

【 插图 · 中文导读英文版 】



Four Great Americans

四位美国伟人

[美] 詹姆斯·鲍德温 著
王勋 纪飞 等 编译



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北京

内 容 简 介

本书以生动而简洁的语言介绍了美国历史上的四位杰出人物——乔治·华盛顿、本杰明·富兰克林、丹尼尔·韦伯斯特和亚伯拉罕·林肯的传奇故事。他们历经挫折，却从不轻言放弃；为了国家的利益，他们勇于奉献与牺牲。他们通过努力和个人奋斗取得令世人瞩目的辉煌成就，他们是国家英雄的典范。他们的故事影响了一代又一代人。

无论作为语言学习的课本，还是作为通俗的文学读本，本书对当代中国的青少年都将产生积极的影响。为了使读者能够了解英文故事概况，进而提高阅读速度和阅读水平，在每篇英文传说故事的开始部分增加了中文导读。同时，为了读者更好地理解故事内容，书中加入了大量插图。

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图书在版编目(CIP)数据

四位美国伟人=Four Great Americans: 插图·中文导读英文版/(美)鲍德温(James B.)著;
王勋等编译. —北京:清华大学出版社, 2012.7
ISBN 978-7-302-28263-1

I. ①四… II. ①鲍… ②王… III. ①英语—语言读物②华盛顿, G. (1732—1799)—生平事迹③富兰克林, B. (1706—1790)—生平事迹④韦伯斯特, D. (1782—1852)—生平事迹⑤林肯, A. (1809—1865)—生平事迹 IV. ①H319.4: K

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字(2012)第 040272 号

责任编辑: 柴文强 李 晔

封面设计: 傅瑞学

责任校对: 徐俊伟

责任印制: 李红英

出版发行: 清华大学出版社

网 址: <http://www.tup.com.cn>, <http://www.wqbook.com>

地 址: 北京清华大学学研大厦 A 座 邮 编: 100084

社总机: 010-62770175 邮 购: 010-62786544

投稿与读者服务: 010-62776969, c-service@tup.tsinghua.edu.cn

质 量 反 馈: 010-62772015, zhiliang@tup.tsinghua.edu.cn

印 刷 者: 清华大学印刷厂

装 订 者: 北京市密云县京文制本装订厂

经 销: 全国新华书店

开 本: 170mm×260mm 印 张: 14.25 字 数: 282 千字

版 次: 2012 年 7 月第 1 版

印 次: 2012 年 7 月第 1 次印刷

印 数: 1~5000

定 价: 26.00 元



詹姆斯·鲍德温（James Baldwin，1841—1925），美国著名作家。他一生共创作了 50 多部文学作品，《四位美国伟人》是他最重要的代表作之一。该作品展示了美国历史上四位伟人——乔治·华盛顿、本杰明·富兰克林、丹尼尔·韦伯斯特和亚伯拉罕·林肯的传奇人生，他们是通过个人奋斗取得辉煌成就的典范，他们追求自由、美好和成功的历程影响了一代又一代世界各地的人们。

乔治·华盛顿（George Washington，1732—1799），美国首任总统，被尊称为美国国父。美国独立战争时期，华盛顿任陆军总司令。1789 年，他当选为美国第一任总统；1793 年连任。在两届总统任期中，他制定并设立了许多持续到今天的政策和法规。在两届任期结束后，他自愿放弃权力不再续任，因此建立了美国历史上总统不超过两任的传统，维护了共和国的发展。

本杰明·富兰克林（Benjamin Franklin，1706—1790），美国独立运动的先驱者，美国民主精神的缔造者，杰出的政治家、科学家、外交家、哲学家和实业家，美国独立运动的领导人，参与起草并签署了《独立宣言》和《美国宪法》。他是美国精神最完美的代表，人类道德与理性的最佳诠释者，是举世公认的现代文明之父。他一生最真实的写照是他自己所说过的一句话“诚实和勤勉，应该成为你永久的伴侣。”

丹尼尔·韦伯斯特（Daniel Webster，1782—1852），美国著名的政治家、法学家和律师，美国历史上最著名的演讲家之一，曾三次担任美国国务卿。他一生都在为维护美国联邦的统一、完整、权威和人民的自由而工作，他说：“自由和联邦，从现在到永远，不可分离”。

