Rare Artifacts, Engaging Programs Await Museum Visitors In 2010

Artifacts from Virginia’s original “capital” city, on museum display for the first time, and a rare July 1776 broadside printing of the Declaration of Independence are among the treasures in store for visitors to Jamestown Settlement and the Yorktown Victory Center in 2010.

“Werowocomoco: Seat of Power,” a six-month special exhibition opening May 15 at Jamestown Settlement, will feature for the first time in a museum setting archaeological artifacts from the site that served as a Virginia Indian political and social center for centuries and was the principal residence of Powhatan, the paramount chief of 30-some Indian tribes in Virginia’s coastal region at the time English colonists arrived in 1607. The exhibition will examine the relationship between material culture and political authority in the region from prehistoric times through the early years of the 17th century and what Werowocomoco means to descendent Virginia Indian communities today.

“Virginia Indian Heritage Day” will be held June 26 in conjunction with the exhibition, featuring panel discussions addressing the importance of Werowocomoco and the history of the Powhatan Indians and presentations of intertribal dancing and drumming.

A recently acquired early broadside printing of the Declaration of Independence continues on exhibit at the Yorktown Victory Center, where it debuted this fall. The rare historic document, an outstanding addition to the museum collection, was printed in Boston soon after the Declaration was adopted by the Continental Congress in Philadelphia on July 4, 1776, and before an engrossed, or handwritten, copy on parchment was signed by members of Congress on August 2, 1776.

The museums’ historically based outdoor interpretive areas – re-created Powhatan Indian village, 1607 continued on page 2

Grants Support Elements of Yorktown Victory Center Replacement Project

Grants of $25,000 from the Robins Foundation, $15,000 from Altria Group, Inc., and $10,000 from the Dominion Foundation support plans to replace the Yorktown Victory Center. The Dominion Foundation also donated $10,000 to the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, Inc., Annual Fund.

Guided by a master plan adopted in 2007 by the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation Board of Trustees, the Yorktown Victory Center project includes replacement of existing ticketing, exhibit and maintenance buildings with one approximately 80,000-square-foot structure, creation of an entrance plaza, relocation and expansion of parking areas, and enhancements to the museum’s outdoor living-history areas. Preliminary architectural design and gallery exhibit schematic design work is complete, and private donations are sought to support the acquisition of artifacts for exhibit and other program elements.

The Robins Foundation grant will be used for general support of the project. The Altria grant will go toward building the museum collection, and the Dominion grant supports research and planning for a new introductory film.
Museum Programs in 2010
continued from page 1

English ships and 1610-1614 fort and a seasonal riverfront area at Jamestown Settlement, and re-created Continental Army encampment and 1780s farm at the Yorktown Victory Center – are settings for daily demonstrations and interaction with costumed historical interpreters as well as periodic special events.

Three events mark important milestones in the nation’s history. “Jamestown Day” at Jamestown Settlement on May 15, jointly sponsored with Historic Jamestowne, commemorates the 403rd anniversary of the founding of America’s first permanent English colony. At the Yorktown Victory Center, “Liberty Celebration” on July 3 and 4 salutes the anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence, and “Yorktown Victory Celebration” on October 16 and 17 celebrates the 229th anniversary of the decisive military victory of the American Revolution.

The popular annual event “Military Through the Ages,” with re-enactment groups spanning the centuries, will take place March 20 and 21 at Jamestown Settlement. Both Jamestown Settlement and the Yorktown Victory Center will feature historical Virginia foodways during “Foods & Feasts of Colonial Virginia” November 25-27 and 17th- and 18th-century holiday traditions during “A Colonial Christmas” December 1 through January 3, 2011.

During three months, interpretive programs will focus on themes: “From Africa to Virginia” at Jamestown Settlement in February and, at both museums, “Tools of the Trade” in June and “Pastimes of Colonial Virginia” in August.

