In June, 1939, and at the age of 76 Jefferson entered retirement. Not heavy and bowed with the weight of years, he wished to continue his employ and keep himself busy, “to have work to do and reasons to live for.” The man did busy himself for the next ten years, though he was obliged to shift the locus of his commitment from the classroom to matters beyond. Perhaps it was a wishful thinking that made Jefferson insist he had good classroom years still before him: at this age he readily admitted he fell asleep with light provocation, needed a nap after lunch, had taken lip reading lessons as a one-man class from the Normal’s Miss Bunger as early as 1937, and by 1939 found a hearing aid desirable. Nevertheless he continued his daily constitutional—one mile a day on foot—until the year of his death, 1949. Annually between 1942 and 1946 he painted parts of his spacious home and otherwise cared for the establishment: twice he turned his car over on the nearby Jackson road, escaping injury and refusing medical attention. Certainly age had not incapacitated him, though he was obliged to temper his more robust inclinations. In place of manually shovelling the snow from his sidewalks and house paths he employed a snow scooter on wheels. In place of the winter daily mile before breakfast, he would wait until a later hour when it was warmer. Further, a heavy blue serge suit and Alaska seal hat, gifts from two of his children, Geoffrey and Phoebe, and halibut liver oil capsules taken daily were pieces of an armory he employed against the winters of the forties, which he had not adopted previously. He never had taken kindly to cold winters and had frequently said that if he could avoid them he would live a long life. He would tend to doze during the day if bored, though this may also have been attributable to little sleep at night. Frequently he reported not
falling asleep until three in the morning, employed till that hour by reading hosts of detective stories in French, on coverless, much-folded sheets in need of separation with a paper knife.

Now retired, he sought a position with a geography department in a warmer part of North America. His attentions were given to universities in Mexico and Arizona where he noted his annual $300 fuel bill would be much diminished, but it was with Syracuse University that a correspondence of serious nature concerning his employment ensued. Department members headed by George Cressey voted unanimously to receive Jefferson into their department in 1941, but the Syracuse University administration rejected the plan owing to Jefferson's age. Recompensed to the fact of his retirement from geographic instruction, Jefferson sought to supplement his much reduced income in various ways; by writing geographic articles for the more popular magazines, talking publicly for fees, and renting rooms in his home to war workers. It is rather sad to note that he felt impelled to write the following note to Bowman: "...if you hear of any hack-work of the kind that I can do please keep me in mind." Concern for income encouraged him to write to a New York literary agency which advertised an ability to sell articles and manuscripts for a percentage of the price so obtained. To this agency Jefferson sent two articles he composed, one concerning "the real coming of spring," and a second questioning the thesis that Germany was a country. Not written in the popular vein both failed to find a market. This rejection caused Jefferson to write Mrs. Atherton, "that perhaps I am getting old." He was delighted to find his occasional articles or book review accepted:

Hooray. Editor Gladys writes, 'Dear Professor Jefferson: We are happy to have another decade of the great cities. The July number was full, but I shall try to squeeze it in, so you will probably see proof before long. Sincerely yours, Gladys W. Wrigley.' That should mean $50 unless the squeeze means cutting. And that should mean some new clothes. In my situation earning is not easy but dress money must come from outside.

Nevertheless his geographic interests and appetites had not waned. He made numerous presentations of his geographic ideas in Michigan; especially numerous were his talks concerning the geographic factors of significance in the war and his cartographic illustration of the events of the war, many of them untidily inked but each the bearer of an individuality equalled only by the fingerprint. He followed the war closely. Each day he made notes of its progress from the radio, gathered newspaper and magazine clippings and pasted them in scrapbooks, and sent letters to his friends concerning the fortunes of the allies. He continued
his life-time habit of patiently accumulating data, occasionally pausing to locate moral ideas in the penumbra of his work. But his creative reaching, itself derived from the process of patient accumulation, was interrupted frequently by demands upon which he lavished disproportionately large amounts of time and nervous energy, detracting from the growth of a book he set out to write in retirement. Invitation to receive the Distinguished Service Award of the National Council of Geographic Teachers 1939, to address local church groups, civic organizations, the Michigan Foreign Language Association, the Michigan Social Studies group, school groups, the Harris Lectures at Chicago, to give the Haas Lectures at Northwestern University, December 1940, were only some of the requests to which he hardly found it possible to say no. Washington requested his assistance in some war work, 1942; he wrote to daughter Phoebe, “I do not know whether I told you that I am asked to offer my services as a geographer at Washington but have not answered them yet.” Jefferson frequently mentioned in his correspondence that such invitations and work restored much of his confidence, diminished by brusque treatment in his retirement year. Further, it provided him with opportunity to try out ideas and give them form prior to their incorporation into his book. But perpetual recommencement on a book incorporating his life’s ideas was the price paid.