亚伯拉罕·林肯（Abraham Lincoln，1809—1865），政治家，思想家，美国第 16 任总统。在他的领导下，颁布了《解放黑人奴隶宣言》，赢得了美国南北战争，维护了美联邦统一，为美国在 19 世纪跃居世界头号工业



强国开辟了道路，使美国进入经济发展的黄金时代，被称为“伟大的解放者”。他与乔治·华盛顿、富兰克林·罗斯福被公认为美国历史上最伟大的三位总统。

在中国，乔治·华盛顿、本杰明·富兰克林、丹尼尔·韦伯斯特和亚伯拉罕·林肯同样被人们最熟知不过的世界伟人，他们的奋斗历程一直影响着追求幸福和成功的人们。基于以上原因，我们决定编译《四位美国伟人》，采用中文导读英文版的形式出版。在中文导读中，我们尽力使其贴近原作的精髓，也尽可能的保留原作的故事主线。我们希望能够编出为当代中国读者所喜爱的经典读本。读者在阅读英文故事之前，可以先阅读中文导读内容，这样有利于了解故事背景，从而加快阅读速度。同时，为了读者更好地理解故事内容，书中加入了大量的插图。我们相信，该经典著作的引进对加强当代中国读者，特别是青少年读者的人文修养是非常有帮助的。

本书主要内容由王勋、纪飞编译。参加本书故事素材搜集整理及编译工作的还有郑佳、刘乃亚、赵雪、熊金玉、李丽秀、李智能、李鑫、熊红华、傅颖、乐贵明、王婷婷、熊志勇、聂利生、傅建平、蔡红昌、孟宪行、胡国平、李晓红、胡武荣、贡东兴、张镇、熊建国、张文绮、王多多、陈楠、彭勇、邵舒丽、黄福成、冯洁、王晓旭、王业伟、龚桂平、徐鑫、周丽萍、徐平国、肖洁、王小红等。限于我们的科学、人文素养和英语水平，书中难免会有不当之处，衷心希望读者朋友批评指正。



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乔治·华盛顿的故事
The Story of George Washington

第一章 华盛顿的童年时代

Chapter 1 When Washington was a Boy



在华盛顿小时候，美国并没有成立，这里只是英属的 13 个殖民地，其中华盛顿所在的弗吉尼亚是最早、最富，也是人口最多的殖民地。

弗吉尼亚主要的产业是农场和种植园，这里没有公路，种植园主出行都靠马车。种植园的主要劳动力为黑人奴隶，也有破产的白人。

弗吉尼亚那时没有商店和现代工厂，当地居民基本上自给自足。

这就是华盛顿童年时的时代背景。

When George Washington was a boy there was no United States. The land was here, just as it is now, stretching from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific; but nearly all of it was wild and unknown.

Between the Atlantic Ocean and the Alleghany Mountains there were thirteen colonies, or great settlements. The most of the people who lived in these colonies were English people, or the children of English people; and so the King of England made their laws and appointed their governors.

The newest of the colonies was Georgia, which was settled the year after George Washington was born.

The oldest colony was Virginia, which had been settled one hundred and twenty-five years. It was also the richest colony, and more people were living in it than in any other.

There were only two or three towns in Virginia at that time, and they were



quite small.

Most of the people lived on farms or on big plantations, where they raised whatever they needed to eat. They also raised tobacco, which they sent to England to be sold.

The farms, or plantations, were often far apart, with stretches of thick woods between them. Nearly every one was close to a river, or some other large body of water; for there are many rivers in Virginia.

There were no roads, such as we have nowadays, but only paths through the woods. When people wanted to travel from place to place, they had to go on foot, or on horseback, or in small boats.

A few of the rich men who lived on the big plantations had coaches; and now and then they would drive out in grand style behind four or six horses, with a fine array of servants and outriders following them. But they could not drive far where there were no roads, and we can hardly understand how they got any pleasure out of it.

