Brooklyn Rayborn

Mr. Johnson

American History

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Thomas Jefferson

Thomas Jefferson was the 3rd President of the United States, one of the American founding fathers, and was in the American Revolutionary War. He was an author of the Declaration of Independence, and wrote a document establishing religious freedom. With his many accomplishments and titles, Thomas Jefferson would later become one of the most influential presidents in not only American history but also World history.

Thomas Jefferson was born in Shadwell, VA on April 13th, 1743 by Jane and Peter Jefferson. Thomas had 6 sisters and 3 brothers. The Jefferson’s eventually moved to Tuckahoe, VA, living there for 7 years then returning to Shadwell. According to millercenter.org, “Thomas Jefferson's childhood was significantly shaped by his privileged upbringing on a Virginia plantation, where he received a robust education, inherited land and enslaved people from his father. Thomas developed a deep connection to the natural world, which contributed to his later political beliefs and advocacy for individual liberty, even while grappling with the contradictions of slavery in his own life.”

At age 16 Thomas Jefferson went to a college called The College of William and Mary in Williamsburg for two years. When Jefferson graduated, he studied law in 1762 under George Wythe, and by 1769 he was serving in the Virginia House of Burgess. Three years later he married his wife Martha Wayles Skelton and had six children. At the age of 33 Thomas began drafting the Declaration of Independence, which is still being used today in American Government. The declaration of independence was a document given to the world declaring independence of the first 13 American colonies from British rule.

According to whitehouse.gov, “Thomas Jefferson continued to serve in public office, including serving as the Governor of Virginia, the U.S. Minister to France, the first U.S. Secretary of State under George Washington, and eventually becoming the third President of the United States, where he is most notably known for the Louisiana Purchase.” Jefferson also informed the American minister to acquire New Orleans and Florida Panhandle, which congress estimated was 2 million dollars. Jefferson would go on to serve two terms from 1801 to 1809, defeating the incumbent, John Quincy Adams and overwhelmingly winning the second term in 1804.

Later in life, Thomas Jefferson spent his time and energy planning and developing the University of Virginia where he is considered one of the founding fathers. Before Jefferson’s passing, on the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, he asked if it was the Fourth of July. Jefferson's death date was July 4th, 1826 at age 83 in Monticello, Virginia.

Work cited

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