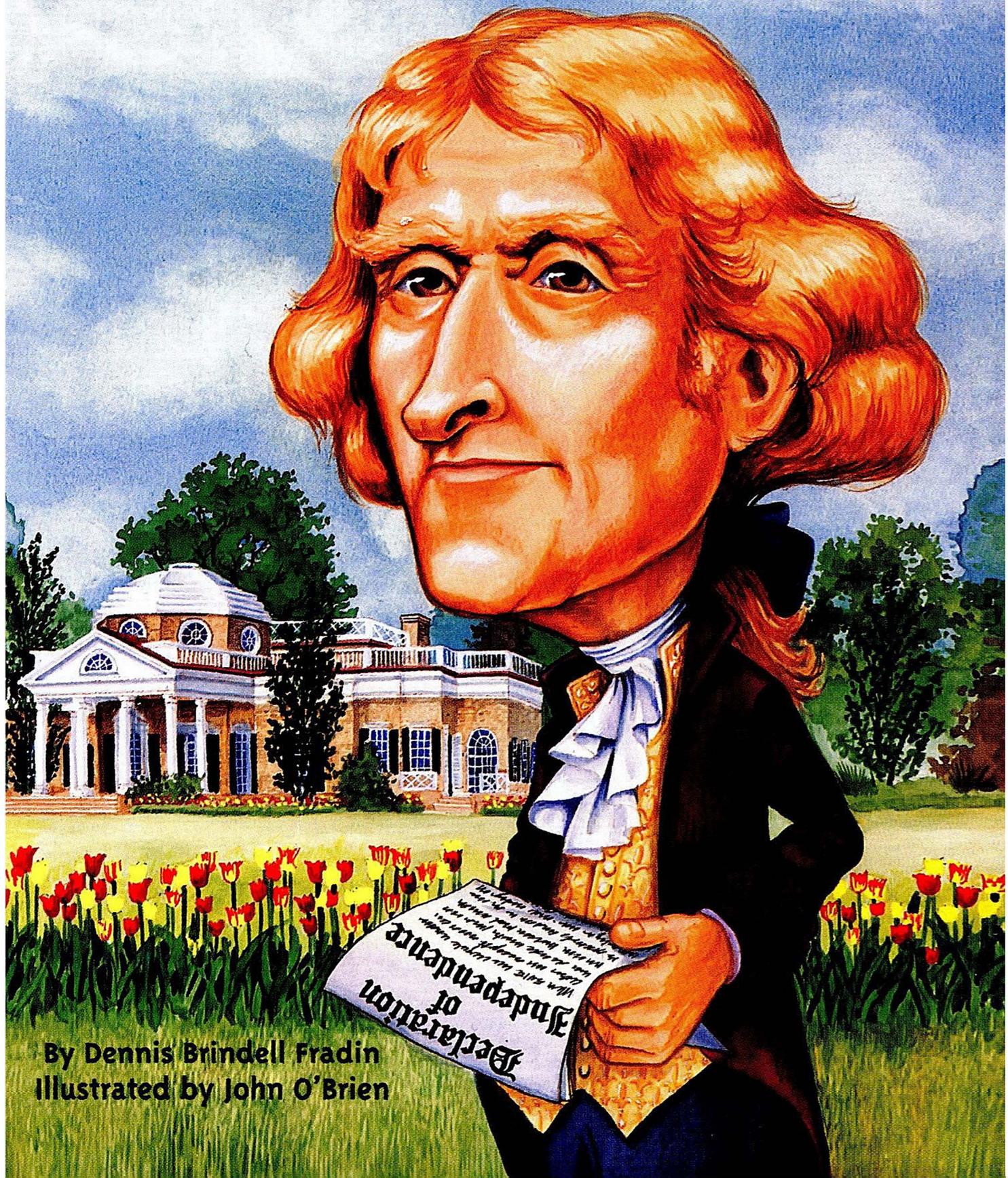


# Who Was Thomas Jefferson?



By Dennis Brindell Fradin  
Illustrated by John O'Brien

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Grosset & Dunlap • New York

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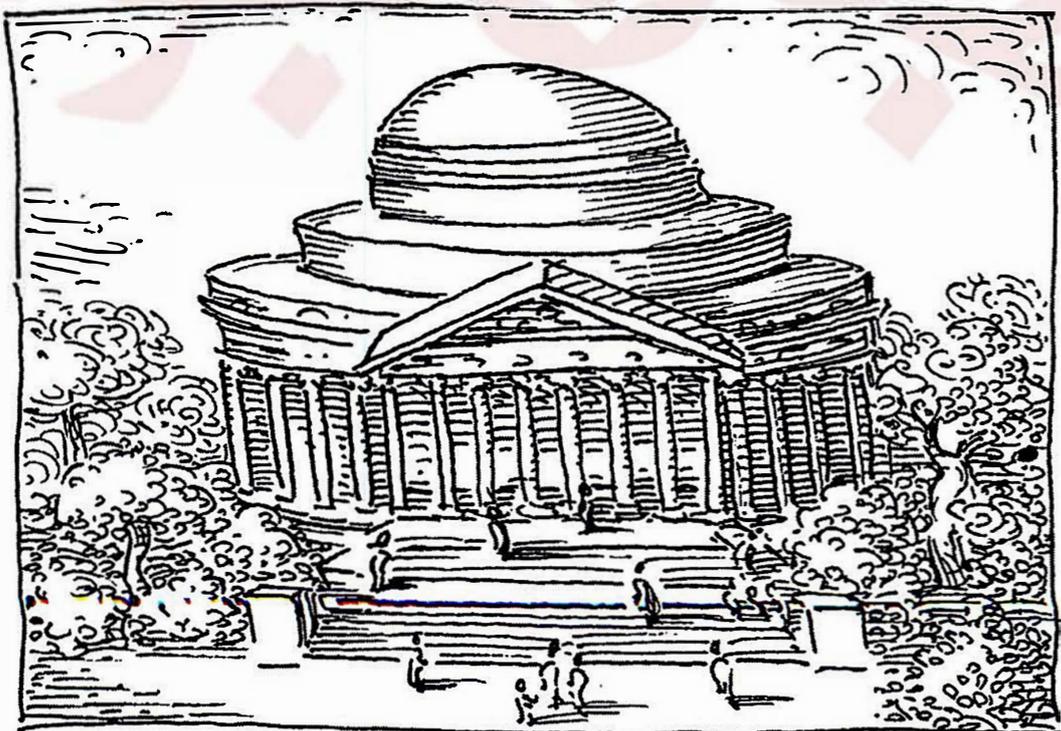
## Who Was Thomas Jefferson?

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Thomas Jefferson is pictured on