**Midpoint Milestone**

With Move to New Building, Yorktown Victory Center is Midway in Transformation into American Revolution Museum at Yorktown

With the completion of an 80,000-square-foot building – a distinctive new Yorktown landmark – the Yorktown Victory Center has reached a midpoint milestone in its transformation into the American Revolution Museum at Yorktown.

As of late winter, visitors are welcomed in a spacious two-story entrance lobby. On opposite sides of the lobby are a museum gift shop and a café. Before entering the ticketed area, visitors can watch a new Yorktown Victory Center orientation video and find information about other area attractions.

In a 170-seat theater, until the premiere of new introductory film in 2016, three films will be shown on a rotating basis, each prefaced by a 60-second preview of the American Revolution Museum at Yorktown.

- **The Road to Yorktown**, which debuted with the opening of the Yorktown Victory Center in 1976 during the national Bicentennial, and **A Time of Revolution**, shown daily since 1995, focus on the 1781 Siege of Yorktown and events that led up to it, with emphasis on the perspectives and personal stories of those involved. **Liberty's Call**, a new film produced by the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation’s video production team to be added to the rotation this spring, combines period images with present-day interviews to explore the American ideal of liberty from its inception to the establishment of a national government, and across time to today.

Next to the theater is a 5,000 square-foot-space for future special exhibitions. A timeline corridor leading to the museum's outdoor living-history areas borders a 22,000 square-foot space where construction of permanent gallery exhibits, planned to open by late 2016, is underway. The corridor provides a visual journey from the 13 British colonies in the 1750s to westward expansion of the new United States in the 1790s. A short video at the end of the corridor introduces visitors to the museum's outdoor re-created Continental Army encampment and Revolution-era farm.

While work continues on the new galleries, special visitor participatory experiences will be offered in the corridor and nearby classrooms and on an outdoor event lawn. Periodic topics include military tactics, nationalities represented at the Siege of Yorktown, espionage, choosing sides during the Revolution, enlistment in the Continental Army, and military medicine.

A section of the new museum building serves as a venue for dynamic, interactive learning experiences for student groups as well as the general public. A separate entrance provides direct access to group check-in and five classrooms that support segments of curriculum-based structured educational programming and other museum special programs.

The building was designed by Westlake Reed Leskosky of Cleveland, Ohio, and built by W.M. Jordan Company, Inc., of Newport News. W.M. Jordan also is construction manager for new parking areas and removal of pre-existing structures. In addition to public spaces, the new building houses support functions – a meeting and special event space with a panoramic view of the York River, staff offices, library, historical clothing workshop, exhibit preparation and collection storage, and building and grounds maintenance. The 1976 museum building will be demolished this spring after the transition to the new building is complete, making way for construction of outdoor amenities and an expanded Continental Army encampment and Revolution-era farm. Learn more about the American Revolution Museum at Yorktown at www.historyisfun.org.
Building a Revolutionary Experience

Completion of New Museum Building Makes Way for Development of Outdoor Areas

By Jim Holloway, Director of Museum Education Services and Operations, and Martha Katz-Hyman, Curator

As operations transition into a new museum building at the Yorktown Victory Center, and fabricators are hard at work building permanent exhibits for the American Revolution Museum at Yorktown, exciting things are happening in the outdoor areas as well. Designed by Guernsey Tingle Architects of Williamsburg, the outdoor project encompasses new interpretive structures, a transitional pavilion, and visitor amenities including restrooms, benches, pathways and water fountains.

Enlarged Encampment

The Continental Army encampment, which will be the first site visitors come to when they leave the building, will be significantly larger and will include a separate drill field for hands-on tactical demonstrations and a separate artillery area with tiered seating. From the outside, the artillery area will look like a redoubt, and as visitors step in they will enter an amphitheater for large-scale demonstrations that can serve more than 250 people.

New Research Supports Farm Storyline

In addition to crop fields and a kitchen garden, the farm will include an expanded and more accurate farmhouse, a larger kitchen, and a work shed, tobacco barn and corncrib. New to the farm will be quarters for enslaved Africans, comprised of a small – about 10 by 12 feet – log house, swept yard and small garden, and an area to keep chickens.

