American Revolution Museum at Yorktown Galleries and Film Previewed in New Exhibit at Yorktown Victory Center

A new exhibit at the Yorktown Victory Center provides a multimedia, interactive encounter with the permanent exhibition galleries and introductory film that will premiere in conjunction with the museum’s transition to American Revolution Museum at Yorktown in late 2016.

The future galleries are under construction in a 22,000-square-foot space within an 80,000-square-foot building that opened in March, representing a midpoint milestone in the transformation of the Yorktown Victory Center into American Revolution Museum at Yorktown.

In “Creating Our New Museum,” two dozen objects selected from the hundreds of 18th-century artifacts to be exhibited in the new galleries are on display near a video preview of future gallery short films about the changing relationship between American colonists and Britain, communication in 18th-century America, two key victories in the Revolutionary War—the 1777 Battle of Saratoga and the 1781 Siege of Yorktown—and the development of the United States Constitution in the 1780s.

The artifact exhibit includes portraits of American Loyalist and noted scientist Benjamin Thompson and British Admiral Richard Howe, a painting of the 1782 naval Battle of the Saintes, British and American swords and firearms, objects bearing slogans and symbols of the Revolutionary era, and American-made furniture and silver objects.

“Creating Our New Museum” also engages visitors in the making of Liberty Fever, the introductory film to be shown in the 170-seat museum theater, with interactive experiences including posing behind a screen to create a silhouette to be photographed by family and friends, and taking the stage to act the part of one of the characters in the film. (See page 2 for more about Liberty Fever.)

Until the premiere of Liberty Fever, visitors can pose for and photograph a silhouette.

The stage used in the filming of Liberty Fever (see page 2) provides a setting for visitors to try on actors’ costumes and handle props.

Three-Month ‘Botanical Virginia’ Exhibit Opens December 5 at Jamestown Settlement


On loan from the Garden Club of Virginia, 17 period hand-colored engravings created from Catesby’s watercolor paintings of American flora and fauna, will be exhibited alongside a 1762 edition of Flora Virginica, based on Clayton’s work. The exhibit, which is curated by the Flora of Virginia Project, also will include tools used for studying and collecting plants, biographies of Catesby and Clayton, and a short film on the Flora of Virginia Project.

Seven public programs related to the “Botanical Virginia” theme will be presented during the period of the exhibit, December 5, 2015, to February 28, 2016: lectures at 4:30 p.m. December 10, January 5 and 19, and February 2, and morning workshops on January 14 and 28 and February 25.

During seven years in Virginia, from 1712 to 1719, Englishman Mark Catesby collected plants from the region of the lower James River to the river’s headwaters in the Appalachian

(continued on page 4)
Building a Revolutionary Experience

New Introductory Film Aims to Spread ‘Liberty Fever’

By Heather Hower
Project Manager, American Revolution Museum at Yorktown Media

The Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation began work last year with Cortina Productions to produce a new introductory film for the American Revolution Museum at Yorktown. Cortina Productions has extensive experience with large museum projects and works with a prestigious list of clients worldwide. The Foundation also is working with Cortina to produce media experiences for the exhibition galleries at the new museum.

The new introductory film, Liberty Fever, will be narrated by an early 19th-century storyteller who has traveled the country gathering stories about the American Revolution. He shares these accounts with his audience using a moving panorama, or “crankie,” presentation of the time period. This late-18th/early 19th-century form of mass media was popular with people of all ages. It involved a long roll of paper on which dramatic backlit silhouettes scrolled in front of the audience. Some panoramas were huge and were shown in theaters and exhibition halls, while others were much smaller and portable to travel throughout the countryside. In Liberty Fever, stationary silhouettes and moving shadow puppets scrolling by on a large “crankie” are interwoven with live-action film segments featuring the stories of five people who lived during the American Revolution: George Hewes, Billy Flora, Isabella Ferguson, John Howland and Peter Harris. Through these personal accounts, viewers watch the spread of “liberty fever” unfold before them.

The film was produced to evoke emotional connections with the story and characters so that modern-day viewers reflect on what the American Revolution means to their lives today.

From change and choices, to battle and legacy, themes presented in the film are designed to reflect key messages in the new galleries. Liberty Fever will inspire visitors to continue linking to the people, places and events of the American Revolution as they experience the galleries and living-history areas during their visit.

Production work for Liberty Fever is finished, and editing is well underway. The film will debut simultaneously with the gallery opening in late 2016. When it opens, Liberty Fever will show in the 170-seat theater just off of the main lobby. Production of the film was made possible by private donations raised through the American Revolution Museum at Yorktown Campaign for Support.