U.S. nickels. He is also portrayed on the giant Mount Rushmore sculpture in South Dakota. The Jefferson Memorial is a popular landmark in Washington, D.C. Jefferson City, Missouri, and Mount Jefferson in Oregon are among the many places named for him.

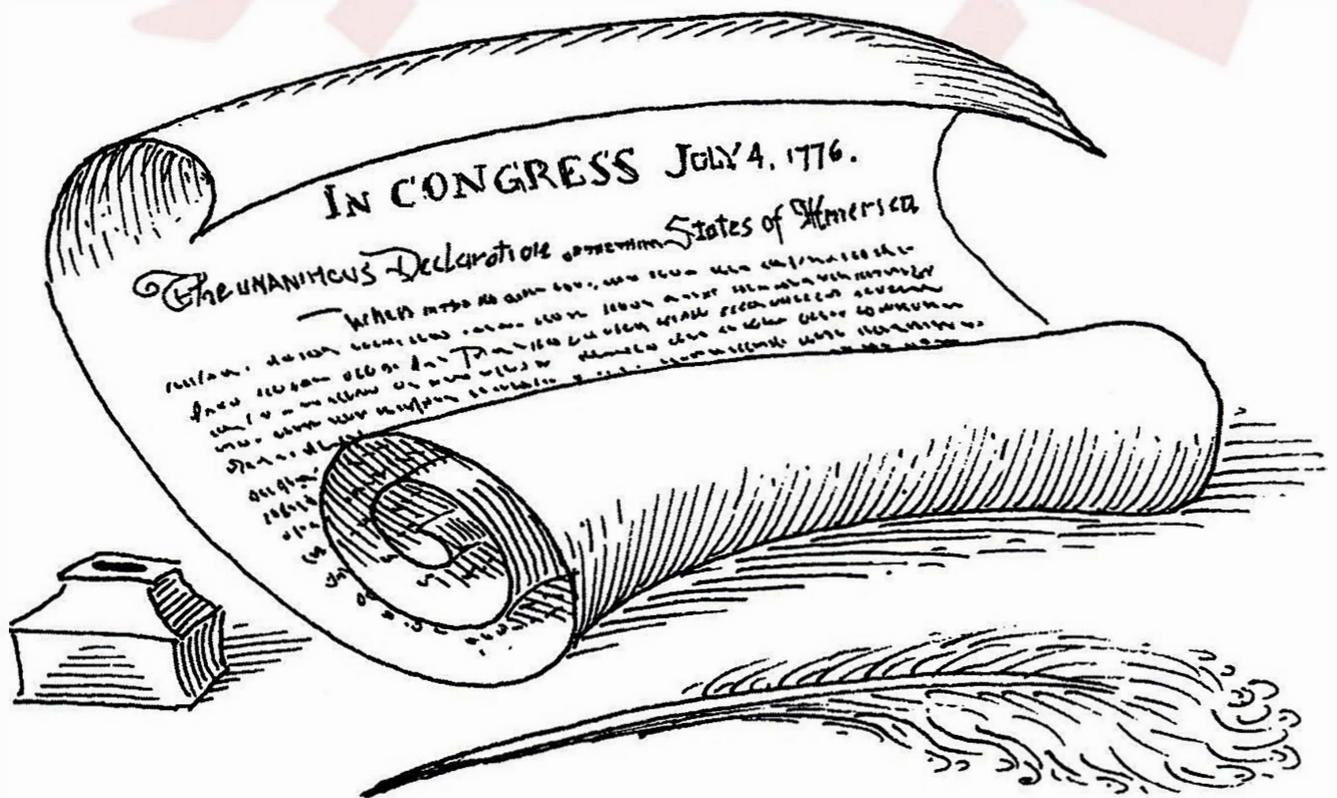


JEFFERSON MEMORIAL

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Why is Thomas Jefferson honored in all these ways?

