



DISPATCH



A Newsletter of the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation • Fall 2007

British Museum Exhibition of John White Watercolors Coming to Jamestown Settlement in July 2008



An Indian Werowance, or Chief, John White, watercolor, c. 1585. ©The Trustees of the British Museum. All rights reserved.

Jamestown Settlement will exhibit the 16th-century watercolor drawings of John White from the British Museum's "A New World: England's First View of America" July 15 through October 15, 2008.

The drawings are the earliest visual record by an Englishman of the flora, fauna and people of the New World. White accompanied a number of expeditions sponsored by Sir Walter Raleigh to Virginia in the 1580s and was governor of the short-lived colony at Roanoke Island, part of modern North Carolina. He departed for England in 1587 to obtain more supplies, but war with Spain delayed his return until 1590. By then the colonists had vanished, and Roanoke became known as the "Lost Colony." Jamestown, America's first permanent English colony, was established 17 years later, about 100 miles away. White's depictions of the Algonquian-speaking people of the region have been an important resource in the development of Jamestown

Settlement's gallery exhibits and outdoor re-created Powhatan Indian village.

Scenes from other parts of the Americas and depictions of peoples of the world also are among the more than 70 White drawings in the exhibition. White's work is widely known through adaptations by other artists, especially Theodor de Bry, whose engravings after White's watercolors illustrate a 1590 edition of Thomas Harriot's "A briefe and true report of the new found land of Virginia."

All of White's drawings are in the British Museum's collection and are on public display as an entire group for the first time in 40 years. Described by the United Kingdom's *Telegraph* as "an enthralling exhibition" that "emphasizes not just the cultural importance of the works, but the humanity of the artist who made them," "A New World: England's First View of America" debuted at the British Museum from March to June 2007 and also will be shown at the North Carolina Museum of History in Raleigh and the Yale Center for British Art in New Haven, Connecticut.

The John White watercolors will be located in Jamestown Settlement's special exhibition gallery, presently the venue for "The World of 1607."

The exhibition at Jamestown Settlement is being funded in part by donations and grants, including an appropriation from James City County. ■



The town of Secotan, John White, watercolor, c. 1585. ©The Trustees of the British Museum. All rights reserved.

Commemorative Coins Flown on Space Shuttle Presented to Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation

One of two sets of Jamestown 400th anniversary commemorative gold and silver coins that traveled aboard Space Shuttle Atlantis to the International Space Station and back was presented to the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation during a September 6 ceremony at Jamestown Settlement.

The other set of coins went to the National Park Service at Historic Jamestowne, where a 17th-century cargo tag from the James Fort archaeological site that traveled in space along with the coins was returned to APVA Preservation Virginia and is on exhibit at the Archaearium. The coins and artifact were stowed aboard the shuttle during its 14-day mission in June to highlight the connection between NASA's space exploration efforts and the people who established America's first permanent English settlement in 1607.

"The commemorative coins depict Jamestown's legacies and the role they played in the creation of the United States," said Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation Executive Director Philip Emerson. "Like NASA's space program, the lega-

cies of Jamestown will continue to inspire generations of future explorers."

The commemorative coins were issued by the U.S. Mint in January 2007 and are available from the Mint only until December 31. The front of the \$5 gold coin depicts Captain John Smith conversing with a Virginia Indian. The reverse pictures the 17th-century church tower at Historic Jamestowne. The front of the silver dollar depicts "three faces of diversity," representing the Indian, European and African cultures that converged at Jamestown. The reverse depicts the three ships – *Susan Constant*, *Godspeed* and *Discovery* – that brought English settlers to Virginia in 1607.

The coins can be purchased online at www.usmint.gov or by calling 800-872-6468. The commemorative coins also are available at the Jamestown Settlement gift shop. ■



Patrick Forrester, one of the astronauts who flew the Atlantis mission, presented a set of 400th-anniversary commemorative coins and a certificate of authenticity to Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation Executive Director Philip Emerson. NASA Langley Research Center Director Lesa Roe and Virginia Secretary of Technology Aneesh Chopra also spoke at the September 6 event.

