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Thomas Jefferson Sr. (abt. 1640 - 1697) ID/Link/URL/Cite

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Thomas Jefferson Sr. aka **Jeaffreson**

Born **about 1640** in **St. Christopher's Island, West Indies** ?

Son of [father unknown] and [mother unknown]

[sibling(s) unknown]

Husband of **Mary Martha (Branch) Maddox** — married 1677 (to 1697) in Curles Plantation, Henrico County, Colony of Virginia ?

Father of [Mary \(Jefferson\) Harris](#), [Thomas Jefferson II](#) and [Martha \(Jefferson\) Wynne](#) DESCENDANTS T

Died **Nov 1697** at about age 57 in **Osborne's Plantation, James River, Henrico County, Colony of Virginia** ?

Profile managers: [US Southern Colonies Project WikiTree](#) E M [send private message] and [US Presidents Project WikiTree](#) E M [send private message] PROBLEMS/QUESTIONS
 Jefferson-111 created 31 Oct 2010 | Last modified 27 Nov 2023

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Thomas Jefferson Sr. is an ancestor of a US President/Vice President
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Thomas Jefferson Sr. resided in the Southern Colonies in North America before 1776.
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Ancestor of [Thomas Jefferson](#) 3rd US President

Two Theories of his Heritage

1. Thomas Jefferson, Sr., was born in the British West Indies, on Saint Christopher island, ca. 1640, the son of [Samuel Jefferson](#), aka Jeaffreson (b. 1607 in Pettistree, Suffolk, England), and Elizabeth Broom (possibly "widow Broom"), b. 1610, in Suffolk, England. It is now believed that his parents married in 1628 in Suffolk, England before they joined [Samuel Jefferson](#) on St. Kitts around 1630, where their son, Thomas Jefferson, was born. The family was educated and fairly well-to-do - they would be considered "upper middle class" today. A *Thomas Jefferson* went to Jamaica in 1656, but the 1670 Census, 14 years later, shows no one there by that name. It is not improbable that the family left the Leeward Islands for Jamaica, before finally settling in the English colony of Virginia. If born in 1649 or earlier he would have been at least 18 by 1667 and thus free to emigrate north. Apparently his parents did not join him in Virginia for Samuel Jeaffreson Jr.'s death was reported in Antigua, BWI, in 1685, at age 78. He is said to have moved to Antigua in 1669 - possibly the same year young Thomas left for Virginia.^[1]
2. Thomas's father may have been a John Jefferson who arrived in 1619 aboard the ship Bonahora.^[2]

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DNA Connections

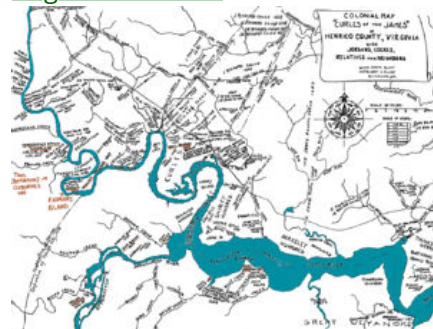
It may be possible to [confirm](#) family relationships. It is likely that these [autosomal DNA](#) test-takers will share [some percentage](#) of DNA with Thomas:

- ~0.78% [Opal \(Davis\) Probasco](#) E M : [MyHeritage DNA](#) [test details]
- ~0.39% [Robert Lucas](#) E M : [23andMe](#) [test details]
- ~0.39% [Robin Turpin](#) E M : [23andMe](#) [test details] + [AncestryDNA](#) [test details]
- ~0.39% [Fern \(Sketchley\) Mills](#) E M : [AncestryDNA](#), [GEDmatch B83581](#) [compare], [Ancestry member chervil1_1](#) [test details]
- ~0.39% [Douglas Yarn](#) E M : [AncestryDNA](#), [Ancestry member dyarn126](#) [test details]
- ~0.39% [Edwin Jordan](#) E M : [Family Tree DNA Family Finder](#), [GEDmatch T810446](#) [compare], [FTDNA kit #739750](#) [test details]
- ~0.39% [Landon Clay](#) E M : [Family Tree DNA Family Finder](#), [GEDmatch NY6082881](#) [compare], [FTDNA kit #436613](#) [test details]

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Virginia circa1640



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Tobacco Haul

The Thomas Jefferson Foundation agrees that these are both theories and not proven.^[3]
For this reason, no parents are attached to this profile.