Of the Haas Lecture visit he wrote to his daughter:  

I was put up at the magnificent University Club at Evanston, a building of vast spaces, heavy carpets and luxury of every kind, like other U. Clubs and unions. Their enormous reading rooms have vast electric lights everywhere, all too low in power, so that dim religious light prevails everywhere, about the quantity of light ladies like for a dinner table. I wanted to suggest a lighting engineer to study lights in that room. Of course I didn’t. I am entitled by my age and a certain reputation as suggester of new things in geography to be venturesome there, but novel views are disturbing to most people. My treatment at Evanston was so flattering that I couldn’t help having a good time. I dined and lunched with a new group of University men each day. I was constantly consulted as to my wishes. I was given most comfortable quarters, and two hours of conference each morning with advanced students who came to tell me their geographic hopes and aspirations. I had to work hard over five hours a day preparing my three lectures which went off successively better and better. Lantern broke down in the first. I had been warned students would begin to leave after 50 minutes so I stopped after 50 minutes. But I saw no leaving. Next days I gave them 70 and 75 minutes and they all stayed and still came up! I am tired, but happy.
In a letter to S.S. Visher, Jefferson, fresh from the triumph of his Haas lectures, wrote of his personal resources:

Energy and enthusiasm I have unabated, perhaps rather increased. Boring tasks I have become quite feeble at. I am apt to fall asleep adding a column of figures if it is long and a wordy speech does for me every time. I have to beg a neighbor to nudge me if I snore! I am well and very active in my service . . . .

While the war still raged several book companies requested of him a manuscript that would describe the new world after the devastation was finished, a request which meshed thoroughly with Jefferson’s design. The Farrar and Rinehart Publishing Company sent him the following letter dated April 7, 1943:

Major Preston James of the OSS has given me your name as a geographer who might be interested in doing a book for us which would fit into the group of books outlined in the enclosed memorandum.

Our first quick thoughts on such a book would center it around such titles as GLOBAL GEOGRAPHY, or WORLD GEOGRAPHY or THE WORLD IS ROUND. It would be a book which would try to explain to the average layman the new concepts of and understanding of geography which he should and must know if the world is really going to have a sound basis for a permanent peace.

If this project interests you, I would appreciate your thoughts on it and any suggestions you might have.

Sincerely yours,
Theodore S. Amussen
Assistant Editor

Evidence suggests that Jefferson had already undertaken work on a book of his own choosing. Indeed, a hurried red ink postscript attached to the above mentioned letter reads, “A real compliment to you. Is this the Book referred to as being written by you in your letter of the 27th.” Further attached to this communication from Farrar and Rinehart is an undated and unsent inked note in Jefferson’s handwriting.

No: I don’t like Farrar and Rinehart’s plan but it and similar propositions from others set me to writing what I want to say. I shall perhaps submit it to Little, Brown Co. or Harcourt Brace who have published two books of mine. Possibly to Rinehart.

It is probable that Jefferson formally commenced his manuscript in the latter part of 1942. He wanted to call it “A Geography for Grown-Ups” but feared lack of publisher and reader interest under such a title. Thus he chose to entitle his book “A Geographer Looks at War,” but the book was never completed. Probably several are the reasons for his attempting the book as an octogenarian: he lived in order to keep busy,
feared growing old in spirit, enjoyed thinking and putting his thoughts into words, was extremely concerned for his income and the future security of his wife and children, and had been attracted by Huntington's *Mainsprings of Civilization*, a work completed shortly before the latter's death and summarizing and elaborating the more important of his life's findings. Especially was he concerned for the future income of his wife, then recently entered on her fifties. He collected rents from war workers but realized this income was temporary. Rent prices had been frozen by the Ypsilanti council at the most modest of rates, and savings were hindered from this source by frequent short term occupancies of rooms, coupled with a larger maintenance bill that fuller usage of the house necessitated. Furthermore, Jefferson and his wife had housed and supported Henry, an elderly destitute brother of his who had not been able to secure income for himself since 1933. Henry, known in the family as Harry, had passed away on April 5, 1941, but his longevity had been an expense and concern to Jefferson since his retirement lest he die and leave Harry dependent on his own Clara. In order to raise money later in the forties, Jefferson sold numerous books from his collection to a dealer in New York who had been recommended by J. Russell Smith.

The scope of Jefferson's book was distinctly unusual and embodied much of his life's work. He made use of ideas borrowed from nearly all that he had written in his "post-physiographic" days, dating from his presentation of "The Anthropography of Some Great Cities" at Baltimore before the Association of American Geographers, 1908.

For his own convenience Jefferson listed the sub-headings under which he had been writing and which indicate the course of his labor:

*Chapter I: The Maritime Era Ends—The Airway Era Begins*

*Chapter II: The Big Five and Nationality*
*The Paris Conference, The United Kingdom in World War I, The United States in World War I, France in World War I, Italy in World War I, How Italy Won Fiume, Japan in World War I, Russia in World War I, Russia in East Prussia, Limited Area of French Front, What is a Country?, Tribes and Races, Africa Home of Races, not Countries,*
Raiders, The Balkans Tribal

Chapter III: Collaboration

Resisters and Collaborators, Soldiers as Bandits, Resisters Inimical to Nationalism

Chapter IV: Regrouping after World War II

Isolationism, A Shrunken World, War has become too Expensive, Big Five at San Francisco, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Soviet Union a new Nation, Spare time on a Farm, Great Cities Industrial, Great Cities Win Wars, United Kingdom in World War II, United States in World War II, France in World War II, China in World War II, China needs More Railroads

Chapter V: Soviet Union Begins National Life


His concern with war had a marked effect upon the book. It was fundamentally concerned with the life, being, and death of states between the two world wars. Since early in the century, as we have seen, Jefferson had been thinking, teaching, and writing about man on the land. Now he wrote about man on the land with special reference to the peace settlements following each of the Wars. Jefferson had never published anything on the Paris Peace Conference, though in his diary he had written ill of some of its events, and had spoken harshly of its boundary-line arrangements—"they are drawn in blood." Frequently in his later years he reminisced of the Paris Conference in his correspondence and seemingly needed to state his feelings concerning the lands lost by Russia. In his study he would pore over many of the maps he had made at Paris and recall the passage of events. He felt strongly that the Russians had been badly treated at the Conference and interpreted later Soviet actions in that context. In a letter to Caroline Atherton written in February, 1944, Jefferson outlined his feelings concerning Russia and her lands:

Not writing but talking a good deal, and I fancy I put in more than ten hours preparing for a half hour talk. At present I have much in mind, an "It is only fair to Russia!"—I have given it twice already—growing each time. Again the 23rd of this month and probably more after that.

