

AMBIANCE & ENTERTAINMENT

While early Americans didn't celebrate or decorate for the holidays the same way we do, candles, holly, and evergreen wouldn't be out of place.

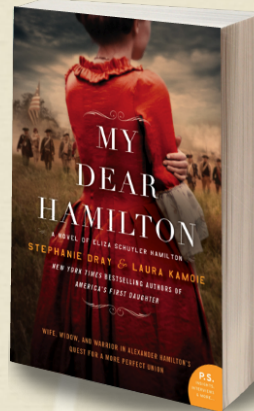
Moreover, Jefferson couldn't be happy without music, like the classic *Adeste Fideles*. And whilst you might not wish to hire fiddlers so that your guests can break out into a jig, card games were much in style for the holidays in early Virginia, so enjoy the merriment and togetherness of the season!



DEAR READERS

This holiday season, we wish you the most joyous of celebrations, filled with family, friends, and merriment. And books, of course! Lots and lots of books!

We also want to thank you for all the support, encouragement, and opportunities we've had to meet and speak to so many of you this year. It has truly been an honor, and we look forward to meeting even more of you when we celebrate the release of *My Dear Hamilton*!



So to paraphrase Jefferson from Christmas Day in 1809, with the compliments of the season, we hope you'll accept assurances of our constant affection and respect.

Your Humble and Obedient Servants,

Stephanie & Laura

DRAYKAMOIE.COM

A JEFFERSONIAN HOLIDAY



WITH SPECIAL WISHES FROM THE AUTHORS



THE HOLIDAYS AT MONTICELLO

One of the great challenges we faced in writing *America's First Daughter* was figuring out how the Jeffersons celebrated the holidays. Nor was the Monticello historian able to shed much light on the matter.

Thomas Jefferson was a great believer in religious liberty—it was one of three things he wished to be remembered for. While not an atheist, he did not believe in the miraculous parts of the Bible and even created his own version comprised only of the morality tales. So it wasn't a surprise to us that we didn't find many mentions of religious celebration or holiday tradition in his letters. But he described Christmas as "the day of greatest mirth and jollity."

What we found in the Jefferson family papers were mentions of Christmas balls and New Years travels and a long winter season of visiting and entertaining. And for the enslaved African-Americans at Monticello, Christmas meant a brief respite from work. And, for some, a rare opportunity to reunite with distant family members.

For everyone at Monticello, the season involved music, the exchange of small tokens or gifts, and special foods, some of which you'll find in the pages of this pamphlet!

*"We have spent the holidays in a perpetual round of visiting and receiving visits."
- Patsy Jefferson, January 1, 1796*

REFRESHMENTS

Evoke an early American holiday with food and drink. Here are some easy modern-day versions to serve at your own gathering.

SAVORY FOODS

Jefferson ate very little meat and loved greens and vegetables. Especially peas, of which he grew many varieties. He loved a salad simply dressed. But when it came to the holidays, smoked ham or wild game was the order of the day. And let's not forget cheeses and nuts! And, of course, our third president's unique fondness for pasta opens up all sorts of options on your holiday table.



A Virginia ham was always welcome at Monticello.



Jefferson grew many varieties of peas in his garden at Monticello.

BEVERAGES

While Jefferson was a great connoisseur of wine and seldom served harder liquor at his table, he did have it, and we know he ordered whiskey for the holiday season at Monticello. But if eggnogs and wassail bowls are a bit much for your gathering, strong coffee and hot chocolate served from silver urns into fancy cups would've been as welcome on Jefferson's table as it would be on ours.



Whiskey was a welcome ward against the winter's cold!



Not only were the Jeffersons fond of coffee, they had a special recipe for it.

SWEETS

Jefferson sent for barrels of apples in anticipation of the holidays, and other ingredients he thought might go well in the obligatory mince pies. His daughter also kept a recipe for a delicate French cookie known as a macaron—not to be confused with a macaroon. Blancmange is also a thoroughly Jeffersonian dessert, but ice cream will do, as Jefferson was the first president to popularize it in America.



French macaron cookies were as popular with the Francophile Jeffersons as they are today.



Mince pies were a favorite of the season!