



Commemoration is Held at Burial Ground

More than 250 people attended a Ceremony of Commemoration held Oct. 6 at the African-American burial ground at Monticello.

The featured speaker at the event was Julian Bond, chairman of the NAACP and a member of the faculty of the Corcoran Department of History at the University of Virginia. Bond, a grandson of slaves, said that while those interred at the site were buried “as property, we honor them as people.”













The audience also heard remarks from the Rev. Rickey White, pastor of the Union Run Baptist Church of Shadwell, a church founded in 1867 by former Monticello slaves, and Daniel P. Jordan, president of the Thomas Jefferson Foundation.

During the proceedings, the names of approximately 400 men, women, and children who lived as slaves at Monticello between 1770 and 1827 were read aloud by those in attendance.

Members of the audience also had the opportunity to honor those buried at the site by placing roses in a metal pot and by dropping off written messages, which were buried inside the cemetery.

The event included a traditional African libation ceremony performed by P. Welbeck, a native of Ghana who now lives in Richmond, with the assistance of Robert C. Watson of Hampton University. Music was provided by trumpeter Ry Wilson of Harrisonburg, Va., and the Baptist Union Church Choir of Dillwyn, Va.

This Issue's Other Stories

-  AWARDS & HONORS
-  BOARD OF TRUSTEES
-  BURIAL GROUND
-  CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS
-  COOK'S ROOM
-  INDIAN ART PRESENTED
-  JEFFERSON'S WEST POINT
-  LEVY BOOK
-  LEWIS & CLARK PLANS
-  PRESIDENT'S LETTER
-  THADDEUS KOSCIUSZKO
-  WINTER TOUR

COMMENTS? newsletter@monticello.org

MONTICELLO