

September 3, 2008

Dear All of You,

It seems like so long ago! I hope you've recovered by now and are gainfully pursuing whatever you're pursuing. It was sad to break-up the “family” but I trust you will all keep in touch with me and with each other. Thank you for all your comments and feedback on the questionnaires—it is always useful and encouraging.

I want to thank you for your participation in the 2008 Restoration Field School at Poplar Forest. Your interest and enthusiasm is why I go to all the trouble—and I’m never disappointed in what I get out of the effort. Our two-week program tries to accomplish many things in an intensive period of time. I know it is not always all things for all people, but I hope everyone leaves with a greater understanding of architectural restoration, both theory and practice. My hope is that you will think about the issues of research, investigation and interpretation at any of the historic sites you visit in the future—and I hope you will have the opportunity to actually implement some of these ideas yourself! I think the Madison Heights house investigation provided a good experience for the group. You learned fast and did a great job with the looking and mapping. You did a great job on the report, which I’m happy to have finally finished and pleased to now give you.

You were a great group! Please come back to see the project and me when you can. Keep in touch with any changes of address. I am always happy to be a reference for you. Have a good year—what's left of it.

Sincerely,

Travis C. McDonald, Jr.