Future Galleries Will Dazzle, Inform

Exhibition galleries at the planned new Yorktown Victory Center will engage visitors in the tumult, drama and promise of the American Revolution through period artifacts and array of sensory experiences – re-created immersive environments, dioramas, interactive exhibits, video presentations and an experiential theater. Gallagher & Associates of Bethesda, Md., working with Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, will dazzle and inform.

Iconic artifacts, like a recently acquired portrait of King George III, have a central role in the planned new galleries.
Foundation staff, has completed exhibit schematic design work for the new galleries, which will present five major themes:

• “The British Empire and America” examines the geography, demography, culture and economy of America prior to the Revolution and the political relationship with Britain, set on a perilous course by Britain’s determination to exercise greater control over the colonies after the conclusion of the French and Indian War in 1763. Gazing on the scene from a nearly life-size portrait is King George III, symbol of British oppression.

• “The Changing Relationship – Britain and North America” details the growing rift between the American colonies and Britain. Within a full-scale wharf setting, issues of taxation and importation are brought into focus. As opposition to British measures to tax and control the colonies mounted, the idea of liberty took root. The Second Continental Congress declared in July 1775 that “[we are] resolved to die freemen rather than live slaves.”

• “Revolution” traces the war from the Battles of Lexington and Concord in 1775, to the Declaration of Independence in 1776, to victory at Yorktown in 1781 and the aftermath, and examines the motivations for American perseverance.

The “Revolution” theme encompasses exhibits about weapons and tactics, military commanders and ordinary soldiers, and the new United States on the world stage. Battles of the Revolution’s Northern and Southern campaigns will be illustrated through touch-screen computers and scale models. An experiential theater will transport visitors to the battlefield in Yorktown, with wind, smoke and the thunder of cannon fire.

The wartime home front will be portrayed in re-created home and town settings that provide a backdrop for the stories of diverse Americans – Patriots and Loyalists, women, Indians, enslaved and free African Americans – as they question, defy or contribute to the Revolutionary War effort.

• “The American People” explores the emergence of a new nation following the Revolution – influenced by immigration, internal migration, and demographic, political and social changes – and concludes with a snapshot of Americans today.

The exhibits will be located in a 22,300-square-foot permanent gallery space – 30 percent larger than the existing exhibit setting – in a new museum facility that also will include a special exhibition gallery and theater, education center, visitor services area, gift shop and staff workspace. The preliminary architectural design of the building and site plan – prepared by Westlake Reed Leskosky of Cleveland, Ohio, and Washington, D.C. – has been completed.

Guided by a master plan adopted in 2007 by the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation Board of Trustees, the project replaces existing ticketing, exhibit and maintenance buildings with one approximately 80,000-square-foot structure and provides for enhancements to the museum’s outdoor living-history areas. The new building is positioned on the site to allow for continued operation during construction.

As shown in a preliminary floor plan, exhibition galleries, classrooms, a theater, visitor reception and ticketing, the museum gift shop, staff offices and a library will be located on the main level of the new Yorktown Victory Center building. The lower level (not shown) will accommodate maintenance functions and interpretive program work and storage space.
Jamestown 2007 Steering Committee Publishes Official Report of ‘America’s 400th Anniversary’

The Jamestown 2007 Steering Committee, which coordinated the Commonwealth of Virginia’s observance of the 400th anniversary of the founding of America’s first permanent English colony in Virginia in 1607, has published its official report of the commemoration.

The 144-page illustrated America’s 400th Anniversary: Jamestown 2007 Steering Committee Report is available online and in print through the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation and Virginia Division of Legislative Automated Systems.

The Steering Committee was formed following Virginia General Assembly designation in 1996 of the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation as the Commonwealth’s official entity charged with planning and implementation of the commemoration. Initially consisting of 13 members appointed by the Foundation chairman, the group expanded to more than 40 members to include diverse representation from across the state.

