Beginning with two presentations during “From Africa to Virginia” theme month in February, public lectures highlight and complement special programming this year at Jamestown Settlement and the Yorktown Victory Center.

The February lectures are set for 2 p.m. on two Sunday afternoons at Jamestown Settlement.

Lauranett L. Lee, Virginia Historical Society curator of African American history, will speak February 12 on “Exploring 17th-Century Virginia: Legislating Boundaries and Creating Culture.” An examination of Virginia statutes illustrates how the lives of women and Africans became increasingly circumscribed in 17th-century Virginia. Dr. Lee will discuss the ways in which focused legislation and cultural collisions produced a legal society and culture unique among the founding colonies.

Christy S. Coleman, president of The American Civil War Center at Historic Tredegar and award-winning screenwriter for educational television, will present “In the Cause of Liberty: Shaping the American Ideal of Freedom” on February 19. She will explore the concept of freedom as a legacy of early settlers and how over time the interpretation of its meaning, along with founding documents, led to the American Revolution and the American Civil War.

A two-part series in the spring, “Virginia Economy in the 17th Century,” takes place in conjunction with the 400th anniversary of the cultivation of tobacco as a cash crop in Virginia. The lectures are scheduled at 7 p.m., Saturdays, April 28 and May 19, at Jamestown Settlement.

Marcy Norton, associate professor of history at George Washington University, will present “How Tobacco Became a Commodity” on April 28. The lecture draws from Dr. Norton’s book Sacred Gifts, Profane Pleasures: A History of Tobacco and Chocolate in the Atlantic World, which explains how these two goods that originated in the Americas became European

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Major Gifts Bolster Museum Programs

More than $100,000 in new major gifts support the Yorktown Victory Center replacement project, Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation educational programming and the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, Inc., Annual Fund, which provides unrestricted funding for a range of programs.

Two gifts of $25,000 – from the Robins Foundation and from Drs. Anne Leddy and Alexander Wilson – and $9,000 from the Garland and Agnes Taylor Gray Foundation, a supporting organization of The Community Foundation Serving Richmond and Central Virginia, are for the Yorktown Victory Center replacement project, which will locate exhibits, classrooms, visitor services and support functions in one approximately 80,000-square-foot structure, reorganize

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“From Africa to Virginia” is the title of a multimedia presentation in the Jamestown Settlement galleries as well as the theme of interpretive programming in February, with a special family gallery guide, daily outdoor tours, and lectures on February 12 and 19.

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Two stages of tobacco production are shown outside Jamestown Settlement's re-created 1610-14 fort, with examples of tobacco leaves hanging to cure and young tobacco plants under cultivation. Tobacco as a commodity is the subject of “Virginia Economy in the 17th Century” lectures on April 28 and May 19.

continued on page 2

continued on page 3
commodities of mass consumption and puts the encounter between the New World and Old World in a fresh light.

Karen Ordahl Kupperman, Silver Professor of History at New York University and author of numerous books on the Atlantic world in the 16th and 17th centuries, will present “Virginia Seeks a Crop” on May 19. Dr. Kupperman describes efforts in the early years of Jamestown to develop a product to repay the immense costs of establishing the colony and keep investors committed to the project. Experiments with glassmaking, silk production, sassafras, winemaking and tobacco were pursued. Tobacco would become Virginia’s gold, but the frantic search for products colored the first years of colonial life.

A June 9 lecture features Jamestown Settlement’s current special exhibition, “The 17th Century: Gateway to the Modern World,” organized by the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts in cooperation with the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation. Exhibition curator Twyla Kitts, VMFA literary and teacher programs educator, will speak at 7 p.m. at Jamestown Settlement on “Captains, Monarchs, Philosophers, and Merchants: Picturing the 17th Century.” The presentation investigates the dramatic changes in 17th-century technology and philosophy that set the stage for the modern world, using works of art from the VMFA collection to illustrate the shifts in international alliances, economic competition and world view that are characteristic of this transitional age.

