

Thomas Jefferson

The Versatile Founding Father

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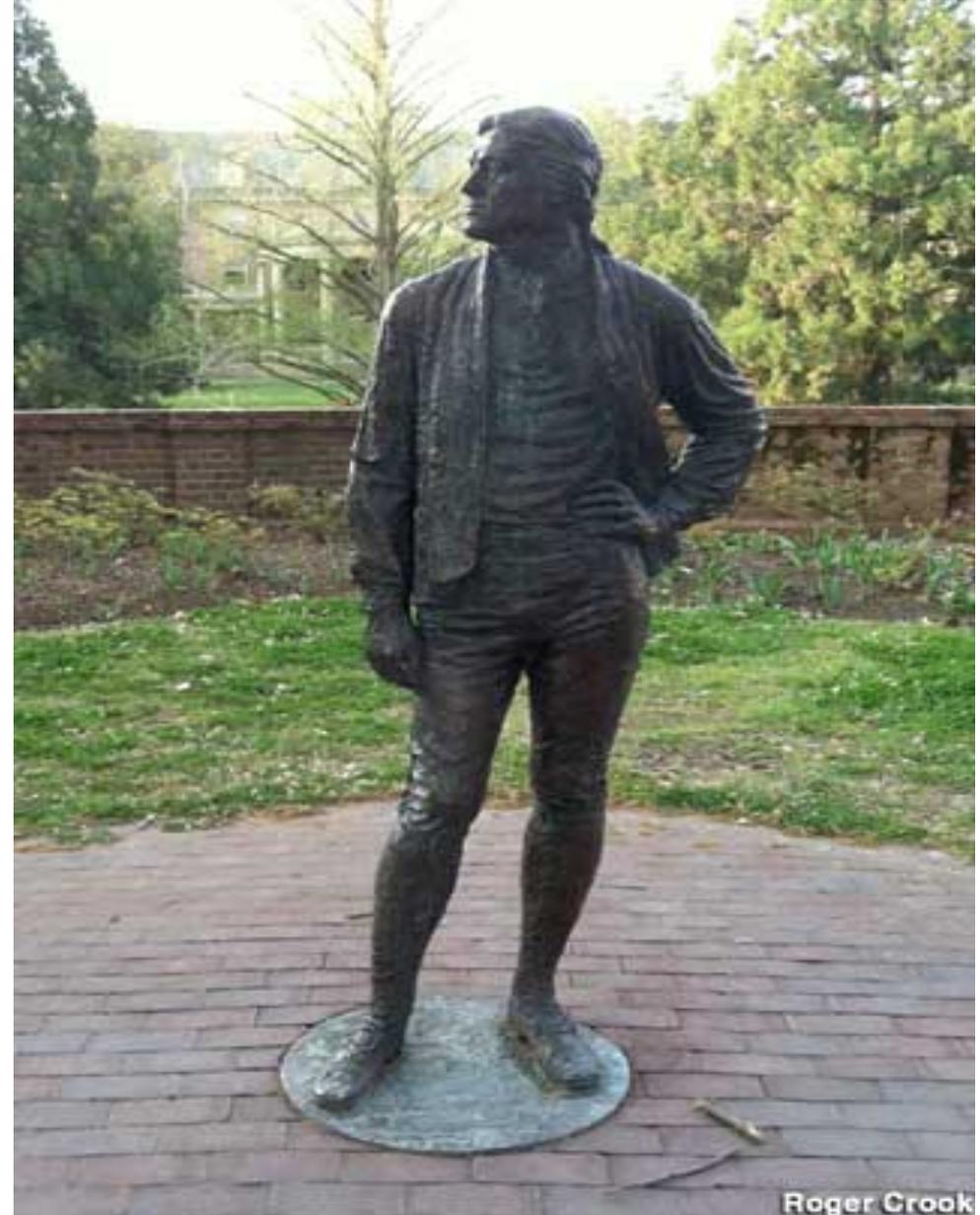
Young Jefferson

- Thomas **Jefferson** was born April 13, 1743 at Shadwell plantation in Virginia.
- Jefferson's parents were Peter and Jane Randolph Jefferson. He had nine brothers and sisters.
- Jefferson grew up in a privileged class of society. This allowed for him to receive a formal education.



Formal Education

- He received his early education close to home. Tutors like the Reverend James Maury were his early educators.
- After learning to read and write, he studied Latin, Greek and French.
- In 1760, at the age of 16, he attended the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg.
- In 1762, Jefferson finished his studies at William and Mary. When he decided to study law under George Wythe.
- In 1767, he took and passed the exam to be a lawyer.



