

February 23, 1993

Mr. Brian Lamb
C-Span
400 North Capitol Street
Washington, D.C. 20001

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Dear Brian:

1. Kudos to C-Span, a great service for American people!
2. Thanks to you for your evenhandedness, I would like to see you interviewed one day and find out how you do it!
3. I am inspired to write after watching your interview of the author of the "Patriarch."

I was suprised that he thinks 'politics' was the reason George Washington did not free his slaves until after his death.

I have a different view as I wind up several years of work in editing George Washington's Expense Account of 1787, i.e. for the Constitutional Convention. To my knowledge it has never been put in print before or used by any scholar (I have shared some findings with the MSS Librarian of the Library of Congress, a good man).

The editors of the Papers of G.W. (Alderman Library, U of V, Charlottesville VA, 804-924-3369) put me up to the effort as I seem to be a bit of an Historical (spell that Histerical) Dectective!

In any event, I suggest you look into interviewing someone from that ongoing effort. They know more about G.W. than anyone else I know.

4. My research leds me to believe that the reason Jefferson did not free his slaves and G.W. did, is that Virginia law required that inorder to free or manumit a slave, money had to be set aside to provide for their welfare for the rest of their lifetimes. And nobody, except perhaps the Carrolls, had cash money. The rich were land and slave poor.

Martha was quite wealthy but G.W. was devoted to her and to his Mount Vernon properties (28 square miles worth, which he usually circuited on horse every day).

But he was able to make provision on his death for a sufficient amount of money to be set aside to free slaves. Jefferson was broke and could not do the same. Some of those slaves lived a long and good life and the money lasted!

Regards,

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