

Document III: Thomas Jefferson's Epitaph



could the dead feel any interest in Monu-  
-ments or other remembrances of them, when, as  
Anacreon says: ΟΛΥΠ ΔΕ ΧΕΙΣΟΠΕΣΣΑ

ΚΟΙΝΣ, ΟΣΕΩΝ ΧΥΘΕΥΤΩΝ

The following would be to my Names the most  
gratifying.

On the ~~grave~~  
a plain die or cube of 3. f without any  
mouldings, surmounted by an Obelisk  
of 6. f. height, each of a single stone:  
on the faces of the Obelisk the following  
inscription, & not a word more.  
Here was buried

Thomas Jefferson

Author of the Declaration of American Independance  
of the Statute of Virginia for religious freedom  
& Father of the University of Virginia.

because by these, as testimonials that I have lived, I wish most to  
be remembered. ~~It is~~ to be of the coarse stone of which  
my columns are made, that no one might be tempted  
hereafter to destroy it for the value of the materials,  
my bust by Cavacchi, with the pedestal and truncated  
column on which it stands, might be given to the University  
if they would place it in the Dome room of the Rotunda.  
on the ~~Die~~<sup>of the Obelisk</sup>, might be engraved

Born Apr. 2. 1743. O.S.

Died —

Epitaph text:

“Here was buried

Thomas Jefferson

Author of the Declaration of Independence

Of the Statue of Virginia for

Religious freedom

& Father of the University of Virginia”