Role of Artillery in Revolutionary War Demonstrated at Yorktown Victory Center

For more than a decade, daily firings of a brass battalion gun have enthralled Yorktown Victory Center visitors. The popular demonstration begins with an explanation of the battalion gun's role in 18th-century warfare. Six spectators are then chosen to fill key positions on the gun crew and, with instruction from historical interpreters, perform tasks leading up to firing the gun. The demonstration concludes with staff firing the weapon.

Battalion guns fire solid shot in a straight line and, with a range of a mile, were used in open-field battles to intimidate and scatter the enemy. The Yorktown Victory Center replica gun is known as a "six-pounder," a reference to the weight of the shot.

Interpretation of artillery warfare at the Yorktown Victory Center has expanded with the recent addition of a four-and-a-half-inch (a reference to the diameter of the shot) coehorn mortar, a type of gun that fires a hollowed-out shell filled with black powder. With the ability to fire explosive charges over obstacles, mortars were extremely useful in siege warfare. At the Siege of Yorktown in 1781, mortars and other types of artillery were used to destroy barricades constructed by the British army. Examples of gabions – dirt-filled, basket-like structures used to construct defensive works – are displayed near the Victory Center's mortar and two battalion guns.

The daily mortar demonstration also involves visitors. Mortars were operated by more experienced and smaller crews than battalion guns, and three "bombardiers" are recruited from the audience for a run-through leading up to the actual firing of the gun.

The Yorktown Victory Center encampment, located behind the main



After a visitor-participatory mortar firing drill, starting at 1 p.m. daily, a Yorktown Victory Center interpreter fires the gun.



Visitors are recruited for the positions of loader, sponger, bombardier, linstock (lights the gun), runner and gun captain in Yorktown Victory Center demonstrations at 3 p.m. daily of the role of battalion guns in 18th-century warfare. The demonstration concludes with the museum's historical interpreters firing the weapon.



museum building, represents two companies of soldiers – one-quarter of a regiment. The setting includes a dozen soldiers' tents, an office for an adjutant or secretary, two captains' quarters, and an earthen "kitchen" for one company. There are several regimental features – quarters for a colonel, surgeon, and quartermaster or supply officer – as well as a women's area with makeshift shelters. Women who followed the army were related to soldiers and earned wages by performing domestic chores such as laundry.

In addition to artillery demonstrations, the encampment offers interpretive demonstrations on recruiting, punishment, espionage and cooking. A musket is fired every half hour. ■

Jamestown Settlement Event Marks Anniversary of First Legislative Assembly

Themed tours, interpretive programs and military exercises at Jamestown Settlement on August 4 commemorated the 388th anniversary of the first legislative assembly in British America. "The 1619 Assembly: A Jamestown Legacy" honored that first assembly of 20 "burgesses," which convened in the Jamestown church July 30 through August 4, 1619, marking the beginning of representative government, based on English law and political institutions, in what is now the United States of America.

In the new representation of the Anglican church within the re-created 1610-14 fort, historical vignettes depicted scenes from Virginia's first legislative assembly. Two other interpretive programs – "The Law & The Lord" and "The Rule of Law" – explored government in Jamestown's early years. The event also featured government-themed tours of gallery exhibits, including the short film "The Charters: Virginia's Government in the 17th Century," and of the museum's outdoor living-history areas.

Following the daytime event, renowned historian and Pulitzer Prize-winning author Doris Kearns Goodwin presented "The Lessons of History" as part of the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation's "2007 Heritage Lecture Series." The lecture drew 379 guests to the Robins Foundation Theater and overflow seating areas. ■



Elements of the 1619 assembly were re-enacted at Jamestown Settlement on August 4.

‘Virginia Indian Heritage Day’ at Jamestown Settlement on November 3 to Feature Virginia Indian Dancing, Panel Discussions and Children’s Activities

Virginia Indian culture and its important legacy in America will be honored on “Virginia Indian Heritage Day” at Jamestown Settlement on Saturday, November 3, with dancing and drumming, themed museum tours and hands-on children’s activities. In two panel discussions, Virginia Indian tribal leaders will share memories associated with the 1957 Jamestown commemoration and will explore contemporary issues facing the Virginia Indian community.

