

## James and Dolley Madison

WELCOME BACK TO THE FOREIGN FIRST LADY. LAST MONTH, WE TALKED ABOUT THE RELATIONSHIP OF THOMAS JEFFERSON AND MARTHA JEFFERSON. THIS MONTH, WE WILL LEARN ABOUT JAMES AND DOLLEY MADISON, THE FOURTH COUPLE IN THE LONG LINE OF PRESIDENCY. SO SIT BACK AND LISTEN IN TO THE FOREIGN FIRST LADY

[THEME SONG]

TO GET THE FULL STORY, WE HAVE TO START A LITTLE BEFORE THE POINT WHEN JAMES MET DOLLEY. BEFORE JAMES, DOLLEY WAS ACTUALLY HAPPILY MARRIED. IN 1790, DOLLEY MARRIED JOHN TODD, A LAWYER IN PHILADELPHIA. THEY HAD TWO SONS BY THE NAME OF JOHN PAYNE AND WILLIAM TEMPLE.

LIFE STARTED TO SPIRAL OUT OF CONTROL IN 1793. A YELLOW FEVER HAD BROKEN OUT IN PHILADELPHIA. A LARGE AMOUNT OF PEOPLE DIED, AROUND 4,000. BOTH HER HUSBAND AND WILLIAM DIED FROM IT. DOLLEY WAS A WIDOW BY THE AGE OF 25.

IN 1794 WAS WHEN DOLLEY MET JAMES. DOLLEY ASKED HER FRIEND AARON BURR IF HE COULD INTRODUCE HER TO JAMES. JAMES WAS 43 AND 17 YEARS OLDER THAN DOLLEY. ONLY AFTER A COUPLE MONTHS, JAMES PROPOSED TO DOLLEY. THEY MARRIED ON SEPTEMBER 15TH, 1794. THEY DECIDED TO LIVE IN PHILADELPHIA FOR THE NEXT THREE YEARS.

BY 1797, JAMES DECIDED TO RETIRE FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND POLITICS IN GENERAL. HE WAS A MEMBER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FOR EIGHT YEARS. ONLY A SHORT TIME LATER, THOMAS JEFFERSON WAS ELECTED PRESIDENT. WHEN ELECTED, HE ASKED JAMES TO SERVE AS HIS SECRETARY OF STATE. THE MADISONS MOVED TO WASHINGTON ALONG WITH THEIR DOMESTIC SLAVES.

DOLLEY WAS A POPULAR FACE IN WASHINGTON. SINCE JEFFERSON WAS A WIDOW, HE CALLED ON DOLLEY FOR A LOT OF HIS AFFAIRS THAT A FIRST LADY WOULD TAKE CARE OF. IN 1808, JAMES MADISON WAS ELECTED TO BE PRESIDENT OVER JEFFERSON. HE WAS PRESIDENT FOR TWO TERMS, FROM 1809 TO 1817. DOLLEY MADE SURE TO HAVE WEEKLY GATHERINGS AT THE WHITE HOUSE TO INCREASE HER HUSBAND'S POPULARITY IN THE COUNTRY.

IN 1817, JAMES MADISON RETIRED FROM THE WHITE HOUSE AND HIS ROLE AS PRESIDENT. HE AND DOLLEY RETURNED TO MONTPELIER, THEIR PLANTATION THAT THEY OWNED IN VIRGINIA. THEY REMAINED THERE FOR THE REST OF THEIR DAYS, UNTIL JAMES MADISON DIED ON JUNE 28<sup>TH</sup>, 1836.

ONCE JAMES MADISON HAD PASSED, DOLLEY'S FINANCIAL SITUATION WENT DOWNHILL. HER SON WILLIAM WAS ARRESTED AND PUT INTO JAIL. TO PAY OFF HIS DEBTS, DOLLEY SOLD LAND AND MORGAGED HALF OF THE PLANTATION. TO MAKE SOME MONEY BACK, DOLLEY DECIDED TO PUBLISH SOME OF JAMES' PAPERS THAT HE HAD WRITTEN. CONGRESS GAVE DOLLEY 55,000 DOLLARS FOR THE PUBLISHING OF SEVEN VOLUMES OF JAMES' PAPERS.

IN 1837, DOLLEY RETURNED TO WASHINGTON. SHE ATTEMPTED TO SELL THE REST OF JAMES' PAPERS TO SUPPORT HER SON'S DEBTS. WITHOUT ANY LUCK, DOLLEY SOLD THE REST OF THE PLANTATION AND THE SLAVES THAT WERE THERE AS WELL.

DOLLEY DIED IN HER HOME ON 1849, WHEN SHE WAS 81. ALTHOUGH SHE WAS FIRST BURIED BY HERSELF AT THE CONGRESSIONAL CEMETERY IN WASHINGTON D.C, SHE WAS LATER MOVED TO BE BURIED NEXT TO JAMES AT MONTPELIER.

[THEME SONG]

THANKS FOR TUNING IN TO THIS MONTH'S EPISODE OF THE FOREIGN FIRST LADY. NEXT MONTH, WE WILL TALK ABOUT THE RELATIONSHIP OF JAMES AND ELIZABETH MONROE. THE FOREIGN FIRST LADY IS RECORDED AND SCRIPTED BY CHAE HALEY. THE THEME SONG COMES FROM MUSOPEN.ORG. FOR MORE PODCASTS LIKE THIS, GO TO WHJE.COM