Non-Marital Sexual Contacts in the Lives of Selected Presidents
A Preliminary Personality Evaluation

A Research Paper
Submitted to the Honors Department
As Complete Fulfillment of Honors Class ID 499

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Muncie, Indiana
June, 1974
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*The President's Daughter*, p. 232.  
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*Allaistair Cooke's America*, p. 330.  
Every action in the life of a president is the focus for close scrutiny, careful examination, and, sometimes, intense political conflict. The examination encompasses everything from the man's political and religious beliefs to his honesty, love life, and general morality. Even under this close examination, any given event, or series of events, may be obscured by time, myths, or partisan political charges.

This study is focusing on the actions of some presidents about whom unusual, that is, non-marital, sexual behavior is claimed. It does not attempt to make value judgments about whether these actions are "moral". It does attempt to differentiate between valid history and false or dubious reports.

The aim of this study is twofold. First, it will attempt to tell the story that involves each man and will, at this time, either document or debunk the story. These anecdotes will give an indication of the type of style employed by each man. This is important to know because personality tends to be relatively stable\(^1\) and so it can be expected that this kind of style will be used over again during the man's life. It is at this time, also, that the study will attempt to determine what effect, if any, that the affair had on political actions of the period.

The second portion of the paper will attempt to

\(^1\)Arthur Combs and Donald Snygg, \textit{Individual Behavior: A Perceptual Approach to Behavior}, p. 130
isolate personality traits associated with such behavior and determine, on this basis, any similarities between the various men involved.

This paper is limited to the following presidents (in chronological order): Washington, Jefferson, Jackson, Lincoln, Cleveland, Wilson, Harding, Franklin Roosevelt, and Eisenhower. These men were chosen for the availability of information, the good documentation of the "affair", or the persistence of the story. In two of these cases the study determined that the stories were probably completely false.

The other presidents have not been considered for a variety of reasons. Some, of course, are left out because there has never been any serious accusations of non-marital sexual behavior. Truman is an example. This does not necessarily mean that none occurred, and given the normal behavior of young men, it is quite probable that some trifling affairs did occur that were not reported. It is a curious fact that in some cases, biographers and, perhaps more understandably, relatives have felt it necessary to "protect" the image of a president. As late as 1964, a nephew of President Harding effectively prevented the publishing of love letters written by his uncle.² In addition, several people have burned presidential papers which they felt were uncomplimentary.

Some presidents were not considered because the stories were patently and, sometimes, humorously untrue. One such story is that President Harrison (It has been applied to both Harrisons) died from a heart attack while in a house of prostitution.3 Some of the stories have been so unlikely that the men attacked felt no need to defend themselves. This happened, for example, when John Adams was accused of sending General Pinckney to France to procure four mistresses—two for each of them. Adams merely observed wryly, "I do declare if this be true, General Pinckney has kept them all for himself and cheated me out of my two."4

The last limitation is applicable to the most recent presidents where there are not yet reliable reports to document this aspect of their lives. We know that rumors exist concerning flirtations by Kennedy and Lyndon Johnson but they are difficult to verify or dispute at this time. For example when Mrs. Johnson was asked about her husband's flirtations, she merely replied that he was a "people-lover" and that this "certainly did not exclude half the people in the world, women."5 This is hardly the verification the television newscaster was seeking.

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4Ibid., p. 66.
5"Barbara Walters--Star of the Morning," Newsweek, May 6, 1974, p. 56.
George Washington

Gladstone called George Washington "the purest figure in history" and Bryan said that he was "next to Divinity." His purity is so unquestioned that Hawthorne asked whether "anyone had seen Washington in the nude," and answering himself he said, "It is inconceivable. He had no nakedness, but was born with his clothes on, and his hair powdered, and made a stately bow on his first appearance in the world." 6

In spite of these excellent testimonies, it seems likely that Washington's relations with women, or at least one woman, would not have been approved of by the people in his era. These exact relationships we may never know entirely since Washington's papers were destroyed at different times by George Washington himself, Martha Washington, and J. P. Morgan. Morgan is said to have burned some of George Washington's letters because he thought they were "smutty" 7 and he thus deprived later historians of valuable insight into Washington's personality.

Apparently, according to Wayne Barrett, "young Washington fell in love hard and often . . . ." 8 The first known example of this loving nature is a Francis Alexa, a girl unknown to historians. It is possible, since she is unknown, that this is only a portion of the name for it is derived from an

7 Ibid., p. 13.
8 Wayne Barrett, "George and Betsey and Polly and Patsy and Sally . . . and Sally . . . and Sally," Smithsonian, November, 1973, p. 90.
accrostic written by young George at the age of sixteen. The first lines of the poem go:

From your bright sparkling Eyes i was undone; Rays, you have more transparent than the sun, Amidst its glory is the rising Day, None can you equal in your bright array.9

Next in line apparently was George’s "Low Land Beauty." She is sometimes thought to be the "future mother of Light-horse Harry Lee and grandmother of Robert E. Lee."10 This cannot be verified however. The best candidate for the "Low Land Beauty" may be Mary Cary, the sister of Sally Cary Fairfax.11 This idea is, perhaps, substantiated by the fact that one of two letters written about the "Low Land Beauty" and characterized by Corbin as "almost identically sentimental, identically incoherent, and ungrammatical" shows that he was living at Belvoir, the Fairfax estate, not at Mount Vernon.12

George Washington, at the young age of sixteen, was brought to Mount Vernon by his brother Lawrence. Lawrence was the brother-in-law of William Fairfax of Belvoir and introduced George to this nearby neighbor. Soon, George was employed to survey part of Thomas Fairfax’s five million acre royal grant. (William was the American representative for his cousin, Thomas, Lord Fairfax of Leeds.)13

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9Ibid.
Meanwhile, William married the eighteen-year-old Sally Cary, a well educated and courtly young lady. Although we don't know when George's interest may have switched from Mary to Sally, Corbin thinks, on the basis of some cryptic references in George's diary, that it may have been as early as 1748.\textsuperscript{14}

At some time though, Sally began to play an increasingly larger part in George's life. "She read classics and played whist and loo with him, taught him to dance, advised him on his wardrobe and helped him to look after it, and induced him to perform with her in amateur theatricals."\textsuperscript{15} Not only was their affection important from a standpoint of their personal relationship, but also because she taught Washington much of the culture needed of a gentleman. Especially important was the liberal attitudes that Washington encountered at the Fairfax estate. In spite of their connections to nobility, both William and Sally were republicans. Washington's favorite theatrical which they performed in 1758 was Addison's "Cato," a republican and anti-monarchical play.\textsuperscript{16} It is possible that this period of Washington's life either created or reinforced Washington's republican ideals and, perhaps, helped determine his part in the revolution.

There is no doubt that George Washington fell in love with Sally. This occurrence is well documented by love letters that are still in existence. Apparently, the relationship

\textsuperscript{14}Corbin, Op. Cit., p. 55.

