

THOMAS JEFFERSON

Author of the Declaration of Independence

Excerpted from, *The Truth about the Founding Fathers of the American Republic*, © 2013 by Dr. Catherine Millard.

The National Geographic Society's October, 2014 book entitled *Founding Fathers*, states on page 151, "Historians generally agree that he (Jefferson) fathered several children by Sally Hemings, a slave..." This authoritative statement is featured next to a depiction of Jefferson as a rooster, and Sally Hemings as his hen. What is the origin of their accusation? What evidence does the National Geographic Society present to prove their allegation?



Thomas Jefferson's large family Bible, (King James 1611 Authorized), which, according to Captain Edmond Bacon, Monticello's overseer for 20 years, Jefferson constantly read. University of Virginia Archives, Charlottesville, Virginia.

From *Accuracy in Media* came this report entitled, *In Defense of Jefferson*. It reads,

"*Nature magazine* omitted facts when it claimed in its November, 1998 issue that scientific evidence proved that President Thomas Jefferson fathered a child by his slave Sally Hemings. Reed Irvine, chairman of *Accuracy in Media*, reports that the January issue of *Nature* will admit that the Magazine did not tell the whole story. The scientific Journal will print a letter from one of the study's authors that says that genetic evidence shows that Jefferson was only one of many Jefferson men (25 of whom lived in the Monticello area) who could have fathered Sally's son Eston. (*The most likely candidate, according to historian Herbert Barger, is Jefferson's younger brother Randolph, a widower who often visited Monticello and was known to dance and play the fiddle with the slaves.*) It remains to be seen whether the media and the numerous liberal historians who trumpeted the claims of Jefferson's paternity will follow *Nature's* lead in acknowledging reasonable doubt."

Both *Nature* magazine and *Science* magazine published articles in their January, 1999 editions, quoting foremost DNA experts worldwide, who validated the lack of evidence, pointing to *Randolph Jefferson* as the most likely candidate. *DNA had been taken from Field Jefferson, Thomas Jefferson's uncle.* However, the American media *chose to ignore their facts.*

Further to the above, *Captain Edmond Bacon*, Jefferson's overseer at Monticello for 20 years, states that he scrutinized Thomas Jefferson's personal life, actions and principles, concluding that he was unquestionably a man of impeccable moral conduct, integrity and high principles. *Jefferson's granddaughter, Ellen Randolph Coolidge* (Martha Jefferson Randolph's daughter), who grew up at Monticello with her family, wrote a letter to her husband on October 24, 1858, in which she refers to *Thomas Jefferson's bedchambers*: "...no female domestic ever entered his chambers except at hours when he was known not to be there, and none could have entered without being exposed to the public gaze." (from

original letter).

Who was Randolph Jefferson?

The original manuscript of Charles W. Campbell, of the University of Virginia, records *Isaac's Recollections of Monticello* (1847), Petersburg, Virginia, where Isaac was living in quiet retirement after his many years of service to *Thomas Jefferson*. In Isaac's candid words, we read his own account of Randolph Jefferson:

"Old Master's brother, *Mass Randall*, was a mighty simple man: used to come out among black people, play the fiddle and dance half the night; hadn't much more sense than Isaac."

However, Isaac's description of *Thomas Jefferson* is in glowing terms of admiration, appreciation and praise:

"*Mr. Jefferson bowed* to everybody he meet; talked wid his arms folded. Gave the boys in the nail factory a pound of meat a week, a dozen herrings, a quart of molasses, and peck of meal. Give them that wukked the best a suit of red or blue; encouraged them mightily. Isaac calls him a mighty good master."

Following is one of 28 known letters exchanged (1807-1815) between *Thomas Jefferson* and his little-known brother *Randolph*, 12 years his junior: *Randolph Jefferson* to *Thomas Jefferson*:

"July 9, 1807:

Mr. Thomas Jefferson, pr son Lewis Monticello
To the Care of mr. Dinsmore.

Dear Brother

I should of wrote to you on this business before but wished to be certain in seeing whether I could procure the quantity of seed that I agreed with the nigroes for which was a bushel of Green soard and as much of White Clover they are now delivering that quantity at Eight shillings pr Gallon I think the price high at that but I assure you that it was not in My power to git it cheaper if Convenient be please to inclose to Me as Much Money as will pay them of for there seed and send the letter on to warren Where I Can receive it in any short time and you Will Very Much oblige your. - Most affectionately, -

Rh; Jefferson July 9th 07.

