

**Cut nails from the excavation of Highland's 1799 Main House  
& Thomas Jefferson's Nail Book**

A significant quantity of cut nails from Thomas Jefferson's [nail-making operation, or nailery](#), at nearby Monticello have been recovered from excavations at the site of Monroe's 1799 Main House at Highland. We can easily connect the nails to Monticello due to their regularity in form, their great quantity, and the record of Monroe's orders and delivery of the nails in Jefferson's account book for his nailery (<https://clarklibrary.ucla.edu/blog/thomas-jeffersons-account-book/>).



**Figure 1.** Cut nails from the excavation of Highland's 1799 Main House (*photo credit: Rivanna Archaeological Services, LLC*)



**Figure 2.** There are several types of nails in this photo. Can you pick out the Monticello cut nails? (*photo credit, Sara Bon-Harper, James Monroe's Highland*)



Bespoke			1799			Delivered		
	Wm Davenport for Clifton Rhodes	39 X	Apr 10	Bleives & Co. 330. 116 X	380	X	11 1/2	15-16-3
Apr. 18.	Colo. Bell General and 50	160 XVI.	23.	do. (so far as the invoice of July 30, 99)	85	IV	14 1/2	5-2-8 1/2
	4. 1/2 traces			Perry (for	26	X	11 1/2	1-4-11
26.	Colo. Coles	3 1/2 30 VIII	24.	Chiles Terril	56	X	11 1/2	2-13-10
	Chiles Terril	3 1/2 60 XVI			5 1/2	XXA	10	4-7
30.	Mr Unit	20. 140 11		Shifflet 2. 1/2 traces	8 1/2	XVI	10 1/2	1-6-0
	50. XVI		29.	Colo. Coles (so far as paid exclusive)	2500	VIII	12 1/2	0-7-6
			30	Minrod Brown	2500	32 1/2	X	1-5-0
			May 2.	Mr Unit	8000	22 1/2	IV	1-11-1 3/4
				20 1/2 140 VI.	20 1/2	140	VI.	1-6-7
				5. 1/2 100 XVI.	100	XVI.	10 1/2	7-5-10
			6.	Gideon Morgan	42	IV	14 1/2	4-7-6
				42	VI	12 1/2	2-3-9	
				26	X	11 1/2	1-4-11	
May. 6.	Chiles Terril	10. 1/2 VI		Chiles Terril	50	XVI. br.	10 1/2	2-3-9
	(additional.)	2 1/2 X			13	X	11 1/2	0-12-5 1/2
		2 1/2 XII		8 Col. Bell	32	XII	11	1-9-4
		2 1/2 XVI.			40	XVI	10 1/2	1-15-0
10.	Dr. Wardlaw	0 1/2 56 VI.		50	VI.	12 1/2	2-12-1	
		1. 1/2 20 br.		50	XVI	11 1/2	2-5-10	
		3 1/2 70 XVI.		30	VIII	12	1-10-0	
		2 1/2 60 do. br.		39	X	11 1/2	1-17-4 1/2	
		1. 1/2 25 XX		90	XVI	10 1/2	3-18-9	
		5. 1/2 14 br.		2. 1/2 traces				1-6-0
19.	Micajah Chiles	5 1/2 14 IV.		28	VI	12 1/2	1-9-12	
		1. 1/2 20 XVI		10	XVI	10 1/2	0-8-9	
		3. 1/2 60 do. br.		46 1/2	IV	14 1/2	2-16-2 1/2	
19.	Dr. Milamaker by the Master	12. traces		50	VI	12 1/2	2-12-1	
21.	Skelton Conant & Co.	5 1/2 55 VI		50	VIII	12	2-10-0	
		5 1/2 50 VIII		22.3	X	11 1/2	1-1-4	
		5 1/2 65 X		50	XVI	10 1/2	4-7-6	
		5 1/2 80 XII		50	do. br.	10 1/2	4-7-6	
	Chiles Terril	10 1/2 28.5 IV		44	XX	10	1-16-8	
22.	Gideon Morgan	25 1/2 71 1/2 IV		George so far as paid exclusive	138. 7 1/2			
24.	Mr Madison	8. 1/2 23 IV		2 for traces				
		2. 1/2 26 X		IV				
	1. 1/2. 1. 1/2. 5. 0. 1/2 br		22.	Gideon Morgan (not take charge)	IV			
			24.	Colo. Monroe	6 1/2 42 VI.	12 1/2	2-8-2	
					6 1/2 42 do. br.			
					3 1/2 39 X	11 1/2	2-5-0	
					6 1/2 8 do. br.			
			27.	Chiles Terril	3. 1/2 48 X 1/2	11	2-4-0	
					3-12-11	70	VI	12 1/2
					1-4-11	26	X	11 1/2
					1-9-4	32	XII	11
					1-15-0	40	XVI	10 1/2
June 3.	Chiles Terril	2 1/2 XVI	28.	Dr. Wardlaw	40	XVI	10 1/2	8-2-2
			June 1.	Gideon Morgan	40	XVI	10 1/2	0-8-9
				Colo. Monroe	57 1/2	IV	14 1/2	3-9-2
			7.	W. Davenport (for Clifton Rhodes)	91	VI	12 1/2	4-16-9 1/2
			19.	Chiles Terril	70	XVI.	10 1/2	3-1-3 1/2
					28 1/2	IV	14 1/2	1-14-6
			14.	Colo. Monroe	40	XVI	10 1/2	1-15-0
			18.		22	X	11 1/2	1-1-1
					120	XVI.	10 1/2	5-5-0
					12	XX	10	0-10-0
			10.	Micajah Chiles	0-16-11.	18	IV	14 1/2
					20	XVI.	10 1/2	0-16-11
					3-10-0	60	do. br.	4-6-11
				Chiles Terril by James Huchstet	84	VI	12 1/2	4-7-6
					4-7-6	14 1/2	XX	10
			25.	Colo. Monroe	0-12-1			4-19-7
			27.	Dr. Milamaker	40	XVI	10 1/2	7-15-0
			29.	Colo. Monroe	111. 1/2 traces			7-0-3
			July 4.	do	£60-17-2 1/2	14	XVI	10 1/2
			5.	Mr Unit	10	do. br.	10 1/2	0-8-9
July 5.	Mr Unit	4500 XVI	12.	Chiles Terril by James Huchstet	34	XVI	10 1/2	1-9-9
6.	Wm Davenport	3 1/2 XVI.			10	XVI	10 1/2	0-8-9

