Relics from "Monticello"

The old French clock supported between black marble obelisks. This clock was brought from France by Thomas Jefferson, and stood always near the head of his bed. It contained a wooden bracket which is at Edgehill, when the sale of Mr. Jefferson's personal property took place at "Monticello," the clock and its bracket were separated; the latter being bought by T. J. Randolph of Edgehill Albermarle Co. The clock was bought by Mrs. Jefferson's grandson Francis Eppes of "Poplar Forest," Bedford Co. Va. When Mrs. Eppes moved to Florida a few years after her grandfather's death, the clock was bought by my grandmother. Mr. Randolph valued the clock very much as a memento of her father, and of her home "Monticello." I remember this clock all my life, during grandmother's life, and even afterwards, it formed the center piece of our parlor, mantel. My grandmother...
sought the precious relic to my father's son in law, Nicholas Philip. There it followed us to Cuba, and in the voyage back to Washington one of theobelisks was broken, but the faithful old clock still ticked on. It was taken to our many homes, West Chester Pa., New York, Philadelphia, Thelows Pa. It finally was brought by my dear father to his last home, "Alexandria", West Ivory, and to the broken obelisk it was never set up in my father's house. I did not mark the hour of his death, nor of that of my mother and aunts. In 1851 my husband John W. Bruchs took it to "Tall" in Washington for repairs, my dear mother was much pleased, I hoped to hear its sweet silvery ring, but she never heard this pleasure. The Tall delayed, sending it home until Dec. 1852. Sometime after my mother's death, and she did not
clean the works, so that the clock never
was untidily cleaned and repaired
by "The owner of Alexandria, Dec 1852"
My dear children, all remember when
this valuable old relic was placed on
the mantel piece in our house. I now
you know all about the venerable old
Time piece, which must have been
made before the French Revolution
Consequently is of Louis XVI "s day.

The two little arm chairs came from "Monticello"
where they stood in the dining room, and one
of these grandfathers Jefferson always sat in.
the other grandmas used it. The man used it as she sat by her
father in the evenings at the fire side, a
small candle stand with candles on it
between them, the children and the young
men members of the family sat around the
dining table with their books of their work.
After Mr. Jefferson was confined to his
room, during his last illness, my father
but the initials "T. J. " on the chair which
grandpapa had used. These little chairs
have always been in my father's possession
since the "sale at Monticello" where he
purchased them.
3. The little "dumb waiter" which always
stood in my father's dining room, is
one of a pair which were used during
Mr. Jefferson's life as President of the U.
S. These "dumb waiters" were placed at the
head and foot of the dining table, and
were filled with plates, spoons, knives, forks,
and the servants were directed during
the dinner, when political or state
questions were discussed. I don't know
precisely, but the piece of furniture, which
has been repaired, and the piece of marble
inserted in the top, is a part of the
chairs of grandmama's Randolph's dressing
table, which her father brought from France
for her at the same time he brought me.
for his daughter Marcia (Mrs. Effes) and one for himself. These were probably the 12 marble top dressing tables brought to Virginia. I have the marble slab belonging to grandmama of which I hope to have a little dressing table made. I wish this slab to be preserved with care. You must all remember to have seen the little "door" which I bought at your grandmama's house it always stood in the dining room with the tea cups on it. I have (since my mother's death) bought it into our parlor to be used as a book stand. The top was originally made of wood and had a hole in the center to hold a wine cooler & glasses; and Cornelia had the piece of grandmama's dressing table inserted in it when the slab was an accident to the house. The "door" was made by Mr. Jefferson's directions & are specimens of Daddy's work. Mr. J. T. Bedell of the Monticello Estate.
The tall piece of drawers which you all remember to have stood in my room, and in the nursery since our house was altered; came originally from "Birdwood," my grand-father H. R. Ingraham's plantation near the University of Va. Then my grand-father the Rev. Horace Ingraham was appointed by Mr. Jefferson as the Collector of the Port of New Orleans after the purchase of Louisiana. He sold his estate "Birdwood," in Albemarle Co., at the sale of his household furniture. My grandmother Mrs. Randolph wishing to have some articles which had been used by my grand-mother Ingraham (of whom she was very fond) purchased among other things this tall piece of drawers which stood in her bed room at Monticello. It has the value of having belonged to both my paternal and my maternal grand-mothers. When I married my dear father had it beautifully done of and left it to me. It is a dear old family relic having belonged to my two
grandmother, then to my dear mother in whose chamber it always stood. In its lower drawer my brothers kept their childish treasures. I never much noticed them, but found it with the other three tall chests of drawers, which my father bought at auction in Philadelphia when he lived on Lombard Street. I gave the old "grandmama suit" as we called that family relic to my dear Sandy. I hope you will all see that it is never by any accident sold out of the family. Many persons have wished to buy it.

The little work table with two drawers & little leaves on the side, with brass handles on the drawers, belonged always to my mother, for whom it was made by my grand mother's order at Monticello. It is a specimen of the cabinet work done by the cabinet maker of the establishment, he was called "Faddy" being the husband of the colored "maidsy" who...
had charge of the nursery. I who took care of my grandmother's 12 children. "Daddy" made the little wood table, and a little desk for which grandma furnished the pattern, like one she had used at the "Abbaye Royale de Panthieroul", where she passed her schoolgirl life in Paris; the desk was made of wood Cherry, I believe, which had been seasoning for many years to be used to make grandfather Jefferson's coffin. My mother gave the little table to Samy.

