

Most strikingly revealed by the photographs is the difference in the standard of living between the middle class, illustrated by Charles Hargraves (p. 40) and Margaret Cummer (p. 44), and the working class, represented by Abdul Amondi and Dom Poccia (p. 52) who labored in the Ford automobile factory. In the Hargraves and Cummer households the photographs include porcelain sinks, bathtubs, toilets, paintings, carpeting, wallpaper, and decorative fireplace mantels. In the photographs depicting working-class households one is startled not by what the occupants had but by what they did not have. The absence of closets, wardrobes, and chairs; the use of scraps of cloth for curtains; and well-worn furniture, linens, and utensils characterized the homes of the working class.

Boyle and Getis have succeeded in their primary goal: "exploring the everyday life of ordinary people, in all their glory" (p. 19). *Muddy Boots and Ragged Aprons* provides readers with a window through which to view the complexities of Detroit's industrialization, immigration, and urbanization. Moreover, the lessons learned from the book's photographs and text can be applied to other cities such as Cleveland, Pittsburgh, and Youngstown during this period.

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*Thomas Jefferson and Sally Hemings: An American Controversy*. By Annette Gordon-Reed. (Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, 1997. Pp. [xxiii], 288. Appendices, notes, bibliography, index. \$29.95.)

Did he or didn't he? As far as the American public is concerned, it seems, the verdict is already in: Thomas Jefferson was the father of Sally Hemings's children. But Annette Gordon-Reed is not quite so ready to decide. There are, she says, days she wakes up knowing that Jefferson fathered Sally Hemings's children and other days when she is less sure. It might be argued that this is the historian's fate. In the absence of a smoking gun (or in this case a DNA test), one can never be certain. Still, Gordon-Reed's reexamination of the evidence will convince many readers that they can be as sure about the reality of the Hemings-Jefferson relationship as they are about any number of other things.

Long dismissed by mainstream historians as a politically inspired calumny or an instance of what Freud called the family romance, the story of a relationship between the third president and a slave (who may or may not have been his late wife's half sister) gained new currency when revived in Fawn Brodie's 1974 biography, *Thomas Jefferson: An Intimate History*. But Brodie's claims, based in part on dubious psychologizing and a tendency to overread the Jeffersonian texts,

persuaded few in the historical profession. If nothing else, her picture of a passionate long-term relationship seemed remarkably romanticized and blithely ignored the obvious point, that relations between a master and his slave were based on fundamental inequalities of power.

Gordon-Reed, a law professor, comes at the problem in a different and far more satisfying way. Why, she asks, have historians been so willing to accept the traditions passed down in Jefferson's family (laying the blame at the feet of one or the other of Jefferson's nephews, Peter and Samuel Carr) and so dismissive of the traditions passed down by Sally Hemings's children? Who, she asks, has more to gain in this situation? Her critique of the standards historians have used in weighing these conflicting claims is devastating.

Gordon-Reed's other trump cards are the remarkable set of circumstances surrounding the births of Sally Hemings's children and the fate of the Hemings family generally. Each of Hemings's children was conceived shortly after Jefferson returned to Monticello from an extended absence. Of the hundreds of slaves Jefferson owned, only Hemingses were freed during his lifetime or by his will. Does this *prove* that Jefferson fathered Sally Hemings's children? No, not if one demands absolute proof. But it most certainly raises questions and shifts the burden of explanation to those who deny Jefferson's paternity. Further, it makes it far more difficult for Jefferson's "defenders" to rely on the often proffered argument that it would have been "out of character" for Jefferson to have had an affair with Sally Hemings. (Not all of those who deny Jefferson's paternity, of course, see themselves as "defending" him.)

In short, this is an important work, with things to say not only about its formal subject but about the practices of historians as well. Students of Jefferson will ignore it at their peril; students of American race relations will find it compelling.

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*The Chief Justiceship of John Marshall, 1801–1835.* By Herbert A. Johnson. (Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 1997. Pp. xii, 317. Notes, illustrations, tables, figures, appendices, bibliography, index. \$39.95.)

Among the long-range projects of gathering and editing the papers of prominent Americans, this volume on the role of Supreme Court Chief Justice John Marshall is an outstanding publication. Herbert A. Johnson brings to the task long experience with the subject. Among his other contributions are the ongoing edition of Marshall's papers and an authored volume, *Foundations of Power* (1981),