



FAMILY NOTES

Our life in letters

PART ONE: OUR LIFE¹BEGINS

December 29, 1965–November 22, 1971

The Family Notes section of the website is a collection of records, stories, photos, letters, and creative works from our family. This is mostly of interest to our family, but there are no secrets of any importance, so it is also open to others.

Introduction

This is a collection of love letters. Susie and I met at a church Christmas party on December 29, 1965. I wrote her the next day. Our correspondence continued until the summer of 1969, when we were married. After that, Susie and I wrote letters to our parents. We were only able to meet briefly between 1966 and 1969 because of obligations at school and work. We didn't talk frequently on the phone. It was through letters—and a few, luminous hours together—that we slowly became sure of each other.

The *End Notes* draw upon other letters and documents to show what else was going on in our lives at the time.

LIKE OTHER SECTIONS OF THE WEBSITE, THE FAMILY NOTES ARE CURRENTLY UNDER CONSTRUCTION.

¹ These *End Notes* are the record of the other events going on while the letters were being written. Susie and her parents corresponded frequently. Her mother often wrote daily. She seemed to expect Susie to do the same. Their letters provide more information than most other sources. This compilation of our letters would have pleased Susie. She wrote about wanting to leave family stories for Bill and Rob. She enjoyed history, and at the National Archives she compiled summaries of many of the Jefferson letters. Our shared life began with these letters. When she died, my life ended, but my heart kept beating, so I compiled our history and my imaginative work as a work of grief and remembrance.