

Th: Jefferson MONTICELLO

SPRING 2015

www.monticello.org

VOLUME 26, NUMBER 1

Meet the People who Lived and Worked on Mulberry Row...and Walk in Their Footsteps

Archaeologists and historians have spent more than 50 years uncovering the footprint of plantation life on the mountaintop. A new app explores the landscape of slavery at Monticello, and shares the incredible stories of the people who lived and worked on Mulberry Row.

Hello, my name is Bill Webb. My ancestor, Brown Colbert, was one of more than 600 people owned by Thomas Jefferson, and I am very pleased to introduce you to the new app, "Slavery at Monticello: Life and Work on Mulberry Row."

So, what is Mulberry Row? It's a path, lined with mulberry trees, stretching for 1,000 feet along the south side of Jefferson's house. This is where the blacksmiths, carpenters and weavers worked, where enslaved men and women cared for Jefferson's

horses, washed his laundry and cooked his food. Many slaves lived here as well. Today, it seems peaceful. But in Jefferson's day, it hummed with activity. Monticello was much more than Jefferson's home; it was a working plantation.

With this app you can visit Mulberry Row's workshops, storehouses and dwellings. You can also meet more than a dozen people, including: George Granger, John and Priscilla Hemmings, Joe Fossett and James Hubbard. Their names may be unfamiliar to you now, but I promise,

once you hear their stories—stories of struggle and loss, perseverance and triumph—you will never forget them.

Many of us know Jefferson's famous words by heart: *We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.*

But his vision—the vision of our nation's founders—did not include one-fifth of the American population: the enslaved men, women and children who labored in nearly every state at that time. Monticello's new app presents a small piece of their story.

Download our new app at www.monticello.org/app

William Webb—descendant of Brown Colbert, an enslaved worker at Monticello—on Mulberry Row



Elizabeth Hemings 1735–1807	
Betty Brown 1759–post 1831	
Brown Colbert 1785–1833	
Malinda Colbert Edmondson ca. 1808–1863	
William Webb 1942–	