**George Washington Was Not Born On Washington’s Birthday**

**George Washington was not born on “Washington’s Birthday,” February 22. He was born on February 11, 1731, according to the Julian calendar then used in Great Britain and the colonies. In 1752, they switched to the Gregorian calendar (which we use today) and dropped eleven days. Washington shifted his birthday by eleven days --as did many of his contemporaries -- in order to keep the “real” day.  *(Isaac Asimov)***

**In 1752, eleven days were dropped from the year when the switch from the Julian calendar to the Gregorian calendar was made. The December 25 date was effectively moved back. Some Christian church sects, called the calendarists, still celebrate Christmas on January 7. *(Noel Botham, in The World’s Greatest Book of Useless Information, p. 120)***

**Absolutely nothing happened anywhere in America between September 3 and September 13, 1752. Nothing happened on those eleven days because they never existed. America changed its calendar in 1752, and those days were dropped to line up the new calendar. In 1752, America went from September 2 right to September 14, completing omitting September 3 through 13. *(Charles Reichblum, in Knowledge in a Nutshell, p. 226)***

**Probably nobody has had their birthday celebration changed as often as George Washington. Washington was born on February 11, 1731 – but when he was twenty-one years old, the calendar was changed, and February 11 became February 22. For the rest of his life, February 22 was Washington’s birthday. But now, his birthday is usually not celebrated on February 22. It’s celebrated on the third Monday in February – and the date changes every year. *(Charles Reichblum, in Knowledge in a Nutshell, p. 230)***

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