Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, Inc., Announces $15 Million Comprehensive Campaign for American Revolution Museum at Yorktown

The Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, Inc., the private fundraising arm of the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, has launched the American Revolution Museum at Yorktown Campaign for Support.

At a campaign kickoff event, “The Patriots’ Party,” held May 12, Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, Inc., President Clifford B. Fleet announced that the Campaign for Support had secured $10.4 million in support of the American Revolution Museum at Yorktown’s gallery exhibits, outdoor exhibits and educational resources, as well as for the Foundation, Inc., Annual Fund. Led by Co-Chairs Mari Ann and Charles Banks of Gloucester, the Campaign has raised 69 percent of the $15 million goal more than a year ahead of the opening of the museum.

The announcement came as the Yorktown Victory Center reached a midpoint milestone in its transformation into the American Revolution Museum at Yorktown, with the opening of an 80,000-square-foot museum building. The entire project, including galleries, outdoor amenities and an expanded Continental Army encampment and Revolution-era farm, is planned for completion by late 2016, when the new name will replace “Yorktown Victory Center.” Major components of the project total approximately $50 million. Planning, site renovations, and building and exhibit construction are funded by the Commonwealth of Virginia. Private gifts and grants, coordinated by the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, Inc., are supporting elements of gallery and outdoor exhibits and educational resources.

“We are all Americans and all participants in the ongoing experiment of democracy,” Virginia Governor Terence R. McAuliffe said at the Campaign kickoff event. “As citizens of Virginia – the birthplace of founding fathers and witness to the decisive victory at Yorktown that secured our liberties – we can be proud of the prominent role we play in this experiment. The story of this great nation’s journey to independence has been told for decades at the Yorktown Victory Center and soon will be told at the new American Revolution Museum at Yorktown.”

Dominion Resources Is Largest Private Donor

The generosity of leadership donors has played a major role in launching the Campaign for Support.

• With commitments totaling $905,000, Dominion Resources, Inc., is the largest private donor to date in the Campaign for Support. Corporate support for the Campaign also includes major commitments from Altria Group; Ferguson Enterprises, Inc.; Newport News Shipbuilding; Plains All American Pipeline, L.P.; and TowneBank.

• York County has made a significant impact on the Campaign, which runs through June 2017, with a commitment of $1 million over the next 10 years to support exhibits and programming at the American Revolution Museum at Yorktown.

• In 2009, the Gladys & Franklin Clark Foundation made an early gift for acquisition of a July 1776 broadside printing of the Declaration of Independence. Since then numerous foundations have awarded grants: the Beazley Foundation, Inc.; Camp family foundations; Garland and Agnes Taylor Gray Foundation, a supporting organization of The Community Foundation Serving Richmond and Central Virginia; Hampton Roads Community Foundation; Herndon Foundation; Mary Morton Parsons Foundation; Richard S. Reynolds Foundation; and Robins Foundation.

• Significant support has come from individual citizens, including Dr. Wade L. Johnson and the late Mrs. Johnson, through the Oscar F. Smith/Marjorie Smith Charles Fund of The Community Foundation Serving Richmond and Central Virginia.

(continued on page 4)
Building a Revolutionary Experience

Creating an American Revolution Museum With a National Perspective

By Thomas E. Davidson, Ph.D.
Senior Curator, Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation

A major challenge facing anyone who wants to interpret the American Revolution is the sheer size and complexity of the topic. The events of the Revolution played themselves out on a huge geographical stage. Popular accounts of the Revolution tend to describe a struggle that starts in New England, but the focus of the story soon shifts to the battles fought by the Continental Army in the mid-Atlantic states, and then shifts again to the South to bring the story to a close with the American/French victory at Yorktown, Virginia. Given the complexity of the topic, this approach is understandable, but it does not give full justice to the Revolution as a transformative event for a whole nation.

