

# WASHINGTON IRVING

- American author, short story writer,
- essayist
- poet
- travel book writer
- biographer, and columnist.
- Irving has been called the father of the American short story. He is best known for 'The Legend of Sleepy Hollow,' in which the schoolmaster Ichabod Crane meets with a headless horseman, and 'Rip Van Winkle,' about a man who falls asleep for 20 years.



## WASHINGTON IRVING

- Washington Irving was born in New York City as the youngest of 11 children. His father was a wealthy merchant, and his mother, an English woman, was the granddaughter of a clergyman. According to a story, George Washington met Irving, named after him, and gave his blessing. In the years to come Irving would write one of his greatest works, *THE LIFE OF GEORGE WASHINGTON* (1855-59).

- Early in his life Irving developed a passion for books. He read *Robinson Crusoe*, *Sinbad the Sailor*, and *The World Displayed* (stories about voyages and travels). He studied law privately in the offices of Henry Masterton (1798)
- After return to the United States, Irving was admitted to New York bar in 1806. He was a partner with his brothers in the family hardware business, New York and Liverpool, England, and representative of the business in England until it collapsed in 1818. During the war of 1812 Irving was a military aide to New York Governor Tompkins in the U.S. Army.

## BEGINNING OF A CAREER WRITER

- Irving's career as a writer started in journals and newspapers.
- He contributed to *Morning Chronicle* (1802-03), which was edited by his brother Peter, and published *Salmagundi* (1807-08), writing in collaboration with his brother William and James Kirke Paulding.
- From 1812 to 1814 he was an editor of *Analectic* magazine in Philadelphia and New York.

## CAREER SHIFTS TO EUROPE IN 1815

sailed for England to take charge of family business in Liverpool

when it bankrupted, he concentrated on literary career

traveled throughout England, France, Spain, Germany, and Switzerland

wrote history of Christopher Columbus

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# LITERARY CAREER CONTINUES

1819 - 1820 published  
*The Sketch-Book of  
Geoffrey Crayon, Gent*

it included “Rip Van  
Winkle” and “The Legend  
of Sleepy Hollow”



# IRVING'S LITERARY PSEUDONYMS

**Dietrich Knickerbocker**

**Jonathan Oldstyle**

**Geoffrey Crayon**

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## RETURNS TO AMERICA IN 1832

returned from Europe to New York

established his home Sunnyside in Tarrytown

never married or had children

for next 25 years he shared Sunnyside with his brother Ebenezer and Ebenezer's 5 daughters

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# SELECTED WORKS

- LETTERS OF JONATHAN OLDSTYLE, 1802
- SALMAGUNDI, 1807 (with William I. and J.K. Paulding)
- A HISTORY OF NEW YORK, BY DIETRICH KNICKERBOCKER, 1809
- THE SKETCH BOOK, 1819-20 (as Geoffrey Crayon) - contains 'Rip Van Winkle' and 'The Legend of Sleepy Hollow' - film adaptations: The Adventures of Ichabod and Mr Toad (1949) ; Sleepy Hollow, dir. by Tim Burton (1999), starring Johnny Depp, Christina Ricci, Michael Gambon, Miranda Richardson, Christopher Walken, Casper Van Dien, Jeffrey Jones, Martin Landau
- BRACEBRIDGE HALL, 1822
- LETTERS OF JONATHAN OLDSTYLE, GENT., 1824
- TALES OF A TRAVELLER, 1824
- A HISTORY AND VOYAGES OF CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS, 1828
- THE CHRONICLE OF THE CONQUEST OF GRANADA, 1829
- THE COMPANIONS OF COLUMBUS, 1831
- THE ALHAMBRA, 1832 - Alhambra

- A TOUR ON THE PRAIRIES, 1835
- ABBOTSFORD AND NEWSTEAD ABBEY, 1835
- THE CRAYON MISCELLANY, 1835 (3 vols.)
- ASTORIA, 1836
- ESSAYS AND SKETCHES, 1837
- THE ADVENTURES OF CAPTAIN BONNEVILLE, 1837
- THE LIFE OF OLIVER GOLDSMITH, 1840
- WORKS, 1848-51 (15 vols.)
- MAHOMET AND HIS SUCCESSORS, 1849
- THE LIFE OF GEORGE WASHINGTON, 1855-59
- WOLFERT'S ROOST, 1855
- SPANISH PAPERS AND OTHER MISCELLANIES, 1866
- ABU HASSAN, 1924
- THE WILD HUNTSMAN, 1924
- COMPLETE WORKS, 1969-89 (30 vols.)

THANKS FOR YOUR ATTENTION!