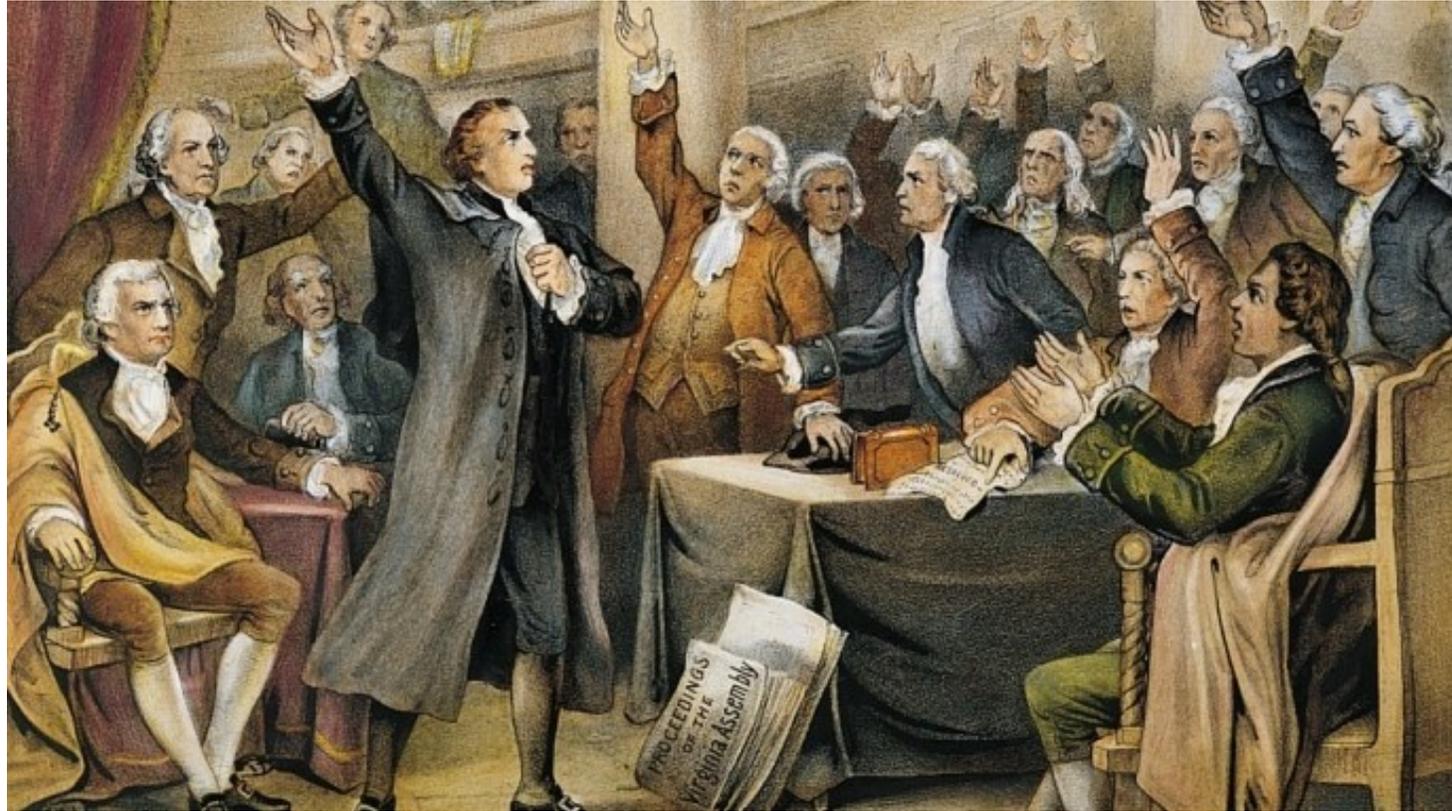
Enlightenment

- John Locke and other writers argued that people had basic human rights, these included freedom of thought, speech, and religion.
- We call this time in history The Age of Enlightenment.
- Jefferson was impressed by John Locke's writings. We can see Locke's effect on Jefferson through his writings.



Trouble Brewing

- In 1765, the British government started to impose acts (taxes) on the colonies. The colonies found these acts to be unfair.
- Sugar Act 1764, Stamp and Quartering Acts 1765, Townshend Act 1767, Tea Act 1773, Intolerable Act 1774.
- On April 19, 1775, the Battles of Lexington and Concord are fought, beginning the American Revolutionary War.



Jefferson During Turbulent Times

- In 1769, Jefferson begins building Monticello.
- On January 1, 1772 Jefferson married Martha Wayles Skelton. They spent their first night at Monticello in the small cottage pictured here because the main house was still being built.
- Jefferson is selected as a representative to attend the First Continental Congress in 1774.