Figure 3. Colonel Monroe's orders are seen in Jefferson's accounts from 1799 (Nail Book, William Andrews Clark Memorial Library, UCLA)



1799				1799			
Date	Name	Amount	Notes	Date	Name	Amount	Notes
July 13	Dr. Bauche (by Ferril)	8 <sup>th</sup>	56 VI	July 16	Col. Monroe	20	VI br 12 <sup>o</sup>
		2 <sup>nd</sup>	20 X	20	Dr. Wardlaw	30	XVI 10 <sup>o</sup>
		300	3 2 <sup>o</sup> br.	22	Mr. Witt	56	XVI 10 <sup>o</sup>
		5 <sup>th</sup>	100 XVI			60	2 <sup>o</sup> br 10 <sup>o</sup>
		3 <sup>rd</sup>	70 2 <sup>o</sup> br.	23	Mr. Gilmer	10	XVI 10 <sup>o</sup>
14	Mr. Higginbotham	30 <sup>th</sup>	300 X		Mr. Perry	16	X br 11 <sup>o</sup>
23	Mr. Perry	1 <sup>st</sup>	10 X br.		1 M. with a lb. say 5/11 M. 1 <sup>st</sup> 3 <sup>o</sup> 2 <sup>o</sup> cut 1/4	29	1/3 0-5-3
					Mr. Manahan		1 <sup>st</sup> traces 0-13-0
24	Clifton Robes. acct W.D.S.	100	XVI	24	Dr. Bauche	12	X 11 <sup>o</sup> 0-11-6
					Col. Monroe	34	XVI 10 <sup>o</sup> 1-9-9
				25	Mr. Madison	6	X 11 <sup>o</sup> 0-5-9
					hammered, counted & weighed 4E	23	IV 1-9-0
					5E	12 <sup>o</sup> br 14 <sup>o</sup>	0-3-8
						26	X 11 <sup>o</sup> 1-4-11
						35	XVI br 10 <sup>o</sup> 1-10-7 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
					Mr. Perry	16	X br 11 <sup>o</sup> 0-15-4
31	Mr. Higginbotham	30 <sup>th</sup>	IV IV	31	Col. Monroe	54	XVI br 10 <sup>o</sup> 2-7-3
Aug. 3	Col. Bell	50	X XVI		Mr. Perry	22-11-0 <sup>o</sup>	34 IV 15 <sup>o</sup> 2-2-6
		50		Aug. 3	Mr. Perry	10	XVI br 10 <sup>o</sup> 0-8-9
				6	Dr. Wardlaw	36	XVI br 10 <sup>o</sup> 1-11-6
				7	Dr. Bauche	36	VI 12 <sup>o</sup> 1-17-6
						36	XVI 10 <sup>o</sup> 1-11-6
						2	XX 10 0-1-8
				8	Dr. Wardlaw	24	XVI br 10 <sup>o</sup> 1-18-6
						20	2 <sup>o</sup> br 10 <sup>o</sup>
						3 <sup>rd</sup>	VI br 12 <sup>o</sup> 0-3-7 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
						1 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	IV br 15 <sup>o</sup> 0-1-6 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub>
					Col. Bell	50	X 11 <sup>o</sup> 2-7-11
						50	XVI 10 <sup>o</sup> 2-3-9
							4 <sup>th</sup> traces 2-12-0
				12	Wm. Davenport (by Clifton Robes)	100	XVI 10 <sup>o</sup> 4-7-6
				13	Col. Monroe	17	IV 15 <sup>o</sup> 1-1-3
				14	Mr. Higginbotham	300	X 11 <sup>o</sup> 14-7-6
