Enter the World of the Colonial Governor in New Building at Jamestown Settlement

Fit for the highest ranking official in the Virginia colony, the newest and grandest dwelling in Jamestown Settlement’s re-created 1610-14 fort is now open to visitors. Based on archaeological and documentary research, the Jamestown Settlement building is furnished and interpreted as the colonial governor’s house.

The new 66- by 18-foot, two-and-a-half-story building has a cobblestone foundation, walls of wattle and daub, wood plank floors, and a thatch roof.

Entering through one of six doors, two on opposite sides that open into small “lobbies,” visitors can explore all four rooms on the first floor of the new building. The second story, not accessible for public viewing, is likely to have served in the original building as sleeping space for servants and for storage.

The first-floor hall, or main public room, has a table with a distinctive armchair at its head for the governor. The adjacent parlor, interpreted as a space where the governor may have entertained guests, features a smaller table and chairs, clothes press and cupboard. On opposite ends of the house are bedchambers – one for the governor, the other for members of his household, which might include his physician and secretary. Two chimneys with back-to-back fireplaces provide a hearth in each of the four rooms.

Elaborately carved wood furniture and Turkish carpets covering tabletops indicate the high rank of the house’s occupant. Some of the furnishings were moved from a smaller structure in the fort that previously represented the governor’s dwelling, and several pieces were custom-made for the new building.

Structure Based on Historical Research

The new governor’s house is patterned after one of two large “row houses” uncovered by Preservation Virginia’s Jamestown Rediscovery archaeological project at Historic Jamestowne, site of the fort built by English colonists who arrived in Virginia in 1607. The cobblestone foundations of the two row houses at Historic Jamestowne are located within the original James Fort site, paralleling the western wall of the palisade.

Based on their location in the fort, historical references and the discovery of high-status items in the vicinity, the buildings probably were constructed between 1610 and 1614, and the one re-created at Jamestown Settlement may have served as the colonial governor’s house.

According to Ralph Hamor’s account of Virginia during 1610-14, Jamestown had “two faire rowes of howses, all of framed Timber, two stories, and an upper Garret, or Corne loft.” The 1618 records of the Virginia Company cite a “Governors house in James town first built by Sir Thomas Gates Knight.” Gates served as lieutenant governor of Virginia from 1611 to 1614.
Exhibit ‘Props’ Serve a Vital Role in Museum Galleries

By Rhonda Tyson
Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation
Exhibit Services Manager

What is that man carrying? Where is he? Why does he look that way? Exhibit dioramas may give your imagination many visual details that replace words in labels. Ideally in museums we would create environments only using real things – and hundreds of period artifacts will anchor the new galleries – but sometimes what is needed is too rare or too delicate to exhibit. In those cases museums buy props or have them made. “Props” comes from the term “exhibition properties.” When surveyed on exhibit techniques, our visitors said they preferred dioramas in galleries over technology. We are pleased to say that the new American Revolution Museum at Yorktown will have both!

About 500 props will be required for the new Yorktown museum. Clothing and weapons will be needed for statues of people in various settings. A wharf and store scene, a foundry and the Battle of Great Bridge are among the dioramas, which never duplicate what is featured in the outdoor living-history areas. Props also are needed for hands-on exhibits. Room settings will be furnished with props or artifacts. Though only period artifacts are identified with labels, some props can be as costly.

Staff who will buy or make the needed items work in the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation’s curatorial services, exhibit services, museum education services, and outreach education and special services departments.

Curator Martha Katz-Hyman determines need and reviews all of the props for accuracy. Martha will buy the imported household items (fabrics, foods, glassware) and hogsheads (large barrels) that are needed for the wharf and store diorama. The design of a tobacco scale will be worked out by the exhibit preparator, Bob Dillard. While most staff will do research on their part of the project, Martha guides diorama content decisions and makes the final call.

Exhibit designer Mary Riley Pugh used SketchUp software to draw a scenic store to help determine the quantity and size of items within. As props project manager, Mary keeps the list of about 500 objects planned, maintains location inventory and tracks the budget.

Historical clothing manager Chris Daley leads the team who will make the garments for 17 statues. In the galleries, women and men of varied social classes will be represented. Military wear will include British, Hessian, French and several American uniforms.

Museum education services staff will buy the weapons and accoutrements, just as they do for the Yorktown Victory Center’s Continental Army encampment. Sources are similar, but in this case some special items need to be commissioned to fill out all of the gallery needs for foreign representation, including a British officer sword and muskets for the Battle of Great Bridge diorama. The largest prop will be an 18-pounder siege cannon.

