



# The Road to the Thomas Jefferson Presidency

★ *The 3rd President* ★

★ *Certificate of Authenticity* ★



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## Thomas Jefferson : The Time Line

**1743**

Born to parents Jane Randolph and Peter Jefferson in Shadwell, Albemarle County, Virginia

**1752**

Jefferson family returned to Shadwell & Jefferson took up classical languages

**1757**

Father died at age 49 and left young Jefferson as family patriarch

**1762**

Studied law under George Wythe

**1767**

Admitted to Virginia Bar  
Received first legal fee handling

**1769-71**

**1745**

Jefferson family moved from Shadwell to Tuckahoe

**1754**

Father elected to Virginia House of Burgesses representing Albemarle County

**1760-62**

Attended the College of William and Mary

**1764**

Eldest sister Jane died at age twenty-five

**1768**

Elected to H  
Studied the  
Construction

case in General Court of Virginia

**1774** Served in the Virginia House of Burgesses

**1772** Married Martha Wayles Skelton on January 1, 1772 in Charles City, Virginia  
Daughter Martha Born on September 27th

**1774** Daughter, Jane Randolph born on April 3  
Drafted Albemarle Resolutions (format of First Virginia Convention)  
Published, A Summary View of the Rights of British America  
Retired from legal practice

**1776** Signer and one of the Drafters of the Declaration of Independence  
Elected to Virginia House of Delegates  
Revised Virginia's laws and drafted a constitution (first state)  
Resigned from Congress and declined appointment to a second term  
Mother died  
Returned to Virginia Assembly

**1778**

**1775** Named alternate to Second Continental Congress  
Revolutionary war began and appointed commander of Albemarle militia  
Daughter Jane Randolph died at age 3

**1773** Brother-in-law & father-in-law died and left six children, debts, lands and slaves to the Jefferson family  
Appointed surveyor of Albemarle County

**1770** Shadwell estate burned and destroyed most of Jefferson's documents and possessions  
Appointed County Lieutenant of Albemarle County Militia

House of Burgesses representing Albemarle County  
House of government  
House of Monticello in Charlottesville, Virginia started

**1777** Unnamed son born and died two weeks later  
Drafted Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom

**1779**

pendence

ate government)

egotiate diplomatic treaties with France due to wife's illness

aughter Mary (Maria) born on August 1st

rafted Bill for the More General Diffusion of Knowledge

**1780**

Daughter Lucy Elizabeth born on November 3rd

**1782**

Second Lucy Elizabeth born May 8th

Wife, Martha Wayles Skelton died at age thirty-three on September 6th

First house on Monticello completed

Appointed peace commissioner to negotiate Treaty of Paris

**1783-84**

Member of the Continental Congress

**17**

**1783**

Elected delegate to Congress

America and England signed Treaty of Paris, ending Revolutionary War

**1781**

Narrowly escaped capture when British troops arrived at Monticello

Daughter Lucy Elizabeth died April 15th

Second term as Governor ended

Virginia's investigative committee brought charges against Jefferson's office as governor; all accusations were defeated and cleared

Jefferson announced intention to retire from public life

Articles of Confederation enacted March 1st

**1781-81**

Served as Governor of Virginia

Finished revisions of Virginia's laws with Madison and Pendleton

s later

edom

**1784-89**

Serve



**84**

Elected Chairman of Congress and head of United States Government  
Wrote Notes on the Establishment of a Money Unit and Coinage for the U.S.  
Daughter, Martha moved to Paris  
Daughter Lucy Elizabeth died November 17th

**1787**

Published Notes on the State of Virginia  
Re-elected minister to France for a 3 year term  
Daughter, Maria joined he and daughter, Martha in Paris

**1789**

George Washington inaugurated President  
French Revolution began

**1791**

Bill of Rights adopted

**1793**

Re



Signing of the U.S. constitution in Philadelphia in September 17, 1787.\*  
LC-USA7-34630

**1786**

Virginia adopted Jefferson's Statute of Virginia for Religious Freedoms  
Unsuccessful in negotiating trade treaties with England  
in Paris, France as Commissioner and Foreign Minister

**1788**

The Constitution of the United States ratified

**1792**

Placed control of

**1790-93**

Served as the first United States Secretary of State  
Failed at his attempt to extend the term

