The newest book in the Monticello Monograph Series, Jefferson and Monroe: Constant Friendship and Respect by Noble E. Cunningham, Jr., traces the deep personal and political relationship that existed between Thomas Jefferson and James Monroe. Cunningham, a professor of history at the University of Missouri-Columbia, is the author and editor of more than a dozen books about Jefferson. This new book and other Thomas Jefferson Foundation publications are available in bookstores, at the two Monticello Museum Shops, online through the Web site www.monticello.org, and by telephone at (800) 243-1743.

The history of brewing at Monticello will be interpreted beginning in June with the opening of a restored and furnished beer cellar under the house. Beer, a “table drink” at Monticello, was brewed on the mountaintop by Jefferson’s wife, Martha, and later by English brewer Joseph Miller and slave Peter Hemings. The restored cellar will feature historically accurate reproductions of bottles and jugs in which beer and ale were stored along with information about beer-making at Monticello during Jefferson’s lifetime. The project has been made possible by gifts from Anheuser-Busch Companies, Inc., and Mr. and Mrs. John L. Nau III.
African-American History Month at Monticello in February included an exhibition at Kenwood of new paintings of African-American life at Monticello by Nathaniel Gibbs; an Archaeology Afternoon for Children; and talks by writer, choreographer, and performer Gesell Mason; Shannon Senior Research Historian Lucia Stanton; and Director of African-American and Special Programs Dianne Swann-Wright.

The Jefferson Library has won a 2003 Library Building Award of Excellence from the American Institute of Architects and the American Library Association. The award, to be presented to the Thomas Jefferson Foundation and Hartman-Cox Architects at the ALA’s annual conference in June, recognizes the 15,500-square foot library as a “distinguished accomplishment in library architecture.”

Monticello’s attendance in 2002 was 492,932, a decrease of 10,506, or 2 percent, from 2001. It marked the first year since 1980 that Monticello’s annual visitation total fell below 500,000.