Museum education staff members will secure the hands-on items, those touchable reproductions that give visitors the ability to interact with objects. Since maintenance provides such a challenge, durable or replaceable items are chosen.

DID YOU KNOW?
Hogsheads are very large barrels usually used for tobacco in the 18th century. By law, a tobacco hogshead was required to be 48 inches high and 35 inches in diameter around the middle.
Major Gifts Provide Significant Support for American Revolution Museum at Yorktown

A public-private partnership is moving the American Revolution Museum at Yorktown forward. The Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, Inc., the private fundraising arm of the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, is pleased to announce the following commitments to the new Yorktown museum.

TowneBank
A commitment of $250,000 from TowneBank will support exhibition galleries, outdoor living-history areas and education programs of the new American Revolution Museum at Yorktown.

In announcing the contribution, TowneBank Chairman G. Robert Aston stated, “As a community bank, it is our pleasure to support valuable programs and initiatives like the American Revolution Museum at Yorktown. It’s an impressive undertaking, and when complete, this indoor and outdoor living-history museum will contribute greatly to the educational enrichment of locals and tourists alike.”

A portion of TowneBank’s commitment is designated to the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, Inc., Annual Fund.

A pavilion that will help guests with the transition from the indoor gallery experience to the outdoor living-history experience in the re-created Continental Army encampment and Revolution-period farm will be named for TowneBank in recognition of its commitment.

Newport News Shipbuilding
Newport News Shipbuilding, a division of Huntington Ingalls Industries, has made a significant commitment to educational resources being developed in conjunction with the new museum. These programs include on-site programs for students and adult learners, outreach programs in classrooms throughout Virginia, and Web-based curriculum materials, including engaging and award-winning educational videos.

“Newport News Shipbuilding recognizes the importance of investing in education, especially in the areas of science, technology, engineering and math,” said Chavis Harris, Newport News Shipbuilding’s director of corporate citizenship. “We are proud to support the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation and its work to expand and create programs that educate students about the American Revolution and the roots of American democracy.”

In honor of the company’s commitment to education, a classroom in the new museum’s education center will be named the Newport News Shipbuilding Classroom.

Beazley Foundation, Inc.
The Beazley Foundation, Inc., of Portsmouth has awarded the American Revolution Museum at Yorktown a grant of $50,000 to support gallery exhibits.

“The road from Jamestown to Yorktown, a remarkable journey that proclaims the story of America’s beginnings, is captured and preserved in the work of the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation and, therefore, is a most appropriate and highly credible beneficiary of Mr. Beazley’s Foundation,” wrote Judge Richard S. Bray, president of the Beazley Foundation.

This grant is the second awarded by the Beazley Foundation, whose commitments to the new museum now total $100,000. With construction of the new building under way, the Beazley Foundation’s continuing support is helping to acquire artifacts for the new galleries and produce films that convey the depth and breadth of the Revolution.

Senator Warner Gets Up-Close Look at New Yorktown Museum Project
U.S. Senator Mark Warner (center) came to the Yorktown Victory Center September 5 for a tour and briefing on the American Revolution Museum at Yorktown. He is shown at the construction site of the new museum building with Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation Executive Director Phil Emerson and Acting Senior Director of Museum Operations and Education Jim Holloway.

An informational pavilion that will help American Revolution Museum at Yorktown visitors with the transition from indoor galleries to the outdoor living-history experience will be named for TowneBank.
Reckoning by Counter and Reckoning by Pen: Transition From ‘Old’ to ‘New’ Math Under Way When Jamestown Was Founded

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

The Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation has in its collection a set of 26 silver casting counters dating to the reign of King Charles I. Each of the counters looks like a small, very thin silver coin stamped with the portrait of an English king or queen. Although these artifacts are called “casting counters,” they were not intended for any practical use in casting accounts. Such decorative counters appear to have been keepsakes or collectables that important people sometimes gave as symbolic gifts. A set of silver casting counters would have been an appropriate gift for someone like a banker, merchant or treasury official whose job was associated with mathematical calculations.

The Charles I silver casting counters derive from a practical everyday accounting tool that businessmen and administrators used in Europe up until early modern times. In England and Europe, mathematical calculations used to be done by moving small metal disks known as counters or jetons around on a counting board. This method of doing calculations originally was associated with the use of Roman numerals, although it still worked if Arabic numerals were substituted. However, “reckoning by counter,” as it was called, did not incorporate effectively two key features of Arabic numerals, the zero and positional notation (the position of a digit within a number determines its value). Today we can do basic arithmetic calculations quickly and easily on paper because we can line up columns of figures and “carry” totals from one column to another. Since reckoning by counter was developed originally for Roman numerals, it did not take full advantage of this feature. Consequently the casting counter and board approach was slower than the rival “reckoning by pen” method, which made full use of the zero and positional notation.

