

Thomas Jefferson MONTICELLO

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Monticello's New Offerings in 2015

In 2014 Monticello launched The Mountaintop Project, a multiyear effort to restore Monticello as Jefferson knew it, and to tell the stories of the people—enslaved and free—who lived and worked at Monticello.

Visitors this year witnessed the realigning of Jefferson's historic roadway, the recreation of two structures on Mulberry Row and restoration of the second and third floors of the House. Starting in 2015, visitors will be able to explore these newly available spaces, take part in expanded tours and programs, and learn more about the active community at Monticello during Jefferson's lifetime.

For Jefferson's granddaughters, few ways existed to escape what one described as "the bustle and hurry" of life at Monticello. Yet Virginia Randolph Trist and her sister Cornelia crafted their own hideaway on Monticello's third floor. As Virginia described it in an 1823 letter, the sisters equipped the Cuddy, a small space adjacent to the Dome Room (pictured right), with a sofa, a couple of chairs and "two small tables, one for my writing desk, the other for my books." Starting in 2015, Monticello's expanded *Behind the Scenes* tour will visit this space, restored to resemble the exact description of Virginia's 1823 letter, along with nearly a dozen other spaces.

The Mountaintop Project has also given Monticello staff an opportunity to integrate interpretation of

Cornelia Jefferson Randolph, Thomas Jefferson's granddaughter, above, spent time in the Cuddy, pictured below.



the house with interpretation of Mulberry Row, neither of which can be understood independently of the other, and which together reveal the authentic story of Jefferson's plantation. Utilizing these new, tangible connections, Monticello is launching new tours that will allow guests to explore not only the house, but also the dynamic "Main Street" of the 5,000-acre plantation and

a reconstructed slave dwelling on Mulberry Row. Building on the success of the *Slavery at Monticello* tours, which are included in the Monticello Day Pass and see over 60,000 people a year, these new offerings will not only reveal the history of those enslaved at Monticello, but will carry their stories forward into freedom. Look for the new tour to debut in February, to coincide with Black History Month.



ABOVE: Visitors on the *Slavery at Monticello* tour this summer.

RIGHT: The newly recreated "building I" or Storehouse for Iron on Mulberry Row.

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