In order to plan the farm and ensure consistency in the buildings and furnishings, the 18th-century York County family of Edward Moss (c. 1757-c. 1786) was identified to serve as a frame of reference. Edward was a fourth-generation member of the very large Moss family that first settled in York County in the mid-17th century. He grew up as an orphan; his father, James, died when Edward was about five years old. He had a series of guardians and as a teenager was apprenticed to his own brother, John, to learn the wheelwright trade.

Edward inherited five slaves from his father, and by the time of his death he owned six enslaved men, women and children. This put him in the top quarter of York County residents in terms of economic status, by virtue of owning that many enslaved people, but in other respects his life was very similar to that of his neighbors. He did not own land but rather leased 200 acres from a wealthy cousin.

Between 1778 and 1782, Edward married Martha Garrow, the daughter of one of his former guardians, and they had four children. Edward Moss was about 30 years old when he died, the cause unknown. By the time his estate was finally settled, in 1797, his oldest daughter was married, and his wife had remarried.

Though staff will not adopt the personas of Edward Moss or members of his family, the story of his life will give historical interpreters the opportunity to talk about a range of topics including farm life, the lives of enslaved African Americans, domestic life during the American Revolution, and the meaning of family and friends in this time period.

While planning and construction of the new interpretive areas is underway, the re-created Revolution-era farm and Continental Army encampment are located temporarily side-by-side next to the new museum building. Historical interpreters present daily demonstrations of herbal and military medicine, musket firings, farming and gardening, and food preparation. Visitors will be handed army enlistment papers as they head outdoors to the farm and encampment and may be invited to participate in military drills, join an artillery crew, take on the role of a spy, weed and water crops, and play 18th-century games.
Philanthropic Gifts and Grants Support American Revolution Museum at Yorktown, Core Education Programs

The Garland and Agnes Taylor Gray Foundation, a supporting organization of The Community Foundation Serving Richmond and Central Virginia, has provided $150,000 for the American Revolution Museum at Yorktown. With this grant, the Gray Foundation’s support for the project totals $259,000. Private donations to the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, Inc., are supporting elements of gallery and outdoor exhibits and educational resources for the new museum.

The Richard S. Reynolds Foundation of Richmond awarded $150,000 in support of the recent acquisition of a rare 1730s portrait of Ayuba Suleiman Diallo, one of the earliest known of an African who had been enslaved in the British colonies that became the United States. The iconic portrait, which will be exhibited in a section of the American Revolution Museum at Yorktown galleries that examines life in the 13 British colonies prior to the Revolutionary War, was secured in 2014 with an initial gift from Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation Trustee Fred D. Thompson, Jr., and undesignated private gifts to the Foundation, Inc.

The Robins Foundation of Richmond provided $25,000 for acquisition of artifacts for the new museum’s galleries. This is the fifth grant from the Robins Foundation in support of artifact acquisitions and gallery exhibits for the American Revolution Museum at Yorktown. Previous grants have supported acquisition of significant artifacts, including a June 12, 1776, Pennsylvania Gazette printing of the Virginia Declaration of Rights.

The Camp family foundations have renewed their support of the American Revolution Museum at Yorktown and Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation educational programming with grants totaling $49,000. Education programs, an ongoing priority, received additional gifts totaling $40,000, including $15,000 from Wells Fargo, $10,000 from Mrs. Carolyn Condon and her late husband Robert, $10,000 from the Huston Foundation, and $5,000 from Norfolk Southern. Private funds ensure that Virginia students from all economic backgrounds have equal access to on-site and outreach education programs.

Redesigned Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation Website Debuts


The home page and main sections of the new site feature a mosaic of images designed to engage consumers, educators, students and museum supporters. Drop-down menus at the top and footer menus at the bottom of every page provide ready access to site content, including information about visiting Jamestown Settlement and the Yorktown Victory Center, special events and exhibitions, the forthcoming American Revolution Museum at Yorktown, educational curriculum materials, donating in support of museum programs, and museum shopping.

