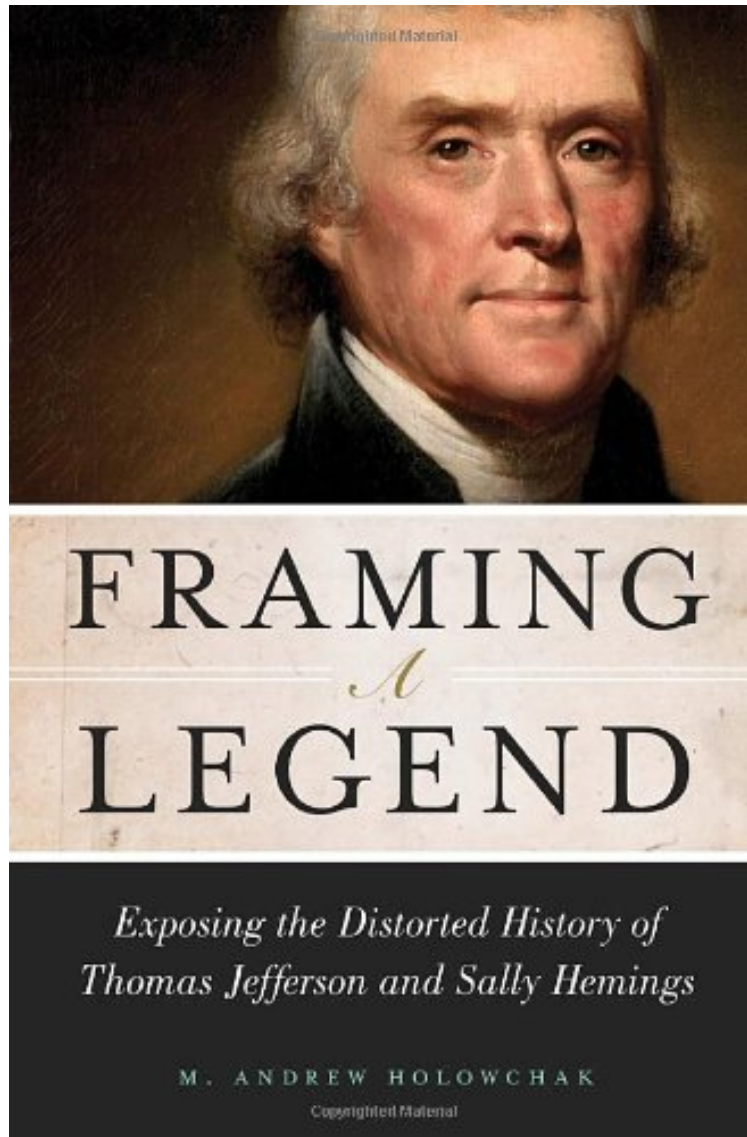


(Get free) Framing a Legend: Exposing the Distorted History of Thomas Jefferson and Sally Hemings

# Framing a Legend: Exposing the Distorted History of Thomas Jefferson and Sally Hemings

M. Andrew Holowchak

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**M. Andrew Holowchak : Framing a Legend: Exposing the Distorted History of Thomas Jefferson and Sally Hemings** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Framing a Legend: Exposing the Distorted History of Thomas Jefferson and Sally Hemings:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Holowchak relies on some really poor logic and never gets around to