The report is prefaced with messages from Vincent F. Callahan, Jr., and Thomas K. Norment, Jr., co-chairmen of the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation during the commemoration period; former Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O’Connor, honorary chair of the commemoration; and Jamestown 2007 Steering Committee Chairman Stuart W. Connock.

“America’s 400th Anniversary afforded us the perfect opportunity to reflect on the significance of the early days of our nation and the diverse contributions that were so essential to its development,” Justice O’Connor writes. “It was a moment to inspire Americans and to reconnect with the people, the events, and the ideas that gave us our start.”

The document provides a comprehensive overview of the commemoration, an 18-month-long series of events and programs, the product of “dozens of leaders, tens of thousands of individuals, and hundreds of community groups and partner organizations,” and cites its success in achieving educational, economic development and tourism goals.

Following a retrospective on two centuries of Jamestown anniversary observances, the report details the 10-year planning process for the 400th-anniversary commemoration, including the development of messaging, funding sources and sponsorships, partnerships, the Virginia 2007 Community Program that ensured statewide participation, and signature events. A 50-page section of the report describes major events of the commemoration, from Spring 2006 to Fall 2007, highlighted by America’s Anniversary Weekend, May 11-13, 2007.

Final sections of the report discuss efforts to build national awareness of Jamestown’s significance in American history; promotion of the commemoration through public relations and advertising; and results of the commemoration, including its educational and economic impact.

The America’s 400th Anniversary report is available in PDF format at www.historyisfun.org/planning-a-commemoration.htm and at http://leg1.state.va.us/lis.htm, “Reports to the General Assembly,” House Document 13. Print copies are available at the Jamestown Settlement and Yorktown Victory Center gift shops in hard cover ($14.95 each) and soft cover ($9.95 each). The books can be ordered by phone at (757) 253-7308 or online at www.shophistoryisfun.com.
The Camden Site, a Unique Archaeological Treasure

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

One of the most distinctive exhibits in the Jamestown Settlement galleries is a full-scale reproduction of a late-17th-century Indian house. This house duplicates a structure that was once part of a historically significant Indian community on the south bank of the Rappahannock River in Caroline County, Virginia. Discovered in 1964 by state archaeologist Howard MacCord, no one knows the original name of this community, but archaeologists refer to it as the Camden Site, since the tract of land was called the Camden Plantation when Anglo Americans occupied the site.

Although MacCord excavated only one Indian house at Camden, subsequent archaeological work on the site by the Virginia Department of Historic Resources revealed the locations of several others, as yet unexcavated, houses that were part of this same community. The Camden Site is rich in archaeological resources of many types, but it is the remains of this late-17th-century Indian community that are the most important. Camden tells us more about Indian life in late-17th-century Tidewater Virginia than any other known archaeological resource in Virginia, providing a window into one of the most poorly understood eras in the history of the Virginia Indian community.

By the middle of the 17th century, the Indians of eastern Virginia had lost the political independence they had under the Powhatan paramount chiefdom. Now they were the subjects of the English king and had to live where the royal governor of the Virginia colony told them to live and obey the laws he imposed on them. The governor set up what amounted to reservations for certain Indian groups along the Rappahannock River. In the mid-17th century, Indians of the Nanzattico tribe occupied lands in the vicinity of Camden. The Indian houses at Camden may represent a Nanzattico community, although other Indian tribes, notably the Portobago Indians, were living in this same general area by 1657. Also, in 1684 the Rappahannock Indians were moved to this area, so the tribal affiliation of the Camden inhabitants is unclear.

Some of the archaeological finds from Camden demonstrate how important the site was to the survival of the Virginia Indian community in the Tidewater. In 1662 Virginia’s English government issued to the Virginia Indian tribal leaders, or “kings,” “silver plates and copper plates with the name of the town graved upon them, (to) be given to all the adjacent kings within our protection.”