\textsuperscript{15}Miller, Op. Cit., p. 16.

\textsuperscript{16}Corbin, Op. Cit., p. 16.
continued for many years, even while Washington was actively looking for a wife. In 1752, when Washington was twenty, he courted and proposed to Betsy Fauntleroy. She turned him down. Later he squired Mary Phillips, a rich widow, around New York. 17

It was at this time, 1753, that the correspondance between Washington and Mrs. Fairfax began. It is interesting to note that "Washington did not understand why she wanted him to write her through a third party ..." 18 even though he knew she was married.

He wrote:

Dear Madam: When I had the pleasure to see you last, you express’d an inclination to be informed of my safe arrival at Camp with the charge that was entrusted to my care; but at the same time desir’d it might be communicated in a Letter to somebody of your acquaintance. This I took as a gentle rebuke and polite manner of corresponding with you ... 19

In January of 1759, Washington married Martha Custis, a rich widow with an enormous estate, which amounted to about $100,000 (expressed in pounds and in Bank of England bonds), plus land, chattel and Negroes. 20 About one-third of the estate was hers and the rest were controlled by her for her children.

About four months before he married Martha, he wrote Sally.

18Ibid., p. 94.
19Ibid.
If you allow that any honour can be derived from my opposition to Our System of management you destroy it entirely in me my attributing my anxiety to the animating prospect of possessing Mrs. Custis, when--I need not name it. Guess yourself ... This true I profess myself a Votary of Love. I acknowledge that a Lady is in the Case--and further I confess, that this lady is known to you. Yes, Madam, as well as she is to one who is too sensible of her charms to deny the power whose influence he feels must ever submit to . . . . 21

After the marriage, the Fairfaxes and the Washingtons remained close friends visiting back and forth between the two estates which were only five miles apart.22

When Thomas, Lord Fairfax, died, William and Sally left for England to claim the estate. After 1773 they never returned to Virginia.23 This didn’t end the correspondance though. Nineteen months before he died, Washington wrote Sally saying that many important things had happened but that, none of which events, however, nor all of them put together, have been able to eradicate from my mind, the recollections of those happy moments, the happiest of my life, which I have enjoyed in your company.24

Martha added a postscript that expressed her "fondness for Sally."25

There remains two questions that perhaps will never be answered. The first is how much Sally actually cared for George. The second is whether there was ever actually any physical contact between the two.

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23Ibid.
In answer to the first question, it appears that she loved her husband for at his death she excused her penmanship by saying "weeping has robbed me of sight."26 On the other hand, she apparently had some affection for Washington for she not only corresponded with him but also kept his letters until her death in 1811.

Miller,27 Corbin,28 and Bellamy29 feel that there was no physical connection especially during Washington's marriage. This is because of the laws, morals, and religious climate of the period. It seems likely, though, that this was a physical "affair" as well as a platonic relationship. It must be remembered that the South did have marital separations,30 and as we shall see, a contemporary, Thomas Jefferson, made improper advances to a married woman. There are also other accounts of contemporaries having mistresses.

There are some other stories that should be mentioned very briefly. Each one is apparently false.

The first concerns a letter sent to Washington containing an indication that Washington engaged in promiscuous behavior. The letter, allegedly from Benjamin Harrison, has been proven to be a forgery with the damning paragraph inserted by the

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28Corbin, Op. Cit., p. 64.
30Robert Bell, Premarital Sex in a Changing Society, p. 23.
British so that it could be published for propaganda during
the Revolution.\textsuperscript{31}

A second allegation is that George Washington had several children by slave mistresses. This apparently grew out of confusion between George and Lund Washington, who was overseer at the plantation. Lund Washington freely admitted the paternity of a son whom he fathered by a black housekeeper at Mount Vernon. Descendants of this son have often been regarded as being descendants of George Washington instead.\textsuperscript{32}

The third allegation to be dealt with is the most tenuous of all. There is absolutely no evidence that Washington was Alexander Hamilton's father or that he had any connection at all with Madame Jumel, the former Betsy Bowen, also known as Eliza Brown. Eliza Brown was a Providence, Rhode Island prostitute who married Stephen Jumel, a rich plantation owner, and she later married Aaron Burr. The problem arose because she named her son after the President and the son later claimed to be Washington's son. The claim was disavowed in a Rhode Island court case.\textsuperscript{33}

Generally, these accusations and provable actions were not known until after Washington's death and thus had no political effect.

\textsuperscript{31}Corbin, Op. Cit., p. 52.
\textsuperscript{32}Miller, Op. Cit., p. 49.
\textsuperscript{33}Ibid., pp. 50-51.
George Washington (after Charles Willson Peale) at an age when his mind was often on the ladies.

Sally Fairfax, based on a portrait by an anonymous primitive artist. The flower suggests coquetry.
Wealthy Polly Philipse also turned down the gallant colonel.

Well-endowed Martha (Patsy) Custis, here unwigged, said "yes" in 1758.
Thomas Jefferson

Thomas Jefferson has been accused of three separate instances of improper sexual behavior. One is completely false, one dubious, and one at least partly true.

Chronologically, the true story comes first although it was reported after Jefferson became president. While Jefferson was a bachelor, he made improper advances to a neighbor's wife. The charges made by her husband, John Walker, much later are as follows:

I was married at Chelsea the seat of my wife's father on 6th [5th] of June 64. I was educated at W. & Mary where was also educated Mr. J.

We had previously grown up together at a private school & our boys acquaintance was strengthened at college. We love (at least I did sincerely) each other.

My father was one of his fathers exr & his own guardian & advanced money for his education . . . .

I took Mr. J. with me the friend of my heart to my wedding. He was one of my bridesmen.

This is as I said took place in 64.

In 68 I was called to Fort Stanwix being secretary or clerk to the Virginian Commission at the treaty with the Indians there held by Sir W. Johnson which was composed of Gen'l A. Lewis & my father.

I left my wife and infant daughter at home, relying on Mr. Jefferson as my neighbor and fast friend having in my will made before my departure, name him first among my executors.

I returned in Novr. having been absent more than 4 months.

During my absence Mr. J.'s conduct to Mrs. W. was improper so much as to have laid the foundation of her constant objection to my leaving Mr. J. my execr telling me that she worried why I could place such confidence in him.
At Shadwell his own house in 69 or 70 on a visit common to us being neighbors & as I felt true frds, he renewed his carresses placed in Mr. W.'s gown sleeve cuff a paper tending to convince her of the innocence of promiscuous love.

This Mrs. W on first glance tore to pieces.

After this we went on a visit to Col. Coles a mutual acquaintance & distant neighbor. Mr. Jefferson was there. On the ladys' returning to bed he pretended to be sick, complained of a headache & left the gentlemen among whom I was.

Instead of going to bed as his sickness authorized a belief he stole into my room where my wife was undressing or in bed.

