



President's Letter

We often say that these are the most exciting times at Monticello since Thomas Jefferson roamed the mountaintop. From highly popular seminars for teachers to the Thomas Jefferson Parkway to international conferences abroad, the Thomas Jefferson Memorial Foundation has advanced confidently into the 21st century, maintaining our traditional programs while at the same time challenging ourselves to expand in fresh directions.

The most ambitious of these new initiatives is a staff-developed and Board of Trustees-approved Master Plan, a 213-page document that calls for the return of the mountaintop more authentically to the way it was during Jefferson's lifetime, expanded educational outreach, and an enhanced visitor experience.

Three "campuses" will be built to support the Monticello mountaintop: a scholarly ensemble at Kenwood, home of the Foundation's International Center for Jefferson Studies and future home of the Jefferson Library; an expansive Monticello Gateway and Jefferson History Center on Route 20 at the base of the mountain; and an administrative complex at the site now occupied by the Ticket Office, Shuttle Station and parking lots.

Scholarship drives our mission of preservation and education. Monticello's staff now includes ten Ph.D.s and six colleagues who have published one or more books with a university press. For years the Foundation has had its own small library for use by staff members and the general public, but first-rate scholarship requires a first-rate research facility. In addition, TJMF,

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE.

© Thomas Jefferson Memorial Foundation, Inc., 2000

This Issue's Other Stories

-  DIGITAL ARCHAEOLOGY ARCHIVE
-  FESTIVE FOOD
-  INTERNS RESEARCH
-  JEFFERSON LIBRARY
-  "JEFFERSON LIVES" CAMPAIGN
-  JEFFERSON & WEST CHRONOLOGY
-  JULY 4 EVENT
-  "MANUAL OF PARLIAMENTARY PRACTICE"
-  MILLENNIUM TRAIL DESIGNATION
-  MONTICELLO'S PRIVIES
-  "RETIREMENT SERIES" BEGUN
-  SAUNDERS BRIDGE
-  SECRETARY OF STATE
-  SHADWELL AGREEMENT
-  WINTER TOUR

MONTICELLO



President's Letter

CONTINUED, PAGE **TWO**,

thanks to a grant from The Pew Charitable Trusts and in cooperation with Princeton University, has assumed responsibility for *The Papers of*

Thomas Jefferson: Retirement Series. We will publish all the extant writings of Jefferson and related documents in 23 volumes that span his retirement from the presidency in 1809 until his death in 1826.

To meet these needs and the increasing demand of our interna-

tional fellows at the ICJS, we have broken ground on the Jefferson Library. The library, scheduled to open in 2002, will feature ample storage, research, conference and office space, and state-of-the-art technology.

While we build at Kenwood, we will be tearing down at Monticello. Our goal of restoring the mountaintop requires demolishing such modern additions as the Museum Shop and my office. We will also remove curatorial spaces, currently located in the house, into the new administrative complex that will offer a central location for many of the Foundation's key departments, now scattered among numerous sites.

In the meantime, we are slowly reconstructing Jefferson's world on the mountaintop through such immediate projects as restoration of the North and South Pavilions, the North Privy and the dependencies.

The Foundation's most dramatic campus will be the Monticello Gateway and Jefferson History Center, a visitor-service, educational, and retail complex to be located on non-historic land on Route 20 across from the current Monticello Visitors Center. Monticello's more than 530,000 annual visitors will no longer have to stop at the base of the mountain for information and for our exhibit, make the trek up for parking and tickets, wait in line for a bus ride and tour at the top of the mountain, and then go elsewhere for information about food,



View of Monticello's West Front, painted in 1825 by Jane Braddick Peticolas.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE.

© Thomas Jefferson Memorial Foundation, Inc., 2000



President's Letter

CONTINUED, PAGE [THREE](#),

lodging, and other area attractions. The Gateway complex will combine all of these components – plus new facilities and amenities – in one beautiful and inspiring location. Importantly, we will make our neighbors “stakeholders” in the new center by offering them space to share their own information, thus educating our visitors not only about the place Jefferson lived, but also about the geographic area that shaped him.

Linking the historic mountaintop and the new Gateway complex will be the completed Saunders-Monticello Trail, a 2.2-mile pathway through the Thomas Jefferson Parkway beginning at Kemper Park and, eventually, arriving at the house itself. Amazingly, the trail never surpasses a 5 percent grade, making it fully wheelchair accessible. The Parkway also will include outdoor “classrooms,” a two-acre pond fed by a free-flowing stream, and a magnificent stone-arch bridge. Named in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas A. Saunders III, whose leadership gift made its construction possible, Saunders Bridge will span Route 53 and will be the capstone of the Parkway, allowing visitors to enter Monticello’s main grounds safely while its entrance corridor is preserved scenically and in perpetuity.

Naturally, these ambitious new facilities will be costly. To address the financial imperatives of the Master Plan, the Foundation has launched a \$100 million fund-raising effort called *Jefferson Lives: A Campaign for Monticello in the Twenty-First Century*. The campaign chairman, Trustee Thomas A. Saunders III, announced the initiative in June with \$50 million in hand through the generosity of our trustees and other lead donors. The campaign is about big ideas – in our Master Plan and in Jefferson’s amazing legacy. These are indeed exciting times on the mountaintop, and your participation is warmly encouraged and appreciated.

Daniel P. Jordan
President

[COMMENTS? newsletter@monticello.org](mailto:newsletter@monticello.org)