					Dr. Bauche	75	IV 15 <sup>o</sup> 4-13-9
						20	VI 12 <sup>o</sup> 1-0-10
						26	X 11 <sup>o</sup> 1-4-11
						36	XVI 10 <sup>o</sup> 1-11-6
						10	VIII 12 <sup>o</sup> 0-10-0
				15	John Lovett	35	VI 12 <sup>o</sup> 1-16-5 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
				16	Skelton Conard & Co.	5 <sup>th</sup>	50 VIII 12 2-10-0
						65	X 11 <sup>o</sup> 3-2-3 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
						80	XII 17 3-13-4
				17	Mr. Madison	50	XVI br 10 <sup>o</sup> 2-3-9
				23	Col. Bell	20	X 11 <sup>o</sup> 0-19-2
						40	XVI 10 <sup>o</sup> 1-15-0
				26	Mr. Menovetter	65-10-1 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	12 <sup>o</sup> XX 10 0-10-5
Sep. 2	John Watson	10 <sup>th</sup>	IV	Sep. 4	Dr. Wardlaw	4	VIII br 1/3 0-5-0
	Higginbotham	30 <sup>th</sup>	X		Mr. Watson	28 <sup>o</sup>	IV 15 <sup>o</sup> 1-15-7 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
	Conard & Henderson	15 <sup>th</sup>	VIII		Henderson & Conard	50	XX 10 <sup>o</sup> 4-3-4
		1 <sup>st</sup>	10 2 <sup>o</sup> br.			50	XXX 10 <sup>o</sup> 0-17-6
		2 <sup>nd</sup>	26 X br.	6	Col. Monroe	14	IV 15 <sup>o</sup> 0-17-6
		7 <sup>th</sup>	140 XVI br.	7	Mr. Higginbotham	300	X 11 <sup>o</sup> 14-7-6
		6 <sup>th</sup>	150 XX				49 VI 12 <sup>o</sup> 2-11-0
		4 <sup>th</sup>	XXX				39 X 11 <sup>o</sup> 1-17-5
		2 <sup>nd</sup>	5 1 <sup>st</sup> 2 <sup>o</sup> VIII				6 XX 10 0-5-0
		2 <sup>nd</sup>	7 2 <sup>o</sup> VIII	11	John Robes	60	XVI 12 <sup>o</sup> 2-12-6
15	R. H. Allen	10 <sup>th</sup>	VI 70	12	John Smith	35	VI 12 <sup>o</sup> 1-16-5
		2 <sup>nd</sup>	VIII 20	13	Col. Monroe	10 <sup>o</sup>	IV 15 <sup>o</sup> 0-13-1 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
		25 <sup>th</sup>	X 32 <sup>o</sup>	Oct. 3	Henderson & Conard	150	VIII 12 <sup>o</sup> 8-0-0
		15 <sup>th</sup>	XX 37 <sup>o</sup>			10	2 <sup>o</sup> br 10 <sup>o</sup>
21	Higginbotham	30 <sup>th</sup>	IV			26	X br 11 <sup>o</sup> 1-4-11
23	Col. Bell	30 <sup>th</sup>	X 390			140	XVI 10 <sup>o</sup> 6-2-6
			50 X			150	XX 10 7-3-9
						22 <sup>o</sup>	XXX 10 0-15-0
						5	VI br 15 <sup>o</sup>
						7	VIII br 15 <sup>o</sup>

Figure 4. Colonel Monroe's orders are seen in Jefferson's accounts from 1799 (Nail Book, William Andrews Clark Memorial Library, UCLA)



