At 50, a ‘New’ Jamestown Settlement Commemo

Jamestown Settlement, which opened April 1, 1957, as Jamestown Festival Park, the Commonwealth of Virginia’s setting for the 350th anniversary of the founding of America’s first permanent English colony, is a stage for the 400th-anniversary commemoration in 2007 and is positioned to serve the public in the decades ahead.

Though key elements of 1957’s Jamestown Festival Park — gallery exhibits, outdoor re-created 17th-century settings and educational purpose — remain, Jamestown Settlement has been transformed for the 21st century with new state-of-the-art facilities, exhibits and programs.

The site accomplished major milestones in 1987, with accreditation by the American Association of Museums, and in 1990, with a change in name to Jamestown Settlement and the introduction of a new story line and growing collection in new 15,000-square-foot exhibition galleries.

Since the adoption of a comprehensive facilities master plan by the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation Board of Trustees in 1997, a 143,000-square-foot visitor services and gallery complex has been completed. The complex houses classrooms, staff work space, visitor information and ticketing, gift shops, café, theater and exhibition galleries. Also in place is new roadway access to Jamestown Settlement and a parking area that accommodates more than 500 guest vehicles, doubling previous capacity. Flags of the 50 states lining the Jamestown Settlement Quadricentennial Plaza mark the approach from automobile parking to the museum entrance.

While the 1957 Jamestown Festival Park exhibits were educational, the major improvements of 1990 and recent scholarship have provided the basis for a comprehensive examination of 17th-century Virginia’s Powhatan Indian, English and African cultures in new Jamestown Settlement exhibits.

A new introductory film, 1607: A Nation Takes Root, and 30,000-square-foot exhibition space bring to life the events and environment of 17th-century Virginia with vivid images, the personal stories of an array of individuals who had a role in shaping a new society, and the commentary of contemporary observers.

The new galleries provide a setting for one of the most varied collections of objects relating to the nation’s beginnings in 17th-century Virginia. During the past 20 years, the collection has been developed to support the museum’s story line and includes objects representative of the Powhatan Indian, European and African cultures that converged in 1600s Virginia. More than 500 artifacts, including portraits, documents, furnishings, toys, ceremonial and decorative objects, tools and weapons, are integrated into a gallery setting that features three-dimensional life-size structures, audio and lighting effects, and small-theater presentations.

An extensive revitalization of the outdoor interpretive areas was an important component of the facilities master plan. A new riverfront discovery area highlights the role of the James River and other waterways in 17th-century travel, commerce and cultural exchange, reflecting Powhatan Indian, European and African traditions.

continued on page 2
Jamestown Settlement Commemorates

continued from page 1

and repair watercraft, compare methods of fishing, display examples of trade items and commodities, and discuss mapping and navigation. A Paspahegh site found archaeologically a few miles from Jamestown in the 1990s serves as the model for a reconfiguration of the Powhatan Indian village. The Paspaheghs were the Powhatan tribal group that lived closest to the English settlement at Jamestown. Six full-size buildings, made of sapling frames covered with reed mats, have been re-created from the archaeological site, which dates to the early 17th century and is depicted in entirety in a scale model inside the museum galleries. The Powhatan village is bordered by a new discovery trail using plantings and signage to interpret the relationship of the Powhatans to the environment.

A new Godspeed and Discovery have joined the Susan Constant to represent the three ships that arrived in Virginia in 1607. At the pier where the ships are docked, an open-sided structure resembling a 17th-century waterfront building provides additional space and shelter for maritime demonstrations. Architectural designs for the two new ships were based on the historically documented tonnages, or cargo capacities, of the original vessels and extensive research of 17th-century ships. The Susan Constant was replaced in 1991.

continued on page 8

Boatbuilding techniques of Powhatan, African and European cultures are demonstrated and compared at Jamestown Settlement’s new riverfront discovery area.