Global navigation at the very top of site pages links to social media, videos, events and ticketing, with additional pathways on main pages to the museums’ Facebook page and All About the Revolution history blog and to events and options for buying tickets and booking vacation packages online.

Responsive design, which detects and accommodates the type of device being used to access historyisfun.org, has eliminated the need for a separate mobile site.

The new historyisfun.org site was custom-designed on a WordPress platform by Ciniva Web Agency of Norfolk, working with a group of Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation staff. The project, overseen by a task force comprised of members of the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation and Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, Inc., boards, was funded in part by a Virginia Department of Transportation Enhancement Program grant.
Rare French Sword and Scabbard Acquired for American Revolution Museum at Yorktown

An exquisitely ornamented 18th-century French court sword and scabbard will be among objects exhibited in a section of the American Revolution Museum at Yorktown galleries devoted to the French alliance that was crucial to the winning of American independence. The galleries are planned to open in late 2016.

The sword, complete with its scabbard accessory, was acquired with private gifts to the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, Inc., at the sale of a rare antique arms collection from Geneva, Switzerland. The design and decoration reflects the quality of craftsmanship for which French luxury goods of the period were renowned. The sword’s steel hilt is gilded in gold and chiseled with scenes, framed in scrollwork reliefs, of birds and beasts engaged in combat. Finely twisted silver wire encases the grip. Three fleurs-de-lis on an azure ground, representing the royal emblem of the kingdom of France, and exotic birds are chiseled on the scabbard mount. Two plain rings attached to the scabbard allowed the weapon to be suspended from a sword belt.

The covering on the wooden scabbard – the skin of brown spotted sand boa – prompted special arrangements for importation into the United States; the snake skin had to be certified as antique and in original condition, in compliance with the Endangered Species Act.

The sword, which likely belonged to a French courtier because of the heraldic emblem on the scabbard mount, has the classic form of a functional smallsword – evolved from the rapier – of the third quarter of the 18th century. Wearing such a weapon was an indication of a gentleman’s status or an officer’s rank as well as accomplishment in fencing, a fighting exercise described and popularized by the publication of L’Ecole des armes in 1763. Its author, Domenico Angelo, taught in Paris and London, where he became fencing instructor to members of the royal family.

‘DIY History’ Debuts on HistoryIsFun.org

Television “do it yourself” shows are the inspiration for a new “DIY History” series produced by the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation’s outreach education and special services staff. Videos and accompanying activity pages explore the production of products in 17th- and 18th-century America and how those processes can be applied today.

The first two episodes, which incorporate STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) concepts, are now on the roster of educational videos on www.historyisfun.org. Series host Patrick Teague discovers the importance of richly colored clothing in colonial times and learns how to use dye recipes from long ago in Color to Dye For. He explores the tea trouble Americans had during the Revolutionary War and tries home-grown recipes for herbal brews in Trouble Brewing.

A third episode, Sew Like a Sailor, featuring sewing aboard 17th-century ships, is in production.
2019 Commemoration Steering Committee Holds Inaugural Meeting

The newly formed 2019 Commemoration Steering Committee convened for the first time December 9 at the Virginia State Capitol in Richmond. The Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, designated by the Virginia General Assembly as the official state agency for commemorating the 400th anniversary of landmark events that took place in 1619, hosted a welcome reception and subsequent meeting.

The event opened with remarks from Foundation Chairman H. Benson Dendy III, Virginia First Lady Dorothy McAuliffe, and Virginia House of Delegates Speaker William J. Howell. Virginia Senator Thomas K. Norment and Virginia Delegate M. Kirkland Cox, co-chairs of the Steering Committee, presided at the meeting, where the agenda included discussions of overall commemoration themes, messaging, potential partners and programming.