1607 Society Members Tour Nation’s Capital

Members of The 1607 Society, shown at the United States Capitol, traveled to Washington, D.C., in December for immersive tours of the nation’s most iconic sites. Eighteen members of the Society, the premier donor group of the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, Inc., Annual Fund, participated: Linda and Don Baker, Susan Britcher, Jane deSolms, Suzanne and Bill Burgoon, Sue Gerdelman, Connie and Gil Granger, Robert and Martha Anne Hastings, Jane Kaplan, Lee Kostel, Dottie and Sterling Nichols, Vonny and Dick Stanier, and Ann Symroski. They were accompanied by Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation Senior Development Officer Julie Basic, Annual Fund Director Christina Dominguez and Special Events Coordinator Patty Suttle. The three-day itinerary included guided tours of Mount Vernon Estate and its new Ford Orientation Center and Donald W. Reynolds Museum and Education Center, the Library of Congress, and the Capitol Building, as well as a performance at historic Ford’s Theater. A White House tour with Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, Inc., President Sue Gerdelman, who served there from 2002 to 2006 on the National Economic Council and Homeland Security Council, was a highlight of the trip.
Recent Artifact Acquisitions Enhance Museum Exhibits

In addition to a July 1776 broadside printing of the Declaration of Independence (see “Rare Artifacts …” on page 1), two other recent acquisitions for the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation collection – a terracotta portrait medallion of Benjamin Franklin and a portrait of King Louis XVI of France – went on exhibit in the Yorktown Victory Center’s Declaration of Independence Gallery this fall. The portrait medallion was produced by Jean-Baptiste Nini in 1777 while Franklin was serving as an American representative in France where he had a key role in persuading the French to aid the American cause. The portrait of Louis XVI is from the studio of Count Joseph Boze and is a variation of Boze’s original portrait of the king done in 1784. French military and financial support for the American side during Louis’s reign was critical to the winning of the Revolution.

Although recent emphasis has been on building the Yorktown Victory Center collection in conjunction with planning for new museum galleries, objects continue to be acquired for exhibit in the Jamestown Settlement galleries. One recent addition to the collection is a Charles I silver counter box and 26 silver counters. Sets of coin-shaped metal disks that could be used as gaming pieces were given as gifts in late 16th- and early 17th-century England. This particular set of counters is stamped with the images of England’s kings and queens. The set is planned for future exhibit in the Jamestown Settlement galleries section on parent cultures of 17th-century Virginia to illustrate English recreation and the arts.

Acquisition of artifacts is funded with gifts to the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, Inc., including the Annual Fund.

Donors Underwrite Successful School Scholarship Program

Funded entirely by private donors, the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation’s elementary school scholarship program has served more than 11,000 participants in nine Virginia school districts since its inception in 2006-07 and will reach an additional 7,000 participants during the current academic year.

The elementary school scholarship program is a component of the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation’s outreach education programming, which reached 104,361 people in the 2008-09 academic year, including students in 118 Virginia school districts.

The scholarship program provides outreach and on-site education experiences for students and teachers in Virginia school districts where a significant number of students participate in free and reduced-fee school lunch programs. The program supports Virginia Standards of Learning and targets fourth-grade students and teachers or the grade level selected by the school district. There are four components: a professional development workshop for teachers; the hands-on “Cultures at Jamestown” classroom program; a curriculum-based, inquiry-oriented guided tour of Jamestown Settlement, and teacher resource materials.

Five donors have funded the elementary school scholarship program through this year. Grants from the Camp family foundations, the J.C. Schiro-Zavela Foundation, Northrop Grumman, a private family foundation and The Ukrop Foundation cover transportation to Jamestown Settlement and other program costs.

For more information about supporting programs of the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, call (757) 253-4139 or visit www.historyisfun.org/giving.htm.
In 1782 the French-American writer and farmer Jean de Crevecoeur noted that the people of America were a stranger mixture than could be found in any other country. Prior to the American Revolution, the people in Britain’s 13 North American colonies represented several dozen regional and religious cultures derived from northwestern Europe and Africa. The colonies’ total population approximated two million. Africans or African Americans accounted for nearly one-fourth of this total, and non-English Europeans comprised about another one-fourth of the population.

In New England’s coastal fishing towns and on small farms lived a generally homogenous English population of Anglicans, Puritans, Baptists and Quakers. Smaller groups of Scotch-Irish and Welsh also lived in the region. A small group of Sephardic Dutch Jews resided in Newport, Rhode Island. Boston became the capital of greater New England by 1750. These colonies represented several dozen regional and religious cultures derived from northwestern Europe and Africa. The colonies’ total population approximated two million. Africans or African Americans accounted for nearly one-fourth of this total, and non-English Europeans comprised about another one-fourth of the population.

The Middle Colonies of New York, Pennsylvania and New Jersey supported a wider variety of cultural groups because Pennsylvania’s tolerant Quakers recruited from non-English areas of Europe. These “melting pot” colonies attracted settlers of English, Scotch-Irish, Welsh, German, Dutch and Swedish backgrounds who established farms to the east and west of the Delaware River and up the Hudson, with Germans settling west of the Hudson. The region attracted a variety of German religious groups, some of which had emerged from the European Reformation.

