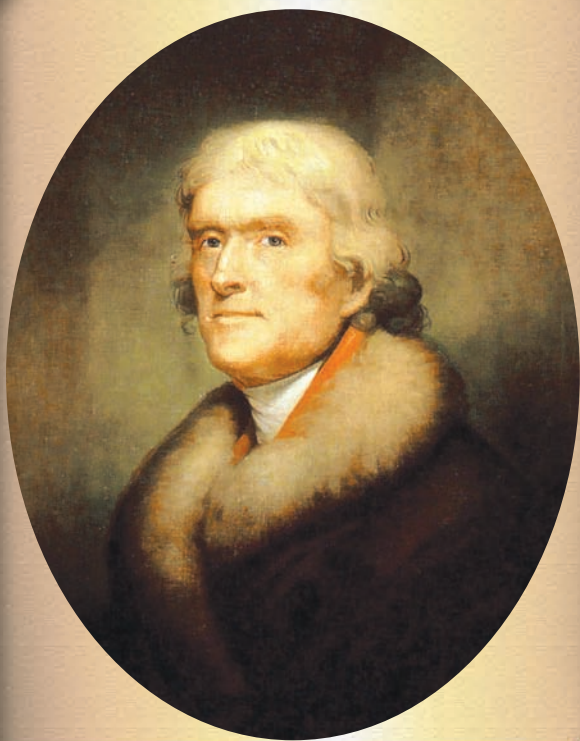


Profiles in American History

The Life and Times of

THOMAS JEFFERSON

Russell Roberts





Copyright © 2007 by Mitchell Lane Publishers, Inc. All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced without written permission from the publisher. Printed and bound in the United States of America.

Printing 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Roberts, Russell, 1953–

The life and times of Thomas Jefferson / by Russell Roberts.

p. cm. — (Profiles in American history)

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 1-58415-439-X (library bound)

1. Jefferson, Thomas, 1743–1826—Juvenile literature. 2. Presidents—United States—Biography—Juvenile literature. I. Title. II. Series.

E332.79.R63 2007

973.4'6092—dc22

2006006110

ISBN-10: 1-58415-439-X

ISBN-13: 9781584154396

ABOUT THE AUTHOR: **Russell Roberts** has written and published nearly 40 books for adults and children on a variety of subjects, including baseball, memory power, business, New Jersey history, and travel. The lives of American figures of distinction is a particular area of interest for him. He has written numerous books for Mitchell Lane Publishers, including *Nathaniel Hawthorne*, *George Rogers Clark*, *Holidays and Celebrations in Colonial America*, *Daniel Boone*, and *The Lost Continent of Atlantis*. He lives in Bordentown, New Jersey, with his family and a fat, fuzzy, and crafty calico cat named Rusti.

PHOTO CREDITS: Cover, pp. 1, 16, 22, 26, 29—Library of Congress; p. 6—West Point Museum Art Collection/United States Military Academy; pp. 15, 36—Barbara Marvis; p. 40—Sharon Beck.

PUBLISHER'S NOTE: This story is based on the author's extensive research, which he believes to be accurate. Documentation of such research is contained on page 46.

The internet sites referenced herein were active as of the publication date. Due to the fleeting nature of some web sites, we cannot guarantee they will all be active when you are reading this book.

PLB

Profiles in American History

Contents

Chapter One	
The Enemy Approaches.....	7
*FYInfo: Poplar Forest.....	9
Chapter Two	
Gentleman Farmer.....	11
FYInfo: Patrick Henry.....	17
Chapter Three	
Revolution at Home and Abroad.....	19
FYInfo: Jefferson, Slavery, and Sally Hemings.....	25
Chapter Four	
Hamilton and Home.....	27
FYInfo: The Federalist Party.....	35
Chapter Five	
President Jefferson.....	37
FYI Info: The Lewis and Clark Expedition.....	42
Chapter Notes.....	43
Chronology.....	44
Timeline in History.....	45
Further Reading.....	46
For Young Adults.....	46
Works Consulted.....	46
On the Internet.....	46
Glossary.....	47
Index.....	48
*For Your Information	





The Enemy Approaches

It was sunrise in early June 1781. The Revolutionary War between Britain and the United States was raging. As part of England's strategy to try to snuff out the American rebellion in the south, British troops had invaded Virginia and forced the state government to scatter from Richmond to Charlottesville. Thomas Jefferson, the governor of Virginia, was near Charlottesville in his stately home, Monticello. With him were Patrick Henry and several other Virginia legislators.

Unexpectedly, in the early daylight, a rider on horseback galloped up to Monticello. His horse was panting heavily as the rider dismounted and scrambled up to the door, a look of extreme anxiety on his face.

The rider was Captain Jack Jouett of the Virginia militia, his young face streaked with angry red cuts and welts from whipping past branches and bushes in his race through the darkened forest to Monticello. He had overheard the dreaded British Green Dragoons' plans to try to capture Jefferson and the legislators. Immediately, Jouett had mounted his horse and risked a gallop through the forest at night to warn them.

The governor did not panic. Quickly he sent his wife and young daughters away from Monticello and arranged the transfer of the state government to the town of Staunton. Then, telescope by his side, he spent the next few hours arranging for the safety of his most

important papers. According to one story, he even sat down and had breakfast.

Periodically Jefferson used the telescope to search the forests and brush of Monticello for any signs that enemy troops were approaching. At the same time two of Jefferson's slaves, Martin and Caesar, were trying to hide as many of Monticello's valuables as possible under the floor of the front portico of the house. Martin stood on the portico above and handed the items down to Caesar. They knew that at any minute, British soldiers could burst from the trees and take everyone in the house as prisoner.

Suddenly Jefferson stiffened. He had been looking through the telescope when he saw the familiar green and red uniforms of the British dragoons begin the climb up the hill to Monticello. The enemy was fast approaching.

Jefferson still did not panic. However, he realized time was running out. He mounted his horse and rode off into the distance, out of danger. Meanwhile, Martin knew that the British troops were close by. He lowered the porch plank back into place before letting Caesar come out. Caesar remained in that dark hole, without food or water, for the next eighteen hours.

Jefferson had done the best he could under difficult circumstances. As he rode away, he had no way of knowing that the episode would come back to haunt him in later years. It would be a major stain upon an otherwise superb record of public service . . . and would almost cost him the United States presidency.

You've Just Finished your Free Sample

Enjoyed the preview?

Buy: <http://www.ebooks2go.com>