



# Visitation Surpasses 500,000 for 21st Consecutive Year

A surge in visitation during December enabled Monticello to surpass the half-million mark in annual attendance for the 21st consecutive year in 2001.

The December attendance of 17,943 – an increase of 4,178, or 30.35 percent, over December 2000 – pushed the 2001 visitation total to 503,438.

Though the final figure for 2001 represented a decrease of 21,709, or 4.13 percent, from 2000, it was nonetheless gratifying.

“In the wake of the terrible events of Sept. 11, the final attendance figure is rather remarkable,” said Thomas Jefferson Foundation President Daniel P. Jordan. “I would like to think that the increase in attendance at the end of the year reflects a resurgence in patriotism and recognition that Jefferson was the architect of American democracy.”

Monticello’s visitation dropped significantly in September (down 12.32 percent from the same month in 2000) and October (down 11.74 percent) before rebounding somewhat in November (down 2.57 percent) and then rising sharply in December.

Monticello has attracted more than 500,000 visitors every year since 1981. The highest total during the period was 622,137 in 1993, the 250th anniversary of Jefferson’s birth. Monticello’s all-time attendance high of 671,486 was set in 1976, the bicentennial of the American Revolution.

The 2001 attendance milestone was reached Dec. 29 with the arrival of John Kienker of Claremont, Calif., a

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# MONTICELLO



## Visitation

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Ph.D. candidate in political science at Claremont University whose dissertation subject is the meaning of Jefferson's phrase "the pursuit of happiness" in the Declaration of Independence. Kienker was greeted by Jordan and presented with a Monticello gift package, and he and friend Lani Le of Kenmore, N.Y., a reporter at a Buffalo television station, were given a special tour of the house. Both Kienker and Le were visiting Monticello for the first time.

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