

# Monticello Slaves who gained freedom

## Reading Level: Middle School

Jefferson freed two slaves in his lifetime and five in his will. Three others ran away and were not pursued. All were members of the Hemings family; the seven he officially freed were all skilled tradesmen.

### Freed by Jefferson during his lifetime

- Robert Hemings (1762-1819), freed 1794
- James Hemings (1765-1801), freed 1796

### Freed in Jefferson's will (1826-1827)

- Joseph (Joe) Fossett (1780-1858)
- Burwell Colbert (1783-1850+)
- Madison Hemings (1805-1856)
- John Hemmings (1776-1833)
- Eston Hemings (1808-1856)

### Left Monticello but not pursued

- James Hemings (born 1787)
- Beverly Hemings (born 1798)
- Harriet Hemings (born 1801)

### Other Monticello slaves who gained freedom

Many other Monticello slaves also gained freedom, most after being sold following Jefferson's death. Below is a partial list:

- Peter Farley Fossett (1815-1901), freedom purchased by his father (Joseph Fossett) his family, and friends of Thomas Jefferson in 1850.
- Peter Hemings (1770-1834+)

- Robert Hughes (1824-1895), freed by Emancipation
- Elizabeth-Ann Fossett Isaacs (1812-1902), freedom purchased by her father, Joseph Fossett.
- Henry Martin (1826-1915), freed by Emancipation

The logo for Monticello, featuring the name "Monticello" in a cursive script above the word "MONTICELLO" in a bold, sans-serif font.

*Monticello*  
MONTICELLO