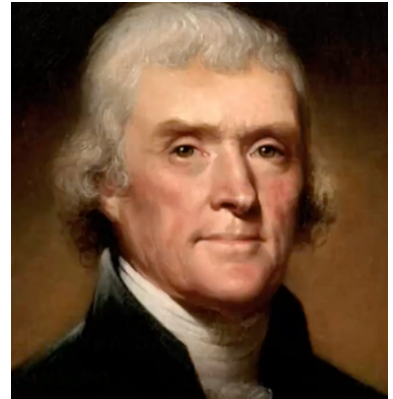


Thomas Jefferson's TOF- Genogram Story

With Mention of some Revolutionary Era Heroes, Villains and a few In-Between, including Gouverneur Morris, Thomas Mann Randolph, Patrick Henry, John Marshall

Thomas Jefferson was among our most talented Presidents: an inventor, a scientist, an architect, a writer, an agronomist. It is estimated that he left at least 18,000 personal letters, having destroyed many more! He even invented a “copier” in the form of a double pen so what he wrote could include a copy of each page. Jefferson was probably one of the geniuses of all time --in contrast to George Washington, who was a great military leader and a great leader altogether, but he could barely write or spell. ([Sloan, 1998, p 2](#))



He had inherited his slave, Sally who was his wife's half-sister, from his

At the same time, among the major secrets our whole nation has kept for 200 years, is that our multi-talented and much-admired Founder, author of the Declaration of Independence, and 3rd U.S. President, Thomas Jefferson had at least 6 children with his slave Sally Hemings

Several of our presidents had slaves, but Jefferson is the only one we know of who had children with them.

Portable Polygraph developed and owned by
Thomas Jefferson

Hemings,
father-in-law,

John Wayles, who had been a slave dealer. Wayles had owned Sally's mother, Betty Hemings, who was herself already half white, because her own mother, thought by researcher Annette Gordon Reed to have been named **Parthenia**, based on the wills of Francis Eppes IV and John Wayles, had become pregnant by the ship captain, Captain Hemings, en route to America from Africa. But Wayles had already bought her and refused to give Hemings either the mother or her daughter, despite the high price Hemings was willing to pay for her ([Gordon Reed, 2008, p. 49](#)).

Sally's mother, Betty Hemings had then grown up in John Wayles family, and he had taken her as his concubine, when his third wife died. Betty had six children by him--three sons and three daughters, Robert, James, Thena, Critta, Peter, and Sally. All these children went by the last name of their mother Betty Hemings, who had other children by an African American as well. Jefferson married John Wayles' daughter, Martha Wayles Skelton, and when Wayles died, he inherited Betty and her children, including Sally.

Historians, academics and politicians for over 200 years tried to cover up the fact of Jefferson having children with his slave Sally, making any outlandish suggestions they could

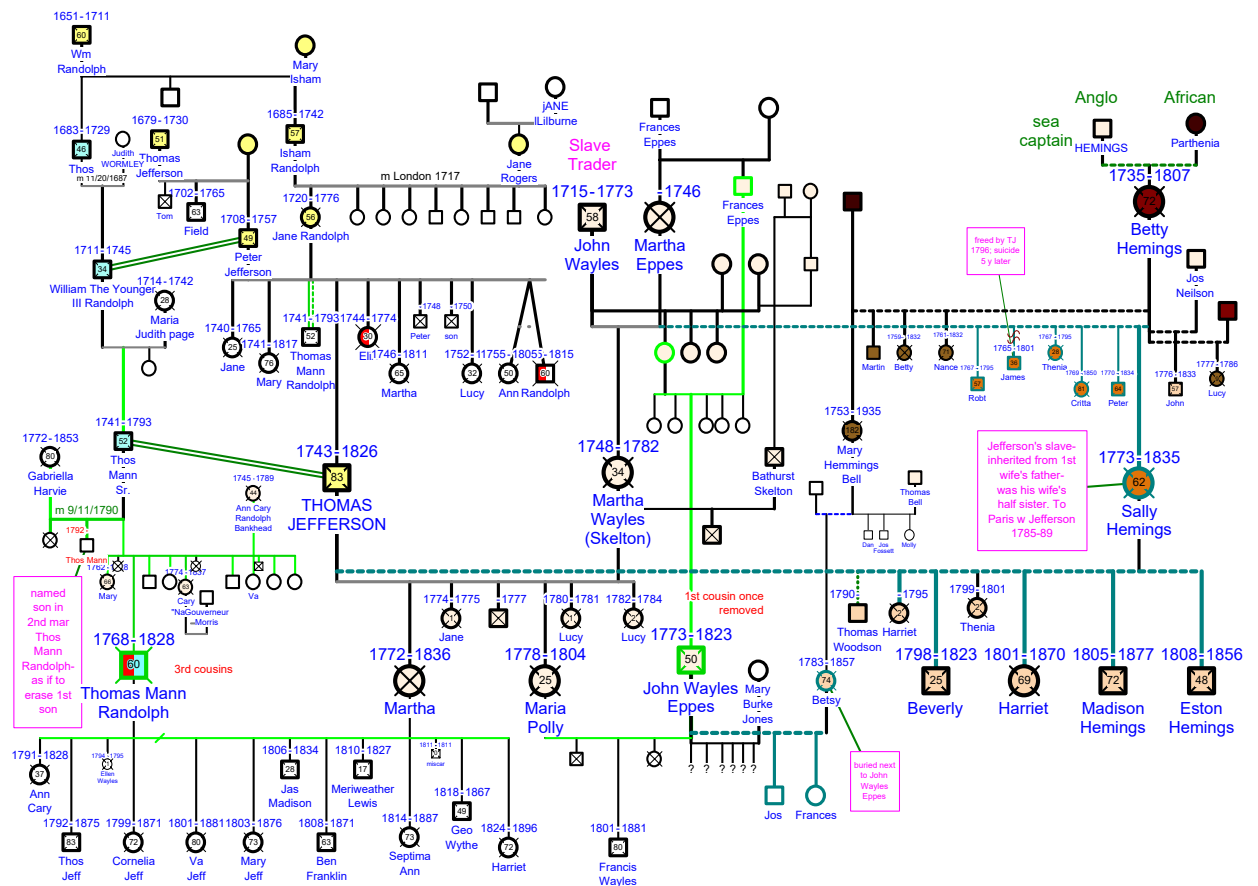
think of about who, other than Jefferson, might have fathered Sally's children. And it took until the early 21st century before we had the ability to track DNA evidence and finally had to begin to admit this truth. DNA made it too difficult to keep denying that Sally Hemings and Thomas Jefferson had had many children together. Since John Wayles was Sally's father as well as Martha's, Sally was Jefferson's wife Martha's half sister.

