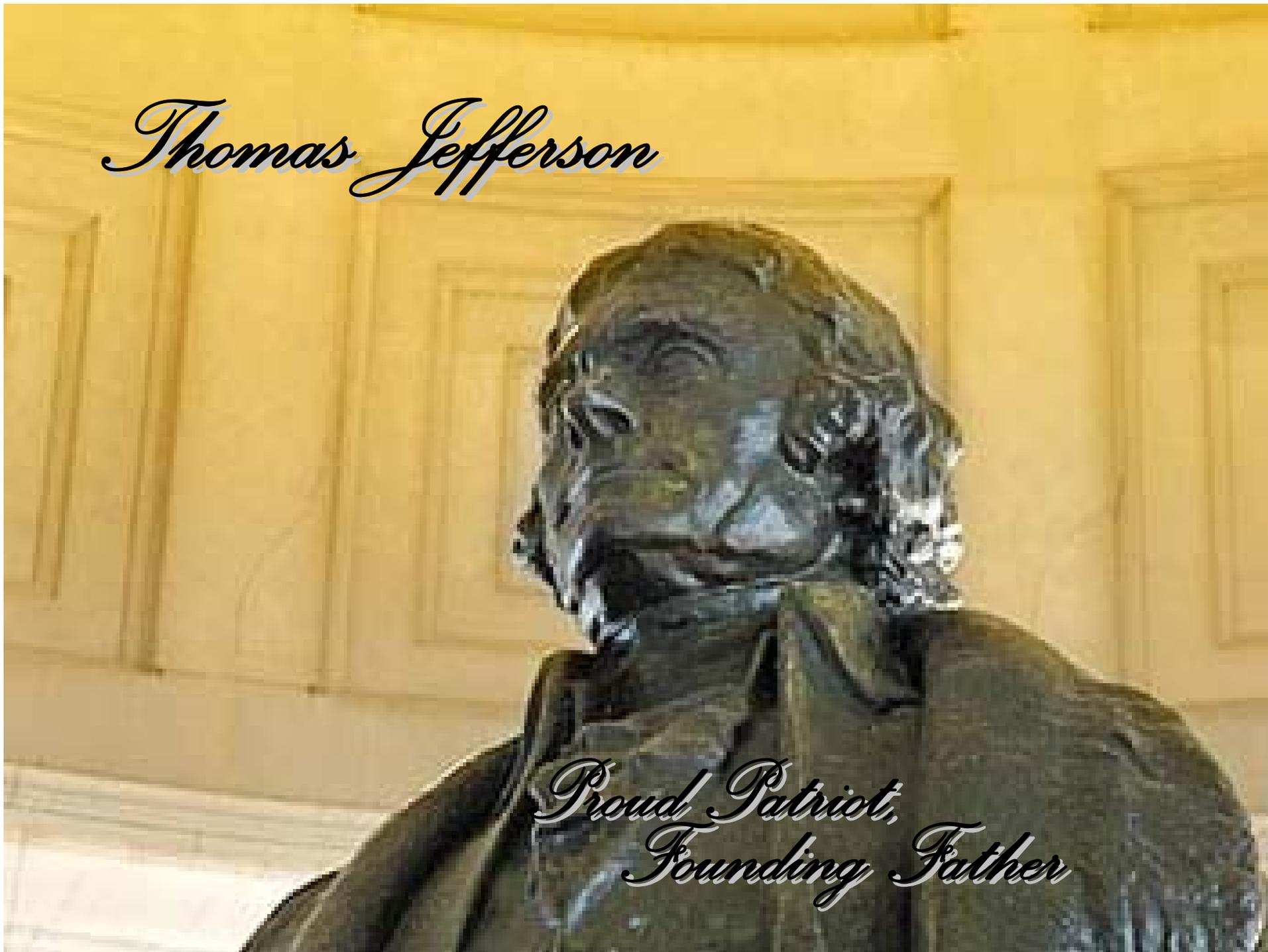


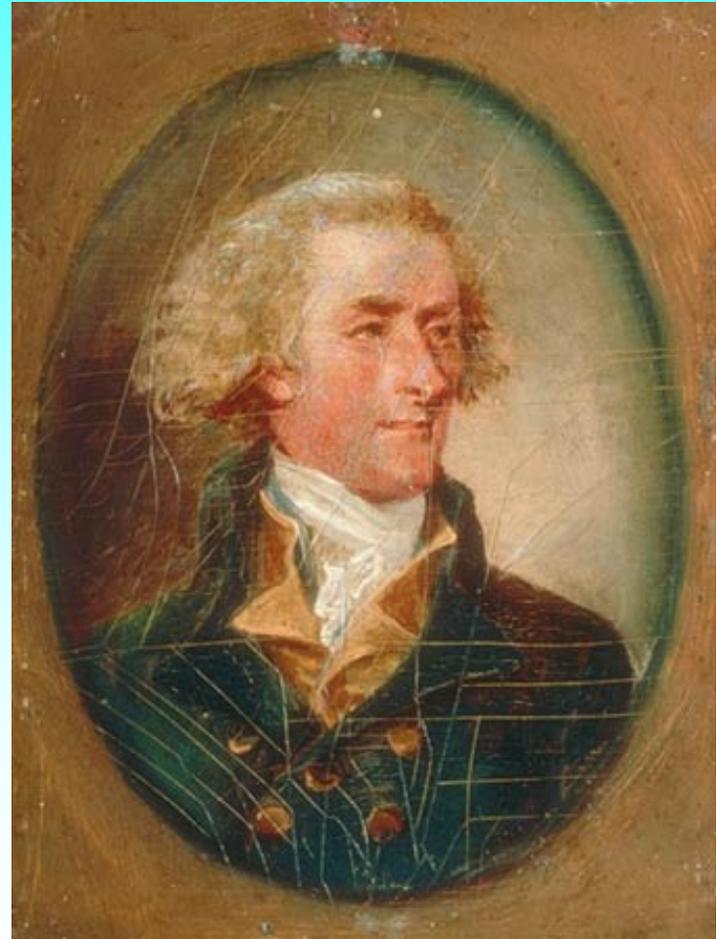
*Thomas Jefferson*

*Proud Patriot,  
Founding Father*



# Meet Thomas Jefferson

- Jefferson was born in the colony of Virginia in 1743, son of a Virginia planter
- Educated at College of William and Mary
- Married Martha Wayles, daughter of a Virginia planter and slave trader



# Jefferson the Slaveowner

- Jefferson's first memory involved slaves on his father's estate
- Jefferson took a slave with him to college at William and Mary
- Owned more slaves prior to his marriage
- Upon the death of his father-in-law, TJ inherited 35 more slaves, as well as his substantial debts
- After he married, he averaged almost 200 slaves

# Jefferson the Lawyer

- Trained for 5 years under George Wythe, then practiced for 7 more years
- Noted for his attention to detail and knowledge of the law
- More of a “paper lawyer” than a “courtroom lawyer”

# Politician

- As one of the planter elite, and trained in the law, the 25-year-old was almost automatically elected (“as a matter of ceremony”) to the Virginia House of Burgesses in 1768
- R.B. Bernstein writes:  
*“Voters, guided by the community’s leading gentlemen, agreed to send the candidate pre-chosen by that group to the House of Burgesses. Candidates treated the voters to drinks, either by rolling large barrels of punch and hard cider on to his lawn or by throwing a party at a convenient tavern.”*

HIS EXCELLENCY  
The Right Honourable NORBORNE  
Baron de BOTETOURT, his Ma-  
jesty's Lieutenant and Governor Ge-  
neral of the Colony and Dominion  
of Virginia, and Vice Admiral of the  
same.