The map enclosed gives the idea. Making the overwhelming feature Russia, the Russia of 1914 that went so heroically to the rescue of stricken Serbia in 1914.
Note the dates July 28 Austria attacks Serbia. July 29 Russia demobilizes against Austria. August 3 Russia attacks East Prussia, the land of superman Junkers and so seriously that she has overrun all the provinces and besieges Königsberg by August 28, a threat so serious, that Germany has to drop her plan of an overwhelming rush on Paris to send Hindenburg with great armies to ward off the attack. This completely changed the course of the war. Hindenburg crushed the Russian armies in the lakes of Masuda. Then the Russians changed to Galicia, having Hindenburg completely held at the Niemen on the east of East Prussia.

Now a look at the map—the Russia as all Russians see it still today, the Russia that was for it exists no more. The notable bulge at the west of the Russian frontier is the Jewish pale!, Russian but with a majority of Polish inhabitants looth [sic] the line so as to leave out the bulge and you have cut out the Poles. The Curzon line does that very thing smoothes out the line on the west. Now for the red outlined Poland, red denoting the states carved out of Russian Territory by the Allies at Paris. From north to south see them Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and the Bessarabian part of Rumania. No Russian thinks of the present advance of Russian armies as “into Old Poland.” That begs the question entirely. They have advanced into the former Jewish Pale. It had been Russian since 1795.

The part of red-outlined Poland on my map east of the Curzon line was inhabited by White Russians. Together with half as much more territory further east it makes up the home of the White Russians, where White Russian is today the dominating language.

This was not given to the Poles at Paris but was taken by Polish and French armies from the Bolshevics in 1922. Now it is only fair to point out that the Russians, instant to help Serbia at the start, able to help in the war so effectively that the Germans never reached Paris at all, lost in battle 1,700,000 killed, more than any other belligerent, and collapsed as an Empire because the Czar’s incompetent government could not supply them in July 1917, was not in existence at the peace conference date, was not represented at the peace table and her reward was to have the six states named carved in whole or part from her territories. At the time of the Peace Conference we had American soldiers—the Polar Bears—fighting the Bolshevics about Arkhangel because we did not like their scheme of government.

Our accomplishment looks very small beside that of Russia. We declared war April 6, 1917, not like Russia when little Serbia was attacked but nearly three years later when we were being hit at the fight at Vantigny March 28, 1918, more than a year after declaring
war. We lost, killed in battle, 66,000 men. We were in the fighting six
days less than eight months to Russia's three years.

The Russian Empire gave its life for the defense of freedom-loving
Serbia. Serbia was saved, enlarged (and has been a hotbed of internal
strife ever since).

We only entered on war when our ships at sea were intolerably
mistreated by the Germans, we dealt decisive blows but only after a
long year's delay during which the war weary French and English were
left to face the Foe, we had small losses and took a very decisive part
in rearranging the map of Europe, in large part at the expense of the
Russia that had so well deserved of liberty-loving nations, and left
conditions ripe for the new Second World War to ensue.

Today the despised Bolsheviks of 1919 have made themselves into a
mighty nation, the only one on European soil that has as yet been able
to withstand the Nazi Blitzkrieg and is now driving the Nazis back.

It is only fair to Russia to say that she perished in a great cause
after an heroic fight in defense of freedom as against oppression, and
has been succeeded by a mighty nation of home and country-loving
men and women, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

This all leads to the newest map of the Soviet Union and the 16
Soviet Republics who are free now to discuss foreign relations with the
world.

Does not this make clear why Russia occupied Poland east of the
Curzon line when the Nazis invaded Poland from the west? Why she
occupied the Baltic states and went to war with Poland. Why she
thinks of her future western boundary in terms of the Russian bounds
of 1914 and not those imposed without Russian participation or con­
sent by the Peace of Versailles or later on the field of battle with Poles
and Frenchmen against Bolsheviks.

We have been too aware of Bolshevik faults. Some of them the
Soviets have already amended in the light of experience. They are now
compelling attention to their merits as a nation.

I have faults. My enemies know them all—and perhaps some that I
do not have. My friends know that I have merits too, perhaps again
they impute to me some that I do not have.

The only real thing about me for the rest of the world is my merits.
As for my faults why not assume that all the world has them.

We shall be weighed, as we say by the sums of the weight and
importance of our merits, which really means only our merits matter
and the merits of the Union of Soviet Socialistic Republics as a nation
are proving to be very great.

All this takes time to put in shape and has kept me very busy.
What is a nation? a country? Is France a country today, or Denmark,
or Norway, or Germany or even Sweden?

