

MONTICELLO  
HISTORY:  
PIECE BY PIECE

DISCOVERING  
THE FIRST  
KITCHEN

PLAN YOUR TRIP  
TO THE  
MOUNTAINTOP

# MONTICELLO

The Magazine

SPECIAL  
EDITION:

*Insider's Guide  
to Monticello*

# FROM THE PRESIDENT

## The Power of Place

Dear Friends,

We're delighted with your enthusiastic response to the first issues of *Monticello* magazine. In this special summer edition, we offer you an insider's guide to Monticello, with ideas on how to make the most of your next visit. Each season on the mountaintop reveals a fresh perspective.

The world knows Thomas Jefferson as the revolutionary who drafted the Declaration of Independence and served as our third president. Monticello presents a bigger story; it is his autobiography. Jefferson was a self-taught architect, and the house, gardens and farms are unique. They are entirely of his design — his laboratories for advancing human progress. Beyond the bricks and mortar, which Jefferson called “my essay in Architecture,” Monticello was a 5,000-acre working plantation, operated at any given time by as many as 130 enslaved people.

As you'll read in these pages, every object at Monticello tells a story. Jefferson was intentional about the decoration of his domain — his portraits, busts, books, scientific instruments, plants, Native American artifacts and fossils were not a random collection. It has been said that Jefferson fashioned America. He believed that the arts and sciences would help forge an American identity and garner international respect for the young republic. He understood that a revolutionary new government needed to cultivate its civilization. As architect, designer, collector and patron, he made singular contributions to our culture. In 1813, the designer of the U.S. Capitol, Benjamin Henry Latrobe, credited Jefferson with “planting the arts in America.”

Many objects — including the fingerprints embedded in Monticello's brick walls — reveal stories of enslaved people. The Parlor's intricate parquet floor bears witness to the labor and skill of both the enslaved carpenter John Hemmings and Irish joiner James Dinsmore. Collectively, these objects express the triumphs and birth pains of a young nation.

Thanks to your support and the contributions of descendants and scholars, we continue to reveal more of Monticello's story. I invite you to read about recent archaeological discoveries in Monticello's first kitchen, where James Hemings practiced the art of French cuisine. You can now experience Monticello's culinary legacy in our Farm Table café.



Gabriel Zakaib

In these pages, we offer an exclusive excerpt of an upcoming book about George Washington and Thomas Jefferson. Authored by Frank Cogliano, Monticello's Fritz and Claudine Kundrun Senior Research Fellow, the volume promises fresh insights into the 30-year relationship between POTUS 1 and POTUS 3 — two of the most important leaders in early America.

Jefferson was emphatic that each generation had the obligation to improve the American experiment in “life, liberty and the pursuit of freedom.” The Jeffersonian vision of an engaged and educated people, struggling to preserve the world's best hope for self-government, remains undeniably relevant ... and elusive. Patriotic and partisan, free and dramatically unequal — these are the tensions that shaped the American origin story. Monticello reflects the complicated foundations of America.

We invite you to explore this evocative place for yourself — a journey that we promise will be eye-opening, thought-provoking and inspiring.

Leslie Greene Bowman  
President and CEO

### Stay Connected



### Monticello News

Be the first to know about the latest news and events with email updates from Monticello. Sign up at [monticello.org/site/about/be-first-know](https://monticello.org/site/about/be-first-know).

### Farm & Garden

Get regular updates on gardening events, lectures, tours, and plant and seed sales. Sign up for the newsletter at [monticello.org/farmandgarden](https://monticello.org/farmandgarden).

### Hit the Trail

Stay up to date with all the latest events and happenings on the Saunders-Monticello Trail. Sign up by emailing [trail@monticello.org](mailto:trail@monticello.org).

*Monticello* magazine is published twice yearly by the Thomas Jefferson Foundation Inc., the private, nonprofit organization that has owned and operated Monticello since 1923. Its twofold mission is education and preservation. Questions, comments and address changes should be directed to Monticello magazine, P.O. Box 316, Charlottesville, VA 22902; [info@monticello.org](mailto:info@monticello.org). **Editor:** Robert Viccellio (Viccellio Communications). **Design:** Monica Pedynkowski, John McKee (Calendar). **Artwork and Photography:** Unless marked, images © Thomas Jefferson Foundation at Monticello. **Photos:** Gavin Ashworth, Gardiner Hallock, Jack Looney, John McKee, Edward Owen, Whitney Pippen, Walter Smalling, Gabriel Zakaib. **Contributors:** Niya Bates, Frank Cogliano, Diane Ehrenpreis, Emilie Johnson, Stephen Light, J. Jefferson Looney, Fraser Neiman, Margaret Randolph, Joshua Scott.  
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## ON THE COVER:

Warmed by the sun, Monticello's Greenhouse offered a year-round refuge where Jefferson could cultivate plants, sort seeds and tinker at his workbench. Photo by Walter Smalling



The Library

Walter Smalling

SUMMER 2019

MONTICELLO.ORG

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### 18 MONTICELLO'S FIRST KITCHEN

Jefferson's passion for French cuisine was well documented. Until now, much less was known about the place where his food was prepared. Archaeologists have excavated part of the South Pavilion's basement, revealing Monticello's first kitchen.

### 20 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Not only is Monticello a World Heritage Site, it's also a hub of activity. With seasonal festivals, camps, tours, lectures, exhibits and tastings, there's something for everyone in the family.

# SUMMER AT MONTICELLO

The mountaintop is bustling with activity during the summertime. Weeklong Adventure Camps offer immersive experiences for rising third through seventh graders, while “Let’s Go” programs teach children ages 5 to 11 about topics such as archaeology, cooking and more. Monticello’s annual

Independence Day celebration has inspired visitors for more than half a century and features the nation’s oldest naturalization ceremony held outside of a courtroom. Take advantage of the Special Summer Family Savings, which offer discounted day passes for teens ages 12 to 18.

Writing with quill pens during the Independence Day celebration at Monticello



## JON MEACHAM ELECTED CHAIR OF TJF BOARD

Pulitzer Prize-winning presidential historian Jon Meacham has been elected chairman of the Thomas Jefferson Foundation (TJF) Board of Trustees. Melody Barnes, former director of the White House Domestic Policy Council, serves as vice chairman.

“Under Jon and Melody’s leadership, we have a unique opportunity to bring Jefferson forward into national dia-

logues on a wide range of topics,” said Leslie Greene Bowman, TJF president and CEO. “We are fortunate to have them leading the board at a time when Jefferson’s vision, voice and complexity speak clearly to our current challenges.”

Meacham, of Nashville, Tennessee, is a contributing writer to the *New York Times Book Review* and contributing editor at *TIME*. A former executive editor at Random House and editor at *Newsweek*, Meacham is a regular guest on *Morning Joe* and other broadcasts. He is also the author of *Thomas Jefferson: The Art of Power*.

Barnes, of Richmond, Virginia, is co-founder of MB2 Solutions and a senior fellow in presidential studies at the University of Virginia’s Miller Center. Under her leadership in the White House from 2009 to 2012, innovative new policies, practices and partnerships were initiated to address significant national challenges, including education and health care.

Monticello has also welcomed David Landin of Richmond, Virginia, to the board of trustees. Landin is Special Counsel at the law firm Hunton Andrews Kurth LLP. He is a past president of the Virginia Bar Association and is also CEO of The Landin Company, which specializes in group self-insurance. Landin and his wife, Susan, have also co-chaired the Monticello Summit, recognizing donors whose leadership gifts to the annual fund have advanced Monticello’s mission of preservation and education.



Jon Meacham



Melody Barnes



David Landin



# Jefferson Said It

By J. Jefferson Looney, Daniel P. Jordan Editor of the Papers of Thomas Jefferson at Monticello

“this institution will be based on the illimitable freedom of the human mind. for here we are not afraid to follow truth wherever it may lead, nor to tolerate any error so long as reason is left free to combat it.”

*TJ to William Roscoe, 27 Dec. 1820*

Thomas Jefferson had been working quietly since at least 1814 to convert the local Albemarle Academy, which existed only on paper, into the state's first university. He and his supporters first upgraded it to Central College in 1816, began construction in 1817 and achieved ultimate success with the formal chartering of the University of Virginia on January 25, 1819. Jefferson

referred to it deprecatingly as “the Hobby of my old age,” but he later claimed it as one of his three proudest achievements. In words that have become iconic as UVA celebrates its bicentennial, the quote above reveals his soaring ambitions for the school as a pioneering haven for free inquiry on all fields of endeavor conducted at the highest intellectual level.