Jamestown Settlement also will present a special evening lecture, “Native America in the 21st Century: Out of the Mists and Beyond Myth” by W. Richard West, Jr., member of the Cheyenne and Arapaho tribes of Oklahoma and a Peace Chief of the Southern Cheyenne, and founding director of the Smithsonian’s National Museum of the American Indian. Advance reservations are recommended for the 7 p.m. lecture, the last in the 2007 Heritage series. (See calendar on page 6.)

During sessions from 9:30 to 11 a.m. and 2 to 4:30 p.m., children can participate in craft projects that reflect cultural practices of Virginia Indian peoples. Children will be able



W. Richard West, Jr.

to make cornhusk dolls and clay pinch-pots, string decorative beads, and color pictures that reflect Virginia Indian historical ways of life.

Members of Virginia’s eight state-recognized tribes will perform traditional and contemporary tribal dances in full regalia at 10:15-11 a.m. and 3:45-4:30 p.m. Chickahominy Assistant Chief Wayne Adkins will offer descriptions of each dance.

At 11:30 a.m., “Myth and Memory: Fifty Years of Change” – the first of two panel discussions – will feature tribal members’ recollections of Jamestown’s 350th-anniversary commemoration in 1957 and experiences during Jamestown’s 400th anniversary in 2007. The panel will reflect on the ways society has both changed and remained the same during the past 50 years



Virginia Indian dancing, shown here during America’s Anniversary Weekend in May, will be a highlight of “Virginia Indian Heritage Day” on November 3 at Jamestown Settlement.

and how these issues affect native peoples in Virginia and throughout the nation.

In “Virginia’s Native Peoples Today,” at 2 p.m., Virginia tribal leaders will examine issues facing tribal communities today, such as federal recognition, cultural preservation, education, economic development, and stereotypes and misperceptions about Virginia Indians.

Throughout the day, tours of Jamestown Settlement’s exhibition galleries will focus on the Powhatan Indian culture before English contact and through the 17th century. Interpretive programs in the re-created Powhatan Indian village show the Powhatan way of life, including methods of cooking, processing animal hides, making tools and pottery, and weaving natural fibers into cordage.

Daytime events are included with admission to Jamestown Settlement.

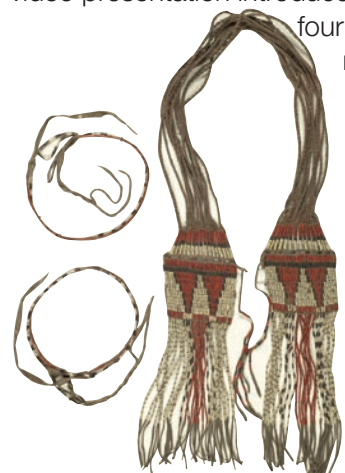
New Topics, Artifacts Introduced in Third Cycle of ‘The World of 1607’

The third cycle of “The World of 1607,” opening November 2, will explore the parallel development of the cities of Edo (Tokyo) and Paris, scientific measurement, the transmission of knowledge, literature promoting colonization, the beginnings of museums as cabinets of curiosity, and the impact of theater on British identity.

The yearlong exhibition debuted at Jamestown Settlement in April and was developed in collaboration with internationally recognized scholars who explored aspects of the intellectual and cultural life of peoples around the globe at the beginning of the modern era for 28 exhibition themes. A short video presentation introduces the exhibition, which is divided into

four cycles, each approximately three months in duration, featuring its own topics and artifacts from national institutions and eminent private collections.

Objects in the third cycle range from a Japanese tea cabinet from the 17th-century Royal Danish Kunstkammer, courtesy of the National Museum of Denmark, to North American garters and a neck ornament from the Canterbury Cathedral. The Folger Shakespeare Library will lend a 17th- or 18th-century copy of the famous “Chandos” portrait, named for a previous owner, that may de-



Garters and neck ornament made of dyed porcupine quills and skin. Courtesy of the Canterbury Cathedral, Bargrave Collection.

scribe English playwright and poet William Shakespeare.

The fourth cycle of “The World of 1607” will open in mid-winter and run through April 9, 2008.



East Indian cabinet with instruments for preparing tea, 1600, Japan, lacquered wood, bamboo, copper. Courtesy of the National Museum of Denmark, Ethnographic Collections.