He was repulsed with indignation & menaces of alarm & ran off.

In 71 Mr. J was married and yet continued his efforts to destroy my peace until the latter end of the year 79.

One particular instance I remember.

My old house had a passage upstairs with a room on each side & opposite doors.

Mr. J. and his wife slept in one. I & my wife in the other.

At one end of the passage was a small room used by my wife as her private apartment. She visited it early & late. On this morning Mr. J. knowing her custom was found in his shirt ready to seize her on her way from her chamber--indecent in manner.

In 83 Mr. J. went to France his wife died previously.

From 79 Mr. J. desisted in his attempts in my peace.

All this time I believed him to be my best frd. & so felt and acted toward him.

All this time I held him first named in my will, as exect. ignorant of every thing which had passed.

Soon after his sailing for France was Known Mrs W then recurred to my will & being as before asked her objections, she related to me these base transactions apologizing for her past silence from her fear of its consequence which might have been fatal to me.

I constantly wrote to him ... 34

Parts of this are undoubtedly true since at the time of its publication, Jefferson wrote to some friends about these and other charges. "I plead guilty to one of their charges, that when young and single I offered love to a handsome lady. I acknowledge its incorrectness." It should also be stated here that concerning the allegations that he made advances while married and other charges then current, he continued in reply, "It is only one in truth of all those allegations against me."

The suggestion has been made that the real reason for the delay in reporting the "affair" might have been different than the one Mrs. Walker gave her husband. Miller writes, "many speculated that she might have been more receptive to the young Jefferson than her husband believed, and that the President was overly gallant in exonerating her."

An interesting coincidence is that during part of the time concerned, the Walkers were living at an estate named Belvoir, the same name as the Fairfaxes' American estate.

The second accusation leveled against him was that he had "affairs" with French women while he was minister to France. He did tour Paris with a married woman, Martha

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36Miller, Op. Cit., p. 82.
37Ibid.
Hadfield Cosway, but her husband knew about it and it is unlikely that there was any impropriety.\textsuperscript{40} There is no proof to verify any other French associations.

The most persistent story concerning Jefferson was that he fathered several children by a negro slave named Sally Hemmings. Although the story was broken by James T. Callender, a notorious and unreliable scoldmonger,\textsuperscript{41} it has been given a great deal of use by people who have had their own reasons for believing it to be true. The British used the story to make Jefferson and the United States look bad. The abolitionists used the story to make the point of how slavery could subvert the morals of even a great man like Jefferson. Of course, Jefferson's political enemies also used the story.\textsuperscript{42}

It is known that Sally had four children between 1798 and 1806. It is claimed by those who believe the story that Jefferson was at the plantation nine months prior to each birth.\textsuperscript{43} The family, however, maintained that before one of the births Jefferson and Sally couldn't have seen each other for fifteen months.\textsuperscript{44} They suggest, instead, that Peter Carr, Jefferson's nephew, was Sally's lover.\textsuperscript{45}

\textsuperscript{40}Ibid., PP. 87-91.
\textsuperscript{43}Miller, Op. Cit., p. 79.
\textsuperscript{44}Peterson, Op. Cit., p. 97.
\textsuperscript{45}Miller, Op. Cit., p. 77.
A new slant on the story has been presented by Fawn Brodie in her book, *Thomas Jefferson an Intimate History*. She completely accepts the Sally Hemmings' story but revives the story that Sally was Martha Jefferson's half-sister. Her conclusion is that it would be natural for Jefferson to be drawn to someone so close to his deceased wife.46 Slave testimony did indicate that Mr. Wayles, Jefferson's father-in-law was Sally's father,47 but it is known that Sally's mother had twelve children by four men and so there is no conclusive evidence that Wayles is Sally's Father.48

We probably will never be able to completely verify or disprove the Hemmings story. Knowing of Jefferson's opposition "to the mixture of colour in America,"49 though, it would seem out of character for him to have had a Negro mistress.

Politically, these stories, true or untrue, seem to have had little effect.


Andrew Jackson

The Andrew Jackson scandal is different in that the principals were later married. The "martyred" Rachel has gained much sympathy over the years, but after all this time, it is hard to determine whether she was as innocent as the fiction writers make her.

The young Jackson was quite a ladies' man. The first specific name he is connected with is by a local tradition which talks of "a tender parting 'on the banks of the Catawba'" with Mary Crawford, a neighbor. There is no verification for this tradition but fifty years later, Jackson sent a silver snuff-box to Mary Crawford Dunlap.

In Nashville, Jackson took up residence at Widow Donelson's blockhouse. Here he was in close contact with Lewis and Rachel Robards. The reason for Jackson's residence at the blockhouse is hard to understand--unless Jackson was already interested in Rachel. To reach the blockhouse from Nashville, it was "necessary to ferry the river and take the Kentucky Road northwest for six or seven miles, then branch off on a poor trail for three or four miles more." The only other likely reason for his stay is that he wanted the political support of the large and influential Donelson family.

The Robards' residence there is much easier to understand. They had been living with Lewis Robards' mother but

50 Marquis James, The Life of Andrew Jackson, p. 34.
51 Ibid.
52 Ibid., p. 48.
53 Ibid., p. 38.
Robards had become extremely jealous of Peyton Short, a boarder. Because of this, Robards had asked Rachel to return to her mother, Mrs. Donelson. He later showed up in Nashville and effected a reconciliation. 54

The proximity of these three people was not ideal.

As Remini says,

... a worse arrangement could hardly be imagined. Here was Rachel, a high-flying, lively, delightful young girl, who liked to dance, ride horses, and tell amusing stories to an appreciative audience; and here was Jackson, who could match Rachel’s gaiety and fun and maybe spice it with a little wildness; and here too was Robards, almost pathologically suspicious of his wife’s behavior—all living under the same roof. 55

After a quarrel with Jackson, Robards returned to Kentucky, and, later took Rachel back with him. Here there was another quarrel and Rachel left again for Nashville.

The court charge later read, "Rachel Robards did, on the day of July, 1790, elope from her husband, said Lewis... with another man." 56 The man referred to Andrew Jackson.

Jackson must have known that the trip would cause trouble and hurt both of their reputations. Apparently, though, the Donelson family didn’t object to the trip either. Remini concludes,

Probably, he was asked to go by the Donelson brothers—who were themselves pretty disgusted

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55 Robert V. Remini, Andrew Jackson, p. 29.
with the affair—and in accepting he deliberately laid the grounds for divorce. Despite the inevitable scandal, he had decided to marry Rachel because such an alliance with one of the most important families in the territory was precisely what he wanted. 57

As already mentioned, there was a court divorce, but this was still more than two years later. In those days, divorces were normally granted by legislatures. Robards did take his case to the Virginia legislature but they refused to grant the divorce; they did give him the right to take his case to court in the soon to be formed state of Kentucky. 58 This brought about a tragic error which inadvertently tarred Rachel and Andrew as adulterers.