The American Revolution was, in fact, a continent-wide phenomenon that had impacts from Canada, to Florida, to the banks of the Mississippi. Huge numbers of people who never joined the tax protests in Boston, or suffered with the Continental soldiers at Valley Forge, or participated in the great triumph at Yorktown, nevertheless spent years of their lives fighting for independence. These other stories are not forgotten, but they tend to be relegated to the status of state or local history. We are taught about the Boston Tea Party in school, but how many people know about the Edenton Tea Party in North Carolina, an event in which the women of the town took their own independent stand against the tea tax?

A Truly National Revolution

The American Revolution Museum at Yorktown will consciously introduce places, people and events into the narrative that our visitors may not have encountered before. We want to convey a sense of the sheer scale of the conflict and break down some of the artificial geographical barriers that hinder our understanding of what was a truly national war. We like to think that we expand the geography of the war by focusing more attention on events in the South and events on the Western frontier. The same conflicts with authority that put Massachusetts on a collision course with the British Crown are paralleled in colonies like Virginia and North and South Carolina. Battles like Great Bridge in Virginia and the Patriot triumph at Moore’s Creek Bridge in North Carolina helped secure the South’s independence from British control in the early years of the war.

The issue of who would dominate the Western frontier is a vital one that caused armed conflict from Canada to Florida. Even in 1776 many Americans believed that westward expansion was essential to the new nation’s future. While thousands of American and British troops fought large-scale conventional battles along the east coast of America, hundreds of small conflicts between frontier Patriots and British soldiers, Loyalists and their Indian allies decided who would shape the future of the American West.

A Diverse Population

Our story also pays attention to groups of people whose roles in the Revolution are not always in the forefront of the standard narrative. Popular histories of the Revolution acknowledge the involvement of American Indians in the conflict but treat Indians as subordinate allies of either the British or the Patriots. In fact the Iroquois Confederacy and other major tribal groups like the Cherokee and Creek were powerful political entities in their own right. Tribal leaders pursued their own agendas, using skillful diplomacy to secure their people’s future during the turmoil of the war.

No group of people was more impacted by the Revolution than the enslaved Africans and African Americans who made up between a fifth and a quarter of all inhabitants of the 13 original colonies. One of the most dramatic consequences of the Revolution was a widespread transformation of attitudes about slavery that led to its disappearance in every American state north of Maryland. Our exhibits will talk about the lives of Africans and African Americans, both enslaved and free, and consider what the American Revolution meant to them.

The galleries also will delve into the question of how America was changing economically, socially and culturally during and after the Revolution. Independence didn’t just mean that one set of political institutions replaced another. New loyalties and new conflicts emerged from the shared experience of the war. The latter part of the galleries takes this theme forward into the postwar period, and looks at how Americans continued to build their nation in the face of challenges they had not anticipated before the war. Finally, the American Revolution Museum at Yorktown considers the enduring legacies of the Revolution both here and abroad.

The great ideas and inspirational leaders of the Revolution are at the core of the museum’s storyline, but visitors also will be given an opportunity to explore the wider world of the Revolution. We hope to show enough of the richness and complexity of our nation’s revolutionary heritage so that all who visit come to a better understanding of the Revolution as the gateway to modern America.
Virginia Corporations Support 2019 Commemoration Planning With Grants Totaling $125,000

Five Virginia corporations have made commitments of $25,000 each to support establishment of planning systems for commemorating in 2019 the 400th anniversary of landmark events in Virginia history: the first representative legislative assembly in British America, at Jamestown; the arrival of the first recorded Africans in Virginia; recruitment of women to settle in the Virginia colony; and establishment of a Thanksgiving precedent at Berkeley Hundred.

Paul D. Koonce, a member of the 2019 Commemoration Steering Committee, led efforts to secure the grants from Altria Group, Dominion Resources, Inc., Huntington Ingalls Industries, The NewMarket Foundation and The MeadWestvaco Foundation. “We commend these Virginia corporations for their leadership support and recognition of the national significance of the events that occurred here in 1619,” Mr. Koonce said.