Arabic numerals and the more streamlined arithmetic that the numerals make possible came to the Mediterranean world long before there was a full acceptance of this “new math” in Northern Europe. By the beginning of the 13th century, Italian mathematician Leonardo Fibonacci had developed new methods of commercial bookkeeping, the conversion of weights and measures, and the calculation of interest using Arabic numbers. By contrast the older method of casting accounts persisted in parts of Britain until the mid-17th century. The first printed English arithmetic textbook, Robert Recorde’s The Ground of Arts, recognized that there were two competing systems of calculation in use in England, pen reckoning and counter reckoning, and the book sought to teach both.

Over the course of the 16th century, reckoning by pen gradually won out over reckoning by counter, but the victory was not complete until well into the 17th century. Certainly some of the older colonists who came to Jamestown would have known how to reckon by counter, and enough counters or jetons have been recovered from Virginia Company archaeological sites to suggest that this older style of arithmetic may have been in some limited use in Virginia during the early days of settlement. Casting by counter doesn’t apparently die out completely in England and Europe until the 1640s, when the last European manufacturers of counters cease production. Ironically, just as casting counters finally fade away as practical tools of business and administration, they experience a brief second life in England as trinkets for the wealthy, with our silver Charles I counters as a case in point.
Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation’s ‘Anna’s Adventures’ Educational Video Series Attains National Recognition

“Anna’s Adventures,” an online educational video series produced by the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation’s outreach education and special services staff, has earned distinction with an Award of Merit from the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) Leadership in History Awards. The AASLH awards program was initiated in 1945 to establish and encourage standards of excellence in the collection, preservation and interpretation of state and local history. The Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation is one of six 2013 Leadership in History Awards recipients in Virginia.

Introduced in 2011, “Anna’s Adventures” is comprised of six completed episodes, each hosted by Anna Hower, now age 13, who takes viewers to the Yorktown Victory Center’s re-created Continental Army encampment and 1780s farm and Jamestown Settlement’s re-created Powhatan Indian village, 1610-14 colonial fort and 1607 ships to learn about Revolutionary War military drills, the game nine-men’s morris, 18th-century food preservation, mapmaking, Powhatan Indian foodways, and life aboard a sailing ship in the 17th century. Downloadable activity sheets for each episode provide instructions for viewers to try some of the activities Anna demonstrates in the videos. Videos and activity sheets are available at www.historyisfun.org/annas-adventures.htm.

Two new “Anna’s Adventures” episodes are in development. One explores American and British espionage during the American Revolution, and another combines history and science as Anna discovers how simple machines made work easier for early 17th-century Virginia colonists.

“Anna’s Adventures” is among numerous video productions of the outreach education and special services staff accessible at www.historyisfun.org. A new program, “Women of the American Revolution,” highlights the role of women on farms and with the army during the American Revolution. Future productions include “Navigation and Exploration,” supporting STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) and history curriculum objectives. A planned “DIY History” series, inspired by television “do it yourself” shows, will explore how people of colonial America solved problems and how those solutions can be applied today.

Viewers will be encouraged to share their experiences on the HistoryIsFun Facebook page.

Anna rolls a wheelbarrow in Jamestown Settlement’s re-created 1610-14 fort in a forthcoming “Anna’s Adventure” episode on simple machines.

JYF, Inc., Gains New Director

Keith B. Dubois of Williamsburg was elected to the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, Inc., Board of Directors for a term through 2015. The Foundation, Inc., is a not-for-profit entity that coordinates fundraising to benefit programs of the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation.

A graduate of Illinois Wesleyan University, Mrs. Dubois is a nursing professional who worked for more than 20 years on developing and implementing strategies and programs for consumer education on wellness and integrated health. She currently serves on the Williamsburg Symphonia Board of Trustees as secretary and is a member of the Williamsburg Youth Orchestra board.

$10,000 Gifts Support Annual Fund

Cherryl A. Cartledge Heath and Richard E. Heath, Jr., M.D., of Albany, Georgia, and Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, Inc., Vice President Jane Kaplan and Jim Kaplan of Williamsburg renewed their memberships in General Washington’s Council of The 1607 Society with gifts of $10,000 to the Foundation, Inc., Annual Fund.