Apparently Andrew and Rachel thought Robards had been granted a divorce for they were married almost immediately. As James say, "Evidence of the general belief on the Cumberland that a divorce was granted is ample. Evidence to the contrary is absent." 59

In 1793, Robards did receive a divorce from the Mercer County, Kentucky Court. When the news reached the Jacksons they were shattered. Although Jackson at first argued that everyone in "the territory knew they were properly married," 60 they were eventually remarried. They did so in September of 1793.

During the 1828 campaign, which has been characterized as a "new low in political dignity,"\(^{61}\) the Adams supporters threw every slur possible at Andrew Jackson. He was charged with "adultery, seduction, murder, theft, treason, and other less strenuous crimes such as Sabbath-breaking, cock fighting, horse racing and swearing."\(^{62}\) The charge that really incited Jackson was the one of adultery. There is no doubt that Jackson loved Rachel and so this charge infuriated him. One biographer says,

Jackson was notoriously touchy on the subject of the irregularity of his marriage and it took the utmost effort on the part of his friends to control him during the campaign of 1828 in which Rachel was likened to a "black wench" and branded a "profligate woman."\(^{63}\)

When Jackson's wife died before he took office, he blamed her death on the public attacks on her character. He never forgave "those vile wretches who have slandered her."\(^{64}\)

Although the charges apparently had little effect at this time beyond intensifying Jackson's hate for his enemies, in the future the feeling created would play a major part in causing a shake up of the government cabinet under Jackson.

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Jackson's feelings came to the fore because of the snobbishness of high society in what has come to be known as the Peggy Eaton affair.

Eaton and Jackson had been fledgling Senators together and Eaton ran the 1828 campaign for Jackson. This would normally mean a cabinet position for Eaton but gossip had been connecting Eaton's name with Mrs. John Timberlake, formerly O'Neale, a ship pursar's wife and the daughter of a tavern owner. Eaton just happened to live at that tavern. The gossip was started when she stopped flirling with other men; the Senator wrangled some choice assignments for her seafaring spouse and also financially assisted her father by purchasing his inn; holding it until there was a buyer, and establishing O'Neale and his family in another boarding house. The Senator moved there, too and used the house as his Washington headquarters while he directed Jackson's successful campaign for the presidency.  

When Timberlake died, the gossip said that he had committed suicide upon hearing of his wife's affair. The Eaton-Timberlake marriage added fuel to the fire and so Vice President Calhoun recommended that Eaton not be given a government appointment. Jackson's first appointment was Eaton as Secretary of War.

Jackson obviously equated the attacks on the Eatons with those on Rachel and made an investigation which determined to his satisfaction that they were innocent. When

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66Ibid., p. 120.
Mrs. Calhoun and her social faction refused to associate with Peggy in spite of the evidence, Jackson became furious. He even sent the Dutch Minister home because his wife was supposed to have slighted Mrs. Eaton. 67

The conflict was ended when Eaton and Van Buren, who had befriended the Eatons, submitted their resignations. Jackson then demanded the resignations of the rest of the cabinet and weeded out those he felt to be trouble makers. The net result was that Van Buren strengthened his political power and Calhoun's power was lessened. 68

Jackson's popular support was also increased. Ward said that the Peggy Eaton affair showed that "it was better to err on the part of quietism than to be arraigned against a woman." 69

67Ibid., p. 122.
392. A copy of a rare print of Peggy O'Neil Eaton, whose romantic exploits shocked the capital when Andrew Jackson was President.

393. Peggy Eaton in her last years.
Abraham Lincoln

Abraham Lincoln has probably had as many biographies written about him as any other American. With so much written, some of it fairly contemporaneously, it is hard to understand how there can be so much dispute about his life. His love life is included in the confusion.

We find some biographers saying things like "in a vague way Lincoln desires the company of girls, but to talk to them without embarrassment is well nigh impossible,"70 or that "Lincoln was an undersexed man."71 Others, such as Herndon, Lincoln's former law partner, thought that "Lincoln had a strong, if not terrible passion for women. He could hardly keep his hands off a woman, and yet, much to his credit, he lived a pure and virtuous life."72 But Herndon also says that Lincoln's passions early led him into trouble--a casual affair lead to syphilis. "About the year 1835-36 Mr. Lincoln went to Beardstown and during a devilish passion had connection with a girl and caught the disease."73

There is absolutely nothing known today to verify either viewpoint. The Herndon story cited, as with some of his stories mentioned in the following paragraphs, is extremely dubious. Montgomery Lewis points out that Herndon's

71Rachel N. Currant, The Lincoln Nobody Knows, p. 32.
biography was based upon testimony taken years later and that little effort was taken to verify the stories or to compare them to public records.\textsuperscript{74}

The most well known Lincoln story is about his love for Ann Rutledge. This story is also from Herndon. The story briefly says that Lincoln fell in love with Ann Rutledge. She was engaged to another man who was forced to be gone from New Salem several years. She, thinking that she had been deserted, became engaged to Abe. Shortly thereafter she died throwing Lincoln into a great depression from which he never completely recovered. Herndon says that "Mr. Lincoln loved Ann to his death, no mistake."\textsuperscript{75}

As mentioned before, all of Herndon's stories are dubious. Lewis points out that the loss of work from the depression that Herndon reports in his book never took place. In addition, within a year's time Lincoln was courting another woman, Mary Owens.\textsuperscript{76} Miller states that people around Springfield, Illinois felt "that his Ann Rutledge story was a complete fabrication."\textsuperscript{77}

Mary Todd Lincoln also replied to the charge.

\begin{quote}
My husband was truth itself . . . and as he always assured me that he cared for no one but myself . . . I shall . . . remain
\end{quote}

\textsuperscript{74}Montgomery S. Lewis, \textit{Legends that Libel Lincoln}, pp. 17-17.  
\textsuperscript{75}\textit{Ibid.}, p. 20.  
\textsuperscript{76}\textit{Ibid.}, pp. 96-97.  
firm in my conviction that Ann Rutledge is a myth -- for in all of his confidential communications such a romantic name was never breathed. 78

In spite of Mrs. Lincoln's declaration, it is reported that Lincoln proposed to two other women, both of whom refused. One of his proposals, the one to Sarah Richards, is another Herndon story. There is no verification for it and the only source he had was her own personal testimony several years later. 79 The second, the one to Mary Owens, is better documented.

Mary Owens was a sister of Mrs. Abell, one of Lincoln's New Salem friends. Lincoln saw her briefly before she returned to Kentucky. After three years, she returned to Illinois for another visit and Abe began to visit her. She refused to marry him because, in her own words, he was "deficient in those little links that make up the chain of a woman's happiness." 80

After Lincoln married Mary Todd, we hear about no other woman in his life. There is, though, quite a bit of controversy about his marital happiness. For example, Herndon maintains that "he and Mary were mismated," and that she was "as cold as a chunk of ice." 81 This supposedly is what drove Lincoln out of the house and into politics.