Jefferson and Sally had at least 6 and possibly 7 children between 1790 and 1813. Their relationship seems to have lasted over 36 years, she being with him when he died in 1826. At that point he was 83 and she 53.

Jefferson and His Background

Jefferson was a polymath in the arts, in science and in politics. He drafted the beginning of an autobiography in which he said his father came from Wales and was the youngest of three sons, whose mind and

JEFFERSON FAMILY FOR GENOGRAM STORY



Peter Jefferson (1708-1757), was from a more working class background than his wife Jane Randolph. He had little education, but he rubbed elbows with the Virginia elite, including

the Randolphs. It turns out that his grandmother had been married to a Randolph, who had died and then she married his maternal grandfather so there were historical family connections to the Randolph family.



In any case, Peter Jefferson was physically very large, very strong, and very capable, becoming a Colonel in the militia and later a member of the House of Burgesses. He was an explorer, a surveyor, a planter, a land speculator and was even chosen eventually to create the first map of Virginia. He married his wife Jane Randolph in 1738. Their first son, Thomas seems to have become a blend of both of his parents for his interests in culture and in the frontier and for his comfort with both simplicity and elegance.

About his wife, Jane Randolph Jefferson (1720-1776), whose

family was one of the information. The and had been squires

Portrait of Peter Jefferson,
Thomas Jefferson's
Father

first families of Virginia, we have very little family was reputed to go back to Charlemagne in Scotland and England for generations. Jane's grandfather, William Randolph, built a huge estate, Tuckahoe, in Virginia and became one of the important politicians of his generation. Jane's father, Isham Randolph (1685-1742) became first a sea merchant and then an agent in England for the Colony. He married Jane's mother in London where Jane was then born, and then moved back to the Colony in 1720 as part of the leading dynasty of Virginia.

One of Jane's cousins, William Randolph, had apparently been Peter Jefferson's best friend growing up. When Randolph was dying in 1845 (his wife having died already and a daughter soon after), he asked Peter Jefferson to be the guardian of his three-year-old son, Thomas Mann Randolph, who then grew up as a kind of foster brother and close friend of Thomas Jefferson who was almost his same age. Jane and Peter Jefferson then moved for a time with all their children to the Randolph plantation at Tuckahoe. (reference: [Historic Tuckahoe: https://www.visithistorictuckahoe.com/history/overview/](https://www.visithistorictuckahoe.com/history/overview/). And Appletons' [Cyclopedia of American Biography, 1600-1889 https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/153760318/person/202101958743/hints?usePUBJs=true](https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/153760318/person/202101958743/hints?usePUBJs=true)).

(Tuckahoe was the same plantation that Thomas Mann Randolph's 2nd wife, Gabriella Harvie, eventually inherited, disinheriting all of Thomas Mann Randolph's children. Thomas Mann Randolph's son, Thomas Mann Randolph II, became Thomas Jefferson's son in law. (His unfortunate and dysfunctional story are mentioned below).

Aside from his "adopted" son Thomas Mann Randolph, Peter Jefferson had 10 children of his own, including two who died in infancy, and two others who seem to have had major life problems, including his fourth, child, Elizabeth, who seems to have been mentally disabled and died in an earthquake at age 30, and the youngest son, Randolph, a twin, who also seems to have



Portraits of Thomas
Jefferson's Mother
Jane Randolph
Jefferson

been mentally limited and never functioned very well. Thus, Peter Jefferson's house consisted of 11 children, his wife and his slaves.

