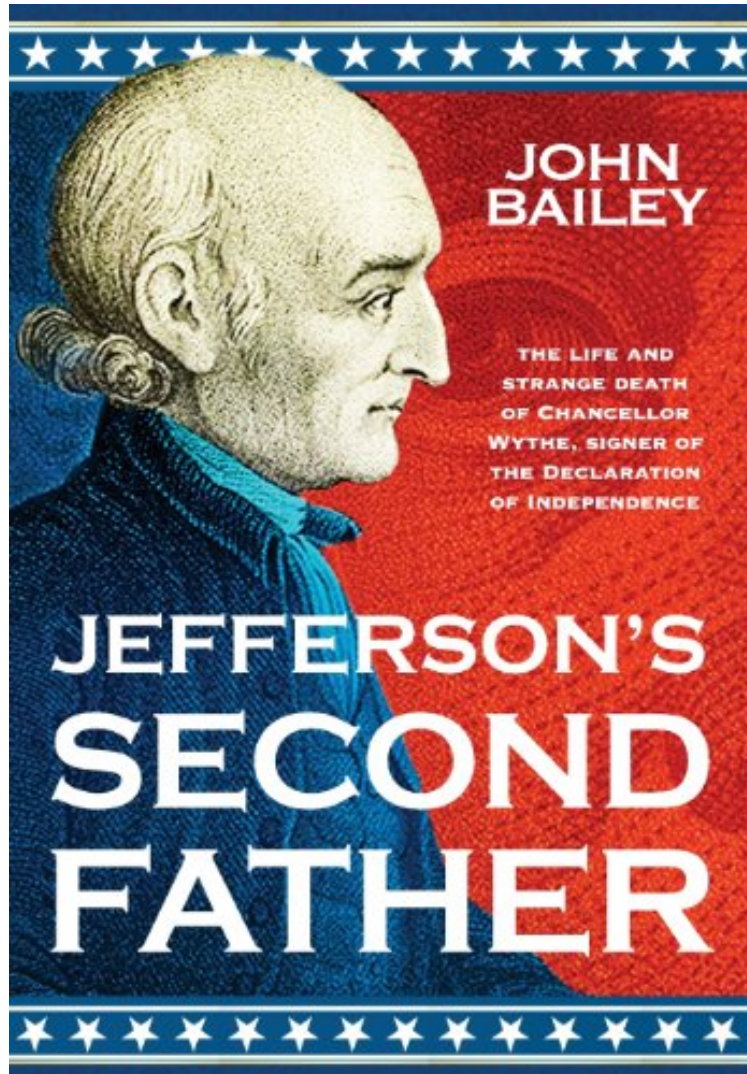


Jefferson's Second Father

John Bailey

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John Bailey : Jefferson's Second Father before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Jefferson's Second Father:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Highly recommendedBy Leigh ReesThis has to be John Bailey's best book yet. If you know nothing about America's struggle for independence from Great Britain, then this is the book to read. Not only does he capture the ethos of the times, but you feel as if you are sitting at the table with Jefferson and Smythe, imbibing their food, drinking their liquor and contributing wholeheartedly to their intense vision for a free America. Bailey transforms history into a vibrant and easy read for the layman. Fact is fleshed out with thoughtful reconstructions of the leading figures as they argue for a Bill of Rights free from Britain and the Church of England.

He tackles the question of slavery sourcing the pros and cons from correspondence between Jefferson and Smythe that provides us with real insight into its complexities. Although Bailey is master of the imaginative flourish, this book is thoroughly sourced and annotated for the historical fact finder. It's a book for students and lovers of a good read alike. I highly recommend it. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Murder mystery history

By Suzanne Reynolds
Having read *The Lost German Slave Girl* by this author, I approached this with a lot of anticipation. And I was not disappointed. John Bailey's style is to tell the history of people with a narrative, so it's really compelling to read. The mystery of George Wythe's death is a huge part of this story, so it almost works as a murder mystery (which Bailey solves, but I won't spoil it for you here). But through this there's much information about Wythe's life and what he did. A compelling, informing book. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Gripping historical narrative

By Mark Jefferson
Jefferson's Second Father is a really gripping narrative about George Wythe. Exploring his life and the mystery of his death, John Bailey constructs a history that is told like a story. It makes for an extremely interesting, page-turning book about a man who left an important legacy and lived in one of the most crucial times in American history.

"He was my ancient master, my earliest and best friend; and to him I am indebted for first impressions which have had the most salutary influence on the course of my life." -Thomas Jefferson on George Wythe, 1806. This is the story of George Wythe, a man determined, steadfast and courageous, described by Benjamin Rush as possessing "dove-like simplicity and gentleness of manner." From his humble beginnings as a circuit lawyer in Virginia, Wythe was a prominent opponent of slavery and was instrumental in the creation of the constitution. His distinguished career saw him appointed the first professor of law in the United States. Wythe witnessed most of the great events leading to America's independence and formation as a nation and was a signatory to the Declaration of Independence. And then, in 1806, Wythe was murdered. This book tells the story of George Wythe's life, his amazing legacy, his role as second father to the fathers of the nation and offers a solution to the mystery of his bizarre and tragic death.