## But Did He Really?

Thomas Jefferson is one of the most quotable figures in American history. He's also one of the most misquoted. Find out if he really said it on Monticello's [Spurious Quotations](http://Monticello.org/site/jefferson/spurious-quotations) page, a compilation of quotations commonly misattributed to Jefferson. [monticello.org/site/jefferson/spurious-quotations](http://monticello.org/site/jefferson/spurious-quotations)

## Leaving His Mark

### *The story of Jefferson's seal and motto*

The legacy of Thomas Jefferson continues to excite historians and the general public alike, especially as research uncovers new stories surrounding the objects and documents that Jefferson left the world. Take, for instance, Jefferson's personal seal. Visual examples of this exist on Jefferson's ivory and whalebone walking stick (*at left*), as well as the gates of his grave at Monticello (*at right*). But the monogram is just the beginning.

Jefferson encircled his initials with the now-familiar motto, “Rebellion to tyrants is obedience to God,” but what inspired these words? Recently, Lisa A. Francavilla, managing editor of *The Papers of Thomas Jefferson: Retirement Series*, discovered a 1776 manuscript containing the phrase in Jefferson's handwriting. The date marks the time when a young revolutionary Jefferson was considering the country's founding and pushing passionately for its independence. The seven words, first shown to Jefferson by Benjamin Franklin, were originally proposed for the design of the seal for the new United States of America. While ultimately not included in the approved design, Jefferson so revered the motto that he appropriated it for his own use. Jefferson's selection of these words for his seal demonstrates his commitment to the American Revolution and his devotion to the freedoms that we enjoy today.

“Rebellion to tyrants is obedience to God” is a motto that defines this founding father's passion. Uncovering these words, copied at the most pivotal time of American history, underscores the dynamic scholarship of the legacy of Jefferson at Monticello. Read the full story at [monticello.org/jeffersonseal](http://monticello.org/jeffersonseal).

*And never — never forget  
That Rebellion to tyrants is Obedience to god.*

Jefferson's transcription of the motto in a 1776 manuscript.

Above: Arthur H. and Mary Marden Dean Lafayette Collection, Cornell University Library.  
Left: Walking stick is the gift of Breckinridge Long.

University of Virginia

John McKee

## AN EYE FOR DETAIL: Conserving the Window, Door and Fireplace Friezes in Monticello's Parlor

Monticello's Parlor — the focal point of Jefferson's autobiographical architectural masterpiece — was where Jefferson and his family entertained guests with music, games and conversation. The Parlor features the most elaborate architectural finishes in the house, with the Corinthian entablature's frieze ornaments copied from the Roman temple of Jupiter Thunderer. Iconic elements of this impressive space also include identical composition ornaments above the Parlor's doors, windows and fireplace.

Over the past two centuries, successive redecorating and restoration campaigns have buried these ornaments under 16 layers of paint. The paint layers obscure the ornaments' fine details and their added weight stresses the fragile original mixture of chalk, hide glue, rosin and linseed oil from 1803.

A recent grant from the Richard and Caroline T. Gwathmey Memorial Trust will allow conservator Andy Compton to remove the modern paints from the ornaments, conserve and replace missing and damaged pieces, and repaint the frieze boards with a color-matched paint that replicates the original Jefferson-era color. After the work is complete, the ornaments will not only be stable, but visitors can once again see them as Jefferson intended, helping fulfill

his vision of a national architectural style based in part on principles and motifs derived from ancient Roman temples and public buildings.



Gardner Hallock

Conservator Andy Compton recently completed a restoration of the frieze in the Hall. A similar project to restore the Parlor friezes will be undertaken soon.

## SPREADING THE WORD

The Robert H. Smith International Center for Jefferson Studies is a multidisciplinary research center that supports the ongoing international study of Thomas Jefferson and his world. Academic conferences constitute a major vehicle for engaging a global audience in Jefferson's ideas. Along with hosting lectures and events at Monticello, the ICJS has sponsored international conferences in Australia, China, Cuba, Russia, the Czech Republic, Germany, Britain, Poland, Austria and Italy. These international symposia are headlined by prominent historians, including Annette Gordon-Reed, Gordon Wood, Peter S. Onuf and David Armitage.

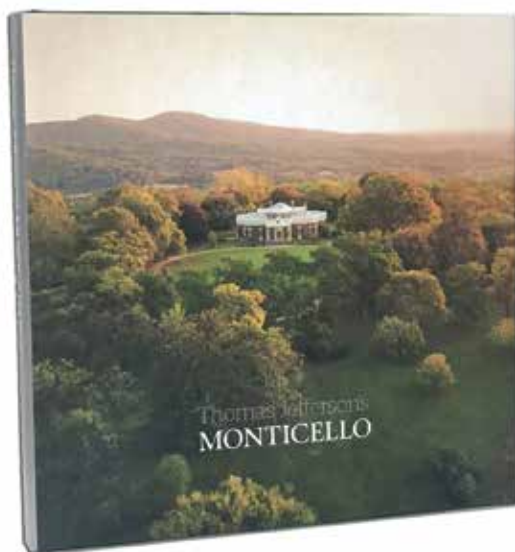


Whitney Pippin

In December 2018, Monticello's ICJS and the University of Notre Dame collaborated on a conference on comparative independence movements in the Americas. The conference was held at the Pontifical Catholic University of Chile in Santiago. Among those in attendance were Andrew O'Shaughnessy from Monticello and longtime friends of the ICJS, including Gordon Wood, Annette Gordon-Reed, Peter Onuf, Jack Greene, Amy Bushnell, Trevor Burnard, Patrick Griffin and Frank Cogliano.



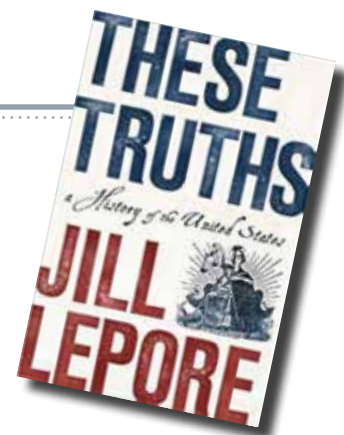
## THE LATEST FOR YOUR LIBRARY



### Monticello publishes new book

*Thomas Jefferson's Monticello* presents a collection of essays by scholars and color photography showcasing this extraordinary American home. This 248-page hardcover book covers all aspects of Monticello, including the plantation and the enslaved community, the house as an architectural model of elegance and symmetry, Jefferson's world-class collection of objects and furnishings, and the celebrated gardens and grounds.

Order your copy today at [monticelloshop.org](http://monticelloshop.org).



## WHAT WE'RE READING

### Frank Cogliano's Pick

*Cogliano is in residence at Monticello's Robert H. Smith International Center for Jefferson Studies as the Fritz and Claudine Kundrun Senior Research Fellow.*

### *These Truths: A History of the United States*

By Jill Lepore

Jill Lepore's monumental (in size and scope) history of the United States begins with a question posed by Alexander Hamilton in 1787, "whether societies of men are really capable or not of establishing good government from reflection and choice, or whether they are forever destined to depend for their constitutions on accident and force." This is the question around which Lepore frames her study of the United States. She begins with the Columbian encounter in the Caribbean in 1492 and concludes with the 2016 presidential election. With Hamilton's query as her premise, Lepore largely focuses on political history (her theme is the creation and development of the United States as a nation state). The result is a magisterial study, written with verve and panache. As with any such overview, Lepore can be criticized for not giving due attention to some themes — hers is an anglophone study that might give more weight to the longstanding importance of Latinos on the history of North America, for example — but this volume can be read with interest by lay readers and scholars alike. Many commentators have claimed that Lepore is the first woman to undertake such a study. That is not the case, as Mercy Otis Warren (1805) and Mary Ritter Beard (1927) can attest. Nonetheless, Lepore has given us a compelling history of the United States for the 21st century.



## ESPN's *The Undefeated* Video

Written in 1900, *Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing* has often been called the black national anthem. Nearly 120 years later, Grammy-nominated musician Aloe Blacc teamed with producer DJ Kahlil and the Washington, D.C.-based trio The String Queens to reimagine the song. Blacc performed his modern rendition on the grounds of Monticello for a video released in February by ESPN website *The Undefeated* in honor of Black History Month.

The video's producer, Sharon Matthews, explained that Monticello was chosen as the filming location for its symbolic

place in the story of the African American experience.

"The folks at Monticello were fantastic," Matthews told ESPN's *Front Row* website. "They are historians — and that was what made this experience so amazing for me. You were standing on historic ground. ... I think why I was so touched by the place was because of the shoulders we stood on."

## NOW SHOWING

Watch the ESPN video, along with more than 40 Monticello-created videos, at [monticello.org/videos](http://monticello.org/videos).

