

We the People of the United States, in order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, promote the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do hereby constitute this Constitution for the United States.



MARTHA WAYLES SKELTON JEFFERSON

(Died before her husband became President)

Martha was born on October 19, 1748 at “The Forest” plantation in Charles City County, Virginia, the daughter of John Wayles and Martha Eppes.

When she was only 18 years old, Martha married Bathurst Skelton on November 20, 1766. He died less than two years later. They had a son, John.

When she was 23, she married Thomas Jefferson on January 1, 1772. Martha and Thomas had six children: Martha, Jane Randolph, an unnamed son who died in infancy, Maria, Lucy Elizabeth (died young) and Lucy Elizabeth (it was common in those days to name another child after one who died). Martha died on September 6, 1782 at age 33.

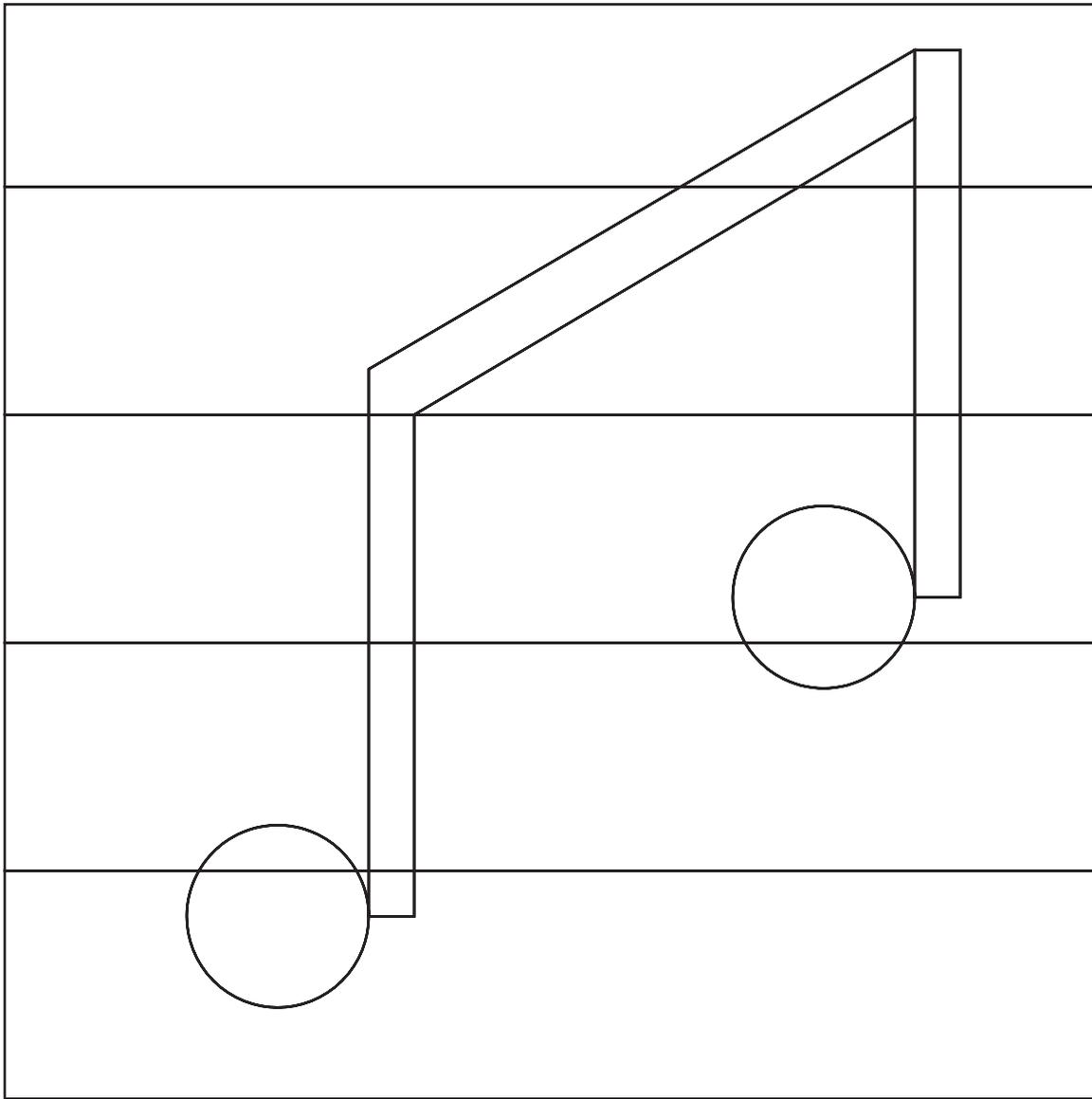
Martha was a half-sister to Sally Hemmings, a slave owned by her father. Upon Martha’s death, Sally became the property of Thomas Jefferson and shortly thereafter, Sally became his mistress, having several illegitimate children with him.

*“Time wastes too fast:
every letter I trace tells
me with what rapidity
life follows my pen.
The days and hours of it
are flying over our heads
like clouds of windy day
never to return more.
Every thing presses on—”
~Passage that Martha
copied from Laurence
Sterne’s Tristram Shandy*



Martha J's Music

Martha’s block was designed to highlight her musical abilities. Martha was educated at home in literature, poetry, French, Bible studies and music. She was known as an accomplished player of the pianoforte and harpsichord. Martha and her husband played musical duets together; he on the violin.



Martha J's Music
Making the Block

Cut:

Color	Number of Pieces	Size
Yellow	1	1¾" x 7½"
Orange	1	1¾" x 7½"
Red	1	1¾" x 7½"
Purple	1	1¾" x 7½"
Blue	1	1¾" x 7½"

Cut out the following for appliqué.

Black	2	¼" x 3"
	1	¼" x 3¾"
	2	Circles (use a quarter for your pattern)

Sew the 5 strips together according to the block design. Appliqué the notes and bars. Trim block to 6½" x 6½".