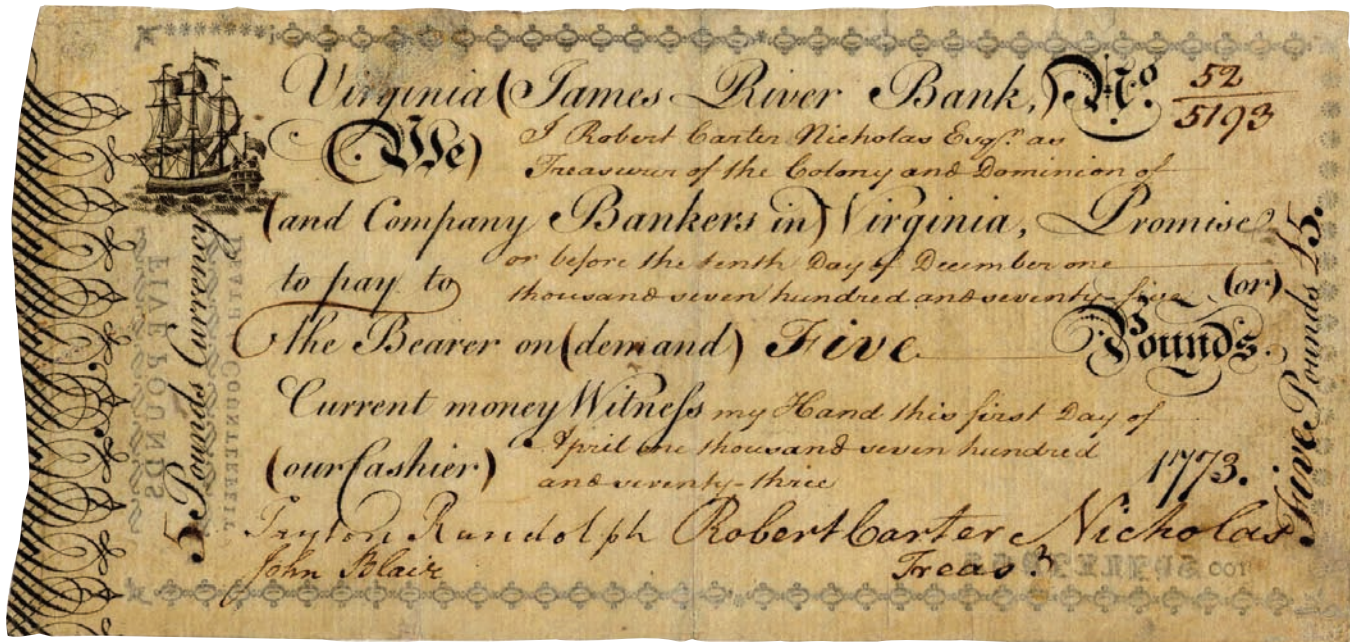


Shakespeare portrait, late 1600s to early 1700s, unknown artist after the Chandos portrait, oil on mahogany panel. Courtesy of the Folger Shakespeare Library, Washington, D.C., gift of Mary Hyde.

“Death to Counterfeit”: Colonial Virginia Paper Money

By Thomas E. Davidson, Ph.D.
Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation Senior Curator

During the colonial era there was a constant shortage of ready money in Virginia. The amount of British coin and currency circulating in the colony was small compared to the volume of business that had to be transacted. Virginians made do with a mixture of foreign coins, mostly from Spain’s American colonies, some paper money printed for other British colonies, and various sorts



A Virginia James River Bank note adapted by the Virginia government for use as official currency has been acquired for exhibit at the Yorktown Victory Center. Issued in 1773, the note was signed by Peyton Randolph, the first president of the Continental Congress, John Blair and Robert Carter Nicholas. The back of the note is marked “Death to Counterfeit.”

of bills of credit, that is, private fiscal obligations backed by individual merchants. Large planters in particular shipped their tobacco to British-based trading firms, who by and large paid not in money but in credit.

Some other colonies began to both issue paper currency and mint coins in the 17th century, but Virginia didn’t start making its own money until the latter part of the 18th century. Virginia’s first paper money came out in 1755 to help finance the colony’s involvement in the French and Indian War. Strictly speaking, Virginia paper notes weren’t really currency; they were bills of credit backed by the colony, to be paid off out of future tax revenues. They functioned like currency though, and were used to pay public and private debts.

