The Mystery of Tom & Sally

THE MYSTERY OF TOM & SALLY

Session 1 – October 3, 2022

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The Mystery of Tom & Sally

A Quick Exercise
The Mystery of Tom & Sally
The Mystery of Tom & Sally

What Did We See?
The Mystery of Tom & Sally

1967
The Mystery of Tom & Sally
The Mystery of Tom & Sally

1915
The Mystery of Tom & Sally
Jefferson’s Most Famous Words

“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.”
Jefferson’s Most Famous Words

“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.”

Historian Joe Ellis:

“The magic words of American History”
Jefferson’s Most Famous Words

“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.”

Novelist Gore Vidal:

“The essence of our spirit”
Jefferson’s Most Famous Words

“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.”

Columnist George Will:

“The American catechism”
Jefferson’s Most Famous Words

“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.”

Historian Jon Meacham:

“The most important sentence in the English language”
Jefferson’s Most Famous Words

“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."

. . . and Abraham Lincoln

“Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth, upon this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.”
The Mystery of Tom & Sally

Jefferson’s View of Africans
Jefferson and Race

- View of Africans as a Race
- Returned to Virginia After the Continental Congress Approved the Declaration of Independence
- Was Elected Twice – 1779 and 1780 – As Governor of Virginia
The Mystery of Tom & Sally

Jefferson and Race

- Queries from Barbé-Marbois
  - In 1779, Marquis de Barbé-Marbois was named Secretary of the French Legion in America
  - One of his assignments was to find out as much as he could about the newly-independent colonies
  - To do this, he sent letters to the governors of each of the thirteen colonies
The Mystery of Tom & Sally

Barbé-Marbois’ Queries

1. The Charters of your State.
2. The present Constitution.
3. An exact description of its limits and boundaries.
4. The Memoirs published in its name, in the time of its being a Colony and the pamphlets relating to its interior or exterior affairs present or ancient.
5. The History of the State.
6. A notice of the Counties Cities Townships Villages Rivers Rivulets and how far they are navigable. Cascades Caverns Mountains Productions Trees Plants Fruits and other natural Riches.
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14. A notice of the commercial productions particular to that State and of those objects which the Inhabitants are obliged to get from Europe and from other parts of the World.
15. The weight measures and the currency of the hard money. Some details relating to the exchange with Europe.
16. The public income and expences.
17. The measures taken with regard of the Estates and Possessions of the Rebels commonly called Tories.
18. The condition of the Regular Troops and the Militia and their pay.
21. Some Samples of these Mines and of the extraordinary Stones. In short a notice of all what can increase the progress of human Knowledge.
Jefferson and Race

- Jefferson’s Response

- Jefferson Responded with a Lengthy Treatise Entitled:

  Notes on the State of Virginia
Barbé-Marbois’ Queries

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Jefferson and Race

- View of Africans as a Race

  "I do not mean to deny, that there are varieties in the race of man, distinguished by their power both of body and mind. I believe there are, as I see to be the case in the races of other animals."
Jefferson and Race

- View of Africans as a Race

“*The first difference which strikes us is that of colour. Whether the black of the negro resides in the reticular membrane between the skin and scarf-skin, or in the scarf-skin itself; whether it proceeds from the colour of blood, the colour of the bile, or from that of some other secretion, the difference is fixed in nature.*”
Jefferson and Race

- View of Africans as a Race
- Statements in the Notes

“Besides those of colour, figure, and hair there are other physical distinctions proving a difference of race.”

“They have less hair on the face and body.”
Jefferson and Race

- View of Africans as a Race
- Statements in the Notes

“Besides those of colour, figure, and hair there are other physical distinctions proving a difference of race.”

“They secrete less by the kidneys, and more by the glands of the skin, which gives them a very strong and disagreeable odour.”
Jefferson and Race

- View of Africans as a Race
- Statements in the Notes

"Besides those of colour, figure, and hair there are other physical distinctions proving a difference of race."

"This greater degree of transpiration renders them more tolerant of heat, and less so of cold, than whites."
Jefferson and Race

- View of Africans as a Race
- Statements in the Notes

“Besides those of colour, figure, and hair there are other physical distinctions proving a difference of race.”

