

By Bruce Adamson 2024 Common Law marriage was Legal Within Washington D.C.
Adamson also a descendant of George and Leonard Calvert the original founders of Washington D.C. by Europeans.

Jefferson was the third president of the United States and a Founding Father who wrote the Declaration of Independence. Before becoming president, he lived at his Virginia plantation, Monticello, with his wife Martha for 10 years, bearing him 6 children before her death in 1782. Jefferson began designing Monticello when he was 14 years old after inheriting land from his father.

Thomas Jefferson's father-in-law was John Wayles (1715 - 1773), a Virginia lawyer, planter, and slave trader: Wayles married three times and had 11 children, five of whom survived to adulthood. Children John Wayles with Betty Hemings they had six children with Betty Hemings, one of whom was Sally Hemings. When Wayles died, Jefferson and his wife Martha inherited 135 slaves and 11,000 acres of land from his estate. **Sally Hemings was Martha's half-sister** and the mother of six of Jefferson's children. She was likely cared for by Martha when she was young. The Hemings family lived at Monticello and were given privileged positions maids, butlers, seamstresses and artisans. Some of them even traveled with Jefferson and his family.

- Anna Berkes, 11/12/07 wrote :

"After the death of his third wife, John Wayles took his slave Elizabeth Hemings as his "concubine," according to several sources, and was the father of her children Robert, James, Peter, Critta, Sally, and Thenia Hemings. Wayles died on May 28, 1773, leaving substantial property and debt. Thomas Jefferson and Wayles's other co-executors spent several years handling the complex estate. The majority of Wayles's papers and financial records do not survive, having disappeared from Eppington in the mid-nineteenth century."

Wikipedia says Betty's oldest daughter Mary Hemings became the **comon-law wife** of wealthy merchant Thomas Bell, who purchased her and their two children from Thomas Jefferson in 1792 and granted them greater freedoms than other slaves were typically permitted.

(). "Mary Hemings Bell | Thomas Jefferson's Monticello". www.monticello.org. Archived from the original on 2018-03-16. Retrieved 2018-03-16.

First Lady was Sally Hemings and half- sister of his first Martha Wayles both were Thomas Jefferson's wives. An internet search of Betty Hemings is worthy of a detailed background of the inter-family connections. Bell's marriage shows us today that the idea of **common law marriages** was also accepted by Thomas Jefferson and his in-law Thomas Bell.

Mary was the first of several Hemingses to gain freedom before the American Civil War. Betty's daughter Sally Hemings had six children, all of whom were fathered by Thomas Jefferson, between 1795 and 1808. Jefferson freed all four of her surviving children when they came of age, two of them by his will. His daughter Martha Randolph gave Sally "her time," an informal freedom allowing her to live with her sons during her last decade of life. Sally Hemings (c. 1773 – 1835), who seems to have had a relationship with Jefferson from about 1789.[18] She had six children, four of whom survived and whom Jefferson freed.[19] Sally was with him to his death in 1826, after which she was "given her time" (informal freedom) by his surviving daughter Martha Randolph.

Thomas Jefferson lived in Washington, D.C. from late 1800 until he retired from the presidency in March 1809. Yes, Washington, DC recognizes common law marriage. Confirmed in a Google search **Definition:** "A common law marriage is a legally recognized marriage between two people who have not purchased a marriage license or had their marriage solemnized by a ceremony. Virginia and France does not."

Requirements: *To establish a common law marriage in DC, a couple must:*

- 1). *Have an express, mutual agreement in words of the present tense to be permanent partners.*
- 2). *No required length of cohabitation. There is no specific length of time of cohabitation required to*

establish a common law marriage in DC.

Thomas Jefferson lived in France for five years, from August 1784 to September 1789. He was the United States Minister to France, serving under the Confederation Congress. During, Jefferson had four residences in Paris. Jefferson's time in France was arguably the most memorable of his life. Jefferson's intimate relationship with Sally Hemings started in Paris and she could be considered the first African American First Lady. Although the title which Michelle Obama respectively has openly held a legal marriage to former president Barack Obama. Sally Hemings continued this relationship with Jefferson through his presidency until his death in 1826.

Here are the birthdates of Sally Hemings and Thomas Jefferson's children: Harriet: Born October 5, 1795 and died in 1797; Beverly: Born April 1, 1798, and may have been named William Beverley Hemings; Thenia circa December 7, 1799; and died in infancy;

Madison, Born January 19, 1805, and died in 1877; Eston: Born May 21, 1808, and died in 1856 -

Since 1982, the past 42 years ago, Bruce Adamson's main focus has been on the last son born of this union "Eston" is the origin of the family "Easton" name in England. Thomas Jefferson appointed fellow Mason and Adamson's 4th great grandfather Rufus Easton as the first postmaster of St. Louis Easton built the very first post office west of the Mississippi in St. Louis, where the St. Louis Arch rests today. Thomas Jefferson also appointed Rufus Easton judge of the largest territory in North America, The Louisiana Territory. As a member of Congress for The Missouri Territory, Easton passed one of the first bills for federal aid after The New Madrid Earthquakes. Jefferson's postmaster general, then a cabinet position talked Easton out of a duel with Aaron Burr. As judge of the Territory, Easton set free the Scypion Slave in 1806 for they could prove their grandmother was of Indian descent and "everyone knew then you could not hold Native Americans in slavery." This case went on for thirty years and the family that owned the Scypion's was the same family that owned Dred Scott. Around 1812 Edward Bates moved into the home of Easton and studied law. Bates was Abraham Lincoln's first choice in 1861 to run the Attorney General's office during the civil war. Adamson began research on Rufus Easton in 1982 and developed the story from his love of family history. Adamson has authored a biography *For Which We Stand; The Life and Times of Rufus Easton* and produced a two hour video documentary entitled *The Spirit of Alton, Before, During and After the Civil War*.

Today, the citizens praise the name of President Thomas Jefferson yet do not focus on his voice was not a forceful speaker had appeared on television. Professor Harvey Stromberg at Santa Monica College taught us "that Thomas Jefferson, spoke with a very high pitched voice."

In January 2000, the Thomas Jefferson Memorial Foundation accepted the conclusion, supported by DNA evidence, that Jefferson and Sally Hemings had at least one and probably six offspring between 1790 and 1808. During some of these years they both lived in Washington D.C. **where common law marriage was legal and still is to this very day.**

"Though most historians now agree that Jefferson and Hemings had a sexual relationship, debate continues over the duration of that relationship and, especially, over its nature. Admirers of Jefferson are inclined to see his relationship with Hemings as a love affair, despite his public statements about race. Others view Jefferson's relationship with Hemings—who was enslaved by the Founding Father—as predatory and hypocritical, given Jefferson's writings on freedom and equality."

I find it troubling that Thomas Bell and Mary Hemings could have in Virginia a common law marriage. While historians do not recognize that Mary's sister Sally Hemings and President Thomas Jefferson could have a common law marriage in Virginia. Yet for eight years Thomas Jefferson and Sally Hemings lived in Washington D.C. that did recognize common law marriages. As President Thomas Jefferson may not have wanted to for political reasons make it known he was in a common law marriage. Jefferson's first wife who died 19 years before his presidency was Sally and Mary Hemings' half-sister.

This reseacher would like to be clear to praise the First Afro-American Lady of record Michelle Obama who is very intelligent.