Jefferson's father Peter died at age 49 in 1757, after a short illness. Jefferson was only 14 at the time. He was the oldest son, with 6 sisters and a baby brother. Although the oldest son was usually left in control, if the father died, Jefferson's mother and the executors kept control of everything when Peter Jefferson died. His son Thomas would receive nothing at all until age 21. He had the responsibilities of head of the family, but no power.

He seems to have been sent away from home for his schooling from the age of 5, but when his father died was sent to a boarding school 14 miles away under a Reverend Maury, with the expectation that he would come home every weekend, no matter the weather, to assist his mother. He later wrote,

"Thrown on a wide world, among entire strangers, without a friend or guardian to advise, so young too, and with little experience of mankind, your dangers great and still your safety must rest on yourself... I recollect that at 14 years of age the whole care and direction of myself was thrown on myself entirely, without a relative or friend qualified to advise or guide me." He clearly felt a tremendous lack of support.

Jane Randolph was 37 when her husband died and lived another 19 years longer. Jefferson apparently destroyed all correspondence he had with her and in spite of the incredible breadth of his correspondence, only mentioned her once in all his numerous surviving letters. To convey an idea of Jefferson's prolific writing, he appears to have saved more than 18,000 personal letters and invented a letter press and a polygraph, which replicated his correspondence with a 2nd pen when he wrote. As an example of his extensive writing, it included writing about beginning and ending of seasons for 19 vegetables and 7 fruits which he kept track of for 58 years! But he apparently destroyed all correspondence with or about his mother except one reference, which was in a letter to her brother, with whom he had much more connection, saying: "The death of my mother you have probably not heard of. This happened on the last day of March after an illness of not more than an hour. We suppose it to have been apoplectic" <https://www.monticello.org/research-education/thomas-jefferson-encyclopedia/jane-randolph-jefferson/>. It is interesting that Jefferson's mother died just two months before he drafted the Declaration of Independence. His autobiography describes in some detail his thoughts and feelings about his father but mentions only three things about his mother, that she married his father at 19, that her father, Isham Randolph, was one of 7 sons of the Randolph family, and that they settled in Dungeness in Goochland. "They trace their pedigree far back in England and Scotland, to which let everyone ascribe the faith and merit he chooses." (Jefferson, 2013, Rise of Douai Publishing Group).

It is astonishing that we have so little information about their relationship. Little seems to be known about Jane Randolph's personal attributes except one comment by a great granddaughter, who had never actually known her, but said that she was by reputation "mild and peaceful by nature, a person of sweet temper and gentle manners and clear and strong understanding, with a great fund of humor," and that she was fond of letter writing. (from Thomas Jewett's "Thomas Jefferson's Odd Relationship with his Mother": <https://www.varsitytutors.com/earlyamerica/jefferson-primer/thomas-jefferson->

[mother#:~:text=Jefferson%27s%20mother%20was%20Jane%20Randolph,families%20of%20the%20Virginia%20Colony.\)](#) As Thomas Jewett has written about Jefferson and his mother: “Why is it that there is not an affectionate word written about her by her son? He never seemed to have spoken fondly of her, even to his own children. Jewett concludes that he must have felt a deep hostility never to have said a positive word about her” (Jewett, 2020). Indeed, in 1770 when there was a huge fire in the family plantation, Jefferson asked first about his books before asking how his mother was after the fire (Jewett, 2020).

Having been sent away to school (we’re not clear how far away he was from age 5, but he seems to have been boarding at school long before age 14. By age 17 he was studying at William & Mary College, first with a Scottish scholar, Dr. William Small, a mathematician and scientist “with a happy talent of communication and a liberal mind,” who mentored him, which he considered his “great good fortune,” and, Jefferson says, beyond schooling, Small made him his daily companion. Before Small returned to Scotland, he introduced Jefferson to his friend, George Wythe, with whom Jefferson studied law and then they practiced law in the general court of the Colony. Jefferson was then elected a member of the provincial legislature from Albemarle County. At that point he visited the John Wayles home where met his future wife, Martha Wayles Skelton.

They married in 1770 and afterwards went to live at his country seat, Monticello. Two years after that had their first daughter Martha. By 1782 Martha Wayles, died in childbirth. She was only 34. Supposedly, as Martha was dying, she elicited from Jefferson a deathbed promise never to remarry.

The next year, 1773, John Wayles and Betty Hemings had their sixth and last child, Sally. Wayles died the same year and his daughter Martha inherited Wayles slaves Betty Hemings and her children, including Sally, who was Martha Wayles Jefferson’s half-sister.

Only 2 daughters of the 6 children Martha Wayles had with Thomas Jefferson survived. Both surviving daughters themselves grew up to marry their cousins, (Martha married a Randolph; Polly married an Eppes). Apparently, cousins marrying cousins was common pattern throughout the family.

