

# A HAPPY BIRTHDAY

## Jefferson Library celebrates 20 years

This year marks the 20th Anniversary of the Jefferson Library at Monticello. To celebrate, our librarians have put together a commemorative exhibit, “The Jefferson Library: Two Decades of Scholarship and Community,” on view in the library’s lobby until the end of January 2023, and available online at [monticello.org/library20](http://monticello.org/library20).

The library also received two notable gifts in this special birthday year — one the result of decades of research and the other involving a stroke of luck.

In May, author and historian Marc Leepson donated the research materials for his book *Saving Monticello* to the library. The collection, which Leepson singlehandedly amassed over the course of 25 years, consists of 6.5 linear feet of research folders that include his notes, facsimiles of primary-source material, papers, correspondence and copies of his online *Saving Monticello* newsletter that he has published monthly since 2004.

“The Marc Leepson Research Collection will be an invaluable resource for staff and scholars researching the history of Monticello after Thomas Jefferson’s death and the legacy of the Levy family, who helped

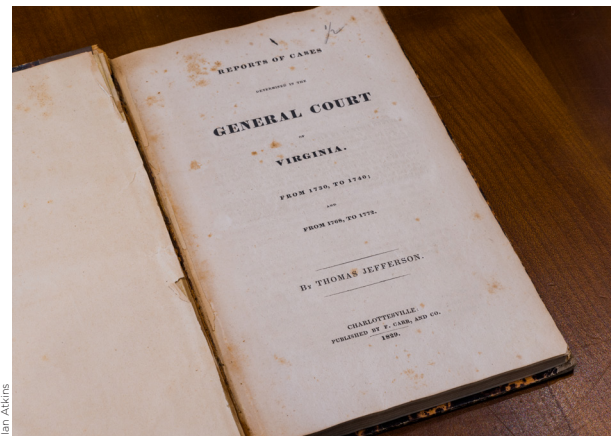
preserve Monticello between 1834 and 1923 for future generations,” says Endrina Tay, the Fiske and Marie Kimball Librarian.

The second gift came in July — a rare book that was rescued from a donation bin at a public library. Bob Gilson, a volunteer and board member of Friends of the Virginia Beach Public Library, was sorting through hundreds of donated books when one caught his eye.

“The cover was tired and dusty,” Gilson says. “But I had a feeling it was special.” He was right. The thin volume turned out to be a first edition of Jefferson’s *Reports of Cases determined in the General Court of Virginia from 1730 to 1740 and from 1769 to 1772*, printed in Charlottesville in 1829.

“We’ve never had an opportunity to acquire an 1829 edition,” Tay says. “This publication is essentially a first edition of one of Thomas Jefferson’s lesser-known works, compiled by him to document what he considered to be important colonial court decisions, and only published after his death.”

Copies of this work are only held in some 82 academic and law libraries.



Left: Endrina Tay receiving Marc Leepson’s research collection.

Right: Rare book of law reports compiled by Jefferson.

## Museums for All *Increasing access to history*



Monticello is proud to offer free admission to guests who receive benefits through the Supplemental

Nutrition Assistance Program and up to four family members over age 12 (children under 12 are always free). This initiative is part of Museums for All, a nationwide coalition of more than 900 museums

that helps ensure that every family and child has access to high-quality museum experiences.

“Providing equitable access to our nation’s history for people of all backgrounds and economic status is a core value at Monticello,” says Mariane Doyle, vice president of diversity, equity, accessibility and inclusion. “Through the Museums for All program, we are sharing this value by eliminating a financial barrier and encouraging lifelong learning.”