

Narrator (*overlapping with the last chord*):

Jefferson collapsed at Martha's death; his sister (*music off*), Martha Carr, instructed slaves to carry him, half-fainting with grief, to his room. It was three or four weeks before he stepped out of his room. After he finally left his sickbed, he began to roam the grounds of Monticello, sometimes on horseback, but more often on foot with his 9 year old daughter Martha as his only companion. In these rambles, his daughter recalled, "I was his constant companion, a witness to many a violent outbursts of grief." He burned all of his wife's letters and papers except one, the poem that they penned together on her deathbed. For the remainder of his life, Jefferson kept this paper close to him, with a lock of his wife's hair entwined around it.

Jefferson buried his wife in the graveyard at Monticello, and as a part of her epitaph added lines in Greek from Homer's *The Iliad*: "Nay if even in the house of Hades the dead forget their dead, yet will I even there be mindful of my dear comrade."

(*Violinist stands*)

If the writing of the American Declaration of Independence was the ultimate outward accomplishment in Jefferson's life, one that would change the world of man forever, the death of his wife was the ultimate inward tragedy, one that would change the inner world of his heart forever. Thomas Jefferson's wife rated over and above any other ingredient in his life, and the days, months and years following Martha's death were spent coming to terms with the past, the present and contemplating the future.

(*music for III Head and Heart begins immediately, Narrator sits after first chord*)