## THE WATERS EFFECT

*A food icon inspires Monticello's approach to farm, garden and table*

Alice Waters, whom the *New York Times* has called “the spiritual mother of all that is organic and sustainable,” has cultivated a close relationship with Monticello. The recipient of the 2017 Thomas Jefferson Foundation Medal in Citizen Leadership, Waters has helped guide and shape Monticello's commitment to promoting agricultural stewardship at Tufton Farm and inspired the creation of Farm Table, a café at Monticello.

Chef, author, food activist and the founder and owner of the world-renowned Chez Panisse restaurant in Berkeley, California, Waters has championed locally grown, organic agriculture for more than four decades. She founded the Edible Schoolyard Project in 1995 and is the author of 15 books, including *The Art of Simple Food I & II*, *The Edible Schoolyard: A Universal Idea* and her latest book, *Coming to My Senses: The Making of a Counterculture Cook* (2017).

### HERITAGE HARVEST FESTIVAL

Alice Waters and renowned *Atlantic* food writer Corby Kummer will serve as co-chairs of the 2019 Heritage Harvest Festival, which takes place on Sept. 21. Hosted by Monticello in partnership with Southern Exposure Seed Exchange and Seed Savers Exchange, the festival welcomes more than 3,500 visitors from across the country to Monticello's renowned West Lawn — promoting gardening, farming, sustainability, farm-to-table cuisine and the preservation of heritage plants.

The festival highlights American chefs and foodways by exploring the varied food cultures that influenced Monticello's unique cuisine. At the heart of the festival are the educational tent talks presented by top authors and subject experts who share important conversations on diverse topics of food, farm and garden. Local artisans, children's programming, regional samplings, food and beverage gardens, DIY workshops and an Old-Timey Seed Swap round out this highly anticipated annual event.



### FARM TABLE, A CAFÉ AT MONTICELLO

American statesman Daniel Webster noted in 1824 that Jefferson “enjoys his dinner well, taking with meat a large proportion of vegetables ... Dinner is served in half Virginian, half French style, in good taste & abundance.” Farm Table café embraces Jefferson's well-documented dedication to seasonal produce and hospitality, along with Waters' emphasis on the importance of fresh, local food. Through an innovative farming program implemented on Monticello's nearby Tufton Farm, the new café will take full advantage of resources right on Jefferson's grounds.

While its produce remains local, Farm Table's cuisine casts a much wider net. The menu features sustainably raised, seasonal food inspired by the diverse food cultures — Native American, European and African — that influenced cooking at Monticello. Read more about the culinary legacy of James Hemings, an enslaved chef, on page 23.



Jack Looney

## ALICE WATERS

### *In Her Own Words*

“Jefferson is the founding father who has influenced me more than any other figure in American history. He inspires me for one big reason: Because he dreamed of the same future I dream of today — a nation given its essential character and its deepest principles by the values of farmers.

“As we all know, he collected hundreds of fruits and vegetables. Just reading the names of their varieties is exhilarating. He loved variety, but he wasn't collecting just to build a collection. He was a ruthless, methodical experimenter. He always kept track of things. Wherever he was, he observed. He paid attention. He recorded things. And he enjoyed it all.

“Jefferson imagined a different future, a nation of small farmers growing delicious food. And as he wrote in a famous letter to the first Supreme Court Justice, John Jay: ‘cultivators of the earth are the most valuable citizens. They are the most vigorous, the most independent, the most virtuous, & they are tied to their country & wedded to it's liberty & interests by the most lasting bands.’

“I share Jefferson's belief in an agrarian ideal of a farmer because I know young men and women farming today who are upholding that ideal. And I have enormous hope that there will be more and more of them with every passing year.”

— Excerpt from Alice Waters' keynote address for the Founder's Day Celebration at Monticello, April 13, 2017



# ELECTRONIC FIELD TRIPS



Students from across the globe are now able to come to Monticello virtually via our electronic field trip program. This robust and innovative

digital program connects Monticello educators with classrooms worldwide using a Skype connection. The program is free and doesn't require expensive technology — classrooms need only a laptop or tablet and an internet connection. The 45-minute programs use images, props and a virtual tour of Monticello to discuss important issues such as Thomas Jefferson's role as a nation builder and Monticello as a plantation powered by the labor of enslaved African Americans. Since launching the program in 2017, Monticello educators have spoken to approximately 8,000 students in 34 states in the U.S. and 10 countries worldwide. Through our electronic field trip program, Monticello is creating a truly global classroom, breaking down walls and making Jefferson and Monticello accessible to thousands of students worldwide.



Monticello guides speak to a classroom via Skype.

[monticello.org/virtual-fieldtrips](http://monticello.org/virtual-fieldtrips)

## NEW ACQUISITION: William Short's Traveling Case

Can't bear to travel without all the comforts of home at your fingertips? On the road, but don't want to confront dirty dishes at the next tavern? If you were William Short, American diplomat, seasoned traveler and Thomas Jefferson's protégé, you didn't leave home without your traveling case.

Purchased in Paris around 1810, the elaborate mahogany traveling case was richly appointed — not a millimeter of space was wasted. The box was filled and fitted to the brim with silver tea, coffee and chocolate pots; dishes; cutlery; candlesticks; shaving equipment; bottles and canisters, all elegantly monogrammed and carefully fit to maximize the storage space. A Short family descendant collected many of the pieces and gave them to Monticello in the early 1990s. Last year, another descendant gave Monticello the candlesticks and the chocolate pot, nearly completing the set.

Jefferson also had a traveling set, but its whereabouts are currently unknown. Notes on and sketches of its contents suggest it was far simpler and less expensive than Short's traveling case.

Historians and curators are constantly searching for new pieces that will help tell the story of Monticello. This traveling case, a recent addition to the collection, can be viewed in the Madison Bedroom at Monticello.

*The traveling case is the gift of William K. Sonntag. New traveling case pieces not pictured but referenced are the gifts of Anne Kinkead Jacoway Abney.*

## WHEN TOM ..... *may have* ..... MET GEORGE

Frank Cogliano is Professor of American History at the University of Edinburgh. During the 2018-19 academic year, he is in residence at Monticello's Robert H. Smith International Center for Jefferson Studies as the Fritz and Claudine Kundraun Senior Research Fellow. He is writing a book on Thomas Jefferson's relationship with George Washington. This is a brief extract from his introduction.

On May 2, 1768, George Washington and Thomas Jefferson both attended the theater in Williamsburg. In his diary, Washington recorded, "Went to Williamsburg with Colo. Bassett, Colo. Lewis & Mr. Dick. Dind with Mrs. Dawson & went to the Play." Jefferson's account is even more concise. In his Memorandum Book he simply noted, "Pd. At play house 5/." The play in question was put on by the Virginia Company run by David Verling, the company's actor-director, at a playhouse on Waller Street behind the colony's Capitol. There is much we don't know about that evening. We don't know which play Jefferson and Washington saw. The Virginia Company offered a broad repertoire that included Shakespeare and Restoration comedies. Nor do we know whether Washington and Jefferson actually met each other at the theater that evening. Nonetheless, that evening is important because it is the first time that we can definitively place the two great Virginians in the same room at the same time.

In 1768, Washington was 36 years old and had established a reputation

as a soldier and planter. He was well-known on both sides of the Atlantic as a consequence of his exploits during the Seven Years' War. He was arguably the most famous American of the day after Benjamin Franklin and was a great landholder. The Virginia Company had started a run in Williamsburg to coincide with the session of the House of Burgesses, the colony's representative assembly. Washington was there to represent his county of Fairfax which was a mark of esteem and responsibility expected of a great planter. Jefferson, by contrast, was just 25 in spring of 1768. He had inherited land from his father and been educated at William & Mary. He was establishing himself as a lawyer and had yet to marry. He was an ambitious young man, but little known



beyond Albemarle County. His fame and most important achievements lay in the future. Did Washington, older, more famous and powerful, take notice of the younger, better-educated planter from the Piedmont? Did they exchange greetings as fellow members of the provincial gentry and fellow theater-lovers? We don't know. We do know that their lives would become intertwined over the subsequent three decades in ways neither could foresee that evening. They shared a love of theater — both men attended plays and performances throughout their lives — and they found themselves playing starring roles in an unfolding drama over the course of

the next 30 years. They were by turns, colleagues, collaborators and friends before becoming estranged late in Washington's life.

Because Jefferson and Washington never reconciled, and they had substantial political differences during Washington's presidency, historians have tended to project their estrangement back in time. Such was not the case. While never especially close, Washington and Jefferson knew each other for 30 years. For most of those three decades, the two Virginians enjoyed a productive and positive relationship, which at times was a warm friendship. Owing to the animus that Washington felt for Jefferson at the end of his life, this has largely been forgotten or neglected by historians. This book considers their

relationship, and is the first book-length study to do so.