79 Ibid., p. 40.
The other side of the issue can be represented by Lewis who says that "Lincoln himself never by word or implication indicated that he was unhappily married." 82

We do know, however, that Mary Todd Lincoln was a very jealous woman. In fact, Miller in her book about White House scandals says, "It was the First Lady's inordinate jealousy of her husband, however, that aroused suspicions about his morals." 83

Mrs. Lincoln's jealousies and temper tantrums may have had an important effect on this country, although only in a coincidental way. A little before Lincoln's assassination, he rode with General Ord's wife on an inspection tour. The jealous Mrs. Lincoln later demanded that General Grant replace General Ord and made an angry scene when Grant refused. Grant and his wife may have decided to avoid their scheduled trip to Ford's Theatre in order to avoid another scene. If this is the reason, it kept the General from also being assassinated. 84

As shown here, all the stories about Lincoln and other women appear to be false. To be complete, though, another story must be included. From the information Miller gives, it is impossible to judge the story's validity.

Miller says that another author, his name not given, discovered information during the 1960's that shows Lincoln had an illegitimate daughter during 1855 or 1856. Lincoln also supposedly had political pressure put on him by people who knew this fact.\textsuperscript{85} Hopefully, further information will be forthcoming.

Ruth P. Randall in her *Mary Lincoln* quotes Mrs. Lincoln: "There is an excellent painted likeness of me at Brady’s in New York taken in 1861... in a black velvet." This is probably the wet plate portrait from which the painted likeness was made.

A photograph of Mrs. Lincoln wearing her 1861 inaugural ball gown. She said of her photographs, "My hands are always made in them very large and I look too stern." *By Brady or assistant*
159. This photograph of Mrs. Lincoln was made just before the 1861 inauguration, the same day as No. 158.

By Brady or assistant

160. Another "gown" photograph of Mary Lincoln. This may possibly be her second inaugural gown.

By Brady or assistant
Grover Cleveland

Grover Cleveland's affair was, perhaps, of a type that would be condemned even in our more liberal time.

Cleveland, while sheriff, belonged to a group called the Jolly Reapers, "a group of unmarried men who gave parties to which no ladies were invited but accommodating women were always welcome." 86

A guest to one of these gatherings in 1871 was Martha Croft Halpin. Mrs. Halpin was a widow with two children. She has been described as cultured, good-looking, and tall and slender. She read and spoke French, didn't swear and drank only with meals. She was also a regular church goer at St. John's Episcopal Church. 87 She hardly seems to be the type to be involved with such a club.

Cleveland saw Mrs. Halpin regularly and, when she was unable to work anymore due to pregnancy, he took care of her. On September 14, 1874, Mrs. Halpin's son was born. Cleveland was not completely sure the child was his but agreed to take care of the boy and his mother. 88

Lynch says, "There was little hope of a second marriage it it were not to Cleveland. Naturally she wanted to give the father's name to the child . . . ." 89

87 Dennis Tilden Lynch, Grover Cleveland: A Man Four Square, p. 68.
Nevertheless, the child was christened Oscar Folsom Halpin, after a married friend of Cleveland's and Cleveland refused to marry her so that the child could have his name. About this Lynch reports, "Mrs. Halpin asserted that Cleveland had promised to marry her. This was denied by Cleveland and this is the only assertion made by the mother of his first born that he ever denied."\textsuperscript{90}

Cleveland's actions after the birth indicate his strong personality, his ability to make quick decisions, and his willingness to do what he thought was right.

"Cleveland believed that he was doing his full duty in providing for the boy and his mother."\textsuperscript{91} Mrs. Halpin, though, realizing her circumstances, started drinking heavily. Cleveland quickly worked to have the child taken from his mother by the Overseer of the Poor and to have her committed to the Providence Asylum. She was held for five days there. After further attempts at keeping the child, Mrs. Halpin started a law suit which she dropped when she discovered she would still probably lose the child's custody. She, then, signed a release and received $500. The child was later adopted by friends of Cleveland.\textsuperscript{92}

Politically the affair could have had a great effect on Cleveland's presidential campaign. The affair was

\textsuperscript{90}Ibid.
\textsuperscript{91}Ibid.
dug up by the Buffalo *Evening Telegraph* and used to attack Cleveland's fitness for president. "When Carles Goodyear asked Cleveland how to handle these newspaper attacks, Cleveland merely replied, "Tell the truth!""\(^93\)

Blaine's supporters made the allegations into a ditty which they chanted as they made their political torch light parades:

Ma, Ma, where's my Pa?
Ma, Ma, where's my Pa?
Gone to the White House!
Ha! Ha! Ha!

Luckily for Cleveland, the attack had been made too early and he was able to defend himself. Statements were issued in his defense such as this one by Reverend Kinsley Twining:

The kernel of truth in the various charges against Mr. Cleveland is this, that when he was younger then he is now, he was guilty of an illicit connection; but the charge, as brought against him, lacks the elements of truth in these substantial points; there was no seduction, no adultery, no breach of promise, no obligations of marriage; but there was at that time a culpable irregularity of life, living as he was a bachelor, for which it was proper, and is proper, that he should suffer. After the primary offense, which is not to be pallitated by the civil for which I write, his conduct was singularly honorable, showing no attempt to evade responsibility, and doing all he could to meet the duties involved, of which marriage was certainly not one . . . .\(^95\)


\(^95\)Rexford G. Tugwell, *Grover Cleveland*, pp. 92-93.
Even with the defenses issued, it looked like a close race which would hang on the vote of New York. Blaine might still have carried the election, if he hadn't made a political blunder. In pledging support of Blaine, the Reverend Samuel D. Burchard, a spokesman for a New York delegation of clergyman, observed that the Democratic party’s antecedents "have been rum, Romanism, and rebellion." Blaine missed the significance of the statements but the Democratic press gleefully reported it. The Irish, insulted by a reference to their religion and drinking habits, voted New York into the democratic column and made Cleveland president. 97

Another scandal briefly touched Cleveland when he was in the White House.

The formal announcement that the president would marry his pretty ward in the White House shocked the nation. Base insinuations about the forty-year-old man, whose fiancee was young enough to be his daughter, appeared in a New York scandal sheet. . . . 98

This ward was Frances Folsom, the daughter of Oscar Folsom who was previously mentioned. Cleveland had been her guardian since Folsom was killed accidentally in 1874.

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97 Ibid.
415. Grover Cleveland, twenty-second and twenty-fourth President. By Brady or assistant
Woodrow Wilson

Woodrow Wilson has been included in this report because of the persistence of rumors that he had a mistress. Although the story is included, it should be noted that it is almost certainly false.