Visitors interested in knowing more about this film can participate in theatrical role play with the stage set used in production and watch the “Making of Liberty Fever” video currently featured in the “Creating Our New Museum” exhibit at the Yorktown Victory Center. (See story on page 1.)

Billy Flora, a hero of the 1775 Battle of Great Bridge in Virginia, is depicted in Liberty Fever.

The crew plans a scene with North Carolinian Isabella Ferguson and her dog Trip, who “is a rebel too!”

The 1777 Battle of Princeton, where John Howland fought with Washington’s troops, was re-created for Liberty Fever.
Kathy Spangler Named Director of 2019 Commemoration

Kathy J. Spangler of Kilmarnock, a nationally recognized leader with more than 35 years of experience in public and non-profit management, most recently as vice president of Save the Children in Washington, D.C., has been named director of the 2019 Commemoration marking the 400th anniversary of four landmark events in Virginia history. In the new position, she will serve as principal liaison to the 2019 Commemoration Steering Committee.

As vice president of Save the Children from 2010 to 2015, Ms. Spangler led the organization’s U.S. Programs, including Head Start. She served in several executive roles from 2007 to 2010 at America’s Promise Alliance, where she oversaw the 100 Best Communities for Young People national recognition program. Four years as founding director of National Partnerships capped her 20-year tenure, from 1987 to 2007, at the National Recreation and Park Association. She worked as a recreation supervisor and coordinator in New Hampshire from 1979 to 1987.

Ms. Spangler earned a bachelor’s degree from the University of Maine and achieved the Certified Association Executive credential. She has received numerous awards, including an honorary doctoral degree in 2003 from the University of Maine, and has extensive experience in event and conference planning and presentation. She created and led the execution of Sports Illustrated’s 50th Anniversary Sportstown Celebration, a yearlong recognition of the Sportstown in each state, and was co-creator of First Night New Hampshire, the fourth First Night nationwide and the first statewide celebration.

“Ms. Spangler’s experience will be invaluable as we look to engage key organizations and build public-private partnerships to ensure a successful commemoration that reaches a broad national audience,” 2019 Commemoration Steering Committee Co-Chair M. Kirkland Cox said on behalf of the committee’s leadership. “She will work closely with historical, educational and tourism organizations and individuals to maximize opportunities related to the commemorative period.”

Ms. Spangler’s office is located at Jamestown Settlement. For more about the 2019 Commemoration, see page 7.

James City County Grant Supports Special Exhibition, Holiday Programs at Jamestown Settlement

A $100,000 grant from the James City County Board of Supervisors supports a trade-themed special exhibition and holiday programming at Jamestown Settlement during the 2015-16 fiscal year. The grant provides funding for “Bartering for a Continent: How Anglo-Indian Trade Shaped America,” opening June 4, 2016, as well as “Foods & Feasts of Colonial Virginia” November 26-28, 2015, and “A Colonial Christmas” December 1 through January 3, 2016.

“Foods & Feasts of Colonial Virginia,” beginning Thanksgiving Day, demonstrates how food was gathered, preserved and prepared on land and at sea by Virginia’s English colonists and Powhatan Indians. During “A Colonial Christmas,” holiday traditions of the 17th century are recalled through special interpretive programs and, December 26-31, period musical entertainment.

“Bartering for a Continent,” from June 4 through December 10, 2016, will explore the importance of trade between American Indians and English colonists, from the founding of Jamestown in 1607 through the American Revolution, illustrating the role of Virginia in the development of a new world of exchange in goods and commodities in North America and the connection to commerce in modern-day James City County. The Anglo-Indian trade influenced the expansion of European settlement westward and southward from Jamestown across the interior of the continent and carved out an economic foothold for industry and transportation that still exists today.

“We are grateful for James City County’s continued support,” said Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation Executive Director Philip G. Emerson. “The county’s investment is critical to providing relevant and unique educational opportunities that strengthen the national appeal of the Historic Triangle as a destination and Jamestown Settlement’s role as an educational resource for local residents.”

JYF Museums Rated Excellent in TripAdvisor® Reviews

Jamestown Settlement is a 2015 TripAdvisor® Certificate of Excellence Hall of Fame winner. The Hall of Fame designation recognizes entities that have earned a Certificate of Excellence – based on traveler reviews – for five consecutive years. Winners include accommodations, eateries and attractions around the world that have continually delivered a superior customer experience.

The Yorktown Victory Center received its fourth consecutive Certificate of Excellence in 2015. TripAdvisor® is the world’s largest travel site, offering reviews from travelers and travel planning features.
Three-Month ‘Botanical Virginia’ Exhibit

(continued from page 1)

Mountains. He returned to America in 1722 and continued his work for four more years, collecting and drawing plants and animals from the more southeastern reaches of North America and the Bahamas. Back in England in 1726, he began producing engravings of his watercolors, later published in The Natural History of Carolina, Florida, and the Bahama Islands.

