

Thomas Jefferson: Chronology

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Chronology

- 1743 Born April 13 (April 2, Old Style) at Shadwell, Goochland (now Albemarle) County, Virginia, first son (third of ten children) of Peter Jefferson, surveyor, landowner, mapmaker, and magistrate, and Jane Randolph, a member of the most prominent land-owning and office-holding family of colonial Virginia.
- 1745 Death of William Randolph (Jane Randolph Jefferson's cousin) leaves three orphaned children, among them Thomas Mann Randolph. Peter Jefferson, fulfilling the request made in Randolph's will, becomes their guardian, occupies the family mansion, and manages the plantation at Tuckahoe on the James River above Richmond. Thomas spends six years there, and with his sisters and cousins attends the one-room plantation schoolhouse, where he is tutored privately.
- 1752 Returns with family to Shadwell, and enters a Latin school conducted by the Reverend William Douglas, of Scotland.
- 1757 Father dies.
- 1758–60 Attends school of the Reverend James Maury, "a correct classical scholar," and boards with Maury's family in Frederickville; rides twelve miles home each weekend.
- 1760–62 Attends College of William and Mary, at Williamsburg, studying particularly with the professor of mathematics, William Small of Scotland, the only layman on a faculty of Anglican clerics; Small's teaching is rational and scientific, and his influence, Jefferson later wrote, "probably fixed the destinies of my life."
- 1762–67 Studies law under the direction of George Wythe, a man of considerable learning, later a signer of the Declaration of Independence, first professor of law at William and Mary, and Chancellor of Virginia. Inherits 2,570 acres from his father's estate when he comes of age in 1764, and enters Virginia society; begins successful law practice in Virginia courts following admission to the bar in 1767.
- 1769 Following his own architectural designs, begins building Monticello, his country seat, on a mountaintop that was part of his father's original landholdings.

- 1769–76 Member of Virginia House of Burgesses (until it is dissolved with the coming of the Revolution) for Albemarle County; promotes various measures intended to resist British authority, among them the organization of committees of correspondence.
- 1772 Marries Martha Wayles Skelton, a 23-year-old widow and heiress, on January 1. Brings his bride to the unfinished Monticello, where, on September 27, Martha (called Patsy), their first child, is born.
- 1773 Comes into possession of 11,000 acres of land and 135 slaves upon death of his father-in-law, John Wayles. Immediately sells over half the lands to meet debts also inherited from Wayles. The purchasers will pay off their notes in depreciated Revolutionary currency, and Jefferson will struggle for the rest of his life to liquidate his own debt to Wayle's creditors. Among the slaves that Jefferson inherits are Elizabeth (Betty) Hemings and her ten children; evidence suggests that six of them, Robert, James, Thenia, Critta, Peter, and Sarah (Sally), were fathered by John Wayles, and are therefore Martha Jefferson's half-siblings. The Hemings family comes to occupy a privileged position within the slave community at Monticello, its members working in close proximity with Jefferson in his house as his personal servants or in specialized trades.
- 1774 Writes, in August, proposed instructions for the Virginia delegates to the first Continental Congress. These are later published in Williamsburg under the title *A Summary View of the Rights of British America*, which is reprinted in Philadelphia and in England.
- 1775–76 Attends Continental Congress in Philadelphia as a Virginia delegate. Mother dies in March 1776. In June 1776, drafts Declaration of Independence, adopted July 4; also drafts a constitution for Virginia, not adopted.
- 1776–79 Member of Virginia House of Delegates for Albemarle County.
- 1777 Correspondence with John Adams begins May 16. In June, Martha gives birth to a son, who dies unchristened, aged three weeks.
- 1778 Another daughter, Mary (called Maria or Polly), born August 1. Of his six children with Martha, only two, Martha and Mary, grow to maturity, and only Martha survives him.
- 1779 Elected Governor of Virginia on June 1. On June 18, the "Report of the Committee of Revisors," on which he has

labored during seven years as a legislator, is submitted to the Assembly. Never enacted as a unit, and not printed until 1784, this revision of the laws of the Commonwealth nevertheless becomes, in James Madison's words, "a mine of legislative wealth"; includes Bills for Proportioning Crimes and Punishments, for the More General Diffusion of Knowledge, for Establishing Religious Freedom, etc.