The Annual Fund, which raised $782,952 in fiscal year 2013 (July 2012 - June 2013), supports an array of programs at Jamestown Settlement and Yorktown Victory Center, including artifact acquisition, collection conservation, special exhibitions, public programming, and on-site and outreach education programs. Visit www.historyisfun.org/Annual-Fund.htm for more information.
The words of a Richmond fourth-grade teacher express her enthusiasm for the experiences provided by the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation’s elementary school scholarship program, now in its eighth year.

Supported entirely with private donations, the elementary school scholarship program serves school districts that otherwise could not afford to participate in the Foundation's structured education programs. Components of the program, all aligned with the Virginia Standards of Learning, are a hands-on classroom outreach education program, an inquiry-oriented on-site guided tour at Jamestown Settlement or Yorktown Victory Center, and a professional development workshop for teachers.

“Please share my excitement with the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation regarding this program for the Richmond City fourth graders and my great appreciation for the teamwork involved throughout the years so that this can continue,” the Richmond teacher said. “When a child receives the richest educational experience possible, the family and the whole world around that child benefits. What an impact your resources can make for our precious fourth graders!”

Every child should visit the world of the past in order to be able to make connections with past and present-day people, places and things … nothing takes the place of actually being at the site … smelling the smoke as the canoe is being made, hearing the cannon boom penetrate the world around, sitting on the hard church bench three times a day, every day, and eating, sleeping and living entirely below deck for months!

The elementary school scholarship program serves schools in districts where 40 percent or more of the students are enrolled in the free or reduced lunch program. Donations to the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, Inc., pay for student and chaperone transportation to the museum, as well as fees for the classroom program and on-site guided tour.

The scholarship program began during the 2006-2007 academic year to bring students in need to Jamestown Settlement during the 400th-anniversary commemoration of the founding of America’s first permanent English colony. Since that time 29,349 participants in 17 Virginia school districts have benefited from the program. In the 2013-14 school year, the program will be offered thanks to gifts and grants from the Oscar F. Smith/Marjorie Smith Charles Fund of The Community Foundation Serving Richmond and Central Virginia, the Camp family foundations, The Huston Foundation, and Wells Fargo.

Using oyster shells to shape a dugout canoe at Jamestown Settlement is among hands-on experiences available to students participating in the elementary school scholarship program.

Mari Ann and Charlie Banks Host Event to Benefit New Yorktown Museum

Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, Inc., board member Mari Ann Banks and her husband Charlie will host a fundraiser at their home, White Hall Plantation in Gloucester, at 6 p.m., October 19. Proceeds from the event will benefit the new American Revolution Museum at Yorktown. Tickets are available online at http://jyf-events.ticketleap.com/yvc.

Katherine Egner Gruber Is New Curator; Martha Katz-Hyman Receives History Award

Katherine Egner Gruber is a new curator on the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation team planning exhibits for the American Revolution Museum at Yorktown. Her principal responsibility will be content oversight of an introductory film for the new museum.

Another curator in the museum planning group, Martha Katz-Hyman, has received the Association for Living History, Farm and Agricultural Museums (ALHFAM) John T. Schlebecker Award, presented annually to one individual “for outstanding contributions to the growth and development of ALHFAM.”

Ms. Gruber had worked since 2009 at the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, where she assisted with the development, research and production of the Foundation’s Electronic Field Trip series, served as a John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Library Fellow, and most recently was associate digital content specialist in the Digital History Center. She earned a bachelor’s degree in historic preservation and classical humanities from the University of Mary Washington and a master’s degree in American history from the College of William and Mary.

Ms. Katz-Hyman received the award from ALHFAM, an international organization that supports experiential interpretations of history, in recognition of her longtime service and leadership on the board and committees.
Promise of the New United States Symbolized in Ferry Marker

By Martha Katz-Hyman
Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation Curator

As visitors come to the end of the exhibition galleries in the forthcoming American Revolution Museum at Yorktown, they will learn about life in the United States after the war. Included will be a video presentation on the creation of the Constitution, graphics and artifacts that illustrate the continued migration – both voluntary and involuntary – from Europe and Africa to America, and images of the landscapes seen by travelers as they traveled west in the first half of the 19th century.

Gallery planners knew they wanted as the final artifact something that symbolized the promise of this new country and also evoked the sense of patriotism and optimism so many felt at this time.

The perfect item was located by Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation curators this spring at the Philadelphia Antiques Show, one of the country’s premier antique events. It was a sandstone lozenge 48 inches tall and 34 inches wide that had once been embedded in the stone wall of a ferry house in South Brownsville, Pennsylvania, on the banks of the Monongahela River south of Pittsburgh. South Brownsville was the location of a busy ferry crossing from the south bank to the west bank of the river, along the Cumberland Road (later called the National Road, now U.S. 40). The ferry was run by Neil Gillespie from 1784 to 1794, and then operated by John Krepps, his son-in-law, and Krepps’ descendents until the 1840s.

