



*George Washington in the
Uniform of a British Colonel*
Charles Willson Peale, ca. 1772
Washington and Lee University

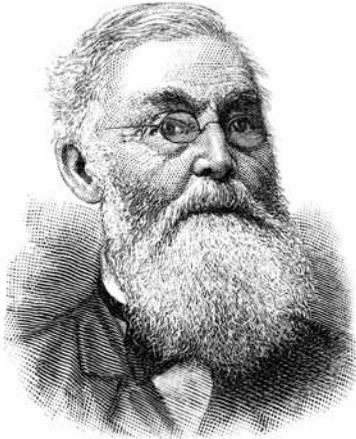
*Sketch map of the country traversed by
Washington on his journey in 1753-54
from Cumberland, Maryland, to the
site of Pittsburgh, Pa., and Fort le
Boeuf near Lake Erie*

George Washington (1732-1799)

Brown ink, with brown and black
ink washes, on paper, 1754

Competition between England and France for the land surrounding the Forks of the Ohio River, where Pittsburgh now stands, prompted this map, drawn by a young George Washington. Robert Dinwiddie, Virginia's lieutenant governor and a shareholder in a land-speculating syndicate, was determined to repel the French from the area. To this end, he sent an emissary – twenty-one year old Washington – to the French officials at Fort Le Boeuf, demanding their withdrawal. When Washington returned with news that the French had refused, Dinwiddie sent the report and map on to London. Washington's account convinced British officials to authorize a fort at the Forks and appoint him lieutenant colonel of the regiment formed to build and guard it.

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James Hall
Newberry Library

“Map Illustrating the Geological Features of the Country West of the Mississippi River”

James Hall, assisted by **J. Peter Lesley**, from William Helmsley Emory, *Report on the United States and Mexican Boundary Survey*, in U.S. 34th Congress, 1st session, 1855-1856, Senate Executive Document 108 Washington, D.C.: Nicholson, 1857



J. Peter Lesley
Newberry Library

Scientists James Hall and J. Peter Lesley compiled information from several survey projects to produce the earliest colored geological map of the West published by the government. Hall and Lesley identified the mountain ranges as metamorphic formations (shown in pink), most often flanked by bands of cretaceous and carboniferous rocks (light green and blue.) They also indicated large areas of igneous rocks (colored orange) in the Pacific Northwest. But they left the entire Great Basin region and the western part of the Oregon territory nearly blank, as no scientific surveys had yet studied these areas. Those latitudes under consideration for the transcontinental rail route are the most detailed, reflecting the abundance of data gathered by the Pacific railroad surveys.



***Map of the Yellowstone National Park:
Compiled from Different Official
Explorations and our Personal Survey,
1882***

Carl J. Hals and
Arvid Rydström (1857-after 1919)
Chicago: Poole Bros., 1884

Officials of the Northern Pacific Railroad (NPRR) enthusiastically supported the 1872 creation of Yellowstone National Park, envisioning a tourist resort served exclusively by their own train lines. The NPRR issued this brochure map in 1884 to launch its first full season of tourist service. The cover panel pictures the fictional protagonist, named after the heroine of Lewis Carroll's *Alice in Wonderland*. The brochure balanced the scientific map printed on one side with the imaginative narrative printed on the reverse. Alice lends feminized civility and domesticity to the rugged, masculine landscape. Written in the form of a letter to imitate an authentic, personal account, the text stresses the comforts of the train and hotel as much as the geysers, hot springs, and other "natural curiosities" highlighted on the map.