



SOCIETY FOR AMERICAN ARCHAEOLOGY

April 21, 2022

Since issuing its statement on April 13 on the situation at Montpelier, the SAA has learned of the Montpelier Foundation's dismissal of staff members who have spoken out against the Foundation's severing of official ties with the Montpelier Descendants' Committee. These firings are completely unacceptable, and constitute an egregious violation of freedom of speech and freedom of academic inquiry, precisely the values that James Madison himself prized so much. The SAA calls once again for the Foundation to restore parity with the descendant community, and to respect the freedom of speech of its employees.