

RECENT MONTICELLO HIGHLIGHTS

Through a combination of new and existing events and programs, we enlivened the mountaintop, bringing history forward into current conversations. From re-enactors on horseback at the British Invasion to the oldest continuously running naturalization ceremony outside of a courtroom, 2016 was a year of heartening moments at Monticello.

From the President

Dear Friends,

As the inauguration of our 45th American president approaches, we are reminded that Jefferson was the first president to take the oath of office in Washington, D.C.

Our third president brought his own style to the art of politics. He abandoned the large weekly levées (receptions) of the Washington and Adams administrations and arranged a systematic calendar of informal dinners for members of Congress. As Jon Meacham writes in his biography, “he entertained constantly, handsomely and with a purpose.” Three times a week the president’s secretary sent up to Capitol Hill a dozen printed invitations, which specified a dinner hour of “half after three, or at whatever later hour the house (Congress) may rise (adjourn).” Jefferson thought that informal conversation at a table where political discussion was discouraged would allow him to become better acquainted with Congress, diplomats, citizens of Washington, European philosophers and Cherokee chiefs.

This edition’s cover story chronicles Jefferson’s renowned hospitality, his ardor for haute cuisine and good wine, and his lifelong practice of purposeful entertaining. Here at Monticello, the unusual furnishings of the brilliant yellow dining room were designed to enhance conversation. Jefferson’s granddaughter borrowed a phrase from the poet Alexander Pope when she described Monticello as a “feast of reason,” where ideas were discussed and shared.

Indeed, every room at Monticello tells a story. This fall there are exciting new chapters unfolding. In the North Terrace wing, newly restored carriage bays illustrate Jefferson’s travels. The stone stable on Mulberry Row is nearly complete, rebuilt to Jefferson’s design with exhibitions that illustrate Jefferson’s lifelong passion for horses and his devotion to his daily ride. Visitors will learn about Jupiter Evans and Wormley Hughes, the enslaved grooms who cared for Jefferson’s prized carriage and riding horses.

You’ll also read about the refurbishing of Jefferson’s *Sanctum Sanctorum* – the private suite of rooms that functioned as the center of his intellectual life. Next spring, you will see some exciting changes including the installation of green wallpaper, and additions to his array of scientific apparatus, carpentry tools, maps and globes.

As you sit down with friends and family to Thanksgiving dinner – we hope you will enjoy great food and a “feast of reason.” We also hope that you are inspired to visit Monticello soon to see “the room where it happened.”

Until then,

Leslie Greene Bowman

Leslie Greene Bowman
 President and CEO



THE 54TH ANNUAL INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION AND NATURALIZATION CEREMONY

“If you are having a crisis of patriotism before the event, it will be cured by the event.”

- Dr. Larry J. Sabato, keynote speaker

The 2016 Naturalization Ceremony and Independence Day Celebration at Monticello marked the 240th anniversary of American independence. This year, 75 people from 41 countries became citizens on the historic West Lawn. Dr. Larry J. Sabato, founder and director of the University of Virginia Center for Politics, delivered the keynote address. Sabato spoke about the importance of good citizenship and encouraged the new citizens to exercise their right to vote.

Watch highlights from the event, including Sabato’s remarks and moving statements from our country’s newest citizens at monticello.org/july4.



THE BRITISH INVASION, 1781

Virginia militia, British Dragoons and Redcoats brought the Revolutionary War to life at Monticello. Guests relived the turbulent days when war came to Virginia and British soldiers captured the Mountaintop.