Mrs. Peck was the leading American hostess in the Bermuda social set. Naturally, when visiting Bermuda, Mr. Wilson met her at social gatherings. Since they found that they had common interests, they visited each other frequently and played cards together. When Wilson left the island, he and Mrs. Peck started a correspondance that lasted for many years. When Mrs. Peck visited the United States she stayed with the Wilsons for several weeks. 99

So far, this is an innocent enough story—and it remains so if one sticks strictly to the facts. During Wilson's presidential campaign, however, it was alleged that he had an affair with Mrs. Peck. His visits to Bermuda were given by his critics as the reason for Mrs. Peck's 1911 divorce. The continuing correspondance was supposed to show that he still cared for her. 100

As mentioned above, there is no evidence to substantiate this charge. In Thomas Woodrow Wilson: A

100 Ibid.
Psychological Study, the authors say,

All the evidence we have been able to collect indicates that his sexual life was confined to his first wife and his second. When he was in the White House, his enemies circulated stories about the liaisons with Mrs. Peck and others. These stories without exception are untrue— inventions of men who hated him but had no knowledge of his character.101

Warren G. Harding

More information exists on Warren G. Harding's sexual relations than on any other American politician. There has literally been an entire book written on his relationship to just one of his many mistresses.

Harding has often been portrayed as an inept man who was passive even in his love affairs. This is probably true in his relationship with Nan Britton whom Time magazine characterized as a "Lolita doll" and to Flossie Kling who became Mrs. Harding. It becomes harder to place him in this light, however, when one realizes that he also had affairs with several other women. It seems likely that not all of them chased him.

The two best books dealing with Harding's affairs, The President's Daughter and The Shadow of Blooming Grove, are both flawed. Nan Britton's book is a first hand account but contains a heavy emotional bias that colors her view of events. As mentioned in the introduction, The Shadow of Blooming Grove is flawed because a court order has suppressed the text of love letters from Harding to Carrie Phillips. Both books will be heavily used however.

Flossie Kling, the daughter of Harding's enemy and

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competitor, is the first woman to "chase" Harding. She was somewhat experienced at "chasing" since she had caught her first husband by being pregnant. Her second attempt at man hunting was equally successful and she became Mrs. Harding. It is interesting to note that many observers see the marriage as part of the Harding-Kling feud. One biographer says

Harding's courtship and marriage with Amos Kling's daughter Florence was part of the feuding. It was no secret that, among the things that Warren and Florence had in common, was the hostility of Amos Kling.

Carrie Phillips, the wife of one of Harding's close friends, is the next woman to enter Harding's life. She is the first "love" of his life. Although they had known each other for several years, the affair didn't start until 1905. In 1904, Carrie's son had died. Then, while her husband Jim and his wife Flossie were both hospitalized, Harding comforted her. "With the Duchess in Columbus and Jim at Battle Creek, they became lovers."

During the time that they saw each other, the two families traveled extensively together without either of the spouses finding out about the relationship. The affair finally broke up when Harding refused to marry

103Frances Russel, The Shadow of Blooming Grove; Warren G. Harding in His Times, p. 84.
Carrie. She then took her daughter and fled to Berlin leaving her still unsuspecting husband to follow afterwards.106

When the war started in Europe, Carrie, who had pro-German sympathies returned to the United States. There followed a disgraceful incident in the life of Harding and in the history of the Senate. Carrie and Warren became lovers again and she tried to influence Warren's voting. She gave this ultimatum,

If war with Germany should come and he should vote for war, she would expose him let her husband know how his old friend had betrayed him, make the letters he had written public, drive him from office.107

It is to Harding's credit that he still voted for war when the time came. Apparently, at the same time, he managed to placate Carrie for they continued to be lovers. Harding was bothered during this time by Secret Service men "tailing" his pro-German mistress.108

Eventually the affair did completely break up and Carrie's husband did find out. They were paid $20,000, a monthly sum, and given an all expense paid trip around the world--as long as they were out of the country during the presidential election and Harding's term of office.109

At the time Carrie left for Germany, Harding let

106Ibid., p. 226.
107Ibid., p. 279.
108Ibid., p. 298.
109Ibid., p. 402.
himself be "caught" by a girl who had been chasing him since she was in high school. Nan Britton, according to her own account, traveled with Harding several times without losing her virginity. In July of 1917, she "became Mr. Harding's bride" in a comedy-opera episode.110 While they were in the hotel, their room was raided by the police but on finding that he was a Senator, they released him.

An interesting view of Harding's character is shown by his remarks after that episode. She writes, "When we were in the taxi, he remarked explosively, 'Gee, Nan, I thought I wouldn't get out of that for less than $1000!'"111

Nan became pregnant during the affair with a child conceived in the Senate offices. On learning of her pregnancy, Harding told her that it was "the greatest experience a woman ever has."112

Nan also had the unique experience of being with Harding in the White House cloakroom where, "as she told it, made love to him amidst the footwear."113

During Harding's campaign, other affairs became known to the reporters covering the Marion "beat."
One reporter's wife revealed that three newsmen, invited to dine at the home of one of Harding's widow neighbors, were, during the evening, taken upstairs by an innocent eight-year-old member of the woman's family and proudly shown Harding's toothbrush. Said the child 'He always stops here when Mrs. Harding goes away.'

We still do not know how many affairs Harding actually had.

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Elizabeth Ann at four, while her mother was attending Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois
Franklin D. Roosevelt

There were at different times two women in Franklin Roosevelt's life in addition to Eleanor.

The first "other" woman to enter was Lucy Mercer. Lucy originally was Eleanor Roosevelt's social secretary. Later she worked at the Navy office at a clerk's job. Franklin at this time was the Undersecretary of the Navy.

Elliott Roosevelt attributes the growth of his father's affection for Lucy Mercer to Eleanor's sexual abstainance. Supposedly, she saw abstainance as the only solution to continuous pregnancies. It seems more likely that their close proximity was the only spur to their affection.

An insight into Roosevelt's personality is shown by the nature of this affair. Elliott says that Franklin did not flaunt his affair with Lucy, "but to carry out an affair clandestinely with Lucy would be completely alien to his nature." This is apparently true. One biographer says

There is some gossip, which may not reach Eleanor's ears, and at least one piece of contrived mischief, which does. A mischief-maker of the time, and for two decades to come, is Alice Roosevelt (later Longworth), T. R.'s daughter. One summer evening while


116Ibid., p. 85.
Eleanor was away, Alice invited Franklin to dinner. When he arrived, he found that Lucy had been invited, also. Years later Alice was to say, 'He deserved a good time. He was married to Eleanor.'

Although Eleanor was apparently suspicious for quite awhile before hand, the blow up did not come until she found some of Lucy's letters. "She confronted her husband with Lucy's letters. She was prepared to give her husband his freedom she said." Lash, Eleanor's biographer, also says that Franklin soon discovered that divorce might have disagreeable consequences in addition to the effect upon the children. Sara was said to have applied pressure with the threat to cut him off if he did not give up Lucy. (Sara was Franklin's mother and she controlled most of the money coming to the Roosevelt family.) There was also his political career to consider.