At the Powhatan Indian village (right), six full-size buildings have been re-created from an early 17th-century archaeological site. Other features of the village are a garden, outdoor fire pits and work stations where historical interpreters demonstrate how the Powhatans cultivated crops, prepared meals and made household objects and tools from materials available from nature. “Powhatan’s Lodge” (above) was a feature of Jamestown Festival Park.

Jamestown Settlement’s new exhibition galleries describe the “parent” cultures of 17th-century Virginia and the interaction that helped shape a distinctly American character. Pictured are a diorama representing a setting in Angola, homeland of the first known Africans in Virginia and an exhibit about Powhatan seasons; a full-scale partial re-creation of the Susan Constant, one of the three ships that sailed to Virginia in 1607, with interactive exhibits on cargo and navigation inside; and re-creations, based on archaeological sites, of a late 17th-century Indian cabin, slave quarter and planter’s house.

1957 exhibits (represented above left) depicting Jamestown’s British origins and the contributions of Virginians to the development of the United States were replaced in 1990 with a new research- and collection-based story line (above right). Today’s Jamestown Settlement galleries are located in a 40,000-square-foot building, shown below, part of a new 143,000-square-foot visitor services and gallery complex. The brick “Discovery Tower” at right is the only architectural feature remaining from 1957.

A new Godspeed, shown below, and new Discovery have joined the Susan Constant at the Jamestown Settlement pier. The first-generation replicas of the three ships that brought English colonists to Virginia in 1607, built in the 1950s, are shown (left) at Jamestown Festival Park.
Special Events, Themes Mark America's 400th Anniversary in 2007

In 2007, as in 1957, a milestone anniversary of the founding of Jamestown in May 1607 is commemorated throughout Virginia's Historic Triangle with new multimillion-dollar exhibits and visitor facilities, major events and educational programs. The Jamestown-

Jamestown Settlement's re-created Susan Constant, Godspeed and Discovery have significant roles in events commemorating the 400th anniversary of the founding of Jamestown. The three ships will be off First Landing State Park April 26 and 27 to mark the 400th anniversary of the original ships' arrival at Cape Henry and will sail in the James River on May 12, during America's Anniversary Weekend. The Godspeed participated in a goodwill tour to six East Coast ports in 2006, the inaugural event of America's 400th Anniversary, and is calling at 15 Virginia ports in 2007.

The premier event of 2007 is "America's Anniversary Weekend," May 11-13, with cultural demonstrations and exhibits, historical pageantry, ceremonies, and musical and dramatic performances at Jamestown Settlement, Historic Jamestowne and Apprentice House Park, adjacent to Jamestown Settlement. Visitors will have a rare opportunity to witness Jamestown Settlement's three replica ships – Susan Constant, Godspeed and Discovery – sailing in the James River on May 12.

Launching the 400th-anniversary year, the Virginia General Assembly convened at Jamestown Settlement on January 10 for Governor Timothy M. Kaine's State of the Commonwealth address, which was broadcast by WCVE Richmond PBS from the Robins Foundation Theater.

United States Mint Director Edmund C. Moy was at Jamestown Settlement the next day for a ceremony announcing the issue of gold and silver commemorative coins in honor of Jamestown's 400th anniversary and to sign Certificates of Authenticity for coins purchased at the Jamestown Settlement gift shop.

Participants in the ceremony were (below, left to right) National Park Service Jamestown 400th Project Director Alexander L. (Sandy) Rives, APVA Preservation Virginia Executive Director Elizabeth Kostelny, Mr. Moy, Jamestown 2007 Executive Director Jeanne Zeidler, Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation Co-Chairman Thomas K. Norment, Jr., and Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation Executive Director Philip G. Emerson.

Yorktown Foundation has worked actively with state, local and federal partners to realize the full potential of the Jamestown quadricentennial for bringing national and international attention and economic benefit to the region and state.

Throughout 2007, special programs and events at Jamestown Settlement and the Yorktown Victory Center will mark the 400th anniversary of the founding of Jamestown and explore its role in the evolution of government, cultural and social institutions that characterize today's United States.

