MISSION—The Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, an educational institution of the Commonwealth of Virginia, shall foster through its living-history museums – Jamestown Settlement and American Revolution Museum at Yorktown – an awareness and understanding of the early history, settlement, and development of the United States through the convergence of American Indian, European, and African cultures and the enduring legacies bequeathed to the nation.

GOVERNING BOARD—The Foundation is governed by a Board of Trustees. The Code of Virginia calls for the board to consist of the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, the Attorney General, the Secretary of Education, members from the General Assembly, citizens of the Commonwealth appointed by the Governor, the president of the private affiliate Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, Inc., and individuals elected by the Board of Trustees.

PRIVATE AFFILIATE—The Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, Inc., coordinates private fund development in support of Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation programs. The Foundation, Inc., is administered by a Board of Directors. In FY 2015-16 (July 1, 2015-June 30, 2016), fundraising efforts totaled nearly $1.6 million in support of artifact acquisition and conservation, exhibitions, educational programs and resources, and the American Revolution Museum at Yorktown®. The endowment amounted to $16 million as of June 30, 2016.

FOUNDATION BUDGET—The Foundation’s operating budget in FY 2016-17 totals $17.9 million. General funds appropriated by the General Assembly comprise 54 percent of the operating budget, while non-general funds, which consist substantially of admissions revenue, account for the remaining 46 percent. An additional $12 million was approved in the 2016-18 biennium for capital and maintenance reserve projects, including the Jamestown Settlement gallery refresh. In 2015, gift shop sales generated more than $702,000 in net revenue.

VISITATION—Combined paid visitation in 2015 totaled 548,341 – 393,707 at Jamestown Settlement and 154,634 at the Yorktown Victory Center, renamed the American Revolution Museum at Yorktown. Ticket sales to groups comprised 35.6%, and to individuals 64.4%, of total paid visitation. Approximately 75% of individual paid visitors came from out of state. Top origin states are Virginia, Pennsylvania, Maryland/Washington, D.C., New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Florida, California, Ohio and Texas. Museum visitors spent an estimated $108 million in the Jamestown-Williamsburg-Yorktown area in the 2015 calendar year. There were 1,510,355 visits to historyisfun.org in 2015 and, at year-end, 80,620 fans on the museums’ Facebook page.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS—During the 2015-16 academic year, Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation programs served 271,211 students through hands-on sessions and guided tours at both museums and in outreach settings. Structured education programs at the two museums served 198,783 school participants. Outreach education programs were presented to 72,428 people, including students in 97 Virginia school districts. The Foundation also provides a variety of educational resources and curriculum materials on historyisfun.org to assist teachers, homeschoolers and students.

COLLECTION—The Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation collection is comprised of 210,361 archaeological and non-archaeological artifacts. The portion related to the Jamestown Settlement theme features 1,519 non-archaeological and 207,499 archaeological objects, including 16th- and 17th-century portraits, documents, furnishings, toys, ceremonial and decorative objects, tools and weapons. The portion related to the American Revolution Museum at Yorktown is comprised of 1,343 artifacts, including documents, paintings, engravings, military equipment, nautical objects, medical tools, clothing, personal effects and household objects. The Foundation continues to build its collection by acquiring new artifacts for exhibit at both museums to support its educational mission.

NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES—The Foundation employs up to 163 full-time staff and more than 250 part-time staff, the number varying by season, in five management divisions: Museum Operations & Education; Marketing & Retail Operations; Development; Executive Office; and Administration (Facilities Management, Finance, Human Resources). A total of 1,200 volunteers provided 60,652 hours of service to all areas of the Foundation’s programs and activities in 2015.

The Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums.
Highlights of 2015

TRANSFORMATION TO AMERICAN REVOLUTION MUSEUM AT YORKTOWN REACHES MILESTONE

With the completion of an 80,000-square-foot building, the Yorktown Victory Center reached a midpoint milestone in its transformation into the American Revolution Museum at Yorktown. Operations transitioned overnight, and the new building opened to visitors on March 10. As work continued on constructing permanent exhibition galleries and producing a new introductory film, visitors had access to the museum theater, with showings of Revolution-theme films, an American Revolution timeline, classrooms, gift shop and café. Briefings on the American Revolution Museum at Yorktown for tourism partners, elected officials, business leaders, museum colleagues and donors, and a community open house—all featuring guided tours of the new facility—were held in April.