This view of the confrontation is somewhat disputed by one of Lucy's friends. She said.

Shaken and in tears, Lucy came to my apartment straight from the meeting. She said Eleanor had told her and Franklin that she had found out that they were in love and had warned him of the serious consequences on his children and his career if the affair continued. She did not offer to give him a divorce; Lucy told me divorce was never mentioned.

118Joseph P. Lash, Eleanor And Franklin, p. 310.
119Ibid.
Lash says that this incident was the turning point in Eleanor's life. This was when she started to change from her devotion to private life to public activity.\textsuperscript{121}

Lucy kept her promise and stayed away from Franklin for many years. During the 1944 campaign, however, Franklin stopped at the Rutherford farm (Lucy had married a man named Rutherford who had died soon before) a few months before his death. "For the remainder of his life, he was with Lucy Rutherford as often as possible."\textsuperscript{122}

In fact, ... Mrs. Rutherford was there when he was fatally stricken ... ."\textsuperscript{123}

In the intervening years, Franklin had another companion, Marguerite LeHand. She originally had served as a campaign worker in Roosevelt's gubernatorial race but as time went on had grown closer to him. When Franklin became ill, she became the closest figure in Franklin's life. Between 1925 and 1928, Roosevelt spent 116 weeks on the Larooco, at Marion and at Warm Springs. Eleanor Roosevelt was with him four of those weeks and Sara Roosevelt two. Missy LeHand was with him 110 weeks.\textsuperscript{124}

Lash said that Eleanor "felt, too, that Warm Springs was Missy's domain ... ."\textsuperscript{125} Also, "it

\textsuperscript{121}\textsuperscript{121} Lash, Op. Cit., p. 302.
\textsuperscript{122}\textsuperscript{122} Miller, Op. Cit., p. 238.
\textsuperscript{123}\textsuperscript{123} Ibid.
\textsuperscript{124}\textsuperscript{124} Asbell, Op. Cit., p. 244.
\textsuperscript{125}\textsuperscript{125} Lash, Op. Cit., 398.
eased Eleanor's sense of guilt because she was unable to do more for him.126

The relationship between Franklin and Missy was not only well known, but also, apparently, generally accepted. In fact, in the governor's mansion of New York their rooms were together.

These two rooms were joined by a little door with clear glass panels, curtained on her side. Mother thought that this was a perfectly suitable arrangement in view of the role Missy played in Father's life.127

After a long and expensive illness, Missy died of a cerebral thrombosis in July of 1944. At Roosevelt's death, one half of his estate was assigned to insure the payment of Missy's medical bills.129

The Missy LeHand affair was extremely important politically because she handled his correspondence and made many of his appointments. Asbell says, "She would suggest that certain people be invited to tea or dinner who she thought would have helpful ideas about problems he had on his mind."130 He also wrote,

She frequently would hold up a letter the President had written in anger, and beg him the next day not to send it. In most cases the President's anger had subsided overnight and the letter would be torn up. If he persisted, I have known

126Ibid., p. 395.
her to put the letter in her desk again and try once more in a day or two.\textsuperscript{131}

This is politically a great deal of influence.

In one other area, his mistresses also influenced him. Elliott says that one of the reasons that Franklin was anti Klu Klux Klan and pro-Catholic was that both Lucy and Missy were devout Catholics.\textsuperscript{132}

\textsuperscript{131}Ibid.

\textsuperscript{132}Roosevelt and Brough, Op. Cit., p. 204.
Many Americans who loved her father.

Lucy Menninger also loved her father.

Mother on her wedding day.
The last president under consideration is Dwight D. Eisenhower. The exact details to the story are vague, that is, there are no dates and places available as there are in the cases of Harding and Roosevelt. It would seem, though, that there is a definite substance to the stories about him and his connection to Kay Summerby.

During World War II, Kay Summerby was General Eisenhower's civilian chauffeur, and, sometime later, his personal secretary. Miss Summerby's description as given in a recent article is that she was "a tall, blue-eyed, well-turned, Irish divorcee."\(^{133}\)

While working for the general, she became part of his inner circle.

She dined with him frequently, went horseback riding with the General several times a week, occasionally entertained him and the others at dinner and bridge, and was his "favorite bridge partner at Telegraph Hill."\(^{134}\)

Later after being inducted into the Woman's Army Corps, she traveled with Eisenhower throughout Europe, North Africa, and the Near East.\(^{135}\) During this period of time, the story is that she was also Eisenhower's mistress.


\(^{135}\)Ibid.
What does Mrs. Summerby say about these allegations?

She explains,

During the war, I was accused over and over again of being more to General Eisenhower than a member of his inner circle. People seem to forget that while I worked for Ike I was engaged to be married to Col. Dick Arnold, an American Army officer who was killed in North Africa when a mine exploded.\footnote{Shearer, Op. Cit., p. 247.}

Her answer is not a complete one. It does not explain what her and Eisenhower's relationship was after Arnold's death. Recently some light has been shed on this subject.

In Merle Miller's new book, Truman is reported as saying,

Why, right after the war was over, he wrote a letter to General Marshall saying that he wanted to be relieved of duty saying that he wanted to come back to the United States and divorce Mrs. Eisenhower so that he could marry this Englishwoman.\footnote{Merle Miller, Plain Speaking: An Oral Biography of Harry S Truman, p. 339.}

The reason that this didn't happen is, according to Truman, that Marshall wrote him back a letter the like of which I never did see. He said that if he . . . if Eisenhower ever came close to such a thing, he'd not only bust him out of the Army, he'd see to it that never for the rest of his life would he be able to draw a peaceful breath. He said it wouldn't matter if he was in the Army or wasn't. Or even what country he was in.

Marshall said that if he ever again mentioned a thing like that, he'd see to it that . . .
it that the rest of his life was a living hell. General Marshall didn't very often lose his temper, but when he did, it was a corker.\textsuperscript{138}

In reply to this, Mrs. Morgan, the former Mrs. Summerby, says

I have denied over and over again that there was any romance between us--if there had been, what sort of woman would I have been to disclose it while he was still alive?--I am admitting nothing, mind you, except that I have never been one to kiss and tell.\textsuperscript{139}

She also says

that if anyone should know whether General Eisenhower wanted to marry her, it is she . . . . And I am not telling--at least not now. After all, some of his intimates are still alive, and there is no point in raising the subject.\textsuperscript{140}

\textsuperscript{138}Ibid., p. 340.

\textsuperscript{139}Shearer, Op. Cit., p. 5.

\textsuperscript{140}Ibid.
Conclusion

The first consideration towards reaching a conclusion as to the possibility of using non-marital sex as an indicator of presidential personality must be one of morality. Not morality from the standpoint of whether a certain president's actions are "right" but whether he is following his society's morality or acting in opposition to it.