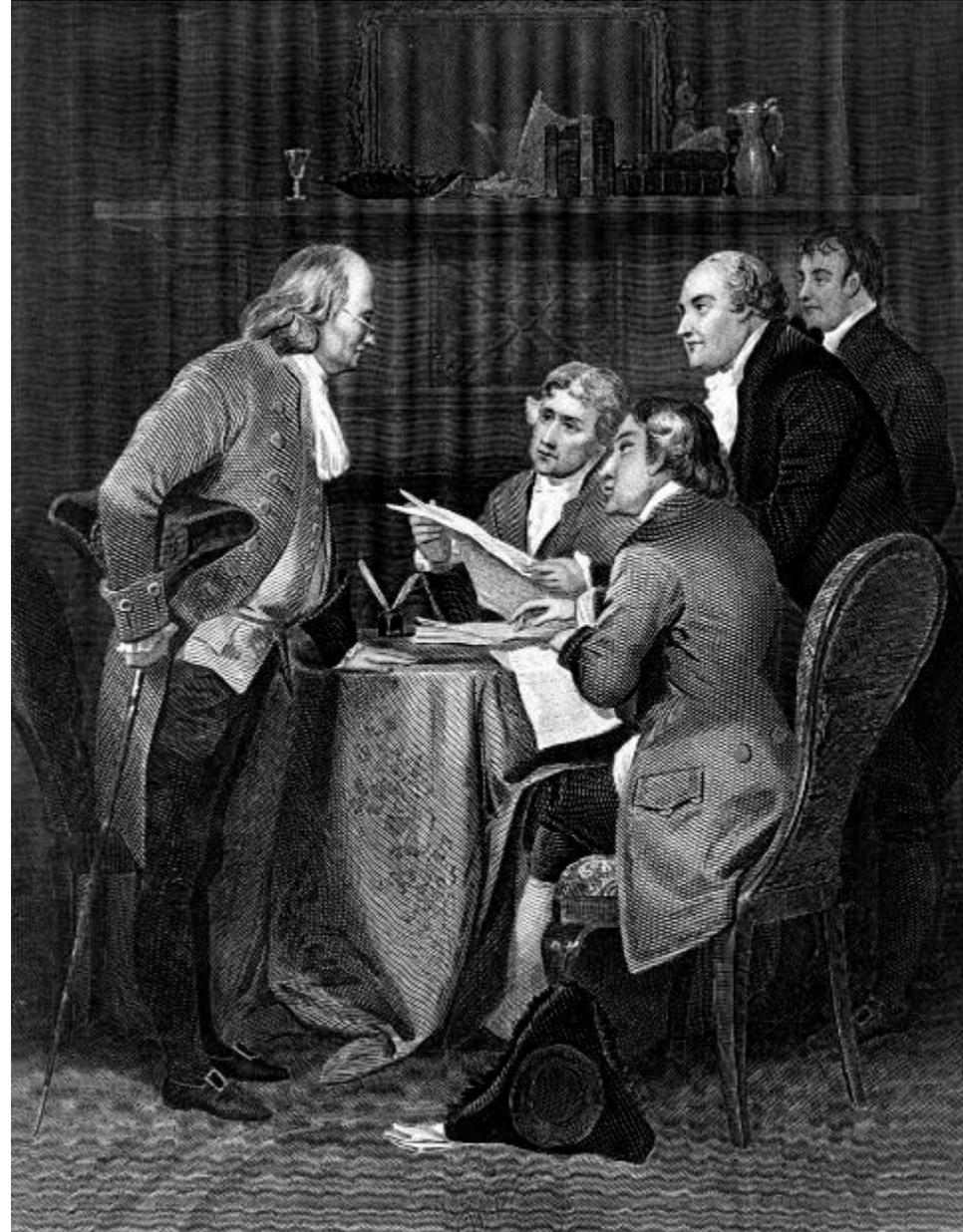
Thirteen Colonies Come Together

- The First Continental Congress meet in Philadelphia in September 1774.
- This was the first meeting between all thirteen colonies.
- King George III does not like what the colonies have to say, he declares the colonies in open rebellion and prepares to destroy them.