He wrote the Declaration of Independence. This paper announced the birth of the United States in 1776. Its stirring words, such as “all men are created equal,” have inspired people for more than 225 years.



Jefferson was a giant in many fields. A great statesman, he was our third President. A gifted architect, he designed Virginia's statehouse and the

University of Virginia campus. People called him “Mr. Mammoth” because he collected prehistoric bones. His book collection became the core of the Library of Congress.

Despite his many public triumphs, Jefferson’s private life was often sad. His wife, Martha, died at the age of only thirty-three. Only two of Thomas and Martha’s six children lived to adulthood. Jefferson also felt guilty that he didn’t live by his own words. The man who wrote, “all men are created equal,” owned hundreds of slaves. And toward the end of his life, the former President landed deeply in debt.

This is the true story of a man with many sides: Thomas Jefferson.

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## Chapter 1 Tall Tom

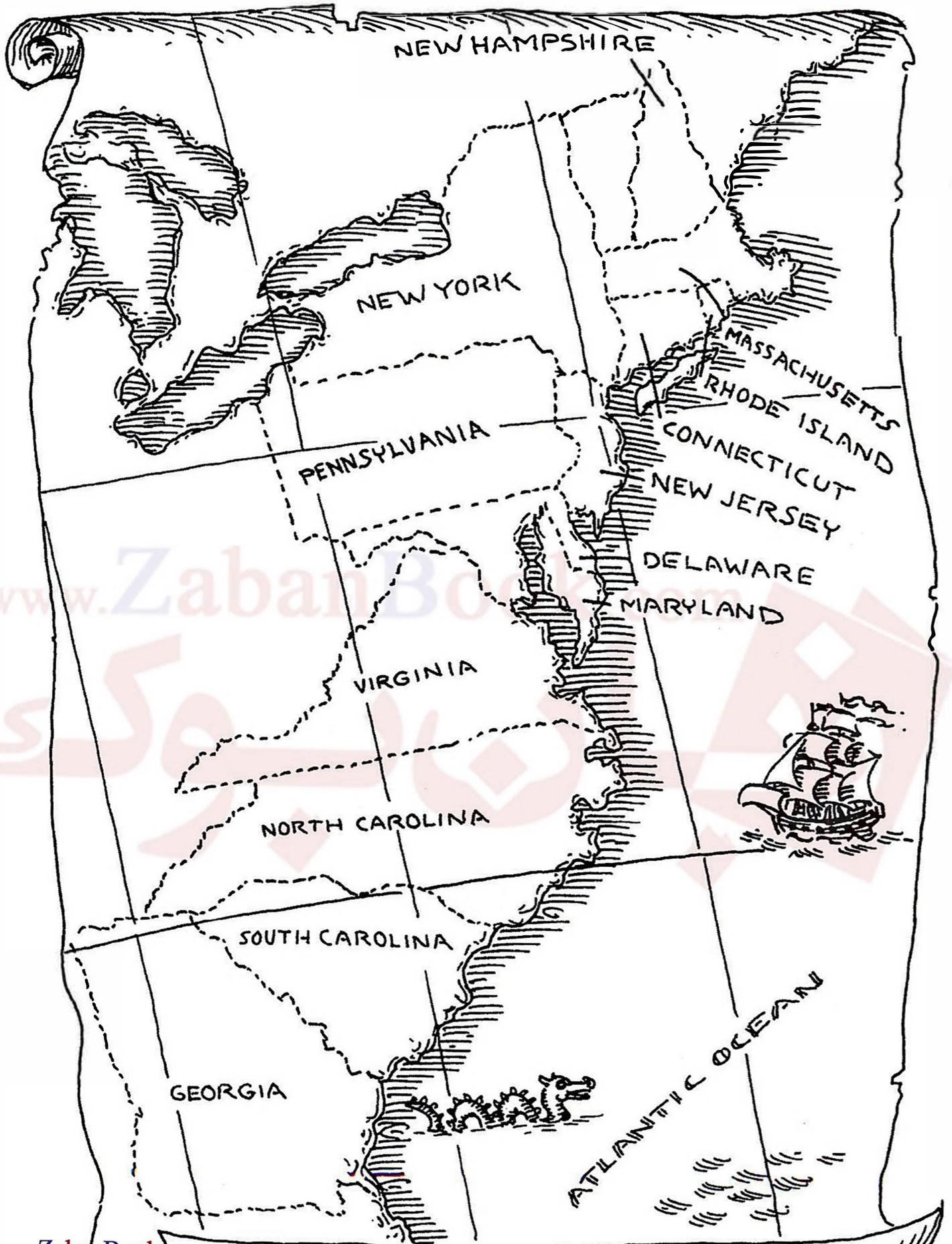
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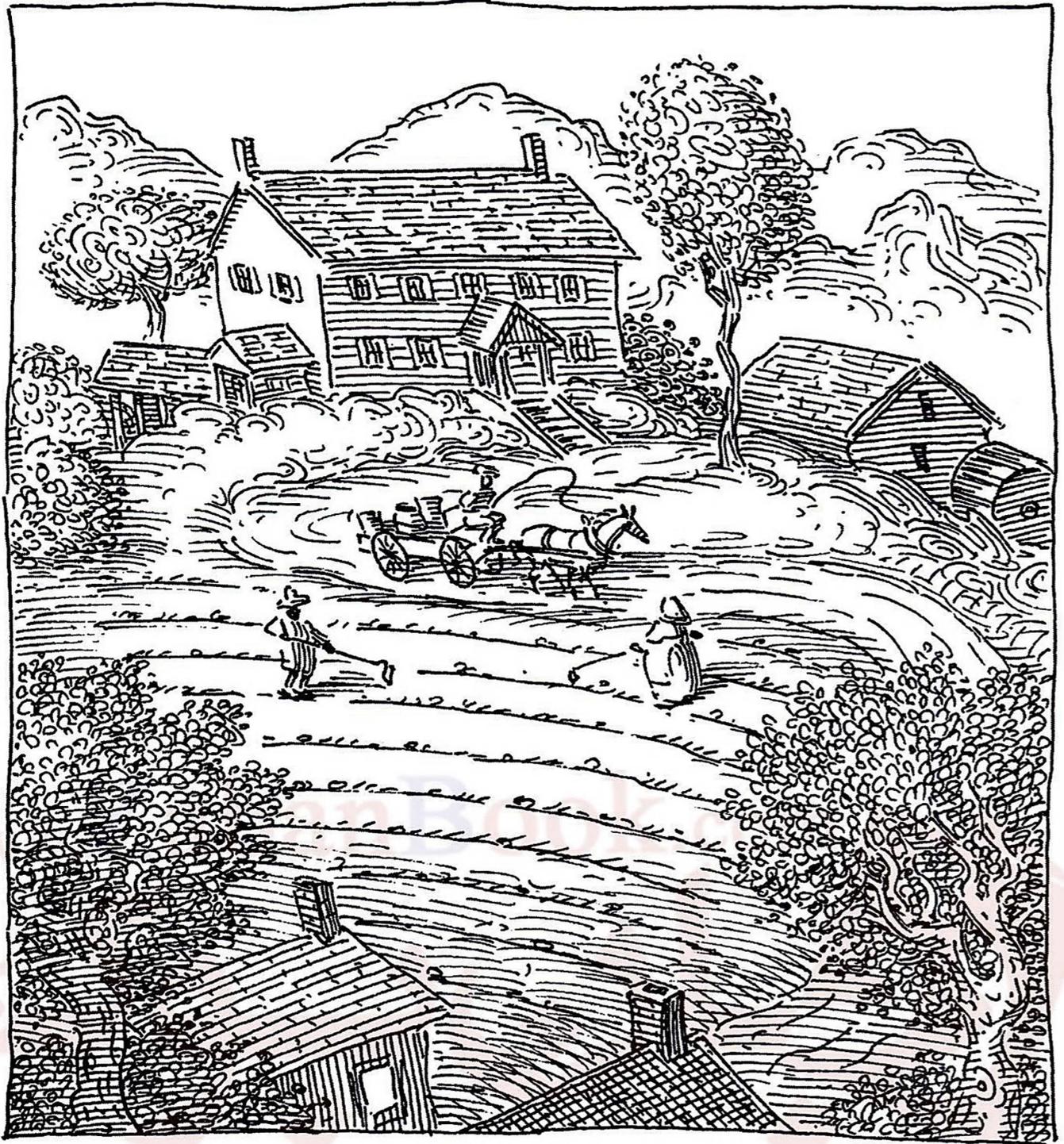
Thomas Jefferson was born in 1743 on his family's plantation, Shadwell, in central Virginia. Virginia was one of thirteen colonies belonging to Great Britain. By the calendar used then, his birth date was April 2. By today's calendar his birth date was April 13.

Tom came third in a family of ten children. Two of the children didn't survive infancy. So Tom grew up with two older sisters, four younger sisters, and a younger brother. The babies of the family, Anna and Randolph, were twins.

