

# Welcome Al-Haakim!

**Post by “Don” of January 13, 2025 at 7:16 AM**

Welcome aboard, [Al-Hakiim von Grof](#) !

You've hit on a fascinating topic. It seems undeniable to me that Jefferson's Epicurean leanings influenced his political thought. However, the final draft of the Declaration went through a committee as well as revisions from the whole Congress before being accepted. A large part of Jefferson's original draft remained intact through the process, but there were significant changes made nonetheless. Here's a history of the creation of the Declaration from the US National Archives:

Image not found or type unknown



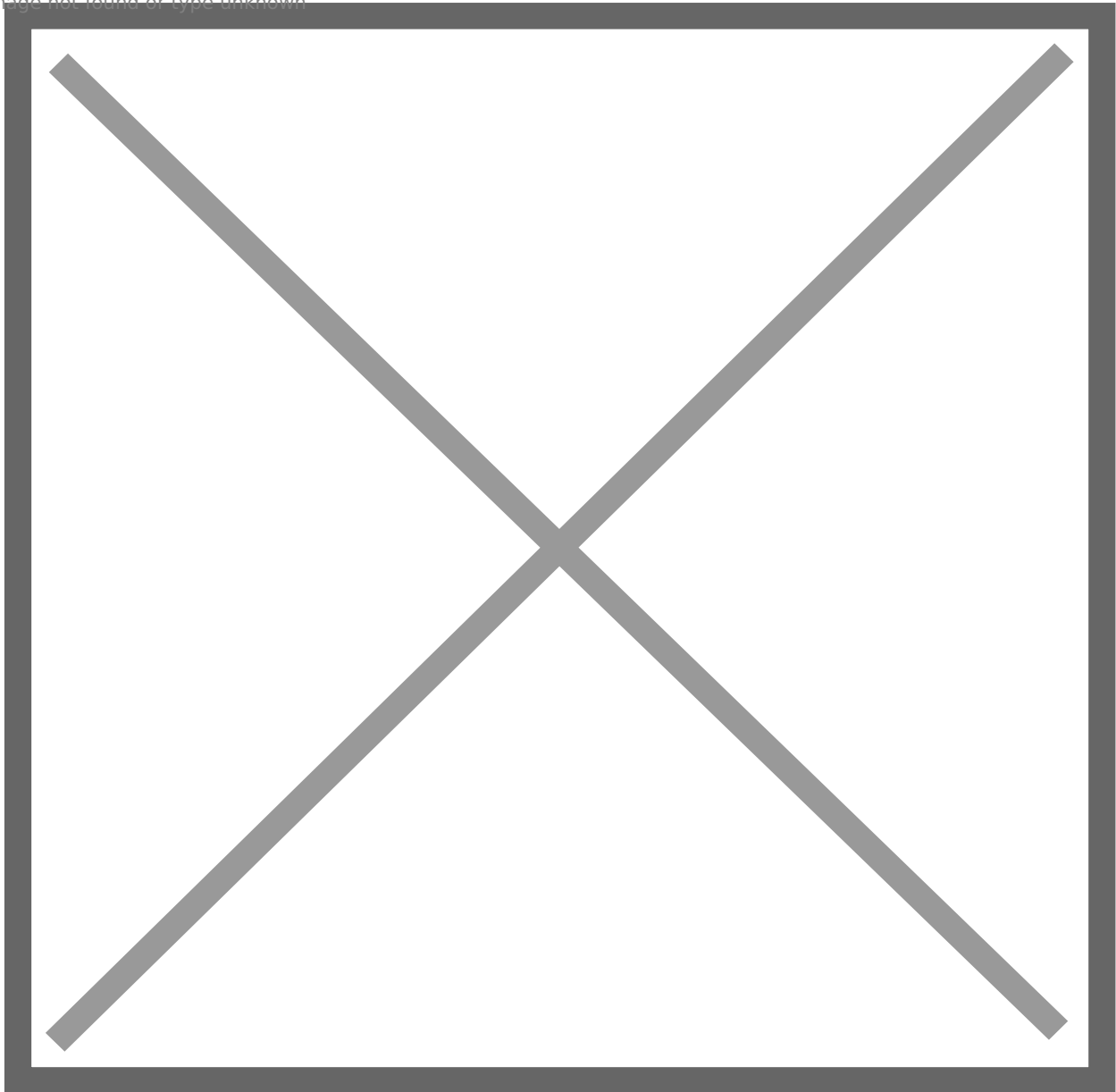
### [The Declaration of Independence: A History](#)

Nations come into being in many ways. Military rebellion, civil strife, acts of heroism, acts of treachery, a thousand greater and lesser clashes between...

[www.archives.gov](http://www.archives.gov)

There's also this from Monticello stating that "pursuit of happiness" could have clearly been influenced by George Mason's "Virginia Declaration of Rights"