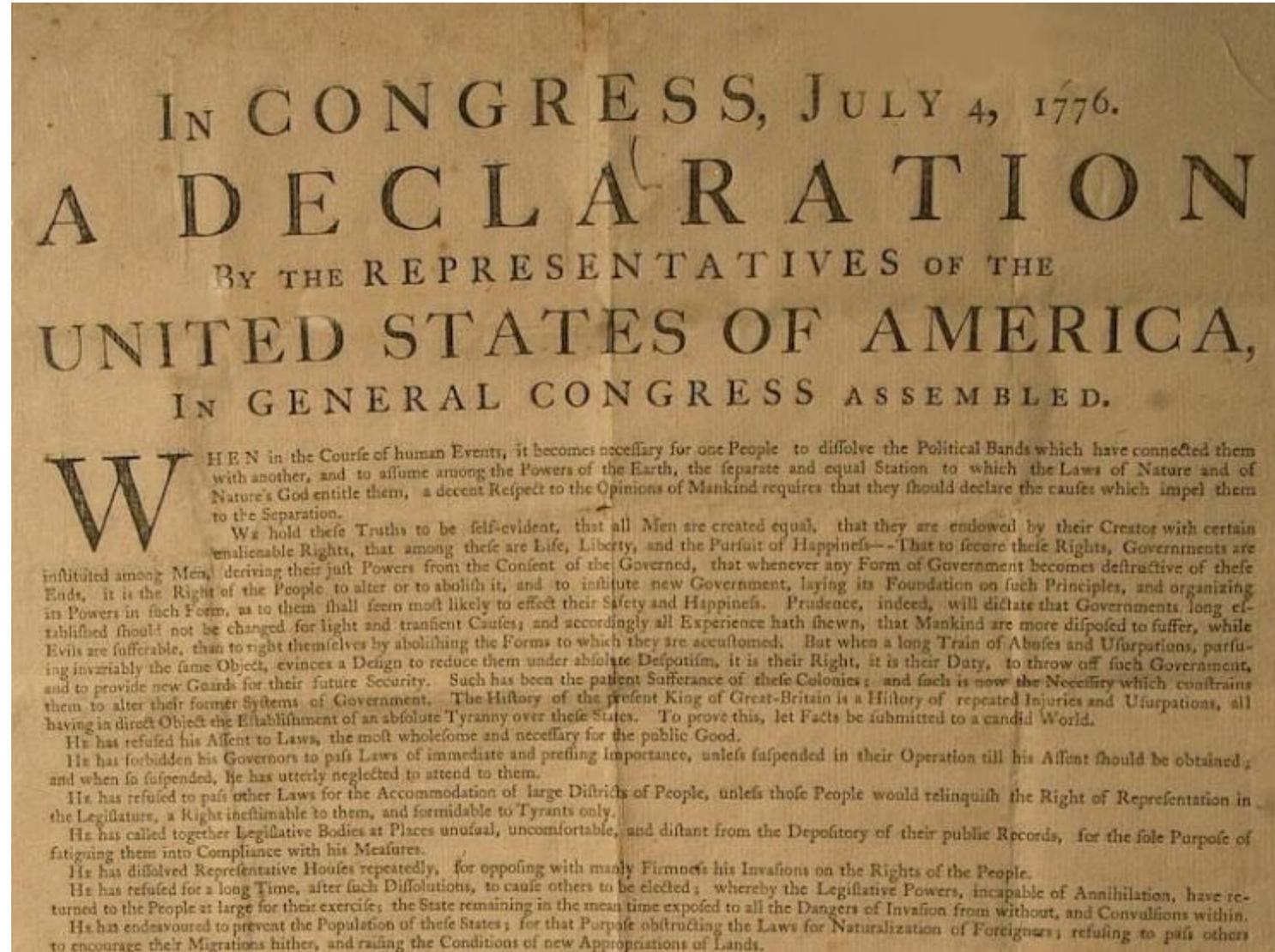
Forming A New Country

- Spring of 1776, the Second Continental Congress meets.
- Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, Robert Livingston, and Roger Sherman are chosen for a committee to draft a document declaring the colonies independence.
- The committee picks Jefferson for his writing talent to prepare the draft.
- Between June 12 and 28, 1776 Jefferson writes the first draft of the **Declaration** of Independence.



A Document Like No Other

- Jefferson drew on the ideals of John Locke and other Enlightenment writers when drafting the Declaration of Independence.
- Franklin and **Adams** were the first to review the draft, after a couple of minor changes it was reviewed by the whole committee.
- The committee presented it to the Congress on June 28th for approval.
- On July 4, 1776, the Congress approved and signed the Declaration of Independence.



