

## THOMAS JEFFERSON AT HOME

BY ALEXANDER MCADIE

This paper was preceded by a personal reference, the writer explaining that a member of his family, when a very small girl, had enjoyed the rare privilege of growing up in the family of Colonel Thomas Jefferson Randolph of Edge Hill, Albermarle Co., Virginia. Edge Hill was the home of his father Governor Thomas Mann Randolph and his wife Martha Jefferson, eldest daughter of Thomas Jefferson.

Writing to this grandson, two years before his death, Jefferson animadverting on certain family matters said, "Yourself particularly, dear Jefferson, I consider as the greatest of the Godsends which heaven has granted me." The grandson was indeed worthy of this high commendation, for he was as a son to the older man, who never had one of his own. He was Jefferson's heir; closed his eyes in death and ultimately paid the heavy indebtedness which had turned what should have been the happiest years of Jefferson's life into a period of financial stress. He wrote the "Memoir, Correspondence and Miscellanies," 4 vols., published in 1830, Boston. Colonel Randolph was for some years Rector of the University of Virginia, a Presidential Elector, and in 1875, presided at the Democratic National Convention held at Baltimore, 1875. As a member of the Virginia legislature he early introduced a bill for the emancipation of slaves in Virginia, following in the steps of his grandfather, who it will be remembered advocated emancipation, not only for Virginia, but for the whole of the new nation. Colonel Randolph was six feet four inches in height, straight as an arrow, a man of great strength physically, and the soul of honor. He died October 7, 1875 at the age of eighty-three, at Edge Hill. One of his sisters, Miss Eleanora Wayles Randolph, married at Monticello in 1824 Mr. Joseph Coolidge of Boston, a descendant of John Coolidge who came to this country in 1630. A younger brother, James Madison Randolph, was the first child born in the White House.

Colonel Randolph's youngest daughter, Miss Sarah Nicholas Randolph (chiefly to please her father) wrote, "The Domestic Life of Thomas Jefferson, Harper, Harper and Brothers, New York, 1872. This is far and away the best presentation of the personality of Thomas Jefferson. In it we have a close-up view of the man in his own household, amid his family, attending to his farm, answering letters and reading his books.

The small girl referred to at the beginning of this paper grew to womanhood in the home of Colonel Randolph under the guidance of his three daughters, Miss Mary Buchanan, Miss Carolina Ramsay, and Miss Sarah Nicholas Randolph. She heard much of conversation among those who had seen and known the wise and beloved owner of Monticello. It is with the hope of preserving, however imperfectly, some of these family reminiscences and traditions, that this paper is written.

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**T**HOMAS JEFFERSON lived in the limelight *against* his own wishes. He cared little for publicity; and by inclination and training valued

his home, his family and his books above any public honor, even the highest in the gift of his fellow-countrymen. In the brief epitaph which he wrote of himself, there is no mention of public office nor official station; but he does give the work of his pen as author of the Declaration of American Independence, and of the statute of Virginia for Religious Freedom; and is proud of being Father of the University of Virginia. He fully realized the transitory character of political prominence; and, moreover, thoroughly disliked the intrigue and dishonesty that were all too evident in Paris, New York, Philadelphia and Washington, from 1784 to 1809. His soul cried out against the smallness of it; and over and over again in his letters is a heartfelt longing to be freed from it all. In fact, his was the experience of any high-minded, disinterested man, after much public service.

Such men are shocked at the rascality of place-hunters and professional politicians. Jefferson was never self-assertive and even when nominated for the Presidency, made no special effort to secure election. He was entirely satisfied with the election of John Adams, and although later these two were for a time politically opposed, Jefferson was not himself an active partisan. He left that to Madison and others. It was only at the solicitation of Washington, for whom he had the greatest respect and admiration, that he consented to serve as Secretary of State in the First Cabinet. Writing to a friend (Mrs. Church) November 27, 1793, five weeks before resigning his portfolio in the first Cabinet he says,

I have at length become able to fix that [his resignation] to the beginning of the new year. I am then to be liberated from the hated occupations of politics and to remain in the bosom of my family, my farm and my books. I have my house to build, my fields to farm and to watch for the happiness of those who labor for mine. I have one daughter married to a man of science, sense, virtue and competence in whom I have nothing more to wish. They live with me. [The reference is to Martha Jefferson Randolph.]

