

### Connections Between the Enslaved People of Poplar Forest and Monticello

Many members of the enslaved community at Poplar Forest had family connections with the enslaved community at Monticello. As Jefferson began to increase the labor force at his Bedford County plantation in the late 1700s, he moved enslaved men and women from Monticello to live and work at Poplar Forest. Having relatives at both properties, family members would occasionally ask Jefferson for permission to travel between the plantations to visit.

When enslaved boys were old enough, Jefferson would send them from Poplar Forest to Monticello to learn a trade or work in the nailery. Some would remain at Monticello, while others would return to Poplar Forest to work. Girls would also be sent to Monticello to learn how to spin or weave cloth.

Enslaved craftsmen such as John Hemmings, Jefferson's master joiner at Monticello, often traveled from Charlottesville to Bedford, staying for weeks or months at a time to complete Jefferson's retreat house. Joining him occasionally were his nephews, Beverly, Madison and Eston Hemings, who were the sons of Thomas Jefferson and Sally Hemings.

A steady stream of plantation products—such as pigs and cattle, construction materials and supplies such as butter and preserved peaches for the main houses—moved between the two properties, transported by enslaved workers.