The manuscript grew, parts of it were rewritten, chapter titles were changed. Jefferson admits to finding only an hour or two a day for the work in his retirement. The manuscript was not completed before his death in 1949 and it is unclear how much more writing was intended. In 1946, December 24, he wrote to daughter Barbara:  

*I am very busy writing a book A Geographer looks at War. Of course, they have to be satisfied with what I can hand them finished. Six chapters, about two thirds of it already done and clear typed, but I find it hard to get the time to write and do not really average two hours a day.*

Age, sleep, lectures, house painting, made their demands upon him as did personal sorrows, domestic duties, house management, and even the inability to purchase his favored Wo-hop tea. His youngest son, Thomas, died of a brain tumour in 1940 at age twenty, his wife spent much of her time working as a matron at the local Ypsilanti State Hospital (1942-45), his grandchild Linda frequently kept him out of his study, meal preparation became a task not previously undertaken and Jefferson himself entered hospital for a prostate gland operation of which he later wrote to his daughter Phoebe in his own humorous vein:  

*I shall miss the girls that came in to take my temperature and pulse, five centimeters of blood first from left arm and then from the right arm and some medicine and something to drink. Rather entertaining.*

Now I think I go to bed.

Jefferson's geographic writing also had to compete during his retirement years with numerous other of his activities. In 1940 he was made chairman of a rapidly constructed city planning commission to cope with accomplished and anticipated change in Ypsilanti, resulting largely from acceleration in employment attributable to war work and proximity to Detroit. As a member of the Board of Commerce Public Affairs Committee he was often obliged to furnish information to townspeople and entrepreneurs, both established and prospective. Regular attendance and continuing activity with the Ypsilanti Kiwanis Club since its inauguration in 1923 led to his chairing a committee to discontinue 65 tax collecting agencies in the state of Michigan, and centralize their function in one agency in Lansing, the state capitol. Following the success of this mission, in 1943 Jefferson chaired another Kiwanis committee to advise and advertise Home Rule for nearby Wayne County, becoming a member of the larger executive committee—Citizens Com-
mittee on Home Rule for Wayne County. This activity involved Jeffers­
son in a study of the history of Wayne County and the growth of
Detroit. He offered the Detroit press an article he had written on
County Government in Michigan, arranged public discussion on the
issue, commanded the cooperation of 56 Michigan Kiwanis Presidents,
cooperated closely with the Detroit newspaper through Frank Woodford
and secured hundreds of names on numerous petitions to secure the
issue on the ballot of November 2, 1944. During 1940 he continued in
the capacity of Vice-President for the Ypsilanti Consumers Coopera­
tive, and successfully attempted the extension of College Credit Union
facilities to educators in nearby towns. He began to concern himself
with the threat of inflation in the U.S.A., wrote to his friends that he
wished Lindbergh would be quiet, wanted to see a total integration of the
three branches of the armed forces, and wrote to his daughter Phoebe
that she should visit New York's Mayor LaGuardia and suggest to him
that all oil tanks around the country be camouflaged to avoid fifth­
column sabotage. His concern was deep and human. He would antici­
pate allied or enemy moves, predict successes or failures, insist and
believe that the allies would triumph. Late in 1940 the Council for
Democracy asked Jefferson if he would allow his name to be placed in
a register of scholars in various fields, who would write articles when
needed in a readily comprehensible style on matters unclear to the
American public. In the following typically pointed letter Jefferson
offered his services to Carl Friedrich, Chairman of the Committee of
Correspondence of the Council, a professor of government at Harvard
University. It is reproduced here for its terseness and style, which rather
defeated its own purpose with people who did not know Jefferson: 12

I should be very glad to do anything I could for democracy, though I
do not get a very clear idea from your letter of what might be wanted
of me.

I am a geographer, my special interest is in problems

What is a country?
What is a city?

I have arrived at certain dogmas-things I teach wherever I can—
Countries are made of people not dirt (territory) Quick and cheap
transportation is the Greatest agent of civilization (See my Civilizing
Rails)

If the North could have provided the South with such a railweb as it
already possessed in 1861 there would have been no civil war to fight.

As I look at the list SOME PRESENT ISSUES I note only one—
(5) which interests me. I lived for six years in the Argentine Republic,
1883-1889.
Dec. 11, 12, 13, I give three lectures at Northwestern University 
Evanston, Illinois. Where the Americas meet, the Germans and other 
gringos in Latin America, and the Rails Civilized Latin America too.

The first is very important pointing out that North American rude-
ness as the Latins see it—prevents any cooperation.

(7) interests me I have just gotten myself made Chairman of a 
District Committee of Kiwanis International for the Michigan District 
ON TAXATION. We Kiwanians number 4000. I and my colleagues 
mean to have all 73 clubs hear at least one talk on Taxation in 
Michigan and what should be done about it.

I can't help pecuniarily. I am a retired teacher on very small pen-
sion. Even letters should be accompanied by postage if replies are 

How German are you Mr. Friedrich? Are we to assume that you are 
no fifth column?

My mother's maiden name was Mantz. No doubt her schoolmates in 
London called her German. My first wife Theodora Augusta Bohnstedt 
was the daughter of a Prussian officer. Hitler is an anathema to me.