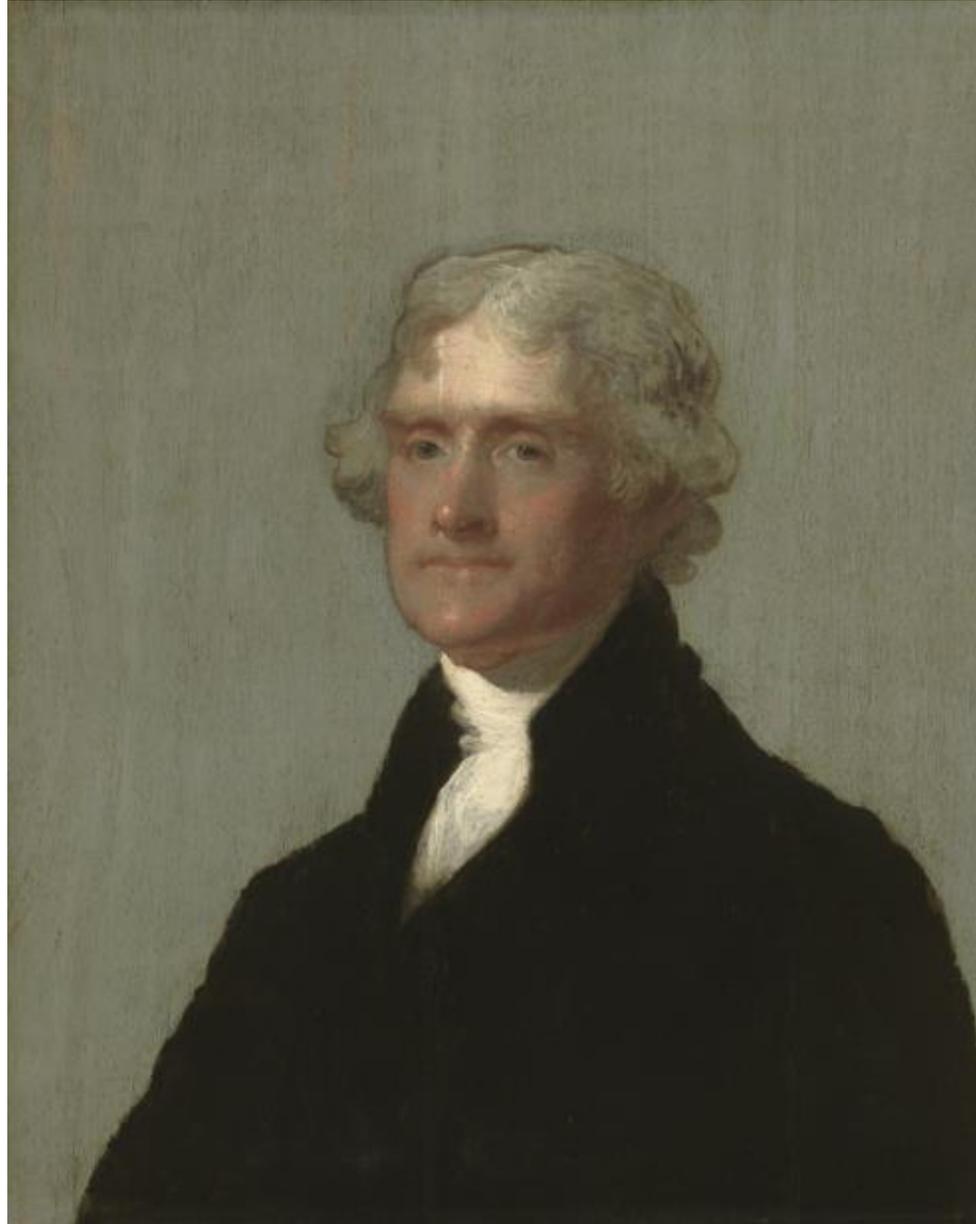
Work To Be Done In Virginia

- Jefferson returned to **Virginia** after the Second Continental Congress and took his place in the House of Delegates.
- During this time he tried to pass laws to separate church and state, provide public **education**, and end slavery. None of the laws were passed.
- Jefferson wrote: *“Above all things I hope the education of the common people will be attended to; convinced that on their good sense we may rely with the most security for the preservation of a due degree of liberty.”*



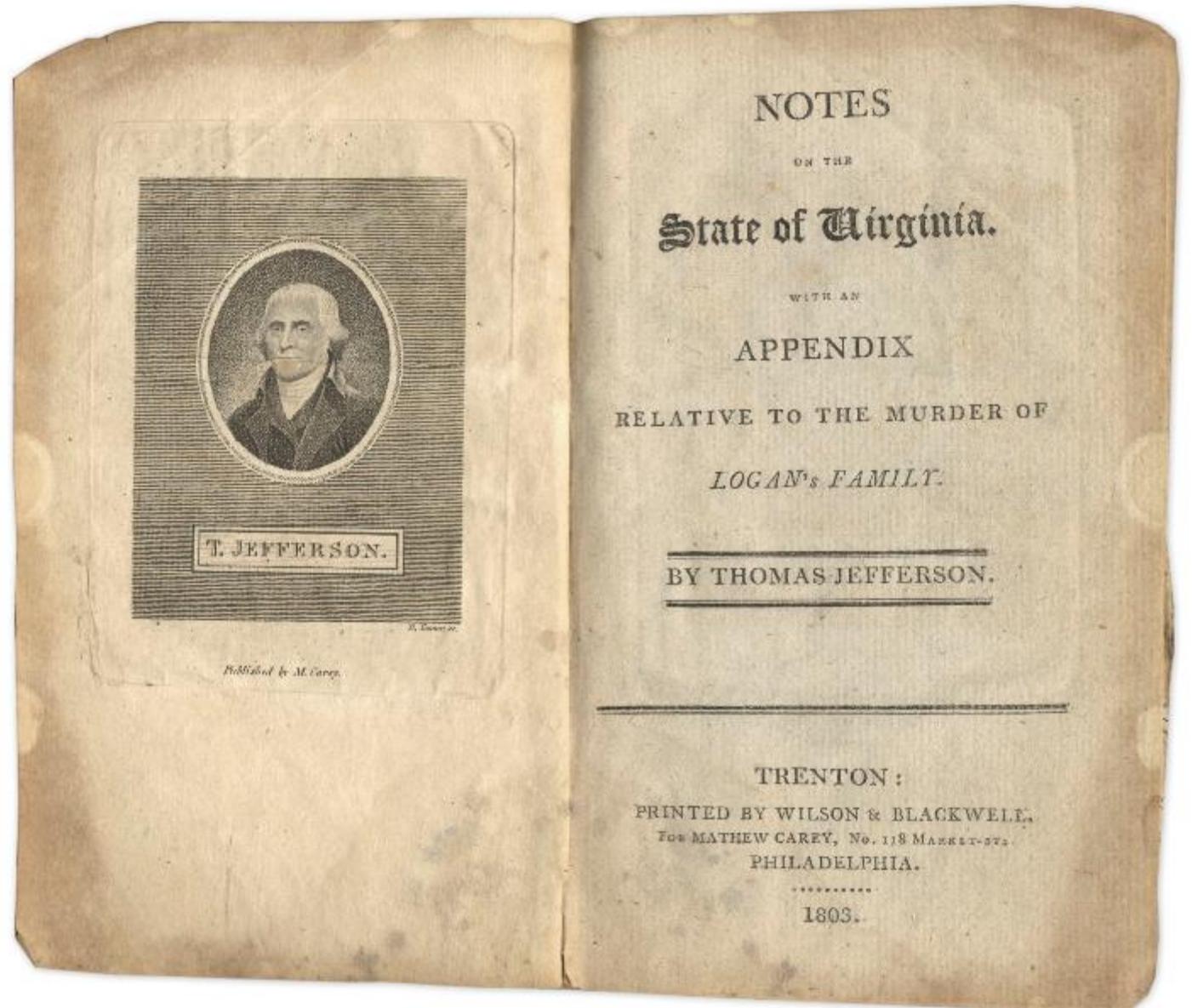
Governor

- In 1779, the legislature elected Jefferson Governor of Virginia, he served two 1 year terms
- Jefferson spent much of his time recruiting new troops to help with the war effort.
- In January 1781, British forces captured and burned Richmond.



