In 2025, we returned to a favorite location for our 71st Annual Reunion: Charles Town, West Virginia, which the family last visited in 2009.

On Friday, October 10, the Washington cousins gathered in the lobby of the Hampton Inn to enjoy a buffet dinner and catch up with old friends and cousins and a host of new attendees were made to feel very welcome.

On Saturday, October 11, the group was divided into two buses that visited Happy Retreat, the home of George Washington's brother, Charles. Our cousin, Walter Washington, the president of the organization that runs Happy Retreat, arranged for us to take tours of the main house and the outbuildings, which have been greatly renovated since our last visit. The staff and volunteers at Happy Retreat had tables of books and merchandise available for the cousins to buy early holiday presents.

The group also visited Walter Washington's home, Harewood, for a personal tour through a historic house that is still very much a home. Walter was extremely generous in sharing with us the provenance of numerous items in the home of Samuel Washington, many of them unique and priceless. It would be impossible to purchase a tour like this!

At lunch, the group convened at Corner Connections, an event facility in downtown Charles Town, for the first of several meals there. Later, we visited Harpers Ferry National Historical Park at the confluence of the Potomac and Shenandoah rivers. The evening concluded with a dinner at Corner Connections, which included a screening of member Bob Asbury's film, "The General's Brother."

On Sunday, October 12, the family gathered at Mt. Zion Episcopal church in Charles Town to attend the worship service. At the conclusion of the service, the Society presented the church with a silver paten engraved with the Washington coat of arms, as is our annual custom. Following the service, the family gathered in the churchyard for its traditional memorial service.

Following a lunch served in the Mt. Zion parish hall, the family traveled to Claymont Court, a third Washington family home, for a tour of the house and the grounds. Finally, the cousins arrived the Bavarian Inn in Shepherdstown, West Virginia, for the annual meeting and a presentation of "The Life and Times of Dolley Madison" by Dale Sayers.

Faithfully Submitted,

Richard Weaver

President-General