



Photo submitted

Riding and Gar-Field students pose for a group picture before the Riding students get on the bus to go to Mount Vernon and to Dulles Airport for their flight Tuesday.



Editor's note: Following is the final segment of Katie Coleborn's blog as she and fellow students of The Ridings High School in Bristol, United Kingdom, spend six days experiencing Virginia.

For the last day of our

visit we went to Mount Vernon, the home of George Washington. Some of the host students had previously visited the site and were able to explain a lot about the former president and his residence.

It was obvious that a lot of money had been spent on the museum but in my opinion it was more a tribute to Washington rather than a historical information centre. My reasons for thinking this would be the emphasis on the very positive aspects of him without offering an alternative view. The portrayal of the Native Americans and also the playing down of the role of the French in the American War for Independence also contributed to my

impression of a biased view. On the other hand, I was impressed by the beauty of the surrounding area and also the range of resources available.

This morning we said goodbye to our host families for the last time. It was sad to leave them but I think because of the friendships we have created we will stay in touch and we look forward to their return visit in the fall.