Little is known about Tom's mother, Jane Randolph Jefferson. Far more is known about his father. Peter Jefferson was a prosperous farmer who owned dozens of slaves. He was also a

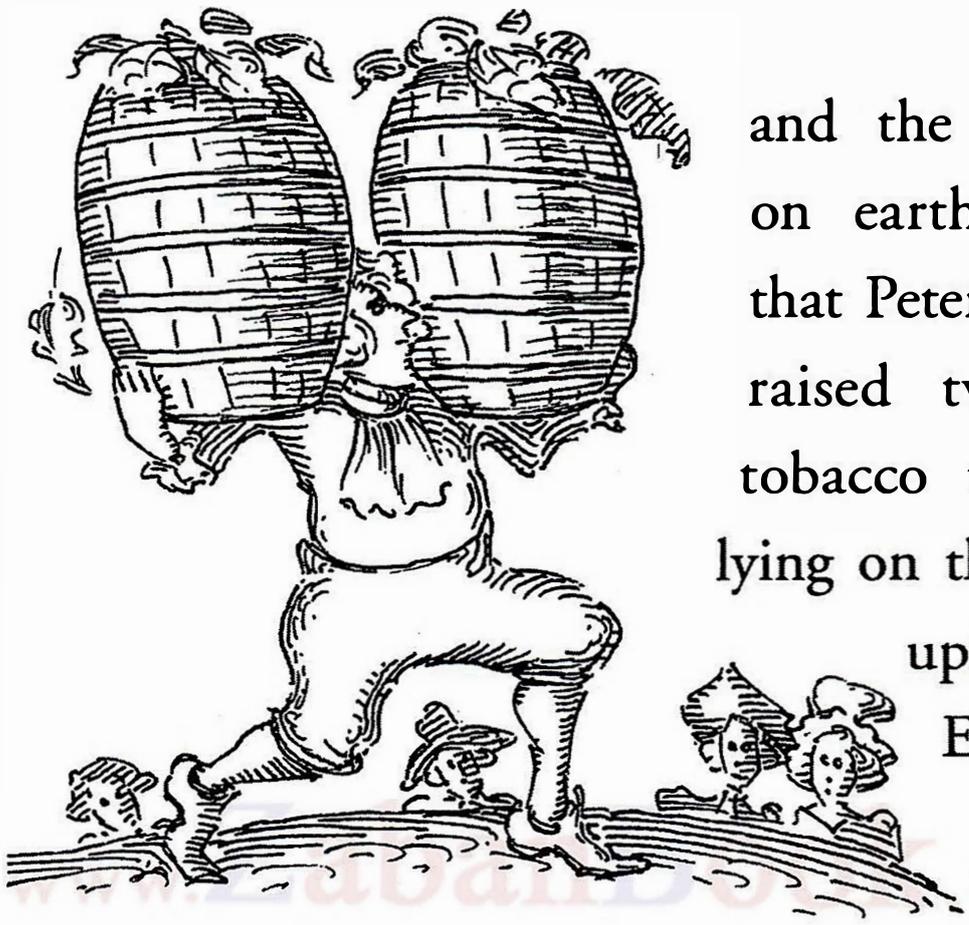
# THE THIRTEEN COLONIES





SHADWELL

surveyor, a person who measures land boundaries. In addition, he served in Virginia's legislature. Young Tom thought his father was the smartest

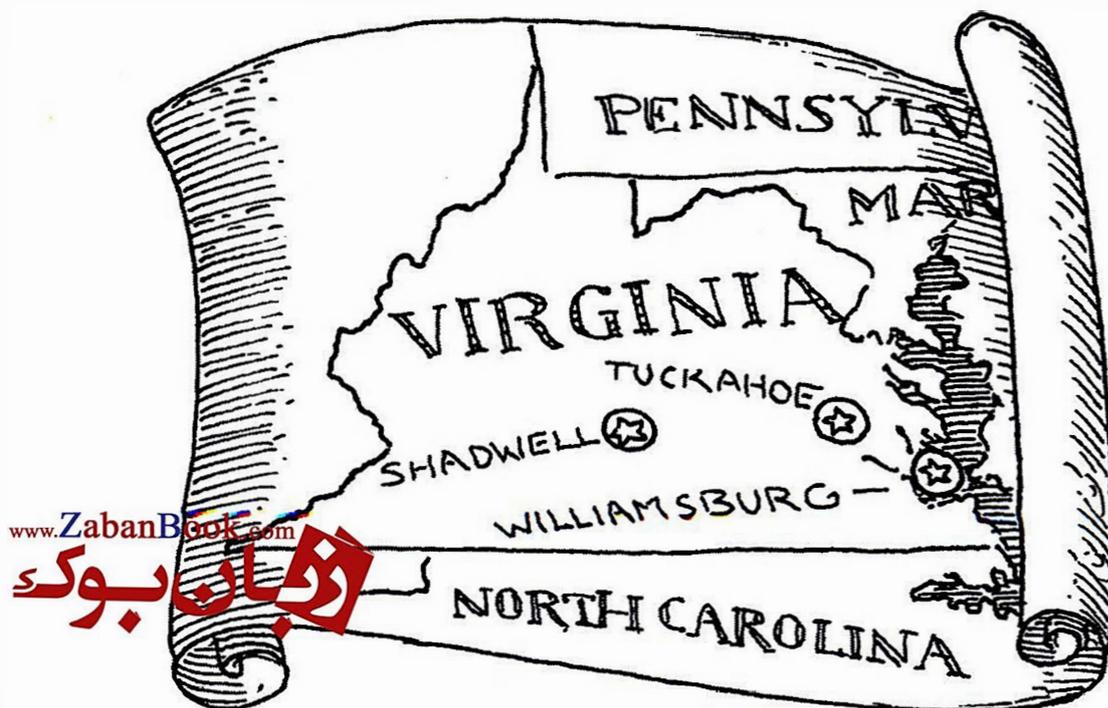


and the strongest man on earth. It was said that Peter Jefferson once raised two barrels of tobacco that had been lying on their sides to an upright position.