To *Thomas Jefferson Esquire*

BY Virtue of the Power and Authority to me given as his Majesty's Lieutenant and Governor General of this his Colony and Dominion, I, reposing special Trust and Confidence in your Loyalty, Courage and Conduct, do hereby constitute and appoint you the said *Thomas Jefferson* to be Lieutenant of the County of *Albemarle* and Chief Commander of all his Majesty's Militia, Horse and Foot, in the said County of *Albemarle*. And I do give unto you full Power and Authority to command, levy, arm and muster, all Persons which are or shall be liable to be levied and listed in the said County. You are therefore carefully and diligently to discharge the Duty of Lieutenant and Chief Commander of the Militia, by doing and performing all, and all Manner of Things thereunto belonging, particularly by taking care that the said Militia be well provided with Arms and Ammunition as the Law of this Colony directs; and that all Officers and Soldiers be duly exercised, and kept in good Order and Discipline. And in Case of any sudden Disturbance or Invasion, I do likewise empower you to raise, order, and march all or such part of the said Militia, as to you shall seem meet, for resisting and subduing the Enemy: And I do hereby command all the Officers and Soldiers of his Majesty's Militia, in the said County, to obey you as their Lieutenant, or Chief Commander; and you are to observe and follow such Orders and Directions, from Time to Time, as you shall receive from me, or the Commander in Chief of this Colony for the Time being, or from any other your superior Officer, according to the Rules and Discipline of War.