Respect			1799.			Delivered			
Oct. 7.	Mr John Davison	8. 77 56 VI	Oct. 4.	R. H. Allen to charged Mr Higginbotham	70 VI 12 <sup>3</sup>	3-12-11			
		15. E 15 VIII			20 VIII 12 <sup>3</sup>	1-0-0			
		6. 77 78 X			32 <sup>1</sup> X 11 <sup>1</sup>	1-11-1 <sup>2</sup>			
		6. E 15 XX	9.	Reuben Perry	37 <sup>1</sup> XX 10	1-11-3			
		18. E 36 XVI. br.		John Davison	7. V. br. 15 <sup>3</sup>	0-8-9			
17.	Pro. Walker	20. 77 260 X			56 VI. 12 <sup>3</sup>	2-18-4			
		4. 77 100 XX			78 X 11 <sup>3</sup>	3-14-9			
			14.	Mr. Jonett	15 XX 10 <sup>3</sup>	0-12-6			
			15.	Henderson & Conard	20 XVI 10 <sup>3</sup>	0-17-6			
					140 XVI. br. 10 <sup>3</sup>	6-2-6			
					2 IV. 1/3	0-2-6			
Nov. 1.	Col. Monroe	5. 77 35 VI	17.	Col. Bell	50 VIII 12 <sup>3</sup>	2-10-0			
		3. 77 39 X		Man Dolph	50 X 11 <sup>1</sup>	2-7-11			
		2. 77 32 XII. br.	23.	Mr Higginbotham	15 IV				
		1. M. small sprip	28.	Francis Walker	43 IV 1/3	2-13-9			
			Nov. 3.	Col. Bell	86 VI 12 <sup>3</sup>	4-9-7			
				John Davison	260 X 11 <sup>1</sup>	12-9-2			
				John Davison	80 XVI 10 <sup>3</sup>	3-10-0			
				John Davison	4 IV 15 <sup>3</sup>	0-5-0			
				John Davison	15 VIII 12 <sup>3</sup>	0-15-0			
			12.	Col. Monroe	36 XVI. br. 10 <sup>3</sup>	1-11-6			
					35 VI 12 <sup>3</sup>	1-16-5 <sup>1</sup>			
					39 X 11 <sup>1</sup>	1-17-4 <sup>1</sup>			
					32 XII br. 11 <sup>3</sup>	1-9-4			
22.	Dr. Warlaw	8. X. br.	15.	Mr Higginbotham	1. 77. IV. sprip	0-3-11			
			23.	Dr. Warlaw	300 X 11 <sup>1</sup>	14-7-6			
					8 X 11 <sup>1</sup>	0-7-8			
			25.		12 XVI. br. 10 <sup>3</sup>	0-10-6			
				Charles Tennil	10 VIII. br. 12 <sup>3</sup>	0-10-0			
Dec. 1.	Mr Higginbotham	600 XVI.			28 VI. 12 <sup>3</sup>	1-9-2			
8.	Col. Coles	50 VIII			8 VIII 12 <sup>3</sup>	0-8-0			
		65 X	Dec. 9.	Mr Higginbotham	13 X 11 <sup>1</sup>	0-12-5 <sup>1</sup>			
		60 XVI			138 VI 12 <sup>3</sup>	7-3-9			
					90 X 11 <sup>1</sup>	4-6-3			
					100 XII 11	4-11-8			
					486 XVI 10 <sup>3</sup>	21-9-3			
			10.	Col. Coles	20 VIII 12 <sup>3</sup>	1-0-0			
				do far. pd.	12 XVI 10 <sup>3</sup>	0-10-6			
				do far. pd.	1. tagget 30 <sup>3</sup> rod	1-0-0			
			20.	Mr Higginbotham	114 XVI 10 <sup>3</sup>	4-10-8			
Accounts of nails sold by Richard Richardson from Dec. 21. 99. to May 29. 1800.									
	Nicholas Lewis. Jan. 13. 1800.	1. pr traces				1-4-0			
	Jan. 30.	4. pr traces				2-12-0			
	Reuben Perry. Feb. 10. 1800.	2 XII 11 <sup>3</sup>				1-10			
	May 11.	20 IV 1/3				1-8-0			
	Daniel Reynolds. Jan. 24.	1. pr traces				0-13-0			
	Man Dolph. 1800. Jan. 15.	10 X							
		10 XVI							
		10 IV							
March	W. J. Aldridge 1800.	100 VI. 12 <sup>3</sup>				5-4-2			
		50 VIII 12 <sup>3</sup>				2-10-0			
		100 X 11 <sup>1</sup>				4-15-10			
		100 XVI 10 <sup>3</sup>				4-7-6			
		100 XX 10				4-3-4			
March	Henderson & Connerd	78 X 11 <sup>1</sup>				3-14-9			
Jan. 28	Mr Davenport	6 VI. 12 <sup>3</sup>				6-3			
		3 X 11 <sup>1</sup>				2-10 <sup>1</sup>			

Figure 5. Colonel Monroe's orders are seen in Jefferson's accounts from 1799 (Nail Book, William Andrews Clark Memorial Library, UCLA)