These badges were to be worn when tribal members came into English settlements, proving to the English that the Indians in question belonged to recognized tribes who were at peace with the Virginia colony. Only 20 of these badges were ever made, and only four of the badges are still known to exist. Two of the four surviving badges were found at the Camden Site, suggesting that the people who lived there included Indian kings and their families. The Indian town names on the two badges are “Machotick” and “Patomeck.” These names refer to the towns of Indian tribes that did not live in the Camden area originally, so the badges probably were brought to Camden when members of these tribes were resettled at Camden by government decree.

Although the colonial government of Virginia had a key role in creating the Camden settlement, it was not willing to protect the Indian lands there from English encroachment for very long. By the early 18th century, the land occupied by the Camden Indian community had been seized by English planters. Some of the Nanzattico Indians who lived there were sent out of the colony entirely, but other Camden inhabitants probably remained in the same general area, continuing their lives in Indian settlements that were not legally recognized. Even though Camden’s existence as an Indian reservation did not continue, the fact that the community had existed in the critical late-17th-century period was very important to the continuity of Virginia Indian culture. Camden gave the several Virginia Indian groups who resided there a chance to adapt to an English-dominated Virginia, and to preserve important aspects of their culture in the face of rapid and disruptive changes to the world that surrounded them.

Fortunately, the Commonwealth of Virginia and the United States government recognize the importance of Camden and have made provisions to protect this site for future generations. Just recently the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, the federal Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and the Department of the Army have entered into an agreement that places a preservation easement on the archaeological sites that formed the late-17th-century Camden Indian community. This agreement will protect the site from development in perpetuity, thereby ensuring the survival of this uniquely important archaeological resource.
Teachers are Students at Summer Institute

At the 2009 Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation Summer Teacher Institute, 24 elementary and middle school instructors from across Virginia experienced history firsthand as they worked in costume at Jamestown Settlement and the Yorktown Victory Center, learning from historical interpreters and interacting with museum visitors. Institute participants also toured the museums; took part in special programs at Historic Jamestowne and Yorktown Battlefield; experienced a Colonial Williamsburg evening program; attended sessions on various historical topics and instructional methods; and developed lesson plans for classroom use. The weeklong teacher institute in July was provided at no cost to the participants or their school districts through grants from a private family foundation and The Ukrop Foundation.

“It was the most educational and motivational week of our professional lives,” said Erika Daly of Boiling Spring Elementary School in Alleghany County and Willa Horne of Parkside Elementary School in Spotsylvania County in a joint letter. “We left knowing that we would never be the same type of teacher again. ... We now have an arsenal of objects and experiences with which we can bring history alive, engage students’ minds and imaginations, and foster a love and appreciation for our ancestors.”

In addition to one-week summer institutes held in 2008 and 2009 and scheduled for July 11-16, 2010, the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation offers interactive teacher study tours of Jamestown Settlement and the Yorktown Victory Center and, in conjunction with its statewide outreach education program, hands-on teacher workshops in Virginia school districts. The Foundation also supports the Colonial Williamsburg Teacher Institute in Early American History with historical content, teaching strategies and on-site instruction.

Web Site a Portal to Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation Museums, Educational Offerings

This issue of the Dispatch, introducing a new format, can be found at www.historyisfun.org along with an array of diverse and lively content relating to the public programs and educational and commemorative mission of the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation.

Current and past issues of the Dispatch are posted in the “News” section of the Web site, where visitors also will find news releases and “Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation Facts.” Sections of www.historyisfun.org are listed on the left side of the home page below a search feature that also assists visitors with locating content on the site. Clicking on “Jamestown Settlement” or “Yorktown Victory Center” leads to descriptions of museum exhibits and to historical chronologies and essays related to the museums’ themes.

“Tickets and Packages” assists individuals and groups in planning visits to the museums and the surrounding area, with a variety of online ticket purchase options and links to partner organizations.

