

A Science Service Feature

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? WHY THE WEATHER ? Mailed February 15, 1927

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GEORGE WASHINGTON, OBSERVER

George Washington's interests were broad enough to include a weather diary. In fact, the last entry in his diary, made the day before his death, was a brief note on the weather. According to C.J. Root, in the Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society, on December 12, 1799, two days before his death, George Washington was out in bad weather for several hours and sat down to dinner without changing his clothes. His diary for that day (as quoted in Liberty) reads:

"December 12. Morning cloudy. Wind at No. ET. and Mer. 33. A large circle around the Moon last Night. About 10 O'clock it began to snow, soon after to Hail, and then to a settled cold Rain. Mer. 28 at Night."

The next day he remained indoors with a sore throat. Here is what he says about the weather:

"December 13. Morning Snowing and abt. 3 inches deep. Wind at No. Et., and Mer. at 30. contg. Snowing till 1 O'clock, and abt. 4 it became perfectly clear. Wind in the same place but not hard. Mer. 28 at Night."

The following day he was bled, and at about 10 p.m. of the 14th he died.

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