Given the vast number of books on Washington and Jefferson — they are certainly two of the most studied individuals in the history of the United States, and their lives are among the best documented of the eighteenth century — one might reasonably ask if another contribution is needed.

While there are numerous studies of key relationships, friendships and animosities that shaped the

Revolution, we do not have a study that considers the relationship between the two men who were arguably the most important leaders in Revolutionary and early national America. What is the value added to our understanding of the founding of the United States by yet another book on Washington or Jefferson? The answer lies in the approach taken here. This is a book about Washington and Jefferson in relation to each other. There is more than an academic lacuna to fill, considering the two men in relation (and comparison) to each other yields new insights into each and, I will show, transforms our understanding of the Revolution and its aftermath.





# Piecing Together History

By Diane Ehrenpreis, Associate Curator of Decorative Arts,  
and Stephen Light, Manager of House Tours

Every object at Monticello  
tells a story.



Some tell stories of Thomas Jefferson's encyclopedic interests and achievements. Others of a house bustling with visitors and family members. Objects reveal the stories of enslaved people who lived and worked at Monticello. Taken together, they paint a picture of a young nation exploring new liberties and wrestling with old injustices as it expanded its boundaries, both geographical and philosophical.

There are more than 5,000 items in Monticello's collection, many of which are on display. Here are just a few of the things waiting to be discovered at Jefferson's Monticello. We hope you'll visit us soon to see these objects — and more — for yourself.

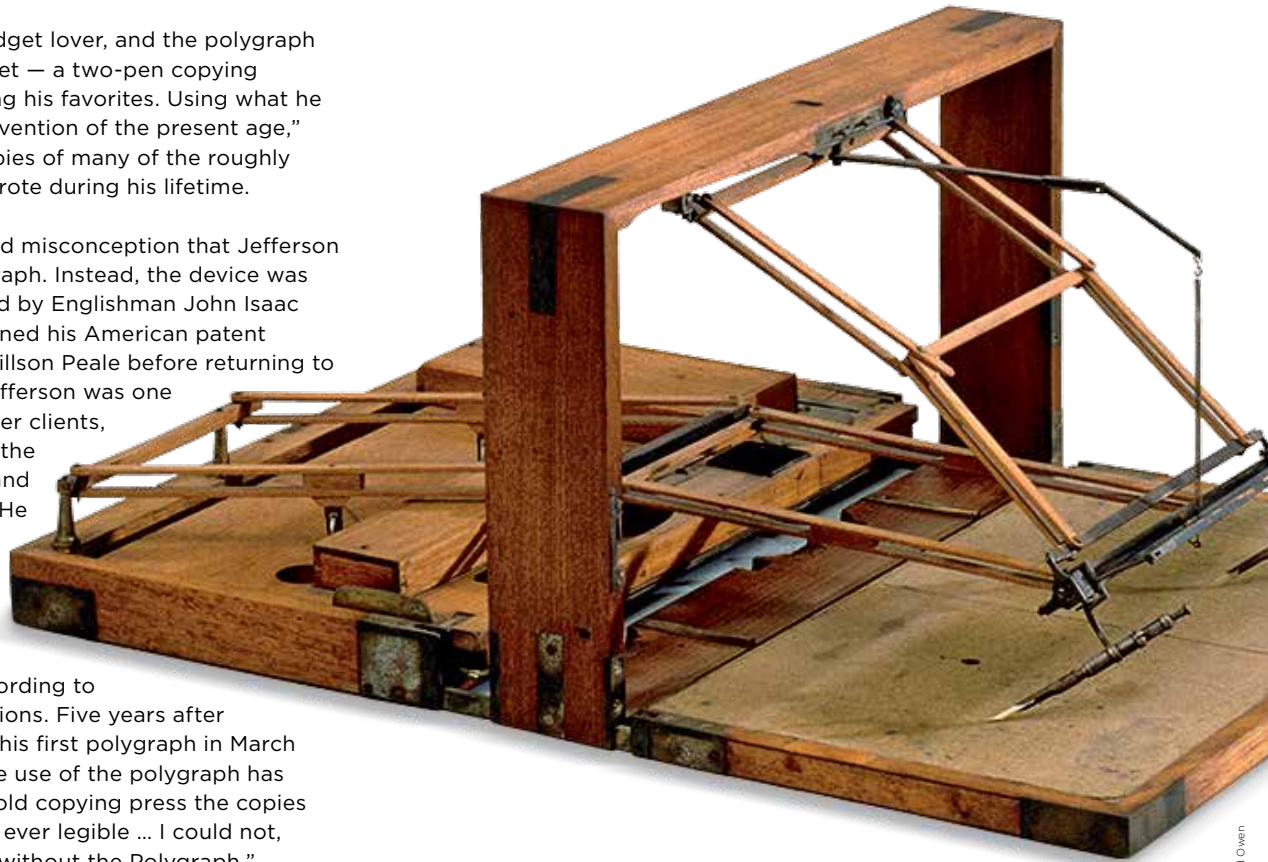
#### Gifts and Loans

Polygraph: Loaned by the University of Virginia; Anne Cary Randolph Bankhead Bust: Gift of John S. Morris; Thermometer: Thomas Jefferson Foundation purchase made possible through a generous donation from the Melville Foundation; Spectacle Case: Bequest of Charles, James and John Eddy; Clothes Press: Bequest of Juliet Graves Meikleham; Campeachy Chair: Thomas Jefferson Foundation purchase and gift of Pennsylvania School for the Deaf; Concave Mirror: Gift of Mrs. Parry Borgstrom; Sewing Box: On temporary deposit from John Lamb.

## POLYGRAPH

Jefferson was a gadget lover, and the polygraph — seen in his Cabinet — a two-pen copying machine, was among his favorites. Using what he called “the finest invention of the present age,” Jefferson made copies of many of the roughly 19,000 letters he wrote during his lifetime.

It's a commonly held misconception that Jefferson invented the polygraph. Instead, the device was invented and named by Englishman John Isaac Hawkins, who assigned his American patent rights to Charles Willson Peale before returning to England in 1803. Jefferson was one of Peale's most eager clients, purchasing one for the President's House and one for Monticello. He soon exchanged these machines for new ones as Peale continued to perfect the design — often according to Jefferson's suggestions. Five years after Jefferson acquired his first polygraph in March 1804, he wrote, “the use of the polygraph has spoiled me for the old copying press the copies of which are hardly ever legible ... I could not, now therefore, live without the Polygraph.”



Edward Owen



## TOURS FOR THE FAMILY

Available throughout the summer, these special 40-minute guided tours of Thomas Jefferson's house are designed especially for families with children ages 5 to 11. Featuring hands-on opportunities, these tours provide a glimpse of life at Monticello and highlight Jefferson's accomplishments and wide-ranging interests.

Take advantage of special family savings for the Monticello Day Pass for summer 2019. Every Day Pass includes two 45-minute outdoor walking tours offered throughout the day: Slavery at Monticello and Gardens and Grounds (seasonal). Save 36% on admission for teenagers 12-18 from Memorial Day to Labor Day (advance purchase at [monticello.org/site/visit/tickets-tours](https://monticello.org/site/visit/tickets-tours) is required).



## BUST OF ANNE CARY RANDOLPH BANKHEAD

English artist William Coffee visited Monticello numerous times to sculpt a group of family portraits, of which this bust of Jefferson's granddaughter Anne Cary Randolph Bankhead is one of only two that survive. Jefferson wrote that the artist "has been for some time an intimate with us at Monticello, having been engaged in making the busts ... of myself and all the grown members of our family."

Anne's portrait, done in terra cotta c. 1820, shows a fashionably dressed young woman with a pensive expression. When she died at the relatively young age of 35, family members described how Jefferson "abandoned himself to every evidence of intense grief." Bankhead's bust, and that of her sister Cornelia, now stand in their mother's Sitting Room, private and feminine counterpoints to the busts of Jefferson's friends and American heroes who loom large over the Tea Room.



Edward Owen

## ORRERY

In building his remarkable collection of scientific instruments, Jefferson acquired an orrery from London craftsman William Jones. After it arrived at Monticello in 1793, Jefferson used the "New Manual orrery and Planetarium" to study the relative motions and positions of the solar system. The device, the same model as Jefferson's and made by the same maker, stands 10 inches tall and features rotating arms capped with spheres of ivory or brass representing the planets. The orrery also includes a tellurium, used for the study of the rotation of the Earth, moon and sun. The various pieces, which could be easily lost (note the ivory Earth is a replacement), survive in their original, lockable mahogany box. This small but significant instrument is set up in the Library, revealing Jefferson as a man of science and reason.



