

EraMuse

*A Cut Above – unscripted television
Compelling entertainment that nourishes & satisfies
and keeps them coming back for more.*

The DNA Files: Paper Scrapers

Fingerprint secrets of ancient books & letters

What: Half-hour investigative series using new technology to scrape DNA from fragile and unexamined books & letters, maps, to uncover their secret history. Compelling host. Some CGI combined with re-cre & location.

Partial prototype: *Who Do You Think You Are?*

Who: Researchers in this cutting-edge process investigate mysteries of history by lifting DNA off of old books and letters to discover who had them, who held them, who used them. I work with other historians to craft specific investigations.

How: 1st episode: Thomas Jefferson & Sally Hemings
Jefferson's secret affair with his slave Sally Hemings was finally confirmed *through* DNA. Now, using new DNA technology, we can look through the pages of his books & letters to uncover the scope of their relationship. Jefferson had a huge library which forms the basis of the Library of Congress. & We now



know Sally was the half-sister of his beloved deceased wife Martha. How many books in his Library did *Sally* hold? Did he encourage her to read the Bible? How well-read was she? How deep was their relationship--did they read together at Monticello? [think: Tommy Lee Jones & S. Epatha Merkerson in Spielberg's *Lincoln*].



Why: DNA secrets on paper can reveal *much more* about the interpersonal relationships of history, as well as monarchs & murderers. Innocent books on private & public library shelves hold myriad secrets—the ghosts on the page, if you will—to their hidden past can be revealed through scraping off their invisible fingerprints.

Where: Discovery ID, TLC, PBS, Travel channel

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