**1797-1801**

Served as United States Vice President

signed position as Secretary of State

**1796**

Campaign for President launched by Democratic-Republican supporters  
Remodeling and enlarging of Monticello began

**1798**

XYZ Affair erupted

Drafted Kentucky Resolution and Kentucky legislature passed

**1801**

House of Representatives named Jefferson President on the 37th day of March  
Tripoli declared war the United States

**1804**

Re-nominated for President  
Daughter Maria Jefferson Eppes

**1797**

Lost presidential election to Adams and named Vice President

**1794**

Began commercial manufacture of nails on Mulberry Row

U.S. mint by Washington

of State

system to weights and measurements

**1797-1815**

Served as President of the American Philosophical Society

**1800**

Democratic-Republican caucus established  
Nominated for President

**1801-09**

Served as 3rd President of the United States

**1809**

Retired from Presidency  
Directed the operation of the University of Virginia

## Thomas Jefferson : The Time Line

**1812**

Congress declared war on Great Britain  
Declined suggestion to run for President or become Secretary of State

**1815**

Resigned as President of the American Philosophical Society

**1823**

Wrote ideas to Monroe that were incorporated in the Monroe Doctrine

**1826**

Died at Monticello on July 4—50th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence—at age 83  
His will provided the freedom of 5 of his slaves and requested special dispensation from Virginia Assembly to sell his property by lottery as to pay off his debts

**1825**

University of Virginia officially opened

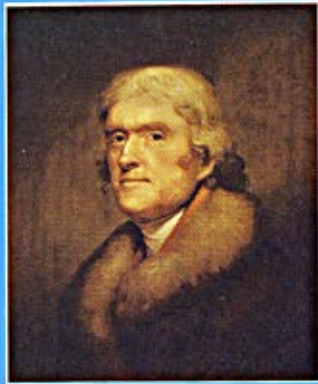
**1819**

Founded the University of Virginia

**1814**

Sold his personal 6,700 volume library to the Library of Congress  
Treaty of Ghent ends War of 1812





Thomas Jefferson \* LC-USZC4-2474

*"Love your neighbor as yourself, and your country more than life." - Thomas Jefferson*

The 3rd President of the United States, Thomas Jefferson, was born as one of ten children to Jane Randolph and Peter Jefferson on April 13, 1743 at Shadwell farm in Goochland (now Albemarle County), Virginia. His mother came from one of the first families of Virginia and thus gained her son relatives of the most prominent people in the province of Virginia. His father known as a noted explorer, maintained his well-to-do landholdings through planting and surveying. Jefferson filled his early life learning—hunting, canoeing, and fishing from his father, reading and playing music from his sister Jane. Jefferson's life with his father ended in 1757 when he was 14, leaving young Jefferson as family patriarch. Jefferson received private education in the classics and studied Latin and Greek before attending the College of William and Mary at the age of 17 in 1760. He later broadened his study of languages to include French, Italian, and Spanish. In college, Jefferson met Governor Fauquier and consequently



Residence of Thomas Jefferson, Monticello, Virginia \* LC-USZ62-107586

received exposure to theatre, politics, and culture. He joined the Flat Hat Club (1st college society), played music in Governor Fauquier's chamber group, and attended horse races and balls. In 1762, Jefferson completed his coursework in Mathematics and science from the College of William and Mary, and began to study law under George Wythe, a famous law teacher. Five years later Jefferson gained admittance into the Virginia bar and practiced law until 1774, when the American Revolution (1775-1783) closed the courts. Legal fees only provided supplementary income, as most of his support came by income from the lands he inherited from his father. With his land inheritance, he began the construction of Monticello, a project that remained incomplete until a generation later. His land holdings doubled when he married widow, Martha Wyles Skelton on January 1, 1772, who had gained a considerable estate upon the passing of her father in 1773. However, with these lands he gained

\* Library of Congress, Photographs and Prints Division





House in which Thomas Jefferson wrote the Declaration of Independence, Philadelphia \* LC-USZ62-128740

debts that plagued him his entire life. The couple shared the birth of six children; only two survived into adulthood—Martha ("Patsy") and Mary ("Maria").

