



Legacy of Martha Jefferson | First Lady of United States

Summary

Martha Jefferson was the **wife of Thomas Jefferson**, the third president of the United States of America. Martha has been portrayed as a committed wife and mother, **one of the most important women of early America**. Martha is a distorted figure when compared to her husband but her life shows an important truth about the internal conflict in a highly publicized personality. This article looks at Martha Jefferson's life in detail.

Facts About Martha Jefferson





Full name:	Martha Wayles Skelton Jefferson
Born:	30 October 1748, Charles City, Virginia, United States
Death:	6 September 1782 (age 33 years), Monticello, Virginia, United States
Parents:	John Wayles, Martha Eppes
Husband :	Thomas Jefferson (m. 1772-1782), Bathurst Skelton (m. 1766-1768)
Children:	Martha Jefferson Randolph, Mary Jefferson Eppes
Sibling:	Sally Hemings

Early Life of Martha Jefferson

Martha Jefferson was born on the 30th of October, 1748, in Charles City County, Virginia. She was the daughter of John Wayles, a great and renowned lawyer as well as a great planter of that time. She had all the conveniences and a good education due to her family's high status in early years of her life. she was responsible for running the [house at Monticello](#) and provided Jefferson with companionship in his political and academic activities.



Martha was known as patsy during her childhood. Her early education was from Monticello and was provided by her parents. The Jefferson's lived in Monticello, even while the Brits were living a simmering crisis that led to the war for independence. In fact, one can argue that Martha's childhood was ended on September 6, 1782, because her mother died from postpartum fever complications while giving birth to another child. She turned into her father's "constant companion".

John and Patsy moved to Philadelphia in December of 1782. Patsy lived with a family while attending school and Jefferson focused on political matters. She stayed longer than a year in this relatively 'worldly' city learning music, drawing, dancing and French from tutors.

Martha Jefferson Married Life

Thomas Jefferson & Martha Jefferson Marriage



Martha Jefferson got married to Thomas Jefferson on 1st of January in the year 1772. Their marriage was an important one in the [American history](#) because Thomas Jefferson who was married to Martha became the third President of the United States of America. They had six children, out of which only two, Martha and Mary, reached adulthood.

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Martha before her marriage to Jefferson was married to Daniel Parke Custis according to history. This they had in total of four children though only two of them were alive when they were young. Martha became a widow in 1757 when Custis died at the age of 25 years old and children. Marriage to Thomas Jefferson placed her right in the center of American political life thus making her a prominent figure in American history – the First Lady.

First lady of Virginia

Martha served as **the First Lady of Virginia from 1779 to 1781** during the period of [American Revolution](#). In that capacity, and with [George Washington's wife Martha requesting Mrs. Jefferson do it](#), she embarked on a campaign to mobilize women across Virginia to support the Militia in the Continental Army to a level or until her health failed her.

The letter written by Martha Jefferson that is currently known to exist is the letter to James Madison's mother, Eleanor Conway Madison. She advertised in the Virginia Gazette informing the public that, the collections were going to be taken in churches. At the national level the Ladies Association was able to raise \$300 000 which was used to purchase linen shirts for Washington's army.

Martha Jefferson Memorial

The Martha Jefferson Memorial is a memorial that is dedicated to Martha who was the wife of Thomas Jefferson and the mother of six of his children. It is a memorial of her achievements in the U. S history and as the first lady of the United States. Jefferson's Memorial is in Neoclassical architecture and is located in the West Potomac Park of Washington DC on the banks of Potomac River. The university was planned by John Russell Pope, an architect from New York City, and constructed by Philadelphia contractor John McShain.



Martha Jefferson's Death



Martha Jefferson passed on in 1782 at the age of 33 from unknown causes. She died at their country home, Monticello, from a long illness. Her death was an immense tragedy for Thomas Jefferson, and he mourned her, expressing his feelings about the loss in his letters and thinking about her impact on his life.



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Did Martha Jefferson know about Sally Hemings?

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