Each barrel was said to weigh nearly 1,000

pounds. He also loved books and read Shakespeare and other authors in his spare time.

Tom had cousins named Randolph, who lived in eastern Virginia. Mr. and Mrs. Randolph died



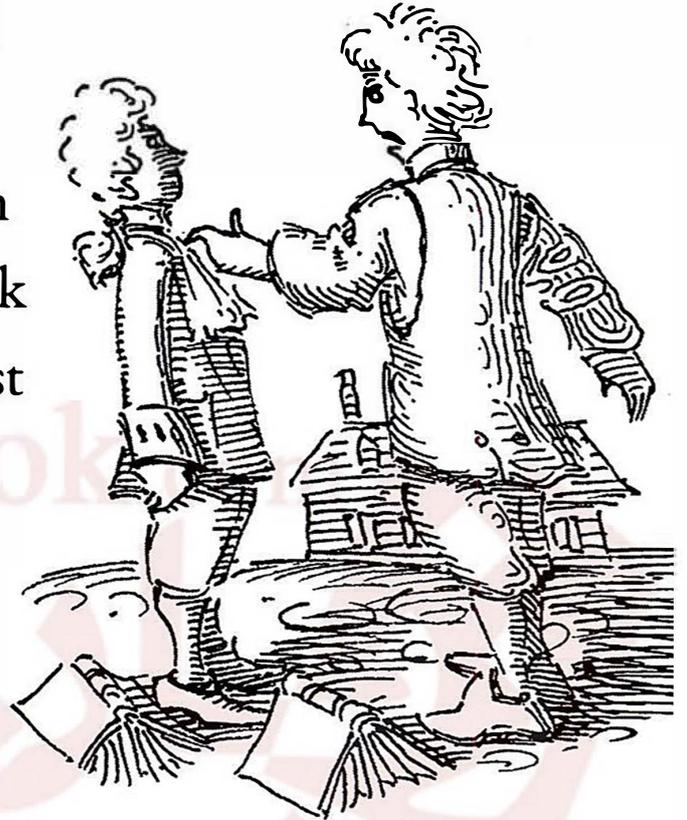


within a few years of each other. After that, Tom's parents helped raise the three Randolph children. Tom's first memory was of moving to his cousins' home, about fifty miles away, when he was two. For much of his childhood, Tom went back and forth between the two places. Sometimes he was home at Shadwell. Other times he and his family were at Tuckahoe, the Randolph estate.

In a way, Tom had the best of two worlds. At Shadwell, which stood at the edge of the wilderness, his father taught him to ride, swim, fish, and

hunt. In eastern Virginia, Tom went to parties and learned to dress and behave like an English gentleman. But he apparently didn't get along with his Randolph cousins. The boy cousin, also named Tom, was two years older and seems to have bullied him.

When Tom Jefferson was nine, someone else took charge of his cousins. Most of the Jefferson family returned to Shadwell. But to his disappointment,

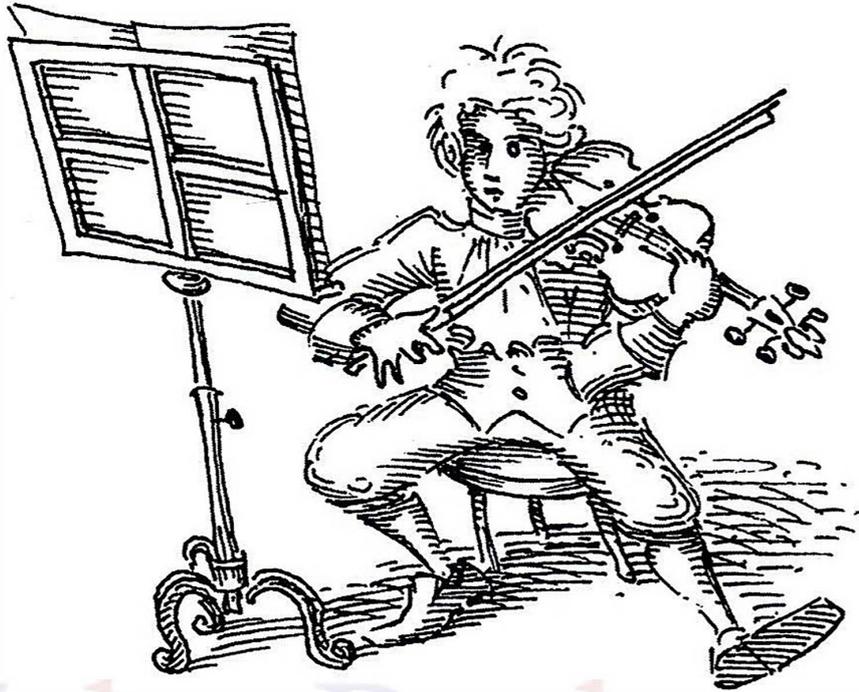


when his family went home in 1752, Tom was sent to study with Reverend William Douglas, near Tuckahoe.



