



1831 DIARY

## Indian Objects at University

Monticello's Lewis and Clark bicentennial installation, *Framing the West at Monticello*, features objects made by contemporary American Indian artists because the whereabouts of the pieces in Thomas Jefferson's original collection is not known.

Records show that Jefferson intended to give some items he displayed in the Entrance Hall of Monticello to the University of Virginia and that many natural history specimens were transferred to the university following Jefferson's death in 1826. Other university documents from the 19th century refer to Jefferson's collection, but make no mention of specific pieces.

An 1831 account, however, indicates that American Indian objects once at Monticello were displayed in the Rotunda.

The entry for Oct. 19, 1831, in the diary of Ann Maury reads: "Walked over to the University while Papa rode we called at Dr. Dunglison to say we would dine there & he accompanied us to the Rotunda to shew us the lecture rooms & the library. I was much pleased with all the arrangement, the library is a beautiful room & I believe one of the most complete in its selection in the United States, though not nearly so numerous as others. In the lecture rooms were many beautiful models for illustration to the pupils ... & some of Mr. Jefferson's collections of curiosities, Indian utensils & dresses & weapons & a part of a mammoth's skeleton."

Ann Maury was the daughter of James Maury, who served as the U.S. consul at Liverpool, England, and the great-granddaughter of the

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# MONTICELLO



## Diary

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Rev. James Maury, Jefferson's boyhood teacher. Portions of her diary were published in 1941 in *Intimate Virginiana: A Century of Maury Travels by Land and Sea*, edited by Anne Fontaine Maury. The original diary is on microfilm at UVa's Special Collections Library.

**COMMENTS?** [newsletter@monticello.org](mailto:newsletter@monticello.org)