For American Revolution Museum at Yorktown, Site and Architectural Planning Transitions to Construction

A milestone has been achieved with the start of work on building the new American Revolution Museum at Yorktown to replace the Yorktown Victory Center. As the project moves forward, the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation is committed to continue providing visitors a rewarding museum experience.

W.M. Jordan Company, Inc., of Newport News, construction manager for the first phases of the project – including a new 80,000-square-foot facility and visitor parking areas and eventual demolition of existing structures – began this summer with construction of a section of new parking space. Landscaping is an important component of the project, and a landscaping plan will be implemented incrementally, as each phase is completed.

While some exhibits and parking availability will be impacted at various stages, the Yorktown Victory Center will continue in operation as a museum of the American Revolution throughout construction. Visitors will continue to have access to existing gallery exhibits until the new building is finished, in approximately two years, and to the re-created Continental Army encampment and Revolution-period farm.

Enhanced museum programming during the first phases of construction includes, on the approach to the Yorktown Victory Center gallery building, outdoor stations where docents will discuss and demonstrate reproduction artifacts during peak visitation times. These stations also serve education groups.

Indoors, visitors can try on American, British and French regimental coats of the Revolutionary War and have a photo opportunity at a soldier’s tent. Next to billboard-size informational signage about the American Revolution Museum at Yorktown is a display case, titled “Success to Trade,” featuring Inscribed “Success to Trade,” this circa 1765 firing glass, a type of drinking vessel used for delivering toasts, is among objects in a new American Revolution Museum at Yorktown display case at the Yorktown Victory Center.

James City County Grant Supports 2013 Exhibition, ‘Jamestown’s Legacy to the American Revolution’

James City County has provided a grant of $115,000 in support of a special exhibition opening next year at Jamestown Settlement. From March 1, 2013, through January 20, 2014, “Jamestown’s Legacy to the American Revolution” will profile American Revolution-period descendants of people associated with 17th-century Jamestown and will showcase artifacts acquired for exhibit at the future American Revolution Museum at Yorktown replacing the Yorktown Victory Center.

“Through this grant, the James City County Board of Supervisors continues its support and interest in helping the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation provide new exhibits for residents and visitors alike,” said James City County Administrator Robert C. Middaugh.

An overview of King George III’s Virginia – with an 18th-century, full-length portrait by Allan Ramsay.
three artifacts emblematic of transatlantic trade that will be exhibited in the new museum.

Outdoors, additional interpretive demonstrations and opportunities for visitor participation are planned at the encampment and farm during high-visitation periods, including more artillery demonstrations, military recruitment and drills, cooking, cloth dying, uses of herbs, watering and weeding crops, and games.

The new museum building will be situated on the 22-acre site to directly face the roadway entrance and will encompass expanded exhibition galleries, classrooms and support functions. New permanent gallery exhibits will be fabricated and installed after the building is in use, and the encampment and farm will be expanded and relocated. The project is funded primarily through the sale of Virginia Public Building Authority bonds. Private donations will support elements of gallery and outdoor exhibits and educational resources. Upon completion of the entire project, in about four years, “American Revolution Museum at Yorktown” will be the museum’s name.

‘Jamestown’s Legacy to the American Revolution’ continued from page 1

of Britain’s monarch at the time of the American Revolution – will set the stage in “Jamestown’s Legacy to the American Revolution” for an examination of the lives and lineages of several Virginia merchants, planters, soldiers and statesmen. Their stories will be illustrated with an array of objects – military and domestic items and documents, including “Extracts from the Votes and Proceedings of the American Continental Congress,” published in 1774. George Washington, depicted in a 19th-century life-size statue that once stood in the Hall of Representatives of the U.S. Capitol, will have a prominent role in the exhibition.

Among other objects that will be exhibited are a recently acquired sword with silver eagle pommel, Prussian musket, brass and silver gorget, doll, and octant, all dating to the 18th century and planned for exhibit in the permanent galleries at the American Revolution Museum at Yorktown.

A Sea Grammar

Participants in the 2012 Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation Summer Teacher Institute, July 8-13, got a hands-on sailing experience aboard the Godspeed, shown setting out from Jamestown Settlement into the James River.
Welcome to Governors

From the gallery of Jamestown Settlement’s Susan Constant, Virginia Governor Robert F. McDonnell addressed guests at a National Governors Association event that took place during a two-day NGA annual meeting in Williamsburg.

Baker Victory Challenge Enhances Annual Fund Gifts

Board of Directors member Linda Baker and her husband, Don, longtime supporters of the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, Inc., have issued the Baker Victory Challenge to encourage new and increased gifts of $500 or more to the Annual Fund. For example, when a donor increases his or her current $250 donation to $500, then $250 qualifies for the match – and $500 becomes $750. When new donors give $500 or more, the entire amount qualifies for the match. The Bakers will match up to $100,000 in gifts made July 1, 2012, through June 30, 2013.