There is no record of Jefferson's being asked to contribute to the 
Council for Democracy. Yet Jefferson was immensely willing to help 
. . . to help the world and make it a better place. That accounts for the 
numerous civic responsibilities he assumed during retirement. Further, 
his work had been greatly slowed between 1946 and 1948 by three 
other ventures upon which he embarked and which undoubtedly in part 
prevented completion of the book. The first of these involved entangle-
ment with the Ypsilantiti police, the second was the writing of an auto-
biographical essay for the Harvard University Alumni handbook for the 
Class of 1897 on the occasion of its fiftieth anniversary, and the third 
was a mounting curiosity and concern for American war activities. A 
disturbing circumstance confronted him in 1946 when a police car ran 
into the side of his Ford in Ypsilanti. The officer claimed that the 
incident was Jefferson's fault. The geographer had his license suspended 
following a road test, and his insurance company was asked to pay for 
the damages. Convinced that the fault lay with the police Jefferson 
appealed to his friends with power in the Kiwanis, was given another 
road test, was granted a drivers license again, and the insurance com-
pany was not bothered further. But the method of redress, the weeks of 
waiting and the letters and diagrams Jefferson composed and sent to 
numerous personages to secure vindication were vexatiously enervating 
to the man. Nevertheless, he did not allow the matter to deter him from 
completing his autobiographical essay, which task became of ever in-
creasing concern to himself and a detriment to the completion of his
book as he typed, retyped, cut and pasted paragraphs, in an attempt to write meaningfully yet briefly of such a full life. The resultant essay of 31 pages, that cost 80 pages of attempted essay, was halved before submission to the office of Alumni Secretary and subsequently further reduced by the editor before being published in the Handbook. This autobiographical sally represented a marked departure from earlier days when he shunned the opportunity to be listed with other men of science. His correspondence of this period also reflects a concern for what had been, not with a sense of remorse, but with the air of someone who has been aware of an issue for a life time, but who had only recently come to comprehend it. In the essay he reaffirmed his very great interest in things geographic, God's Truths as he called them, and announced yet again that his two greatest teachers were "the Darwin of Beagle fame" and his Harvard mentor W. M. Davis. "Surely," wrote Jefferson, "Davis read God's thoughts." Jefferson also announced that he liked a babe in the house and the happy qualities of vacations spent with the family, which matters he wrote of in his essay in the following words:

But a large part of life is a family. "A babe in the house is a wellspring of pleasure" wrote the Proverbial Philosopher. I believe it though some appear to prefer life dry. I have seven living children and some grands and we have had lots of fun. For many years we enjoyed an ancestral house built in 1814 at Gilmanton, N.H. in summer. It is occupied by my youngest son Hilary in his vacations from work in Yonkers. Gilmanton is a thousand feet above the sea, is overhung by a peaked Hill that attains 1400! Air good, food excellent, scenery admirable.

In 1901 we camped on the seashore in tents so near the south shore of Martha's Vineyard that salt sprays would encrust the driven well that gave us cool fresh water on the hottest day. Nothing but a beach of sand for twenty miles. What could you do? Actually reading-matter taken was never unpacked. In three tents five children and three adults.

In the Mid-West the Canadian shore opposite Michigan's Thumb attracted me. It was Crown land four rods from the Lake, but Kincardine wanted summerers and undertook the care of any house or goods I put there; even dragged away some fishermen's huts that preempted a choice spot. I built a very practical house. Several years it served us through the hot season. The out was transportation. Traffic on the lakes was just going out when I went to Ypsilanti in 1901. At first it so dominated that it stopped the N.Y.C. trains at the Detroit River, made them spend a half hour crossing on train ferries. By 1910 a tunnel let us cut across the river and streamers that used to take you everywhere along the Lakes have disappeared one by one. At first we went to Kincardine by boat or tried to, but the boat stuck in the mud
at Toledo and after five hot summer hours of waiting on a fare wharf in Detroit, five children, father, mother and maid had enough and a way was found by train. But that meant two junction waits and arrival at midnight. Once a boat did take us to Bay City for train transfer to Higgins Lake in Mid Lower Peninsula for one pleasant summer. Now all of those boats are gone. Investigating the Lake shores, which bristle with abandoned wharves, father found an admirable spot on the east side of a lake that opened into Lake Michigan 18 westering miles away.

Mother had knowledge of real estate and bought from the Lumber company 17 acres of cut-over land with 600 feet of sandy shore, a spring of our own which poured a stream of clear water by our kitchen door, and a cottage built for the lumbermen. For one or two years we made Charlevoix by rail, Horton Bay by lake steamer, and rowed a mile to our cottage. We had a lot of fun there. Roads began to be built and soon brought numbers to our shores. Finally when they offered me seven times as much as we paid we sold. We still had Gilmanton, and now we had a Ford. When I taught at Lexington, Mass., in 1890 Gilmanton was but 100 miles away. We had a horse and surrey then. It took me three days to drive the horse up every summer. The family went by train, the journey by horse being too arduous. With the Ford, though Gilmanton was now 750 miles away, we could all go by car very comfortably in the same three days.

Two years we tried camping in Farmer Fancis' woods at the south end of Lake Huron. The Canadian Grand Trunk conductor obligingly stopped his train in the woods for us. That was in tents.

His concern with the war, and his total resolve that the allies had to put down "nazi evil," absorbed him during the war years. Most of the letters that he wrote in those years indulged commentary of the war. Frequently his letters to Mrs. Atherton dealt with nothing but war. Once he offered the scheme to Gladys Wrigley that government officials and Parliamentarians should fight each other until one side surrendered, leaving the people out of the brawl! On another occasion he wrote to Miss Wrigley: 15

Can your library lend me anything enlightening on the—say 1936-38—state of the agriculturists exchanged between Turkey and Greece after World War I—How are they getting along in their new homes?