He had made known to Washington his wish to retire early in the summer. To Madison, with whom he was on intimate terms, he wrote June 9, 1793, his intention, mentioning at the same time his estimate of public position: "Giving up everything he loved in exchange for everything he hated." He was in earnest; homesick and weary of the constant embroilments incident to that office. He had a poor opinion of most of the members of the First and Second Congresses.

So we find him longing to return to his family, his farm and his books. His Chief did not want him to leave. Contrary to what is quite generally thought, there was no friction between Washington and Jefferson. Nor was there jealousy of the influence of Hamilton with the great President. As a matter of fact, Washington and Jefferson thought alike on many matters, and not once but often the General turned down Hamilton's plans, unless supported by a majority vote in the Cabinet. Jefferson and Hamilton did not pull as a team; and their plans and purposes differed considerably.

In Jefferson's second and more formal letter to Washington, asking to be relieved, the tone is quite warm and rather affectionate; "to retire to scenes of greater tranquility from those which I am every day more and more convinced that neither my talents, tone of mind or time of life fit me for \* \* \* that you may find one more able to lighten the burthen of your labors I most sincerely wish, for no man living more sincerely wishes that your administration could be rendered as pleasant to yourself as it is useful and necessary to our country, nor feels for you a more rational or cordial attachment and respect than, Dear Sir, your most obedient and most humble servant."

Washington of course urged him to stay as long as he would and at least until the end of the year, which Jefferson did. So, on the first day of 1794, we find

him starting home to his farm and books, far happier than he had been while in New York or Philadelphia.

Much capital was made of the withdrawal of Jefferson by his political opponents, which time has shown to have been unjust and a distortion of facts. We have the written words of Washington and Jefferson that they entertained only the highest regard for each other. Jefferson says that the friendship was never broken, and the story so diligently spread by the Federalists that Washington rebuked Jefferson and took him to task for some scurrilous attacks upon himself by rabid Republican writers, falls to the ground in the light of these words. Again at a later date he writes, "I do affirm that there never passed a word written or verbal, directly or indirectly between General Washington and myself on the subject of that letter. He would never have degraded himself so far as to take to himself the imputations in that letter to the 'Samsons in combat'; an unqualified falsehood." It was seldom that Jefferson answered any of the attacks upon his public acts or personal character; and some of the clergy certainly did spread most slanderous tales about him. His attitude was that "in time their consciences would lead them to acknowledge the wrong done and apologize." Pure in his morals, he was denounced as a libertine, the animus no doubt arising from his separation of Church and State in Virginia and his views on certain doctrinal matters and ecclesiastical claims. He was essentially a "broad-church" Episcopalian, almost a Unitarian.

To illustrate the thoroughly correct attitude of Washington, recall that at the conclusion of the ceremonies attending the inauguration of John Adams, the new President was the first to leave the hall. Jefferson as Vice-President, rose to follow, but perceiving that Washington had also risen, withdrew a few steps and waited for Washington to precede him. Washington however stood in his place and insisted on following the new Vice-President. "My last parting

with Washington," says Jefferson, "was at the inauguration of Mr. Adams in March 1797 and was warmly affectionate, and I never had any reason to believe any change on his part as there certainly was none on mine."

Only one session of Congress intervened before Washington's death. Jefferson says, "both of us were too much oppressed with letter writing to trouble either the other with a letter about nothing." And so we leave them, two Virginia gentlemen, with highest opinions of each other.

