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Fort Wayne, IN 46804

April 7, 1999

Mr. Brian Lamb
C-SPAN
400 N. Capital Street, N.W. No. 650
Washington, D.C. 20001-1511

Dear Mr. Lamb:

This letter follows the most interesting interview by you with Dr. Annette Gordon-Reed.

I was greatly interested in her remarks, but have to make exception to her statement that, "Hamilton had a reputation as a womanizer." It was said in conjunction with other statements and I do not believe it was intended the way it was received. Hamilton was indeed notoriously involved with one woman other than his wife, and I will deal with that issue later in this letter. As will be apparent, I am an admirer of Alexander Hamilton and should note the high points of his distinguished career in the American Revolution and his remarkable service thereafter.

1. At the Constitutional Convention, Hamilton feared for the stability of the new country. He was afraid that the presently contemplated plans could not be sustained by the political realities of the times and suggested, after a day-long address to the Convention, that a degree of monarchy be established within the system.

2. When his suggestion failed he threw himself fully into the support of the majority and wrote what has been described as the greatest document in the world history of free governments. He authored at least two thirds of the Federalist Papers which were described by Thomas Jefferson as the greatest document in the history of the long march to establish a free society. Its preparation, done over a period of only several months, stands singularly at the top of analytic documents in support of the American cause. This became the key to ratification.

3. During the preceding time of the Revolution, Hamilton was probably Washington's closest advisor to the extent of being allowed by Washington to draft many of his orders virtually without revision.

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4. Although he continually sought a more active role in the fighting of the war, Washington did not release him to this until the final main effort when he was permitted to lead a raid against an English outpost, which he performed with remarkable tenacity.

5. During the war, he had married Elizabeth Schuyler, the daughter of one of Washington's senior commanders. Hamilton broke with Washington after the end of the war, but when Washington became president, he sought Hamilton as his closest advisor and assistant. It is believed that Hamilton is responsible for the writing of Washington's Farewell Address.

6. Hamilton was indeed involved with Maria Reynolds. Having been "set up" by her husband, thereafter Reynolds demanded "hush money" from Hamilton, and after several payments and great embarrassment, Hamilton revealed his entire relationship with Maria Reynolds and, in substance, retired from public life. Over his own signature, he revealed the entire matter. A far cry indeed, from William Clinton.

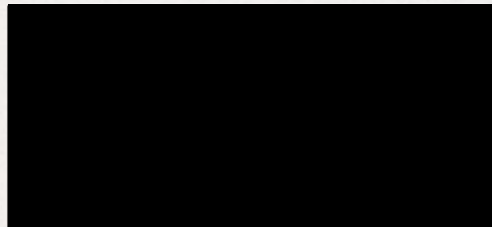
7. It should be noted that Hamilton was the only member of the outstanding men associated with the founding of the country - Washington, Adams, Jefferson, Franklin, and Hamilton - who did not own slaves. He quietly worked to eliminate this demeaning element in the founding of the country.

8. Hamilton's law practice was extensive and it is known that he did a great deal of work gratuitously. The duel with Aaron Burr left his family in straitened financial circumstances. It was not until thereafter that Congress, recognizing his great contribution, arranged to pay his back salary from the war to his widow.

9. Elizabeth Hamilton lived well into her 90's as the last surviving member of the great revolutionary families. She had made an outstanding effort in the support of charities and was invited to the White House by several presidents. Her statement as to her husband was understandable - "He was the greatest man that ever lived."

10. Theodore Roosevelt summarized the life and career of Hamilton with the remark that he was twice the man as Jefferson. It will be apparent, but for Article II, Section 2 of the Constitution, that I believe he should have served as president and be included in your illustrious series.

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cc: Dr. Annette Gordon-Reed

Sources:

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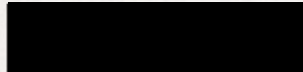
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