Between Governor and Congressman

- Lord Cornwallis, Commander of British forces sent soldiers to capture Jefferson, he escaped only minutes before the soldiers arrived.
- Cornwallis surrendered to General Washington in October 1781 at Yorktown.
- Jefferson writes *Notes on the State of Virginia*.
- On September 6, 1782, Jefferson's wife Martha died after a long illness.



Roles In A New Government

- In June, 1783, Jefferson is appointed to the national Congress, he served in this role until May, 1784.
- Jefferson created a new currency (money) system that we still use today.
- In May, 1784, Congress asked Jefferson to represent the United States in Europe, a year later he was made minister to France.



Minister and Secretary of State

- He served as minister of France for five years, where he saw the opening of the French Revolution.
- Jefferson returned to the U.S. in late 1789.
- Washington as the new President asked Jefferson to be Secretary of State.



Democratic-Republicans/Federalists

- During his time as Secretary of State, Jefferson became a leader of a group who supported the French Revolution.
- Jefferson's group would become the Democratic-Republicans and Hamilton's the Federalists.
- In 1794, both Jefferson and Hamilton gave up their positions on Washington's staff because of their differences.



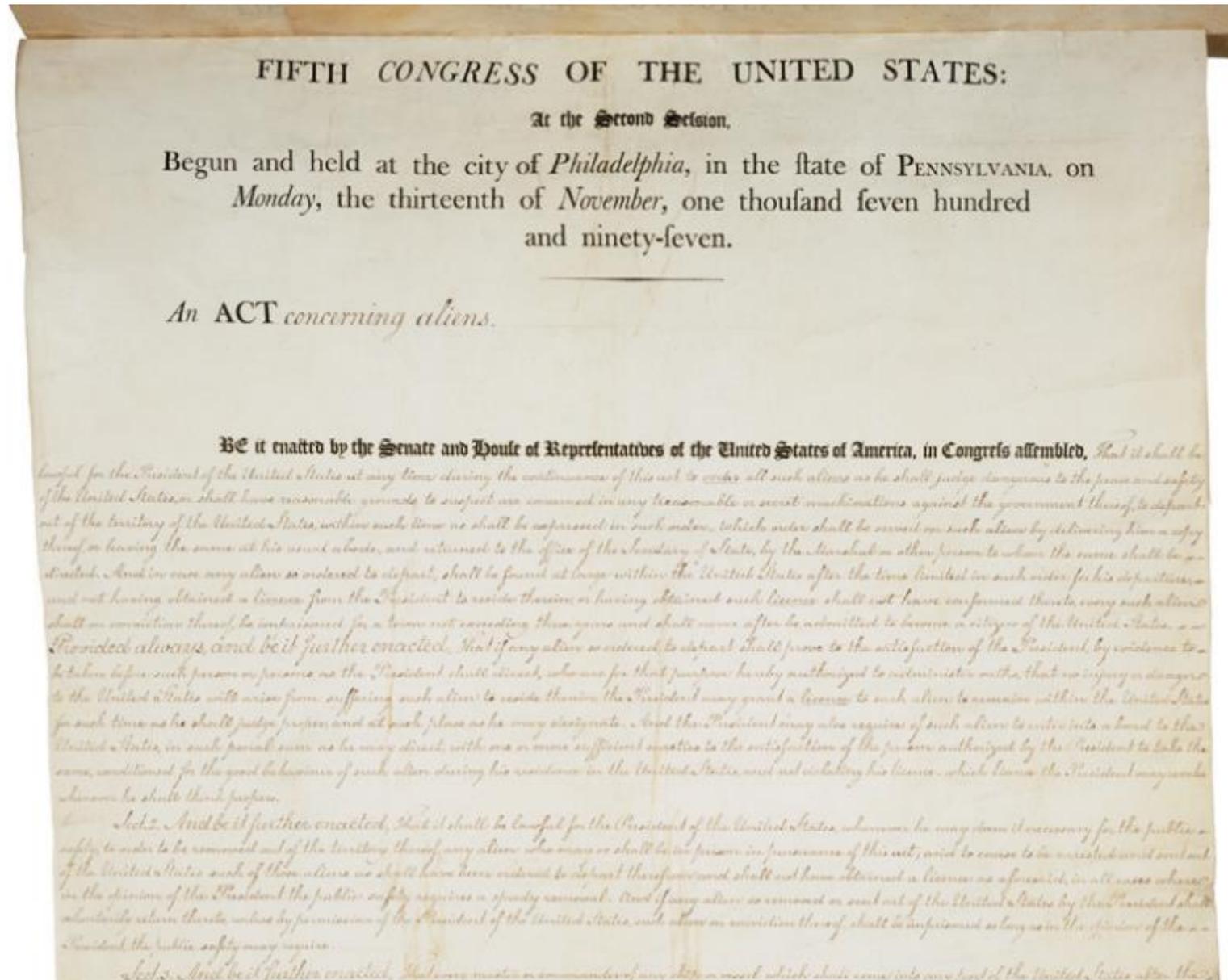
Vice President

- In 1796, Jefferson's supporters talked him into running for President.
- This election would be the first time two political parties would square off.
- Jefferson's friend John Adams would be his opponent.
- Adams won the election, Jefferson received the second amount of votes, making him the Vice President.
- This put Jefferson in a very difficult position, Jefferson and Adams were of different political parties.