Tours, demonstrations and presentations at both museums feature a different theme each month: religious freedom heritage in January; black history in February; women's history in March; natural environment in April; Jamestown in May; cultures of Virginia in June; celebration of liberty in July; free enterprise/agriculture and industry in August; rule of law in September; Virginia history and archaeology in October; and Virginia Indian heritage in November.

Special events on June 2, August 4 and November 3 focus, respectively, on African heritage, the first representative assembly in British America, and the culture and legacy of Virginia Indians. The 2007 Heritage Lecture Series features nationally prominent scholars on these and other topics.

A yearlong special exhibition, "The World of 1607," opening at Jamestown Settlement on April 27, portrays Jamestown and Virginia as part of an intellectual, social and economic "new world" that brought together peoples and ideas from around the globe.

The 2007 Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation's 2007 Special Programs brochure is available in the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation's 2007 Special Programs brochure and on www.historyisfun.org, with links to partner Web sites.

Vice President Richard M. Nixon participated in ceremonies at Jamestown Festival Park on May 13, 1957. Queen Elizabeth II visited on October 16, 1957.

Detailed information about 2007 events is available in the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation's 2007 Special Programs brochure and on www.historyisfun.org, with links to partner Web sites.
The World of 1607
Places Jamestown in Global Context

‘The World of 1607’ in Jamestown Settlement’s state-of-the-art theater and special exhibition building places America’s first permanent English colony in a global context, portraying a larger world of discovery, strife, expansion, innovation, artistic expression and cultural exchange.

The conceptual framework of the yearlong exhibition – April 27, 2007, until April 2008 – and accompanying catalog was developed in collaboration with a group of 28 internationally recognized scholars, each of whom explores an aspect of the intellectual and cultural life of peoples around the globe at the beginning of the modern era.

The exhibition is divided into four distinct cycles, each three months in duration, with its own topics and artifacts from museums, libraries and private collections in more than 10 countries.

Among objects scheduled for the exhibition are:

- 15th-century copy of Magna Carta, the “great charter” negotiated by English nobility with King John in 1215 that is the basis for English common law and the American legal system. Loaned by the Earl of Leicester and the Trustees of the Holkham Estate in England, the copy to be exhibited in “The World of 1607” is annotated by Sir Edward Coke, prominent English jurist who initiated the 1628 Petition of Right, a statement of the principles of liberty. The same copy of Magna Carta was exhibited at Jamestown Festival Park in 1987. (Cycles I and II)

- two signature objects dating to 1607, the jade wine cup of Emperor Jahangir of India, inscribed with his titles, from the Brooklyn Museum, on loan from a private collection, and a gift steeple cup made in London, from the collection of John R. Hyman and Betty C. Leviner of Williamsburg. (Cycle I)

- snaphaunce-lock fowling piece, a gift of King James I of England to King Philip III of Spain, from the Patrimonio Nacional in Madrid. The gun was part of a shipload of hunting equipment sent by James to mark a 1604 treaty of peace that made it possible for England to establish the Virginia colony in 1607. (Cycle I)

- suit of Japanese armor, given in 1613 to Captain John Saris for King James I by Tokugawa Hidetada, second shogun of Japan’s Tokugawa dynasty, and the field armor of Henry Wriothesley, third Earl of Southampton, treasurer of the Virginia Company and patron of Shakespeare, possibly acquired during the Earl’s diplomatic mission to Paris in 1598, courtesy of the Board of Trustees of the Armouries, Leeds, England. (Cycle I)

- among numerous objects from the Museum of London, two of three surviving copperplate sections from the earliest known map of London and a selection of jewelry from the famed “Cheapside Hoard,” a cache of Elizabethan- and Jacobean-period jewelry and other precious objects discovered in 1912, believed to be a goldsmith’s stock-in-trade. (Cycle II)

- Virginia Indian items from the Tradescant Collection of the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford, England. A beaded skin pouch, two ball-headed clubs and a hardwood bow are from a collection established during the first half of the 17th century by two John Tradescants – father and son – who were naturalists and collectors. (Cycle II)