The 2019 Commemoration Steering Committee, co-chaired by Virginia Senator Thomas K. Norment and Virginia Delegate M. Kirkland Cox, held its inaugural meeting in December 2014. Roundtables to gather public comments from various groups in support of 2019 planning efforts have taken place in Richmond and Hampton.

Portraits of Regional Oysterers Added to ‘The Chesapeake Log Canoe’ Exhibition

The addition of eight black-and-white portraits of oysterers by Norfolk photographer Glen McClure to the “Working and Racing on the Bay: The Chesapeake Log Canoe” special exhibition in late April offer a perspective of life living and working on the Chesapeake Bay today.

The portraits, most three-by-four feet in size, feature people from Gloucester, Newport News and Surry and illustrate various aspects of oyster harvesting, including farming, combing, tonging and culling.

McClure photographs people and landscapes in the United States and Europe and had his first solo exhibition in 1997. More than 50 solo and 40 group exhibitions later, his work can be found in private collections and museums, including The Chrysler Museum, The Mariners’ Museum, and the Art Museum of Western Virginia in Roanoke.

George Washington’s Life and Legacy Examined in Fall Lecture Series

George Washington, his life and legacy, will be the theme of this fall’s Revolutionary War evening lecture series at the Yorktown Victory Center, featuring authors of recent books.

Thursday, September 24 – Edward J. Larson, author of The Return of George Washington, 1783-1789, holds the Hugh & Hazel Darling Chair in Law at Pepperdine University. He is a Fullbright Senior Scholar and recipient of the Pulitzer Prize for History.

Tuesday, October 13 – Philip Levy, author of Where the Cherry Tree Grew: The Story of Ferry Farm, George Washington’s Boyhood Home, is a historian and archaeologist. He is a co-leader of the excavation of Ferry Farm and currently is an associate professor at the University of South Florida.


Tuesday, November 10 – T.H. Breen will speak on the topic of his forthcoming book, George Washington’s Journey: The President Forges a New Nation. He is the James Marsh Professor at Large at the University of Vermont and a Visiting Research Fellow at the Thomas Jefferson International Center at Monticello in Charlottesville.

Advance reservations are recommended by calling (757) 253-4572 or emailing rsvp@yvfc.virginia.gov.

A bronze sculpture of George Washington seated on a bench, preamble to the Constitution in hand, is in a new permanent location outside the recently completed Yorktown museum building. A gift of Douglas Morton and Marilyn Brown of Englewood, Colorado, in 2012, the sculpture was crafted by George and Mark Lundeen.
Continuing Need For Support

“We are encouraged by and deeply grateful for the tremendous support we already have received for our vision,” said Mr. Fleet. “We hope that people from across Virginia and across the nation continue to join in the Campaign for Support and ensure that the American Revolution Museum at Yorktown will realize its vision as a leading center of education and tourism.”

With $4.6 million left to raise, the Campaign for Support encourages private sector support to complement the public sector investments in the new museum.

Gifts and grants during the quiet phase of the Campaign have supported elements of gallery exhibits, outdoor exhibits and educational resources. Donations have helped secure period artifacts that are an essential component of the gallery experience, as they help connect museum visitors to the people, places and time of the American Revolution. Highlights of the enhanced collection acquired during the past year include a 1730s oil-on-canvas portrait of Ayuba Suleiman Diallo, an African Muslim cleric born in present-day Senegal and sold into slavery in colonial America, and a rare newspaper printing of the Virginia Declaration of Rights, a precursor of the United States Declaration of Independence.

While work continues on construction of permanent galleries, special visitor participatory experiences are offered in the new museum building and on an outdoor event lawn. A section of the new building serves as a venue for learning experiences for student groups as well as the general public. A separate entrance to the education center provides direct access to five classrooms that support curriculum-based structured educational programming and other museum special programs.

