General Washington. James Shaw owned only two pictures, one of himself and one of the President.[27] Upton Beall of Montgomery County, Maryland, purchased a number of items from the estate of his brother Lewis but made only one selection of books, another of the five-volume sets of the *Life of Washington,* still in his possession when he himself died fifteen years later.[28]

A Georgetown tavern in 1795 solicited customers by the "Sign of General Washington," harking back, interestingly, to Washington's role as military leader during the war for independence rather than evoking his current role as president.[29] Easton too had its own Sign of General Washington tavern a few years later.[30] In urban centers, the elite annually celebrated Washington's birthday from no later than the early 1790s. Militia members and others like Samuel Davidson assembled for dinners and balls, as did the gentlemen of Georgetown in 1796, meeting at Mr. Sewall's for dinner in honor of Washington's birthday, followed by an "elegant ball at Union Tavern."[31] The greatest outpouring of adulation for Washington was occasioned, however, by his death in 1799. A memorial service held in Easton on the following February 22 was attended "by the greatest concourse of people that every assembled here," according to the local paper. The town's citizens gathered at noon on the court house green, from which they marched a few blocks to the vacant lot intended as the site of the Episcopal Church. The parade was led by a company of light infantry, followed by militia officers and troops, civic officials, and townsmen, all marching two by two. After prayers and a sermon, the company paraded back to the court house where they were dismissed.[32] Similar services took place in Washington (attended by Anna Maria Thornton) and in Georgetown as well as in other cities and towns across Maryland.

In examining various aspects of the popular culture of the early national period—its domestic forms, the importance of the tavern for masculine pastimes, the new forms of entertainment made possible in an increasingly urbanized society, and others—it is the pervasiveness of the ideology of the republic that remains the most striking feature of the popular culture of this period.

NOTES

1. Allen C. Clark, "Dr. and Mrs. William Thornton," *Records of the Columbia Historical Society,* 18 (1915): 151, 161.
2. "Diary of Mrs. William Thornton, 1800–1863," *Records of the Columbia Historical Society,* 10 (1907): 88–226. The activities noted took place in 1800.
3. Based on 610 inventories recorded between 1790 and 1820. Talbot County Inventories, 1790–1820, Maryland State Archives.
4. Chancery Papers Exhibits, Jesse Richardson Ledgers A, B, C, 1789–1794, MdHR #1549, 1550, 1551, Maryland State Archives, passim.

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