Digital media producer Ian Atkins has been taking pictures and creating videos at Monticello for more than a decade. Here, he shares some of his favorite photographs and why he chose them.

I love photographing Monticello at night. For this shot, I used an overhead drone light to “paint” the house with light during a long exposure that also enabled a sky of stars to shine in the background.

This image of Jefferson interpreter Bill Barker in his office captures all that is involved in “being” Thomas Jefferson. It provides a glimpse into Barker’s ongoing process of unraveling and presenting Thomas Jefferson to the world.
After joining Monticello as a guide, Atkins also provided video and photography content as a freelancer. When demand for digital content increased dramatically during the pandemic, he joined Monticello on a full-time basis as part of the digital team that creates videos and photography.

ABOUT IAN ATKINS

Jefferson wrote, “And our own dear Monticello, where has nature spread so rich a mantle under the eye?” This sunset image captures nature’s splendid and unabashed color spectrum.

A makeshift cross in this burial ground for enslaved people is a powerful reminder that Monticello was also a place where hundreds of enslaved people lived, worked, raised families and died.

I often challenge myself to capture Monticello in unique ways while still relaying the essence of the subject. By exposing only for natural exterior light, the iconic Dome Room is seen in silhouette alone, highlighting the marvel of its design.