- African carved ivory saltcellar and other objects from the 17th-century Royal Danish Kunstkammer, courtesy of the National Museum of Denmark in Copenhagen. The earliest African objects obtained by European collectors were carved ivories created specifically for European patrons by West African artists between 1490 and 1600. Made by a Benin artist about 1600, the saltcellar was registered in 1675 in the collection of the king of Denmark. (Cycles III and IV)

- French ivory compass sundial dating to the late 16th or 17th century, once owned by Queen Elizabeth I, acquired by Queen Mary of England on marriage to King Philip II of Spain in 1554. (Cycle III IV)

Yorktown Victory Center Chronicles Transition From Colonial Status to Nationhood

Like Jamestown Settlement, the Yorktown Victory Center’s origins are linked to commemoration of a historical event. The Commonwealth of Virginia opened the museum in 1976, at the beginning of the nation’s Bicentennial, with exhibits about the American Revolution and the decisive American victory at Yorktown in 1781.

In the early 1990s, the Yorktown Victory Center underwent a major renovation and expansion of its story line to encompass events that led to the American Revolution and the formation of a new national government afterward. Emphasis was placed on the experiences of diverse groups of people during the Revolutionary era. The living-history program was expanded with the development of a re-created 1780s farm and improvements to the Continental Army encampment.

New Yorktown Victory Center exhibits debuted in time for the 225th anniversary of the Siege of Yorktown in October 2006. The long-term exhibition, “The Legacy of Yorktown: Virginia Beckons,” in the museum’s Mathews Gallery, tells the story of people who shaped Virginia society, from the Powhatan Indians to Europeans and Africans who began arriving in the 1600s. The exhibition focuses on individuals and groups who came to Virginia over a 200-year period beginning in 1607 and incorporates the theme of creating a new national government with the Constitution and Bill of Rights.

A concurrent renovation of the museum entrance gallery interprets the Declaration of Independence as a radical document that inspired decisive action and links the theme of choosing a path – siding with the Americans or British or remaining neutral – with stories told in the Witnesses to Revolution Gallery.

Along with the new exhibits, the gallery building entrance was redesigned, with dramatic images of the Revolutionary War period beckoning visitors inside. Exhibit lighting throughout the museum and audio-visual equipment in the Witnesses to Revolution Gallery were upgraded. Extensive renovations of the Yorktown Victory Center are planned over the next decade.

The Yorktown Victory Center’s entrance gallery interprets the Declaration of Independence as a radical document that inspired decisive action.

Public-Private Partnership Ensures Excellence, Success of Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation Programs

Private gifts and grants have had an integral role in the revitalization of Jamestown Settlement and expansion of educational offerings.

More than $24.2 million “Campaign for Jamestown Settlement, 1607-2007,” which has supported the new riverfront discovery area, construction of the new Godspeed and Discovery, the new introductory film, and theater presentations and technology for the new museum exhibition galleries. The campaign also has provided funding for acquisition of “signature” artifacts for the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation collection, “The World of 1607” special exhibition, expansion of outreach education programs and other educational programming initiatives.

An important component of the campaign is the Annual Fund, which provides unrestricted and ongoing support for artifact acquisition and a variety of museum programs.

Future private fund development will focus on building the endowment and Annual Fund to ensure continuing excellence of museum programs and support for enhancements at the Yorktown Victory Center.

The late Nick and Mary Mathews, who donated the land on which the Yorktown Victory Center stands, were present for the grand opening on April 1, 1976. From left to right are the late Lewis A. McMurran, Jr., founding chairman of the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation and chairman of the Virginia Independence Bicentennial Commission; U.S. Senator John W. Warner, then administrator of the American Revolution Bicentennial Administration; John O.W. Moreton, then British minister to the United States; Jacques Kosciusko-Morizet, then French ambassador to the United States; Mrs. Mathews; Mrs. Mills E. Godwin, Jr., then First Lady of Virginia; Mr. Mathews; and the late Governor Godwin.