More directly illustrating the activities of Jefferson, after his term of office as President expired, are the letters to John Adams. Disagreeing as political adversaries, and often at grips when in the prime of life, the two veterans, as the shadows of life lengthened, Adams seventy-seven and Jefferson sixty-nine, began an interchange of ideas expressed in a correspondence that is without equal in American letters. It began about 1812. There are 150 letters extant and a number missing. Adams wrote twice as frequently as Jefferson, and in one letter says, "Never mind if I write four letters to your one, your one is worth more than my four," which shows a fine streak of generosity in the old Spartan. Both wore homespun. Wilstach puts it nicely in a recent article on the reconciliation, "the old boys were figuratively if not literally back in each other's arms." They had been close to each other in the late seventies and eighties and nineties. Big-hearted, sensible Abigail Adams had been as a mother to Jefferson's motherless little eight-year-old girl, Mary, otherwise Polly, and later Maria otherwise Patsy, when after crossing the ocean by herself, she arrived in London.

The young Republic had survived eight administrations; and the two old fellows on the sidelines did not hesitate to speak out, and as old people will, compare present and past, always to the advantage of the latter. They lament that the science of government had made

no progress. There was too much partisan politics to suit them, being strangely forgetful of their own strenuous prime.

Concerning religion, their pens never tired, and both held similar views of the hereafter. Adams was a Unitarian and Jefferson one in thought, if not by name.

In one letter Adams asks Jefferson, "Would you go back to your cradle and live over again your seventy years?" He himself is not so sure that he would care to do this; but Jefferson answered, "Yes!" and amplifying his reasons, writes a line that is so characteristic of the man, it must be quoted: "My temperament is sanguine. I steer my bark with Hope in the lead, leaving Fear astern." And with a flash of the philosophy of Marcus Aurelius, these words follow: "And the perfection of moral character is not in stoical apathy so hypocritically vaunted and so untruly too, because impossible; but in a just equilibrium of all the passions."

Adams did not fail to appreciate to the full the allusion to the ship of life; and he wrote back, "I admire your navigation, and should like to sail with you, either in your bark or in my own, alongside of yours. Hope with her gay ensigns displayed at the prow, Fear with her hobgoblins behind at the stern. Hope springs eternal, and hope is all that endures."

So we leave them. Adams doubting the value of these later days and looking at the joys of life as mere soap bubbles, while Jefferson enjoying good health and happy in what was around him, assures the other that "he is ripe for leaving all, this year, this day, this hour." It is reasonable, he holds, that we should drop off and make room for another growth.

Jefferson's last letter to Adams was one introducing his grandson, Colonel Thomas Jefferson Randolph, to his old friend. These are some of the lines: "Being on a visit to Boston, he would think he had seen nothing, were he to leave without seeing you."

Jefferson's correspondence was not confined to

Adams. It was, in fact, tremendous. His right wrist was broken by a fall from a horse while in Paris and being badly set always caused him some pain. He learned to write with his left hand to take the strain from the right; but nevertheless that broken wrist had plenty to do. To make matters worse, he broke his left arm in 1824. To accomplish it all, he had to rise early. He was a good horseman and rode almost to the last year of his life. Barring occasional headaches and some rheumatism, he had good health; and at sixty-six, when he returned finally to Monticello, he was in good condition. He always made his own fires. He did not give much advice to members of his family on health matters except to warn against fevers, and in the case of childbirth to have materials ready, so that there should be no infection due to delay in getting what was needed. He drank water but once a day and that when he returned from his ride. He was rather a light eater and maintained that one should rise from the table somewhat hungry. He did not play cards nor games of chance, holding that it was time wasted. He was of course fond of flowers and spent much time in gardening. There is the familiar story of his purchase of roses with high sounding names like Marcus Aurelius and Queen of the Amazons, carefully watched by his young granddaughters, who after morning inspection would rush to inform their grandfather that "Marcus Aurelius was coming up thru the ground, and that the Queen of the Amazons had a new shoot."

