



Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Inaugurated at Monticello

Inspiring words and stirring music, not to mention sub-freezing temperatures, were the order of the day on Saturday, Jan. 18, when the national observance of the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial was launched on Monticello's West Lawn.

A crowd in excess of 3,500 – including approximately 200 American Indians from more than 40 tribes and nearly 400 local schoolchildren – attended the three-hour program, described by Thomas Jefferson Foundation President Daniel P. Jordan as an “all-American event reflecting many voices and multiple stories.” The date marked the 200th anniversary of President Thomas Jefferson’s confidential letter to Congress

requesting \$2,500 for an expedition up the Missouri River and on to the Pacific.

The Commencement of the National Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Commemoration was the headline event in a weeklong series of Lewis and Clark-related programming organized by the Thomas Jefferson Foundation and the first of 15 “Signature Events” designated by the National Council of the Lewis & Clark Bicentennial.

Twenty-two people spoke from the podium during the event, music was provided by four groups and two singers, and a musket volley capped off the proceedings.



Stephanie Gross



Both participants – including members of the Lewis & Clark Fife and Drum Corps (top) – and spectators (above) had to face sub-freezing temperatures on Jan. 18.

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CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE.

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MONTICELLO



Bicentennial Inauguration

CONTINUED, PAGE TWO



A large number of American Indians gathered in front of the West Portico at the conclusion of the program.

Among the speakers were author Dayton Duncan, filmmaker Ken Burns, Monacan Nation Chief Kenneth W. Branham, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Gale A. Norton, Virginia Gov. Mark R. Warner, National Congress of American Indians President Tex G. Hall, and, delivering the keynote address, University of Tulsa historian and author James P. Ronda.

Monticello's Lewis and Clark programming officially began Tuesday, Jan. 14, with a ceremony on the West Lawn that was attended by more than 400 people. This event featured remarks by National Park Service Director Fran Mainella and the dedication of a National Geodetic Survey global positioning system marker.

On Thursday, Jan. 16, Monticello's bicentennial installation, *Framing the West at Monticello: Thomas Jefferson and the Lewis and Clark Expedition*, was opened to the public. This exhibition, featuring a re-creation of Jefferson's "Indian Hall" in the Entrance Hall of the house, will remain in place throughout 2003.

All these activities were part of *Jefferson's West: A Lewis and Clark Exposition*, organized by Monticello in conjunction with the University of Virginia School of Continuing & Professional Studies.

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Bicentennial Inauguration

CONTINUED, PAGE **THREE**

Operating as both a paid conference and a public festival, the exposition also included discussions, demonstrations, exhibitions, book signings, evening performances, vendor displays, in-school programs, and social events at

Monticello, UVa, and other sites in the Charlottesville-Albemarle County area.

For a more detailed account of Monticello's Lewis and Clark programs and events, additional images, the text of James P. Ronda's Jan. 18 address, and other bicentennial-related features, visit the Web site www.monticello.org.



The Charlottesville Municipal Band played patriotic music.



The Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps of the U.S. Army.

COMMENTS? newsletter@monticello.org