The Yorktown Victory Center’s Revolutionary War lecture series inaugurated last year continues in 2012 with three 7 p.m. Saturday lectures surrounding “Yorktown Victory Celebration,” held October 20 and 21 in conjunction with the anniversary of the momentous 1781 American victory at Yorktown.

On September 22, Sarah Meschutt, Yorktown Victory Center senior curator, will present “Patriots Claim New Destiny; Loyalists Defend Their Heritage in the United States of America,” exploring the causes for which Loyalists and Patriots fought and died and their lives in the aftermath of the Treaty of Paris.

John Tilley, associate professor of history at East Carolina University, will speak October 6 on the “Battle of the Capes,” which was critical to Cornwallis’ surrender at Yorktown and the collapse of the British commitment to the war.

The series concludes October 27 with “Origins of the Constitution” presented by Abner (Woody) Linwood Holton III, author and professor of history and American Studies at the University of Richmond.

The lectures are supported with private donations to the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, Inc. Admission is free to the evening lectures and included with museum admission to the February afternoon lectures. Advance reservations are recommended by calling (757) 253-4572 or e-mailing rsvp@jyf.virginia.gov.


2012 Lectures

continued from page 1

The Battle of the Capes, depicted in a 1981 watercolor painting by John D. Meier, Jr., is the topic of the October 6 lecture in the Yorktown Victory Center’s Revolutionary War lecture series. Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation collection, gift of John H. Robertson.
Military Objects Acquired for Exhibit at Yorktown Victory Center

An assortment of military weapons and accoutrements dating to the second half of the 18th century has been acquired with private donations to the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, Inc., for future exhibit at the Yorktown Victory Center. These artifacts will strengthen the museum’s ability to tell the story of military activities during the American Revolution.

Guns include three British firearms – a 1757 marine and militia musket, a 1772 “Elliot” light dragoon carbine, and a 1778 sea service musket. In addition, a Prussian musket of the type used by some Hessian troops in America was acquired.

Ten edged weapons were added to the collection: a Colonial American halberd; a British officer’s silver-hilted short saber, the hilt with a 1776 London assay mark; a mid-century British sea service sword with scabbard; a 1772 British marine sergeant’s sword; a 1767 French infantry officer small sword with a gilt-brass hilt; a circa 1781 light dragoon saber; a circa 1776 Brunswick Jager sword-bayonet; a French socket bayonet; and British light infantry and marine bayonets.

Other military acquisitions were an 18th-century hand grenade and a large British powder horn used for priming artillery pieces.

Sully Portrait of Washington on View at Victory Center

A portrait of George Washington by renowned 19th-century American artist Thomas Sully is on exhibit in the Yorktown Victory Center’s Converging on Yorktown Gallery until November, courtesy of the Owens Foundation.

Throughout the nation’s history, George Washington’s image has been an important symbol of America, and artists continued to depict Washington in portraits long after his death in 1799. Sully’s 1868 portrait, based on earlier representations of Washington by Rembrandt Peale and Gilbert Stuart, foreshadows the proliferation of such images in connection with Centennial celebrations held in 1876.

The Sully portrait complements Washington-related Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation artifacts on exhibit at the Yorktown Victory Center. A new sculpture of Washington is located outside the museum galleries (see story on page 6).

Major Gifts Bolster Museum Programs

continued from page 1

the site, and develop the museum’s outdoor living-history areas.

Dominion Resources has provided $20,000 to enhance the Yorktown Victory Center’s Revolutionary War lecture series and for the Annual Fund.

Grants totaling $21,500 from the Camp family foundations will go to the elementary school scholarship program and the Annual Fund. The Huston Foundation also donated $10,000 for the elementary school scholarship program, which 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.

