



**News Release**

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**Date:** August 29, 2017

*If you cannot extract images and/or video, and need to receive them as email attachments, please call or email.*

**George Washington**

**The Founder of Centralia**



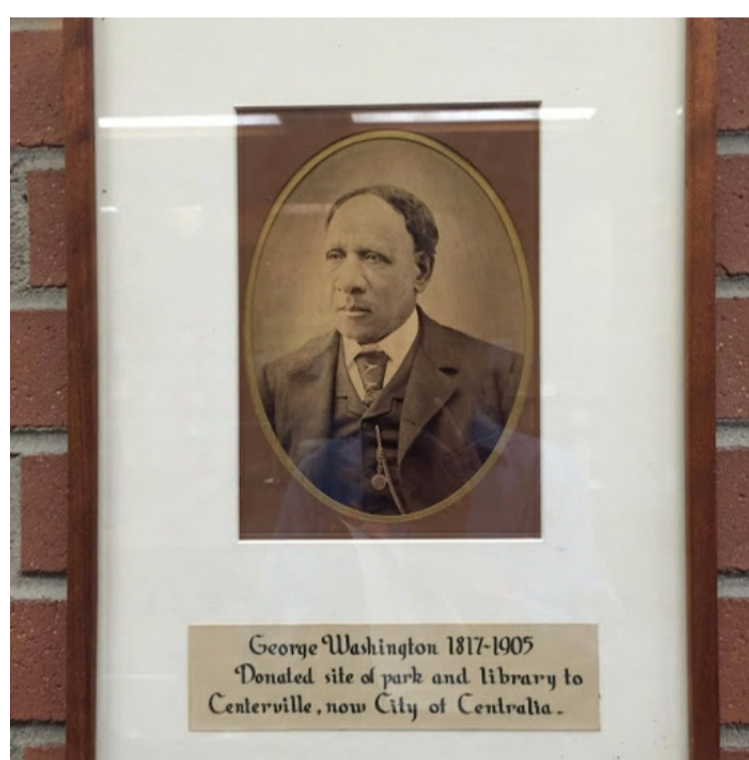
This past August, Centralia kicked off the celebration of the 200th birthday of its founder - George Washington

**Saturday, September 16**

**2:00 p.m.**

**Centralia Timberland Library**

Join us for a presentation that will cover the life of George Washington from being raised by his adopted white parents, Anna and James Cochran, to his travels across the country to the Pacific Northwest, where the Cochrans purchased the 640 acre homestead and deeded it to Washington.



**"If there's any decent place in this world, I'm going to find it"**

These words, uttered almost 170 years ago by a young African American man from Missouri, would influence the history of what is now the City of Centralia. George Washington, the son of a black slave and a white woman of English descent, crossed the continent on the Oregon Trail and settled where the Chehalis and Skookumchuck Rivers converge. He and his wife, Mary Jane, founded the town of Centerville that would become Centralia, with a spirit of cooperation, community support, and hard work. Washington did all he could to encourage the development of the town, donating land for streets, parks, a cemetery, and a church. When he died in 1905, he was a wealthy man, respected and mourned by the people of Centralia.

All Timberland Programs are free and open to the public. The **Centralia Timberland Library** is located at 110 S Silver Street. For more information, contact the library at (360) 736-0183 or visit [TRL.org](http://TRL.org).

Timberland Regional Library provides for the information, reading and lifelong learning needs of the Grays Harbor, Lewis, Mason, Pacific and Thurston county public at 27 community public libraries and six library service partner locations. The library system is funded mainly by local property taxes. Anyone needing special accommodations to participate in a library's programs may contact the library one week in advance.

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