Monticello Passes 25 Million Plateau

Twenty-five million. By any standard, that’s a big number. And it’s one that Monticello has surpassed.

Monticello went over the 25 million mark in all-time public attendance on April 9, 2004.

Based on the running total of admission ticket sales, the visitation milestone was reached at approximately 10:15 a.m. that day with the arrival of Huaihai Wang of Cresskill, N.J., an interpreter at the United Nations; his wife, Grace, a real estate agent; and their 8-year-old son Matthew.

The Wangs were greeted at the Ticket Office by Thomas Jefferson Foundation President Daniel P. Jordan.

The family members were presented with lifetime passes to Monticello and a basket containing an assortment of Monticello gifts and souvenirs, then taken on a special tour of the house.

“This is truly a historic milestone for Monticello and the Foundation’s stewardship of this world treasure,” Jordan said.

Monticello has averaged approximately 312,000 visitors per year since 1924, when it was opened as a public attraction following its purchase by the newly formed Thomas Jefferson Memorial Foundation in 1923. Since 1980, the average annual attendance has been approximately 530,000. Monticello
Visitors
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had more than 500,000 visitors each year for 21 consecutive years (1981-2001).

Monticello’s highest annual visitation total, 671,486, was recorded in 1976, the bicentennial of the American Revolution. The second highest count, 622,137, came in 1993, the 250th anniversary of Jefferson’s birth.