The little press which I had repaired was also made at Monticello by "Daddy". He made it according to my father's orders for a paper press. I did not intend to have a marble slab put on it, & I shall have it taken off some day, as it destroys the style of the piece. I think this little piece...
of furniture is made of walnut.

The handsome old table cloth & scarves which I have, came as a
present to my grandmother from her
sister in law, M. de Conventross-Thomis of
Vincennes. This table cloth was among
the many elegant things which were
taken to M. de Conventross-Thomis by the
mobility & rich citizens of Paris for
Revolution. Safe keeping, he being then "Minister
impotent" of the United States at the
Court of Versailles, & the American flag
waving over his house. The owners of the
articles were I suppose guillotined during
the "reign of terror" & they never return
to claim their property which M. de
Thomis brought home with him. The
table cloth in question was sent to
my grandmother with the request
that it should be put on the table at
the wedding dinner of the 1st of my
grandmother's daughter who was married, that it should then be given to the bride. My mother was the 12th daughter married. The table cloth was used at her dinners, where a much illustrious company assembled to meet Gen. Lafayette, who with his suite arrived at "Monticello" on that day. The table cloth was very large, & covered the "Monticello" dining table; my mother afterwards cut off the ends of the cloth, of which she made the 6 napkins. The cloth must have belonged to some royal duke, or some one of high rank, so I believe none others were allowed to purchase Samarkand of that quality. This old cloth was also on the table at my wedding supper at the Peereuse house, 1504 Spruce Street in Phil. on Oct. 13th, 1858. My mother's wedding day was Friday Sep. 10th, 1824.
Friday was considered an unlucky day but my grandmother was above idle superstitions. At both the Jones and another preacher a quiet family party on the occasion, but this could only be if the wedding took place on Friday morning, as Gen. Lafayette & his suite were to arrive before dinner, & the house would be full of company; and so it was during the 3 weeks of his stay at "Monticello," where a large dinner party was given daily during those three weeks, in order that all the neighbors for miles around might have the privilege of seeing the "Nation's Guest," as Gen. Lafayette was called.

The little old-fashioned sofa belonged to Mr. Jefferson who gave it & the chair belonging to it to my father Mr. P. Hirst, when my father was at Monticello, reading law under Mr. Jefferson. The chair my father gave to Judge Kane of that he gave into the H. S. Society.
The gold locket which I wear to my watch was originally a little eye glass or pocket microscope belonging to grandpa Jefferson, my mother kept it for years in its original form but without the glass, that having been lost. I wish to preserve the little relic. I had it made into a locket, into which I put a lock of Thomas Jefferson's hair. A lock of his wife's hair, the only one in existence which was found among his papers, I then had inscribed with Jefferson's monogram. His wife Mrs. Martha Wayles Jefferson put on the back of the locket. Of the lock of grandmama Jefferson's hair I gave a piece to Sarah Randolph and a piece to Alice Decatur Jones.

There is also a small crystal locket heart-shaped, which belonged to grandpa Jefferson, and Mary gave it to me. I gave it to Edmund Jefferson Rumble. A pair of T. J.'s cuff button gold. I once enamelled, I also a silver fountain pen I handle which T. J. which I gave to Harry.
Another "relic" are the medals, which aunt Cornelia always kept in her own possession after Grandmama's death, to whom they belonged. I suppose she wished my aunts Mary & Cornelia to have them. As I was their residuary legatee these medals came to me with my aunt's papers & other personal effects. I keep them as a right; they are all that is left me of the property which my aunt had, (ten thousand dollars) which was always in Uncle Jeff's hands, & which he, having paid his debts instead "Walnut Field" without giving them a title to it, Section 1 of the Tax even Kimmell said, "lette recorded, that property was to have been mine of my brother Jefferson's he was uncle, & when I was aunt Mary & I, in their "wills" they made me their residuary legatee." Of course, everything in that
possession not otherwise specially bequeathed is mine, therefore I consider the "medals" mine to bequeath as I please. Aunt Comelia specified in her "Will" that Browne Buck [my brother] was to have her Jefferson "Beakers", her small silver funnel, and her tiny silver spoon, which belonged either to her grandmother "Martha Wayles" or to her aunt Comelia "Martha Jefferson", whom she was at the Convent in Paris, where each young Lady had her own silver spoon. After aunt Comelia's death I gave into Browne's own hands these three articles specified. The silver Beakers marked "J. P. to J. J. Gwrote. Wythe to Thomas Jefferson" were given respectively to my mother, my aunt Comelia to my aunt Mary and to my Uncle George Wythe Buck.
and Cornelia bequeathed her as I have mentioned to A. B. Smith, my brother.

My mother gave her Bessie to Alice Wiltz, being her God daughter, and my mother having no money to purchase the usual "silver veil" to give her God child. Aunt Mary gave her "Beautiful" marked G. W. to T. L. to "Nicholas Philip Truit Burke," my firstborn child.

I always understood that these four Bessie's were made by Thomas Jefferson's order to match four that he already owned, and these, if not made from some pieces of silver which had been bequeathed to Mr. Jefferson by his friend "George Wythe," I am to distinguish them from the original four, made by Mr. Jefferson's own family silver, these were marked G. W. to T. L. to "Chancellor" George Wythe to Thomas Jefferson.

April 9th, 1888.