While Welsh settlers remained close to Philadelphia, Germans and Scotch-Irish settled central and western Pennsylvania by 1755 and subsequently traveled south into the Great Valley of Maryland and Virginia. Small groups of Sephardic Dutch Jews lived in both New York City, the colonies’ second largest city, and in Philadelphia, the largest colonial city. The Middle Colonies supported one-fourth of the population of British America, with Africans or African Americans comprising about six percent of this region’s people.

The Upper South – Maryland, Delaware, Virginia and North Carolina – supported the largest population. About 20 percent of colonists lived in Virginia alone, and 40 percent of African and African-American slaves in the colonies lived on Virginia tobacco plantations established primarily by English Anglicans along Tidewater rivers. When English settlers moved west for better land, they encountered Germans and Scotch-Irish coming through the Shenandoah Valley from Pennsylvania. Some Valley travelers stopped in Maryland where they mingled with Irish and English Catholics, some of whom had moved north from Virginia. Mixed agriculture on family farms became the focus among the people of the Piedmont and Valley.

North Carolina developed slowly. While Virginians inhabited coastal North Carolina, Scotch-Irish and Germans settled inland as they continued their migration from Pennsylvania. Dutch and Swedes established Delaware, the smallest colony in this region. Even though the Upper South supported the largest population in the colonies, it remained a rural region, with no large cities, no substantial market towns and only a few small ports and provincial capitals.

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<th>1770 Population Estimates</th>
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<td>New England</td>
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<td>Middle Colonies</td>
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By contrast with its neighboring region, the Lower South (South Carolina and Georgia) contained less than 10 percent of the colonies’ population. However, African and African-American slaves comprised more than half of the region’s people. English, Scotch-Irish and Irish immigrants from Barbados settled the coast, hoping to grow exotic crops such as sugar cane, cotton and citrus fruits, but rice, indigo and naval stores soon dominated the economy. Inland, settlers cut timber and raised corn, cattle and hogs.

The Carolinas evolved into a varied population of English Anglicans and Puritans, Highland and Lowland Scots Presbyterians, French Huguenots, German Moravians and Lutherans, and city-dwelling Sephardic Dutch Jews. Scotch-Irish and Germans lived in Georgia, the least populated of the 13 colonies. The vast majority of the population in the Lower South lived along the coast, with Charleston the center of regional life.

While New England played a major role in the revolutionary movement, it contained fewer people than the mid-Atlantic region. It also had the most homogenous population, in contrast to the variety of cultural and ethnic groups in other colonies. More than half of the colonial population and more than 70 percent of Africans and African Americans lived in four contiguous colonies — Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia and North Carolina.

Noteworthy

Stephen Adkins Joins Foundation Board

Stephen R. Adkins of Charles City was elected to a one-year term on the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation Board of Trustees at the board’s semi-annual meeting in November. Mr. Adkins is chief deputy director of the Virginia Department of Human Resource Management and is principal chief of the Chickahominy Indian Tribe. He served on the federal Jamestown 400th Commemoration Commission during its 2005-08 lifespan and on the Charles City County School Board for more than 20 years.

Retired from a career at DuPont, Mr. Adkins is on the board of directors of DuPont Fibers Federal Credit Union. He earned a bachelor’s degree in business administration from Virginia Commonwealth University and an associate degree at Bacone College in Muskogee, Okla. He currently is a member of the Bacone College Board of Trustees.

The board re-elected A. Marshall Acuff, Jr., Frank B. Atkinson and Reginald N. Jones, all of Richmond, to one-year terms.

Linda Baker, Sterling Nichols Elected to JYF, Inc., Board

Linda T. Baker and Sterling M. Nichols, both of Williamsburg, were elected to the board of directors of the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, Inc., for four-year terms through 2013.

Mrs. Baker, a graduate of Simmons College in Boston, has worked as a research assistant in the field of immunology as well as a writer and editor. She has extensive volunteer experience with cultural and community organizations, managing and assisting with fundraising activities, publications, Web sites and governance. Mrs. Baker chairs the Development/Donor Relations Committee of the Williamsburg Community Foundation and performs with the Williamsburg Choral Guild.

Mr. Nichols, retired from careers in chemical engineering and real estate development, has long been involved in community organizations and local government, currently in efforts to build a visual arts center in the Williamsburg area. He has served on the Williamsburg Area Chamber of Commerce Executive Committee and James City County Economic Development Authority and chaired the Hospice House Building Committee. Mr. Nichols has an engineering degree from Virginia Tech.