“They seem to require less sleep. A black, after hard labour through the day, will be induced by the slightest amusements to sit up till midnight, or later, knowing they must be out with the first dawn of the morning.”
Jefferson and Race

- View of Africans as a Race

- Statements in the Notes

“Besides those of colour, figure, and hair there are other physical distinctions proving a difference of race.”

“They are at least as brave, and more adventuresome. But this may perhaps proceed from a want of forethought, which prevents their seeing a danger till it be present.”
Jefferson and Race

- View of Africans as a Race
- Statements in the Notes

"Besides those of colour, figure, and hair there are other physical distinctions proving a difference of race."

"They are more ardent after their female: but love seems with them to be more an eager desire, than a tender delicate mixture of sentiment and sensation."
Jefferson and Race

View of Africans as a Race

Statements in the Notes

"Besides those of colour, figure, and hair there are other physical distinctions proving a difference of race."

"Their griefs are transient."
Jefferson and Race

- View of Africans as a Race

  "Besides those of colour, figure, and hair there are other physical distinctions proving a difference of race."

  "In general, their existence appears to participate more of sensation than reflections. To this must be ascribed their disposition to sleep when abstracted from their diversions, and unemployed in labour."

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The Mystery of Tom & Sally

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NOTES

ON THE STATE OF VIRGINIA.

WRITTEN BY THOMAS JEFFERSON.

ILLUSTRATED WITH A MAP, INCLUDING THE SHORES OF VIRGINIA, MARYLAND, DELAWARE AND PENNSYLVANIA.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR JOHN STOCKDALE, OPPOSITE BURLINGTON-HOUSE, PICCADILLY.
M DECIEMVIRIL.
Jefferson and Race

- View of Africans as a Race
  - Statements in the Notes

  "Besides those of colour, figure, and hair there are other physical distinctions proving a difference of race."

  "[I]n imagination they are dull, tasteless, and anomalous."
Jefferson and Race

- View of Africans as a Race
  - Statements in the Notes

  “Besides those of colour, figure, and hair there are other physical distinctions proving a difference of race.”

  “[I]n memory they are equal to whites; in reason much inferior, as I think one could scarcely be found capable of tracing and comprehending the investigations of Euclid.”
Jefferson and Race

- View of Africans as a Race
- Statements in the Notes

"Add to these, flowing hair, a more elegant symmetry of form, [the blacks'] own judgment in favour of whites, declared by their preference of them, as uniformly as is the preference of the Oranootan for black women over their own species."
Jefferson and Race

However, in the Notes He Also Wrote

“I advance it therefore as a suspicion only, that the blacks, whether originally a distinct race, or made distinct by time and circumstance, are inferior to the whites in the endowments both of body and mind.”
The Mystery of Tom & Sally

Jefferson and Slavery
Barbé-Marbois’ Queries

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19. The particular and relative Proportion of the Inhabitants.
21. Some Samples of these Mines and of the extraordinary Stones. In short a notice of all what can increase the progress of human Knowledge.
Jefferson and Slavery

- Slavery Was Always Part of Jefferson’s Life Experience

“According to family lore, Jefferson’s earliest memory was as a three-year-old boy ‘being carried on a pillow by a mounted slave’ when the family moved from Shadwell to Tuckahoe.”
The Mystery of Tom & Sally

Jefferson and Slavery

- Slavery Was Always Part of Jefferson’s Life Experience
- But Jefferson Recognized the Immorality of Slavery

“The whole commerce between master and slave is a perpetual exercise of the most boisterous passions, the most unremitting despotism on the one part, and degrading submissions on the other.”
Jefferson and Slavery

- Slavery Was Always Part of Jefferson’s Life Experience
- But Jefferson Recognized the Immorality of Slavery

“Our children see this and learn to imitate it. . . . The parent storms, the child looks on, catches the lineaments of wrath, puts on the same airs in the circle of smaller slaves, gives a loose to his worst of passions,”
Jefferson and Slavery

- Jefferson Recognized the Immorality of Slavery

- But Jefferson Recognized the Immorality of Slavery

“and thus nursed, educated, and daily exercised in tyranny, cannot but be stamped with it with odious peculiarities.”
Jefferson and Slavery

- Slavery Was Always Part of Jefferson’s Life Experience
- But Jefferson Recognized the Immorality of Slavery
- Jefferson Took Timid Steps Toward Limiting Slavery
- But, He Went to Great Effort to Avoid the Subject Whenever Possible
The Mystery of Tom & Sally

Jefferson’s Most Famous Words

“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.”