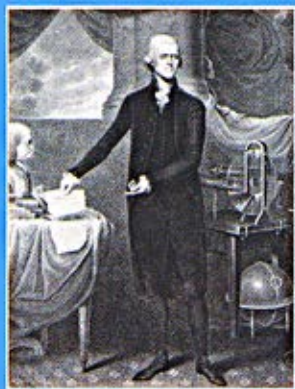
Jefferson began his forty-year political career at the age of 26 when he joined the Virginia colonial legislature in 1772. Jefferson followed the footsteps of his father and served in the House of Burgesses representing Albemarle County until 1776. During a time when the colonies began to oppose the British Parliament, Jefferson expressed that the British Parliament had no authority over the colonial legislature in his first major essay, "A summary View of the Rights of British America" in 1774. This essay served as a draft of instructions for the Virginia delegates of the First Continental Congress—a movement to deem the British parliament's power over America unconstitutional. A year later, in the mists of the American Revolution, Jefferson was appointed to serve as a



Signing of the U.S. constitution in Philadelphia on September 17, 1787 \* LC-USA7-34630

delegate of Virginia in the Second Continental Congress. As a member of the Continental Congress (1775-1776), Jefferson gained the task of drafting a document that declared America's intention to break away from England, and thus he became the principal author of the Declaration of Independence in 1776. Seven more years of war followed before Britain recognized America's independence. Jefferson left Congress in the autumn of 1776 and returned to Virginia, where he served in the House of Delegates, a part of the new Virginia legislature created by the state's new constitution, until he gained election as governor in 1779. As Virginia's governor from 1779-1781, he sought to reform the laws of Virginia to rid aristocracy in place of talent and virtue in a free society. Among these laws were his bills for Establishing Religious Freedom, which did not pass until 1786 and the bill for the More General Diffusion of Knowledge (a movement to create a public school system in





Thomas Jefferson President of The  
United States \* LC-USZ62-75384

Virginia), which never passed as he drew it. He also devised a revision to the criminal code, enacted in 1796. In his last year as governor, he faced the British invasion of Richmond, from which his legislature fled, leaving the state with no governor. Virginia's investigative committee brought charges against his office as war governor with a failure to provide adequate defense to Richmond. Virginia ultimately exonerated Jefferson of all charges, but the inquiry of his conduct led him to retire his governorship.

He returned to Mount Vernon in 1781 to begin his *Notes on the State of Virginia*, a natural history of Virginia and North America that contained reflections on religion, slavery, and the Indians. The work was first published in 1785 and gained him the reputation as a scientist. Jefferson's retirement from politics was short lived. Upon the death of his wife on September 6, 1782, he accepted election to the Congress in 1783. Her death left him with three

children, of who he sent two of the youngest—Mary and Lucy—to live with an aunt (where Lucy later died) and kept his eldest daughter, Martha. When Jefferson began his Congressional service in 1783, the Revolution had ended and the United States had gained its independence. While he served in the Continental Congress (1783-1784), he recommended adopting the dollar as the American monetary unit and the decimal system for its coinage within his notes on the Establishment of a Money Unit and of a Coinage for the United States that was later adopted in 1792. He also proposed a report on the government of the western territory in his ordinance of 1784 that dictated western territories to be self-governing until the point in which their growth would determine their admittance into the Union with the original 13 states. He further proposed the exclusion of slavery from all American western territories after 1800. Although, he was a slave owner, he believed slavery should not be permitted to spread. His provision banning slavery was narrowly defeated, and although congress approved his proposed ordinance of 1784, it never was put into effect; however, its main features were included (including the prohibition of slavery in the Northwest) in the Ordinance of 1787, which established the Northwest Territory.

In 1785, Jefferson left on a five-year mission to negotiate treaties of commerce between the new United States and the countries of Europe, replacing Benjamin Franklin as the U.S. minister to France. He took his daughter Martha with him, and later sent for his other daughter, Mary. While in Europe, the Constitution of the United States was ratified in 1788, a document that at first aroused speculation from Jefferson in that he believed it failed to sufficiently safeguard the right of individuals, and limit the presidential term—opening the possibility of a monarchy. However, his fears were eased upon learning that a bill of rights would be provided. In Jefferson's last year in