Edward Owen

## FROM MONTICELLO TO YOUR LIVING ROOM

Add a touch of Jeffersonian style to your home with exclusive, expertly crafted reproductions from the Shop at Monticello. Replicas of several of the items featured in this article are available for purchase, including the Campeachy Chair, Concave Mirror and Revolving Stand. For more information, see [monticelloshop.org/tjcollection](http://monticelloshop.org/tjcollection).

### THERMOMETER

For more than 50 years, Jefferson was a systematic weather observer, and Monticello was the focus of his efforts to understand the American climate. His practices and those of National Weather Service observers today are basically the same: to measure precipitation and to record the daily temperature range. Made to Jefferson's specifications in 1788, this thermometer had to perform well for the occasional experiment. Jefferson probably mounted this thermometer outside his Cabinet window and referred to it when taking his near-daily weather readings. In his autobiography, Dr. Robley Dunglison recalled the remarkable fact that Jefferson "considered one of the best times for taking the observation to be three o'clock in the morning."

### REVOLVING STAND

The famous polygraph machine and its counterpart, the revolving stand, are now understood to be part of a larger group of furnishings Jefferson assembled to implement his personalized correspondence system. When closed, the revolving stand looks like a wooden cube on an adjustable base, not readily revealing its purpose. Once opened, it becomes clear that its five wings are meant to hold multiple documents and small books upright for reference. Most often situated next to his writing table, the stand enabled Jefferson to access drafts, reports and letters to be answered efficiently and simultaneously, much like a computer desktop today. The stand was designed by Jefferson to uniquely suit his needs, and a reproduction base was recently built after the discovery of exciting new evidence. The ink-stained top reveals that he also used it for writing, as one early commentator noted that it "was used by Mr. Jefferson as a writing-stand, and on which yet remain some blots of ink which declared their independence of his pen."



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## IN TOUCH WITH HISTORY

Monticello visitors — especially those ages 6 to 12 — can literally get in touch with American history through hands-on activities in the Griffin Discovery Room. This educational environment provides a variety of ways for young people to connect with Thomas Jefferson and the members of the larger Monticello community, and to learn what life was like for children in the early 1800s.

Children and their family members can write on a polygraph machine based on the one Jefferson owned, try on replicas of 18th-century clothes, learn how to weave, touch a mastodon's jawbone, create secret codes on a wheel cipher based on Jefferson's design and play games popular in Jefferson's era.



Will May





Walter Smaling

## CLOTHES PRESS AND BEDROLL

On July 6, 1828, Jefferson's granddaughter Cornelia Randolph wrote to her sister about their dying aunt, Anne Scott Jefferson Marks, who lived at Monticello during the last 17 years of her life. In her letter, Randolph wrote: "Scilla has nursed her through the whole with a care & attention as unwearied as it is watchful, bearing patiently with the fretfulness & ill humour of disease & discomfort, sleeping in her room at night & watching by her during the greater part of the day; she has spared us much." Scilla was an enslaved woman who spent much of her life caring for Marks. The reproduction bedroll in this room calls to mind the countless nights Scilla spent watching over the sick, at the expense of her own comfort. Marks' clothes press, which is next to the bedroll, was probably made in the joiner's shop at Monticello, evidence of the range of work executed by just some of the enslaved workers there.



## BATTLE ROBE

During their epic journey to the Pacific Ocean, Meriwether Lewis and William Clark sent a Mandan battle robe to President Jefferson in 1805 from their winter encampment at Fort Mandan in present-day North Dakota. Though the original robe no longer survives, Mandan-Hidatsa hide painter Dennis Fox created this battle robe in 2002, based on an example in the Peabody Museum at Harvard.

Historians have called Monticello "mission control" for the 28-month-long adventure that took Lewis and Clark into the wilds of the American West. As president, Jefferson secured funding from Congress for the expedition in hopes of establishing trade with the Native American peoples of the West and finding a water route to the Pacific. Jefferson showcased Native American objects and natural history specimens that Lewis and Clark sent back to him during their journey in his newly completed two-story entrance Hall at Monticello, which he called his "Indian Hall."



## MARTHA JEFFERSON RANDOLPH'S SEWING BOX

The private rooms upstairs offer a glimpse of what life was like for Jefferson's family and the enslaved house servants, but little is known about the objects used in these rooms during Jefferson's lifetime. One notable exception is Martha Randolph's (Jefferson's daughter) small sewing box, a copy of which is on view in her Bedchamber. The fragile and precious original is on loan to Monticello from a descendant. When Randolph's box arrived back at Monticello in 2014, it was filled with remarkable personal items. The contents included ivory sewing implements, tiny notes and a lock of dark hair — a rare time capsule of what was meaningful or useful to the owner.



## THE BIG CLEAN

Cleaning a 200-year-old, 11,000-square-foot house is a serious undertaking. How does Monticello's staff do it?

"The short answer is, very carefully," says Collections and Exhibitions Manager Tabitha Pryor Corradi. "Just like a private residence, historic homes have to be cleaned. What makes our task different is the age, sensitivity and value of the objects we're handling."

In January or February of each year, Monticello's Curatorial and Restoration teams join forces for a three-day project, thoroughly cleaning Monticello from floor to ceiling. Affectionally dubbed the "Big Clean," this event helps preserve the house and prepare for a new year of visitors.

The Big Clean begins before sunrise. A team of eight or nine people start the day at 6:30 a.m. and typically finish around 3:30 p.m. Visitors can see the work in progress and speak with the staff. "These are definitely my

favorite work days of the year," says Museum Technician Malia Sbach. "We're usually behind the scenes, so we love this opportunity to interact with guests, answer questions and share the role that the Collections team plays in preserving the house and objects."

Of course, the Big Clean isn't the only time of year that the house receives attention. Museum technicians spend two or three hours cleaning the house each day before visitors arrive — vacuuming and dusting throughout the house, and deep cleaning a different room each day. Yet, as Museum Technician Caitlin Hepner explains, the volume of foot traffic from more than 400,000 annual visitors makes the Big Clean a necessary addition.

"With two-story ceilings in some rooms, reaching every surface isn't possible on a daily basis — nor is it desired from a preservation standpoint," she says. "This is our chance to really address all the objects and spaces."

## BEHIND THE SCENES HOUSE TOUR

Get a fuller picture of life at Monticello with this exclusive pass that takes you behind the scenes. The tour winds through the first floor of Monticello and up the narrow staircase to explore the private quarters on the second and third floors, including the iconic Dome Room.







Edward Owen



Gavin Ashworth

### CAMPEACHY OR SIESTA CHAIR

Jefferson has traditionally been associated with Campeachy chairs, an adaptation of a classical form that has ties to both colonial Mexico and New Orleans. He is credited by contemporaries with introducing “those Spanish Chairs” to Washington, D.C., when president. Over the next 20 years, Jefferson owned imported examples, as well as versions made by enslaved carpenter John Hemmings. This chair is probably one of the Louisiana imports. Plain but reliable, it saw hard use at Monticello, necessitating iron reinforcements that may have been wrought in a shop on Mulberry Row. Jefferson commented on how comfortable he found his “Siesta chair” because the semirecumbent posture eased his aches and pains. Today, visitors can sit in reproduction Campeachy chairs at Monticello, experiencing the ease that Jefferson so favored.

### SILVER COFFEE URN

One of the great neoclassical objects at Monticello is the diminutive silver coffee urn that Jefferson acquired in Paris in 1789. This beautifully proportioned vessel is ornamented with leaves, swags made of husks, and a rosette situated where the spigot joins the body. A year earlier, Jefferson ordered “cups for tea, coffee and chocolate of East India porcelain,” indicating his understanding of the etiquette surrounding the polite rituals of the table. The coffee urn was probably used in the Tea Room — the irony of which was not commented on by contemporaries.

## TJ'S SPECTACLES

Jefferson first purchased reading glasses in Paris in 1789, at the age of 46, and probably began wearing them in the 1790s. In 1806, Jefferson collaborated with a Philadelphia optometrist to make these spectacles with extremely narrow lenses, inspired by Benjamin Franklin's glasses. In 1812, at nearly 70, Jefferson's vision declined to require the use of glasses at night and other pairs for reading fine print. His prescription corrected for nearsightedness — an optometrist measured Jefferson's lenses at +2.75 for the left lens and +1.75 for the right.



Edward Owen



## FINGERPRINTS IN BRICK

In a recent talk, Monticello historian Niya Bates reflected on the difficulty of remembering the violence of slavery amidst the beauty of Monticello. However, the bricks of the big house carry the memory of the labor and handiwork of enslaved craftspeople. Bates showed a poignant photograph of fingerprints in a Monticello brick, posing the question: Were they left as a memory by an enslaved person, to remind others that he or she was there?