“Creating Our New Museum,” an exhibit previewing the new introductory film and galleries, was installed in August in space that will become the American Revolution Museum at Yorktown’s special exhibition gallery. A permanent photographic display featuring individuals who lived during the Revolution and survived long enough to have their likenesses photographed in the mid-19th century was mounted in time for Veterans Day.

The original Yorktown Victory Center museum building was demolished in early summer to make way for construction of a new Continental Army encampment and Revolution-era farm and outdoor amenities. Throughout the year, the encampment and farm continued to welcome visitors in a temporary location next to the new museum building.

Among 16 artifacts acquired in 2015 for the American Revolution Museum at Yorktown, through gifts and grants to the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, Inc., were two very rare Revolution-period firearms—an early southern American long rifle and a first-model “Brown Bess” British infantry musket. Visitors will encounter these two remarkable survivals from the era of the nation’s birth upon entering the new galleries.

2019 COMMEMORATION MOVES FORWARD

Planning to commemorate the 400th anniversary of 1619 landmark events in Virginia’s and the nation’s history gained momentum with the appointment of Kathy J. Spangler as director of the 2019 Commemoration and establishment of an organizational structure for the 2019 Commemoration Steering Committee, involving 90-some volunteers. Ms. Spangler is principal liaison to the Steering Committee, comprised of state government representatives and individuals affiliated with public and private sector organizations and co-chaired by Virginia Senator Thomas K. Norment, Jr., and Delegate M. Kirkland Cox. In 2015 the Steering Committee adopted a committee structure for planning nationally significant programs and events emphasizing the themes of democracy, diversity and opportunity.

The Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, the official Commonwealth of Virginia executive branch agency for the 2019 Commemoration, adopted a plan in 2015 to renovate portions of the Jamestown Settlement exhibition galleries, which debuted in 2006 for the 400th-anniversary commemoration of the founding of Jamestown. The project, to be complete by 2019, includes integration of relevant historical content and updating exhibit sections.

FROM ‘CHESAPEAKE LOG CANOE’ TO ‘BOTANICAL VIRGINIA’

The one-year special exhibition “Working and Racing on the Bay: The Chesapeake Log Canoe” continued through September 8, 2015, at Jamestown Settlement. Curated by The Mariners’ Museum and Park, the exhibition traced the evolution of the dugout canoe through the centuries, from the watercraft of the Powhatan people 400 years ago to multi-log trade vessels and work and racing boats. Related programming included a public lecture by Mariners’ Museum Chief Curator Lyles Forbes in May and an August weekend event, “On the Riverfront.”


GODSPEED VOYAGES TO YORKTOWN, HENRICUS

Jamestown Settlement’s Godspeed when the replica 18th-century French ship visited Yorktown, its first U.S. port of call, June 5-7. The original Hermione transported the Marquis de Lafayette to Boston in 1780 with news of increased French military support for the American War for Independence and was among French ships in the vicinity of Yorktown in 1781. During the weekend event, Foundation staff provided interpretive demonstrations in a Heritage Village at Yorktown’s Riverwalk Landing, and special programming took place at the Yorktown Victory Center.

The Godspeed sailed to Henricus Historical Park in September for Publick Days and to provide educational programming for student groups. During its visits to Yorktown and Henricus, the Godspeed hosted more than 3,900 visitors on public tours and 600 students.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS LINK TO MUSEUM THEMES

The museums’ 2015 calendar was populated with an array of new and annual public special programs. African-American Musical Imprint Weekend, featuring music and storytelling, was introduced at Jamestown Settlement in mid-February. Musical performances were a highlight of Jamestown Settlement’s annual Military Through the Ages in March. Historian Stuart Peacheyspoketa Jamestown Settlement in April on “Clothing of the Common People in Elizabethan and Jacobean England.”