Matching Gifts Made Easier

A searchable database of employers that sponsor matching gift programs is now available in the “Giving” section of www.historyisfun.org. A donor can enter an employer’s name to learn the company’s match policy, gift ratio and procedure for having a gift matched. Some companies also match gifts made by retirees and spouses. To reach the page, go to www.historyisfun.org and click on “Giving,” then “Matching Gifts,” or go directly to www.matchinggifts.com/historyisfun/.

Museums Now on Facebook

Jamestown Settlement and the Yorktown Victory Center are now on Facebook. The new Facebook fan page, http://www.facebook.com/historyisfun, was launched in October, and can be accessed from the www.historyisfun.org Web site by clicking on the Facebook icon on the home page. It is not necessary to join Facebook to view the page. Involvement with the social media site gives the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation the opportunity to build an online community of interest and to share information about historical events and activities at the museums.

New Gift Shop Web Site Debuts

A new version of the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation museum store Web site, www.shophistoryisfun.com, was launched in November, in time for the holiday season. The home page was redesigned for a more contemporary look, and navigation and shopping categories were simplified. Content areas are displayed in sections to encourage customers to scroll through and gravitate to featured products. There are additional spaces to announce new items, store events and seasonal specials.

The site offers more than 300 items, which also are available at the Jamestown Settlement and Yorktown Victory Center gift shops.
Outfitting Historical Interpreters at Jamestown Settlement and Yorktown Victory Center Is All About Details


As important as choosing an artifact for the museum galleries or the type of wood for a replica ship, the task of the historical clothing services staff is to create authentic period clothing for men and women depicting Powhatan Indians, 17th-century English sailors and colonists, Revolutionary War soldiers, and 18th-century farmers.

A paid and volunteer staff of seven works at three locations – the central support complex and the two museums – to meet the clothing needs of 170 full-time, part-time and volunteer interpreters who interact with visitors. In addition, the volunteer sailing crew is outfitted for appearances at special events, and 24 participants in the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation Summer Teacher Institute are fitted for clothing while working a week as interpreters.

From design to fabric selection, the focus is on creating authentic period clothing. All seams and stitching visible to the public are sewn by hand, while interior seams are done on a machine.

Garments are kept in inventory, and first-time interpreters may initially be provided with items on hand. It may take up to two weeks to create an entire set of clothing, from measuring, drafting a pattern, cutting fabric and sewing to fitting twice and finishing. The only items not made on site are hats and shoes.

Extant period clothing in museums and collections and historical paintings and drawings are used to gather information about what 17th- and 18th-century clothing looked like in order to reproduce designs.

“Our task is to visually dissect the information provided through primary sources and figure out how the tailors and seamstresses of colonial times constructed them,” said historical clothing services supervisor Chris Daley.

Patterns for shirts, shifts and caps can be made in standard sizes of small, medium and large. Often to streamline the production, a costume technician may cut out some clothing in bulk. By stacking fabric 50 layers high, 50 breeches can be machine-cut at one time, then tailored to fit individual interpreters. Other patterns for waistcoats, doublets, stays and bodices must be custom-designed and fitted.

Unlike modern methods of taking measurements, measuring tapes feature notches – not numbers – to gauge the length of an interpreter’s neck, back, waist, arms and wrists.

Picking the right fabric is essential, not only to make the garments authentic to the period but to endure the typical workday and ensure the safety of historical interpreters in the outdoor living-history areas.

“We have to make the clothes as resilient as the interpreters,” said Daley, who noted that on a daily basis interpreters climb ships’ rigging, fire muskets and cannons, forge metal, plant tobacco and cook around open fires.

Typically an interpreter is issued five shirts, five sets of stockings and five changes of outer garments. The most ex-
Medical Care in 17th-Century Virginia Interpreted at Jamestown Settlement Fort

Disease and injuries were rampant in Jamestown’s early years, and among the colonists were a few trained medical practitioners employed by the Virginia Company of London.

Equipped with examples of 17th-century medicines, reproductions of surgical instruments, and 16th- and 17th-century medical texts, interpreters at Jamestown Settlement’s re-created colonial fort periodically engage visitors in learning about medical practices of the early 17th century and making comparisons with medicine today.

Three types of medical practitioners were at Jamestown at various times: apothecaries, who like pharmacists of today prepared medicines; surgeons, who treated various injuries and illnesses; and physicians, who diagnosed disorders and prescribed medicines. Apothecaries and surgeons served apprenticeships, and physicians were university trained. All belonged to guilds or colleges that regulated medical practice. While each of the three disciplines had distinct responsibilities, roles may have overlapped in Virginia, adjusting to the reality of resources and need.