You see I plan to take 10 to 20 thousand square miles somewhere in the most prosperous part of Germany—agricultural—give the total inhabitants 20 minutes to take their possessions that they can carry in two suitcases each—supervised in size—seal their doors and off with them by freight train to the Ukraine—some devastated part, putting the
same number of dispossessed Ukrainians in their homes in Germany at once, Allied troops arranging simultaneity—Don't look in the Dictionary, you know what I mean. Then the reasonable taxes paid by the Ex-Ukrainers from their crops go the Ex-Germans in Ukraine to enable them to restore the country to its former status, Russian surveyors reporting and after twenty years allowing them to go back and exchange what they have wrought for an approximate equivalent in the old home. Perhaps ten years would be better. They might work harder for a ten year prospect?

Don't give it away. It's a secret yet, but the Greek-Turkish experience may help. You see?

In the months that followed the war, he investigated U.S. military efficiency during the war; the nation's tactical and strategic campaign strength, ability to cooperate with the allies, and blunders; the costs to the taxpayer and the inefficiency of men in high positions. He pieced together information from various sources, wrote to persons in authority for further information or explanation, and, if dissatisfied, he would send a letter to the Secretary of Defense or the local senator. His motive was to avoid future repetition of waste, inefficiency, and the horror of allies shooting allies. Two of the letters Jefferson wrote in this connection follow:

I wish you would demand an accounting from our Secretary of Defense of the cost incurred by the absurd race for the rescue simultaneously by two uncoordinated branches of our defense service, of the men marooned and rescued in Greenland.

He has demonstrated his unfitness by allowing two men to act who are legally his subordinates. A man like Eisenhower, or our ailing secretary of state would have made the decision of how the rescue should be planned and executed, and ordered it done.

A civilian is no judge of the proper method that should have been used but he can see that the highly efficient operation of the Air Forces does not mask the fact that its work, was lawless, if it acted without orders from the defense secretary, and for all we know without his knowledge.

We shall be given the political answer—the rescue of those 19 American service men was worth any cost! But that is an evasion. Every American taxpayer is pleased that the men were saved. They and the Air Force generally have been so highly efficient in their operations that the 19 men have not apparently been allowed to be too uncomfortable. We are apt to judge the naval attempt a foolish one, but that no civilian is competent to judge.

The cost of sending the naval carrier and its helicopters on their
wild goose chase must have been huge and we need an official at the head of defense policy who makes decisions and sees that his subordinates execute them.

What has this cost us? Haven't we a right to know? And again: Let a mere citizen express the hearty approval that I am sure many feel of your action in stopping the (secret?) construction work begun last week on the 65,000-ton airplane carrier, started by the Navy department at an estimated cost of 188 million dollars, expected to expand quickly to 250 million, and sure to involve over a billion through the accompanying vessels in any actual operation.

I believe all Americans are proud of you.

Odd how we agree in some things. What American does not trust and admire Eisenhower and Marshall? What American was not ashamed of the incompetence of our Army and Navy at Pearl Harbor to let the Japs slap us in the face?

When Army and Navy last December raced to rescue airmen marooned in Greenland, I took the liberty of asking our Senator Ferguson to call Sec. Forrestal to account for not being on the job of heading our Defenses. I enclose my letter to Senator Ferguson of Dec. 28, 1948 and the response that resulted from Secretary Forrestal Feb. 8, 1949. I had of course no way of knowing that he was on his way out of a job that he was physically, mentally and morally unable to handle. We are bothered by our agencies of Defense—Army, Navy Airplanes with their inner friction and complete inability to do anything for our present day need of defense against the penetrating propaganda of the cold war.

Your stopping work on the wasteful carrier deserves well of your countrymen.

Jefferson felt alone in retirement. His close friends of the Normal College faculty were largely no more, the Ypsilantian charm of earlier decades had been transformed by the creation of a Henry Ford eleven million dollar bomber plant to the east of town, which had encouraged an influx of 40,000 workers from the South, hungry for war wages and lacking the feeling of civic responsibility that was second nature to the older inhabitants. New-born bombers roared low overhead every hour, and Jefferson found a source of income by renting rooms to war workers, of whom at one time there were eleven in his house, occasionally spilling onto his porch, there to spend the night. But Jefferson had lost his local academic contemporaries, many of his correspondents throughout the world, and his Ypsilanti. He was beginning to lose his long-time friend, the Association of American Geographers, of which he had been a founding father. He found it increasingly difficult to attend
their annual meetings and was alarmed to note that several of the more competent American geographers no longer attended the meetings, that there was division imminent within the Association itself which division assumed form in 1943 when the American Society for Professional Geographers was formed, and that professionalisation was making itself a force within Association ranks. On the former matter Jefferson wrote to George Cressey: 18

I am disturbed by the number of good men who have withdrawn from our list. Matthes was about to withdraw, but I have persuaded him not to. Goldthwait has withdrawn, Douglas Johnson practically never comes, Bowman does not come, how long since Shantz has been there?

Davis strongly desired to bring together workers in marginal and allied aspects of Geography. It just dawns on me that our Programs, by segregating papers of separate aspects, causes more Dissociation than Association. A good session would have grouped together papers of distinctly different instead of similar classification. How can we have effect on each other if we do not meet? As if a Jones family reunion separated off into separate rooms, the Jones by blood and those who had married into the tribe! I believe this is important.

