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美国总统青少年时代
Childhoods of the Presidents

乔治·华盛顿

GEORGE WASHINGTON

【美】小阿瑟·M·史勒辛格 主编

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★ *Introduction* ★

Alexis de Tocqueville began his great work *Democracy in America* with a discourse on childhood. If we are to understand the prejudices, the habits and the passions that will rule a man's life, Tocqueville said, we must watch the baby in his mother's arms; we must see the first images that the world casts upon the mirror of his mind; we must hear the first words that awaken his sleeping powers of thought. "The entire man," he wrote, "is, so to speak, to be seen in the cradle of the child."

That is why these books on the childhoods of the American presidents are so much to the point. And, as our history shows, a great variety of childhoods can lead to the White House. The record confirms the ancient adage that every American boy, no matter how unpromising his beginnings, can aspire to the presidency. Soon, one hopes, the adage will be extended to include every American girl.

All our presidents thus far have been white males who, within the limits of their gender, reflect the diversity of American life. They were born in nineteen of our states; eight of the last thirteen presidents were born west of the Mississippi. Of all our presidents, Abraham Lincoln had the

least promising childhood, yet he became our greatest president. Oddly enough, presidents who are children of privilege sometimes feel an obligation to reform society in order to give children of poverty a better break. And, with Lincoln the great exception, presidents who are children of poverty sometimes feel that there is no need to reform a society that has enabled them to rise from privation to the summit.

Does schooling make a difference? Harry S. Truman, the only twentieth-century president never to attend college, is generally accounted a near-great president. Actually nine— more than one fifth—of our presidents never went to college at all, including such luminaries as George Washington, Andrew Jackson and Grover Cleveland. But, Truman aside, all the non-college men held the highest office before the twentieth century, and, given the increasing complexity of life, a college education will unquestionably be a necessity in the twenty-first century.

Every reader of this book, girls included, has a right to aspire to the presidency. As you survey the childhoods of those who made it, try to figure out the qualities that brought them to the White House. I would suggest that among those qualities are ambition, determination, discipline, education— and luck.

—ARTHUR M. SCHLESINGER, JR.

序

亚历克西斯·德·托克维尔以讲述人的童年作为他的巨著《美国的民主》的开始。托克维尔说，如果我们想理解支配一个人生活的偏见、习惯和爱好，我们必须观察他还是襁褓中的婴孩这一时期的情况；我们必须审视世界投射到他心灵上的第一个印记；我们必须聆听唤醒他那沉睡中的思想力量的第一句话。他写道：“可以说，从婴孩时期的摇篮中将可以了解整个人。”

这就是为什么这套关于美国总统童年的书如此重要。另外，正如历史所展示的，尽管童年时代的经历多种多样，却都能引导一个人走上通往白宫的道路。历史的记录验证了一句古话：每个美国男孩，不管早期看起来前途多么无望，都能够立志成为总统。人们还希望，这句古话所涵盖的范围不久将扩展，把每个美国女孩也包括在内。

迄今为止，所有的美国总统都是白人男性，他们在有限的性别范围之内，反映了美国生活的多样性。他们出生于合众国的19个州；最后13位当中有8位出生在密西西比河西部。在所有的总统当中，亚伯拉罕·林肯的童年最显得前途无望，然而他却成为美国历史上最伟大的总统。非常奇怪的是，童年生活优裕的总统有时却有一种责任感，进行社会改革，给家庭贫苦的孩子创造更好的机会。而另一方面，除林肯是一个特例之外，出身贫苦的总统有时却感到，对于使他们从穷困的底层发展到事业颠峰的社会，没有进行改革的必要。

学校教育重要吗？哈里·S·杜鲁门是仅有的一位从未上过大学的20世纪的美国总统，然而却被普遍认为接近最伟大的总统。实际上，我们的总统当中有9位——占全部的五分之一还多——从未上过大学，包括乔治·华盛顿、安德鲁·杰克逊以及格罗弗·克利夫兰这些杰出的人物。但是，除杜鲁门以外，所有这些没上过大学却担任了总统这一最显要职务的人都生活在20世纪以前。由于社会生活变得越来越复杂，大学教育毫无疑问将成为21世纪美国总统的必备条件。

