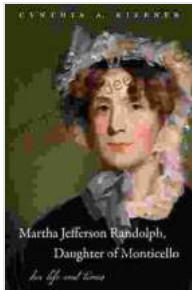


Martha Jefferson Randolph: Daughter of Monticello, a Life of Privilege and Tragedy



Martha Jefferson Randolph, Daughter of Monticello: Her Life and Times by Cynthia A. Kierner

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 3885 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 370 pages
Screen Reader : Supported



Martha Jefferson Randolph was the eldest daughter of Thomas Jefferson, the third president of the United States. Her life was marked by privilege and tragedy. She was born into a wealthy and influential family, but she lost her mother at a young age and was raised by her father, who was often away on diplomatic missions. She married her cousin, Thomas Mann Randolph Jr., and had 12 children. However, her marriage was unhappy, and she eventually separated from her husband. She died in 1836 at the age of 55.

Childhood and Family

Martha Jefferson was born on September 27, 1772, at Monticello, her father's plantation in Virginia. She was the eldest of six children. Her mother, Martha Wayles Skelton Jefferson, died when Martha was nine years old. Her father was often away on diplomatic missions, so Martha

was raised by her aunt, Elizabeth Wayles Eppes, and her grandmother, Jane Randolph Jefferson.

Martha Jefferson was a bright and curious child. She was educated at home by tutors and studied a variety of subjects, including history, geography, and French. She was also a talented musician and played the harpsichord and the pianoforte.

Marriage and Family

In 1790, Martha Jefferson married her cousin, Thomas Mann Randolph Jr. The couple had 12 children together, but their marriage was unhappy. Randolph was a heavy drinker and gambler, and he was often abusive to Martha. The couple separated in 1806, and Martha returned to Monticello with her children.

Martha Jefferson Randolph was a devoted mother. She raised her children in a loving and supportive home, and she instilled in them the values of hard work, education, and public service. Her children went on to become successful lawyers, politicians, and planters.

Later Years

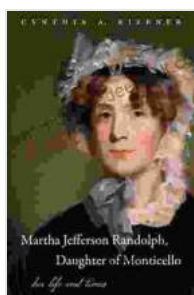
In her later years, Martha Jefferson Randolph lived quietly at Monticello. She was a close confidante of her father, and she helped him to manage the plantation. She was also a strong advocate for the education of women. She founded the Jefferson Literary and Debating Society, which provided educational opportunities for young women in Virginia.

Martha Jefferson Randolph died on October 10, 1836, at the age of 55. She is buried at Monticello next to her father.

Legacy

Martha Jefferson Randolph is remembered as a strong and independent woman who overcame adversity to raise a successful family. She was a devoted daughter, mother, and friend, and she made a significant contribution to her community.

The Jefferson Literary and Debating Society, which Martha Jefferson Randolph founded, is still active today. It is one of the oldest literary societies in the United States, and it continues to provide educational opportunities for young women.



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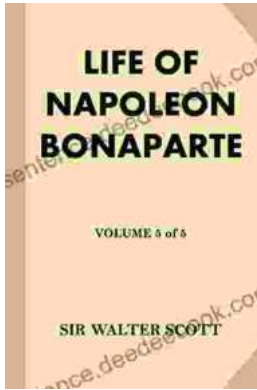
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