- 1780 Elected a member of the American Philosophical Society January 21. Reelected Governor of Virginia June 2. On December 29, a British army under the command of Benedict Arnold invades Virginia.
- 1781 Term as governor expires June 2; on June 4, along with several members of the Assembly, who are his guests, is driven in haste from Monticello by British troops. The House of Delegates, meeting in Staunton, across the Blue Ridge, resolves on June 12 to conduct an inquiry into the conduct of Jefferson and his Council, responding to allegations that they had been negligent in preparing to meet Arnold's invasion; on December 15, the Assembly accepts the report of the committee appointed to make the inquiry, and votes a unanimous resolution "to obviate and remove all unmerited Censure" for his conduct as wartime governor. On December 20, sends answers (first form of *Notes on the State of Virginia*) to a series of questions posed by François Marbois, secretary to the French legation, relating to the laws, institutions, geography, climate, flora and fauna of Virginia.
- 1782–83 Martha Wayles Jefferson, in poor health since the birth of their sixth child in May, dies on September 6, 1782, plunging him into deep grief. Appointed commissioner by Congress to negotiate peace with Great Britain on November 12, but winter ice and a British fleet block passage to France. Word of a provisional treaty reaches Congress in February and mission is suspended.
- 1783–84 Serves as Virginia delegate in Congress, at Princeton and Annapolis.
- 1784 Submits "Report of a Plan of Government for the Western Territory" to Congress on March 1; when revised, amended, and adopted on April 23, it projects a federal and republican system for the American West. Appointed by Congress May 7 as minister plenipotentiary to join John Adams and Benjamin Franklin in negotiation of treaties of amity and commerce in Europe; travels through eastern states, gathering information on industry and trade in preparation for mission. In

- Boston on July 5, embarks for England, accompanied by daughter Patsy and by James Hemings, whom Jefferson intends to have trained as a French chef.
- 1785 Appointed to succeed Franklin as minister to France in March; signs commercial treaty with Prussia in July. Publishes, in Paris, a private edition of *Notes on the State of Virginia*. After several temporary residences, establishes his permanent Paris residence at the Hôtel de Langeac in October. Patsy is enrolled at the Abbaye de Panthemont, a convent school. (She will later convert to Catholicism.)
- 1786 Collaborates anonymously with Jean Nicholas Dêmeunier on article on the United States for the *Encyclopédie Méthodique*, from January to June. Virginia General Assembly enacts Statue for Religious Freedom on January 16. In March and April, visits London and tours English gardens with John Adams (now minister to England). In June, sends model of a new capitol, based on Roman temple, to Virginia. Meets Maria Cosway, a married Englishwoman and painter, who becomes his ardent friend and frequent companion in Paris. Sends word that he wants his nine-year-old daughter Mary (Polly), who has been in the care of her aunt, Elizabeth Wayles Eppes, to join him in Paris.
- 1787 Journeys to south of France and northern Italy from March to June. In June, Polly and her maid-servant Sally Hemings, aged fourteen, arrive in London, where they will stay with Abigail and John Adams for several weeks. In July, escorted by Adrien Petit, Jefferson's French butler, Polly and Sally arrive in Paris and Polly joins her sister at the Abbaye de Panthemont. Also in July, *Notes on the State of Virginia* is published in England (Stockdale edition). Receives a copy of proposed United States Constitution in November and supports its ratification, but urges Madison and others to add a bill of rights to the document.
- 1788 Journeys to Holland and the Rhineland, from March to April. In November, signs a consular convention with France, and writes and has printed *Observations on the Whale-Fishery*. Awarded honorary Doctorate of Laws by Harvard University.
- 1789 Attends opening of Estates General at Versailles May 5; observes succeeding events of the French Revolution. When deliberations of the Estates General reach an impasse—the clergy and nobles (First and Second Estates) insisting on preservation of the ancient principle of representation and vote by order, and the commons (Third Estate) demanding

