

Sample Interview Questions

1. When did you first learn you are a descendant of President Madison? How has been important to your family? To you?
2. Please describe the evolution of you family credo, “Always remember—you’re a Madison. You come from African slaves and a president.” What does it mean to you?
3. Why did it take you 30 years to write *The Other Madisons*?
4. Why was it important to you to write this book? What do you most hope readers will take away from it?
5. As you researched and wrote, how did you deal with the violence and brutality in the history of this country and the stories of your family? How do you confront the reality that some of your ancestors oppressed others?
6. Most Americans think of slavery as a southern institution; please tell us about slavery in New York.
7. Why is oral history important? What does it provide that written history cannot?
8. Please tell us about James and Dolley Madison as America’s first “Power Couple.”
9. Do you believe the 1787 Constitution contributed to the 2020 murder of George Floyd? If so, how?