Two surgeons, Thomas Wotton and William Wilkinson, arrived with the first colonists in 1607. Physician Walter Russell, surgeons Anthony Bagnall and Post Ginnat, and apothecaries Thomas Field and John Harford arrived in 1608. It is possible that all either returned to England or perished by late 1609, when John Smith claimed that Jamestown was “without either Chirurgion or chirurgery.”

Physician Lawrence Bohun arrived with Lord de la Warr, the colonial governor, in May 1610 and departed with him in 1611. Before and after Dr. Bohun’s tenure in Virginia, the Virginia Company made repeated efforts to recruit medical practitioners and secure medical supplies. The company arranged in 1609 for John Woodall, a surgeon noted for his experience with tropical ailments, to ship a “chest of chirurgery sufficiently furnished” along with an assistant to report back about additional needs.

Several of the replica surgical instruments at Jamestown Settlement – scalpel, bone chisel, trephine for relieving pressure on the brain, spatula mundani for relieving constipation, and terebellum for removing bullets – are inspired by Preservation Virginia’s archaeological findings at Historic Jamestowne, the original settlement site.

Historical Clothing
continued from page 6

Pensive clothing and some of the most labor intensive is for interpreters in the Yorktown Victory Center’s re-created Continental Army encampment. One wool regimental coat for an encampment interpreter can take up to 40 hours from start to finish.

Debbie Breaux, who works part-time in historical clothing services, delights in her work when visiting the interpretive areas. “I love to see someone out there wearing something that I’ve made and see them wearing it well.”

A visitor learns how a terebellum is used for extracting bullets. Shown in the foreground are sassafras root, used to reduce fever, and examples of cupping glasses that, with the interiors heated, were applied to abscesses or to stimulate circulation for the common practice of bloodletting.

Historical interpreter Terry Bond, who developed research materials for the medical interpretive demonstration at Jamestown Settlement, hands a jar of ground comfrey, used in the 17th century for reducing inflammation, to a museum visitor. Among other medicines displayed are vinegar, turpentine and honey, all with antibacterial properties (though it was not known until the 19th century that bacteria were a cause of disease), and white mustard, used in a poultice to relieve congestion.
The Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, an educational institution of the Commonwealth of Virginia accredited by the American Association 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 Native American, 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
Volume 24, No. 1
Printed January 2010
Deborah Padgett, Editor
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February 1-28
From Africa to Virginia
Theme Month
Jamestown Settlement

Gallery exhibits and a special gallery brochure highlight the culture of the first known Africans in Virginia, from the kingdom of Ndongo in Angola, and the experience of Africans in 17th-century Virginia. Daily outdoor tours of the museum’s living-history areas compare fishing, hunting, construction and metalworking skills of Africans in Angola with technology used in 17th-century Virginia. At the ships, tour participants will be invited to participate in role play that illuminates the circumstances of the 1619 arrival in Virginia of 20-some Africans.

March 20-21
Military Through the Ages
Jamestown Settlement

Re-enactment groups depicting centuries of military history join forces with modern-day veterans and active units to show how uniforms, weapons and military tactics evolved throughout the centuries, as well as aspects of field communication, medical treatment, and mapping and surveying. The event features a children’s parade on Saturday and a military pass-in-review on Sunday.

May 15
Jamestown Day

A jointly sponsored event at Jamestown Settlement & Historic Jamestowne

Maritime demonstrations, military drills, archaeology and programs on English and Powhatan Indian contact, exploration and discovery mark the 403rd anniversary of the 1607 founding of Jamestown, America’s first permanent English colony.

May 15-November 15
“Werowocomoco: Seat of Power”
Special Exhibition
Jamestown Settlement

Werowocomoco was the principal residence of Powhatan, the paramount chief of 30-some Indian tribes in Virginia’s coastal region at the time English colonists arrived in 1607. Recent archaeological excavations have revealed not only that the York River site was a uniquely important place during Powhatan’s time, but also that its role as a political and social center predated the Powhatan chiefdom. This will be the first museum exhibition of artifacts from the Werowocomoco site.

June 1-30
Tools of the Trade Theme Month
Jamestown Settlement & Yorktown Victory Center

Implements used in colonial Virginia for farming, fishing, hunting, defense, navigation and building are examined through interpretive programs and hands-on activities.