The 2019 Commemoration Steering Committee is successor to a task force appointed in 2013 to identify initial goals and planning strategies of the commemoration. Members of the Steering Committee, as of January 2015, are Chief Stephen R. Adkins, Sr.; L. Ray Ashworth; Frank B. Atkinson; Dr. Warren M. Billings; Nancy N. Campbell; Eric I. Cantor; Dr. John T. Casteen III; Stuart W. Connock; Anne Geddy Cross; H. Benson Dendy III; Sue H. Gerdelman; Dr. James P. Horn; Senator Janet D. Howell; Delegate S. Chris Jones; Professor Ervin L. Jordan, Jr.; Paul D. Koonce; Senator Mamie E. Locke; House of Delegates Clerk G. Paul Nardo; Dr. Cassandra Newby-Alexander; Clerk of the Senate Susan Clarke Schaar; Delegate Christopher P. Stolle; Secretary of the Commonwealth Levar M. Stoney; Senator John C. Watkins; H. Graham Woodlief; and Jeanne F. Zeidler.

Hampton Roundtable Expands Involvement in Commemoration Planning

The second in a series of 2019 Commemoration Planning Roundtables took place at Hampton University December 2, with 40 participants representing organizations such as Hampton University, the City of Hampton, the Hampton Convention and Visitor Bureau, the Fort Monroe Authority and Norfolk State University. The first roundtable to gather public comments from various groups to support planning efforts was held at the Virginia Historical Society in October 2013.

Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation Executive Director Philip G. Emerson opened the Hampton session with an overview of the Foundation’s role in the 2019 commemoration. Norfolk State University Professor Cassandra Newby-Alexander and Hampton University Professor Eric W. Claville gave a presentation on the “1619: Making of America” conference series continuing through 2019. Following facilitated small-group sessions, Hampton History Museum Executive Director Luci Talbot-Cochran and retired Hampton University Professor William B. Wiggins, historian for Clio Sult Associates, reported on participant comments.

For information about future 2019 planning events, contact the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation executive office, (757) 253-4493.
Generous Gifts to Annual Fund Support Broad Range of Museum Programs

Mr. and Mrs. Garland Gray II – through the Garland & Agnes Taylor Gray Foundation, a supporting organization of The Community Foundation Serving Richmond and Central Virginia – have renewed their membership in General Washington’s Council of The 1607 Society with a gift of $10,000 to the 2015 Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, Inc., Annual Fund.

Ferguson Enterprises, headquartered in Newport News, renewed their corporate membership in General Washington’s Council with a gift of $10,000 to the 2015 Annual Fund.

The Charles Stewart Mott Foundation of Flint, Michigan, awarded a grant of $10,000, bringing their total grants to $20,000 for the 2015 Annual Fund.

The Annual Fund supports a variety of museum and educational programs at Jamestown Settlement and the Yorktown Victory Center.
Spring Lectures Explore Varied Topics: Royal Welch Fusiliers, Clothing of Common People, Chesapeake Log Canoe, Lafayette’s Farewell Tour

A diverse range of topics will be covered by four guest speakers at the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation museums this spring. Lectures are scheduled at the Yorktown Victory Center on March 24 and June 7 and at Jamestown Settlement on April 7 and May 5.

Lieutenant General Jonathon Riley, Ph. D, will speak at 7 p.m., Tuesday, March 24, at the Yorktown Victory Center on the subject of his book ‘That Astonishing Infantry: The History of The Royal Welch Fusiliers, 1689-2006’. General Riley, who earned a doctorate in Modern History from Cranfield University, served in the British Army from 1973 to 2009 and in the 1990s was commanding officer of the 1st Royal Welch Fusiliers, a regiment that dates to the 17th century and was present at the Siege of Yorktown in 1781. The NATO Meritorious Service Medal and United States Legion of Merit for service in Iraq are among General Riley’s numerous distinctions, and he continues to work as a military technical advisor and visiting professor. He is the author of 19 books, most recently The Last Ironsides: The English Expedition to Portugal, 1662-1668.