There have been traditionally two views of sexuality. The Christian view "is that sex must be confined to marriage, that therefore sex outside of marriage is adultery and that a single person who copulates with a married one is also guilty of adultery."\(^{141}\) The other view is known as the "double standard" in which "a man is free to copulate where he wishes, but a woman must have sexual intercourse only with her husband."\(^{142}\) Actually the second view really is based only on "my wife." It is fine to have sex with another man's wife but not for "my wife" to have sex with another man. This is an important distinction which may have a bearing on some of the cases.

There is a third attitude that also must be considered. In the American South aristocratic women were believed to be too delicate for sex, and, should not therefore enjoy it. For this reason, it was considered

\(^{141}\)James Collier, The Hypocritical American, p. 69.

\(^{142}\)Ibid.
all right for upper class males to have affairs with lower class women and slaves. In fact, women were "warned against jealousy and advised to conceal knowledge of their husband's infidelity."\textsuperscript{143}

The three espoused attitudes must therefore be examined as to their actual usage and their sociological necessity.

The Christian viewpoint from modern statistics which show that fifty percent of the men and more than twenty-five percent of the women have extra-marital affairs is clearly shown to be false for our time.\textsuperscript{144} The examples given in this study plus many others that could be given indicate that this viewpoint has also not been the dominant one in the past.

The Southern attitude, as given, usually is accepted without question as being correct. There are some questions that can be raised about it though. The first three case studies involve Southerners. In each the object of the man's desire, at least in the factual cases, was an aristocratic white woman. In two of the cases, Washington and Jackson, the woman's social status originally was actually higher than the man's status. Since it is hard to believe that such occurrences would be limited purely to future presidents, it seems likely that upper class women have not been as untouchable as believed.

The double standard seems to be the only one that

\textsuperscript{143}Robert Bell, \textit{Premarital Sex in a Changing Society}, p. 23.

can fit most of the facts revealed by the study. It seems especially pertinent in the Cleveland and Harding cases. In the cases where there is a fairly long and stable relationship, it must be remembered that the woman involved is being more or less loyal and faithful to the man in the relationship.

The necessity for a moral standard is of course so that man's sexual or aggressive tendencies won't "become disruptive to the family and the community which man depends on so greatly for his survival and well being." There are three answers to this limit, though. The first is to devise a standard which provides for stability but allows "you" to do as you wish. In effect, this is what the double standard does for men. The second is to avoid the disruption by concealment like Harding and Carrie Phillips were able to do for such a long period of time. The third solution is to reach some form of accomodation with the people involved, something like Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt did with the Missy LeHand affair.

The net effect of this discussion on morality is to show that these men were probably not violating their moral standards, even though some may have later regretted their actions, and that their actions were probably not actually detrimental to society in general.

it seems that a person's perception of his adequacy and value can be the determining factor in his sexual life. "The individual's feelings of self-esteem are at stake from his earliest days, and it is these feelings that really determine the fate of the individual in all aspects of his being including his sexual life."\textsuperscript{146}

This gives us three questions that need to be answered. How is adequacy or self-esteem determined? What are the characteristics of adequacy? And last, what are the implications of adequacy to this present study?

The determinants of a person's perception of himself are first his biological limitations and second his experiences. Such things as "body build, general health, and physiognomy may limit or bias the experience and behavior of the individual."\textsuperscript{147}

The experiences may be past history or current problems.

Self-esteem is, therefore, a function of a person's life experiences with others and depends on a variety of components and factors. It should be clear that one's self-assessment not only has roots in the individual's history but is also a function of his current life experiences.\textsuperscript{148}


\textsuperscript{147} Lee Sechrest and John Wallace, Jr., \textit{Psychology and Human Problems}, p. 3.

Examining more closely the perceptional fields of adequate persons it seems possible to differentiate three major characteristics. (1) Adequate persons perceive themselves in positive ways. (2) Adequate persons are more capable of accepting and integrating their perceptions in the phenomenal field. (3) Adequate persons are capable of wide identification of self with others. 149

These characteristics of high self esteem and adequacy also carry several subsidiary characteristics with them. For example, "adequate personalities behave more effectively and efficiently than their less adequate fellows." 150 They also seem to have a greater independence than less adequate people. "The individual able to accept is open to all experience. He has fewer limits imposed upon what he can explore and examine." 151 There is also no need to protect his concept of himself since it is basically a positive one. "Since adequate personalities do not feel deprived they have far less need to defend the self against attack. Assaults upon self do not seem crucial or overwhelming." 152 In other words, criticism is not going to cause them to overreact.

The implications of these characteristics are two-fold. The first is that people with positive attitudes tend to draw positive responses. When one adds to this

150 Ibid., p. 250.
151 Ibid., p. 244.
152 Ibid., p. 242.
the fact that "research on leadership suggests that leaders generally possess more favorable attitudes toward self and others,"\(^{153}\) it seems likely that leaders are more likely to be "liked" or "loved."

The second implication deals with technique. "In time, the technique we differentiate as appropriate for reaching our goals may become so characteristic of us as to be integral parts of our personalities."\(^{154}\)

The conclusion, therefore, must be that leaders are more likely to develop positive attitudes and if they do, their attitudes will carry over into their work as a positive and beneficial technique.

All this brings us finally to the evaluation made in the book, *The Presidential Character: Predicting Performance in the White House.* In this book Barber says,

the most important thing to know about a President or candidate is where he fits among these types defined according to (a) how active he is and (b) whether or not he gives the impression he enjoys his political life.\(^{155}\)

This is the positive self esteem which we have been discussing.

Barber's classifications are, therefore, active-positive, active-negative, passive-positive, and

\(^{153}\)Ibid., p. 241.

\(^{154}\)Ibid., p. 113.

passive-negative. On this basis the presidential rankings as considered are as follows:

- Washington----passive-negative
- Harding------passive-positive
- F. Roosevelt---active-positive
- Eisenhower----passive-negative

On the basis of Barber's classifications and for this study, Jefferson, Jackson, and Cleveland are classed active-positive. (Lincoln and Wilson are not considered due to the lack of validity in the stories surrounding them.)

The comparison shows that four of the men are active and three are passive. Five of the men are positive and two negative.

The comparison, therefore, tends to indicate that "positive" men predominate among those presidents who had non-marital sexual contacts. Since Barber's study pertains to the time in which these men were president, it may be that at the earlier times when Washington and Eisenhower had their contacts they were more "positive" personalities. (Speculation, likewise, could assume that some of the others had negative personalities at another time.)

The high percentage of non-marital sexual contact in the general population would not work to negate this conclusion. This is because most of those in the general population involved in non-marital sexual contacts would also tend to have positive attitudes.
Since this study has found an apparent connection between non-marital sexual activity and positive presidential attitudes, it would seem to imply that further study involving presidents without non-marital sexual activity would be indicated.
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