## PARQUET FLOOR

Irish immigrant James Dinsmore made the beech and cherry wood floor in the Parlor. He became a naturalized citizen of the United States in 1798 and began working as a master carpenter at Monticello. Assisted in his efforts by an enslaved man, John Hemmings, Dinsmore created much of the stunning woodwork at Monticello. Jefferson likely based his design for the parquet floor on examples he had seen in France. When the floor was first installed, the contrast between the rich red cherry wood and the golden blonde beech would have been more striking than it appears today. Beeswax was the only substance used to bring out the color of the woods.



Walter Snelling





## KITCHEN CLOCK

The maker of the tall case clock used in the Kitchen assured Jefferson that “the workmanship is good, and the regulation nearly perfect.” Precision was essential because the clock, represented by a copy today, helped enslaved cooks at Monticello keep time while preparing fine sauces and other French-inspired cuisine. Isaac Granger Jefferson, an enslaved blacksmith whose mother had been a cook, described how Thomas Jefferson went into the Kitchen only when it was time for him to wind the clock. It was later sold “as is” at the Monticello Dispersal Sale in 1827. The carpenter who repaired the case said “the smoke has punctuated the wood and [it] has the appearance of having been scorched by fire.” His observations indicate that the Kitchen was hot, congested and acrid with smoke, a difficult work environment for the enslaved cooks who turned out daily meals for the house.



## HEMINGS FAMILY TOUR

The Hemings family is one of the best-documented enslaved families in history of the United States. Decades of documentary research, archaeological analysis and oral histories of Hemings descendants reveal stories of struggle, survival and family bonds across generations. Their narratives echo the history of race and slavery in America.

This hour-and-45-minute, small-group interactive tour explores Monticello using the stories of several members of the Hemings family. Through their experiences, you will learn about the challenges they faced as they negotiated to maintain family ties and strove for freedom.



Stacey Evans





## CONCAVE MIRROR

Not much is known about how Jefferson stored his large collection of scientific apparatus, because they were too numerous and valuable to have sat out permanently in his Private Suite. One possible exception is this concave mirror, which could hang neatly on the wall. Acquired in 1806, at a time when Jefferson was actively conducting experiments, he sent to London for “a 12. Inch concave glass mirror in a plain black frame.” This unusual mirror served to concentrate “auxiliary light” on objects being studied under a microscope. As the years went by, Jefferson gave some of his instruments to his grandsons, and the mirror, which caused unintended delight by showing people and scenes upside down, was moved to the Hall and later sold. Treasured by a legion of owners over the years, it returned to Monticello in 1961. It once again resides in the Cabinet, where Jefferson conducted many of his experiments.

## DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE: BINNS ENGRAVING

Thomas Jefferson wrote the Declaration of Independence when he was 33 years old and kept the rough draft, “scored and scratched like a schoolboy’s exercise,” at Monticello all his life. Counting the Declaration first among the achievements for which he wished to be remembered, Jefferson said the words weren’t his alone, but were “an expression of the American mind.”

Along with an engraving of John Trumbull’s Declaration of Independence that hung in Monticello’s Hall, Jefferson also owned at least three different prints of the document itself. Newspaper publisher and printer John Binns sent a proof of his print to Jefferson in 1819 soliciting comments. Jefferson wrote that the print’s “great value will be in it’s exactness as a fac-simile to the original paper.” Jefferson’s prints of the Declaration were dispersed among his family following his death in 1826, and none are known to survive today.







Walter Smelling

## MRS. JEFFERSON'S BUREAU

Inherited by one of Jefferson's granddaughters, this mahogany chest of drawers is now recognized as "Mrs. Jefferson's Bureau," a piece of such importance it was singled out in Septimia Randolph Meikleham's (Jefferson's granddaughter) will and labeled with care to preserve its history. Made in Virginia around 1770, the graduated drawers would have contained Martha Jefferson's clothes and trimmings, while the pullout slide made letter writing more convenient. It was a stylish, expensive and multifunctional piece, perhaps a gift from Jefferson to his bride. Rather than pass this heirloom along to one of his daughters, which would have been the tradition, Jefferson kept it close by in his Bedchamber, a sentimental connection to his wife, who died in 1782. Today, it survives as one of the earliest and most storied objects at Monticello, situated in Jefferson's Bedchamber as he intended.

## MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR VISIT

### Insider Tips for Visiting Monticello

By Stephen Light, Manager of House Tours

#### Plan ahead

Purchasing your tickets ahead of time saves money and allows you to make the best use of your time. Many specialty experiences, like the Family Friendly, Behind-the-Scenes and Hemings Family tours, have limited capacity and sell out in advance. I recommend allocating three to four hours for your visit.

#### Go early

Monticello is beautiful at any time of day, but I especially enjoy the peace and tranquility of the early mornings. When I bring guests, I always arrive early. The advantages include fewer people, cooler temperatures (especially in the summer!) and more time to explore.

#### Get outside

In addition to exploring the main floor of an architectural masterpiece, save time to explore Mulberry Row, the gardens, and the numerous exhibits on the mountain and at the Visitor Center. New exhibits in the South Pavilion, South Wing, Textile Shop and stables expand the story to reveal the lives of the nearly 200 people, free and enslaved, who called Monticello home during Thomas Jefferson's lifetime. Every Day Pass includes two 45-minute outdoor walking tours offered throughout the day: Slavery at Monticello and Gardens and Grounds (seasonal).

#### Repeat visit? Change your perspective

Visiting for a second time (or third or fourth)? Change up your perspective by taking the Hemings Family Tour. This tour visits many of the same places as the standard house tour, but asks guests to consider these spaces from the perspective of members of the Hemings family, the largest of many enslaved families who also called Monticello home. It will leave you reflecting on some of the more challenging legacies of Monticello's story.



#### Go upstairs

The Behind-the-Scenes Tour allows you to see more of the house than ever before. This 1-hour-and-45-minute experience takes you up those narrow staircases to the private and guest quarters on the second and third floors, including the iconic Dome Room. You'll learn more about the lives of Jefferson's family members and the enslaved people who lived and labored in the house.

#### Check out the seasons

Each season brings a new kind of beauty to the mountain. I love to walk the gardens in the spring with the tulips in bloom, and nothing beats the fall foliage on a crisp November day. My favorite views are of the fiery red sky just before an early sunset on clear and cold December and January days, when you can see for miles.

#### Grab a book on your way out

Hopefully, your visit will spur curiosity. Our museum store has a great selection of books about every aspect of Monticello that you can imagine. Looking for recommendations? You can't go wrong asking your tour guide for insider tips on the best books.

#### Take a moment to reflect

Monticello's story reflects the foundations of America: equality and self-government, freedom and slavery. If you want to understand the complicated origins of our nation and take inspiration for its continued journey, there's no better place to start.

# Monticello's FIRST KITCHEN

Archaeologists  
discover evidence  
of equipment  
needed for  
French cuisine

By Fraser D. Neiman, Director of Archaeology

Thomas Jefferson's passion for French cuisine has earned him the title "found-ing foodie." Archaeological excavations in the basement of the South Pavilion at Monticello are advancing our understanding of the actual historical dynamics that underlie the title. The South Pavilion is the oldest building on the Mountain-top, completed in 1770. Its basement housed Monticello's kitchen until 1809, when three feet of fill was dumped into it, raising the floor to match the level of the newly completed South Wing, which included a new kitchen. Monticello archaeologists have excavated three trenches into the 1809 fill, revealing for the first time how Jefferson's first kitchen was laid out and altered over four decades.

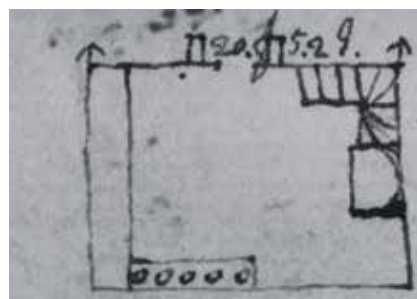
Archaeologists discovered the original kitchen fireplace, along with evidence of a crane to suspend iron cooking pots, a bake oven, at least two generations of kitchen counters, or "dressers," and most importantly, two generations of stew stoves. The stoves — *potagers* in French — are the key physical traces of Jefferson's engagement with French cuisine.

A stew stove was the 18th-century analogue of a cooktop: a waist-high masonry counter containing several burners fueled by charcoal taken from the fireplace. Stew stoves allowed cooks to achieve precise control of cooking temperatures and the timing of adding ingredients, followed by bouts of stirring and skimming. This control was essential to preparing fricassees, stews and sauces made with roux or emulsified with cream, butter and eggs, along with custards and glazes that were the hallmarks of classical French cooking.