Paris, he witnessed the outbreak of the French Revolution, a resistance to the monarchical system. When Jefferson left Paris on September 26, 1789, Congress confirmed his appointment as the nation's first secretary of state under the administration of President George Washington, which Jefferson accepted with reluctance. Leaving a country ruled by monarchy, Jefferson's fears of monarchical tendencies with the U.S. remained. Jefferson, a Republican, took office in 1790, starting his 3-year battle with secretary of the treasury, Alexander Hamilton, a Federalist. Jefferson believed that the strict interpretation of the constitution would preserve individual liberties and prevent tyranny; and believed that Hamilton was trying to increase the power of the national government beyond what the Constitution permitted. Jefferson also believed that Hamilton's financial programs were unconstitutional and had a tendency to favor merchants and financiers rather than farmers—who comprised the majority of the United States. The two also differed in foreign affairs, as Jefferson favored the French and Hamilton the British; although both agreed however, that the United States should stay out of the war fought between France and Britain in 1793. After 3 years of discourse in the cabinet, Jefferson resigned his post on December 31, 1793 and spent the next three years at Monticello devoting his time to his farm, family, inventions, and the building of a nail factory.

Jefferson's career took a turn toward higher office upon Washington's decision not to run for a third term in 1796. John Adams, Vice President under the Washington administration, was the Federalist candidate (supported a strong, national or federal government) and Jefferson became the reluctant presidential candidate of the Republicans (known as the Democratic-Republicans). Adams received a narrow Electoral College victory (71 to 68), making Jefferson as the runner-up, the Vice President.<sup>1</sup> Thus, from 1798-1801 Jefferson presided over

the Senate and worked in a Federalist-controlled congress for which he disagreed. During Adams' administration, relations with France diminished, the Quasi-War began, taxes were imposed and the passage of the Alien and Sedition Acts (1798)<sup>2</sup> threatened the freedom of Americans. Jefferson protested such laws that attempted to suppress freedom of speech in his secret authorship of the Kentucky Resolutions (1798).

In the presidential election of 1800, Jefferson and Adams were candidates. Adams lost his bid for re-election, and under the old system, the election resulted in a tie between Jefferson and his own vice presidential candidate, Aaron Burr. Months later, the House of Representatives named Jefferson President on the thirty-sixth ballot thus, Aaron Burr gained the vice presidency. This marked the first transfer of national authority from one political group to another—from the Federalists to the Republicans.

During Jefferson's administration as President, internal taxes were reduced, the military budget was cut, the Alien and Sedition Acts were permitted to lapse, and plans were made to extinguish the public debt. The Louisiana Purchase of 1803 doubled the size of the United States territory, making it his most notable achievement of his presidency.

Jefferson spent the next 17 years of his life at Monticello directing the operations of his mills and farms. He also founded the University of Virginia in 1819; for which he inspired the legislative campaigning, designed and designated placement of buildings, helped select textbooks, hired instructors, and served as the first rector, chief executive. At age 83, Jefferson died at Monticello on July 4, just hours before John Adams and on the 50th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence.

Thomas Jefferson served as the 3rd President of the United States from March 4, 1801 to March 11, 1809.

1. Vice Presidents were originally presidential candidates receiving the second-largest number of electoral votes until the Twelfth Amendment passed in 1804, creating a system where the Electoral College voted separately for President and Vice President.

2. The Alien and Sedition Acts granted the liberty of the government to deport foreigners they thought dangerous, and those who criticized the government be jailed.



## The Presidential Election 1800



(DR) Jefferson state victories: 73 - 53%

(F) Adams state victories: 65 - 47%

Territories

Electoral votes total: 138

## The Presidential Election 1804



(DR) Jefferson state victories: 162 - 92%

(F) Pinckney state victories: 14 - 8%

Territories

Electoral votes total: 176

## Thomas Jefferson: While in Office

**1801** Submitted first annual message to Congress • Tripoli declared war on the U.S.

**1802** Congress declared war on Tripoli • All internal taxes abolished • U.S. Patent Office organized • U.S. Military Academy opened in West Point, New York • Morocco declared war on the United States • Jefferson met with Chief Handsome Lake to discuss Native American policy

**1803** Supreme Court established judicial review in *Marbury v. Madison* • Louisiana Purchase from France for fifteen million dollars • Draft of Constitutional Amendment Incorporating Louisiana Territory into the United States • 12th Amendment changed Presidential election rules

**1804** Jefferson re-elected for President • Lewis & Clark began their exploration of the Louisiana territory • Vice President Burr fatally wounded Alexander Hamilton in a duel • American seamen aboard the *Philadelphia* held in the Bay of Tripoli are rescued