P S Be so good as to let Mr. Randolph know if he Wants to purchase either of those kinds of seed it Will be in My power to oblige him if he will write me immidiately. -"

The above recorded description of *Randolph Jefferson* given by Isaac, *Thomas Jefferson's* faithful servant for many years; together with the above-quoted letter from Randolph Jefferson to his illustrious and brilliant brother, give a fairly accurate picture of the "Squire of Snowden," (situated 20 miles from Monticello), "who played the fiddle and danced half the night with the slaves at Monticello," whose interests, tastes, grammar and spelling were decidedly those of an earth-bound farmer; and *Thomas Jefferson* – the "Sage of Monticello" who authored the immortal *Declaration of Independence*, procuring America's freedoms; who *liberated the Protestant Churches in Virginia* from state-control, and who founded and designed the *University of Virginia*.

The National Geographic Society, on page 203 of their book, *Founding Fathers*, also depicts George Washington in Freemasonic regalia of Grand Master, the corresponding text asserting, ". . . Washington would continue to embrace the tenets of Freemasonry for the rest of his life." This is a deliberate falsification of fact, George Washington's own words testifying to the contrary, ". . . to correct an error you have run into, of my presiding over the English (Freemasonic) lodges in this Country. The fact is, I preside over none, nor have I been in one more than once or twice, within the last thirty years." (George Washington to Rev. G.W. Snyder, Mount Vernon, 25th September, 1798).

Conclusion

Based upon the above factual evidence, the **National Geographic Society's** October, 2014 book, *Founding Fathers*, with its false allegations incriminating both founding fathers **Thomas Jefferson** and **George Washington**, ought to be immediately banned from all media outlets in the United States, including numerous Public Libraries where it has been placed contaminating youth.

Thomas Jefferson's Personal Family Bible

In his 1862 book, "Monticello," Captain Edmond Bacon, the manager of Monticello for 20 years, relates that, "...*Mr. Jefferson* had a sofa or lounge upon which he could sit or recline, and a small table on rollers, upon which he could write or lay his books; and other times he would recline on his sofa, with his table rolled up, the sofa astride it. *He had a large Bible*, which nearly always lay at the head of his sofa. Many and many a time I have gone into his room and found him *reading that Bible*. You remember I told you about riding all night from Richmond, after selling that flour, and going into his room very early in the morning, and paying over to him the new United States Bank money. *That was one of the times I found him with the big Bible open before him* on his little table, and *he busy reading it*. And I have seen him reading it in that way many a time. Some people, you know, say he was an atheist. Now if he was an atheist, why did he spend *so much of his time reading his Bible?...*"

Where is this "large Bible," which Captain Bacon found Jefferson reading, "many and many a time?"

This large Bible (King James 1611 Authorized) is the **Jefferson Family Bible**, very well worn, and kept in a vault in the Archives of the University of Virginia, together with his equally-worn **Prayer Book**. Thomas Jefferson inscribed the names, dates of birth

and death of his beloved wife, Martha Wayles Jefferson, and his six children, four of which died in infancy, while a fifth daughter, Mary, died in 1804, aged 26. His eldest daughter, Martha Jefferson Randolph, lived at Monticello with her husband and Jefferson's eleven grandchildren.

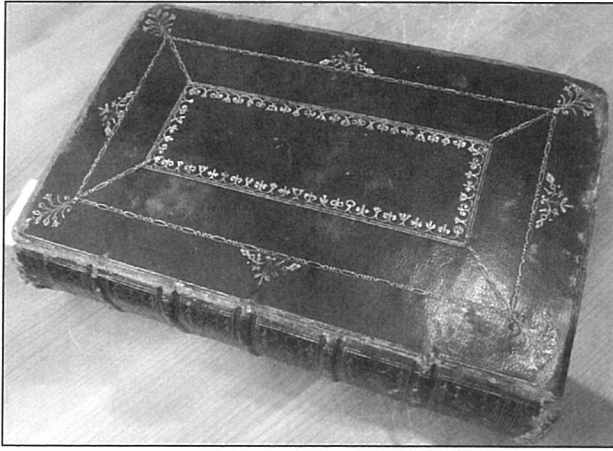
Did Thomas Jefferson go to Church?

A book housed in the Library of Congress Rare Book Collection discloses that, when **President Thomas Jefferson** first arrived in Washington in 1800, there were so few churches that *he began a custom of Sunday preaching in the House of Representatives*. Members of each denomination represented in Congress supplied distinguished clergy as guest speakers. The scarlet-uniformed Marine Band led the congregation in hymns and psalms. The Sabbath celebrations became so popular that gentlemen settled their ladies in every spot where a chair could be wedged. More formal services were held by a group of Scottish Presbyterians in a corridor of the Treasury Building. Other services were conducted at *St. Paul's Episcopal Church*, and *Christ Church*, a converted tobacco warehouse.