Jefferson had been disturbed to witness the breaking away of a group of geographers from the main body of the Association in 1943. These geographic workers, largely employed at Washington, wanted association, but their work frequently remained classified (for example, geographers employed on the M project) and so they remained ineligible for membership in the Association. Jefferson was loathe to see formal publication a qualification, rather was he interested in capacity and enthusiasm. The A.S.P.G. remained outside the Association until 1948 when unnecessary duplication was recognized. Professionalisation offered itself as an integrative idea that would unite the two geographical societies, yet an idea to which Jefferson was opposed. The very word bothered him. It meant nothing to him, and was a step away from wholesome legitimate endeavor, and did little more than create distance between it and the laity. Jefferson had been active in the Association during his life and remained so during the 1940's. He was elected Chairman of the Nominating Committee, 1940-1941, evaluated several manuscripts submitted to Editor Derwent Whittlesey for publication in the Annals, and prepared three papers for the A.A.G. meetings between 1940 and 1949, but had not found attendance possible. Jefferson recognized professionalisation as an invidious force in the Association and wrote vigorously against the idea to President Charles Brooks in 1947, though it had been a matter of distaste with him for some time: 19
I congratulate the AAG on your accession to the post of President. You are a worthy representative.

The proposition of uniting us into "a single Professional organization" does not interest me.

The adding "Professional" to the names of scientific societies has little to commend it as if there were a Professional geological society or an American Society of Professional Mathematicians. What is a Professional Geographer? Was our founder [of the AAG] a professional geographer? Are you? Am I? Is Bowman?—a good inquiry now that he is a mere University President, not chiefly interested in Geography.

I met first the word profession applied to geographers from young men who complained that the Standard requirement of original publication for election to membership in our AAG disbarred them from joining. We have I believe always encouraged men interested to attend our meetings and it has not been difficult for many of them to present papers if they could satisfy a member that it was of enough geographic interest.

When they formed the American Society of Professional Geographers it looked a bit as if they meant government job-holder geographers. Why the professional?

The little group of men—mostly members of the U.S. Geological Survey who formed the National Geographic Society about 1889—Gilbert, Powell, McGee and others and ran it until Alexander Graham Bell suggested to his son-in-law Grosvenor the admirable idea of a geographic picture book, rather than a journal of the work of Americans in original geography, were professional but also had something to say.

I am sorry I have not been able to attend meetings lately, Winter train travel is difficult for me but last year I thought to be at Columbus—until I saw the program! It did not look substantial and men who attended wrote me that it was somewhat dreary especially that men who were poorly prepared to present their ideas wasted time and habitually ran over the time allotted them, the officers being unable to prevent. I am sorry. I find geography most interesting. I should like to know what interesting things Blue Hill has learned lately and Chicago and Minnesota. But let's not professionalise.

Jefferson was concerned for the direction and future of the Association as it entered the forties. He perceived that physiographers seemed no longer welcome at the meetings and that there was less feeling for the geographic idea. He had been aggravated in 1939 when the Reading Committee of the Annals of the Association of American Geographers
had found not suitable for publication his essay entitled "Is Germany a Country?", a matter about which he had been thinking since the first World War. He felt that office holding seemed to be emerging as a habit of some geographers as a substitute for geographic thinking. He did not see men emerging the equivalent of his own early halcyon Association Days . . . days of Davis, Tower, Huntington, Bowman, J. R. Smith, Matthes. Yet he did not forsake the Association. In 1940, elected chairman of the Nominating Committee, he was largely responsible for the selection of Griffith Taylor as President. He continued interest in Association undertakings, avidly read its publications, was consulted by Alfred Meyer concerning valuable research directions which the Association might assume, facilitated by the then recent Fulbright Act.

At the Charlottesville's meetings of the AAG, the ASPG, and the NCGT, attention was directed to the opportunities for foreign geographic research under the provisions of the Fulbright Act. As a result, it was resolved to appoint a committee to further investigate the possibilities of promoting geographic research under this Act. A progress report of the committee by Lloyd D. Black appeared in the September issue of the Joint Newsletter of the AAG-ASPG.

One of the chief functions of the committee would seem to be to propose specific projects or programs which geographers or geography organizations would like to see pursued in specific foreign areas. Because of your recognized leadership in geographic research, we are writing to you for specific suggestions along this line.

I would deeply appreciate any suggestion you would like to make at your earliest convenience so we might benefit from it in time for our final report. For your convenience you may simply pen your note on the bottom or reverse of this letter, if you prefer.

Jefferson's reply indicates that his earlier geographic interests in anthropography and climate had not been eradicated by his exceeding concern with war and peace conference settlements

Yes, I can suggest a lot if you have workers willing to work, and money to pay costs. For instance, where are the people of the world? My Presidential address published in the Annals of the Association in 1917, with included maps for U.S., India and British Isles with cities of 10,000 inhabitants up, for elements, and the main map of the United States with 1000 up. The map is generous. Most of Canada is included. Griffith Taylor could quickly complete it for Canada on the same scale and the Canadian Census date 1911 is near enough to 1910.

Mexico would be another story. One or more men would have to go there. They should know or learn Spanish. The Church was not sepa-
rated from the state till 1917. For our date, 1910, the church records are invaluable and the cooperation of the church should be sought. Country by country the same work should be attempted all over the world. You should read my article for the argument. Raye Platt made an attempt for Peru in the Geographical Review but some years ago without precise differentiation by size. Supposing the world covered with this basal map made by workers on the ground—say in 50 years we can look at the relief map. The 1:7 million Relief map made by our Geological Survey in 1911 put alongside my City map will be most instructive. So will Kincer's rainfall map.