A contemporary of Catesby, John Clayton was born in England and by 1720 was serving as the clerk of Gloucester County, Virginia. Clayton, a student of botany, provided Catesby and John Frederick Gronovius with dried plant specimens and compiled a catalog of plants native to Virginia. Gronovius, of the Netherlands, published Clayton’s work in Flora Virginica in two volumes, in 1739 and 1743. This and a second, 1762, edition were the first and, for more than two centuries, the only published compilations of Virginia’s native plants.

The Flora of Virginia Project, begun in 2001, resulted in the publication of Flora of Virginia in 2012, describing 3,164 plant species and containing 1,400 original illustrations. The project continues with a focus on education and outreach, including a partnership with the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation in presenting “Clayton & Catesby: Botanical Virginia” at Jamestown Settlement. The exhibit is supported with private gifts to the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, Inc.

Choice and Flexibility Characterize New School Tours at Jamestown Settlement

This fall classroom teachers have two new options for their class field trips to Jamestown Settlement. Both offer flexibility and address specific identified needs.

The “Choose Your Own Adventure” tour allows teachers to select a topic and tour length. They can focus their experience on the historical content they need most, for the length of time they prefer, up to two-and-a-half hours. This customizable experience will be especially helpful to teachers who are engaging their students in project-based learning – a form of education that asks students to develop their own content through targeted real-life encounters with cultural, community and other resources.

The new “Project Video” tour is for classes that have video projects to complete when they visit Jamestown Settlement, often as part of a project-based learning assignment. Many students now arrive with tablets or other devices in hand, and tasks to complete at the museum. An assignment might be, for example, to record images or video that show the impact Powhatan and English cultures had on each other in the early colonial period, or compare and contrast aspects of lifeways of the cultures at Jamestown.

When teachers book the Project Video tour, classes will have a guide who is trained on basic photography principles. The job of the guide is to share historical content as well as assist students with setting up and achieving good photographs or video segments throughout the outdoor areas. Reservations staff will guide teachers to book this tour on days and times that maximize their access to historical interpreters and the re-created Powhatan village, 1607 ships and colonial fort without affecting the experience of other visitors.

‘Clayton & Catesby: Botanical Virginia’ Public Programs

Lectures

Thursday, December 10 – “Fantastic Voyages: Plants of the Virginia Colony,” presented by Marion Blois Lobstein, contributor to Flora of Virginia

Tuesday, January 19 – “From Clayton’s Flora Virginica to the Late 20th Century,” presented by Dr. Donna M.E. Ware, College of William and Mary research associate professor of biology and curator emerita

Workshops

Thursday, January 14 – “Learning to Use Pen to Illustrate the Flora of Virginia,” instructed by Lara Call Gastinger

Thursday, February 25 – “Naked Tree Walk,” presented by Dr. Stewart Ware, College of William and Mary professor of biology emeritus

Advance reservations are required for the morning workshops. Fee includes lunch. For registration information, visit www.historyisfun.org/jamestown-settlement/botanical-virginia/
Work is underway on preparing the site of the former Yorktown Victory Center museum building for construction of the Revolution-era farm, an adjacent picnic area and additional visitor parking. The corn-crib has been moved into place, and a new farmhouse, separate kitchen, quarters for enslaved people, tobacco barn and work shed will be built over the next year, as the Yorktown Victory Center is transformed into American Revolution Museum at Yorktown.

The farm also will include a crop field, kitchen garden and orchard. Interpretation of farm life in the late 18th century continues on a daily basis in a temporary location alongside the re-created Continental Army encampment during the construction process.

Public and private sources are funding the outdoor exhibits. For information about supporting the project, call (757) 253-4139 or email giving@jyf.virginia.gov.

A very rare first-model “Brown Bess” British infantry musket dated 1741 has been acquired with private gifts to the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, Inc., for exhibit in the American Revolution Museum at Yorktown galleries opening in late 2016. The musket, also known as a “Long Land Pattern Brown Bess,” was the standard British infantry musket used during the French and Indian War and was in use during the American Revolution.

“Many later versions of the Brown Bess can be found,” said Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation Senior Curator Tom Davidson, “but early versions like this one survive only in a small number of museums and private collections. This particular musket is further distinguished by markings that suggest it saw service on the American side during the Revolution.”

Visitors will encounter the Brown Bess musket upon entering the new galleries, where it will be exhibited along with a previously acquired rare early American long rifle, two remarkable survivals from the era of the nation’s birth.