So, Was Jefferson a Hypocrite?
The Mystery of Tom & Sally

A Second Quick Exercise
The Mystery of Tom & Sally

There is a restaurant at the corner of Scripture and Jagoe in Denton, Texas.

That restaurant specializes in Asian food.

One item on the menu is the Japanese dish called “Fugu”.

Prepared incorrectly, Fugu can be fatal.

So, what is the message?

1633 Scripture Street
Jefferson’s Most Famous Words

“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.”

Where Can We Find the Answer?
The Mystery of Tom & Sally
The Mystery of Tom & Sally

The East Wall of Jefferson’s Parlor at Monticello

YEAR 1750 1760 1770 1780 1790 1800 1810 1820
AGE 14 29 39 46 58 66 83

Legend:
- Childhood
- Student/Lawyer
- Married
- France
- SS & VP
- President
- Retired
The Mystery of Tom & Sally

Francis Bacon
1561-1626

Issac Newton
1642-1727

John Locke
1632-1704
John Locke (1632–1704)

- Born in Somerset, England
- While Locke was a teenager, King Charles I quarreled with Parliament
  - Charles I claimed his authority derived from his “Divine Right”
  - This led to the English Civil War
  - Charles was captured, tried and convicted by Cromwell forces
  - In 1649, Charles I was beheaded
John Locke (1632–1704)

- Cromwell Ruled for 9 Years (1649-1658)
- Locke’s Father Served in Cromwell’s Army
- Locke Studied at Oxford (1652-1656)
- The Monarchy Was Restored in 1660
- Charles II Became King

The Mystery of Tom & Sally
John Locke (1632–1704)

- In 1666 Locke was introduced to Lord Shaftesbury – his mentor
- Shaftesbury was a leading proponent of:
  - Constitutional Monarchy
  - Protestant Succession
  - Religious Toleration
  - The Rule of Parliament
- All of this influenced Locke
John Locke (1632–1704)

- In 1681, Shaftesbury Was Arrested and Tried for Treason . . . Acquitted

- Shaftesbury Fled to Holland . . . Locke Followed

- While in Holland, Around 1690, Locke Wrote His Epic Work:

  *Two Treatises on Government*
John Locke (1632–1704)

- Locke’s Theory (in a Capsule):
  - All People Are Born Free and Equal in the State of Nature
  - A Legitimate Government Can Only Be Formed by the People’s Consent . . . The Social Contract
  - The Purpose of a Government Is to Secure People’s Right to “Life, Liberty and Property”
  - When a Government Fails to Secure These Rights, The People Have the Right to Revolt
John Locke (1632–1704)

- Locke’s Theory (in a Capsule):

  - In a Separate Treatise – An Essay Concerning Human Understanding – Locke introduces a new concept: **Pursuit of Happiness**

  - Locke distinguished between “true and solid happiness” vs. transitory or imaginary happiness

  - Pursuit of happiness, Locke argued, is the “foundation of liberty”
The Mystery of Tom & Sally

A Summary View of the Rights of British America

Jefferson Analogized American Settlers to Their Saxon Ancestors

"[O]ur ancestors, before their emigration to America, were the free inhabitants of the British dominions in Europe, and possessed a right which nature has given to all men, of departing from the country in which chance, not choice, has placed them, of going in quest of new habitations, and of there establishing new societies, under such laws and regulations as to them shall seem most likely to promote public happiness."
A Summary View of the Rights of British America

- Jefferson noted that Saxons immigrated to the British Isles from Northern Europe.
- In the British Isles, Saxons defined their own property rights and laws.
- Saxony never sought dominion over them after they emigrated . . . at least not during Jefferson’s lifetime.