Image not found or type unknown



### [Pursuit of Happiness](#)

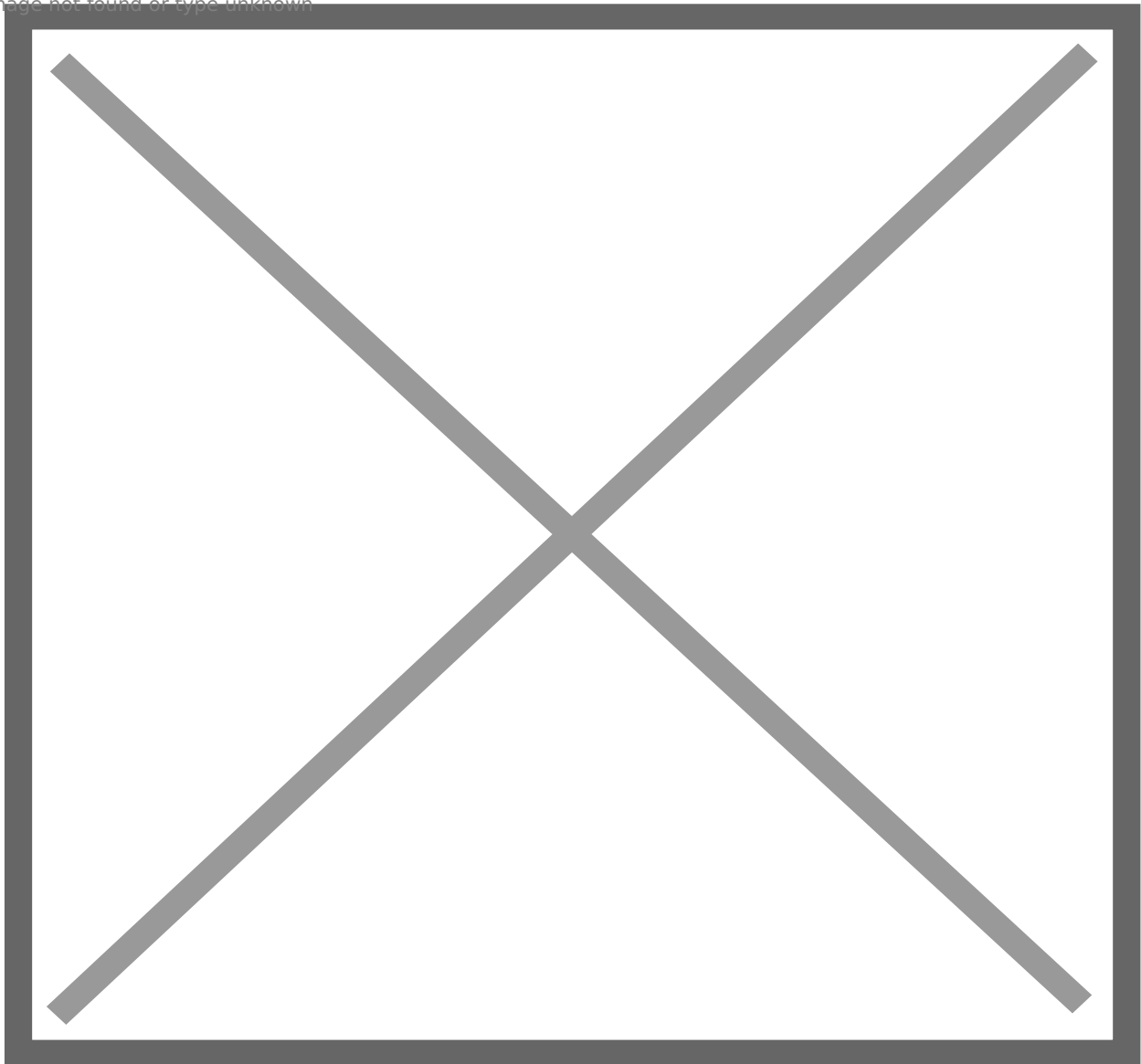
Find out what we know about what Thomas Jefferson meant by "pursuit of happiness".  
[www.monticello.org](http://www.monticello.org)

There's also

[Pursuit of Happiness - Creating the Declaration of Independence - Creating the United States | Exhibitions - Library of Congress](#)

Historian Peter Moore appears to have written an entire book on "Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness"

Image not found or type unknown

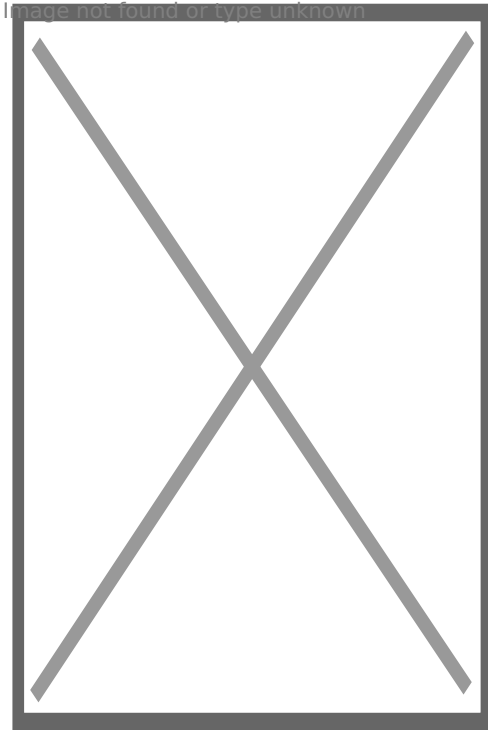


### [How Jefferson's 'pursuit of happiness' phrase came to be](#)

Historian Peter Moore examines six Enlightenment thinkers who influenced Thomas Jefferson's drafting of the Declaration of Independence.

[www.csmonitor.com](http://www.csmonitor.com)

So, Jefferson's phrase doesn't appear to be unique to him or \*wholly\* a result of his personal Epicureanism, but Epicurus's ideas were percolating throughout the Enlightenment era.



### [Epicurus in the Enlightenment](#)

Eighteenth-century Epicureanism is often viewed as radical, anti-religious and politically dangerous. But to what extent does this simplify the ancient...

[www.voltaire.ox.ac.uk](http://www.voltaire.ox.ac.uk)

Personally, I'm torn on how I feel about Jefferson. He was a fascinating man of science and invention, a pivotal Founder, a heckuva writer, but many of his actions make him difficult to like and from many accounts he was not an inspiring speaker.

That's probably a more lengthy response than you wanted! 😊 I'm glad you found our little Garden here online.