Three Elected to JYF, Inc., Board

John F. Biagas of Yorktown, Allan Finger of Williamsburg and James White Rawles, Jr., M.D., of Virginia Beach have been elected to the Board of Directors of the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, Inc., the not-for-profit entity that coordinates fundraising to benefit programs of the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation.

Mr. Biagas is president and CEO of Bay Electric Co., Inc., in Newport News and serves as vice rector of the Old Dominion University Board of Visitors and on the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and Corporate Leadership Advisory Board. He is a founding member of the Young Presidents’ Organization, Virginia Chapter.

Mr. Finger is an associate with Vickerman and Associates, consulting in strategic port design and commercial port market forecast and analysis, and is an executive partner with the Master of Business Administration program at the College of William and Mary. He held senior management positions in the consumer electronics industry for more than 30 years.

Dr. Rawles is a practicing gastroenterologist and is on the medical staff of Virginia Beach General Hospital. He is active in the management of family farms in Southampton and Mecklenburg counties and in working with the Nature Conservancy to re-establish the longleaf pine in southeastern Virginia.

Timothy Dykstra Joins JYF Board

Timothy P. Dykstra of Williamsburg was appointed by Virginia Governor Terence R. McAuliffe for a term through June 2019 to the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation Board of Trustees.

The governor reappointed Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation Trustees John T. Casteen III of Keswick and Professor Ervin L. Jordan, Jr., of Charlottesville to the board, which is comprised of General Assembly members, state officials and gubernatorial and board appointees, for terms through June 2019.

Mr. Dykstra, vice president and corporate treasurer of Smithfield Foods, Inc., since 2010, held executive positions at Chrysler for the previous 25 years, including serving as vice president and treasurer from 2000 to 2008. He currently is chairman of the Endowment Board of An Achievable Dream and serves on the Michigan State University Financial Advisory Board.
The 1607 Society Welcomes New Members

The 1607 Society welcomed its newest members, including Susan and Rod Hogan, at a reception on August 26. Historical interpreters and curators from Jamestown Settlement and the Yorktown Victory Center engaged guests in activities that highlighted the impact of donor support, including a rare chance to view artifacts acquired for the American Revolution Museum at Yorktown before they go on public display.

The 1607 Society, the premier annual giving society, is a cornerstone of the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, Inc.’s Annual Fund. Members enjoy exclusive social and cultural events throughout the year.

Museum Programs Enhanced With Gifts from Private Donors

Mary Ann and Cliff Johnson of Williamsburg joined General Washington’s Council of The 1607 Society with a gift of $10,000 to the fiscal year 2016 Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, Inc., Annual Fund. Renewing their membership in General Washington’s Council are Cherryl A. Cartledge Heath and Richard E. Heath, Jr., M.D., of Albany, Georgia. The MAIHS Foundation also has renewed its support at the $10,000 level. The Annual Fund, which raised more than $800,000 in fiscal year 2015, supports a variety of museum and educational programs at Jamestown Settlement and the Yorktown Victory Center.

The Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation’s education programs, an ongoing priority, received a gift of $10,000 from Mrs. Carolyn Condon of Williamsburg to underwrite outreach education programs for students in Roanoke City Public Schools. Private funds ensure that young people have equal access to the Foundation’s on-site and outreach education programs, regardless of economic or social situation.

Participants in National Museum Conference Experience Jamestown Settlement, Yorktown Victory Center

Close to 250 museum professionals from across North America and from Europe visited Jamestown Settlement and the Yorktown Victory Center in June during the Association for Living History, Farm and Agricultural Museums (ALHFAM) annual meeting and conference, held this year in Virginia’s Historic Triangle.

Conferées toured the new museum building at the Yorktown Victory Center and participated in military drills on the event lawn. The Jamestown Settlement tour included a behind-the-scenes look at the historical clothing workshop and culminated with the conference-closing event, “Picnic on the Pier.”

Fireball Run ‘Space Race’ Comes to Historic Triangle

Jamestown Settlement and the Yorktown Victory Center partnered with the Greater Williamsburg Chamber and Tourism Alliance and other locations in the Jamestown-Williamsburg-Yorktown Historic Triangle to host Fireball Run, an adventure travel streaming television series, early this fall.

For “Space Race,” the ninth season of the Fireball Run series, 44 driving teams – including four astronauts from four nations – traveled in eight days from Connecticut to Florida, stopping at Greater Williamsburg and six other destinations to complete preselected “missions.”