The use of paper money in Virginia and other colonies created a whole new set of problems however. By the 1750s there were several different colonial paper currencies circulating in North America. Even though these currencies typically were denominated in pounds, shillings and pence, they were not all equivalent in actual value. Merchants might offer different rates for two notes of the same face value because some colonies’ money was considered to be more valuable and trustworthy than others.

Paper notes also were very easy to counterfeit. This is a problem even today, and the U.S. treasury periodically changes the design of our money in order to make counterfeiting more difficult. In the 18th century, governments did not have access to the kinds of special inks, paper and computerized printing techniques that make money difficult to copy. Anyone with access to a printing press and a variety of typefaces could produce a reasonable facsimile of colonial paper notes. As a result, a great deal of the currency circulating in late 18th-century Virginia was counterfeit.

By the 1750s there were several different colonial paper currencies circulating in North America.

Detecting bad money was made especially difficult by the fact that there were several different issues of money being used in Virginia at the same time. A Virginia merchant might be offered payment in a mixture of coins and paper money that included silver in the form of Spanish pieces of eight, German

thalers and Portuguese cruzados, as well as Virginia paper money of different issue dates and other paper currencies such as Maryland four-dollar bills, North Carolina six-pound notes, and Pennsylvania five-shilling bills of credit. The merchant was not obliged to accept all of these different non-Virginia currencies, but if he did not, his customers might not be able to pay.

Silver coins could be weighed to determine their

approximate value as silver bullion. Paper notes had no intrinsic value, so in the end it all came down to the merchant’s faith in a particular colony’s willingness to stand behind its money.

By the early 1770s there was a growing reluctance to accept even Virginia paper money. In particular, many counterfeits of the treasury note issues of November 1769 and July 1771 were being passed in the colony.

Virginia acquired a stock of already printed “Virginia James River Bank” notes and modified them to make them an official issue of the colony.

Virginia’s government decided that it had to take emergency action to restore confidence in its paper money. In early 1773, Virginia decided to recall immediately the paper money issues of 1769 and 1771 and replace them with a brand-new issue of paper notes. These new notes really were just promissory notes that the Virginia government pledged to pay off in 1775.

This currency replacement was done so quickly that there was not time to print completely new notes. Instead Virginia acquired a stock of already printed “Virginia James River Bank” notes and modified them to make them an official issue of the

colony. The James River Bank notes had been printed in England as part of a failed attempt to establish a private bank of that name. The bank’s charter was never granted, so the bank could not issue notes in its own right. The Virginia government simply took the bank note forms and filled them in by hand, putting any inappropriate text in parentheses to show that it was not valid.

Each of the bank notes was signed by representatives of the Virginia government as a guarantee that it was genuine. One of the signatories was Peyton Randolph, who a year later would become the first president of the Continental Congress. Each James River Bank note was also marked on the back with the phrase “Death to Counterfeit” to convey just how seriously the colony took the issue of printing illegal money. Virginia’s problems with counterfeiting were not over however. The Revolutionary War years were to prove even more challenging to Virginia’s goal of producing paper money that would retain its value in the face of rampant counterfeiting. ■

Noteworthy

AMERIGROUP Foundation Funds 2007 Heritage Lecture

The AMERIGROUP Foundation has given \$75,000 to “The Campaign for Jamestown Settlement, 1607-2007” for educational initiatives, including the 2007 Heritage Lecture given by best-selling author and NBC News Presidential Historian Michael Beschloss at Jamestown Settlement’s Robins Foundation Theater October 6. Mr. Beschloss spoke on “Great Presidents Past and Present” to a capacity audience. The foundation is the philanthropic arm of the AMERIGROUP Corporation, a managed health services company based in Virginia Beach.

A gift of \$25,000 from Sue and John Gerdelman of Williamsburg and a \$10,000 grant from the City of Williamsburg support technology applications in the Jamestown Settlement galleries. The grants will fund high-definition video players, a plasma screen and other equipment for audio-visual components of the museum exhibits. Sue Gerdelman is a member of the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, Inc., Board of Directors.

