



# Thomas Jefferson

3rd President

Born: April 13, 1743

Birthplace: Shadwell, VA

Died: July 4, 1826

Burial Site: Monticello, VA

Spouse: Martha Skelton

Occupation: Lawyer, farmer

Political Party: Democratic-Republican

Term: 1801-1809

Vice President: Aaron Burr &  
George Clinton

Thomas Jefferson was best known as author of the Declaration of Independence, but he had a long, successful career as a statesman and politician.

He was a lawyer, governor, minister to France, secretary of state, vice-president and president.

Born in 1743 in Albemarle Co., VA, he inherited some 5,000 acres from his father and a high social standing from his mother.

Jefferson was an eloquent correspondent but historians note that he was no public speaker. He was a brilliant young 33-year-old lawyer when he was chosen by the first Continental Congress to draft the Declaration of Independence.

After four years, the Republican Party won overwhelmingly but the Electoral College found Aaron Burr tied with Jefferson for president. The U.S. House of Representatives chose Jefferson and then added the 12th Amendment to the Constitution which required the Electoral College to vote separately for president and vice-president.

The country's third president also negotiated the Louisiana Purchase, which added Missouri and half the Mississippi Valley to the United States. He encouraged the Lewis and Clark Expedition to the Pacific Northwest; started the first national highway; established the Military Academy at West Point; saw the slave trade outlawed; and kept the United States out of the Napoleonic Wars.