An illustrated timeline of the American Revolution period will be featured in a “grand corridor” bordering permanent gallery exhibits planned for a new Yorktown Victory Center building. Gifts and grants from individuals and foundations are supporting elements of the museum replacement project.
From ‘Seed to Golden Weed’: Origins of Tobacco as Virginia’s Cash Crop

By Nancy Egloff
Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation Historian

John Rolfe is credited as being the first settler to grow tobacco in Virginia. The early colonist Ralph Hamor wrote in 1614, “I may not forget the gentleman, worthie of much commendations, which first tooke the pains to make trial thereof, his name Mr. John Rolfe, Anno Domini 1612, partly for the love he hath a long time borne unto it, and partly to raise commodity to the adventurers.” Rolfe was on the ship Sea Venture, which sailed in a large fleet from England in 1609 and wrecked in Bermuda. He arrived in Virginia in May 1610. The introduction of the year 1612 into Hamor’s narrative begs the question of how Rolfe obtained his tobacco seed and when he (or someone else) first planted it in Virginia.

Rolfe may have brought some seed from England on Sea Venture since he himself enjoyed smoking tobacco, according to Hamor. He may have brought it along with the express idea of introducing it into Virginia. He may have learned, via ships coming into England from Virginia, that the Nicotiana rustica grown by the Powhatan Indians in Virginia was of “a biting taste” and disliked by English men and women who favored South American tobacco, Nicotiana tabacum.

South American tobacco had been in England for at least 40 years by 1609. In a 1571 book published in London by Pierre Pena and Matthias de l’Obel, the authors speak of tobacco as a familiar plant in English gardens. At this time, however, tobacco’s primary use was medicinal (to ease cold symptoms and respiratory tract inflammations) and it was not smoked for pleasure. Gradually though, Europeans began adopting the West Indian practice of putting it into pipes and smoking it, particularly by the 1580s.

Since the early 16th century, Spanish colonists, enslaved Africans, and free and enslaved Indians in Hispaniola, Cuba and Venezuela had been growing tobacco for export. By the 1570s it had made its way to London. In 1589 the first Spanish tobacco plantation was started on Trinidad, and tobacco was sold to English, Dutch and French ships coming through the islands. In this period, “Trinidad” became synonymous with tobacco in English usage. In 1591, during his privateering days in the Caribbean, Captain Christopher Newport intercepted a Spanish frigate laden with “50 hogsheads and two-hundred weight of excellent tobacco,” probably coming from Trinidad or Venezuela. Newport confiscated it and took it to England.

English privateers and some traders brought Caribbean tobacco to England throughout the Anglo-Spanish war (1585-1604) in an extensive contraband trade. In the first decade of the 17th century, 60 percent of annual tobacco imports into England came from Trinidad and the Orinoco region of Venezuela. In 1605-06 Spain tried to curb the trade in tobacco to foreign countries. This action spurred the English to try growing it themselves in Guiana, Grenada and eventually in Bermuda, Virginia, the Leeward Islands and Providence Island. Spain’s ambassador in England, Don Alonzo de Velasco, wrote to King Philip III on May 26, 1611, that “two [English] vessels . . . have . . . gone to Virginia and/or to the Island of Trinidad, as the opportunity offered in search of tobacco.” In that year, more than one million pounds of tobacco arriving in London came from Trinidad and eastern Venezuela. Rolfe may have obtained

The cultivation of tobacco in Virginia in the 17th and 18th centuries is interpreted at Jamestown Settlement and the Yorktown Victory Center.
tobacco seed from English ships bringing it into England.

John Rolfe also could have procured tobacco seed while shipwrecked in Bermuda. The shipwrecked English did find tobacco growing there, probably introduced by Spanish ships passing through in the 1580s and 1590s, simultaneous with their introduction of hogs. The early settlers in the new Bermuda colony began cultivating a tobacco crop there in 1613. In December 1614 the ship Edwin carried a sample of Bermuda tobacco to England, “tobacco which a few of the men had tended carefully as a trial crop.”