Six Virginia Ports Welcome Godspeed



Jamestown Settlement’s *Godspeed* has had a central role in commemorating the 400th anniversary of the founding of Jamestown, beginning with a goodwill tour to six East Coast ports in 2006, continuing with visits to eight Hampton Roads and Richmond locations in Spring 2007, and concluding with voyages to six Virginia ports this fall.

In September the ship visited Onancock, Mount Vernon and Quantico. The *Godspeed*, a replica of one of the three ships that brought America’s first permanent English colonists to Virginia in 1607, will be in Urbanna for the town’s annual

Oyster Festival on November 2 and 3, Charles City County November 9 and 10, and New Kent County November 16 and 17.

Public tours of the ship are offered in all of the ports, with Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation historical interpreters providing on-board and pier-side presentations on 17th-century shipboard life, ship handling, navigation and commodities transported by sea. School groups visited the ship in Onancock and Quantico and are scheduled in Urbanna, Charles City and New Kent counties for maritime education programs. Foundation educators also will present “Cultures at Jamestown” for students on November 1 in Urbanna.

Campaign for Jamestown Settlement Nears Goal

As of August 31, 2007, gifts and commitments to “The Campaign for Jamestown Settlement, 1607-2007” amounted to more than \$23.5 million toward the campaign’s goal of \$24.2 million. Funding goals have been reached for many components of the campaign, including improvements to all of Jamestown Settlement’s outdoor interpretive areas, a new introductory film, “The World of 1607” special exhibition, “Quadricentennial Minutes,” statewide outreach education and Web-site educational resources.

While the goal is within reach, more than \$5 million is still required to fully fund all components of the campaign, including endowment, teachers’ institutes and upcoming special exhibitions in 2008 and 2009.

Naming and recognition opportunities are available to donors making campaign commitments of \$10,000 or more. To learn more about the campaign and how to make a gift, contact Ms. Carter Sonders, chief development officer, at (757) 253-4139.

Elderhostel Participants Contribute and Learn at Foundation Museums

Since 2001 the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation has partnered with the College of William and Mary to offer a week-long service Elderhostel every March in which participants make a contribution to the Foundation museums while learning about their historical themes. This year, at an additional session in September, Elderhostelers prepared matting for houses in Jamestown Settlement’s re-created Powhatan Indian village, assembled promotional mailings and educational program materials, and assisted with landscaping and chopping and stacking firewood, in addition to touring Jamestown Settlement and the Yorktown Victory Center and attending educational presentations.

Elderhostel is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to providing learning opportunities for people 55 and over.



Elderhostel participants prepare matting for houses in Jamestown Settlement’s re-created Powhatan Indian village.

Electronic Classroom to Debut Online

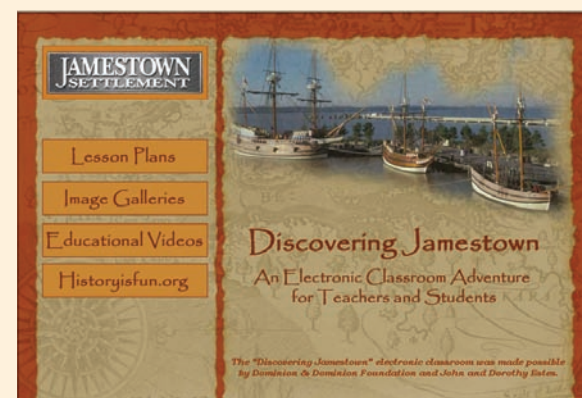
“Discovering Jamestown,” a new online educational initiative developed by the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation in partnership with WHRO Public Broadcasting for Hampton Roads debuts this fall on www.whro.org and will be distributed nationwide by the National Educational Telecommunications Association (NETA).

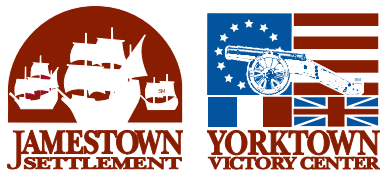
An electronic classroom adventure for teachers and students, the program features six videos, five lesson plans, and image galleries containing graphics from the Foundation’s collection and photographs from Jamestown Settlement. Five topics are covered in eight-minute videos: the voyage to Virginia; the English; Powhatan Indians; west central Africans; and the legacy of Jamestown. A sixth video, approximately 20 minutes in length, provides a summary of all of the topics.