“Throughout our construction period the Yorktown Victory Center is providing an engaging experience for visitors and students from across the globe,” said Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation Executive Director Philip G. Emerson. “We are grateful to our many Annual Fund donors for their support of programs during the museum’s transition from the Yorktown Victory Center to American Revolution Museum at Yorktown.”

For more information about supporting the new museum, visit www.historyisfun.org or call (757) 253-4139.
Godspeed Meets Hermione in Yorktown; Yorktown Victory Center Programs Salute Historical Ship Visit

Jamestown Settlement’s Godspeed was docked alongside the Hermione 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 the Siege of Yorktown in 1781.

During the weekend event, the Godspeed hosted 2,300 visitors on ship tours, and Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation staff provided interpretive demonstrations in a Heritage Village at Yorktown’s Riverwalk Landing.

At the Yorktown Victory Center’s Continental Army encampment, members of the 1st and 7th Virginia Regiment Revolutionary War re-enactment groups presented artillery demonstrations. Indoors, visitors could try on a replica of a French regimental coat as well as uniforms of other nationalities present at the Yorktown siege.

Lafayette was a central character in a one-act play that had its public debut in the museum theater on June 6 and the subject of a lecture by Alan Hoffman, president of the American Friends of Lafayette, on June 7.

Revolutionary War Hero James Armistead Lafayette Stars in New Play

Slave Spy: The Story of James Lafayette, an original short play combining live performance with film, debuted at the Yorktown Victory Center during the weekend of the Hermione’s visit to Yorktown. The play was commissioned by the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation and supported with a gift from Harry and Judy Wason. Mrs. Wason is a member of the Foundation Board of Trustees.

James Armistead Lafayette, the central character in the play, was an enslaved person who worked with General Lafayette as a spy for the American cause in 1781. In 1786 he petitioned the Virginia General Assembly for emancipation from William Armistead, referencing his service to the country during the Revolutionary War, and the Marquis de Lafayette wrote an endorsement on his behalf. James was emancipated for having “faithfully executed important commissions entrusted to him by the Marquis” and thereafter took “Lafayette” as his surname.

The character of James Lafayette is the only live stage performer. He narrates the tale interspersed with videotaped segments wherein the audience meets other characters in the story. The half-hour play was written and directed by Abigail Schumann, an Emmy® Award-winning producer at Colonial Williamsburg Productions.

The film and script will be made available for use in classrooms, providing an interactive opportunity for students to learn the story of James Armistead Lafayette.

Winged Victory on Display

A marble statue symbolizing the great military victory at Yorktown in 1781 now stands in the lobby of the new building that will be the centerpiece of the American Revolution Museum at Yorktown. The statue is a 20th-century replica of “Winged Victory of Samothrace,” dating to the third century B.C. The work depicts Nike, the Greek goddess of victory, and is a universally recognized symbol for triumph in war.

The replica statue was located outside the original Yorktown Victory Center building for 18 years and is a gift of the late Nick and Mary Mathews, who provided the land upon which the Victory Center was built in the 1970s.
Partnership With Newport News Schools Enhances Education Outreach Offerings

Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation educational outreach takes many forms and travels throughout Virginia. Schools are increasingly incorporating project-based learning into their curriculum, and the recently revised Virginia Standards of Learning for History and Social Studies place a renewed emphasis on the development of skills such as communication, problem-solving, and critical and creative thinking. As Virginia classrooms are transformed, Foundation educators are working with local school districts to identify new ways to meet the changing needs of teachers and their students.

A recent partnership with Newport News Public Schools on an engineering design challenge involved learning about the Powhatan Indians. Foundation staff worked with Newport News to develop instructional materials, including a video for which scenes were filmed at Jamestown Settlement, for a one-day March event in which 96 second and third graders, one team from each of 24 elementary schools, participated. Students viewed the video, read booklets about different aspects of Powhatan life, and then were challenged to design an animal trap like one that might have been used by the Powhatan people. Team members collaborated to design, build and test their traps. Those who created working traps moved on to an interview for which points were earned, and trophies were awarded to the top three teams.

Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation outreach education programming was presented to 72,719 students in 88 Virginia schools districts during the 2014-15 academic year. During the programs, Foundation instructors engage students in historical analysis and examining reproduction artifacts from Jamestown Settlement and the Yorktown Victory Center.

Private Gifts Support Museum Programs

Mrs. Carolyn T. Condon of Williamsburg renewed her membership in General Washington's Council of The 1607 Society with a gift of $10,000 to the fiscal year 2015 Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, Inc., Annual Fund. The Annual Fund supports a variety of museum and educational programs at Jamestown Settlement and the Yorktown Victory Center.

The late Ann Ward of Hampton has left a lasting legacy through her bequest to the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, Inc. Her gift of $17,500 will support gallery exhibits, outdoor exhibits and educational resources at the future American Revolution Museum at Yorktown.

The Robins Foundation of Richmond gave $25,000 for collection enhancement efforts, including acquisition of artifacts to illustrate key themes in the permanent galleries of the American Revolution Museum at Yorktown. The Robins Foundation has made gifts to the new museum that to date total $145,000.

American Ideal of Liberty Explored in New Film

Liberty's Call, now showing daily in the new museum theater at the Yorktown Victory Center, is the first “big-screen” production of the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation’s video production team. The 20-minute film repeats every hour on the half hour, alternating with existing museum films The Road to Yorktown and A Time of Revolution.

Through the use of animated period images, artifacts, expert commentary and street interviews, the American ideal of liberty is explored from its inception following the French and Indian War, through the American Revolution and the establishment of the nation’s governance, and across time to today.
New Yorktown Museum Building Provides Expanded Opportunities for Education Groups

With the opening of the spacious new museum building at the Yorktown Victory Center, there are extra opportunities for student groups to experience hands-on history.

For elementary school groups, the Yorktown Victory Center Guided Tour now includes a short illustrated classroom component. Slides showing key images from the planned new museum galleries serve as a backdrop for hands-on activities. In the “Timeline Scramble,” students compete to line up key events of the Revolution in the order they took place. In a basic economics matching game played on a floor map, students pair products with the colonies that produced them. Students also can role-play events that led up to the 1770 Boston Massacre to understand British and American perspectives.

Outdoors, every tour group now is “recruited” into the Continental Army or militia and taught basic marching, drilling and facing skills. At the Revolution-period farm students learn that colonial Virginians almost always “ate local.” They may process flax to prepare linen thread for spinning, and follow the money trail of the tobacco economy. In the Continental Army encampment, students experience army medical treatments for disease and wounds and life in the privates’ and officers’ quarters, see the flintlock musket fired, and may participate in an artillery demonstration.

High school students can now choose the “Revolution and the New Nation” themed guided tour, which includes many of the activities of the Yorktown Victory Center Guided Tour, plus games and matching activities that help students identify the people and philosophies that influenced the Declaration of Independence, and the political positions defined by the Federalists and Anti-Federalists during the framing of the Constitution.

JYF Represented at Virginia Forum

Three members of the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation curatorial staff were among scholars invited to present papers at the tenth annual Virginia Forum, held in March at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond. The Virginia Forum brings together people engaged in the study and interpretation of Virginia history to share their knowledge, research and experiences.

Curator Martha Katz-Hyman was one of three presenters in a session titled “Not-so-Common People in 18th and 19th Century Virginia,” with “Turner for Thomas Jefferson: William and John Fitz/Fitch of Albemarle County, Virginia.”

Historian Edward Ayres presented “With Horns Blowing: Amherst County, Virginia, Militiamen and the American Revolution,” and Curator Kate Gruber presented “The Armorer and the Mutiny: Memory and the American Revolution; or, the Curious Case of Thomas Harris” in a session titled “Virginians in the American Revolution.”