Meanwhile, Jefferson became the Minister from the U.S. to France and moved to Paris in 1785, taking first his older daughter Martha (often called Patsy) and two Hemings brothers who were his slaves. Three of Jefferson’s children had already died, and the youngest would die while he was in France. Jefferson left his younger daughters Maria and Lucy with his wife’s sister, Elizabeth Eppes. (Tragically, in the next generation Polly would marry her cousin John Wayles Eppes, and like her mother would bear 6 children, only one of whom would survive to adulthood. Polly herself would die at the young age of 25, even earlier than her mother, who lived until age 33.

After two years in Paris, Jefferson sent for his younger daughter, Polly, who came to Paris at age 10, accompanied by Sally Hemings, then 14, another of the slaves whom he had inherited from his father-in-law.

Jefferson’s relationship with Sally began in France, most likely when she was about 16 and he 46, since she was pregnant before the return to the U.S. Sally knew that she would be free

if she remained in France, but apparently Jefferson made an arrangement with her that if she would return with him, he would give any children they had their freedom, and she, being already pregnant, agreed to return with him.

Jefferson never discussed his relationship with Sally Hemings and it has been extremely difficult to know the details of their relationship with each other or with others in their families. Jefferson died in 1826 at the age of 83, with Sally, then 53, still at his side. They had had their first child together 36 years earlier.

At some point Sally apparently talked with her son Madison (born in 1805) about her relationship with Jefferson. Madison and his brother Eston, the youngest of her children, moved to Ohio with their families in the years after their mother's death in 1835. Eston at a certain point decided move again, from Ohio to Wisconsin, and passed into the white world.

Madison on the other hand, stayed in Ohio and decided in 1873 to publish his memories of what his mother had told him about her relationship with Jefferson. ([Life among the Lowly, No. 1, "Pike County \(Ohio\) Republican, March 13, 1873](#)), This was 4 years before his death at age 72 in 1777. He himself had 11 children, all but two of whom survived, and they had numerous descendants!



Sally had given birth to a son a few months after the family returned from Paris to Monticello, and she and Jefferson continued their “secret” relationship for the rest of his life. The story seems to have been that that son was named Tom, but died as a child, or even perhaps lived within the family till he was about 10 or 11 and then left. There is a family named Woodson that believes they are descended from this child, though the DNA evidence doesn't seem to support that.

Some years later Jefferson was accused by a journalist named Callender of having a “concubine,” “Dusky Sally” an accusation to which he never responded. There were many other published accusations over the years. But Thomas and Sally's children grew up in the household, and no one officially acknowledged that they were Jefferson's. We have to wonder how these children were related to by Jefferson's two white daughters, as well as about their relationships with Jefferson's white grandchildren, many of whom also grew up at Monticello. It is known that outsiders who visited Monticello were more than once stunned to see a very light skinned look-alike of Jefferson waiting on them at the table.

Jefferson was known to be a very involved grandfather with his white grandchildren, but how, we wonder, did he relate with his mixed-race children and grandchildren who lived their whole childhood right in the house with him. Only now in the 2020's is it being recognized and acknowledged that Sally Hemings had a room at Monticello, a fact which had been denied for more than 200 years.

Even today's writers seem unable to contend with the bizarreness of the home life of the man who wrote the sentence in our Declaration of Independence “all men are created equal”! Jon

Meacham, in his recent book *“Thomas Jefferson: The Art of Power”* wrote *“It was, to say the least, an odd way to live, but Jefferson was a creature of his culture”* (Meacham, 2013, p. 454).

We seem still unable to deal with our history of racism, which has played out since our country’s beginnings. Indeed, Jefferson’s current day descendants are still forced to contend with the hatred and prejudice created by our history of slavery and racism.

A recent documentary, *“Jefferson’s Blood”* illustrates the anger and cut-offs created for Jefferson’s great great grandchildren, when they participated in a video even in the 21st century, in which they acknowledged that they were descended from Jefferson and Sally Hemings, (See documentary, *Jefferson’s Blood* and McGoldrick’s book, *You Can Go Home Again* (W. W. Norton, 2024). As Shelby Steele comments in the documentary about Jefferson’s position: *“He cannot sell these children because they might talk. He can't free them because that special treatment might give him away to his enemies in the press. He can't acknowledge them as his own without ending his career and disgracing his white family. He is circled now by the terms of America's racial primitivism. And now this man of the Enlightenment must know himself as primitive. This is the sort of untenable self-knowledge that lives within people in racist societies.”*

In June 1776, many years before he became involved in having children with Sally Hemings, Jefferson drafted the original version of the Declaration of Independence in which he blamed Britain’s King George III for his role in creating and perpetuating the transatlantic slave trade, describing this in so many words, as a crime against humanity: *“He has waged cruel war against human nature itself,”* Jefferson wrote, *“violating its most sacred rights of life & liberty in the persons of a distant people who never offended him, captivating & carrying them into slavery in another hemisphere or to incur miserable death in their transportation thither.”*

This accusation was deleted in the final document. What was left was: *“When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation. We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness.”*

What a bizarre paradox that the person who wrote these words could live a life at such odds from these ideals! It took two centuries for our country to even begin to acknowledge the intricate lies we have been telling ourselves about race in the life of our 3rd President and the author of our Declaration of Independence and in all our own lives.