“Amercia’s 400th Anniversary” is an archive of the 400th-anniversary commemoration of the 1607 founding of Jamestown, America’s first permanent English colony. A subsection, “Planning a Commemoration,” features a link to the recently published America’s 400th Anniversary: Jamestown 2007 Steering Committee Report.

“Giving” outlines opportunities for private support of the museums and programs of the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation and accepts online donations.

“Event Calendar” links to a chronological listing, with brief descriptions and illustrations, of special programs through 2010.

continued on page 6
1607 Society Delegation Participates in Bermuda’s 400th Anniversary

Twenty-four members of The 1607 Society, the premier donor group of the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, Inc., Annual Fund that supports programs of the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation and its two history museums, participated in 400th-anniversary events in Bermuda this summer. Accompanied by Foundation Executive Director Philip Emerson, Chief Development Officer Carter Sonders and Special Events Coordinator Patty Suttle, the 1607 Society members toured the island’s historic sites during their four-day stay and took part in Somers Day (Admiral Sir George Somers is credited as the founder of Bermuda) on July 28 in St. George, Bermuda’s first capital.

The St. George’s Foundation, a preservation and development organization, hosted the group at several events during their Bermuda visit, including a preview and official opening of its World Heritage Centre.

On Somers Day, the Virginians contributed a Jamestown 400th anniversary silver-dollar commemorative coin from 2007 and keepsake booklet on Jamestown Settlement’s 2009 “Jamestown and Bermuda: Virginia Company Colonies” special exhibition for a time capsule to be opened on July 28, 2109. Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation Chairman H. Benson Dendy III and Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, Inc., Secretary Jane Kaplan were special guests at a shipboard ceremony at the underwater archaeological site of the Sea Venture – which was bound for Virginia in 1609 – memorializing the 400th anniversary of the shipwreck that established a British presence in Bermuda. Later, Mr. Dendy presented government officials a joint resolution from the Virginia General Assembly commemorating the 400th anniversary of the founding of Bermuda and participated in the dedication of the World Heritage Centre.

Web Site a Portal

“Educational Adventures” offers curriculum materials, including lesson plans, essays and other resources, and information about programs for teachers and homeschool families.

“Videos and Podcasts” leads to more than 50 video and audio programs on a wide range of historical topics. Recent postings are “Economics of Jamestown,” produced by the Foundation’s outreach education and special services staff, and lectures presented at Jamestown Settlement by University of Tennessee Professor Lorri Glover and University of Rochester Associate Professor Michael Jarvis as part of the “Jamestown and Bermuda: Virginia Company Colonies” lecture series. Video and audio productions also are accessible from “Educational Adventures” and other sections of the Web site, as are downloadable informational brochures, museum guides and tour planners.

“Shop Online” links directly to the museum gift shop site, www.shophistoryisfun.com, where 150 products are available to purchase online.

The www.historyisfun.org and www.shophistoryisfun.com sites are managed by marketing and retail operations staff. Content for www.historyisfun.org is developed by marketing, museum operations and education, and development staff.
Noteworthy

Generous Gifts Support Annual Fund

Don and Linda Baker of Williamsburg and the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation have made gifts of $10,000 each to the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, Inc., Annual Fund, joining General Washington’s Council of The 1607 Society, the Annual Fund’s premier membership group. The Annual Fund provides unrestricted support for artifact acquisition, collection care, special exhibitions and museum educational programming.

New Mission Statement

The Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation Board of Trustees adopted the following new mission statement May 15 in light of the recently expanded storyline at Jamestown Settlement and the vision of a new Yorktown Victory Center museum: “The Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, an educational institution of the Commonwealth of Virginia, shall foster 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 Native American, European, and African cultures and the enduring legacies bequeathed to the nation.”

Constance Kincheloe Joins Board of Trustees

Constance R. Kincheloe of Culpeper has been appointed to a four-year term, through June 2013, on the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation Board of Trustees by Governor Timothy M. Kaine. She succeeds Laura R. Wright of Richmond. Stuart W. Connock of Richmond and Shirley “Little Dove” Custalow-McGowan of West Point were reappointed to the board for four-year terms.