G I V E N under my Hand, and the Seal of the Colony, at WILLIAMSBURG, the *ninth*  
Day of *June* in the *Tenth* Year of his Majesty's Reign, ANNOQUE DOMINI 1770.

*Botetourt*

# Committees of Correspondence

- Virginia Governor Lord Dunmore didn't call the Burgesses to meet very often, but was forced to do so in 1773 after a counterfeiting scandal.
- The House of Burgesses "rebuked him politely for the summary" and formed a Virginia Committee of Correspondence.
- Dunmore dissolved the assembly and sought new elections.

# Why Jefferson Broke With England

- Jefferson was influenced by the ideals of the Enlightenment sweeping leading thinkers in Europe and America, notably John Locke
- Dumas Malone wrote:  
*“Like so many of his ‘enlightened’ contemporaries, Jefferson believed that men had originally...been free to order their own actions and property as they saw fit; that government was instituted among*

# Why Jefferson Broke With England (2)

- *“them in the first place by consent.”*
- *In 1774, “he spoke ‘with that freedom of language and sentiment which becomes a free people claiming their rights, as derived from the laws of nature, and not as the gift of their chief magistrate.’”*

# *Summary View of the Rights of British America*

- As a member of the House of Burgesses, Jefferson wrote instructions to the Virginia delegation of the 1 CC.
- Key arguments included
  - being entitled to the rights of British citizens (taxation by Parliament without representation was illegal)
  - heritage of liberty dating to Saxon times (and British reactions to liberties in the colonies were unjust)

# The 2nd Continental Congress

- Jefferson was an alternate delegate from Virginia, elected in March 1775
- The 5 other members included Washington and Patrick Henry
- Noted as the quietest member after arriving in June
- Reputation as author of the *A Summary View* preceded him, & gave him credentials as a liberal/ radical in favor of independence

# Actions at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Continental Congress, 1775

- June-July. Drafts an address entitled "A Declaration of the Causes & Necessity for Taking Up Arms."
- July. Drafts resolutions in response to British minister Lord North's proposal for reconciliation.
- December 2. Proposes a Congressional resolution calling for the exchange of Ethan Allen, captured by the British at Montreal. Also drafts a declaration in January 1776 on the British treatment of Allen.

# Jefferson- A little "too harsh"

1776. June 22. Congress appointed a committee to prepare a Declaration to be published by Gen<sup>l</sup>. Washington on his arrival at the camp before Proston, to wit. J. Rutledge, W. Livingston, Dr. Franklin, Mr. Jay, & Mr. Johnson.

June 24. a draught was reported

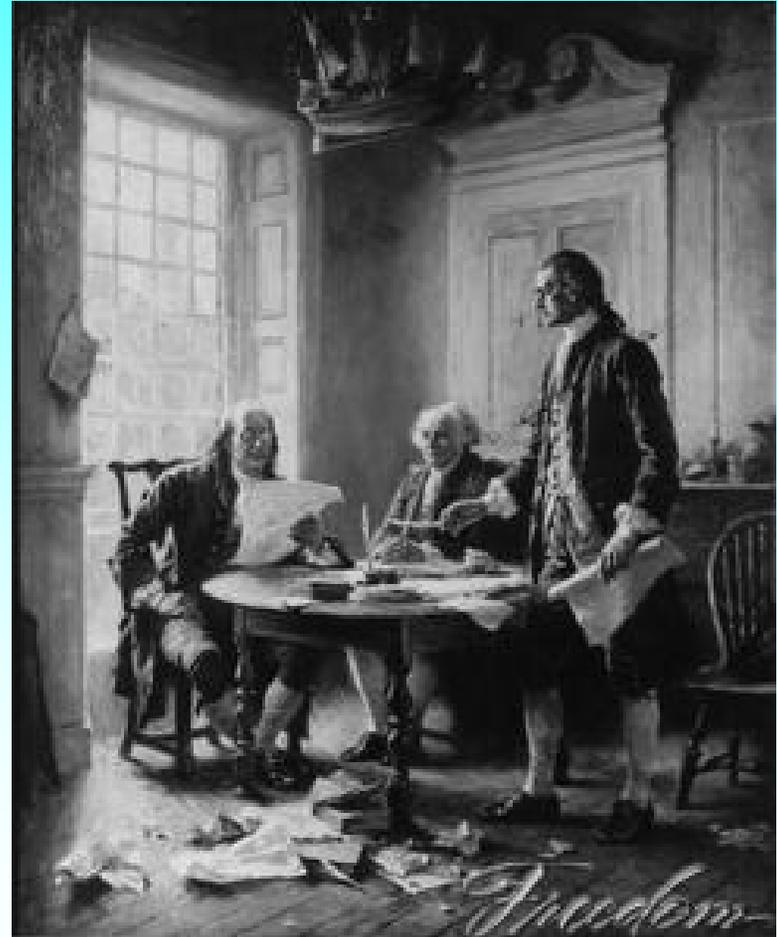
June 26. being disliked it was recommitted to John Dickinson & T. Jefferson added to the committee. The latter being desired by the committee to draw up a new one he prepared this paper. on a meeting of the committee, Dickinson objected that it was too harsh; wanted softening &c. whereupon the committee desired him to retouch it, which he did in the form which they reported July 6. which was adopted by Congress.