该书的每位读者，包括女孩在内，都有权立志当总统。你们在探讨这些总统的童年时，要努力去领悟是什么品质使他们当上了白宫的主人。我在这里做一提示，在这些品质当中包括志向、决心、纪律、教育——当然还有机会。

——小阿瑟·M·史勒辛格

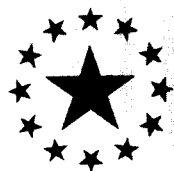


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Leaving Home

In the spring of 1748, Thomas Fairfax decided to find out exactly what the king of England had given him. Lord Fairfax, a wealthy colonist in Virginia, had been granted five million acres of land west of the Blue Ridge Mountains in the Shenandoah Valley. Five million acres is an enormous area—about the size of the entire state of New Jersey. Fairfax's piece of land was so large, in fact, that he could not personally visit it all himself. He needed help determining what the land was like, what it could be used for, and whether people were living on it without his permission. To find out, he hired a **surveyor** named James Genn, who would use special instruments to chart Fairfax's holdings and divide them into lots that could be sold to other people.

Fairfax also invited a young neighbor of his to join the surveying party. Though just 16, George Washington looked like a man. At six feet two inches tall, with long legs and large hands, George was bigger than most men. Yet

第一章

离开家园

1748 年春天，托马斯·费尔法克斯决定要去视察一下，看看英国国王到底给了他什么。费尔法克斯勋爵是弗吉尼亚一个有钱的殖民者。英国国王赏给他五百万英亩的土地，这块土地位于申南多亚谷蓝岭山脉以西。五百万英亩可不是个小数，大概相当于新泽西州整个州的面积。费尔法克斯的地盘真大，事实上他自己根本不可能全部走遍。他需要有人帮他搞清这块土地的情况，例如这地方到底是什么样子，能用来做什么，有没有人未经他的允许而在此居住。为了解这些情况，他雇佣了一个叫詹姆士·盖恩的土地测量员，由他用专门的仪器来为费尔法克斯拥有的土地测绘地图，并将这些地分成小块田亩，以便出售。

费尔法克斯还邀请了一个年轻的邻居乔治·华盛顿来参与测量工作。乔治·华盛顿虽然年仅 16 岁，但看起来已经是个男子汉了。他身高 6 英尺 2 英寸^①，人高马大，比一般人要魁梧许多。但是这个红头发的小伙子此前还不

注：① 公制为 1.88 米。

the redheaded youth had never before taken a trip without his family.

The trip "over the mountain" lasted a little more than a month, but that was long enough to change George's life. It gave him a chance to try out his own skills as a surveyor, which he had begun to build when he was 15 and discovered surveying instruments once owned by his father.



Surveyors relied on two tools to do their jobs: a compass, for determining direction; and a 33-foot iron chain with 50 links, to measure distance. This heavy chain had to be handled by two people, the lead chainman and the rear chainman. These two had the difficult task of

曾在没有家人陪伴的情况下出过远门。

这次“翻山越岭”的测量工作虽然只有一个多月的时间，但却足以改变乔治的整个人生。他作为一个土地测量员有了大显身手的机会。在他还是15岁的时候，发现了曾属于他父亲的测量工具，从那时起他就开始学习测量了。

This painting shows George Washington and his partner, Christopher Gist, poling a raft across the Allegheny River during a surveying expedition. George got his first surveying experience at the age of 16.

这张油画表现的是乔治和他的同伴克里斯多佛·吉斯特在一次测量旅途中的情景，他们撑着竹筏渡过阿勒格尼河。乔治16岁时有了第一次测量的经历。

土地测量员主要使用两样工具来工作：一样是指南针——用来确定方向；另一样是有50个链环、长约33英尺的铁链——用来测量距离。这条沉重的铁链需要一人在前，一人在后，两个人才能搬得起来。两个人要搬动这条铁链绕过树木、灌木丛和其他障碍物才能进行测量。这是



maneuvering the chain around trees, brush, and other objects that got in the way of measuring a straight line.

