanish-governed Louisiana.

In the 1790s, the Lovelace family received Spanish land grants in what is now Catahoula Parish, Louisiana, from their new friend Spanish Governor Manuel Gayoso de Lemos. [One of the Lovelace grandsons was later named Gayoso Lemos Lovelace.] Edward and Anne Lovelace established a plantation in what is now Sicily Island, Louisiana, becoming Catholic citizens of Spain, with sworn loyalty to its King. In 1802, France took ownership of Louisiana, and the Lovelaces became French. Then in 1803, Napoleon sold Louisiana to the United States, and the Lovelaces became U.S. citizens again.