The Robert V. Hatcher, Jr. Rotunda and Robins Foundation Theater are named for major supporters of the “Campaign for Jamestown Settlement, 1607-2007.” James City County and federal transportation enhancement grants awarded through the Virginia Department of Transportation have also provided major support to the campaign.
Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation Educational Mission Reflected in Array of Offerings

Jamestown Settlement has been a popular destination for student groups for 50 years. In 1957 the Jamestown Festival Guide Service coordinated group visits and provided guided tours for 56,641 students. Many groups visited as the result of information distributed by the Virginia Department of Education to public schools encouraging participation in 350th-anniversary-year programs.

Today an array of educational programs, ranging from hands-on instruction to broadcasts, complements and extends the learning experience presented in gallery exhibits and living-history settings at Jamestown Settlement and the Yorktown Victory Center.

The Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation is the leading provider of structured museum education programs in Virginia, and its programs, which correlate with the Virginia Standards of Learning, have been recognized for excellence by the American Association for State and Local History and the National Council for the Social Studies. During the 2005-06 academic year, there were 206,580 participants in structured educational programming at Jamestown Settlement and the Yorktown Victory Center.

Curriculum-based education programs are offered at Jamestown Settlement and the Yorktown Victory Center and in outreach settings.

Teaching the Jamestown and Yorktown Story

- On-site student programs
- Outreach programs in classrooms throughout Virginia
- National outreach
- Teacher training
- 2007 Elementary Classroom Scholarship Program
- Web-based curriculum materials
  Historical background
  Lesson plans
  Video lessons
- Public broadcasting partnerships
  Quadricentennial Minutes
  Jamestown: Founding of America documentary
  Electronic classrooms

“Quadricentennial Minutes” were produced through a Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation partnership with WCVE Community Idea Stations for broadcast on public television and radio and webcast.

Internet Adds New Dimension to Communication in 2007

Print was the primary medium for promoting the 1957 Jamestown Festival. Brochures, magazine and newspaper advertising, posters and signage continue to be important in 2007, but the Internet has brought messaging about Jamestown Settlement and the Yorktown Victory Center to a new level.

The www.historyisfun.org Web site has evolved in complexity and purpose since its debut in 1997. Visitors can access detailed information about planning a visit to the museums and special events and programs and can purchase admission tickets online. The site also includes links to other area attractions, historical resource information, educational materials, information about supporting the museums, and a newsroom.
Jamestown Legacies Endure, Shape Our Lives Today

By Nancy Egloff
Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation Historian

The founding of Jamestown, America’s first permanent English colony, in Virginia in 1607 – 13 years before the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth in Massachusetts – sparked a series of cultural encounters that helped shape the nation and the world. The government, language, customs, beliefs and aspirations of these early Virginians are all part of the United States’ heritage today.

The colony was sponsored by the Virginia Company of London, a group of investors who hoped to profit from the venture. Chartered in 1606 by King James I, the company also supported English national goals of counterbalancing the expansion of other European nations abroad, seeking a northwest passage to the Orient, and converting the Virginia Indians to the Anglican religion.

The Susan Constant, Godspeed and Discovery, carrying 105 passengers, one of whom died during the voyage, departed from England in December 1606 and reached the Virginia coast in late April 1607. The expedition was led by Captain Christopher Newport. After two weeks of exploration, a site offering deep water anchorage and a good defensive position was selected, and on May 14 work began on the settlement. Initially, the colony was governed by a council of seven, with one member serving as president.

Serious problems soon emerged in the small English outpost, which was located in the midst of a chiefdom of about 14,000 Algonquian-speaking Indians ruled by the powerful leader Powhatan. Relations with the Powhatan Indians were tenuous, although trading opportunities were established. An unfamiliar climate, as well as a brackish water supply and lack of food, conditions possibly aggravated by a prolonged drought, led to disease and death. Many of the original colonists were upper-class Englishmen, and the colony lacked sufficient laborers and skilled farmers.

The first two English women arrived at Jamestown in 1608, and more came in subsequent years. Men outnumbered women, however, for most of the 17th century.