Stuart Peachey will speak at 7 p.m., Tuesday, April 7, at Jamestown Settlement on “Clothing of the Common People in Elizabethan and Jacobean England.” A historian specializing in the English Civil War and the history of food and clothing, Mr. Peachey is director of Historical Management Associates in Bristol, England, a living-history consultancy and publisher. His lecture title is from a recently published 35-volume series based on examination of surviving garments, paintings and period documents. Mr. Peachey has been affiliated with an array of television and radio programs, including BBC’s “Tales from the Green Valley,” a 12-part series on farm life in 1620 filmed at a restored historical landscape.

Lyles Forbes, chief curator at The Mariners’ Museum and Park, will present “The Chesapeake Log Canoe” at 7 p.m., Tuesday, May 5, at Jamestown Settlement in connection with the special exhibition “Working and Racing on the Bay: The Chesapeake Log Canoe.” The exhibition, at Jamestown Settlement through September 8, traces the evolution of the dugout canoe from the 17th to the 20th centuries and features objects from The Mariners’ Museum collection. Mr. Forbes, who spent much of his youth on or near the water and developed an affinity for sailing and boating, worked at the Peabody Essex Museum in Salem, Massachusetts, before joining The Mariners’ Museum in 2000. He has served as chief curator since 2007.

Alan Hoffman will present “Lafayette and the Farewell Tour: Odyssey of an American Idol” at 1 p.m., Sunday, June 7, at the Yorktown Victory Center. Mr. Hoffman is president of the American Lafayette Society. His lecture title is from his book Lavasseur’s Lafayette in America in 1824 and 1825, a firsthand account of Lafayette’s Farewell Tour of America, when he visited all 24 states and Washington City as the last surviving major general of the Continental Army. The lecture will explore the full extent of Lafayette’s extraordinary reputation based on his military record in the Revolution, his friendship with George Washington, and his continued support of American interests. Mr. Hoffman is president of the American Friends of Lafayette and of the Massachusetts Lafayette Society.

Admission is free to the lectures, and advance reservations are recommended by calling (757) 253-4572 or emailing rsvp@jyf.virginia.gov.
Calendar

Through September 8, 2015
“Working and Racing on the Bay: The Chesapeake Log Canoe”
Jamestown Settlement
Special exhibition curated by The Mariners’ Museum traces the evolution of the dugout canoe, from the watercraft of the Powhatan people 400 years ago to multi-log trade vessels and work and racing boats.

March 21-22
Military Through the Ages
Jamestown Settlement
Hundreds of re-enactors spanning centuries of military history demonstrate camp life, tactics and weaponry. Weekend highlights include performances of music from the 17th to 20th centuries. See story on page 6.

March 24, 7:00 p.m.
“That Astonishing Infantry: The History of the Royal Welch Fusiliers”
Yorktown Victory Center
Lecture by Lieutenant General Jonathon Riley, Ph. D., British Army veteran, author and former commanding officer of the 1st Royal Welch Fusiliers. See story on page 7.

April 7, 7:00 p.m.
“Clothing of the Common People in Elizabethan and Jacobean England”
Jamestown Settlement

May 5, 7:00 p.m.
“The Chesapeake Log Canoe”
Jamestown Settlement
Lecture by Lyles Forbes, chief curator at The Mariners’ Museum and Park. See story on page 7.

May 9
Jamestown Day
A jointly sponsored event at Jamestown Settlement and Historic Jamestowne
A day of fun and discovery marks the 408th anniversary of the 1607 founding of Jamestown, America’s first permanent English colony, with programs on Powhatan Indian and English interactions, military and maritime displays, family-friendly activities, and traditional music and entertainment.

June 1-30
“Fashion in Colonial Virginia” Theme Month
Jamestown Settlement & Yorktown Victory Center
Discover methods and materials used to construct garments and how clothing styles reflected an individual’s occupation and status. “A Stitch in Time” weekend at Jamestown Settlement on June 27 and 28 includes a 17th-century fashion show and tailor demonstrations.

June 7, 1:00 p.m.
“Lafayette and the Farewell Tour: Odyssey of an American Idol”
Yorktown Victory Center
Lecture by Alan Hoffman, translator of Lafayette in America in 1824 and 1825 and president of the American Friends of Lafayette. See story on page 7.

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