

## Shaping a Nation-Inspired Activities for Elementary-Aged Children and Older

1. Christopher Gore and his best friend Rufus King exchanged many letters between one another when they were apart. Is there someone in your family or someone you know from school you could write a letter to? Write a letter to someone and send it in the mail!

2. Many people don't know that Christopher Gore's Butler from 1825-1827, Robert Roberts, was a free African American who was also an author, abolitionist, and anti-colonist. Roberts played an active role in the free black community of Boston apart from being the butler to the Gore's. His servant's manual entitled *The House Servant's Directory* was published in 1827 and was one of the first books written by an African American and issued by a commercial press. The House Servant's Directory sought to instruct in life skills, as well as in high standards of household management. The book included recommendations that Roberts made about relations between servants and their masters as well as many recipes for cleaning furniture and clothing, and for purchasing, preparing and serving food and drink for entertaining. Here are some questions to get you thinking about Robert Roberts, servant work, and life outside of Gore Place at this time.

What is a butler?

Why do you think Robert Roberts worked as a butler to Christopher Gore?

Why do you think Robert Roberts would publish a book about servant work?

What other events occurred in the year 1827 (the year Robert Roberts published *The House Servant's Directory*)?

- In Boston?
- In the United States?
- In the world?

Who was President of the United States at this time?

3. Create a model of the Gore Place mansion using objects around your home! Pay attention to symmetry of the mansion, and how many chimneys there are. Can you get extra creative and add in doors and windows?



South facade of the mansion



model of mansion made from cans and boxes

4. Let's dig a little deeper into our history! This is a timeline of Waltham throughout Christopher Gore's life. Pick 3 years from the timeline: what is something that happened in Boston during each year? In the United States? In the world?

## TIMELINE OF AMAZING EVENTS Waltham, Massachusetts

### 1758-1827

- 1761 November 20—The first Waltham bridge across the Charles River was built.
- 1775 Waltham men responded to "Lexington Alarm" to fight British.
- 1776 More than two hundred Waltham residents took up arms in the Revolutionary War.
- 1779 David Bemis built a dam and paper mill on the Charles River.
- 1785 Theodore Lyman built a wooden dam across the Charles River at Eden Vale. 1786 Christopher Gore bought the Garfield and the Phillips estates as the nucleus of Gore Place.
- 1788 John Boies built the Boies paper mill on the Charles River using a dam built by Theodore Lyman.
- 1789 General Washington escorted through town by the Waltham Calvary.
- 1790 First Federal Census recorded Waltham population at 882.
- 1794 Christopher Gore built a dam and the Gore Paper Mill on the Charles River; later the site of the Waltham Bleachery and Dye Works.
- 1794 First Methodist services held at the home of Abraham Bemis.
- 1798 The town's first book collection was established at the Waltham Social Club. 1801 Roberts paper mill built on Stony Brook.
- 1802 Upham dam and paper mill built on Stony Brook.
- 1806 David Bemis lit factory buildings at Bemis with illuminating gas.
- 1806 Gore Estate, "The Monticello of the North," was built.
- 1809 Christopher Gore elected Governor of Massachusetts.
- 1813 Boston Manufacturing Company (BMC) mill built (now Francis Cabot Lowell housing complex); Boies Paper Mill sold and converted to cotton textile mill by Francis Cabot Lowell.

- 1814 Boston Manufacturing Company textile mill was built on the site of the Boies paper mill; introduced the first power loom; manufactured all phases of cotton production in one plant; large labor force initially consisted primarily of Yankee farm women. Francis Cabot Lowell perfected his power loom in Waltham, and the textile industry, which was to transform Lawrence, Lowell, Fall River, New Bedford, and other cities into great manufacturing centers, was off to a flying start.
- 1815 BMC established the Manufacturers Library for employees.
- 1816 BMC purchased the first town fire engine.
- 1817 First Fire Engine Company was organized.
- 1820 First industrial strike in the nation was led by Waltham women against unfair wage reductions at the Boston Manufacturing Company.
- 1820 Waltham Bleachery and Dye Works began operations; in operation 131 years. 1820 Manufacturer's Library opened.
- 1825 Newton Chemical Company established; producer of sulfuric acid and dyes. 1826 or 1827 The Rumford Institute was established by BMC workers to promote intellectual inquiry and advancement through mutual instruction in arts and sciences; lectures, classes, and the first circulating library established.

#### 4. ADMITTED STATES 1758-1827

Christopher Gore was born in 1758 in an English colony. By the time he died in 1827 the American Revolution had occurred and the United States of America had grown to include 24 states.

Can you unscramble the names of the 24 states admitted to the union during Christopher Gore's lifetime?

redalwea

alsnyvipnean

srejyween

reaggoi

unoccttnic

shamtetasscus

dlayamnr

loaichasroutn

wheasphmrine

igniiavr

kwoyren

chroontarainl

hadesrldion

tovmren

nkutkyec

neestnees

hooi

iosnlauai

annadii

psisiimipss

Iniilsoi

balmaaa

eanmi

osimirus

Can you list the 13 original colonies? Which state was the 1st state?

ANSWERS:

1. Delaware 1787

2. Pennsylvania 1787

3. New Jersey 1787

4. Georgia 1788

5. Connecticut 1788

6. Massachusetts 1788

7. Maryland 1788

8. South Carolina 1788
9. New Hampshire 1788
10. Virginia 1788
11. New York 1788
12. North Carolina 1789
13. Rhode Island 1790
14. Vermont 1791
15. Kentucky 1792
16. Tennessee 1796
17. Ohio 1803
18. Louisiana 1812
19. Indiana 1816
20. Mississippi 1817
21. Illinois 1818
22. Alabama 1819
23. Maine 1820
24. Missouri 1821