a single national assembly—Jefferson suggests that the King come forward with a “charter of rights” including rights of habeas corpus and freedom of the press, giving the Estates General exclusive power to legislate and to levy taxes, and abolishing fiscal privileges and inequities. This compromise solution catches the fancy of the Marquis de Lafayette but avails no further. The King rallies to the nobles and resorts to force; the storming of the Bastille ensues, followed by the King’s capitulation and a wave of retributive violence. Jefferson is satisfied with the “legitimacy” of the mobs’ actions. In August, Lafayette and other Patriot party leaders meet at Jefferson’s house to discuss the formation of a constitution. In September, secures leave of absence from diplomatic post to attend to personal affairs in Virginia. Leaves Paris in October, lands November 23 at Norfolk, Virginia. Upon disembarking, learns that Senate on September 26 confirmed his nomination by President Washington as first secretary of state. Returns to Monticello on December 23, with his daughters and James and Sally Hemings.

- 1790 Reluctantly accepts appointment as secretary of state February 14. Martha Jefferson marries Thomas Mann Randolph (her second cousin) on February 23. Takes up duties as secretary of state March 21 in New York. Sometime in the spring, Sally Hemings gives birth to a child, who does not survive. (According to Jefferson’s records, Hemings will give birth to at least six children, four of whom will survive to maturity. Genetic, circumstantial, and oral historical evidence suggests that Hemings’s children are fathered by Jefferson. One of their sons, James Madison Hemings, would later assert of his parents’ stay in Paris: “during that time my mother became Mr. Jefferson’s concubine.”) Submits Report on Weights and Measures to Congress July 4. Begins to be troubled by what he perceives as anti-republican sentiments and courtly forms and ceremonies exhibited in the new administration.
- 1791 Advises the President on February 15 that the Constitution does not empower the federal government to form a national bank; Washington solicits rebuttal from Alexander Hamilton, secretary of the treasury (who advances the doctrine of “implied powers”), and decides the issue in Hamilton’s favor. Administrative rivalry with Hamilton grows steadily more intense. Hires Philip Freneau as a translator in the State Department in order to subsidize Freneau’s editorship of the *National Gazette*, an opposition newspaper. Extract of private note of Jefferson’s, referring to the “political heresies” of John Adams (vice-president), stirs controversy

when it is printed (without permission) as preface to Thomas Paine's *Rights of Man*.

- 1792 Diplomatic memorandum to the British minister, dated May 29, seeks removal of British troops from posts below the Great Lakes and settlement of other issues left unresolved by the treaty of peace; Hamilton forestalls Jefferson's plan to use commercial discrimination to accomplish these ends. On September 9, appeals to President Washington in dispute with Hamilton, who had attacked him anonymously in the press. Political alignments in Congress begin to take on party character, and Jefferson is widely viewed as leader of the opposition to Federalist policies.
- 1793 Writes "Opinion on the French Treaties," dated April 28, and prevails upon President Washington to receive the new French minister, Edmond Charles Genet, thus tacitly acknowledging the legitimacy of the Republic of France; also convinces Washington not to renounce the treaties of 1778, which allied the fledgling United States with the French monarchy. Acquiesces in Washington's Proclamation of Neutrality. In August, when Genet's activities and statements threaten to involve the United States in the Anglo-French war, Jefferson reluctantly prepares papers demanding the diplomat's recall. On December 16, submits Report on Commerce to Congress, urging retaliation in kind against discriminatory British trade policies. Resigns as secretary of state at year's end.
- 1794 Returns to farming at Monticello. Formally frees Robert Hemings on December 24.
- 1795 In private letters denounces Jay's Treaty—negotiated with the British by the Washington administration's special envoy John Jay—which provides for evacuation of British garrisons from frontier posts in the Northwest and the establishment of a commission to resolve British claims against American debtors. The treaty contains few British concessions regarding Anglo-American commerce or neutral maritime rights, which Jefferson believes represents the pro-British policies of the Federalists. On October 5, Sally Hemings gives birth to a daughter, Harriet, perhaps named for Harriet Randolph, a favorite cousin of Jefferson's. The child dies in 1797.
- 1796 Begins rebuilding Monticello in February to provide expanded accommodations for family and to conform to his developed taste in architectural design. Jefferson formally frees James Hemings on February 5, the second and last time he grants legal manumission to a slave during his life-

