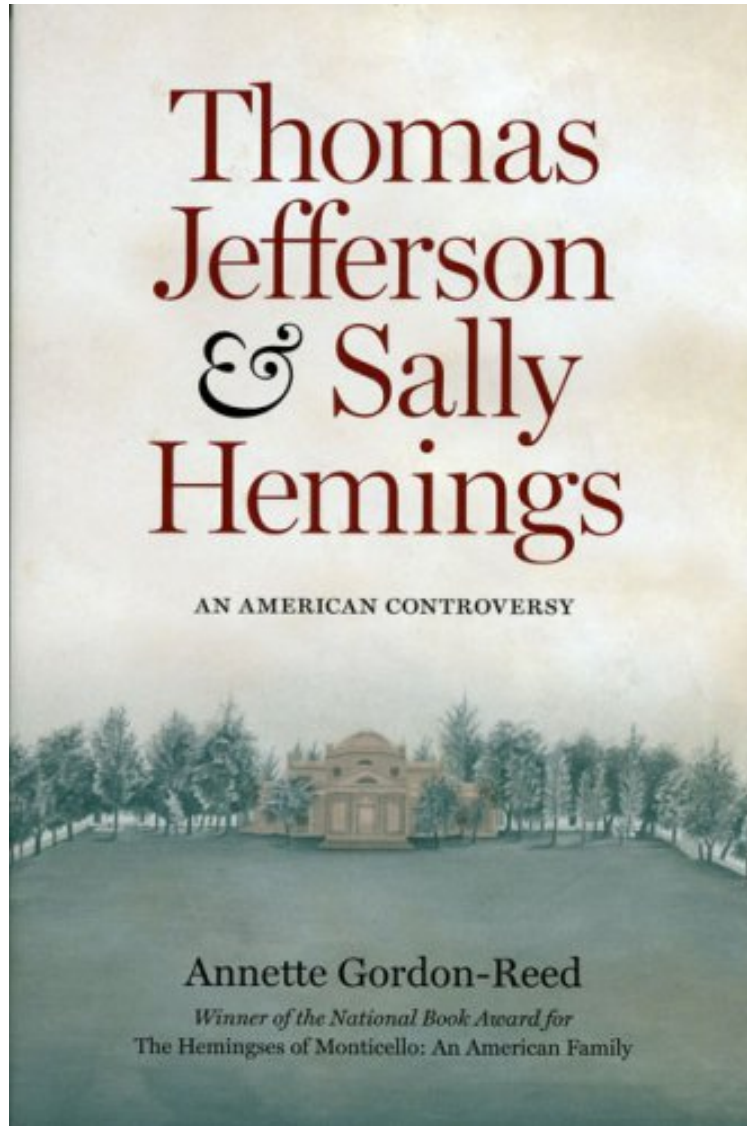


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# Thomas Jefferson and Sally Hemings: An American Controversy

Annette Gordon-Reed

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**Annette Gordon-Reed : Thomas Jefferson and Sally Hemings: An American Controversy** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Thomas Jefferson and Sally Hemings: An American Controversy:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Gordon-Reed's work is well-structured, analytical and thorough. Her ...By Jim pops Gordon-Reed's work is well-structured, analytical and thorough. Her arguments are sensible and

convincing. It is a shame that some authors (here I am thinking of M. Andrew Holowchak's Framing a Legend) have made sophomoric attempts to cast Gordon-Reed's arguments as nothing more than racially-motivated. I am a white guy and I think she make 1,000% more sense than Holowchak.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great analysis.By RichardVery informative and well written.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. great info on history every one should readBy betty clymergreat info on history every one should read

When Annette Gordon-Reed's groundbreaking study was first published, rumors of Thomas Jefferson's sexual involvement with his slave Sally Hemings had circulated for two centuries. Among all aspects of Jefferson's renowned life, it was perhaps the most hotly contested topic. The publication of Thomas Jefferson and Sally Hemings intensified this debate by identifying glaring inconsistencies in many noted scholars' evaluations of the existing evidence. In this study, Gordon-Reed assembles a fascinating and convincing argument: not that the alleged thirty-eight-year liaison necessarily took place but rather that the evidence for its taking place has been denied a fair hearing. Friends of Jefferson sought to debunk the Hemings story as early as 1800, and most subsequent historians and biographers followed suit, finding the affair unthinkable based upon their view of Jefferson's life, character, and beliefs. Gordon-Reed responds to these critics by pointing out numerous errors and prejudices in their writings, ranging from inaccurate citations, to impossible time lines, to virtual exclusions of evidenceespecially evidence concerning the Hemings family. She demonstrates how these scholars may have been misguided by their own biases and may even have tailored evidence to serve and preserve their opinions of Jefferson. This updated edition of the book also includes an afterword in which the author comments on the DNA study that provided further evidence of a Jefferson and Hemings liaison.00Possessing both a layperson's unfettered curiosity and a lawyer's logical mind, Annette Gordon-Reed writes with a style and compassion that are irresistible. Each chapter revolves around a key figure in the Hemings drama, and the resulting portraits are engrossing and very personal. Gordon-Reed also brings a keen intuitive sense of the psychological complexities of human relationshipsrelationships that, in the real world, often develop regardless of status or race. The most compelling element of all, however, is her extensive and careful research, which often allows the evidence to speak for itself. Thomas Jefferson and Sally Hemings: An American Controversy is the definitive look at a centuries-old question that should fascinate general readers and historians alike.