The Mystery of Tom & Sally
A Summary View of the Rights of British America

- Jefferson Analogized American Settlers to Their Saxon Ancestors

"[T]hat [our] Saxon ancestors had, under this universal law, in like manner left their native wilds and woods in the north of Europe, had possessed themselves of the island of Britain, then less charged with inhabitants, and had established there that system of laws which has so long been the glory and protection of that country."
Not a shilling was ever issued from the public treasures of his majesty, or his ancestors, for their assistance, till of very late times, after the colonies had become established on a firm and permanent footing.
Declaration of Independence

The Mystery of Tom & Sally

“*We hold these truths to be sacred & undeniable; that all men are created equal & independent, that from that equal creation they derive rights inherent & inalienable, among which are the preservation of life, & liberty, & the pursuit of happiness; that to secure these ends, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed; that whenever any form of government shall become destructive of these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or to abolish it, & to institute new government, laying it's foundation on such principles & organising it's powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety & happiness.*”

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Thesis – The Mysterious Periods

“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. That, to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed. That, whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new government, laying its foundation on such principles, and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety and happiness.”
The Mystery of Tom & Sally

Jefferson’s Most Famous Words

“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.”

So, Was Jefferson a Hypocrite?
There is a restaurant at the corner of Scripture and Jagoe in Denton, Texas. That restaurant specializes in Asian food. One item on the menu is the Japanese dish called "Fugu." Prepared incorrectly, Fugu can be fatal.

1633 Scripture Street

So, what is the message?
The Mystery of Tom & Sally

1633 Scripture Street

- There is a restaurant at the corner of Scripture and Jagoe in Denton, Texas.
- That restaurant specializes in Asian food.
- One item on the menu is the Japanese dish called “Fugu.”
- Prepared incorrectly, Fugu can be fatal.

Is this the message?
"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.”
The Mystery of Tom & Sally

Now, Tom and Martha
The Mystery of Tom & Sally

Tom and Martha

John Wayles

- Wayles Was a Well-Known Lawyer and Landowner Near Richmond

- Wayles Was Also a Debt Collector But Was Generally Well Liked Among the Gentry and Bar
The Mystery of Tom & Sally

Tom and Martha

John Wayles

- In 1746, Wayles Married Martha Eppes
- After Losing Twins, in 1748 Martha Gave Birth to a Daughter, Also Named Martha
- Five Days After Giving Birth, the Mother Martha Died
The Mystery of Tom & Sally

Tom and Martha

John Wayles

- Wayles Soon Re-Married and Had Four More Daughters by His Second Wife

- His Second Wife Died, He Re-Married and Lost His Third Wife

- At This Point, He Took His Mixed Race Slave, Elizabeth (Betty) Hemings, as His Concubine... More About This Later
Martha Wayles

- In 1766, at Age 18, John Wayles Oldest Daughter, Martha, Married a Young Planter Bathurst Skelton
- A Year Later, Martha Gave Birth to a Son
- Ten Months Later, Bathurst Died
- Two Years Later, Her Son Died

The Mystery of Tom & Sally
## The Mystery of Tom & Sally

### Tom and Martha

**Martha Wayles Skelton**

- Martha Was a “Catch”
- Very Musical
- Good Conversationalist
- Very Well Read
- Very Attractive

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[Image of Martha Wayles Skelton]
Tom and Martha

Martha Wayles Skelton

- Descriptions

  "small .. with a slight build"

  "auburn hair"

  "a very attractive person"

  "a graceful, ladylike and accomplished woman"
Tom and Martha

Martha Wayles Skelton

- Jefferson Fell in Love and Courted Her Aggressively

“In every scheme of happiness she is placed in the fore-ground of the picture, as the principal figure. Take that away, there is no picture for me.”