time. Writes to Philip Mazzei on April 24 that an “Anglican monarchical aristocratical party has sprung up”; when published a year later, the letter is interpreted as reflecting upon Washington and prompts renewed Federalist attacks on Jefferson. In December 7 presidential election, John Adams receives 71 electoral votes and is elected president, Jefferson receives 68 votes and becomes vice-president, while Federalist Thomas Pinckney receives 59 votes, Republican Aaron Burr 30, and 48 electoral votes are divided among nine other candidates.

- 1797 Installed as president of the American Philosophical Society on March 3 at Philadelphia, and inaugurated as vice-president of the United States a day later. On March 10, presents scientific paper on megalonyx, based on recent fossil discoveries in Virginia, to American Philosophical Society. In May, assumes leadership of Republican party at special session of Congress. Mary Jefferson marries her cousin John Wayles Eppes in October. Jefferson offers financial support and editorial guidance to James T. Callender, a Philadelphia pamphleteer of republican sympathies who had gained national attention by exposing Alexander Hamilton’s compromising relationship with Maria Reynolds and her husband James.
- 1798 On April 1, Sally Hemings gives birth to a son named after William Beverly, a distant relative of Jefferson’s who had been instrumental in establishing Virginia’s western land claims and, thereby, the career of Jefferson’s father. (Fair-skinned William Beverly Hemings will reside at Monticello until 1822, when he will be granted de facto freedom and enter white society.) Anti-Jacobin sentiment roils Philadelphia, aroused by publication of the “XYZ dispatches,” which reveal the attempts by agents of the French foreign minister, Talleyrand, to extort money from the American envoys sent to negotiate for reduction of hostilities. Jefferson strives to prevent war, is calumniated in the press as a traitor and a coward, and retires on June 27 to Monticello. In September and October, secretly drafts resolutions declaring the Alien and Sedition laws (which he believes are aimed against Republican opposition to Federalist war policy) unconstitutional and arranges for these resolutions to be introduced in the Kentucky legislature, which adopts them in November. In December, the Virginia Resolutions, drafted by Madison in tandem with Jefferson’s Kentucky Resolutions, are adopted.
- 1799 Drafts second set of resolutions in August and September and proposes further actions by Virginia and Kentucky