Reverend Douglas taught Tom Latin, Greek, and French. Tom studied and lived with Reverend Douglas for five years. The only time he returned to Shadwell was for vacations. Although his schoolwork often bored him, Tom liked to read on his own. He became so wrapped up in books that he sometimes read for fifteen hours straight.

Young Tom also loved music. He practiced his violin three hours a day.



By age thirteen, Tom was a tall, thin, redheaded boy with freckles. He was well on his way to his full height of six feet two inches. In an age when the average man stood five feet six inches tall, Tom was almost a giant. His nickname was "Tall Tom."

Tom was home for the summer of 1757 when his father became ill. Peter Jefferson





died that August. Fourteen-year-old Tom was crushed to lose his father and hero. As the oldest son, Tom inherited much of his father's estate, including about 2,500 acres of land and about

thirty slaves. But he wasn't to receive the bulk of his inheritance until he turned twenty-one.

Peter Jefferson had wanted Tom to go to college. To prepare for it, Tom lived and studied with another minister for two more years. He didn't much like this teacher, either. But at least he was now close enough to Shadwell to spend weekends at home. By 1760, "Tall Tom" was sixteen years old and eager to begin college.

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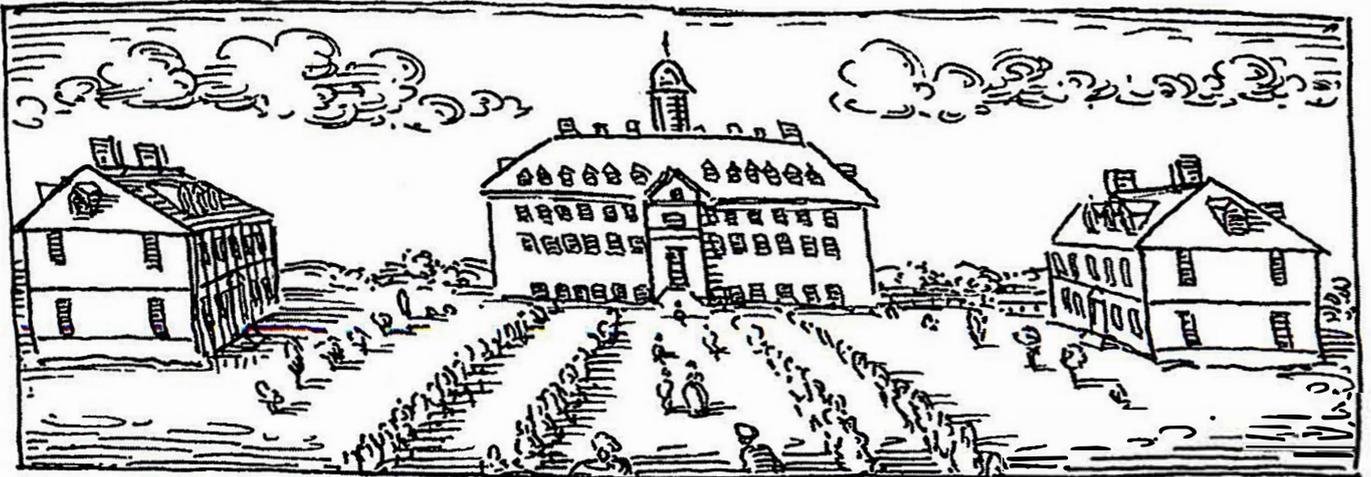
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## Chapter 2 زبان بک Tall Tom in Love

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Tom moved to Williamsburg in the spring of 1760. This city near the coast was Virginia's capital and home to the College of William and Mary. Tom loved college from the start. He was hungry for knowledge and enjoyed studying late into the night.

