

Thomas Jefferson.

Democratic-Republican.

Principal author of the Declaration of Independence.

Founding father. 2nd Vice President.

First president who had previously been a governor (Virginia) and to have previously served as secretary of state.

First president whose election was decided in the House of Representatives.

First president to defeat an incumbent president.

First president inaugurated in Washington, DC.

First president to deliver a State of the Union Address.

First president to have an inaugural parade, which occurred during his second inauguration.

Helped found the University of Virginia.

As a result of the Louisiana Purchase the country doubled in size during his presidency.

He was quite the gourmand especially after serving as minister to France before elected president.

He helped popularize foods, macaroni and cheese, ice cream, having recipes recorded for both.

He is also credited with encouraging American enthusiasm for vanilla and french fries.

He was a gardener and cultivated tomatoes, which weren't as popular at the time because many believed them to be poisonous.

He tried unsuccessfully to start a vineyard but the European grape varietals did not flourish in the American soil.

He had several children with his slave Sally Hemings, who many historians believe was the half-sister of Jeffersons' wife Martha Wales. Martha's father John Wayles, had an affair with Sally's mother, Elizabeth Hemings.

Died on the 4th of July, 1826, the same day as his political nemesis John Adams, which was the 50th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence.

Thomas Jefferson specifically instructed that his role as the 3rd President of the United States not be mentioned on his gravestone. Before his death on July 4, 1826, he left a sketch and detailed notes for an obelisk, stating that only three achievements should be inscribed "and not a word more". They are his authorship of the Declaration of Independence, the Statute of Virginia that guaranteed religious freedom and his founding of the University of Virginia in 1819. There is no mention of him being President on his gravestone.

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness"

Declaration of Independence