Jefferson had 7 or 8 children with his slave Sally Hemings, over a period of 18 years, between 1790 and 1808. But we did not begin to acknowledge this until, as mentioned above, DNA evidence 200 years later began to disprove the lies told by our many historians who have written about Jefferson, the directors of Monticello, nationally famous memorial plantation where they lived for much of their lives, and Jefferson’s many white descendants and admirers.

Of the 4 surviving children of Thomas Jefferson and Sally Hemings, two (Beverly and Harriet) disappeared into the white world and we unfortunately do not have information about their descendants. As mentioned above, the other two surviving sons, Madison and Eston, ended up in Ohio and Wisconsin and have over the succeeding centuries had a large number of descendants.

Many families in the U.S. are shaped by secrecy that emanates from the legacy of white supremacy. It is interesting that Jefferson named all of the children he had with Hemings after people in his life, hinting at their connection to him, though he never admitted he was their father.

This denial of the truth has extended over many generations. Jefferson's biographers colluded with the secrecy for more than 200 years by creating every rationalization they could to avoid acknowledging Jefferson's slave children, and many family members in that family as in so many others, have tried to hide their interracial ancestry. Those who have dared to acknowledge the truth, have often been subject to harsh censure and cutoff. The cutoffs related to descendants of Jefferson-Hemings have continued into the 21st century, more than 6 generations later. In one family discussed in *Jefferson's Blood*, three daughters made the decision to get a DNA test to be certain, but also to participate in a film about Jefferson's descendants. Their father, who as a young adult had cut off from his African American family, was angry with his daughters for exposing the secret he had tried to keep buried for so long. He considered their actions to be a betrayal and as a result, he cut off from anyone who dared to acknowledge the truth of the family's interracial ancestry.

Amalia Cooper, a 6th generation descendent, wonders how it could possibly make any difference if people knew her ancestry, but, she says, "If they look at me differently, they just do." The influence of white supremacy was so intense that when their father married their mother, who was white, her family disowned her completely and threw all her belongings away.

Decades later when the daughters participated in the documentary it was because they wanted their lives and their children's lives to be free of secrecy. Upon receiving the negative reaction to her willingness to address the family secret, Amalia was very clear: "I feel like an outsider now. And I'm pissed off about that, because there's nothing to split us apart." The cutoffs caused by racial secrets go right back to Jefferson's children. When three of them, Harriet, Beverly, and eventually Eston passed into the white world, all ties to their siblings were cut off. To pass out of a race requires passing out of a family.

The remarkable part in this story is that those who dare to break the secrecy and work toward repair of the multigenerational cutoffs, often risk further cutoffs in the present through their openness. The efforts of Amalia Cooper and her sisters toward reconnection and openness are powerful signs of transformation and healing for a family and for our nation, even when the reactivity of others leads to perpetuation of their cutoff.

Another example of such cutoffs having continued over generations includes another descendant of Jefferson, who told Amalia Cooper that her grandmother (Ida May Young Redman) had in her later years taken in her brother to care for him as he was declining. She cared for him until he died, after which his children, who had not opened their homes to him, requested that her

family not to come to the funeral, because they didn't want to their children to face the possibility of their lives being disrupted by realizing there was "a black side of the family."

Overall, we know very little about Jefferson's behavior with Sally or their children, and there are no pictures at all of any of them. The only direct information we have comes from Madison Hemings' recollections, published in 1873, in which he described what his mother had told him years before about her relationship with Jefferson.

Showing Racial Secrets on Genograms

We have discussed the complications of showing the unusual configurations (**Figure 2: Thomas Jefferson**) of Jefferson's genogram in our book *Genograms*, 4th edition. Such complex configurations were a common occurrence in the era of slavery. White slave owners frequently fathered children with their slaves and then denied this parentage, making it very difficult for African Americans to know their history at all, as we can see in Jefferson's genogram and as Elaine Pinderhughes has discussed in depth in her phenomenal research on her own African American Family (Pinderhughes, 2019).

The cutoffs and conflicts produced by this exploitation of African Americans, as well as by the systematic effort to suppress the cultural and family history of African Americans throughout our nation's history, has been a shameful part of our national heritage. Facing this history is an important part of healing and changing such patterns of exploitation. Making sense of this interracial configuration is a challenge. As Pinderhughes has said:

The invisibility of African Americans in the recorded history of the United States has led to a pervasive ignorance for everyone, Black or white, about African Americans and their contributions to the building of our country . . . With no power to affect the writing of American history and few resources to disseminate our story, it has remained invisible or distorted by negative stereotypes, and we have until recently remained unable or unwilling to challenge the distortions, untruths, and omissions that have been accepted about our past . . . But we are coming to realize that knowledge of the past, even if painful, can nourish a people's strength. This realization has stimulated us to unseal these memories and reclaim the truth, no matter how cruel and shocking, so that the festering wound can begin to heal and so that we can better cope with the present and build the future. (2019, p. 427)

Historians have been extremely reluctant to face the truth of this history for families like that of Thomas Jefferson, in which there were many interconnected secret rapes and relationships. Jefferson's white family, along with numerous white historians, went to great lengths to cover up this part of the family history for more than 200 years. As we have said, historians have only recently been forced, finally, to confront their own racism by the DNA tests performed on descendants of Jefferson and Sally Hemings. It is often necessary to reassess the history we have been told very carefully in order to understand the truth of the relationships on our family genograms.