We need a world rain cooperation for ten years simultaneously. Ten years is a short time but simultaneity matters immensely and we have no right to assume that a 40, 60, or 80 year record is immutable. There may be progressive changes or fluctuations. I believe that to be a large piece of research by a great body of men, urging foreign cooperation because so much of the earth is alien. If this was followed or accompanied by similar preparation of presentations of the earth's physiography, at least its relief and precipitation, and the scale kept small enough to allow the map to lie on an ordinary desk or table, the maps will be much more studied.

I made a three part division of the United States, scale 9:million, for my students with the help of the American Geographical Society staff in 1917, and have copies which can be combined into a small U.S. sheet. I enclose one to you for which you can remit 50 cents if you like.

I can no longer distribute such material at my own expense as I have in the past. The covers contain explanatory comment.

The annual meeting of the Association of American Geographers, December 1938, held at the University of Chicago, had proved to be his last association meeting. Jefferson was treated handsomely. Accommodated in a sitting room, bath and bedroom with twin beds in the same building with the dining room he enjoyed the meeting greatly. The Association voted to "extend Jefferson's membership" so that he need pay no more annual dues since he was shortly to be retired. Jefferson composed papers for the 1941 New York meeting (The Rift in Our Population) and the 1946 Columbus meeting (Europe's Control of the World in 1914), but he attended neither. He enjoyed the task of thinking about his annual paper, the anticipation of a geographical meeting, but the apprehension of winter travel and concern with expense combined to prevent his appearance. In the months of January and February he would wistfully look back upon the meeting he had not attended and feel a little sad. Late in 1948 and at the age of 85 Jefferson began
to doubt that he "could hold on for another year." The grand old man of U.S. geography attempted to write a paper for the Association meeting at Madison, Wisconsin. He wrote to Chauncey Harris, one of the program officers who had offered to help him reproduce ten copies of his paper:

"Thank you for your kind offer to have the ten copies made of my paper. I will try to be there and to send MS on to you early in November, as suggested.

I do not know why you offer to do me this service. Such things have happened to me in three continents, kind attention from people on whom I have no claim and would probably happen in the other three if I went there. It's a good world!

Here's hoping we meet at Madison.

A severe winter coupled with a head cold prevented Jefferson's attendance.

The last of Jefferson's written work surviving to geographic record is a response to a Normal College Committee's request for his reflections as Head of the Department on the occasion of the Normal College Centennial in 1949. In his response Jefferson allowed himself and his Department just a little praise, a commodity of which he had been suspicious for a life time:

"To the committee in charge of the May Centennial

The last 40-year incumbent of the geography headship at Ypsilanti has been invited to report on the relations of the Michigan State Normal College to Geography,—in his day, he supposes.

He hopes the College has given Michigan boys and girls a closer touch with the world about them than was had by Horace Mann's famous boy who, when asked by his teacher how he knew the world was round, rattled off "Because-brave-and-daring-men-have-sailed-around-it. But when Mr. Mann asked him whether he had ever seen this round world confessed that he had not.

The task of the Normal, I take it, is to train the several hundred students who leave it each year to be good teachers—of Geography among other things—in our common schools.

In higher institutions of instruction, however, in supplying colleges and universities with distinguished teachers of geography the Michigan State Normal College has made a better record than any other teacher training school, for supplying leaders in Geography and presidents and other high officers of the Association of American Geographers.

We may well be proud of the university chairs of Geography that have been capably filled, like that at University of Chicago, where the head of the Department of Geography who is retiring this June, was a
student in our classes from 1904 to 1909, assistant on our Geography faculty here in 1907, for long years Professor of Geography in the University of Chicago, president of the Association of American Geographers at St. Louis in 1935, and coming to Ypsilanti in 1931, the year in which Ypsilanti entertained the Association here, under the presidency of Dr. Isaiah Bowman, announced at that meeting the presentation to the head of the Ypsilanti Department of Geography the Helen Culver gold medal of the Chicago Geographic Society, as Bowman brought the actual Cullum Geographical medal of the New York Society.

Their one-time teacher well recalls the two boys as students, both contributing acceptable novelties of viewpoint in some of the teacher's own work in the field, the one contributing most appreciated suggestions for saving the time of his fellow students which resulted in the birth of our class textbook, a valuable tool of instruction, the other contributing points of difference of opinion that were worth publishing.

Now that Bowman has retired from the presidency of the Johns Hopkins University, it is a pleasure to learn that that institution is gratefully setting up the Isaiah Bowman School of Geography and declaring him the greatest living geographer.

It is a pleasure to see our old student and assistant Darrel H. Davis now Professor of Geography at the University of Minnesota this many a year, and secretary of the Association of American Geographers in 1929, 1930 and 1931.

It was a pleasure to observe the zeal and success up to his death of A. E. Parkins, Professor of Geography at the George Peabody School for Teachers, president of the Association in 1930, student here in 1901 and assistant on our faculty here in 1906 and 1907.

The Normal College has always been interested in modern Geography.

Note to the Committee May 3, 1949

Gentlemen:

Will you kindly substitute the above for the MS submitted yesterday and destroy that. Neither is adequate and if the attempt is not in line with the Committee's ideas, it's suppression will be understood.

Yours cordially,
Mark Jefferson
Professor of Geography
1901 to 1939

If this does not serve your purpose put it in the waste basket.

And before death on August 6, 1949, he managed to sign himself to one letter that he penned . . . Mark Jefferson: Geographer.