Jefferson's design drawing for the South Pavilion, dating to the late 1760s, features a five-burner stew stove and points to his early interest in French cooking, probably kindled by regular dinners at the Governor's Palace when he was a student at William & Mary. Archaeological evidence hints that the first stew stove was not original to the

kitchen but added later as part of a renovation that may have also included a new dresser. Enslaved cook Ursula Granger may have used this stove to prepare the French-influenced recipes found in the most popular English-language cookbook of the 18th century, Hannah Glasse's *The Art of Cookery*, which Jefferson owned. Ursula Granger's son Isaac recalled, "Mrs Jefferson would come out there with a cookery book in her hand and read out of it to Isaac's mother."

In 1784, Jefferson took James Hemings with him to Paris with the express purpose of having him trained in French cuisine. A second kitchen renovation may postdate their return in 1789. The first stew stove was replaced with a new model that may have better matched the state-of-the-art stoves, whose use Hemings mastered in Paris. Archaeologists found the remains of this second stove, including the bottoms of four plaster-lined cleanouts that still contained ash that fell from the dismantled burners above. The dresser was also rebuilt and the room received a new

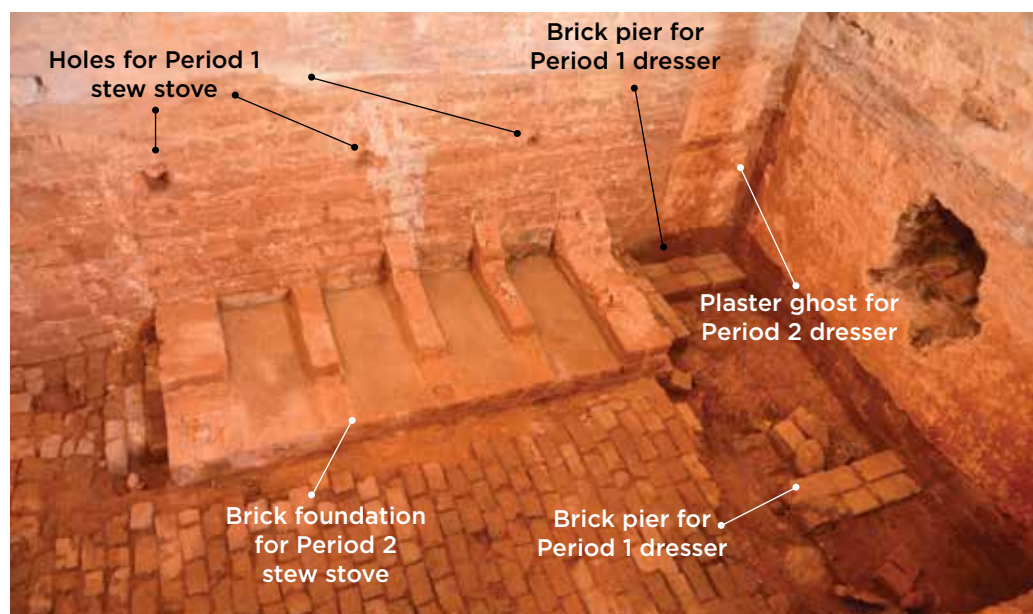


Jefferson's design sketch for the South Pavilion kitchen. Note the five-burner stew stove along the north wall, at the bottom, and the counter, or dresser, running the length of the east wall, to the left.

coat of plaster. The plaster preserved evidence of enough built-in shelving to accommodate dozens of state-of-the-art copper pots and pans that Jefferson purchased in Paris and that Hemings inventoried before Jefferson freed him in 1796.

These are just some of the recent discoveries in the South Pavilion cellar. Visitors can see and learn more about them all in a new on-site exhibit.

Traces of two generations of stew stoves and kitchen counters are visible in the northeast corner of the kitchen.





## Why French Cuisine?

Why was Jefferson transfixed by French cuisine? Classical French cuisine evolved in the early 17th century as a new idiom for conspicuous consumption among French aristocrats. It replaced a Renaissance cooking tradition that emphasized layering multiple flavors and the lavish use of exotic and costly spices like cinnamon, nutmeg and ginger. As spice prices declined in the early 17th century — the result of the same improvements in European naval and military technology that fueled colonial expansion — elite diners required effective ways to signal wealth. The new French cuisine aimed for “*le vrai gout*,” meaning “the true taste,” preparations that required great technical skill and highlighted the natural flavors of the main ingredients, revealing their freshness and quality. It emphasized fresh vegetables and fruits that were perishable and fragile, and sparked costly investments in new varieties, cultivation techniques and vegetable gardens.

Stew stoves were French cuisine’s most visible expression, and their presence traces the spread of the new culinary tradition across the Atlantic world. Stew stoves began to appear in elite architectural pattern books and the houses of English aristocrats in the early 18th

century. By the third quarter of the 18th century, they could be found in the houses of British colonial elites.

The only known surviving example in North America is in the mansion occupied by Benning Wentworth, the English governor of New Hampshire.

Researchers with Monticello’s Digital Archaeological Archive of Comparative Slavery project have located examples in the houses of two of the wealthiest men in Britain’s richest colony, Jamaica: Hibbert House, a lavish neoclassical townhouse in Kingston, built in the 1750s by Thomas Hibbert, Jamaica’s largest slave trader, and Colbeck Castle, built by sugar planter John MacLeod in the 1760s.

Jefferson’s plan to include stew stoves in Monticello’s first kitchen in the late 1760s and their construction soon thereafter attest to his ambitions to participate in this ocean-spanning social milieu. His ongoing investments in French kitchen technology, French training for enslaved chefs, and building and maintaining a massive vegetable garden stocked with exotic varieties all make sense only when we see them as part of this larger historical process.



Jefferson purchased copper kitchenware in France.



Stew stoves were so closely linked with French cooking that English cartoons and plays satirizing French fashion regularly featured them. This print from 1771 shows a “macaroni” (English slang for a French dandy — note the hairdo) cooking at a stew stove.

### Interested in supporting archaeology at Monticello?

The National Endowment for the Humanities is offering a \$50,000 matching grant to help us bring to university classrooms around the country Monticello’s rigorous approach to sharing and analyzing archaeological data. Contact the Development Office at 434-984-9820 for more information.

## THE CULINARY LEGACY OF JAMES HEMINGS

James Hemings (1765-1801) was the sixth child born to Elizabeth Hemings, an enslaved woman — her second child by her owner John Wayles. Wayles fathered six of Hemings’s children, which made them half brothers and sisters of Jefferson’s wife. In 1773, the Jeffersons inherited the Hemings family from the Wayles estate. Many of the Hemings, including James, would go on to occupy the most important household and trade positions at Monticello.

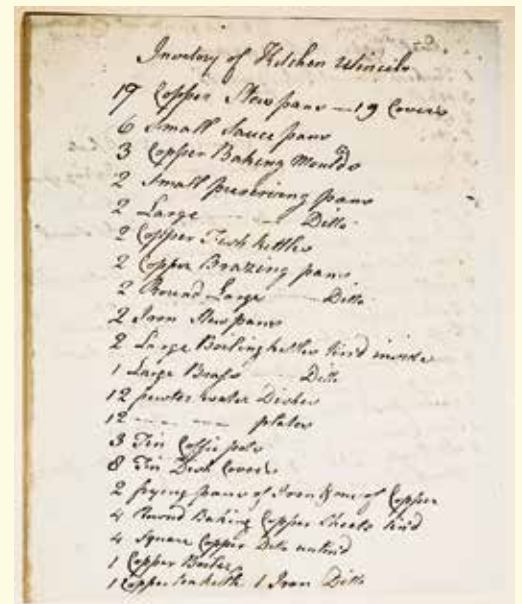
After serving as a personal attendant and barber, Hemings accompanied Jefferson to Paris in 1784 for “the particular purpose” of learning French cookery. In 1787, after study and apprenticeship, he became Jefferson’s *chef de cuisine* in his house on the Champs-Élysées. That same year, his sister Sally Hemings joined him in Paris, brought as a maid for Jefferson’s youngest daughter. Both Hemingses were legally free in France, but both agreed to return to Virginia, and slavery, after negotiating terms and special privileges.

In 1789, Hemings returned to the United States with his sister and the

Jefferson family. Jefferson was immediately appointed the first Secretary of State and assigned to New York and then Philadelphia, so James stayed with him as a cook and valet. In 1793, Jefferson promised to free Hemings if he trained his successor.

They both returned to Monticello in 1794, and Hemings transformed dining at Monticello with his prowess in cooking French cuisine, aided by the new multi-burner stew stove. As agreed, he began training his brother Peter to become his replacement. In 1796, James Hemings left Monticello as a literate free man with \$30. Over the next five years, he put his valuable culinary skills to work in Philadelphia, Baltimore and possibly Europe.

