argues in *Nation into State: The Shifting Symbolic Foundations of American Nationalism* that "The most remarkable symbolic feat of the Revolution was the invention virtually instantaneously . . . of a full-blown, national hero," George Washington.[23]

The veneration accorded Washington by his fellow citizens was manifested forcefully in a variety of ways. Mention has already been made of Anna Maria Thornton's scrapbook of George Washington and of her attendance at the ceremonies commemorating Washington's birthday in 1800. But Thornton was far from alone in her enthusiasm for George Washington. Samuel Davidson in 1803 subscribed to "Washington's History" and the following year bought a two-volume *Life of Washington.* He paid five dollars in the same year to attend a Washington's anniversary ball and purchased a ticket to a similar event in 1809.[24] Eastern Shore residents read and responded to solicitations for purchase of the *Life of General Washington* in a nearly full-column advertisement by a Philadelphia publisher.[25] Thomas Dawson, for example, owned four books when he died in 1813: a small Bible, a small *Golden Treasury,* Simpson's *Pleas,* and *Washington's Life.* Robert Lloyd Nichols's larger library included Marshall's five-volume *Life of Washington.* Hugh Sherwood, owner of another large library, also had a five-volume biography of Washington as well as a large gilt-framed portrait of Washington's family among the dozen pictures that he owned. Appraisers, in fact, noted portraits of Washington even more frequently than they listed biographies. Of the sixty-one estates with any prints or pictures, at least seven included portraits of Washington.[26] John McLain, for one, owned eight pictures: six small prints representing the Prodigal Son, one of "Solomon's Tumble," and a print of "Washington's likeness." Dr. John Elbert decorated his home with portraits of himself and his wife, and one of

the ſtorm rages, but like bubbles on the ſea when the commotion ſubſides will ſink to riſe no more. You may have further claims to my ſervices—they ſhall be rendered in due time.

Yours, &c.

JOHN YOUNG.

Denton, Caroline, Auguſt 18, 1803.

Artificial Fire Works.

The Ladies and Gentlemen of Eaſton, and its vicinity, are reſpectfully informed that a Grand Diſplay of

FIRE WORKS,

will be exhited in an incloſure prepared for that purpoſe in the ſuburbs of Eaſton, *THIS EVENING, Auguſt* 23, 1803 if fair, if not, it will be poſtponed 'till Saturday evening next; if unfair on that evening, it will be further poſtponed to Tueſday, the 30th inſt. as it will be impracticable to perform except the weather be good. This collection will far exceed any thing of the kind ever diſplayed in this part of the country, in point of magnitude and brilliancy.

The ſubſcriber hopes to meet with that encouragement from a generous public, that will indemnify him for his labour and expenſe, as well as to enable him to repeat, and vary the performance.

The evening's Amuſement will conſiſt of the following Pieces:

1. Chineſe Fountain.
2. A large Virtical Wheel.
3. A Neſt of Serpents.
4. 2 Chineſe Wheels.
5. The Yew Tree of Brilliant Fire.
6. A Pot of Siſſons.
7. A large Horizontal Wheel.
8. 2 Chineſe Vertical Wheels;—which will ſtop, and reverſe their motion.
9. A Pot of Argrettes.
10. A Tour-Balloon.
11. An Air Balloon.

To conclude with the TREE OF LIBERTY, which will ſpread its rays about 12 feet in every direction, and will ſhew through its branches ſeven fix'd five pointed Stars.

Sky rockets and Roman candles, will be let off at the commencement, and at intervals, during the evening. The whole will be accompanied with the beſt muſic that can be procured.

A ſhed with ſeats, will be provided for the accommodation of the ladies, and every care will be taken to preſerve decorum.

†† Price of admittance 50 cents.—Children half price.

☞ Tickets to be had at the Star Office; at Dr. Stevens's Apothecary's ſhop—at Mr. Lowe's tavern; and at the place of performance.

NICHOLAS W. EASTON.

Eaſton, Auguſt 23, 1803.

Easton and Baltimore Packet.

(Courtesy Maryland State Archives, Special Collections, Republican Star, *Easton, Maryland, MSA M2800.)*

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