Owing to the distance between Charlottesville and Richmond, poor roads and slow delivery, Jefferson tried to make his home and community self-supporting. Hence the inauguration of mills at Milton and the manufacture and use of homespun. Jefferson and his grandson wore homespun.

It was not, however, to be all unalloyed happiness at Monticello. The estate was badly run-down and ready money was scarce. Writing to Monroe as early

as March 11, 1794, he tells of the uncertain market for the produce of the fields. Wheat, according to report was selling from 5/6 to 6/ at Richmond; but not for cash. At Milton, close by Shadwell, wheat was priced at 4/6, but again not payable in cash but in goods. What was even more serious, the goods were advanced in price 50 to 100 per cent above the prices at Philadelphia. This, wrote Jefferson, "renders the price of wheat in fact half a dollar. I do not believe that 1000 bushels of wheat could be sold at Milton and Charlottesville for 1/ a bushel cash." There was no Farm Relief Bureau, sponsored and financed by a paternalistic government, to hold up the prices. Our modern conceptions of official control and government speculation would shock not only Jefferson but even Hamilton himself. Then, and later, Jefferson experienced the limitations and tribulations of the Farmer's market; and indeed this, while not the prime cause, contributed largely to the steadily increasing load of debt and financial embarrassment which gave him so much concern at the close of life. A prime factor, however, was the horde of visitors. He was literally eaten out of house and home by them. In accordance with the code then prevailing, these had to be entertained. Mrs. Randolph mentions 50 beds, mostly for visitors. The family tradition is that at one time there were no less than seventy.

Jefferson's expense book is a marvel of detail. Here he entered cost of servants, goods, furnishings and all household and incidental expenses. He drank sparingly himself but on his table were high quality wines, and he lays stress upon the value of the clarets produced from home grown grapes.

He advised his grandson to "avoid taverns, drinkers, smokers, idlers and dissipated persons generally, for it is with such that broils and contentions arise." He constantly urged young people never to trouble another in matters which they could do themselves, never to spend money before they had it, never to eat



too much, in fact to rise from the table a trifle hungry, to take things by the smooth handle, and when angry to count ten before speaking; and if very angry to count one hundred.

His granddaughter, Mrs. Joseph Coolidge (Eleanora Wayles Randolph), describes him as wearing long waistcoats when the mode was for very short ones, white cambric stocks fastened behind with a buckle when white cravats were universal. He adopted the pantaloon late in life because he found it more comfortable and convenient and cut off his queue for the same reason.

Writing to Dr. Vine Utley on March 21, 1819, Jefferson, then being seventy-six years old says, "I use spectacles at night but not necessarily in the day unless reading small print. My hearing is distinct in particular conversation but confused when several voices cross each other, which unfits one for the society of the table, \* \* \* so free from catarrhs that I have not had one on an average of eight to ten years. I ascribe this exemption partly to the habit of bathing my feet in cold water every morning for sixty years past."

Later when about eighty, he wrote to a friend that he was too feeble indeed to walk much but could ride without fatigue six or eight miles a day and sometimes as much as twenty. At this time his correspondence averaged over a thousand letters a year. His grandson found 26,000 letters on file, with copies of 16,000 answers. We have mentioned above, the fracture of the right wrist while he was in France and the pain it gave him, also that in 1822 he broke his arm by a fall while walking on a decayed plank. He was thrown his full length, this when he was eighty years old. With his arm in a sling, he resumed riding. His grandson, Colonel Randolph, who likewise rode when he was well over eighty, describes Jefferson's habits as regular and systematic. "He rose always at dawn, wrote and read until-breakfast, dined about three, retired at nine, and was in bed at ten or somewhat

later. He ate heartily, and much vegetable food; also preferred French cooking because it made the meats more tender." He read as much as his time permitted and never missed a number of the "Edinburgh Review."