- legislatures. In December, Sally Hemings gives birth to a child, who dies in infancy.
- 1800 Publishes appendix to *Notes on the State of Virginia* in May, authenticating story of the murder of the family of Logan, a Mingo chief (disputed by Luther Martin, attorney general of Maryland, a political enemy of Jefferson's). In June, James Callender is convicted of libel under the Sedition Act in a trial presided over by Supreme Court Justice Samuel Chase. (With other journalists convicted under the Act, he will later be pardoned by Jefferson.) Runs for President in first national contest between recognizable political parties; is vilified by Federalists as an infidel, a Jacobin, and a demagogue. Presidential electors meet on December 3 (the 138 electors are chosen by the voters in five states, by the legislature in ten states, and by county delegates appointed by the legislature in one state). A peculiarity of the electoral system results in a tie vote between Jefferson and his running mate, Aaron Burr, each of whom receive 73 electoral votes, while President Adams receives 65, Charles Cotesworth Pinckney 64, and John Jay one. As a result of the tie, the election is thrown into the House of Representatives.
- 1801 *A Manual of Parliamentary Practice*, the product of Jefferson's experience presiding over the Senate as vice-president, published in February. The lame-duck Federalist majority in the House fails in a last-ditch attempt to deny Jefferson the presidency by swinging to Burr, and on the 36th ballot Jefferson is elected President of the United States. On March 4 he is inaugurated, and delivers a conciliatory address. Correspondence with Adams ceases and is not renewed until 1812. In May, Sally Hemings gives birth to a daughter, again named Harriet. (Like her brother William Beverly, she will live at Monticello until 1822, when she will be granted de facto freedom and enter white society. Dispatches naval squadron on May 20 to cruise the Mediterranean to protect American vessels against the piracy of the Barbary States. On July 12, replies to the New Haven remonstrance, defending removal of the collector of customs in New Haven (a Federalist hold-over) and the appointment of a Republican in his place. On December 8, Jefferson communicates his First Annual Message to Congress in writing, eschewing the formality of a ceremonial address.
- 1802 Replies to the Danbury Baptist Association of January 1, affirming his commitment to the separation of church and state. March 8, orchestrates repeal of the Judiciary Act of 1801, passed by the Federalists in their final weeks in the

majority, which enlarged the federal judiciary and expanded its jurisdiction. Writes letter to Robert R. Livingston, American minister to France, on April 18, discussing the danger of a rebirth of French empire in the New World posed by the retrocession of Louisiana from Spain to France. In July, James Callender, whom Jefferson has refused to appoint postmaster of Richmond, writes in a Richmond newspaper that "It is well known that the man, whom it delighteth the people to honor, keeps, and for many years has kept, as his concubine, one of his slaves. Her name is SALLY." The scandal, much amplified by invention and innuendo, will follow Jefferson throughout the remainder of his public career, though he will decline to comment on it.

- 1803 Nominates James Monroe on January 11 for extraordinary mission to France to negotiate for purchase of New Orleans and the Floridas. Sends confidential message to Congress on January 18 regarding proposed expedition to the Pacific, to be led by Meriwether Lewis. On February 24, Chief Justice John Marshall of the Supreme Court delivers opinion in the case of *Marbury vs. Madison*. Opinion establishes precedent for judicial review while rebuking the President for refusing to deliver commissions to William Marbury and other "midnight judges" appointed in the final hours of the Adams administration. On April 21, Jefferson sends his "Syllabus . . . of the Doctrines of Jesus" to Benjamin Rush. Livingston and Monroe conclude treaty of cession of Louisiana in Paris on April 30. In July, believing he had exceeded his constitutional authority in making the purchase, Jefferson drafts an amendment to sanction it retroactively, although for reasons of expedience he does not press it upon Congress. The amendment includes provisions to remove Indian tribes to the far side of the Mississippi and to bar white settlement in the new territory above the 33rd parallel. The policy of removal is abandoned along with the amendment. In September, writes memorandum on the boundaries of Louisiana, hoping to make the most of their uncertainty and acquire the Floridas, which had not been part of the bargain. Sends "An Account of Louisiana" to Congress on November 14, and is ridiculed in the press because of the strange, apocryphal tales it includes. Ten days later sends to Senator John Breckinridge an outline of a plan of government for Louisiana, subsequently enacted by Congress.
- 1804 Mary Jefferson Eppes, dies April 17; letter of condolence from Abigail Adams leads to brief correspondence with her, which is curtailed when old political animosities surface. Re-elected President by a landslide on December 5.