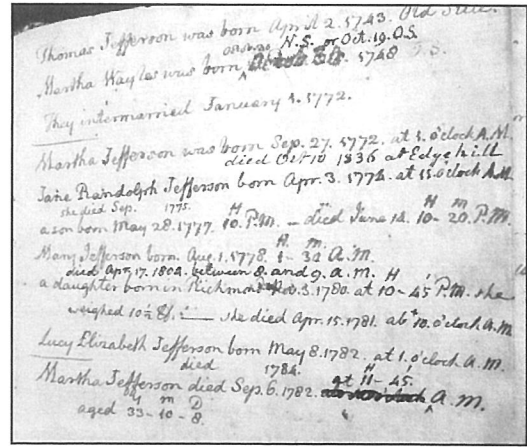
"...At this time (1800) the only place for public worship in our new city was a small, very small frame building at the bottom of Capitol Hill. It had been a *tobacco-house* belonging to Daniel Carroll of Duddington Manor, and was purchased by a few Episcopalians for a mere trifle *and fitted up as a church in the plainest and rudest manner*. During the first winter, *Mr. Jefferson regularly attended service on the Sabbath-day in the humble church*. The congregation seldom exceeded 50 or 60, but generally consisted of about a score of hearers. He (*Jefferson*) could have had no motive for this regular attendance, but that of respect for public worship, choice of place or preacher he had not, as this was the only church in the new city.

The custom of preaching in the Hall of Representatives had not then been attempted, though after it was established, Mr. Jefferson during his whole administration, was a most regular attendant. The seat he chose the first Sabbath, and the adjoining one, which his private Secretary occupied, were ever afterwards by the courtesy of the congregation, left for him and his secretary... Not only the chaplains, but the most distinguished clergymen who visited the city, preached in the Capitol. I remember hearing Mr. E. Everet, afterwards a member of Congress, deliver an eloquent discourse to a most thronged and admiring audience...*As Congress is composed of Christians of every persuasion, each denomination in its turn has supplied chaplains to the two houses of Congress, who preach alternately in the Hall of Representatives...* Clergymen, who during the session of Congress visited the city, were invited by the chaplains to preach..."

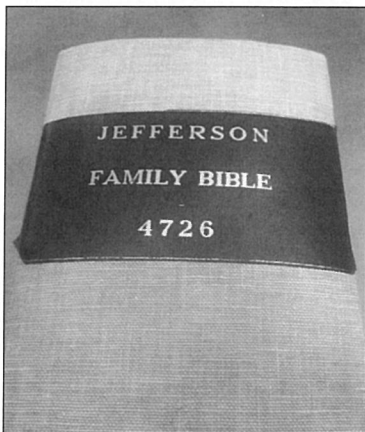
My research of *Christ Church* on Capitol Hill, revealed the following, "*Christ Church* was the first Episcopal Church in Washington Parish, created by the Maryland Vestry Act of 1794, 'An Act to form a new parish by the name of Washington Parish to include the City of Washington, and Georgetown on the Potomac.' *Christ Church's first building was a tobacco warehouse* on the corner of New Jersey Avenue and D Street, S.E. *Thomas Jefferson could often be seen, prayer book in hand*, walking to *Christ Church* located a few blocks south of the site for the new Capitol building."



Thomas Jefferson's well-worn Prayer Book.
University of Virginia Archives, Charlottesville, Virginia.

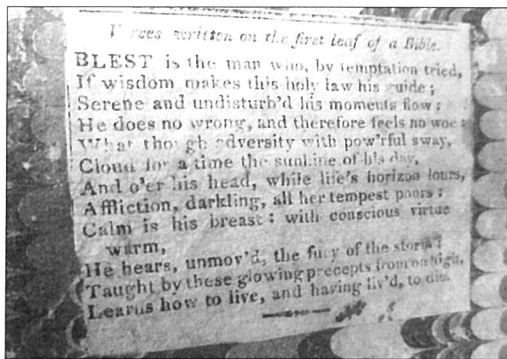


Close-up photograph of last page of Thomas Jefferson's Prayer Book, containing his hand-written account of his marriage to Martha Wayles (1772), the birth of their six children, deaths of five, and his beloved wife's death a few months after childbirth (1782). University of Virginia Archives, Charlottesville, Virginia.



Cover box in which Thomas Jefferson's personal Family Bible is kept.
University of Virginia Archives, Charlottesville, Virginia.

(Excerpted from, *The Truth about the Founding Fathers of the American Republic*, © 2013 by Catherine Millard).



Verses written upon the Opening page of Thomas Jefferson's personal Family Bible.
University of Virginia Archives, Charlottesville, Virginia.