His hair was a dark red when young, turning sandy as the years passed. His eyes were hazel. "Dying in his eighty-fourth year," Colonel Randolph states, "he had not lost a tooth nor had one defective." \* \* \* "His skin was thin, peeling from his face on exposure to the sun, and giving it a tettered appearance; the superficial veins so weak as upon the slightest blow to cause extensive suffusions of blood, in early life upon standing to write for any time, bursting beneath the skin. It, however, gave him no inconvenience. His countenance was mild and benignant and attractive to strangers. Mr. Jefferson's stature was commanding, six feet two and a half inches in height, well formed, indicating strength and activity and robust health, his carriage erect, step firm and elastic which he preserved to his death, his temper naturally strong, under perfect control, his courage cool and impassive. No one ever knew him to exhibit trepidation. His moral courage of the highest order, his will firm and inflexible, it was remarked of him that he never abandoned a plan, a principle or a friend." \* \* \* "He rode within three weeks of his death, and never permitted a servant to accompany him." He said it annoyed him.

From 1817 to 1824 he gave much time and thought to organizing and developing the University of Virginia. He could watch from Monticello with a telescope the progress of building operations. Madison succeeded him as Rector; and we note here that the friendship of the two lasted fifty years without break. Madison hearing of Jefferson's death wrote, "In these characters I have known him and not less in the virtues and charms of social life, for a period of fifty years during which there was not an interruption or

diminution of mutual confidence and cordial friendship for a single moment in a single instance."

But old John Adams said it better than any other of his contemporaries, "I always loved Jefferson and still love him."

Jefferson was in the public service, all told, for a period of sixty-one years. Naturally his affairs suffered. One of the most pathetic of all his letters was written on February 8, 1826, to his grandson, Thomas Jefferson Randolph, who had gone security for his grandfather's debts to the amount of \$58,536. Jefferson at this time turned over the management of his affairs to his grandson who was then twenty-four years old, Jefferson himself being seventy-three. Speaking of these financial difficulties, he says, "These have been produced in some way by my own unskillful management and devoting my time to the service of my country but much also by the unfortunate fluctuation in the value of our money and the long continued depression of farming business \* \* \* but where there are no bidders property however great is no resource for the payment of debts, all may go for a little or nothing. Perhaps however even in this case, I have no right to complain as these misfortunes have been held back for my last days when few remain to me. I duly acknowledge that I have gone through a long life with fewer circumstances of affliction than are the lot of most men—uninterrupted health—a competence for every reasonable want, usefulness to my fellow citizens—a good portion of their esteem—no complaint against the world which has sufficiently honored me, and above all a family which has blessed me by their affections and never by their conduct given me a moment's pain—and should this my last request<sup>1</sup> be granted I may yet close with a cloudless sun a long and serene day of life. Be assured my dear Jefferson, that I have a just sense of the part you have contributed

<sup>1</sup>This request to dispose of his estate by lottery was refused by the legislature of Virginia, although it had been granted in many previous instances.

to this, and that I bear you unmeasured affection." The debts exceeded the assets by \$40,000. Six months after his death Jefferson's furniture was sold at auction to pay in part the debts. Monticello and Poplar Forest were advertised for sale at the street corners.

Some characteristic letters are appended.

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Monticello, June 4, '19<sup>1</sup>

Sir

In answer to your request to be informed of the particular style of dieting the students which would be approved by the visitors of the University, I can only say that, the University not being yet in action, nor the Hotels for boarding houses in readiness which will be at their disposal, no style of dieting has been agreed on: but if I may form a judgment from the conversations we have had on the subject, I think something like the following course will meet their approbation.

for breakfast. wheat or corn bread, at the choice of each particular, with butter, and milk, or Coffee-au-lait, at the choice of each, no meat.

for dinner. a soup, a dish of salt meat, a dish of fresh meat & as great a variety of vegetables well cooked as you please.

for supper. corn or wheat bread at their choice, & milk, or Coffee-au-lait, also at their choice. but no meat.

their drink at all times water, a young stomach needing no stimulating drinks, and the habit of using them being dangerous.

and I should recommend as late a dinner as the rules of their school will admit.

no game of chance to be permitted in the house.

