

LOOK CLOSER: A PHOTO COLLECTION

On June 15 and 16, Monticello hosted *Look Closer*, a landmark gathering on the mountaintop. The public opening of nearly 30 new and restored spaces and exhibits attracted thousands of guests. Exhibitions, music, reflections, and panel discussions explored Monticello's decades-long journey

to better understand the legacies of both freedom and slavery. The weekend also included celebrations of the 25th anniversary of the *Getting Word Oral History Project*, the successful close of the *We Hold These Truths* campaign, and the completion of the Mountaintop Project.



Steve Rank

BENDING TOWARD JUSTICE

David M. Rubenstein, co-founder and co-chairman of the Carlyle Group, moderates a discussion featuring Annette Gordon-Reed, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *The Hemingses of Monticello: An American Family*; Darren Walker, President of the Ford Foundation; and Monticello vice chair Jon Meacham, Pulitzer Prize winner and author of *The Soul of America: The Battle for Our Better Angels*.

MOUNTAINTOP REUNION

Nearly 300 descendants of Monticello's enslaved community gathered during the weekend.



Monica Pedykowski



Steve Ruark

JON MEACHAM

Presidential historian and Monticello vice chair Jon Meacham takes a moment to pose with descendants.

MELODY BARNES

National policy analyst and Monticello vice chair Melody Barnes delivered the weekend's closing remarks. Referencing the stories of enslaved people now being told at Monticello, Barnes said, "We all have the ability to create the country that we know we can be, and that, I believe, is what all of those lives from hundreds of years ago, all of those voices silenced but that must never be forgotten, are requiring of all of us today."



Steve Ruark



GETTING WORD

Generations of family members gathered on the West Lawn for a family photo as part of a three-day celebration of the opening of the *Getting Word Oral History Project* exhibit in the South Wing.

SHARING STORIES

J. Calvin Jefferson Sr. and Diana Redman — descendants of Monticello's enslaved families — joined Beverly Gray, Lucia “Cinder” Stanton and Monticello vice chair Melody Barnes to discuss the significance of their personal stories.

“What they have done here is really monumental ... if Alfred Nobel had given an award out, in his will, for historic renovation, this foundation would win that award.”

— David M. Rubenstein



Tom Daily



Tom Daily



NEW EXHIBITS

Nearly 30 new exhibits and restored spaces, including the *Life of Sally Hemings* exhibit; the South Pavilion, where Martha Wayles Skelton Jefferson first lived at Monticello after the Jeffersons' marriage; and The Dairy were opened to the public for the first time on June 16, drawing thousands of visitors to Monticello.

READ ALL ABOUT IT!

News Coverage of June 16

The *Look Closer* weekend captured the attention of many in the national media, and Monticello was honored to receive extensive press coverage for its efforts to reveal the lives of all who lived and worked on the mountaintop.



“*The Life of Sally Hemings* exhibit is perhaps the most striking example of the sea change that has taken place at Monticello, as the foundation has increasingly focused on highlighting the stories of Monticello’s slaves.”

— Farah Stockman,
New York Times



The *Life of Sally Hemings* exhibit

GLAMOUR

“The myriad changes at Monticello, including [Melody] Barnes’ forthcoming leadership, the Hemings exhibition, and a more inclusive narrative of the plantation, come at a critical time in the country.”

— Samantha Willis,
Glamour



“Monticello has been working to provide a richer sense of the complex interactions between Jefferson and the enslaved people who lived there. ... But the inequity underneath the richness of Jefferson’s intellectual world, and the relationship between these realms, is the essence of the story Monticello is trying to tell ...”

— Philip Kennicott,
Washington Post



“The caretakers of Monticello have attempted to answer these questions [about Thomas Jefferson’s connection with Sally Hemings] as best they can. And they have done so with great respect, attention and candor. ... In providing Sally Hemings with her rightful place in history, we give her and her descendants back their sense of humanity.”

— Sophia Nelson,
NBC News