Blacksmithing an Essential Trade in Early 1600s Virginia

Blacksmithing, one of the trades that will be highlighted during “Tools of the Trade” August theme month, is demonstrated throughout the year at Jamestown Settlement’s re-created colonial fort.

A forge in early 17th-century Virginia would have existed primarily for the purpose of repairing tools and military equipment. Period inventories of the Virginia Company show nails, hinges and iron tools being shipped from England. One blacksmith, James Read, is on the list of settlers that arrived in 1607. Another, Richard Dole, arrived in 1608. Blacksmiths, who work in iron or black metal, appear on 1610 and 1611 Virginia Company lists of skilled tradesmen needed in Virginia. These lists also include other types of ironworkers, presumably to support efforts to mine and process iron ore.

Like blacksmiths of early 1600s Jamestown, historical interpreters at Jamestown Settlement use a forge to engage in the same type of repair work but also produce iron objects, such as nails and hinges, for use in the fort. Smiths work by heating iron to soften it, achieving a forging color, then with aimed blows from a hammer against the iron supported by an anvil, change the shape of the iron to form a tool. A smith treats hot iron much like clay, merely changing the shape of the metal to reveal the desired part. This is different from a machinist who removes or cuts away material to produce a part, or founders who cast molten metals into molds.

Interpretive programs and hands-on activities at Jamestown Settlement and the Yorktown Victory Center throughout August will feature tools and technology used by people in the 17th and 18th centuries for farming, fishing, hunting, defense, navigation and building. Two weekend events will take place during the month: “On the Riverfront,” August 1 and 2 at Jamestown Settlement, and “Tools of the American Revolution Seminar,” August 15 at the Yorktown Victory Center.
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Calendar

Through September 8
“Working and Racing on the Bay: The Chesapeake Log Canoe”
Jamestown Settlement
Special exhibition curated by The Mariners’ Museum traces the evolution of the dugout canoe, from the watercraft of the Powhatan people 400 years ago to multi-log trade vessels and work and racing boats. See story on page 3.

July 4-5
Liberty Celebration
Yorktown Victory Center
The 239th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence is marked with military drills, artillery demonstrations, role play and patriotic music.

August 1-31
“Tools of the Trade” Theme Month
Jamestown Settlement & Yorktown Victory Center
Interpretive programs focus on the tools and technology of the 17th and 18th centuries. “On the Riverfront” weekend on August 1 and 2 at Jamestown Settlement highlights life on the Chesapeake Bay through music and interpretive programs. “Tools of the American Revolution Seminar” on August 15 at the Yorktown Victory Center features topics ranging from cloth production to building construction. See story on page 7.

September 19-20
Court Days
Yorktown Victory Center
When court was in session in the 1700s, the town turned out. Visitors can take part in role-play trials, enjoy period games, entertainment and livestock displays, and shop for 18th-century reproduction items.

September 24, October 13 and 27, November 10
Revolutionary War Lecture Series
Yorktown Victory Center, 7 p.m.
George Washington’s life and legacy are the theme of four evening lectures. See story on page 3.

October 17-18
Yorktown Victory Celebration
Yorktown Victory Center
Musket and artillery demonstrations and visitor-participatory programs, including a one-hour immersive military program, “Enlist!,” mark the 234th anniversary of America’s victory at Yorktown. Special programs take place in historic Yorktown and Yorktown Battlefield on October 19.

October 23-24
Family Frights
Jamestown Settlement, 6:30 to 9 p.m.
A Halloween-theme museum night for elementary-school-age children features trick-or-treating, ghostly tales, haunted house and ship, grizzly games and spooky maze.

Jamestown Settlement and the Yorktown Victory Center are open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. June 15-August 15.
Visit www.historyisfun.org for a calendar of upcoming events.