As mentioned, Jefferson's father-in-law, John Wayles, a slave trader himself, had a long secret relationship with Sally Hemings' mother, Betty Hemings, who became his slave when he bought her

pregnant mother in 1735 and refused to let the father, a white ship captain named Hemings buy her freedom or buy her and her baby, even though Hemings offered a very large sum.

Jefferson's daughters both married cousins. Martha married the nephew of her paternal grandmother, and Maria (Polly) married John Wayles Eppes, a nephew of her maternal grandmother's brother, who had married her mother's half-sister. In the third generation of such relationships, Jefferson's son-in-law, John Wayles Eppes, after his wife Polly died, had a long relationship with one of Sally Heming's nieces, Betsy Hemings, with whom he had at least two children, although he remarried during their relationship. When Betsy Hemings died, she was buried next to him.

In addition, Thomas Jefferson's wife Martha's first husband, Bathurst Skelton was the younger brother of her stepmother's first husband. Jefferson's family clearly had a tendency to turn inwards for their relationships and to become a very richly cross-joined family.



The
Randolph and
wife Gabriella
Tuckahoe, while
Had

To add complication to complexity, Thomas Mann Randolph Jr.'s father, Thomas Mann Randolph Sr., who was Thomas Jefferson's contemporary and close friend growing up, followed an extremely similar pattern as Jefferson, marrying at 50 with a 17-year-old Gabriella Harvie. Randolph's wife had died the previous year after they had had 11 children together. Gabriella Harvie bore him two children in their 3 years together, before his death in 1793. They named the new son "Thomas Mann Randolph, Jr.," the exact same name as Randolph's oldest son in his first marriage, as if to erase this first son, who had married Jefferson's older daughter, Martha ([Gordon-Reed, 2008](#)).

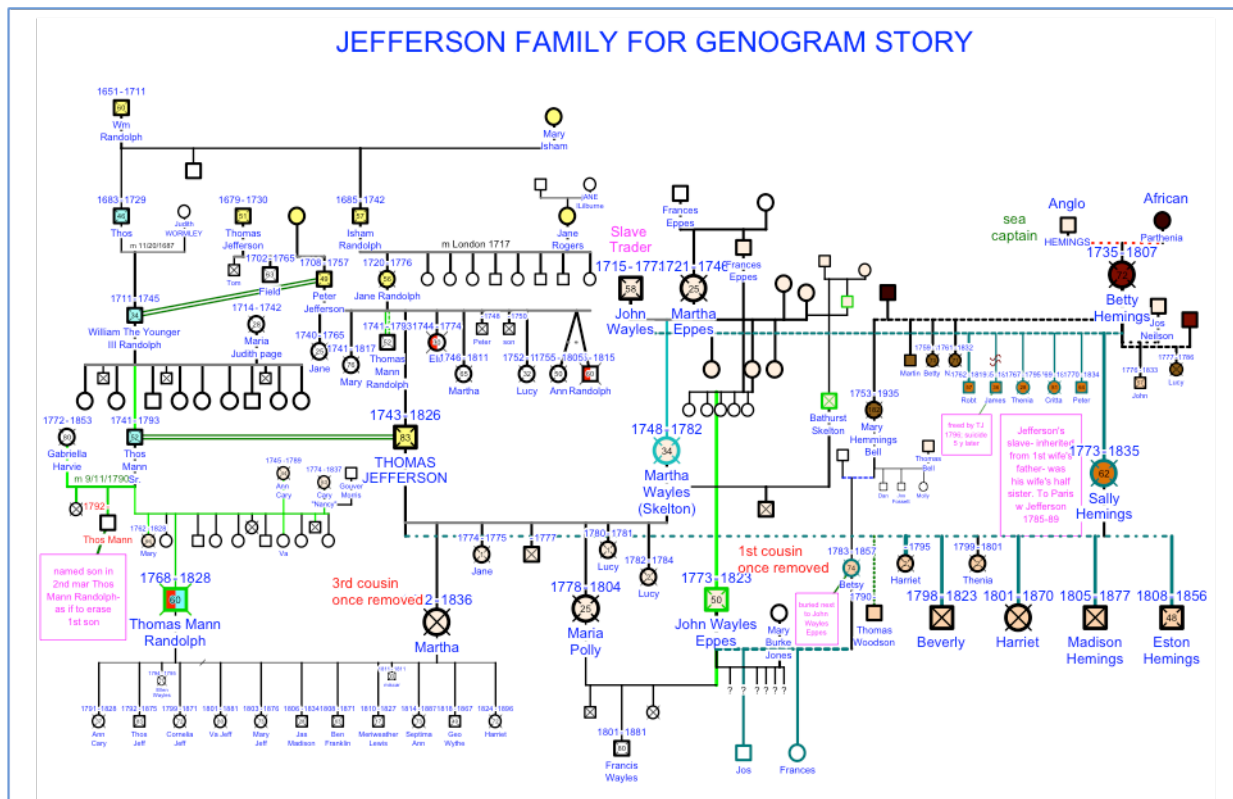
Thomas Mann
Randolph (1741-93,
who married a 17-
year-old in 1790 and
she inherited the
entire family estate