Interestingly, twice in 1613 the Virginia Company sent the ship Elizabeth to Bermuda. Elizabeth is often credited with taking Rolfe’s first cargo of tobacco to England. In early 1613 and again later that fall, the ship left Bermuda and headed to England via Virginia. Although either voyage of the Elizabeth may have carried a sample of Rolfe’s tobacco out of Virginia, records do not indicate if there was tobacco aboard, while other commodities were noted. Perhaps a small amount of Virginia tobacco got to England by 1614. Finally, in the years 1610 through 1612, at least 17 English ships arrived in Virginia. Any number of these may have brought Spanish tobacco seed from England. If Rolfe did not get the seed in England or in Bermuda, he could have obtained it after he arrived in the colony in 1610.

There is no doubt that Rolfe’s seed was of the type grown in the Spanish colonies of the West Indies and Venezuela. In 1612, colonist William Strachey wrote that by then Virginia colonists had tried to cultivate the seeds of plants from a number of different places, including “Tobacco-seed from Trinidad.” Ralph Hamor wrote that John Rolfe’s Virginia tobacco was “answerable to west-Indie Trinidad or Cracus” (probably referring to Caracas, Venezuela).

It is curious that Strachey, writing in 1612, indicated that the Virginia colonists had planted tobacco seed prior to that year. In 1612, when Rolfe first took “pains to make trial thereof,” he may have been working to create a more marketable leaf. It would have taken Virginians several years to learn how to prune, cure and pack their tobacco for a worthy shipment. If Rolfe or another colonist planted seed before 1612 and Rolfe worked a bit more with it, he may have produced a crop to send to England on the Elizabeth when the ship came through Virginia from Bermuda in 1613. Both Ralph Hamor (1614) and John Rolfe (1616) indicated that with more experience in curing, Virginia tobacco would “compare with the best in the West Indies,” and records show that by 1616, sizable shipments from Virginia were arriving in England.

John Rolfe, credited with establishing tobacco as a cash crop in Virginia, is depicted in a 1960 watercolor by Sidney King. Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation collection.

Three Join Foundation Board

John T. Casteen III of Keswick, Susan L. Genovese of Midlothian and Sue Ellen Rocovich of Roanoke have joined the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation Board of Trustees. All were appointed by Governor Robert F. McDonnell, who also reappointed Ervin L. Jordan, Jr., of Charlottesville. Dr. Casteen and Dr. Rocovich, appointed to terms through June 2015, succeed A.E. Dick Howard and William P. Butler.

Ms. Genovese succeeds Juliann J. Clemente, with an appointment through June 2014.

Dr. Casteen, president emeritus and professor of English at the University of Virginia, was the university’s president from 1990 through 2010. He previously served as Virginia secretary of education and president of the University of Connecticut. His service on the boards of numerous educational organizations and commissions includes terms as chair of the Association of American Universities and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation.

Ms. Genovese is president of the Chesterfield Public Education Foundation and serves on the boards of Randolph College and Richmond Local Initiative Support Corporation. She joined the Governor’s Commission recommending appointments to Virginia Public College and University Boards in 2010 and was a member of the Virginia State Board of Education from 2000 to 2004.

Dr. Rocovich is a founding member of the Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine Board of Directors. She worked as an emergency room physician for several years and has served on the Virginia State Board of Medicine and the boards of Virginia Military Institute, Virginia Tech, Virginia Tech Foundation, Bradley Free Clinic of Roanoke and Mill Mountain Theatre.

Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, Inc., Board Elects Officers For 2012, New Directors

Gordon C. Angles of Williamsburg and H. Alexander Wilson III of Mathews County have been elected to four-year terms, through 2015, on the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, Inc., Board of Directors.

Mr. Angles is founder and past president and CEO of Wythe-Will Distributing, a specialty food and candy distribution and retail company for which he continues to consult. Dr. Wilson, a graduate of the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, is a practicing rheumatologist.