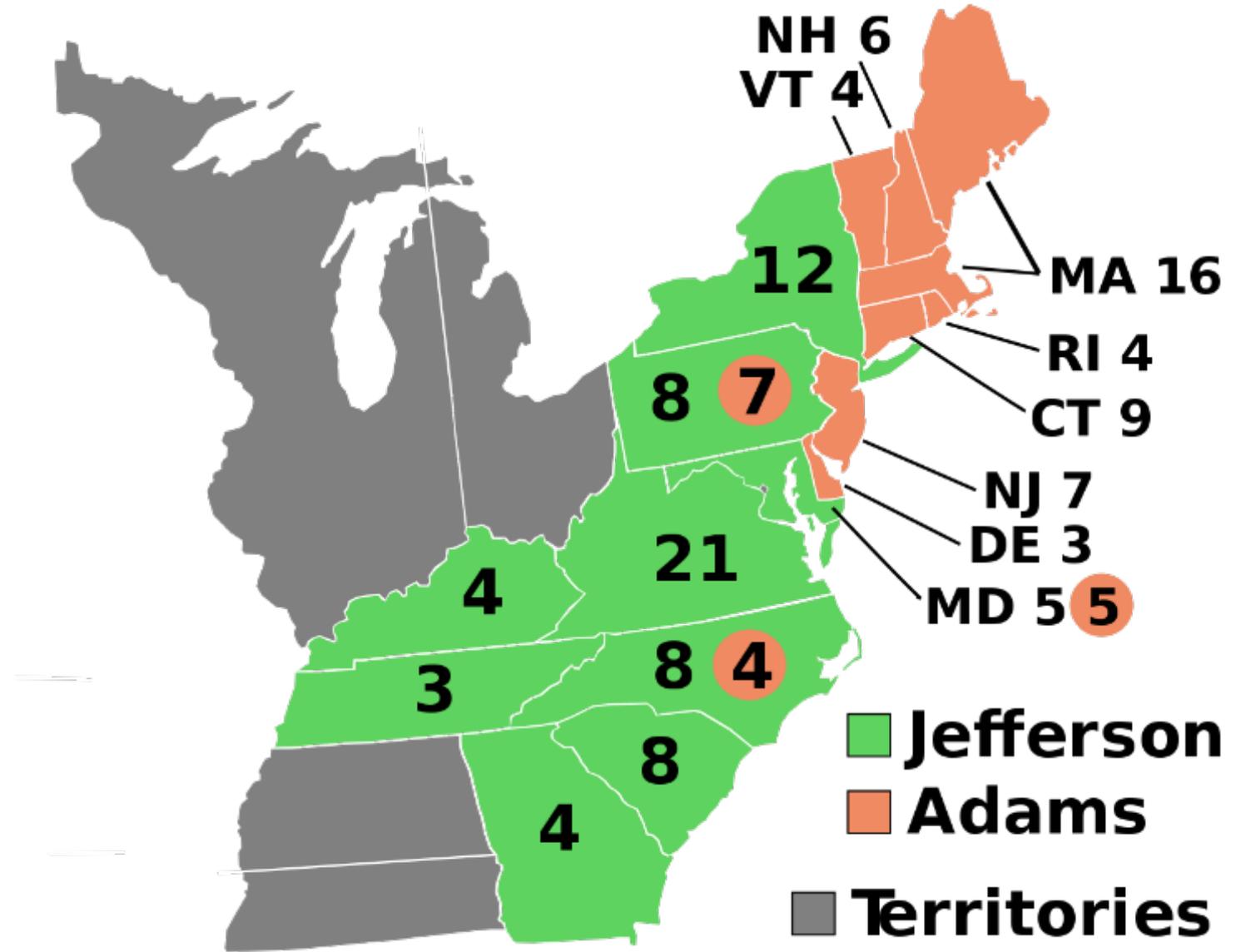
Jefferson Makes A Choice

- The Federalists passed the Alien and Sedition Acts of 1798.
- These acts restricted the activities of foreign residents in the country and limited freedom of speech and of the press.
- Jefferson was against these acts, he felt they went against the Constitution. Jefferson decided to run for President again.



Election of 1800

- The election of 1800 was an ugly affair, with both sides attacking each other.
- The Democratic-Republicans would win the election, but with one problem.
- The electors had two votes, the Democratic-Republican electors cast one vote for Jefferson and one for Aaron Burr, creating a tie.
- The House of Representatives would have to break the tie in a vote. It took 36 tries before Jefferson was elected **President**.



President

- Jefferson became the **Third** President of the United States on March 4, 1801.
- Jefferson would serve two terms as President, March 4, 1801 – March 4, 1809.
- Jefferson's greatest achievement as President was the Louisiana **Purchase**.



Louisiana Purchase

- In the spring of 1803, Jefferson sent James Monroe to France to offer to buy the ports of New Orleans.
- Napoleon surprised Monroe when he offered to sell not only the ports but, the entire **Louisiana** Territory.
- In October, **1803**, the U.S. Senate approved the Louisiana Purchase for about 15 million dollars.



Lewis and Clark

- Soon after the purchase Jefferson asked Meriwether Lewis to organize an expedition.
- On May 14, 1804, **Lewis and Clark** left St. Louis. Their mission was to search for water routes to the Pacific Ocean and note information on animals, plants, and weather.
- On September 23, 1806, Lewis and Clark arrived back in St. Louis.