The “Discovering Jamestown” electronic classroom was supported by gifts from Dominion and the Dominion Foundation and Mr. John F. Estes III in memory of his late wife Dorothy Estes.

The NETA distribution system features a searchable catalog of electronic programming available for download by institutions or individuals, and will provide a means to take the Jamestown story to a national audience with a variety of educational resources that teachers can use in their classrooms.

“Discovering Jamestown” also will be accessible through a link from the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation’s marketing Web site www.historyisfun.org, which features a variety of educational materials including lesson plans, background essays, and video biographies and “Quadricentennial Minutes.”





The Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, an educational agency of the Commonwealth of Virginia, administers Jamestown Settlement and Yorktown Victory Center living-history museums. For more information, call (757) 253-4838.



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Calendar

Jamestown Settlement and the Yorktown Victory Center continue the commemoration of the 400th anniversary of the founding of America's first permanent English colony with monthly interpretive themes and special events.

OCTOBER

VIRGINIA HISTORY AND ARCHAEOLOGY MONTH

October 20-21

Yorktown Victory Celebration

Yorktown Victory Center, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Demonstrations of military life and tactics mark the 226th anniversary of America's victory at Yorktown. Special programs also held October 19, the actual date of the British surrender, in Yorktown and at the Yorktown Battlefield, administered by Colonial National Historical Park.

NOVEMBER

VIRGINIA INDIAN HERITAGE MONTH

November 3

Virginia Indian Heritage Day

Jamestown Settlement, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Themed tours, interpretive programs, and demonstrations of intertribal dancing and drumming highlight the Virginia Indian culture and its important legacy in America. In panel discussions, Virginia Indian tribal leaders will share memories associated with the 1957 Jamestown commemoration and explore contemporary issues facing the Virginia Indian community. (Story on page 3.)

November 3

2007 Heritage Lecture

Jamestown Settlement, Robins Foundation Theater, 7 p.m.

"Native America in the 21st Century:
Out of the Mists and Beyond Myth"

W. Richard West, Jr., founding director of the Smithsonian's

National Museum of the American Indian. Advance reservations are recommended by calling (757) 253-4415 or e-mailing rsvp.lecture@jyf.virginia.gov.

November 22-24

Foods & Feasts of Colonial Virginia

Jamestown Settlement & Yorktown Victory Center

9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Explore Virginia foodways of the 17th and 18th centuries during this three-day event beginning on Thanksgiving Day. At Jamestown Settlement, learn how food was gathered, preserved and prepared on land and at sea by Virginia's English colonists and Powhatan Indians. At the Yorktown Victory Center, learn about typical soldiers' fare during the American Revolution and trace the bounty of a 1780s farm from field to kitchen.

DECEMBER

December 22-31

A Colonial Christmas

Jamestown Settlement & Yorktown Victory Center

9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Experience 17th- and 18th-century holiday traditions. At Jamestown Settlement, a film and special guided tours compare and contrast English Christmas customs of the period with how the season may have been observed in the difficult early years of the Jamestown colony. At the Yorktown Victory Center, hear accounts of Christmas and winter in military encampments during the American Revolution and glimpse holiday preparations on a 1780s Virginia farm.

Jamestown Settlement and the Yorktown Victory Center tell the story of the nation's beginnings, from the 1607 arrival of America's first permanent English colonists in Virginia, to the American Revolution and the formation of the new nation. Both museums feature gallery exhibits and living history in outdoor re-created settings – Powhatan Indian village, three ships, colonial fort and riverfront discovery area at Jamestown Settlement, and Continental Army encampment and 1780s farm at the Yorktown Victory Center.

The museums are open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (until 6 p.m. June 15-August 15) daily year-round, except Christmas and New Year's days. Guided tours of Jamestown Settlement's outdoor areas are offered several times daily, and both museums have ongoing and specially scheduled demonstrations of military, economic and domestic activities of the 1600s and 1700s. For more information, call (888) 593-4682 toll-free or (757) 253-4838 or visit www.historyisfun.org.