Election of officers at the fall Board of Directors meeting took effect January 1, with Sue H. Gerdelman continuing as president and Jane T. Kaplan elected vice president, Clifford B. Fleet treasurer, and Mari Ann Banks secretary. A. Marshall Acuff, Jr., is immediate past president.
Annual Military Through the Ages Event Marks Civil War, War of 1812 Milestones

Hundreds of re-enactors depicting armed forces from the first century A.D. to modern times will come together on March 17 and 18 for Jamestown Settlement’s annual “Military Through the Ages.” This year’s chronological display of military history will feature more than 30 groups based in Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania and North Carolina.

Among the units participating in 2012, the second year of the American Civil War’s 150th anniversary and the 150th anniversary of the 1862 Battle of Williamsburg, are two Union units – the 3rd U.S. Regular Infantry in 1861 and maritime group U.S.S. Aroostook in 1862 – and two Confederate units – Brooklyn Grays at Camp Lee, Va., in May 1861 and Nancy Hart Militia, a female volunteer militia group from Georgia in 1862. The re-enactors will demonstrate military drills, uniforms and period cooking. The 3rd U.S. Regular Infantry will invite visitors to take part in hands-on company and bayonet drills, as well as present interpretation of Civil War medical treatment and civilian life on the home front.

This year also marks the bicentennial of the War of 1812, depicted by Fort Norfolk Garrison, with stations to “recruit” visitors and allow them to drill with wooden muskets. Re-enactors also will portray soldiers and military encounters from Roman and Celtic times and the medieval period, Hundred Years’ War, War of the Roses, French and Indian War, and American Revolution.

Re-enactors representing World Wars I and II, the Vietnam War and the Soviet War in Afghanistan take visitors through the 20th century, with the Virginia Army National Guard representing the present.

Re-enactors will show how uniforms, weapons and military tactics evolved through the centuries, as well as aspects of field communication and medical treatment. The event also showcases a variety of military vehicles and equipment.

Among the weekend highlights are a Saturday afternoon children’s parade and a Sunday afternoon posting of unit colors. The Sunday military parade concludes with an awards ceremony, in which re-enactor units are judged on campsites, clothing and cooking presentations, and field demonstrations.

George Washington Sculpture Attracts Attention

A bronze sculpture depicting George Washington seated on a bench, document in hand, has become a popular photo opportunity outside the Yorktown Victory Center gallery building, where exhibits span the American Revolutionary period from the Declaration of Independence to the Constitution. Crafted by George and Mark Lundeen, the life-size sculpture is a gift of Douglas Morton and Marilyn Brown of Englewood, Colorado.

“Our research into the life and look of our subject took us from the low relief on the quarter coin to the many portraits and descriptions of our first president,” said brothers George and Mark Lundeen. In the sculpture, “as he [Washington] looks up from reading the preamble to the Constitution, he sees the United States of America he helped create and so faithfully served.”

The Lundeens are members of the National Sculpture Society. Among their commissions are sculptures of Apollo 13 astronaut Jack Swigert in the National Statuary Hall Collection of the U.S. Capitol and aviation pioneer Elrey B. Jeppesen at Denver International Airport.

“We saw the Yorktown Victory Center as the ideal location for this sculpture,” Mr. Morton said, “with its exhibits that trace Washington’s service from command of the Continental Army to the presidency. We are gratified that the museum will be a permanent home for this magnificent depiction of the father of our country.”
Donor Support Acknowledged Through Special Events

In appreciation of their support of the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation’s museums and mission, donors are invited to participate in special educational and social opportunities throughout the year.

A series of recent events acknowledged donors of $250 or more, including members of The 1607 Society, the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, Inc.’s leadership gift club.

The 1607 Society and members of The Pocahontas Club ($1,000 or more) joined guests of the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts (VMFA) on November 15 at the opening reception for “The 17th Century: Gateway to the Modern World” at Jamestown Settlement. Guests enjoyed remarks from VMFA Director Alex Nyerges, tours of the exhibition, and a presentation by its curator, Twyla Kitts of the VMFA.