After the surveyor determined the starting mark, the lead chainman walked to that spot. Then the rear chainman stretched out the chain, bringing one end to the spot where the lead chainman was standing. Next, the lead chainman used an iron pin to mark the spot where the chain ended. The rear chainman then moved forward with the chain, dangling the end of it where the pin had been set. The two men would continue stretching out the chain and setting pins until all 10 they carried had been used. They could then tell that they had measured five chains. Eighty chains equaled one mile.

George was a surveyor's assistant on the trip over the Blue Ridge Mountains. He took care of the horses, cleared the underbrush, and helped the chainmen carry the equipment.

For all that physical work George was paid a Spanish doubloon—the equivalent of seven dollars—a day. In America at that time there was no official currency, so many foreign coins were used.

More important than the pay, though, was the fact that George got his first opportunity to see what life was



一件非常困难的工作。

在确定测量起始点之后，前面那个测量员走到起点处，后面那个测量员拉开铁链，将一头放到前测量员站立的位置。然后，前测量员用铁钉在铁链一头作一记号。后测量员则拉着铁链的另一头向前走，直到铁链被拉直，然后再用铁钉在另一头作好记号。就这样，两个测量员交替拉着铁链往前走，直到10个铁钉都用完。这样的话，这段距离就有五条铁链的长度。80条铁链的长度等于1英里。^①

在这次翻越蓝岭山脉的行程中，乔治作为土地测量员的助手，既要照看马匹，又要清除杂草，还要帮助测量员搬运仪器。

干一天这样的体力活，乔治所得的报酬是一枚西班牙金币，相当于7美元。那个时候在美国还没有法定统一货币，所以各种各样的外币都能使用。

这份工作除了能挣钱外，最重要的是乔治能有机会看到边疆人们的生活，但另一方面他却享受不到家的舒适与

注：① 由此得出1条铁链为66英尺，而上段说“长约33英尺的铁链”，疑此处有误。此外，用完10个铁钉应该有9条铁链的长度，而不是5条铁链。



These 18th-century drafting instruments belonged to George Washington, whose signature can be seen on the box. The tools would have been used to create maps of surveyed land.

这些都是 19 世纪乔治的制图工具，工具箱上有他的签名。这些工具用来绘制测量的土地。

like on the frontier, where the comforts of home were lacking. A record of George's trip still exists in the first diary he ever wrote. Keeping a diary was to become a regular activity for him.

In his diary, George writes as someone used to such fine things as a clean four-post bed and dining room tables set with tablecloths and knives. He quickly learned that






Within a year of the Fairfax expedition, George Washington had passed a test at the College of William and Mary (shown here) to become a certified surveyor.

在费尔法克斯远征后的一年内，乔治·华盛顿通过了威廉玛丽学院（如图所示）的考试，成为一名注册土地测量员。

温馨。这次经历的记录还能在他第一次所写的日记中找到。也就是从那时候起，他养成了写日记的习惯。

在日记中，他经常提到一些非常美好的事物，例如一
坐不染的有四根帐杆的卧床，以及备有桌布和刀叉的餐桌。但是他很快发现，露宿在野外的篝火边要比睡在屋里



sleeping outdoors in front of a fire had advantages over sleeping indoors when he was shown to the worst bed he had ever seen at one home in which the surveying party stayed.

"We got our Suppers & was lighted into a Room & I not being so good a Woodsman as the rest of my Company," he wrote, "stripped myself very orderly & went into the Bed as they called it when to my Surprize I found it to be nothing but a Little Straw-Matted together without Sheets or any thing else, but only one thread Bear blanket with double its Weight of Vermin such as Lice Fleas etc. I was glad to get up (as soon as the Light was carried from us) & put on my Cloths & Lay as my Companions. Had we not been very tired I am sure we should not have slep'd much that night." (The original spelling, capitalization, and punctuation of the diary is maintained throughout this book.)

Yet sleeping outdoors had its own set of dangers. One evening the wind blew away the men's tent and they spent the night without shelter. Another time the straw on which they were sleeping was ignited by a campfire spark. Luckily the flames were put out before anyone was hurt.

George also had one of his earliest brushes with Native Americans when the surveying party suddenly encountered 30 members of a local tribe. One of the Indians was carrying a scalp, the hair and skin taken from