The Annual Fund supports a wide array of programs at Jamestown Settlement and the Yorktown Victory Center, including artifact acquisition, collection conservation, special exhibitions, public programming, and on-site and outreach education programs.

For information about the Baker Victory Challenge, call Annual Fund Director Christina Dominguez at (757) 253-4257 or visit www.historyisfun.org/victory.htm.

Voyages to Lancaster, Urbanna Follow OpSail 2012 Virginia

Jamestown Settlement’s Godspeed had a distinctive role in the Port of Virginia leg of OpSail 2012, a tall-ship event at six U.S. ports in spring and early summer commemorating the Bicentennial of the War of 1812. Over a period of 12 days in June, the Godspeed sailed with fleets of international ships in the York River and Chesapeake Bay, hosted 9,782 people for tours while docked in Yorktown and Norfolk, and provided sailing opportunities for Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation supporters and journalists. Partnering with Williamsburg’s Second Street restaurant, members of the Godspeed crew won second place, after Ecuador’s Guayas, in an international culinary competition that took place in Norfolk.

This fall, the Godspeed sails to Lancaster County to host education programs on October 5 and participate in the Hospice Turkey Shoot Regatta on October 6 and 7, and to Middlesex County, where the ship will host education programs on November 1 and public tours during the Urbanna Oyster Festival on November 2 and 3. The Godspeed is sailed by a crew of Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation staff and volunteers, and its voyages are supported with private donations.
...in a place where they might have libertie...

From Plymouth Separatists to Virginia Patriots

By Nancy Egloff, Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation Historian

Virginia and Massachusetts have long vied for the distinction of which early settlement most influenced American society. Although Virginia actually preceded Massachusetts by 13 years, the two are linked in innumerable ways. The first Massachusetts Separatists included William Bradford, whose words note the religious “libertie” the Pilgrims sought. But a Massachusetts family also produced an 18th-century Virginia patriot, Colonel Richard Taylor, who fought for political liberty for Americans.

This story starts in 1620 when Isaac Allerton and his wife and children arrived in America on the Mayflower along with Pilgrim William Brewster and others who established the Plymouth settlement in what became Massachusetts. Allerton’s wife died within the year, and he married Brewster’s daughter Fear. He became assistant governor and London agent for Plymouth. In the early 1630s Allerton established a thriving fishing business in Marblehead, but the town expelled him because of his radical religious views. He then incurred distrust from the town fathers of Plymouth, who dismissed him as their agent. By the 1640s, however, he was a prosperous merchant in the transatlantic trade, with a warehouse in New Amsterdam and a permanent residence in New Haven, Connecticut, where he died in 1659.

Allerton had numerous daughters and two sons. His second son, Isaac, Jr., was born in Plymouth in 1630 to Fear Brewster. When she died, his grandfather, William Brewster, raised him. Isaac, Jr., was in the seventh class to graduate from Harvard College in 1650. He then entered his father’s business, which operated between England and a number of colonies, including New Netherland, the West Indies and Virginia. Isaac, Jr., married in New Haven, but after losing both his wife and father, he moved in about 1660 to land the family owned in Virginia.

Already a man of means upon arrival in Virginia, Allerton subsequently acquired more than 5,000 acres of land along the Rappahannock River. He seemed to easily make the transition from New England Separatism to Virginia Anglicanism. Allerton entered the political scene as a county justice of the peace and was a member of the House of Burgesses for both Westmoreland and Northumberland counties from the late 1660s through the 1680s. From 1687 to 1691, he served intermittently on the governor’s Council of State.

In 1675, as a major in the Virginia militia and at the command of Governor Sir William Berkeley, Isaac Allerton rode with Colonel John Washington and a group of Virginia and Maryland militiamen in a campaign against Indians to the north. When the militia besieged a Susquehannock fort and five Indian leaders wanted to negotiate, the militia killed them. Allerton was cleared of blame, but the incident helped to fuel the fire of Bacon’s Rebellion, in which the governor and some wealthy planters clashed with an “army” of rebel planters and unpropertied free men who wanted the governor to protect them from Indian raids. Allerton remained loyal to Governor Berkeley.

After his move to Virginia, Isaac Allerton, Jr., wedded Elizabeth Willoughby, daughter of the early immigrant Thomas Willoughby for whom Willoughby Spit and Willoughby Bay in Hampton Roads are named. The Allerton’s daughter Sarah married Hancock Lee, the son of immigrant Richard Lee I, progenitor of the Lee dynasty, who held vast tobacco plantations in Northumberland County and was the colony’s attorney general and secretary of state and a member of the governor’s Council. Hancock and Sarah Lee’s daughter Elizabeth became the mother of Colonel Richard Taylor.

Colonel Richard Taylor was born in Orange County, Virginia, in 1744. He attended the College of William and Mary, then went west in 1769 to explore down the Ohio and Mississippi rivers with his brother. During the Revolutionary War he rose to the rank of lieutenant colonel in the Continental Army, fighting with the First Virginia regiment in the battles of White Plains, Trenton, Brandywine and Monmouth. Taylor spent the winter of 1777 at Valley Forge as a field officer with General George Washington.