Aboard the Godspeed, Ray McClelland, Sr., photographs his son and Fireball Run teammate Ray McClelland, Jr., receiving instruction in navigation from acting ships interpretive supervisor Hank Moseley.

Fireball Run teammates Lt. Colonel Marcos Cesar Pontes of Brazil, a former astronaut, and stunt driver Chance Morris undertake a musket drill with historical interpreter T.J. Savage.
Virginia History Scholars Will Converge at Jamestown Settlement in March

The 2016 Virginia Forum, which annually brings together people engaged in the study and interpretation of Virginia history, will take place at Jamestown Settlement March 3-5. This is the first time the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation has hosted the forum, held in 2015 at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond.

The theme of the 2016 Virginia Forum is “Convergences and Disjunctures,” selected to reflect the mission of the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation to study and teach Virginia history through the convergence of American Indian, European and African cultures and the legacies of those interactions in the development of the nation. For more information about the 2016 Virginia Forum, visit www.virginia-forum.org/2016-conference-jyf/.

Planning Gains Momentum

The 2019 Commemoration Steering Committee, co-chaired by Virginia Senator Thomas K. Norment, Jr., and Delegate M. Kirkland Cox, convened for the third time August 27 at the Virginia State Capitol. A newly adopted governance structure for committees and subcommittees was reviewed, and chairs were introduced. Jean F. Zeidler will serve as chair and Frank B. Atkinson as vice chair of the new Programs and Events Committee. George Keith Martin is chair and Paul D. Koone vice chair of the Resources and Logistics Committee. Joining the leadership Executive Committee is H. Benson Dendy III, chairman of the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation.

Several Programs and Events subcommittees were established. “First Representative Legislative Assembly” is co-chaired by Clerk of the Senate Susan Clarke Schaar and House of Delegates Clerk G. Paul Nardo. “First Africans in British North America” is co-chaired by Dr. Cassandra Newby-Alexander and Jaquelyn E. Stone. “Recruitment of Women” is co-chaired by United States Representative Barbara J. Comstock of Virginia’s 10th Congressional District and Anne Geddy Cross. “First Thanksgiving” is chaired by H. Graham Woodlief. The “Entrepreneurialism” subcommittee is co-chaired by Chief Stephen R. Adkins, Sr., and Bobbie G. Kilberg.

Highlighting the meeting were presentations by Matt Thornhill, founder and president of the Boomer Project, Southeastern Institute of Research (SIR), on potential commemoration themes, audiences, messaging and timeline, and Virginia Tourism Corporation President and CEO Rita McClenney on potential partnerships and promotional opportunities.

The Steering Committee members participated in a group discussion to determine key signature event initiatives and potential themes for submission to the various subcommittees.

Top priorities of the Steering Committee, next meeting on November 10 at the Virginia Historical Society, include defining signature events and programs, outlining sponsorship opportunities and drafting a communications plan.

For more information, call the 2019 Commemoration office at (757) 253-4219.

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Calendar

November 10
Revolutionary War Lecture Series:
“George Washington’s Journey”
Yorktown Victory Center, 7 p.m.
T.H. Breen, author of the forthcoming book
George Washington’s Journey: The President
Forges a New Nation, concludes a four-part fall lecture series on the life and legacy of the
nation’s first president. Advance reservations
recommended by calling (757) 253-4572 or
emailing rsvp@jyf.virginia.gov.

November 26–28
Foods & Feasts of Colonial Virginia
Foodways of the 17th and 18th centuries
are featured during this three-day event beginning on
Thanksgiving Day.

December 1 to January 3
A Colonial Christmas
Jamestown Settlement & Yorktown Victory Center
Holiday traditions of 17th- and 18th-century Virginia are
recalled through special interpretive programs and,
December 26–31, period musical entertainment.

December 5 to February 28
Clayton & Catesby: Botanical Virginia exhibit
Jamestown Settlement
Exhibit highlights documentation of native
plants by naturalist Mark Catesby and
botanist John Clayton in the 18th century and the Flora of Virginia Project in the 21st
century. See page 4 for details on lectures and
workshops related to the exhibit theme.

February 13
African-American Imprint
Jamestown Settlement
As part of Black History Month, special
musical performances, storytelling and craft
activities highlight African and African-
American heritage.

March 19–20
Military Through the Ages
Jamestown Settlement
Re-enactors and modern-day units show
how uniforms, weapons and military tactics
evolved through the centuries. Event features
an array of artillery firings, a Saturday
children’s parade, and a Sunday military
pass-in-review.

Jamestown and the Yorktown Victory Center are open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, closed December 25 and January 1. Admission to special programs
during operating hours is included with museum admission. Visit www.historyisfun.org for a calendar of upcoming events.