similarities as well as the differences between the partners of Jefferson seem instructive. As it turned out, Randolph's second Harvie, in the end inherited the entire Randolph estate of Randolph's 11 children from his first marriage got nothing. Jefferson married after his first wife's death, he would have been disinheriting his two daughters, since his wife would have replaced his daughters in inheriting his estate.

Jefferson could not have married Sally because she was Black in any case, and she could never have inherited his estate.

It is also clear that Jefferson's younger daughter, Maria (Polly) never developed a close bond with him, such as he had with his oldest daughter, Martha (Patsy). Polly later married her first cousin, the son of her mother's sister, Elizabeth Wayles Eppes' son, and moved back to where she had spent years of her childhood until her father sent for her to come to France. Tragically, she died, probably of breast cancer at age 25.

We might wonder why Jefferson's oldest daughter married her very dysfunctional abusive and depressed husband Thomas Mann Randolph, Jr. and had 12 children with him. It does seem that Jefferson himself felt for her dilemma and supported her spending much of her time at Monticello. She would often drop her children off there, to the extent that Jefferson wrote to her at one point that her 4 year old son, Thomas Jefferson Randolph seemed so sad that she had said she would be back to get him, but didn't come, that he feared she would never return.



As discussed above, Thomas Jefferson had grown up very close to his cousin, **Thomas Mann Randolph (1741-1793)**, who became the father of Jefferson's daughter Martha Jefferson's very abusive and dysfunctional husband. **Thomas Mann Randolph Jr**, the first, who was then replaced by his father's son from his second family who was given the exact same name. Meanwhile, let us consider the context of Martha (Patsy) Jefferson's coming to marry her cousin Thomas Mann Randolph Jr. She had been her mother's namesake and became her deceased mother's surrogate after the mother's early death when Martha was only 10. She then went to France with her father, isolating her from extended family and context. There, apparently, she had gone to a Catholic boarding school, run by French nuns, where at a certain point, uneasy about the idea of the family leaving the culture she had now become used to, she developed the idea of converting and becoming a nun. When she told this to her father, he was very distraught and withdrew her from the school altogether, speeding up his own plans for the family to return to Virginia. he had obviously become involved with Sally, who was even younger than she was, though basically her age-mate, and then Sally became pregnant (it's unclear when this was known by whom). The very month of the family's return, Martha re-met her cousin whom she hadn't seen since childhood, and they became engaged within a month! Sally Hemings gave birth a few months after the family arrived back in Virginia.

It is not hard to imagine that Martha as an emerging young woman who had early lost her mother and her culture and supports, now had to experience multiple family traumas, just at the

point where she was coming into her young adulthood and felt pressed to find some stability, making a premature choice under very difficult circumstances. It would not be surprising if Jefferson's daughter Martha made a quick decision to marry Thomas Mann Randolph, whom she barely knew, in response both to her father's withdrawing her from the school, the church, and the culture she had worked hard to adapt to. And then Sally, the slave who was just her age and who had lived with the family in Paris for the past years, became pregnant by her father, and had the baby a few months after their arrival back in Virginia.

As a striking and very curious coincidental parallel, in 1790, the same year that Jefferson and Sally Hemings, at 17, had their first child, a friend from childhood, agemate, and cousin Thomas Man Randolph Sr. also remarried, a 17 year old, Gabriella Harvie, having had 11 children with his first wife, who had died just the previous year. Mann Randolph Sr and his second wife Gabriella, gave their son the exact same name as he had given his oldest son from his first marriage Thomas Mann Randolph, Jr. And that first son married Jefferson's oldest daughter Martha on February 23 of the same year, having seen her for the first time in many years only a month earlier. Perhaps Thomas Mann Randolph's disqualification by his father naming a new son with his exact same name contributed to the serious problems Thomas Mann Randolph had throughout his life. He and his wife Martha Jefferson had 12 children, though he was extremely abusive and dysfunctional, basically not supporting his family physically or emotionally.

