

# Th: Jefferson

# MONTICELLO

SPRING 2013

[www.monticello.org](http://www.monticello.org)

VOLUME 24, NUMBER 1

## ~ Thomas Jefferson Jefferson's Influential International Social Network ~

---

### William Small

*Correspondence from England*

Jefferson's professor of natural philosophy and mathematics at the College of William and Mary who instilled in Jefferson a lifelong appreciation for science, math, and the Enlightenment thinkers.

---

### John and Abigail Adams

*Correspondence from Massachusetts and Europe*

Close friends of Jefferson. Adams was an American founding father, second president of the United States, and a diplomat. He was appointed to the committee to draft the Declaration of Independence. In one of the great exchanges between America's founders, Adams and Jefferson corresponded for half a century about government, philosophy, religion, and family.

---

### Marie Jean Antoine Nicolas de Caritat, marquis de Condorcet

*Correspondence from France*

Marie Jean Antoine Nicolas de Caritat, marquis de Condorcet, was a French philosopher of the Enlightenment, advocate of educational reform, and one of the main formulators of the French Revolution.

---

### José Corrêia da Serra

*Correspondence from Portugal*

A Portuguese naturalist and close friend of Jefferson who stayed with him at Monticello seven times. A brilliant member of the international brotherhood of scientific philosophers Thomas Jefferson so valued, he established a reputation as a botanist, was an enthusiastic geologist, and helped found the Academy of Sciences in Lisbon.

---

---

### Pierre-Samuel Du Pont de Nemours

*Correspondence from France*

A French political economist, public administrator, and reformer.

---

### Benjamin Franklin

*Correspondence from America and France*

Described as "one of the greatest and the most enlightened and the noblest men the New World had seen born and the Old World has ever admired," Franklin was an American printer and publisher, author, inventor and scientist, and diplomat. He helped Thomas Jefferson draft the Declaration of Independence.

---

### Jean-Antoine Houdon

*Correspondence from France*

Considered to be the preeminent sculptor of the French Enlightenment and the artist who created the 1789 bust of Thomas Jefferson when Jefferson was age 46.

---

### Tadeusz "Thaddeus" Kosciuszko

*Correspondence from Poland and America*

A Polish freedom fighter and engineer who joined the American cause in the Revolution and later gained even greater recognition in defense of his native Poland.

---

### Thomas Paine

*Correspondence from England and America*

He "created" the *Pennsylvania Magazine* and wrote *Common Sense*, the famous political pamphlet that galvanized support for America's separation from England. Paine's popular work, written for all to understand, paved the way for the writing of the Declaration.

---

---

### Antoine Laurent Lavoisier

*Correspondence from Paris, France*

A French chemist who is considered by many to be the "father of modern chemistry," he helped develop an experimentally based theory of the chemical reactivity of oxygen and coauthored the modern system for naming chemical substances.

---

### Joseph Priestley

*Correspondence from England and America*

An English theologian, prolific political theorist, and physical scientist. He is among those usually credited with the discovery of oxygen.

---

### Sir John Sinclair, 1<sup>st</sup> Baronet

*Correspondence from Scotland*

A politician, writer on finance, and an influential figure in "improving" Scottish agriculture and social inquiry.

---

### Madame Anne Louise Germaine de Staël-Holstein

*Correspondence from Paris, France*

Commonly known as Madame de Staël, she was a woman of letters and a political propagandist, and made major contributions to Romanticism.

---

### Marquis de Lafayette

*Correspondence from France*

The Marquis de Lafayette, one of the wealthiest men in France, enjoyed a military career of international fame. Lafayette was a major general during the American Revolution and the French Revolution. He and Jefferson shared a rich correspondence during this time, discussing, among other topics, the new University of Virginia, the means of maintaining political independence for the republics in South America, and slavery.

---

---

**Constantin-François  
Chassebœuf, Comte de Volney**

*Correspondence from Paris, France*

A French writer, historian, philosopher, and Middle Eastern explorer who traveled to Egypt and Syria to study history in ancient languages. Following his trip, he hand-delivered a Pyramid of Cheops model to Thomas Jefferson.

---

**Philip Mazzei**

*Correspondence from Italy, England, and America*

Mazzei was a Florentine merchant, surgeon, horticulturist, correspondent, and friend of Thomas Jefferson for more than 40 years.

---

**Madame de Tessé**

*Correspondence from France*

The Marquis de Lafayette's influential aunt by marriage, Madame de Tessé shared Jefferson's passion for politics and horticulture and encouraged his interest in the arts and architecture.

---

**Alexander von Humboldt**

*Correspondence from Germany*

Von Humboldt was a German naturalist and explorer who was a major figure in the classical period of physical geography and biogeography.

---

**Tsar Alexander I**

*Correspondence to Russia*

Served as emperor of Russia from 1801 to 1825 and the first Russian king of Poland from 1815 to 1825. He was also the first Russian grand duke of Finland and Lithuania. After the tsar's ascension to the Russian imperial throne in 1801, Jefferson expressed his optimism that the young ruler represented the values of an enlightened monarchy.