Biography

GrGrandfather of [Thomas Jefferson](#) 3rd US President

Thomas Jefferson, Sr., first settled in Henrico Southside, living at Osborne's Plantation across the James River from Farrar's Island and near Kingsland, home of the Branch family. His plantation was located in the Curles Section of the James River, south of the present-day city of Richmond, Virginia. This is near where the river begins its snake-like path past Flower Dew Hundred (an area that was represented in the first Virginia Assembly of 1619 at Jamestown by (Col.) John Jeaffreson II, presumed to have been Thomas Jefferson Sr.'s great-uncle, from Suffolk, England). It would be logical for a young man to enter a new country in the area where he already had relations.

Thomas Jefferson, Sr., married Mary Branch, daughter of Christopher Branch, Jr., shortly before 1678 when her grandfather, Christopher Branch, Sr., called her *my granddaughter Mary Branch, wife of Thomas Jefferson*, in his will. He also named Thomas as his executor. This will was signed June 20, 1678, & proven February 20, 1682.^[4]

Mary Branch descended from the landed gentry of Abingdon, Berkshire, England. Her grandfather, Christopher Branch, had emigrated to Virginia in March 1620^[5]. He was an "old planter" at Arrowhatts on the James River, Henrico Southside and later at Kingsland. He was the neighbor of John Jeaffreson, the Farrars, and a number of related families living on Swift Creek. His family were among the fortunate who were not massacred in the Indian uprising of 1622. He was a Burgess in 1639 and a Justice 1656. His will^[6] names "granddaughter Mary Branch, wife of Thomas Jefferson," who was named as executor of his will.^[7]

Thomas Jefferson and Mary Branch Jefferson had three children: a daughter, named Mary, born in early 1679, followed by Captain Thomas Jefferson II, born November 20, 1679, and another daughter, Martha Jefferson, born February 23, 1682. All were born at Osborne's Plantation in Henrico County, English colony of Virginia.

Thomas and Mary Jefferson raised their family at "Jefferson's Landing," Osborne's Plantation, the Curles, Henrico County, Virginia. He died there in November 1697 and his Will was proven in Henrico County on December 7, 1697.

Mary, Thomas' wife, remarried in 1701 to planter Joseph Mattox (aka "Maddox"). She died a few years later in Charles City County, English Province of Virginia.

Sources

- ↑ "Annual Report" of the Monticello Association. 1907; cited on [Bob Juch's Kin on RootsWeb: Thomas Jefferson](#). *An interesting citation as the Monticello Association did not exist in 1907*
- ↑ Curtis, William Eleroy, *Thomas Jefferson*, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania: J. B. Lippincott Company (1901), Page 19.
- ↑ [Jefferson's Ancestry](#)
- ↑ Henrico County Deeds and Wills 1677-1692, pp 109-110
- ↑ Hotten: page 26; and [Bob Juch's Kin on RootsWeb: Christopher Branch](#)
- ↑ Henrico Court 1668, pages 209-10
- ↑ [Thomas Jefferson Sr. on FarrarFamily](#)

See also:

- [Bob Juch's Kin on RootsWeb: Christopher Branch](#)
- [From Virginia Through the Southwest: Information about Thomas Jefferson on Genealogy.com](#)
- [The Other Jefferson Family on AstoundingPast BlogSpot](#)
- [Bob Juch's Kin on RootsWeb: Thomas Jefferson](#)



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Collaboration

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Research

[RootsSearch for Thomas Jefferson Sr.](#): conveniently search 20+ genealogy websites. [\[more info\]](#)

- Named in the [will of his grandfather-in-law](#).