confronting facts that ...By JimpopsWhile I don't have a dog in this fight (i.e., I am interested in but agnostic about the TJ/Hemings liaison), this book - which is essentially a critique, and a very personal (at times, ad hominem, critique at that, of three authors who believe there was a liaison - is perhaps the least persuasive book I have ever read. Aside from his sophomoric attempt to impress the reader with his (or his Thesaurus') written vocabulary, Holowchak relies on some extremely poor logic and never gets around to confronting facts that tend to establish that there was a sexual relationship between TJ and Sally. Reading both this book and Annette Gordon-Reed's Thomas Jefferson and Sally Hemings: An American Controversy, Ms. Gordon-Reed "wins" hands down. (And, BTW, I am a 68 year old white male. Again, I don't have a dog in this fight.)13 of 20 people found the following review helpful. Framing a Legend, Exposing the Distorted History of Thomas Jefferson and Sally HemingsBy Herbert BargerA great independent study that tackles the untruths of Monticello, Prof. Annette Gordon-Reed, Prof. Peter Onuf, Madison Hemings, Prof, Andrew Burstein, Prof. Ellen Lewis, Fawn Brodie and others distorting the real truth of the controversy. You should be very much concerned for truth because the above named distort the truth and you may wish to contact those who distort and lie about our country's history and you should know who they are. Professor Andrew Holowchak is extremely knowledgeable of his subject and has spent much research to alert his fellow citizens of the danger of such unreputable reportings by those mentioned above. Read about how these people are contaminating your country's history. Some of their books are being used in our country's universities. As an assistant to Dr Foster on the DNA study, I could add much more inside information that transpired between myself, he and Nature. NOTHING proves Thomas Jefferson fathered any slave child. This is all a SLAVERY topic issue. Please read the several books on the Thomas Jefferson Heritage Society ([www.tjheritage.org](http://www.tjheritage.org)), web page. I urge all to read this and the other books mentioned. Herb Barger Founder, Thomas Jefferson Heritage Society ([www.tjheritage.org](http://www.tjheritage.org))[www.jeffersondnastudy.com](http://www.jeffersondnastudy.com)22 of 25 people found the following review helpful. It never happenedBy David adams Framing a Legend is not the first book to dissect and discredit the theory that Thomas Jefferson fathered children with Sally Hemings (notably "in Defense of Thomas Jefferson" by William Hyland in 2009 is also a noble effort ) but perhaps the most direct attack on specific proponents of the theory, notably the books by Fawn Brodie, Gordon-Reed and Andrew Burstein. One would certainly like to hear those authors response to Dr. Holowchak, but that is probably unlikely. The best summary that can be made about the topic is that nobody really knows and probably will never know. As far as Dr. Holowchak is concerned, he seems to be making an excellent case that it is more unlikely than likely that no such liaison ever happened. I would agree that the weight of the evidence, is that it never happened

A penetrating critical perspective on the question of Thomas Jefferson's paternity that will make you rethink recent conventional wisdom. It is accepted by most scholars that Jefferson had a lengthy affair with his slave Sally Hemings and fathered at least one of her children, a conclusion based on a 1998 DNA study published in Nature and on the work of historian Annette Gordon-Reed. Framing a Legend argues compellingly that the DNA evidence is inconclusive and that there are remarkable flaws in the leading historical scholarship purporting to show such a liaison. Author M. Andrew Holowchak critically examines well-known books by Fawn Brodie, Annette Gordon-Reed, and Andrew Burstein, labeling their views as "three prominent spins." He then delves into what we know about Thomas Jefferson's character, showing that the historical facts do not suggest any romantic interest on Jefferson's part in his female slaves. Turning to the genetic evidence, Holowchak points out that, though DNA analysis indicates the presence of a Y-chromosome from some Jefferson male in the Hemings family line, it is unwarranted to conclude that this must have come from Thomas Jefferson. Finally, he discusses Jefferson's racial attitudes and says that they argue against any liaison with Sally Hemings.

From Booklist Since Fawn Brodie's Thomas Jefferson: An Intimate History (1974), or Annette Gordon-Reed's The Hemingses of Monticello (2008), popular belief holds that the third U.S. president begat a family with his slave. Holowchak is not the first disputant (see William Hyland's In Defense of Thomas Jefferson, 2009), but he may be the most pugilistic. Taking Brodie and Gordon-Reed to task, Holowchak flays their works as weak arrangements of the several incontestably known facts about the enslaved woman in question, Sally Hemings, into a liaison with Jefferson. A philosopher by profession, Holowchak illustrates his points with syllogismshe contests probabilities underlying DNA evidence which, supporters of a Hemings-Jefferson relationship assert, indicate that a relationship existed; and he pummels arguments favoring a connection for what he considers defects of logic. From his exercise in demolishing Brodie, Gordon-Reed, and others as fabulists, Holowchak switches to an approbation of Jefferson's character, which he maintains casts the Hemings thesis in further doubt. His argument aside, Holowchak may irritate some in his references to the subtext of this historical controversy, race, yet he gains a hearing for defying conventional wisdom. -- Gilbert Taylor "Framing a Legend will be regarded as a monumental work in American history. It is brilliant, illuminating, and refreshing. Dr. Holowchak meticulously illustrates serious flaws in the immorality of agenda-driven scholarship of popular scholars. This well-written volume is a must-read for all lovers of history." Cynthia Burton, author of Jefferson Vindicated "A superb work that demonstrates its argument beyond question and, along the way, should mortify defenders of the Jefferson-Hemings thesis for their slipshod and even dishonest work." Forrest

McDonald, distinguished professor of history emeritus, University of Alabama  
About the Author  
M. Andrew Holowchak (Lindenwold, NJ) is assistant professor of philosophy at Rider University. He is the author of *Dutiful Correspondent: Philosophical Essays on Thomas Jefferson*, seventeen other books on philosophy, critical thinking, and psychoanalysis, and numerous articles in scholarly journals.