

An Email from Monticello

(The following email has been the only correspondence I've received from Monticello or those who are employed by the Thomas Jefferson Foundation)

From: Gary Sandling
Sent: Saturday, October 27, 2007 9:01 AM
To: lacchurch@frontiernet.net
Cc: Dan Jordan
Subject: Your visit to Monticello

Dear Rev. DuBord,

I must apologize for not responding to your first letter and you certainly have no cause to apologize to me. I did receive your first letter and essay and read them with interest. I received your packet this morning and I have now read the second. I have placed your essay in a file in our training library where it will be available to all of our staff to consult. You have clearly undertaken considerable research on this topic. I have used, in fact, your observations of your first visit in subsequent training sessions and I will share your observations of your visit with our staff.

We have a wide variety of subject matter to cover on tours of the house. We do not provide our guides with tour scripts but do strive to provide for them a variety of primary source documentation and secondary literature on a variety of subjects pertinent to giving tours at Monticello . While we know that visitors appreciate a broad perspective of Jefferson's life and interests, we also realize that we do not cover many of these topics in depth, particularly those that involve Jefferson 's public life. In recent years, there have been many important works written on religion in early America that have given a fuller, more nuanced picture of the public and private place of religion, and particularly Christianity, in the founding era. We will add to that stock of knowledge your conclusions on the subject. Thank-you for sharing it with us.

Best wishes,

Gary

Gary Sandling

Director of Interpretation & Training

Monticello, the Home of Thomas Jefferson

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