



President's Letter

"The expedition of Messrs. Lewis and Clark, for exploring the river Missouri, and the best communication from that to the Pacific ocean, has had all the success which could have been expected. They have traced the Missouri nearly to its source, descended the Columbia to the Pacific ocean, ascertained with accuracy the geography of that interesting communication across our continent, learned the character of the country, of its commerce, and inhabitants; and it is but justice to say that Messrs. Lewis and Clark, and their brave companions, have by this arduous service deserved well of their country." So read President Jefferson's annual message to Congress in December 1806.

Nearly two centuries later, as we begin the observance of this remarkable "Voyage of Discovery," Jefferson and the Lewis and Clark Expedition continue to serve their country well. Through their journey, the explorers provided the young nation with a bridge to the West, both geographically and culturally. We remain indebted to the diversity of their consequential contributions, and will reflect this in our upcoming commemorative activities.

During the period of Jan. 14-19, Monticello will host *Jefferson's West: A Lewis and Clark Exposition*, which will feature discussions with noted historians and authors, exhibitions and presentations by Native American artists, musical performances, film screenings, and a variety of other programs focusing on the many legacies of Jefferson and Lewis and Clark. During the *Exposition*, the bicentennial exhibition *Framing the West at Monticello: Thomas Jefferson and the Lewis and Clark Expedition*, a re-creation of

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MONTICELLO



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Jefferson's "Indian Hall," will open to the public. The headline event will come on Jan. 18, when the national observance of the 200th anniversary of the historic trek across North America will be launched with a formal program on Monticello's West Lawn.

In the spirit of Jefferson and Lewis and Clark, who linked their nation with a new world across the continent, the Thomas Jefferson Foundation recently opened a new bridge to connect visitors with Jefferson's estate and times. Saunders Bridge, a truly distinctive stone-arch span, completes the Thomas Jefferson Parkway while providing a safer, more scenic entrance to Monticello.

We hope you will visit Monticello soon to experience these and many other exciting initiatives.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Daniel P. Jordan".

President

COMMENTS? newsletter@monticello.org