# Was John Adams “Da Man”?

- On May 10, 1776, Congress passed a resolution by Adams encouraging states to draft their own constitutions, which would establish them as legally separate independent nations/ states/ countries.
- He later claimed this was the beginning of American independence.

# Drafting the Declaration

- Congress voted in June of 1776 to form a committee to draft a Declaration of Independence.
- Jefferson, Adams, Franklin and two other delegates were chosen; the role of the last two was minimal







# Original vs. Revised Drafts (2a)

- *“These facts have given the last stab to agonizing affection, and manly spirit bids us to renounce for ever these unfeeling brethren. We must endeavor to forget our former love for them, and to hold them as we hold the rest of mankind, enemies in war, in peace friends...Be it so, since they will have it. The road to happiness and to glory is open to us, too. We will tread it apart from them.”*

# Original vs. Revised Drafts (2b)

- Congress took out the section, which bothered Jefferson for years, as he wrote in 1821:
- *“The pusillanimous idea that we had friends in England worth keeping terms with, haunted the minds of many...those passages which conveyed censures on the people of England were struck out, lest they give them offence.”*

# Original vs. Revised Drafts (3)

- Small changes included
  - Taking the word “our” “out of the charge that the King had made ‘our judges dependent on his will alone.’”
  - Jefferson’s charge of “transporting large armies of foreign mercenaries” was added to by inserting “scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous ages.”
- Jefferson seethed as changes were made, but accepted them.

# Jefferson Leaves the 2CC

- Jefferson was eager to leave the Second Continental Congress after the Declaration was presented because
  - His wife, Martha, was in the middle of a difficult pregnancy (third time in 6 years!)
  - He wanted to help draft the Virginia Constitution then underway
- He was obliged to stay so VA's delegation had a quorum (2 members were helping in VA with the new state constitution)
- He was finally able to leave in September 1776.

# The Virginia Constitution/ More Service

- Jefferson had been sending drafts to Williamsburg while at the 2CC, his last did not reach the convention until one was already adopted
- Elected to Virginia's lower house, he championed the end of the rights of *entail* and *primogeniture*.
- He fought for public education and law reform.

# Virginia Governor

- In 1779, 36-year-old TJ succeeded Thomas Paine as governor of VA.
- Jefferson had a decent working relationship with the state legislature, which helped him by creating departments to help with finance and defense
- Jefferson faced strong demands for troops and financing on two fronts from the fledgling nation at war and needs at home.

# The Invasion of Virginia

- In Dec. 1780/ Jan. 1781, Virginia was invaded from two directions, with forces under Generals Charles Cornwallis and Benedict Arnold
- The largest threat came from British Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton, whose cavalry was intent on capturing TJ and the capitol

# War Comes to Virginia, End of Governorship

- TJ evacuated the state government from Richmond (the new capitol) to Staunton, and arranged for his family's safe evacuation before leaving the capitol.
- Monticello was briefly held, resulting in the loss of slaves and property.
- Jefferson's term expired during this time, and with the crisis, he simply went home.

# Jefferson Leaves Politics



- Seen by his enemies as abandoning the state during a crisis, an investigation was launched, but died after the victory at Yorktown signaled an end to war that year.
- Jefferson retired a bitter man.

# Still Retired

- Jefferson refused to be drawn back into politics, including a request from Congress that he help negotiate the peace treaty with England
- Martha's death in 1782 further strengthened his resolve to stay at Monticello.