**1805** Peace treaty signed with Tripoli and Morocco

**1806** Congress authorized construction of Cumberland Road to Ohio • Burr conspiracy: Burr's attempt to detach the western states and Louisiana Territory from the Union • Jefferson declared martial law in New Orleans in response to a coup plot by Burr • British warships seized American and British seamen, claiming them as British deserters

**1807** Burr arrested for suspicion of treason • U.S. Senate refused to ratify the Monroe-Pinckney Treaty with Great Britain • Non-Importation Act prohibited traffic with British manufactures

• British warship attacked American ship for its refusal to allow the British to board and search for deserters • Jefferson banned British ships from American waters • Burr fled to Europe after being acquitted of treason and misdemeanor charges • Jefferson signed Embargo Act, declaring American neutrality and non-engagement in foreign trade (forbade American ships to leave American waters) • Importation of slaves from Africa outlawed<sup>1</sup>

**1808** Lake Champlain region violated the Embargo Act • Slave importation to the United States prohibited by law • James Madison elected President December 7

**1809** Non-Intercourse Act repealed Embargo and Non-Importation Acts • Jefferson administration ended March 11

<sup>1</sup> Despite the outlaw of importing slaves, another 1 million were brought in by 1860.



## Key Establishments

- Adoption of the 12th Amendment
- Louisiana Purchase of 1803
- Lewis and Clark Expedition
- Wrote Declaration of Independence and Virginia's Act for Religious Freedom
- Help found the University of Virginia

## Thomas Jefferson: Personal Trivia

**Presidential Number:** 3 **Years President:** 1801-1809 **Age at Inauguration:** 57 **Terms:** 2 **Political Affiliation:** Democratic-Republican  
**State Represented:** Virginia **Marriage:** January 1, 1772 to Martha Wayles Skelton (1748-1782) **First Lady:** Martha "Patsy" Jefferson Randolph (daughter) served as hostess  
**Vice President(s):** Aaron Burr, George Clinton **Birthday:** April 13, 1743  
**Birthplace:** "Shadwell", Goochland (now Albemarle) County, Virginia **Nicknames:** Red Fox; "Father of Archaeology;" "Man of the People;" "Sage of Monticello" **Parents:** Jane Randolph and Peter Jefferson **Childhood Activities:** Hunting, fishing, riding horses, canoeing, playing violin **Favorite Subject:** Archaeology **Education:** Private tutoring; Reverend James Maury private school; B.A. from College of William and Mary  
**Professions:** Planter; Lawyer; Writer; Philosopher; Scientist; Architect; 3rd President of America; Vice President for John Adams **Pre-Presidential Offices:** Member of Virginia House of Burgesses; County Lieutenant; County Surveyor; Secretary of State; Governor of Virginia; Commissioner and Minister to France; Virginia Continental Congress; Member of Virginia House of Delegates **Occupation after Presidency:** Planter; Writer; Educator  
**Religion:** Deist **Hobbies:** Fishing, horticulture, riding, violin, reading books and walking  
**Favorite Foods:** Ice cream, pancakes, spoon breads, vegetables **Children:** Martha Washington (1772-1836), Jane Randolph (1774-75), infant son whom died two weeks after birth, Mary Jefferson (1778-1804), Lucy Elizabeth (1780-1781), Lucy Elizabeth (1782-1785)  
**Pets:** Mocking birds; two bear cubs given to him by Lewis and Clark **Died:** July 4, 1826

<sup>2</sup> Unitarian and self-proclaimed Christian

## Notable Facts

**First man** to hold the cabinet position of Secretary of State. **Second of five Vice Presidents** to be elected to the presidency on his own. **One of 14 Presidents** who served as Vice President. **First President** inaugurated in the new capital city. **One of six Presidents** to be portrayed on a U.S. coin. **One of three Presidents** to die on the Fourth of July.

## Interesting Facts

- Planted 1,151 peach trees at his Monticello estate
- U.S. population was 5.3 million when became President
- Designed and invented clocks, a dumbwaiter, polygraph machine, Venetian blinds, automatic doors at Monticello, a moldboard for a plow and his achromatic telescope
- Portrait appears on the \$2 bill and the nickel
- Elected president by the United States House of Representative when an electoral tie resulted
- Wrote 50,000 letters in his lifetime
- Entertained guests playing the violin
- Monticello means "little mountain" in Italian
- Sold collection of his books to the government for the Library of Congress