- They Were Married New Year’s Day, 1772
Tom and Martha

Young Married Couple

- Tom and Martha Travelled to Monticello Three Weeks Later
- Arrived at Monticello in the Midst of a Blizzard
- Rode Horses the Last 8 Miles
- Arrived at the One-Room Cottage Late at Night

The Mystery of Tom & Sally
Young Married Couple

Daughter Martha Reported:

“They arrived late at night, the fires all out and the servants retired to their own houses for the night. The horrible dreariness of such a house at the end of such a journey I have often heard both relate.”

Martha Was Born August 27, 1772
Young Married Couple

- Tom and Martha Had Six Children
  - 1772 – Martha (Patsy)
  - 1774 – Jane (Died in 1775)
  - 1777 – Son (Died in Infancy)
  - 1778 – Maria (Polly)
  - 1780 – Lucy (Died in 1781)
  - 1782 – Lucy
Tom and Martha

Young Married Couple

- Martha Never Recovered After the Birth of the Second Lucy
- Martha Died on September 6, 1782, Four Months After Lucy’s Birth
- Jefferson Was a Widower With Three Daughters - Patsy (10), Polly (4) and Lucy (Infant)
The Mystery of Tom & Sally

Tom and Martha

Martha’s Death

- Martha Was Bed Ridden
- Jefferson Rarely Left Her Side
- She Was Also Attended by Jefferson’s Sister Martha Carr and Six Enslaved Servants
Martha’s Death

She Asked for a Pen and Began Writing One of Their Favorite Poems, *Tristram Shandy* by Laurence Sterne’s
Time wastes too fast: every letter
I trace tells me with what rapidity
Life follows my pen. The days and hours
Of it are flying over our heads like
Clouds of a windy day never to return –
More every thing presses on –
and every time I kiss thy hand to bid adieu,
Every absence which follows it,
Are preludes to that eternal separation
Which we are shortly to make!

The Mystery of Tom & Sally
Martha’s Passing

Daughter Polly Later Reported:

“A moment before the closing scene, he was led from the room almost in a state of insensibility, by his sister Mrs. Carr, who, with great difficulty, got him into his library, where he fainted, and remained so long insensible that they feared he would never revive.”
The Mystery of Tom & Sally

Tom and Martha

Following Martha’s Passing

Daughter Patsy Later Reported:

“He kept [to] his room three weeks, and I was never a moment from his side. He walked almost incessantly night and day, only lying down occasionally [when exhausted].”
Following Martha’s Passing

Patsy Reported That After Three Weeks:

“He rode] incessantly on horseback, rambling about the mountain. . . . In those melancholy rambles, I was his constant companion, a solitary witness to many a violent burst of grief.”
The Mystery of Tom & Sally

Tom and Martha

One More Note About Martha’s Death

- On Her Deathbed, Martha Asked Jefferson to Promise He Would Never Remarry

- Jefferson Made the Promise

- Jefferson Kept His Promise for the Next 44 Years of His Life
Tom and Martha

“[She was] the cherished companion of my life, in whose affections, unabated on both sides, I had lived the last ten years in unchequered happiness.”
What to Do?

- First, He Volunteered to Go to France and Join the Commission Negotiating the Peace Treaty with Great Britain

- But, the Peace Treaty with Great Britain Was Agreed in 1784 Before He Could Depart

- The Following Year (1785) the Continental Congress Appointed Jefferson Minister Plenipotentiary to France
One Problem:

- Jefferson Had Three Young Daughters
  - Martha (Patsy) Was 12
  - Maria (Polly) Was 6
  - Lucy Was 2
- Jefferson Decided to
  - Take Patsy With Him to France
  - Leave Polly and Lucy with His Wife’s Half Sister, Elizabeth Eppes

“Aunt Eppes”
The Mystery of Tom & Sally

Jefferson in Paris

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- **Life Stages**: Childhood, Student/Lawyer, Married, France, SS & VP, President, Retired
- **Key Locations**: Hôtel Landron, Abbaye Royale de Panthéon
The Mystery of Tom & Sally

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- Childhood
- Student/Lawyer
- Married
- France
- SS & VP
- President
- Retired
1785 Letter from the Family Doctor in Virginia