Retirement

- Jefferson returned to Monticello in March 1809.
- In 1815, he sold his library to Congress for \$24,000, this collection would become the heart of the Library of Congress, which is the largest library in the world.
- Education was still very important to Jefferson, he helped raise funds, designed the buildings and helped plan the courses for the University of Virginia which opened in 1825.



Friends Come Back Together

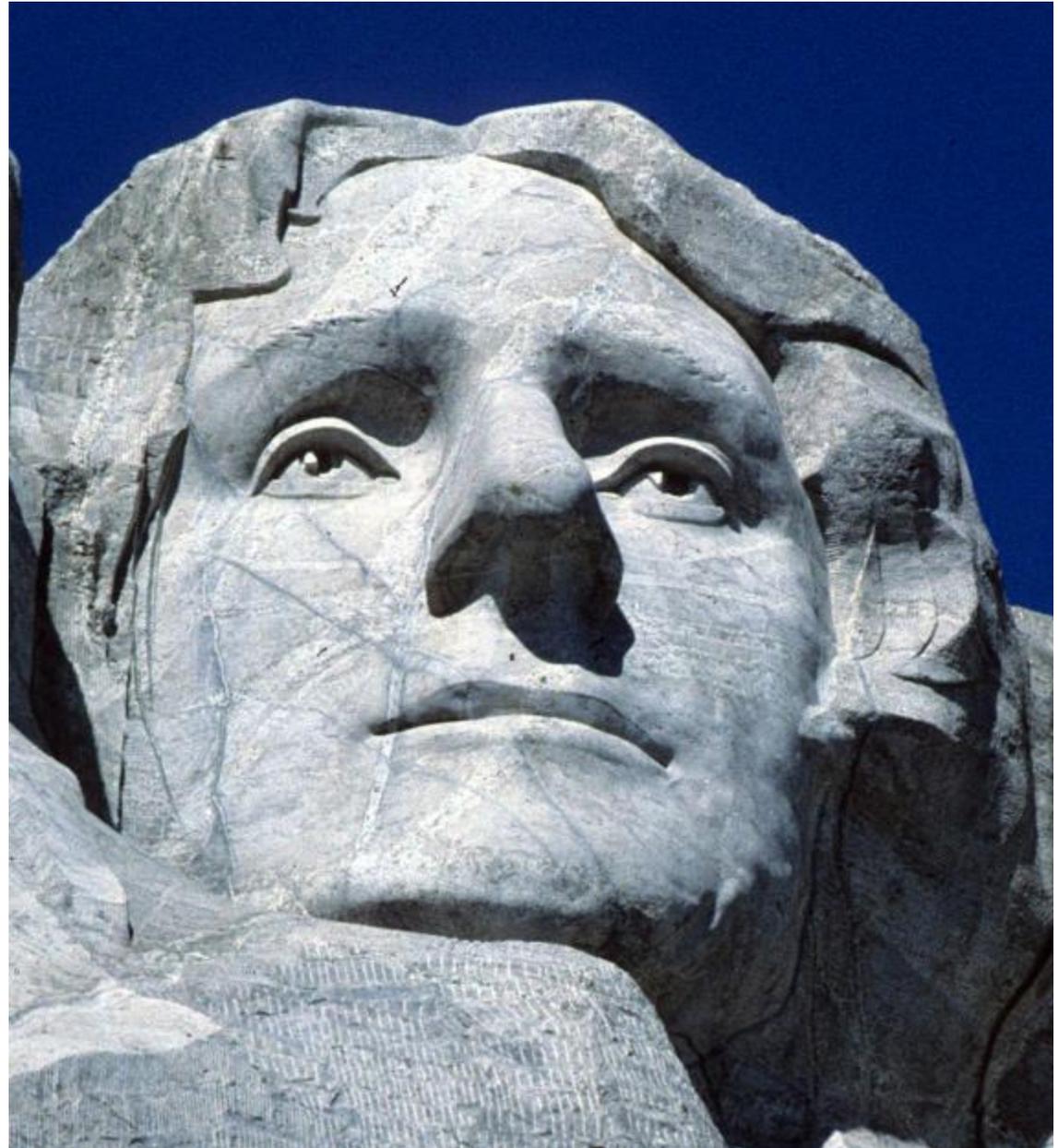
- John Adams and Thomas Jefferson had worked on the Declaration of Independence together, became very close friends when both were in France in the 1780's.
- Their political differences and the ugliness of the 1800 election drove a wedge between these two friends.
- In 1810, Adams reached out to Jefferson, 14 years and more than 150 letters later, these two friends were able to mend old wounds.
- On July 4, 1826, at the age of 83, Thomas Jefferson died. What he did not know was his friend John Adams died earlier that same day.



Conclusion

Thomas Jefferson was the most versatile of our founding fathers, because of the education he received. Education allowed Jefferson to be the author of The Declaration of Independence, a statesman and politician.

He was known throughout the world as a man with a brilliant mind. His strong support of education for everyone is the reason we have public education. Jefferson knew education was the key for a strong America.



Word Bank

JEFFERSON

LOUISIANA

PRESIDENT

LEWIS AND CLARK

PURCHASE

THIRD

ADAMS

DECLARATION

VIRGINIA

EDUCATION

1803