TH. JEFFERSON

Mr. Laporte

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<sup>1</sup>Original in Harvard College Library.

## Jefferson to Adams

Monticello, June 27, 1822.

"I happened to turn to my letter list some time ago and a curiosity was excited to count those received in a single year. It was the year before last. I found the number to be one thousand two hundred and sixty-seven, many of them requiring answers of elaborate research and all to be answered with due attention and consideration. Take an average of this number for a week or a day, and I will repeat the question suggested by other considerations in mine of the 1st. Is this life? At best it is, but the life of a mill-horse who sees no end to his circle but in death. To such a life, that of a cabbage is paradise."

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Thomas Jefferson to Thomas Jefferson Randolph.<sup>1</sup>

"I have mentioned good humor as one of the preservatives of our peace and tranquility. \* \* \* In truth politeness is artificial good humor. It is the practice of sacrificing to those whom we meet in society all the little conveniences and preferences which will gratify them, and deprive us of nothing worth a moment's consideration. It is the giving a pleasing and flattering turn to our expressions which will conciliate others and make them pleased with us as well as with themselves. How cheap a price to pay for the good will of another! When this is in return for a rude thing said by another, it brings him to his senses, it mortifies and corrects him in the most salutary way, and places him at the feet of your good nature in the eyes of the company. It was one of the rules which above all other made Doctor Franklin the most amiable of men in Society never to contradict anybody."

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June 29, 1824.

To Martin Van Buren:

DEAR SIR:

I have to thank you for Mr. Pickering's elaborate philippic against Mr. Adams, Gerry, Smith and myself; and I have

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<sup>1</sup>Randolph then was about sixteen.

delayed the acknowledgment until I could read it and make some observations on it.

I could not have believed that for so many years and to such a period of advanced age, he could have nourished passions so vehement and viperous. It appears that for thirty years past, he has been industriously collecting materials for vituperating the characters he has marked for his hatred; some of whom certainly if enmities toward him had ever existed, had forgotten them all, or buried them in the grave with themselves. As for myself, there never had been anything personal between us, nothing but the general opposition of party sentiment, and our personal intercourse had been that of urbanity, as himself says. But it seems he has been all this time brooding over an enmity which I had never felt, and that with respect to myself as well as others, he has been writing far and near and in every direction to get hold of original letters, where he could copies, where he could not certificates and journals, catching at every gossiping story he could hear of, in any quarter, supplying by suspicions what he could find nowhere else, and then arguing on this motley farrago, as if established on gospel evidence. And while expressing his wonder that at the age of eighty-eight the strong passions of Mr. Adams should not have cooled; that on the contrary "they had acquired the mastery of his soul" (p. 100) "that where these were enlisted, no reliance could be placed on his statements" (p. 104) etc. etc. the facility and little truth with which he could represent facts and occurrences concerning persons who were the objects of his hatred (p. 3) that he is capable of making the grossest misrepresentations and from detached facts and often from bare suspicions, of drawing unwarrantable inferences if suited to his purpose at the instant! I say, on Mr. Adams, instead of his "*ecco homo*" (p. 100) how justly might we say of him "*mutato nomine, de te fabula narratur.*"

He further shows that Pickering was entirely mistaken in regard to a letter sent by Jefferson to Adams, "the object of which was to soothe the feelings of a friend wounded by a publication which I thought an outrage on private confidence. Pickering described a certain letter from Adams to Jefferson, as an apology, placing Mr. Adams at Jefferson's feet and suing

for pardon. "Now I do solemnly declare," says Jefferson, "that there was not a word or allusion in it respecting Cunningham's publication.