There were many scandals in the Randolph family and some interesting positive relationships. One striking positive example is that one of Thomas Mann Randolph Jr's younger sisters, Ann or Nancy, who, as an 18-year-old woman was accused and tried for killing a baby she supposedly had with her cousin Richard Randolph, who was married to her sister Judith. Nancy and Richard were defended by the famous Patrick Henry and John Marshall, who soon after became the first Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. They were found not guilty. But there was much negative said about them. Thomas Jefferson, hearing about scandal, wrote to his daughter, Martha that he considered Ann "the pitiable victim" and encouraged her to be a kind influence in Nancy's life. *"For [Ann] it is the moment of trying the affection of her friends, when their commiseration and comfort become balm to her wounds. I hope you will deal them out to her in full measure, regardless of what the trifling or malignant may think or say. Never throw off the best affections of nature in the moment when they become most precious to their object; nor fear to extend your hand to save another, lest you should sink yourself. You are on firm ground: your kindnesses will help her and count in your own favor also."*—□ Thomas Jefferson in a letter to Martha Jefferson Randolph, dated April 28, 1793

After Richard Randolph died mysteriously in 1796, leaving behind a will which scandalized many because he not only freed his slaves but gave them land, his wife Judith sought for years to implement his will, and Ann continued to live at Judith's plantation for some time.

"To make restitution as far as I am able, to an unfortunate race of bondsmen over whom my ancestors have usurped and exercised the most lawless and monstrous tyranny and in whom my countrymen (by their iniquitous laws in contradiction of their own declaration of rights, and

in violation of every principle of moral and political honesty) have vested me with absolute property; to express my abhorrence of the theory as well as infamous practice of usurping the rights of our fellow creatures, equally entitled with ourselves to the enjoyment of liberty and happiness; to exculpate myself. . . from the black crime which might otherwise be imputed to me of voluntarily holding the above mentioned miserable beings in the same state of abject slavery in which I found them on receiving my patrimony at lawful age; to impress my children with just horror at a crime so enormous and indelible.. . for the aforesaid purposes and with an indignation, too great for utterance at the tyrants of the earth, from the throned despot of a whole nation to the most despicable, but not less infamous petty tormenters of single wretched slaves, whose torture constituted his wealth and enjoyment, I do hereby declare that it is my will and desire, nay, my most anxious wish that my Negroes, all of them be liberated and I do declare them by this writing free and emancipated of all intents and purposes whatsoever” (cited in Sloan, 1998, p. 202).

17 years later, at the age of 34, Ann (Nancy) Cary made a happy marriage to one of the most remarkable unsung heroes of the American Revolution, **Gouverneur Morris**, who was 57, just a few years older than Jefferson had been when he repartnered with Sally Hemings and when Thomas Mann Randolph Sr. also repartnered with a 17 year old, Gabriella Harvie.

Gouverneur Morris is indeed one of the unsung heroes of the Revolutionary Era. (see Gouverneur Morris Genogram Story- coming soon). As one biographer has described: “**Morris** certainly did not suffer from Thomas Jefferson’s peculiar ability to hide his true feelings and thoughts, playing a shell game with himself to avoid facing his inner conflicts and contradictions. In contrast, Morris’s politically incorrect style has a particular integrity and forthrightness that is refreshing in our own politically circumspect, cowardly times where dissembling has become a fine art. (Adams, 2003, p. xiv).

Morris, however, having had many relationships over the years, was marrying for the first time, and his wife was long beyond a teenager. The couple had a happy marriage including visits to James and Dolly Madison at the white house and other and political and diplomatic figures. After a visit away in October 1813, Morris wrote his wife a poem and they spent only a single night apart after that until his death 4 years later. Morris’s son, Gouverneur Morris Jr., became a successful railroad executive and there were many distinguished descendants in the Morris family.

Jefferson Family Chronology

- 1743 April 14. Thomas Jefferson born to Peter Jefferson and Jane Randolph Jefferson. He was 1889 *Blaze*
- 1770 Married Martha Wayles
- 1772 daughter Martha Jefferson born
- 1774 Daughter Jane Jefferson born
- 1775 Daughter Jane Jefferson died
- 1777 son born and died
- 1778 Daughter Maria (Polly) born
- 1780 Daughter Lucy born
- 1781 Daughter Lucy died.
- 1782 Daughter Lucy II born
- 1782 Daughter Lucy II died
- 1782 Martha Wayles Jefferson dies after childbirth
- 1784 Sally Hemings, age 14, took Jefferson's younger surviving daughter Maria (Polly) to Paris, going first to London where they visited with John and Abigail Adams
- 1787 Jefferson, age 44, goes to Paris with daughter Martha (Patsy), age 13, and James Hemings, who is to be taught to be a French Chef
- 1790 Martha Jefferson informs father she wishes to become a nun. Father withdraws her from her catholic school and speeds up his plans to return to U.S.
- 1790 Jefferson, age 47 returns with James Hemings, and pregnant Sally Hemings.
- 1790 Martha Jefferson marries her 3rd cousin Thomas Mann Randolph II, after knowing him very short time.
- 1791 Sally Hemings, at age 17, has 1st child by Thomas Jefferson, aged 58.
- 1791 Thomas Mann Randolph (1741-1793), aged 50, marries Gabriella Harvie, age 17.
- 1800 Jefferson becomes 3rd U.S. President.
- 1803 Daughter Maria (Polly) dies at age 25.
- 1826 July 4. Jefferson dies
- 1873 Madison Hemings publishes his report of Jefferson and Sally Hemings

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