Members of The Rochambeau Club-Patron Level ($250 or more) and The John Rolfe Club ($500 or more) were invited to a November 16 exhibition reception and, along with The 1607 Society and The Pocahontas Club, to a special hospitality suite, continental breakfast, period games and private tours of Jamestown Settlement’s outdoor interpretive areas during “Foods and Feasts of Colonial Virginia,” an annual three-day event that begins Thanksgiving Day.

Members of The 1607 Society traveled to Richmond December 7 for a “Delights of December” day trip featuring a guided tour of Maymont - An American Estate and dinner in the Library at the historic Jefferson Hotel.

To learn more about giving clubs, upcoming donor events and programs that benefit from private support, visit www.historyisfun.org/giving.htm or call (757) 253-4139.

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France Trip Planned for Leadership Gift Club

Members of The 1607 Society are offered an exclusive opportunity to pre-register for the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, Inc.’s donor travel program. A trip to France is planned in October, with visits to sites in Paris and the Loire Valley. This exciting and educational trip has been specifically designed by staff and Benefactor Travel to emphasize France’s role as America’s main ally during the Revolutionary War. Highlights include a visit to Versailles, an evening guided tour of the Louvre, and an exclusive private luncheon at the French Senate on Yorktown Day, October 19, as honored guests of former Prime Minister Jean-Pierre Raffarin.


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In Memory of Elmon Gray

Senator Elmon T. Gray, a major benefactor of the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation and past member of the Foundation and private affiliate boards, died September 27, 2011. The Elmon and Pam Gray Presentation Hall at Jamestown Settlement is named in honor of the former Virginia state senator and his late wife for their generous support of improvements at Jamestown Settlement and the Yorktown Victory Center, the Jamestown quadricentennial, and the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, Inc., Annual Fund.


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Save June 23 for ‘Party on the Pier’

“Party on the Pier” is returning to Jamestown Settlement on June 23. Tickets for the evening event, featuring music by Slapwater, will go on sale this spring. Proceeds from “Party on the Pier” benefit the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, Inc., Annual Fund, which supports educational programming at Jamestown Settlement and the Yorktown Victory Center.

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Pictured at The Jefferson during the Delights of December event for members of The 1607 Society are Charles Falls, Ray Ashworth, Peggy Falls, Julie Basic, Don Swain, Ken Pierce, Jo Pierce, Mary Swain, Betty King, Susan Murfee, Don Baker, Linda Baker, Ron Ruszkowski, Joan Ruszkowski, Don Murfee, Linda and Bill Hansell, Stuart Connock, Suzanne Flippo, and Sue Gerdelman.
Through August 15
“The 17th Century: Gateway to the Modern World”
Special Exhibition
Jamestown Settlement
Special exhibition organized by the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts explores developments that set in motion the transition from “old” world of the Mediterranean to a new globally connected world in the 17th century.

February 11
Community Day
Jamestown Settlement
“The 17th Century: Gateway to the Modern World” is featured with family tours at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., a lecture at noon, and children’s art crafts at 11 a.m. and 1 and 3 p.m. Timothy Seaman performs on hammered dulcimer from noon to 3 p.m. at the museum gift shop.

February 1-29
From Africa to Virginia Theme Month
Jamestown Settlement
Interpretive programs focus on the culture of the first known Africans in Virginia and the experience of Africans in colonial America, with lectures at 2 p.m., February 12 and 19 (see story on page 1), daily guided tours of the museum’s outdoor interpretive areas, and a printed family guide of Jamestown Settlement’s expansive gallery exhibits.

March 17-18
Military Through the Ages
Jamestown Settlement
Re-enactment groups depicting centuries of military history join forces with modern-day veterans and active units to demonstrate camp life, tactics and weaponry. See story on page 6.

April 28 and May 19, 7 p.m.
Virginia Economy in the 17th Century Lectures
Jamestown Settlement
April 28 – “How Tobacco Became a Commodity”

May 12
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 405th anniversary of the 1607 founding of Jamestown, America’s first permanent English colony.