So much for his friend, now for himself. "The other allegation respecting myself is equally false. In page 34 he quotes Doctor Stuart as having twenty years ago informed him that General Washington, "when he became a private citizen," called me to account for expressions in a letter to Mazzei, requiring in a tone of unusual severity an explanation of that letter. He adds of himself, "in what manner the latter (Jefferson) humbled himself and appeased the just resentment of Washington will never be made known, as some time after his death the correspondence was not to be found and a diary for an important period of his presidency was also missing." Jefferson points out that the diary being of transactions during his (Washington's) presidency, the letter to Mazzei was not known until afterwards. The correspondence naturally could not be found for it never existed. "I do affirm that there never passed a word written or verbal directly or indirectly between General Washington and myself on the subject of that letter." Then follows the statement:

"My last parting with General Washington was at the inauguration of Mr. Adams in March 1797, and was warmly affectionate and I never had any reason to believe any change on his part as there certainly was none on mine."

Only one session of Congress intervened before Washington's death; and Jefferson adds,

"both of us were too much oppressed with letter writing to trouble either the other with a letter about nothing."

At the time he wrote the above statement, being then over eighty, he considered tranquility to be the *summum bonum*, and he desired as much as possible to avoid acrimonious discussion on political differences of years gone by. No disinterested reader can fail to appreciate the candor and straight-forwardness of the statements.

Writing shortly after the above, to Lafayette (September 3, 1824) who was going to revisit Yorktown on October 19th, and of course visit Monticello on the way, Jefferson after warning

Lafayette that he would run a great risk of being killed by kindness and that he (Jefferson) had persuaded the authorities at Charlottesville to cut down the reception festivities and limit the affair to one dinner, says,

“My spirit will be there, my body cannot. I am too much enfeebled by age for such a journey. I cannot walk farther than my garden, with infirmities too, which can only be nursed at home.”

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From Jefferson's Expense Book<sup>1</sup>

March 20, 1804:

there remain on hand 40 bottles of the 247 of Champagne rec'd from Fulwar Skipwith Dec. 1. the consumption then has been 207 bottles which on 651 persons dined is a bottle to 3 1/7 persons, hence the annual stock necessary may be calculated at 415 bottles a year or say 500, to wit Congress 272 vacation 143. gave order on J. Barnes for the freight of 400 bush coal 34 D at 8 1/2 cents.

March 28, 1804:

Desired Mr. Barnes to pay for the following newspapers	
Salem Register, Carleton 3	} 13 Mr. Lincoln
Boston Chronicle, Adams & Rhodes 3	
Democrat, Williams 4	
Worcester Aegis 3	
Hartford American Mercury Babcock 2.50	} 6.50 Mr. Grange
Hudson Post, Holt 1.00	
Albany Register, Barber 3	
N. Y. American Citizen 10	} 19 Mr. Chatham
Evening Post 9	
Morning Chronicle	
Phil'a American Daily Advert' Poulsan 8	
Balt'o American & Balt'o Gazette 5	
Alexandria Emporium, Densmore 6	
Frederic T. Republic Advocate, Colvin 5	

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70.50

<sup>1</sup>In possession of the Massachusetts Historical Society.



Jefferson's Grandson<sup>1</sup>

Thomas Mann Randolph of Edge Hill and Varina (born 1768, married Martha Jefferson, bride's age, eighteen, groom's twenty-two, at Monticello February 23, 1790) took high honors at Edinburgh University. He was tall, handsome, a fine horseman and heir to great estates. A few days after the wedding Jefferson went to New York to serve as Secretary of State in Washington's first cabinet; and the young people lived at Monticello. When Jefferson returned to private life, resigning his portfolio January 1, 1793, the young couple went to Edge Hill. When Jefferson became President, young Randolph was elected to Congress and the young people lived in the White House where Martha did the honors. Her second son, James Madison Randolph, was born in the White House in 1806.

During the 9th Congress, Randolph had a quarrel with his cousin John Randolph of Roanoke, who was also a member of Congress from Virginia, which came near resulting in a duel. This was caused by John Randolph's bitter attacks on Jefferson.

In the war of 1812, Randolph was commissioned Colonel, March 3, 1813, and given command of a new regiment, the 20th Infantry, which he marched from Virginia to Canada. He was elected Governor of Virginia in 1819. He died June 20, 1828.