Captain John Smith became the colony’s leader in September 1608 – the fourth in a succession of council presidents – and established a “no work, no food” policy. Smith had been instrumental in trading with the Powhatan Indians for food. However, in the fall of 1609 he was injured by burning gunpowder and left for England. Smith never returned to Virginia, but promoted the colonization of North America until his death in 1616 and published numerous accounts of the Virginia colony, providing invaluable material for historians.

Smith’s departure was followed by the “starving time,” a period of warfare between the colonists and Indians and the deaths of many English men and women from starvation and disease. Just when the colonists decided to abandon Jamestown in Spring 1610, settlers with supplies arrived from England, eager to find wealth in Virginia. This group of new settlers arrived under the second charter issued by King James I. This charter provided for stronger leadership under a governor who served with a group of advisors, and the introduction of a period of military law that carried harsh punishments for those who did not obey.

In order to make a profit for the Virginia Company, settlers tried a number of small industries, including glassmaking, wood production, and pitch and tar and potash manufacture. However, until the introduction of tobacco as a cash crop about 1613 by colonist John Rolfe, who later married Powhatan’s daughter Pocahontas, none of the colonists’ efforts to establish profitable enterprises were successful. Tobacco cultivation required large amounts of land and labor and stimulated the rapid growth of the Virginia colony. Settlers moved onto the lands occupied by the Powhatan Indians, and increased numbers of indentured servants came to Virginia.

The first documented Africans in Virginia arrived in 1619. They were from the kingdom of Ndongo in Angola, West Central Africa, and had been captured during war with the Portuguese. While these first Africans may have been treated as indentured servants, the customary practice of owning Africans as slaves for life appeared by mid-century. The number of African slaves increased significantly in the second half of the 17th century, replacing indentured servants as the primary source of labor.

The first representative government in British America began at Jamestown in 1619 with the convening of a general assembly, at the request of settlers who wanted input in the laws governing them. After a series of events including a 1622 war with the Powhatan Indians and misconduct among some of the Virginia Company leaders in England, the Virginia Company was dissolved by the king in 1624, and Virginia became a royal colony. Jamestown continued as the center of Virginia’s political and social life until 1699 when the seat of government moved to Williamsburg. Although Jamestown ceased to exist as a town by the mid 1700s, its legacies are embodied in today’s United States.

The English settlement at Jamestown was in the midst of a chiefdom of about 14,000 Algonquian-speaking Indians ruled by the powerful leader Powhatan, represented in a statue in the Jamestown Settlement galleries.

The first documented Africans in Virginia were from the kingdom of Ndongo in Angola. Ndongan life is depicted in a scene from the Jamestown Settlement introductory film, 1607: A Nation Takes Root.
Jamestown Settlement Commemorates

continued from page 2

Re-created James Fort has undergone a transformation to more completely portray the business enterprise and military character of Jamestown during the years 1610 to 1614. Buildings have been constructed over a 10-year period, replacing structures built in the 1950s, to represent a barracks, a storage facility for food provisions, a kitchen, an armory, a powder magazine, the colonial governor’s house, the office of the cape merchant, who was responsible for keeping track of goods imported to and exported from the Virginia colony, and the Anglican church. The new fort buildings are based on documentary research and archaeological findings at several early 17th-century Virginia sites, including APVA Preservation Virginia’s Jamestown Rediscovery site at Historic Jamestowne.

Jamestown Settlement has hosted more than 19 million visitors since 1957, and visitation has grown by about 50 percent since the 1990 renovation and name change. The “new” Jamestown Settlement is prepared for new generations of visitors in 2007 and beyond. ■

1950s photos by Thomas L. Williams and the Virginia Chamber of Commerce.

Colonist William Strachey’s description of the Jamestown fort in 1610 is the basis for the size and interior furnishings of a new representation of the Anglican church. In the above photo, the new church is flanked by representations of the governor’s house on the left and the cape merchant’s office on the right. An aerial view of the 1950s fort re-creation is below.