In February 1801, Jefferson tried unsuccessfully to recruit him as *chef de cuisine* at the President’s House. In August, Jefferson persuaded James to cook for him for two months at Monticello as a paid chef. In October, Jefferson learned of Hemings’s “tragical end”: his life cut short, the result of a suspected suicide.



James Hemings listed Monticello’s kitchen utensils in 1796.

# 2019 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## MONTICELLO, YOUR WORLD HERITAGE SITE

There's more going on at Monticello than you may realize. In addition to house and slavery tours, we host seasonal festivals, lectures, races and tastings — there is something for everyone in the family.

Get inspired, and learn more at [monticello.org/visit](http://monticello.org/visit).

JUNE 18-22, JUNE 25-29 AND JULY 9-13

### MONTICELLO SUMMER ADVENTURES

Calling all curious kids! Enjoy weeklong day camps featuring small groups, a spectacular setting and professional staff. For rising third-graders through seventh-graders. Registration is open now. Visit [monticello.org/camp](http://monticello.org/camp).

JULY 4

### INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION AND NATURALIZATION CEREMONY

The 57th annual Independence Day Celebration and Naturalization Ceremony at Monticello — one of America's most moving Fourth of July events — includes remarks by a featured speaker, a Jeffersonian Open House

with free walk-through tours of the first floor, patriotic music and more! 9AM-NOON. FREE. West Lawn. Monticello. [monticello.org/july4](http://monticello.org/july4)



JULY 25

### INSIDER'S TOUR WITH THE FRUIT GARDENER

Katalin Magyar, Monticello's fruit gardener, will lead an in-depth tour and discussion of Thomas Jefferson's "precious refreshments" in the Monticello orchard — including peaches, apples, pears, cherries, grapes, figs and more. 9:30-11AM. \$18. David M. Rubenstein Visitor Center.

AUGUST 10

### TASTING SUMMER FRUITS OF THE ORCHARD AND GARDEN

Enjoy the harvest of summer with garden staff, who will share their expertise about summer fruits: early apples, peaches, figs, grapes, melons, tomatoes, pears and others. Short talks on the history of fruit-growing in Virginia will vary the menu in this informal two-hour feast. 9:30-11:30AM. \$24. David M. Rubenstein Visitor Center, Woodland Pavilion.

SEPTEMBER 25

### HOME EDUCATORS' DAY

Home Educators' Day is an annual event that welcomes the homeschool community and offers special activities throughout Monticello's Visitor Center and historic grounds. See [monticello.org/home-educators-day](http://monticello.org/home-educators-day) for pricing. Advance registration strongly recommended. David M. Rubenstein Visitor Center.

### NEW

### SOUTH WING EXHIBITS

Self-guided tours. Included with Day Pass. Eight exhibits, including:

#### THE LIFE OF SALLY HEMINGS

A groundbreaking new digital exhibit that relies on the words of Sally Hemings's and Jefferson's son Madison to explore her life and the legacy of freedom she achieved for her family.

#### GRANGER/HEMINGS KITCHEN

The newly excavated and restored first kitchen of Monticello reveals more about the lives of Ursula Granger,

*The* TRAIL  
.....  
MONTICELLO  
SAUNDERS - MONTICELLO TRAIL  
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Get out and enjoy one of Central Virginia's most popular parks — the Saunders-Monticello Trail and its surrounding 370 acres. Open daily, the trail is free and accessible to people of all ages and hiking abilities. [Monticello.org/trail](http://Monticello.org/trail)



Peter Hemings, James Hemings, and other enslaved cooks and chefs who helped create early American cuisine.

#### 1770 SOUTH PAVILION AND MARTHA JEFFERSON

Learn about Martha Jefferson, Thomas Jefferson's wife during the earliest years of Monticello. She passed away at the age of 33 after she and Jefferson had been married 10 years.



## SUMMER FAMILY SAVINGS

Make Monticello a summertime destination! Save 40% on general admission for teenagers ages 12 to 18 from Memorial Day to Labor Day (advance online purchase required). Plan your family outing today at [monticello.org/familyvacation](http://monticello.org/familyvacation) or call 434-984-9880.

OCTOBER 5

## ARCHAEOLOGY OPEN HOUSE

Take a walking tour with Monticello archaeologists. See hidden parts of the plantation and learn how archaeology informs our understanding of the lives of those who lived and worked at Monticello. Visit the ongoing excavation of an early-19th-century domestic site that was once home to enslaved agricultural laborers. 10AM-4PM. FREE. Woodland Pavilion.

OCTOBER 12

## CENTER FOR HISTORIC PLANTS FALL OPEN HOUSE

Fall is the perfect time for planting, and Monticello's nursery will have a wide range of trees, shrubs, perennials and bulbs for sale; overstock items will be discounted. Acclaimed apple enthusiast David Vernon will present "Choosing, Growing, and Cultivating Heirloom Apple Trees." 10AM-2PM. FREE. Tufton Farm.

SEPTEMBER 19

## ANNUAL THANK-YOU EVENT FOR MONTICELLO DONORS

Donors are invited to a fall sunset reception at Monticello. This is a "thank you" to everyone who supports our mission by making a gift of any size to Monticello's Annual Fund. We hope to see you there! [Monticello.org/give](http://Monticello.org/give)

MAKE YOUR GIFT TO MONTICELLO BY JULY 4 TO ATTEND THIS SPECIAL EVENT!

## Farm Table

A CAFÉ AT MONTICELLO

Reflecting Thomas Jefferson's enthusiasm for local agriculture, his love of seasonal produce and his reputation for hospitality. Don't miss it on your next visit!

[monticello.org/farmtable](http://monticello.org/farmtable)



OCTOBER 19

## EDIBLE GARDENS: LUNCH & TASTINGS AT TUFTON FARM

Keith Nevison, manager of Farm and Nursery Operations at Tufton Farm, and Gabriele Rausse, director of Gardens and Grounds, invite you to "sip, dip and graze" your way through a Tufton Farm dining event. We'll dine in Tufton's rose garden with foods from Tufton including Monticello jams, jellies with cheeses and crackers, a salad of edible flowers, vegetables from the Monticello garden, ice creams made with Monticello fruit, and Gabriele Rausse wines. 1-2:30PM. \$65. Tufton Farm.

**TOM**  
TOPICS • ON • MONTICELLO  
**TALKS**

NOVEMBER 3

## JEFFERSON IN PARIS: A MUSICAL AFTERNOON WITH DAVID SARITI AND JONATHAN SCHAKEL

Join violinist David Sariti for a musical afternoon featuring the music Jefferson would have heard while living in Paris. Sariti is the director of the University of Virginia's Baroque Orchestra and a member of

Mr. Jefferson's Musicians, a nationally recognized group of period musicians who live and play all over the United States. He will be accompanied by Jonathan Schakel on the harpsichord. 2-3:30PM. \$45.

SEPTEMBER 21

## HERITAGE HARVEST FESTIVAL

This festival celebrates the bounty of Virginia's gardens, recognizes the enslaved chefs and gardeners who pioneered American cuisine, and explores Jefferson's legacy as a champion of vegetable

cuisine and plant experimentation. Taste a bounty of heirloom fruits and vegetables and learn about organic gardening and seed-saving during this fun, family-friendly festival – held on the West Lawn of Monticello. For information, visit [heritageharvestfestival.com](http://heritageharvestfestival.com).



For a printable version of this calendar, visit [monticello.org/calendar](http://monticello.org/calendar).





## Eat Your Greens

Revered for its delicacy, silky texture and pale green hue, tennis ball lettuce proved a favorite for Thomas Jefferson.

The tennis ball lettuce variety — acknowledged as the parent of popular Boston lettuce types — boasts loose heads that grow up to seven inches in diameter. Planting directives are to sow the seeds of this prolific butterhead-type variety in rich, well-prepared soil. While early spring is ideal, it is also suitable for fall crops that may be planted in late summer.

Plantings of tennis ball lettuce were first documented at Monticello in 1809. As one of 15 different lettuces planted on the grounds, it was celebrated by Jefferson

for its hardiness and ability to flourish with a low level of maintenance. His notations of cultivation include “it did not require so much care and attention,” which likely accounts for the variety’s presence not only at Monticello, but also in the gardens at Tufton Farm and Poplar Forest.

The tennis ball lettuce heirloom dates to more than two centuries ago, with the black-seeded variety first sold by American seedsman in the late 18th century. Today, seed packets can be found in the Shop at Monticello ([monticelloshop.org](http://monticelloshop.org)) for those who would like to follow in the footsteps of one of America’s founding gardeners.



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