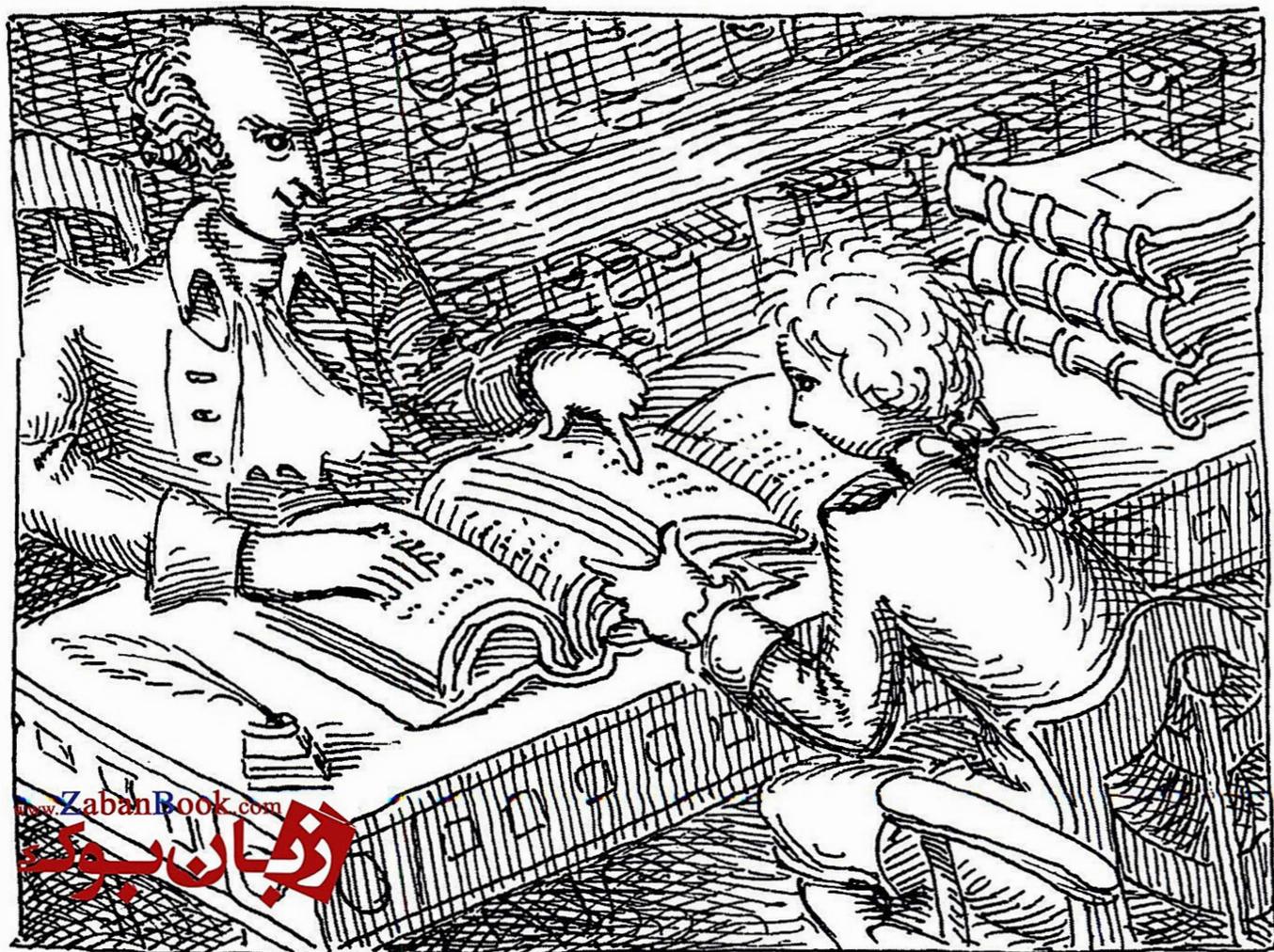
One professor, William Small, befriended him. In turn, Dr. Small introduced him to his friends George Wythe and Francis Fauquier. Wythe was a noted lawyer. Fauquier was the colonial governor of Virginia for Great Britain.



COLLEGE OF WILLIAM AND MARY

Fauquier often invited Small, Wythe, and Jefferson to dine at the Governor's Palace. Sometimes the red haired college student played his violin at concerts hosted by the governor.

Tom graduated in 1762 after just two years. Now he had to think about a career. Law appealed to him. In those days, young men (there were no women lawyers yet) studied with established attorneys. After a while, the young men took a law test. Those who passed, became lawyers.



# TIMELINE OF THE WORLD

Princeton University is founded	1747
The waltz becomes a popular dance in Europe	1750
Chinese invade and conquer Tibet	1752
The historic Liberty Bell is hung at Independence Hall in Philadelphia	1753
Boston Tea Party	1773
Louis XVI becomes king of France	1774
The American Revolution begins; the city of San Francisco is founded	1775
Astronomer Frederick William Herschel discovers the planet Uranus	1781
The first successful hot-air balloon flight is recorded in Paris	1783
The first steamboat is built	1787
George Washington is elected as the first President of the United States; the French Revolution begins	1789
Johnny Appleseed plants apple trees in the Ohio Valley	1801
Webster's Dictionary is first published	1806
Louisiana becomes the eighteenth state in the Union	1812
Francis Scott Key writes "The Star Spangled Banner"	1814
Spain cedes Florida to the United States	1819
The Missouri Compromise: Missouri is admitted to the United States as a slave state, but slavery is barred in the rest of the Louisiana Purchase	1820
Beethoven writes Symphony No. 9	1823
The first U.S. railway is constructed in Massachusetts	1826

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# Who Was Thomas Jefferson?

- A bookworm who could read for 15 hours straight and owned more than 6,000 books
- A self-taught architect who designed his own home, the Virginia statehouse, and the University of Virginia
- The author of the Declaration of Independence and the third president of the United States
- All of the above!

Find out more about the real Thomas Jefferson in this fun and exciting illustrated biography!

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