Two weeks after the new museum building opened at the Yorktown Victory Center, its theater was the setting for a March 24 public lecture by Lieutenant General Jonathon Rileyon the history of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers. During the June weekend of the Hermione and Godspeed visit to Yorktown, the new building hosted the public debut of “Slave Spy: The Story of James Lafayette,” an original short play commissioned by the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation.
Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation
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Foundation, a lecture by Alan Hoffman, “Lafayette and the Farewell Tour.” The building’s education center was the venue for Tools of the American Revolution Seminar on August 15. During Court Days at the Yorktown Victory Center September 19 and 20, visitors took part in role-play trials and enjoyed period games and entertainment. In its second year, Family Frights at Jamestown Settlement, a two-night October Halloween-theme event, drew 3,500 visitors.


Important milestones in the nation’s history were marked with Jamestown Day in May at Jamestown Settlement and, at the Yorktown Victory Center, Liberty Celebration in July and Yorktown Victory Celebration in October. For the fourth year, the Foundation partnered with the Williamsburg Chapter National Society Daughters of the American Revolution and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services to host a March 28 citizenship ceremony at Jamestown Settlement for 45 children of naturalized citizens from countries across the globe.

Both museums offered seasonal holiday programs, with Foods & Feasts of Colonial Virginia during the Thanksgiving holiday and A Colonial Christmas in December.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS SERVE WIDE AUDIENCE

Educational offerings at the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation included curriculum-based on-site programs for student groups and homeschool families, outreach education programs in Virginia classrooms, teacher development and internship programs, and online educational materials.

With the opening of the new museum building at the Yorktown Victory Center, on-site education programs were customized to include a classroom component in guided tours and participatory military drills for all tour groups. Two new options were introduced in the fall at Jamestown Settlement: “Choose Your Own Adventure,” allowing teachers to select a topic and tour length, and “Project Video” for classes with video projects to complete. The Foundation partnered with Newport News Public Schools on an engineering design challenge that involved learning about the Powhatan Indians, culminating with a one-day event in March for teams of second and third graders from 24 elementary schools.

Three videos produced by the Foundation outreach education and special services staff were added to the roster of educational materials on historyisfun.org: “Trouble Brewing,” the second episode of a DIY History series; “I Spy,” an addition to the Anna’s Adventures series; and “Navigation in the Age of Exploration.”

Forty-four college students served internships throughout the Foundation. Middle and high school students were introduced to interpretive methodology in the 4-H peer teacher program. Youth volunteers assisted with Broadside summer history camps for children age 4 through fifth grade and engaged museum visitors in playing period games during special events. A new history camp, School of the Musketeer, was introduced in 2015 for sixth- through eighth-grade students.
Museum Notes

JAMESTOWN SETTLEMENT

A museum of 17th-century colonial Virginia, Jamestown Settlement chronicles the history of America’s first permanent English colony, founded in Virginia in 1607, from its beginnings in the Old World through the first century of its existence, and explores the Powhatan Indian, English and west central African cultures that converged there.

LOCATION
Between State Route 31 and the Colonial Parkway; adjacent to Colonial National Historical Park, which encompasses Historic Jamestowne, and six miles from Williamsburg. (GPS address: 2110 Jamestown Road, Williamsburg, VA 23185)

EXHIBIT AREAS
The museum consists of two elements: an indoor theater and gallery exhibits, and an outdoor living-history program. An introductory film, 1607: A Nation Takes Root, is shown at regular intervals daily in the Robins Foundation Theater. Gallery exhibits chronicle the nation’s 17th-century beginnings in Virginia in the context of its Powhatan Indian, English and west central African cultures. Exhibits set the stage for the founding of Jamestown in 1607 and examine the evolution of the Virginia colony during the 17th century and its legacies. Outdoors is a re-created Powhatan Indian village depicting the culture of Virginia’s original inhabitants, replicas of the three ships – Susan Constant, Godspeed and Discovery – that transported 104 men and boys from England to Jamestown in 1607, and a palisaded fort representing the colonists’ first home.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND
The Jamestown colony was sponsored by the Virginia Company of London, whose stockholders hoped to make a profit on the venture. The settlement faced great difficulties, but managed to endure and was made economically viable through the cultivation of tobacco as a cash crop. Jamestown served as the capital of Virginia until 1699, when the seat of government moved to Williamsburg.

