



MONTICELLO PRESENTS CAPSTONE SUMMIT OF NEH 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

MEMORY / LEGACIES OF SLAVERY
MOURNING / AND FREEDOM IN AMERICA
MOBILIZATION

On Sept. 17, Monticello hosted a public summit on race and the legacies of slavery as the capstone of *Human/Ties*, a multi-day event organized with the University of Virginia to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the National Endowment for the Humanities. More than 1,500 people joined a renowned group of speakers and artists, as well as descendants of Monticello's enslaved families, on the iconic West Lawn of Monticello. Thousands more watched the live stream online. Through panel discussions, poetry and artistic interpretation, the summit explored how the legacies of slavery shape contemporary issues of race and equality.

Memory, Mourning, Mobilization: Legacies of Slavery and Freedom in America featured leading academics like Henry Louis Gates Jr. and Annette Gordon-Reed, activists like Bree Newsome, artists like Nikki Giovanni, descendants of Monticello's enslaved families, and community partners like The Race Card Project. An original copy of the 13th Amendment, which abolished slavery, was on limited display at Monticello's David M. Rubenstein Visitor Center in conjunction with the summit. The document was generously loaned by David M. Rubenstein.



"We live in a time that ... presents these incredible challenges ... but we have new opportunities. And Monticello's pioneering this, new ways to tell stories ... with the expectation of beginning with honesty and working from there."

- Ed Ayers

"Monticello embodies ... so much of what we have to grapple with, and it tells us so much about who we are."

- Melody Barnes



Q: *"What is the greatest obstacle to racial equality in America today? And what is our greatest hope?"*

- Henry Louis Gates Jr.

A: *"I would say the greatest obstacle is human nature and the greatest hope is human nature."*

- Jon Meacham



"This is another watershed moment in our history when we can get ourselves together and finish the next movement to this unfinished symphony that Mr. Jefferson envisaged but did not live."

- Marian Wright Edelman



"It felt like coming home."

- Janice Gonzalez, descendant

More than 35 descendants of Monticello's enslaved community joined the public summit, including Gayle Jessup White who provided opening dialogue at the event. The month prior, 22 descendants spent the night at Monticello. The experience, a collaboration between the Slave Dwelling Project and Monticello's Getting Word Oral History Project, is reserved for descendants of Jefferson's slaves.

Learn more and watch coverage of the event from Sunday Today at monticello.org/getting-word.

Continue the Conversation

Watch the event at monticello.org/neh

Share your thoughts on social media with **#LegaciesofSlavery**

Download the Slavery at Monticello App

