

WebQuest on Jefferson's Blood Project Instructions

TASK: In groups of two or three, students are to review the Web Site "www.PBS/WGBH/Frontline/...) and explore the importance of the Jefferson-Hemmings affair on American history. Is Jefferson's liaison with this black female slave important to our national memory? Why or why not?

Each student group is to create a multi-media presentation (tri-fold, video or Power Point presentation) of about five minutes. Students must be prepared with 3 x 5 cards prior to presenting.

Each group must present a 700 word (minimum) paper that describes findings and understandings. This should be typed and double-spaced.

TOPICS:

- Our Jefferson: A Stanford Historian Discusses the Affair
- The History of a Secret: Rumors and Innuendo
- The Hemmings Side of the Story
- The Jeffersons Side of the Story
- Slave narratives
- The Critical Role of DNA in proving the affair
- George (Washington) and Venus
- Was it Love or Rape?
- Who Was Really Hemmings? A Heroine or Victim?
- Were the Rumors True? Did the Affair Occur?
- Dissenting Views (TJ's paternity was not "proven")
- Dr. George Foster, the Scientists who Broke the Code, Who Was He?
- Was Dr. Foster's Research Reliable?
- X and Y Chromosomes: How Does the Science Reveal the Truth?
- Mapping the Y Chromosome
- Lucian Truscott, A White Descendant of TJ, Responds
- Joe Ellis; A Historian Admits his Mistake, Sort of
- The White Jeffersons: The Family Creates a Lie (by Jan Lewis)
- James Thomas Callendar, a Journalist, "Outs" Jefferson in 1802
- John H. Works, a Jefferson Descendant, Dissents
- A Jefferson Family Historian Still Opposes the Report
- Thomas Woodson and Family Stand by Their Still Unsubstantiated Claim that they are Black descendants of Jefferson
- Michelle Cooley Quille Proclaims her mixed race ancestry and connection to Thomas Jefferson
- Interracial Sex in Chesapeake Virginia and Plantation Society
- Was Jefferson's Secret Really a Secret? Honor and Sex in Colonial Virginia

- Black Americans and the Founding Father (TJ) by Annette Gordon Reed
- Annette Gordon Reed Responds (The premier black historian and lawyer who made the case that TJ was the father of Hemmings children)
- Radical and Racist: A Modern Historian argues against Jefferson's Legacy
- Jefferson's Writings on Race
- Slaves at Monticello
- Slave Narratives
- The Peculiar Institution
- Slaves in the Family (1873)
- Madison Heming's Memoir
- Israel Jefferson's Memoir (1873)
- Peter Fosset's Memoir
- Monticello's Overseer Speaks
- Getting the Word Out Monticello's Enslaved Families' Memoirs
- Ex Slaves Interviewed in 1930's
- Rare Writings From Slave Women
- Africans in America: Important Historical Documents, Important People and Events, Modern Views.
- African American Odyssey
- Slaves in the Family: Edwin Ball's Family Legacy
- Defining Race
- Forbidden Love
- Passing for White
- The One Drop Rule
- Lawrence Wright on "One Drop of Blood"
- Census 2000: Check All Races that Apply (not an "other")
- Census: Should There be a "Multi-racial? Category?"
- Living vs. Virginia: The Supreme Court and Miscegenation Laws
- Pace vs. Alabama and Laws on Interracial Sex
- The Secret Daughter: The Story of June Cross (daughter of a famous Hollywood father and a black woman)
- The Legacy of Passing (for White)
- Fading to White
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