In lieu of payment for his military service, Taylor received more than 8,000 acres in the frontier lands of Kentucky, then part of Virginia. In 1785 he moved his family from Orange County to Kentucky and established a farm that shortly prospered. He served with the Kentucky militia in the Northwest Indian War and entered Kentucky politics. Richard Taylor’s son, Zachary, born in Virginia just before the trek to Kentucky, became the 12th president of the United States.

Symbolic of westward expansion is a brass surveyor’s compass, made by Goldsmith Chandlee in Winchester, Virginia, in the late 18th century. Surveyors mapped small claims of land as well as huge speculative parcels that pushed the frontier west toward the Blue Ridge Mountains and beyond after the Revolution, when Colonel Richard Taylor received property in Kentucky, then part of Virginia, as payment for his military service.

Objects pictured are in the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation collection.
Revolutionary War Military Attire Was Less Than Uniform

The iconic soldier of the American Revolution is attired in a blue regimental coat with red facing. In reality, Americans wore many different military uniforms during the Revolution. The Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation historical clothing staff has researched and constructed several of these variations to be worn periodically by historical interpreters at the Yorktown Victory Center’s re-created Continental Army encampment.

New Jamestown Settlement Orientation Video Debuts

A new video is playing in the Mary Morton Parsons Foundation Orientation Area next to the Ferguson Lobby at Jamestown Settlement and on the home page of www.historyisfun.org. The three-minute program introduces visitors to the Jamestown Settlement museum experience in advance of admission ticket purchase, provides an overview of attractions in Virginia’s Historic Triangle, and promotes the combination ticket with the Yorktown Victory Center. With its script updated from a previous version and all-new visuals, the orientation video was produced by Legacy Productions of Williamsburg. Scenes were filmed this spring with historical interpreters and volunteer models at Jamestown Settlement and the Yorktown Victory Center.

Annual Fund Receives Two $10,000 Gifts

Cheryl A. Cartledge Heath and Richard E. Heath, Jr., M.D., of Albany, Georgia, and Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, Inc., Vice President Jane Kaplan and Jim Kaplan of Williamsburg have renewed their memberships in The 1607 Society with gifts of $10,000 to the Foundation, Inc., Annual Fund, supporting a variety of museum and education programs.

Senator McDougle Joins Foundation Board

Ryan T. McDougle of Mechanicsville was appointed by the Senate of Virginia to the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation Board of Trustees, succeeding Frederick M. Quayle. Representing the Fourth District, Senator McDougle has served in the Virginia Senate since 2006 and is chairman of the Senate Rules Committee. He served in the House of Delegates from 2002 to 2005. Senator McDougle operates a private law practice and, prior to holding elected office, was a prosecutor with the Hanover County Commonwealth’s Attorney Office. He earned a juris doctorate from the College of William and Mary Law School.
The Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, an educational institution of the Commonwealth of Virginia accredited by the American Alliance 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 American Indian, 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
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Calendar

October 6 and 27, 7 p.m.
Revolutionary War Lectures
Yorktown Victory Center
In the second half of a four-part series, East Carolina University Associate Professor of History and author John A. Tilley will present “Battle of the Capes” on October 6, and University of Richmond Professor of History and author Abner (Woody) Linwood Holton III will speak on “Origins of the Constitution” on October 27. Admission is free. Advance reservations are recommended by contacting rsvp@jf.virginia.gov or (757) 253-4572.

October 20-21
Yorktown Victory Celebration
Yorktown Victory Center
Military life and artillery demonstrations mark the 231st anniversary of America’s momentous Revolutionary War victory at Yorktown on October 19, 1781. Special programs also will take place October 19 in Yorktown and on the October 20-21 weekend at Yorktown Battlefield.

November 22-24
Foods & Feasts of Colonial Virginia
Jamestown Settlement &
Yorktown Victory Center
Discover how early Virginians prepared food in clay pots and Dutch ovens and preserved meats and vegetables by smoking, salt curing and pickling. This annual event, featuring 17th- and 18th-century foodways, begins on Thanksgiving Day.

December 1-31
A Colonial Christmas
Jamestown Settlement &
Yorktown Victory Center
Holiday traditions of 17th- and 18th-century Virginia are recalled through special interpretive programs and, December 26-31, musical entertainment.

Blog Aims to Spark Interest in Revolutionary Topics

“All About the Revolution” marks its first anniversary in October. Since the blog debuted October 18, 2011, with an essay on the meaning of the American Revolution, approximately twice-monthly posts contributed by Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation staff have delved into an array of historical topics, featured objects in the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation collection, and provided updates on the future American Revolution Museum at Yorktown.

Access to “All About the Revolution” is from the home page of www.historyisfun.org.