MUSEUM HISTORY
Jamestown Settlement opened April 1, 1957, as Jamestown Festival Park, marking the 350th anniversary of Jamestown’s founding. The name changed to Jamestown Settlement in 1990. Expansive exhibition galleries, an introductory film and revitalized living-history areas debuted in time for Jamestown’s 400th anniversary in 2007. Jamestown Settlement museum was rededicated on April 24, 2007. The site encompasses a total of 46 acres, including exhibit, parking, support and open areas.

AMERICAN REVOLUTION MUSEUM AT YORKTOWN

America’s struggle for independence, from the beginnings of colonial unrest to the formation of the new nation, is chronicled through the stories of citizens and soldiers in gallery exhibits, films and outdoor living history in re-creations of Continental Army encampment and Revolution-era farm.

LOCATION
On Route 1020 in Yorktown; adjacent to Colonial National Historical Park, which encompasses Yorktown Battlefield, and 12 miles from Williamsburg. (GPS address: 200 Water Street, Yorktown, VA 23690)

EXHIBIT AREAS
Comprehensive indoor exhibits and outdoor living history capture the transformational nature and epic scale of the Revolution and its relevance today. A timeline corridor provides a visual journey from the 13 British colonies in the 1750s to 1790s. An introductory film, Liberty Fever, draws visitors into the world of Revolutionary America and sets the stage for museum experiences. Gallery exhibits feature period artifacts, immersive environments, interactive exhibits and films, including “The Siege of Yorktown,” with a 180-degree surround screen and dramatic special effects. Outdoors, visitors can witness artillery demonstrations and drill with wooden muskets at a re-created Continental Army encampment and explore – and help work – a Revolution-era farm based on a real-life 18th-century family.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND
Yorktown was the site of the climactic battle of the American Revolution. In early Fall 1781, Washington and Rochambeau had the British army trapped along the shores of the York River. The allied armies had all of the land routes blocked. The French navy blockaded escape by sea. Cornwallis had no option but to surrender to the combined forces.

MUSEUM HISTORY
The museum opened as the Yorktown Victory Center on April 1, 1976, as one of three Bicentennial centers in Virginia. In the 1990s, the museum’s focus broadened to encompass the entire Revolutionary period. Two decades later, the museum is undergoing a transformation on the 22-acre site. The museum continues in daily operation throughout construction, which is occurring in phases and included a move from the 1976 building to the new museum building in March 2015. The museum was renamed the American Revolution Museum at Yorktown in October 2016 with the debut of permanent exhibition galleries and introductory film. Completion of new outdoor living-history areas in Spring 2017 and a Grand Opening Celebration, March 23-April 4, 2017, will officially launch the museum.

Jamestown Settlement and the American Revolution Museum at Yorktown are open 9 a.m.-5 p.m. daily year-round, until 6 p.m. June 15-August 15; closed Christmas and New Year’s days. Admission to Jamestown Settlement is $17.00 adults and $8.00 for ages 6-12. Admission to the American Revolution Museum at Yorktown is $9.75 for adults and $5.50 for ages 6-12 (2017: $12.00 for adults and $7.00 for ages 6-12). A value-priced combination ticket to both museums is $21.25 for adults and $10.75 for ages 6-12 (2017: $23.00 for adults and $12.00 for ages 6-12). An annual pass to both museums is $35.00 for adults and $17.50 for ages 6-12. (2017: $38.00 for adults and $19.00 for ages 6-12). Children under 6 are free. Residents of James City County, York County and the City of Williamsburg, including College of William and Mary students, receive complimentary admission with proof of residency. Parking is free. For information about special events, education programs and donor opportunities, call (757) 253-4838 or toll-free (888) 593-4682, or visit historyisfun.org.