AWESOME stories

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The first building which Thomas Jefferson commissioned - at Monticello - was a small cottage known as the "South Pavillion." It was the place where he and Martha lived immediately after their marriage. For that reason, it is also called the "Honeymoon Cottage." Image by James Marshall ("macjammer"), <u>online via Flickr</u>. Copyright, James Marshall ("macjammer"), all rights reserved. Image provided here as fair use for educational purposes.

With the loss of Shadwell, in 1770, Jefferson decided to build <u>a new house</u> (the link depicts his first drawing) at the top of his "<u>mountain</u>." Thus began a process of building, and remodeling, which lasted the rest of his life.

On the first of January, 1772 - as construction continued on the home he <u>first called</u> "The Hermitage" but later named "<u>Monticello</u>" (Italian for "little mountain") - Tom <u>married</u> a twenty-three-year-old widow - Martha Wayles Skelton - whom he called "Patty." Among other things, they shared a <u>love of music</u>. (You can download any of these songs, to hear some of Jefferson's favorites, especially the Scottish tune *Broom of the Cowdenknowes*.)

Tom played the violin (until he fell and fractured his wrist in Paris during 1786). Patty played the keyboard (piano or harpsichord) - and - they sang together. He also sang alone, according to <u>lsaac Jefferson</u> (a Monticello slave) who <u>observed</u>:

Mr. Jefferson was always singing when ridin(g) or walkin(g); hardly see him anywhar out doors but what he was a singin(g).

<u>No pictures</u> of <u>Mrs. Jefferson</u> survive, although contemporary accounts describe her as very pretty. <u>According</u> to the Library of Congress, her marriage "dowry almost doubles his land and slaves."

In Virginia, winter tends to arrive shortly after the first of the year and, so it did, in 1772. As Tom and Patty returned to Monticello, two weeks after their marriage, they encountered an intense snowstorm. Forced to abandon their phaeton (a four-wheeled carriage), they traveled on horseback.

Arriving at the top of Tom's Mountain, in three feet of snow, they spent their first night at Monticello in the <u>Honeymoon Lodge</u>. They shared this <u>small cottage</u>, measuring eighteen by eighteen feet, until they went to Williamsburg in April of 1772. Jefferson scholars <u>believe</u> those months represent the longest time Patty ever had her husband all to herself.

As the Jeffersons left Monticello for <u>Williamsburg</u>, Patty was expecting their first child. Like so many women of the time, her own mother had died giving birth. Perhaps it was for this reason that the new Mrs. Jefferson - who was already a bit fragile - had a fear of childbirth. Their first child, however, was healthy, and the Jeffersons named their <u>daughter Martha</u>.

The new father and his brother-in-law, Dabney Carr, were members of Virginia's House of Burgesses. Although Thomas had a <u>law office</u> at Monticello, the politics of the colonies soon demanded much of his attention.

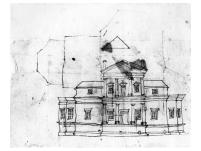
TOM'S MOUNTAIN



See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/TOM-S-MOUNTAIN-Thomas-Jefferson

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Media Stream







Jefferson's Plan - Creating Monticello Drawing, courtesy University of Virginia Library. PD View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Jefferson-s-Plan-Creating-Monticello

Jefferson's Mountain - Aerial of Monticello Photo online, courtesy Monticello.org. View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Jefferson-s-Mountain-Aerial-of-Monticello

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<u>Honeymoon Lodge at Monticello</u> <u>Image online</u>, courtesy University of Texas at Austin. View this asset at: <u>http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Honeymoon-Lodge-at-Monticello</u>



<u>Monticello - Small Cottage and Servants Quarters</u> Image online, courtesy the USGenWeb Archives <u>website</u>. View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Monticello-Small-Cottage-and-Servants-Quarters

Martha Jefferson - Daughter of Thomas Jefferson

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Monticello - Jefferson's Law Office

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