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**Chris Douglas B.S.**

[Jefferson-111](#) and [Jefferson-2102](#) appear to represent the same person because: same person because of identical death year and also his parents are one of the possible parents of [Jefferson-111](#)

[posted](#) on [Jefferson-2102](#) (merged) Sep 23, 2021 by [Chris Douglas B.S.](#)

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**Scott McClain**

It's possible this is intended to be the same person as [Jefferson-111](#) but the disputed parents should be detached before any merge occurs.

[posted](#) on [Jefferson-2102](#) (merged) Sep 27, 2021 by [Scott McClain](#)

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**Travis Fields**

Thomas Jefferson on his ancestry -- notes from Monticello.org

"The tradition in my father's family," he wrote in old age, "was that their ancestor came to this country from Wales, and from near the mountain of Snowden, the highest in Gr. Br. I noted once a case from Wales, in the law reports," he continued, "where a person of our name was either [plaintiff] or [defendant] and one of the same name was Secretary to the Virginia company. ... but the first particular information I have of any ancestor was my grandfather who lived at the place in Chesterfield called Osborne's"

Of his mother's illustrious family, the Randolphs, he was even more brief, noting only that his mother was the daughter of Isham Randolph, that she had married his father at the age of 19, and that her family could trace their pedigree "far back in England & Scotland, to which," he wrote, "let every one ascribe the faith & merit he choose."

<https://www.monticello.org/site/research-and-collections/jeffersons-ancestry>

[posted](#) May 26, 2021 by [Travis Fields](#)

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**Robin Lee**

[Jefferson-957](#) and [Jefferson-111](#) appear to represent the same person because: based on wife and death date, intended to be the same person

[posted](#) Mar 19, 2020 by [Robin Lee](#)

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**Robin Lee**

I cannot find any sources to support that this person ever existed.

[posted](#) on Jefferson-957 (merged) May 04, 2019 by [Robin Lee](#)

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[Robin Lee](#)

Ok, so that source is suspect as the Monticello Association was not established until 1913

<http://www.monticello-assoc.org/>

[posted](#) May 14, 2018 by [Robin Lee](#)

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[Robin Lee](#)

Thomas's father may have been a John Jefferson who arrived in 1619 aboard the ship Bonahora (from the book, Thomas Jefferson, by William Eleroy Curtis).

The citation attributed to the paragraph describing who his parents are has NOTHING to do with the Jeffersons. Can we get documentation for this theory?

[posted](#) May 14, 2018 by [Robin Lee](#)

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[US Presidents Project WikiTree](#)

[Jefferson-959](#) and Jefferson-111 appear to represent the same person because: same/similar dates, part of Thomas Jefferson's ancestry, well documented on -111

[posted](#) Aug 06, 2016 by [US Presidents Project WikiTree](#)

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[\[Living Luckhardt\]](#)

Thomas Jefferson Sr. was born 1640 in Henrico, Virginia, and died before 1 December 1697 in Henrico, Virginia. He married Mary Branch before 1678 in Henrico, Virginia. Mary Branch was the daughter of Christopher Branch and Sarah Almond.

He had a plantation at Curles Section of the James River near Richmond, VA.

[posted](#) Feb 13, 2011 by [\[Living Luckhardt\]](#)

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Pending Merges

None.

[\[initiate a merge\]](#)

Unmerged Matches

None.

[\[add a match\]](#)

Rejected Matches

None.

[\[reject a match\]](#)

This week's featured connections are [Summer Olympians](#): Thomas is [29 degrees from Simone Biles](#), [23 degrees from Maria Johanna Philipsen-Braun](#), [21 degrees from Pierre de Coubertin](#), [17 degrees from Étienne Desmarteau](#), [20 degrees from Fanny Gately](#), [25 degrees from Evelyn Konno](#), [42 degrees from Paavo Johannes Nurmi](#), [17 degrees from Wilma Rudolph](#), [29 degrees from Carl Schuhmann](#), [15 degrees from Zara](#)