Ms. Kincheloe, who has a master’s degree in guidance and counseling from the University of Virginia, has served on state and local educational boards and commissions since the 1980s. She chaired the State Board for Community Colleges in 2004-05 and currently is on the boards of the Virginia Foundation for Community College Education, University of Virginia Medical Center and Culpeper Regional Hospital.

Clifford Fleet Elected to Board of Directors

Clifford B. Fleet of Richmond has joined the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, Inc., Board of Directors. Mr. Fleet is vice president of investor relations at Altria Client Services, Inc., a subsidiary of Altria Group, Inc. He has served in a variety of management and leadership positions at the Altria family of companies, most recently as director of finance. Mr. Fleet earned a bachelor’s degree and graduate degrees in history, business administration and law from the College of William and Mary.

Development Staff Take on New Roles

Julie Westhafer Basic has been named senior development officer and is succeeded as director of the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, Inc., Annual Fund by Christina Dominguez, who had been Annual Fund assistant director for the past two years.

Ms. Basic will be responsible for major and planned gifts in support of museum programs and special initiatives. Before joining the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation in 2000 as Annual Fund director, Ms. Basic was assistant director of development at the University of North Carolina’s Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center. She has a bachelor’s degree in communications from Hollins University.

Ms. Dominguez joined the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation in 2001 and worked as a museum program assistant, historical interpreter and outreach education instructor before joining the development office in 2007. She has a bachelor’s degree in history from the University of Mary Washington.

Young Adventurers Explore Jamestown Settlement

Among the thousands of visitors to Jamestown Settlement this summer were a record-setting 15-year-old pilot and a group of 10 young people from the Middle East who were in Virginia for the taping of a reality television program based in Dubai.

Kimberly Anyadike, the youngest African-American female pilot to fly solo cross-country, toured Jamestown Settlement during the midpoint of her California-Virginia round trip. She was accompanied on the flight and during the museum visit by Levi Thornhill, who served with the Tuskegee Airmen of the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II.

Ten participants in Eish Safari, a production of the Middle East Broadcasting Center, enjoyed an afternoon tour at Jamestown Settlement, with the opportunity to participate in a variety of hands-on activities. During month-long filming based at False Cape State Park in Virginia Beach, the 11- and 12-year-olds took part in challenges and learned about American culture and history through experiences like the field trip to Jamestown Settlement.

Participants in the Eish Safari reality television program were filmed on board Jamestown Settlement’s Elizabeth engaged in a sail-handling competition.

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Calendar

Through October 15
“Jamestown and Bermuda: Virginia Company Colonies”
Special Exhibition
Jamestown Settlement
Bermuda, settled in 1609 as the result of a shipwreck that inspired Shakespeare’s The Tempest, is the focus of a 400th-anniversary exhibition that also explores governmental, religious and trade connections between England’s second permanent colony in the New World and its first – Jamestown, Virginia, founded in 1607.

October 17-18
Yorktown Victory Celebration
Yorktown Victory Center
Military life and artillery demonstrations mark the 228th anniversary of America’s momentous Revolutionary War victory at Yorktown on October 19, 1781. To experience Continental Army life firsthand, visitors can enroll in “A School for the Soldier” and try on uniforms, drill with wooden muskets and join in other hands-on military activities. Special programs also are held October 19 in Yorktown and at Yorktown Battlefield, administered by the National Park Service.

November 26-28
Foods & Feasts of Colonial Virginia
Jamestown Settlement &
Yorktown Victory Center
Virginia foodways 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-January 3, 2010
A Colonial Christmas
Jamestown Settlement &
Yorktown Victory Center
Holiday traditions of 17th- and 18th-century Virginia are recalled through special interpretive programs. At Jamestown Settlement, a film and 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.