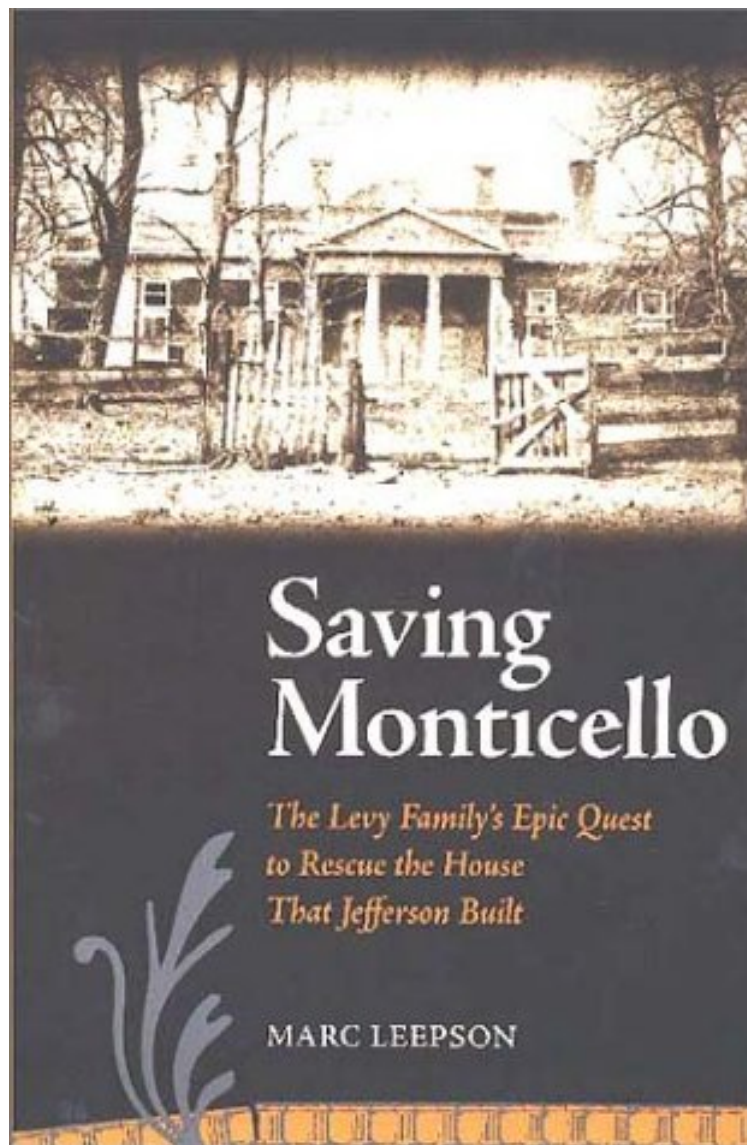


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## **Saving Monticello: The Levy Family's Epic Quest to Rescue the House that Jefferson Built**

*Marc Leepson*

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**Marc Leepson : Saving Monticello: The Levy Family's Epic Quest to Rescue the House that Jefferson Built** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Saving Monticello: The Levy Family's Epic Quest to Rescue the House that Jefferson Built:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A missing piece of Monticello is back in place!By Kindle CustomerI purchased this book because I enjoy reading everything I can get my hands regarding Monticello. This book brings Monticello's "quiet" years to the fore. Uriah and Jefferson Levy rescued Thomas Jefferson's home from certain destruction, despite adversity. From whom or what? Read the book! I gave the book a four instead of a five star rating because, Theodore Roosevelt could not have been a member of the Thomas Jefferson Memorial Foundation in 1923. He died in 1919. Perhaps I was reading this portion wrong. But the book was a delightful read nonetheless. Thanks!1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Wonderful bookBy ZephyrsAfter visiting Monticello, this book describes in exciting detail a very significant aspect of the history of this historic site that is, unfortunately, not very well known or even publicized. it is must reading for anyone who has visited this historic site or interested in American history. Great book!!!!1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Near miss!By KansasGreat story on the life of Monticello and how it was nearly lost to us as a nation. Not only the house is amazing but the grounds and gardens are important to our national horticulture thanks to Thomas Jefferson.

How a Jewish navy veteran and his descendants saved one of America's most recognizable architectural landmarks

From Publishers WeeklyIn this excellent account of Monticello's ownership after Thomas Jefferson's death, Leepson, who has written for the New York Times, Preservation and Smithsonian, turns the spotlight on a family that contributed to the preservation of history but heretofore went unnoticed. When Jefferson died in 1826 his enormous debt (even by today's standards) forced his heirs to sell the beloved estate. Unfortunately, James Turner Barclay, a Charlottesville, Va., druggist who paid \$7,000 for it, let the house decline during the few years he owned it. In 1834 the house was purchased by U.S. Navy Lieutenant Uriah Phillips Levy, a wealthy, bold, passionate admirer of Jefferson who quickly poured money into its repair. Thus began this Jewish-American family's nearly 90-year proprietorship of Monticello. After being briefly appropriated by the Confederacy during the Civil War, it again landed in the hands of a Levy, Uriah's nephew Jefferson Levy. Monticello became a kind of surrogate child for this extremely successful, unmarried businessman and sometime politician. When the patriotic New York socialite Maud Littleton began her campaign to make Monticello a government-owned shrine in 1911, the battle that ensued in Congress and the newspapers was as emotional as any child custody battle, but more compelling for the dynamic lives and personalities involved. Through extensive research and with fascinating detail, Leepson uncovers the facts surrounding Monticello's owners and preservation involved are great wealth, patriotism, anti-Semitism, and social and political influence. Leepson's absorbing account is an overdue chronicle and homage to the national treasure and its memorable saviors. Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc. Hang on for a wild ride through history with colorful characters that even Jefferson's imagination couldn't have foreseen. (Norfolk Virginian-Pilot)In this excellent account of Monticello's ownership after Thomas Jefferson's death, Leepson... turns the spotlight on a family that contributed to the preservation of history.... With fascinating detail, Leepson uncovers the facts surrounding Monticello's owners and preservation. (Publishers Weekly)This book provides useful and welcome evidence of the Levys role [in saving Monticello]. Leepson is a diligent, thorough researcher.... [A] good book. (Washington Post)Leepson... has opened the curtain on a little-known portion of American history, and Saving Monticello is a welcome treat... a fascinating book. (Chicago Tribune)In its own way, the story of the Levys at Monticello is as compelling as the story of Jefferson at Monticello. Its not simply a story of how a remarkable family saved a special place, its a very human storyindeed, a very American storywonderfully told. I highly recommend it. (Richard Moe, President, National Trust for Historic PreservationRoanoke Times 9/14/03)About the AuthorMarc Leepson is the author of nine books, including biographies of the Marquis de Lafayette and Francis Scott Key. His work has appeared in many newspapers and magazines, and he is a contributor to the Encyclopedia Britannica.