Martha survived him eight years, living with her oldest son Thomas Jefferson Randolph, at Edge Hill.

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## Jeffersoniana in the Vicinity of Boston

Mrs. Henry Parkman, Jr., 182 Beacon Street, Boston, born Margaret Anderson, a great, great, great-granddaughter of Jefferson, has 1 large telescope on a tripod used by Jefferson at Monticello. Peale's portrait of Thomas Jefferson Randolph (Grandpa) painted for Jefferson.

A mahogany desk of Jefferson's

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<sup>1</sup>From General J. Randolph Kean's notes in the Monticello Association.

A large brass candlestick which tradition says was made according to Jefferson's design. It consists of a stand with an upright brass rod, supporting at right angles a square steel rod on which are two candlesticks which can be raised or lowered and moved from side to side. Behind them is a reflector made of a curved sheet of brass which can be tilted at the desired angle.

Four beautiful circular vegetable dishes with handles, covers and platters. They are very heavy and of very pure silver much softer than modern silver. The platters are round with a slightly scalloped border. They were purchased by Mr. Jefferson in Paris when he was Minister to France, and Mrs. Parkman has the bill which came with them made out to Mr. Jefferson.

Mr. Thomas Jefferson Coolidge, 3d. has

1 set of Lowestoft China

1 silver mug

1 silver urn and plate

1 highboy

1 statue of Ariadne (which he has loaned to Monticello)

1 gold mounted horn walking stick

Certain personal effects, letters and books.

Other articles are in the possession of Mr. Harold J. Coolidge, 303 Berkely Street, Boston; Mr. John Gardiner Coolidge, 55 Commonwealth Avenue; Mr. Edmund J. Burke, 221 High Street, Boston; and Mrs. Nicholas P. T. Burke, of Milton, Mass.

#### EXHIBITS

1. Letter concerning Menu for students at University of Virginia.  
Original, Harvard College Library.
2. Extract letter June 27, 1822.  
Original, Library of Congress.
3. Extract letter written to Thomas Jefferson Randolph.  
Original, Massachusetts Historical Society.
4. Copy of letter to Van Buren, June 29, 1824.  
Original, Library of Congress.
5. Extract from Expense Book.  
Original, Massachusetts Historical Society.

6. Another Extract from Expense Book.
7. Letter of Mr. Joseph Coolidge and Jefferson's answer.  
Originals shown at this meeting. In possession of Massachusetts Historical Society.

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Letters from authorities consulted.

General J. R. Kean, Medical Corps, U. S. A., retired, is a direct descendant of Jefferson, and has written much on Monticello and the family records.

Clarence S. Brigham.

12 letters written by Jefferson in American Antiquarian Society.

Library of Congress,  
20,000 letters or documents.

John Stewart Bryan of Richmond, Va.

63 letters and papers of Jefferson in Virginia Historical Society's Library.

The Virginia State Library  
35 letters

Fiske Kimball of Philadelphia, an authority on Jefferson as an architect.

The Franklin Institute of Philadelphia has

An original copy of the Declaration of Independence; also Jefferson's desk

Victor H. Paltsits, New York Public Library, describes

A copy of the Declaration in Jefferson's handwriting, also his original manuscript of a draft of the Constitution of Virginia. (May 1776). 117 original letters and documents.

There was also shown at the Meeting the walking stick presented to Jefferson by Lafayette, in the possession of Mr. Thomas Jefferson Coolidge, 3d.

Also a photograph of Thomas Jefferson Randolph inscribed, "To my dear little Mary Browne from her affectionate Grandpa, Th. J. Randolph."

\* \* \*

Our beloved Dr. Nichols, in his October 1928 Report of the Council of the American Antiquarian Society,

p. 175, gives Jefferson's reply to a letter asking him to join the Society, dated Monticello, January 9, 1814. Jefferson was for twelve years a member of this Society. We need not repeat here what Dr. Nichols has so well expressed.

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