- 1805 Proposes plan for university in letter to Littleton W. Tazewell on January 5. On January 19, Sally Hemings gives birth to a son, who is named for James Madison. Supreme Court Justice Samuel Chase, whose partisan and prejudicial statements from the bench had prompted Jefferson to call for his impeachment, is acquitted March 1 in trial in the Senate. Delivers Second Inaugural Address March 4. Peace treaty with Tripoli brings Mediterranean campaign to successful conclusion June 4. Fifth Annual Message to Congress on December 3 offers vigorous defense of American neutrality. Sends confidential message to Congress December 6, hinting at purchase of Floridas from Spain.
- 1806 With Europe embroiled in war and American neutrality threatened by captures, impressments, and other acts of aggression, Jefferson seeks to exert economic pressure on Britain in particular. He approves the Non-Importation Act, intended to strengthen the hands of James Monroe and William Pinkney, who are nominated joint commissioners to Britain on April 19. In August, lays foundation for Poplar Forest, an octagonal house of his design, on property acquired from father-in-law's estate in Bedford County, Virginia. Lewis and Clark Expedition returns to St. Louis on September 25. Issues proclamation on November 27 warning against Burr Conspiracy, alleged plot of the former vice-president to separate western states from the union and attack Mexico. Sixth Annual Message, on December 2, calls for constitutional amendment to enlarge powers of Congress to undertake internal improvements.
- 1807 On January 14, offers his collection of Virginia statues to W. W. Hening for his *Statues at Large* (1809–23). Sends special message to Congress February 10, calling for the use of gunboats to protect American harbors. On March 3, refuses to submit Monroe-Pinkney treaty to Senate because it contains no guarantee against impressments. Trial of Aaron Burr for treason opens in Richmond May 22, Supreme Court Chief Justice John Marshall presiding; he is acquitted September 1. On June 22, USS *Chesapeake* is fired upon by HMS *Leopard* off Norfolk after American commander's refusal to allow the British to search his ship for deserters. Incident provokes popular clamor for war, but Jefferson retaliates with vigorous commercial measures. The Embargo Act, suspending all foreign commerce, is enacted on Jefferson's recommendation, effective December 22. On December 10, replying to addresses from legislative bodies urging him to continue in office for a third term, he announces his impending retirement from the presidency.

- 1808 The American economy suffers severely under the embargo, which is regularly violated, especially in the Northeast. On April 19, in response to the smuggling trade carried on across the Canadian frontier, Jefferson issues proclamation declaring the Lake Champlain region to be in a state of insurrection. On May 28, Sally Hemings gives birth to a son, who is named for Jefferson's cousin Thomas Eston Randolph. (In his will, Jefferson will provide for the manumission of James Madison Hemings and Thomas Eston Hemings when they reach the age of 21, further requesting that, contrary to Virginia law, they be allowed to remain in the state, "where their families and connections are." After Jefferson's death, Madison and Eston Hemings will live in a rented house in Charlottesville with their mother, until her death in 1835. Madison and his wife and children will later move to Pike County, Ohio, while Eston will move with his family first to Chillicothe, Ohio, where he will become a well-known musician, and then to Madison, Wisconsin, where he will change his name to Eston H. Jefferson.) In July, ships collection of bones of mammoth to National Institute in Paris. Opposition to embargo grows and diplomatic efforts to end the commercial warfare fail. In his Eighth Annual Message, November 8, Jefferson looks to permanent development of domestic manufacturing, which has expanded during suspension of foreign trade. James Madison is elected President December 7.
- 1809 Signs Non-Intercourse Act March 1, repealing the embargo (which had failed to achieve its ends) and reopening trade with all nations except Great Britain and France. Retires as President March 4 and returns to Monticello, where he spends the remainder of his life entertaining a steady stream of visitors, attending to an extensive correspondence, struggling with mounting debts, planning a university, and engaging in philosophical pursuits. After Jefferson's retirement, Martha Jefferson Randolph and her children will reside primarily at Monticello, a refuge from her difficult marriage.
- 1810 On May 12 Governor John Tyler invites Jefferson to comment on public education, and on May 26 he responds by affirming his continuing support of the cause "of general education, to enable every man to judge for himself what will secure or endanger his freedom," and by proposing the division of each county into "little republics," each to have a central school.
- 1811 Destutt de Tracy's *A Commentary and Review of Montesquieu's Spirit of the Laws* is translated and published in July