The sandstone marker, removed from the ferry building about 1985 when it was torn down, encapsulates in its carved imagery the spirit of the new country. An American eagle, the emblem of the new nation, dominates the stone, looking toward an olive branch (peace) in its right talon and holding arrows (war) in its left. Over the eagle’s head is the word “Liberty,” and 17 stars surround both the eagle and “Liberty,” with an additional star at the very top of the stone. The stone is dated 1813, which is most probably the date it was erected on the side of the ferry house, and the 18 stars may reflect the 18 states at that time (Louisiana was admitted as the 18th state in April 1812). Below the eagle’s talons are symbols of the nation’s agriculture – two sheaves of wheat flanking a plow – and the ferryboat that was the foundation of the Krepps’ business and also pointed the way to the West and to America’s future. Its patriotic theme may have been inspired by the War of 1812, a war in which the new nation sought to further distance itself from the economic and military dominance of Great Britain.

This vision of the United States as a land of promise, of liberty, of the future is effectively conveyed through the stonemason’s skill in incorporating images that those seeing the stone in 1813 would have understood immediately. For the visitors to the new museum, these images will reinforce the stories of settlement, liberty, war, compromise and the future that the permanent exhibit will tell.

Jamestown Settlement Exhibition Showcases Artifacts Destined for New Yorktown Museum

An imposing 18th-century portrait of King George III sets the stage for “Jamestown’s Legacy to the American Revolution,” a Jamestown Settlement exhibition that examines the lives of Revolutionary War-era descendants of people associated with 17th-century Jamestown, the first capital of colonial Virginia. The exhibition opens with a look at pre-revolutionary Virginia under the rule of King George, who ascended the British throne in 1760, and concludes with an overview of the career of George Washington, whose ancestor John Washington arrived in Virginia in 1656 and later sat in the House of Burgesses at Jamestown.

“Jamestown’s Legacy to the American Revolution” runs through January 20, 2014, and features more than 60 objects planned for exhibit at the future American Revolution Museum at Yorktown. Additional information is at www.historyisfun.org/jamestowns-legacy.htm.
The Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, an educational institution of the Commonwealth of Virginia accredited by the American Alliance of Museums, fosters through its living-history museums – Jamestown Settlement and Yorktown Victory Center – an awareness and understanding of the early history, settlement, and development of the United States through the convergence of American Indian, European, and African cultures and the enduring legacies bequeathed to the nation.

Philip G. Emerson, Executive Director

Jamestown Settlement and Yorktown Victory Center are open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, until 6 p.m. June 15 - August 15. Closed December 25 and January 1. 

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**Dispatch**

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Marketing & Retail Operations

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**Calendar**

Through January 20, 2014
**“Jamestown’s Legacy to the American Revolution” Special Exhibition**
**Jamestown Settlement**
Tells the stories of Revolutionary War-era descendants of people associated with 17th-century Jamestown, the first capital of colonial Virginia, and features artifacts acquired for exhibit at the future American Revolution Museum at Yorktown.

October 5
**Revolutionary War Lecture Series**
**Yorktown Victory Center**
Carolyn Weekley, Colonial Williamsburg Foundation Juli Grainger Curator Emerita, presents “Painters and Paintings in the Early American South: 1785-1800” at 7 p.m., final lecture of a three-part series. Admission is free. Advance reservations are recommended by calling (757) 253-4572 or e-mailing rsvp@jyf.virginia.gov.

October 19-20
**Yorktown Victory Celebration**
**Yorktown Victory Center**
Musket and artillery demonstrations and visitor-participatory programs – “A School for the Soldier” and “The Price of Liberty” – mark the 232nd anniversary of America’s momentous Revolutionary War victory at Yorktown on October 19, 1781. A parade and commemorative programs take place in historic Yorktown on October 19, and Yorktown Battlefield offers special anniversary programming throughout the weekend.

November 28-30
**Foods & Feasts of Colonial Virginia**
**Jamestown Settlement & Yorktown Victory Center**
Foodways of the 17th and 18th centuries are featured 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 1, 2013-January 5, 2014
**A Colonial Christmas**
**Jamestown Settlement & Yorktown Victory Center**
Holiday traditions of the 17th and 18th centuries are recalled through special interpretive programs and, December 25-31, musical performances.

Admission to special events and exhibitions is included with museum admission. Visit www.historyisfun.org for a calendar of upcoming events.