“I am sincerely sorry my dear friend now to acquaint you of the demise of poor Miss L. Jefferson, who fell a Martyr to the Complicated evils of teething, Worms and Hooping Cough. . . . I was called too late to do any thing but procrastinate the settled fate of the poor Innocent.”
Polly Joins Her Father & Sister

o Jefferson Decided to Bring Polly to France

o He Was Concerned About Having a 7-Year-Old Girl Travel Alone on a Ship to France

o So, He Asked Aunt Eppes to Have One of the Matronly Enslaved Women to Accompany Polly on the Journey

o He Insisted She Be Vaccinated Against Smallpox
The Enslaved Woman Eppes Planned to Send Became Pregnant

So, Aunt Eppes Substituted a 14-Year Old Girl

Sally Hemings

Polly and Her “Chaperone” Sally Then Sailed to France in 1787
Polly Joins Her Father & Sister

- Polly and Sally First Landed in London
- At Jefferson’s Request, They Were Taken to Stay with John and Abigail Adams
- Abigail Adams Did Not Like Sally
- The Sea Captain Offered to Take Sally Back to Virginia with Him
- Jefferson Did Not Accept the Offer
The Mystery of Tom & Sally

This Brings Us to the Hemings Family
The Hemings Family

The Origins of the Hemings Family

- Elizabeth – or “Betty” – Hemings Was Born in the 1730s
- Betty’s Mother Was an Enslaved African Owned by Francis Eppes
- Betty’s Father Was a White English Ship Captain
- The Ship Captain – Hemings – Tried to Buy Betty’s Mother (and Betty)
- Eppes Refused to Sell Them
The Hemings Family

Betty Hemings

- In 1746, Francis Eppes Gave Betty Hemings to His Daughter, Martha Eppes, on Her Marriage to John Wayles.
- Two Years Later, Martha Eppes Wayles Died After Giving Birth to Their Daughter (Who Was Also Named “Martha”).
- On His Wife’s Death, Wayles Inherited Betty.
The Mystery of Tom & Sally

The Hemings Family

John Wayles

- Wayles Was a Virginia Lawyer, Planter and Slave Owner
- After His Wife Martha Died, He Remarried Twice
- He and His Second and Third Wives Had Four Daughters
- But Those Were Only Some of His Children
The Hemings Family

John Wayles and Betty Hemings

- Around 1761, Wayles Took Betty as His Concubine When His Third Wife Died
- Over the Next Twelve Years, John Wayles and Betty Hemings Produced Six Children
  - These Children Were “Quadroons”
The Mystery of Tom & Sally

The Hemings Family

John Wayles and Betty Hemings

- Their Children
  - 1762 - Robert
  - 1765 - James
  - 1767 - Thenia
  - 1769 - Critta
  - 1770 - Peter
  - 1773 – Sarah (Sally)
The Hemings Family

Betty Hemings

- Betty Remained a House Servant for the Rest of Her Working Life
- Betty Was the Matriarch of the Hemings Clan Until Her Death at Age of 72 in 1807
The Hemings Family

John Wayles and Betty Hemings

- Their Children
  - 1762 - Robert
  - 1765 - James
  - 1767 - Thenia
  - 1769 - Critta
  - 1770 - Peter
  - 1773 – Sarah (Sally)

The Mystery of Tom & Sally
The Hemings Family

James Hemings

- Was Chosen by Jefferson to Accompany Jefferson to Paris
- James Was 19 Years Old
The Hemings Family

James Hemings

- Jefferson Apprenticed James to the Chef de Cuisine for a French Nobleman, Prince de Condé
- Jefferson Wanted James to Become Skilled at French Cooking So That He Could Become Jefferson’s Chef at Monticello
The Hemings Family

James Hemings – One Problem

- Slavery Was Not Legal in France
- A “Slave” Could Gain His/Her Freedom by Application to the French Admiralty Court
- So, Jefferson Had to Modify His Treatment of James Hemings
The Hemings Family

James Hemings

- When James Completed His Apprenticeship, Jefferson Named Him as His Own *Chef de Cuisine*
- He Paid James a Respectable Salary and Gave Him a Staff
- In the Meantime, James Was Becoming Fluent in French
The Hemings Family