Nearly all the work on the plantations was done by slaves. Ships had been bringing negroes from Africa for more than a hundred years, and now nearly half the people in Virginia were blacks.

Very often, also, poor white men from England were sold as slaves for a few years in order to pay for their passage across the ocean. When their freedom was given to them they continued to work at whatever they could find to do; or they cleared small farms in the woods for themselves, or went farther to the west and became woodsmen and hunters.

There was but very little money in Virginia at that time, and, indeed, there was not much use for it. For what could be done with money where there were no shops worth speaking of, and no stores, and nothing to buy?

The common people raised flax and wool, and wove their own cloth; and they made their own tools and furniture. The rich people did the same; but for their better or finer goods they sent to England.

For you must know that in all this country there were no great mills for spinning and weaving as there are now; there were no factories of any kind; there were no foundries where iron could be melted and shaped into all kinds of useful and beautiful things.

When George Washington was a boy the world was not much like it is now.

第二章 华盛顿的家庭

Chapter 2 His Homes



华盛顿的父亲在波托马可河岸有自己的大庄园，叫做“桥溪庄园”，从华盛顿的爷爷起就定居于此。这里的房子并不豪华。

后来华盛顿一家搬往另一个庄园，即“华盛顿庄园”，也就是现在的弗农山。在这里的房子毁于一场大火之后，华盛顿举家迁到拉帕翰诺克河流域，那里也有他们的产业，那里的房子和桥溪庄园很像。

这时乔治·华盛顿七岁。

George Washington's father owned a large plantation on the western shore of the Potomac River. George's great-grandfather, John Washington, had settled upon it nearly eighty years before, and there the family had dwelt ever since.

This plantation was in Westmoreland county, not quite forty miles above the place where the Potomac flows into Chesapeake Bay. By looking at your map of Virginia, you will see that the river is very broad there.

On one side of the plantation, and flowing through it, there was a creek, called Bridge's Creek; and for this reason the place was known as the Bridge's Creek Plantation.

It was here, on the 22d of February, 1732, that George Washington was born.



幼时生活在庄园

Although his father was a rich man, the house in which he lived was neither very large nor very fine—at least it would not be thought so now.

It was a square, wooden building, with four rooms on the ground floor and an attic above.

The eaves were low, and the roof was long and sloping. At each end of the house there was a huge chimney; and inside were big fireplaces, one for the kitchen and one for the “great room” where visitors were received.

But George did not live long in this house. When he was about three years old his father removed to another plantation which he owned, near Hunting Creek, several miles farther up the river. This new plantation was at first known as the Washington Plantation, but it is now called Mount Vernon.

Four years after this the house of the Washingtons was burned down. But Mr. Washington had still other lands on the Rappahannock River. He had also an interest in some iron mines that were being opened there. And so to this place the family was now taken.

The house by the Rappahannock was very much like the one at Bridge’s Creek. It stood on high ground, overlooking the river and some low meadows; and on the other side of the river was the village of Fredericksburg, which at that time was a very small village, indeed.

George was now about seven years old.

第三章 华盛顿的学校和校长

Chapter 3 His Schools and Schoolmasters



当时的弗吉尼亚没有什么学校，人们觉得读书没用，只要认识几个字、学会管理种植园和一些社交礼仪就行，这些一般都由牧师来教，有钱人则把孩子送到英国去学习。

华盛顿的第一个老师是一个教堂执事霍彼，这个人很穷，是华盛顿的奴隶，华盛顿从霍彼那儿只学到一些单词而已。

华盛顿的父亲去世以后，两个庄园分别留给了华盛顿的两个哥哥，华盛顿则跟着哥哥奥古斯汀住在桥溪庄园，在这里华盛顿请英国人威廉姆做老师。

而这时，华盛顿从《青年之侣》一书里学到了关于土地测量和法律等方面的知识，这为他以后的工作打下了基础。

华盛顿已经开始考虑自己的未来了。

There were no good schools in Virginia at that time. In fact, the people did not care much about learning.

There were few educated men besides the parsons, and even some of the parsons were very ignorant.

It was the custom of some of the richest families to send their eldest sons to England to the great schools there. But it is doubtful if these young men learned much about books.