- under Jefferson's direction. Suit against Jefferson, brought by Edward Livingston, concerning the New Orleans Batture and resulting from order given during Jefferson's presidency that evicted Livingston from a public beach formed by Mississippi silt, is dismissed by federal circuit court in Richmond for lack of jurisdiction. In March, the following year, Jefferson publishes the complex law arguments prepared for counsel in the case.
- 1812 Through the intercession of Benjamin Rush, resumes correspondence with John Adams. War with Great Britain is declared June 18. In private letters throughout the conflict, Jefferson will offer full-throated support for the war policies of the Madison administration, despite chronic mismanagement and repeated setbacks in the field.
- 1813 August, writes biographical sketch of Meriwether Lewis, published the following year.
- 1814 Proposes comprehensive plan of public education for Virginia in letter to Peter Carr September 7. To meet pressing demands from creditors, offers his library for sale to the United States on September 21; it becomes the foundation of the Library of Congress. Resigns as president of the American Philosophical Society November 23. War ends with Treaty of Ghent December 24. Andrew Jackson defeats British forces at New Orleans January 8 of the following year, before word of the treaty arrives.
- 1815 Contributes to Louis H. Girardin's continuation of John Daly Burk's *History of Virginia*, published the following year.
- 1816 Justifies change of opinion on domestic manufactures in celebrated letter of January 9 to Benjamin Austin. Calls for reform of Virginia constitution in letter of July 12 to Samuel Kercheval, widely reprinted. Reads and corrects manuscript of William Wirt's *Life of Patrick Henry* in September.
- 1817 Virginia Assembly defeats bill that embodies Jefferson's general education plan February 20. Develops architectural plans for an "academical village" in Charlottesville. On October 6 the cornerstone is laid for the first building of Central College, which will become the University of Virginia.
- 1818 Writes preface to the *Anas* (a collection of partisan anecdotes and memoranda from his years of service in the federal government) on February 4, explaining his conflicts with Hamilton during Washington's administration; collection is not published until after his death. August 1-4, pre-

- sides at Rockfish Gap meeting of commissioners charged with planning the University of Virginia, and writes the Report. In October, Tracy's *A Treatise on Political Economy* is translated and published under Jefferson's direction.
- 1819 General Assembly charters University of Virginia January 25. Jefferson possibly completes "The Life and Morals of Jesus of Nazareth," not published until 1902, but denies in private letters that he has converted to any particular denomination.
- 1820 Denounces the Missouri Compromise in private letters, predicting it will excite sectional prejudices. In this and subsequent years, fulminates against the usurpation of power by Supreme Court and the tendency toward "consolidation" of authority in federal government.
- 1821 Writes *Autobiography*, "for my own more ready reference, and for the information of my family," from January 6 to July 29.
- 1823 Letter to President Monroe, October 24, contributes to formulation of the Monroe Doctrine, declaring the western hemisphere closed to European expansion.
- 1824 Makes final preparations in April for Francis Walker Gilmer's mission to Europe to recruit faculty for University of Virginia. Lafayette, on a triumphal tour of the United States, visits Monticello and is feted at the university November 3 to 15.
- 1825 University of Virginia opens to students March 7. Jefferson drafts "Declaration and Protest" for Virginia legislature, protesting federal usurpations, in December, but suppresses the document.
- 1826 Writes "Thoughts on Lotteries" in February, asking permission of the legislature to raffle his property to pay his debts, hoping by this means to realize enough money (which could not be done in the depressed market) to save Monticello for his heirs. General Assembly authorizes the lottery, but it is suspended when friends and admirers organize subscription funds in his behalf. Draws his will in March, providing for emancipation of five of his slaves: Madison and Eston Hemings, their uncle John Hemings, and their cousins Joseph Fossett and Burwell Colbert. (Martha Jefferson Randolph will sell Monticello, its furnishings, and 140 other slaves at public auction in 1827 in an effort to settle Jefferson's debts.) Dies at Monticello on July 4.