James Hemings – The Return

- When They Returned from France, James First Went With Jefferson to New York and Philadelphia
- Jefferson Continued to Pay James Wages
- They Returned to Monticello in 1794 When Jefferson Retired
The Hemings Family

James Hemings – The Deal

- Before They Returned to Virginia, James Insisted on an Agreement
"Having been at great expense in having James Hemings taught the art of cookery, desiring to befriend him, and to require from him as little in return as possible,"
The Hemings Family

James Hemings – The Deal

“I do hereby promise & declare, that if said James should go with me to Monticello in the course of the ensuing winter, when I go to reside there myself, and shall there continue until he shall have taught a person I place under him for that purpose to be a good cook, this previous condition being performed, he shall thereupon be free.”
The Hemings Family

James Hemings – The Return

- For Two Years James Taught His Younger Brother Peter the Art of French Cooking
- In 1796, at the Age of 31, James Gained His Freedom
- He Initially Travelled to Europe
- He Returned to the United States and Found Work as a Cook in Philadelphia
The Hemings Family

James Hemings – The Return

- When Jefferson Became President, He Wanted James to Be the Executive Mansion Chef
- Jefferson Contacted a Mutual Friend and Asked Him to Inquire of James Whether He Was Interested
- The Friend Responded That James Was Interested . . . But He Wanted to Be Free and Paid
The Hemings Family

John Wayles and Betty Hemings

- Their Children
  - 1762 - Robert
  - 1765 - James
  - 1767 - Thenia
  - 1769 - Critta
  - 1770 - Peter
  - 1773 - Sarah (Sally)
The Hemings Family

Sally Hemings – What Is Known

- Like Her Brothers and Sisters, Sally Was a Quadroon
  - A White Father (John Wayles)
  - A White Grandfather (the Sea Captain Hemings)
- Sally Was Enslaved and Owned by Thomas Jefferson Until His Death
The Hemings Family

Sally Hemings – What Is Known

- Sally Was . . .
  - 25 Years Younger Than Martha Wayles Jefferson
  - 30 Years Younger Than Thomas Jefferson
The Hemings Family

Sally Hemings – What Is Known

- Descriptions of Sally

  Monticello Slave Isaac Jefferson:

  “mighty nearly white”

  “very handsome, [with] long straight hair down her back.”
The Hemings Family

Sally Hemings – What Is Known

- Descriptions of Sally

Historian: John B. Boles

“She also bore a striking resemblance to her half sister, Jefferson’s deceased wife.”
The Mystery of Tom & Sally

The Hemings Family

Sally Hemings – What Is Known

- As Noted Above, Sally Travelled to Paris with Polly in 1787
- Did She Live in Jefferson’s Household?
  - Almost Certainly
- Did She Learn French?
  - Almost Certainly
- Did She Know She Could Go Free?
  - Most Likely
The Hemings Family

Sally Hemings – What Is Known

- Sally Had at Least Six Children
  - 1795 – Harriet (Died at Age 2)
  - 1798 - Beverley
  - 1799 – Daughter (Died as Infant)
  - 1801 - Harriet
  - 1805 - Madison
  - 1808 - Eston
The Hemings Family

Sally Hemings – What Is Known

- All of Her Children -
  - Were Light Skinned
  - Had Caucasian Features
  - Octroons?

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The Mystery of Tom & Sally

The Hemings Family

Sally Hemings – What Is Not Known

- Whether She Was Actually Pregnant When She Returned to Monticello from France
- Whether She in Fact Had a Child Upon Her Return to Monticello
- If She Did Have a Child Upon Her Return, What Happened to Him/Her
The Mystery of Tom & Sally

The Hemings Family

Sally Hemings – What Is Not Known

- Whether Sally Was -
  - Thomas Jefferson’s Unwilling Concubine or
  - Thomas Jefferson’s Willing Lover
  - Neither of the Above

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Childhood | Student/Lawyer | Married | France | SS & VP | President | Retired |
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The Mystery of Tom & Sally

That Is What We Will Explore in Session 2