

Thomas Jefferson - A Case for Paternity Testing



Thomas Jefferson (1743-1819), the third President of the United States, is credited with many great accomplishments, including the Declaration of Independence, the Louisiana Purchase, the Lewis and Clark expedition and the founding of the University of Virginia.

Contrasting these great triumphs was the accusation in 1802, during his first term as President, that he had fathered illegitimate children with Sally Hemings, a slave at his home, Monticello.

While this has remained a subject of controversy for over two centuries, a DNA study, reported in the journal *Nature*, provides strong evidence indicating that Thomas Jefferson fathered at least one and most likely all six of Sally Hemings' children.

Y Chromosome

Every individual is a mosaic of their mother and father resulting from a blending of the DNA they receive from each. An exception is the Y chromosome, which is found only in men and is passed down unchanged from father to son just like a surname. Any sons a man fathers will also carry this identical Y chromosome, making it easy to track through generations.

DNA Study

In order for Y chromosome analysis to answer the question of paternity, an unbroken line of male descendants from both Jefferson and Hemings' sons was required. As Jefferson's only son by his wife died in childhood, the investigators used descendants of Field Jefferson, the president's paternal uncle.

The study compared nineteen (19) genetic markers on the Y chromosome from five Jefferson descendants and one male line descendent of Eston Hemings, Sally Hemings' last son, born in 1808. Analysis of the Jefferson and Hemings lines revealed an identical genetic match of a distinct genetic profile that is conserved within the Jefferson family.

The Thomas Jefferson Foundation, who owns and operates Monticello, commissioned a research committee to evaluate the DNA study. The committee concluded there was a high probability that Thomas Jefferson fathered Eston Hemings, and that he most likely was the father of all six of Sally Hemings' children appearing in Jefferson's estate records.

Setting the Standard for Quality DNA Identification



Chromosomal Laboratories, Inc.
1825 W. Crest Lane
Phoenix, AZ 85027
877.434.0292
623.434.0292
FAX: 623.321.6118
www.chromosomal-labs.com
info@chromosomal-labs.com

VPBD050205.1