

# Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation



*2017*  
*Commemoration Highlights*

Beginning in 2006 and throughout 2007, the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation museums marked the 400th anniversary of the founding of America's first permanent English settlement with new state-of-the-art facilities and museum exhibits, major special events, historical themes and educational programs.

This was the culmination of a 10-year planning process in which the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation initiated and realized an \$80-million comprehensive facilities master plan and engaged in a successful collaboration with local, state and federal partners to commemorate America's 400th Anniversary.

While providing for exhibit enhancements at the Yorktown Victory Center and a centrally located complex to house functions supporting both museums, the master plan focused primarily on preparing Jamestown Settlement, which opened in 1957 as the Commonwealth of Virginia's setting for the 350th anniversary of the founding of Jamestown, to serve as a principal stage for the 400th anniversary and transforming the museum for the 21st century.

Paid and complimentary visitation at the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation museums totaled 1,129,574 in 2007.



The riverfront discovery area highlights 17th-century travel, commerce and cultural exchange, reflecting Powhatan Indian, European and African traditions. This new permanent interpretive area debuted at Jamestown Settlement in 2003.



A new introductory film, *1607: A Nation Takes Root*, premiered in October 2006 in conjunction with the opening of Jamestown Settlement's new permanent exhibition galleries.



A 50,600-square-foot complex located midway between Jamestown Settlement and the Yorktown Victory Center completed in late 2004 houses functions that support both museums.



New re-creations of the *Godspeed* and *Discovery*, two of the three ships that brought America's first permanent English colonists to Virginia in 1607, were built for exhibit at Jamestown Settlement. The *Godspeed* (left) was dedicated in May 2006 and the *Discovery* (above) in February 2007.

# Master Plan *Realized*



Jamestown Settlement's 143,000-square-foot visitor services and gallery complex was built in four stages, culminating with the permanent gallery wing. The Discovery Tower next to the building is the only architectural feature remaining from 1957. The 30,000-square-foot permanent galleries opened in October 2006, presenting the story of 17th-century Virginia in the context of its Powhatan Indian, English and African cultures.



Yorktown Victory Center exhibit enhancements were completed in October 2006 and include a revitalized gallery entrance, with dramatic images of the Revolutionary War period, a renovated Declaration of Independence Gallery and a new long-term exhibition, "The Legacy of Yorktown: Virginia Beckons."



A Paspasheg site found archaeologically a few miles from Jamestown in the 1990s served as the model for a reconfiguration of Jamestown Settlement's re-created Powhatan Indian village.



The new Jamestown Settlement galleries provide a setting for one of the most varied collections of objects relating to the nation's beginnings in 17th-century Virginia. The Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation collection has been developed with private funds and includes objects representative of the cultures that converged in 1600s Virginia.



A new building representing the Anglican church in early 17th-century Jamestown was dedicated in March 2007. The building is part of a renovation of the fort based on current archaeological and documentary research.



On the occasion of its 50th anniversary, Jamestown Settlement was rededicated on April 24, 2007, at the museum's new Quadricentennial Plaza.





The voyage of Jamestown Settlement's new *Godspeed* along the East Coast from May through July 2006 launched the 18-month commemoration of America's 400th Anniversary. A bon voyage event was held at Jamestown Settlement on May 22, 2006, to mark the beginning of the sail, which was coordinated by the Jamestown 2007 organization. The *Godspeed* was accompanied by a Landing Party Festival at each of six ports – Alexandria, Baltimore, Philadelphia, New York, Boston and Newport. Visitors could tour the ship, enjoy live music, family entertainment, historical exhibits and interactive displays, and learn about Virginia destinations.

Continuing its central role in America's 400th Anniversary, the *Godspeed* sailed to 14 Virginia ports in 2007 and led the event-opening parade of sail for Norfolk's Sail Virginia 2007.



# Special Events



The 225th anniversary of the winning of American independence was celebrated in Yorktown October 19-22, 2006, with military re-enactments, patriotic ceremonies, live performances, cultural events and interpretive programs at the Yorktown Victory Center, Yorktown National Battlefield and Riverwalk Landing. A new long-term exhibition, "The Legacy of Yorktown: Virginia Beckons," opened at the Yorktown Victory Center.



On November 9, 2006, Jamestown Settlement was the venue for *Jamestown Live!*, a webcast for students presented by Jamestown 2007 in partnership with The History Channel. Moderated by Gwen Ifill of National Public Television, the program included interviews with historical and cultural experts and pre-recorded vignettes at Jamestown Settlement and Historic Jamestowne.

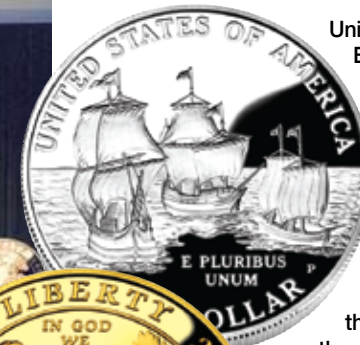


"The World of 1607," a signature event of America's 400th Anniversary, opened April 27, 2007, at Jamestown Settlement. The one-year exhibition placed Jamestown in a global context and was presented in four distinct cycles, each with its own topics and iconic artifacts from national institutions and private collections.



Steve Helber/Associated Press/pool

In the first event of the 400th-anniversary year, the Virginia General Assembly convened at Jamestown Settlement on January 10, 2007, for Governor Timothy M. Kaine's State of the Commonwealth address.



United States Mint Director Edmund C. Moy was at Jamestown Settlement on January 11, 2007, for a ceremony announcing the issue of gold and silver commemorative coins in honor of Jamestown's 400th anniversary. Later in the year, NASA presented the Jamesown-Yorktown Foundation a set of the coins that had been flown aboard the Atlantis space shuttle.



Jim Young/R Reuters/pool



Bill Tieman/Virginian-Pilot/pool



BBC World

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, came to Jamestown Settlement on May 4, 2007, as part of a two-day visit to Virginia, with stops at the state capitol in Richmond, Colonial Williamsburg and Historic Jamestowne.



Steve Helber/Associated Press/pool

The royal visit at Jamestown Settlement included remarks in the museum's re-created colonial fort by U.S. Vice President Richard B. Cheney and America's 400th Anniversary Honorary Chair Sandra Day O'Connor and a dramatic presentation, developed in partnership with The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, that chronicled the history of the relationship between Britain and America over the past 400 years. The Queen toured several buildings in the fort while the Duke of Edinburgh toured the *Susan Constant*. Both observed students engaged in museum education programs.



# Special Events

The Royal Visit  
May 4, 2007



Jamestown Settlement's visitor parking area was transformed into a gateway to the three America's Anniversary Weekend venues – Anniversary Park, Jamestown Settlement and Historic Jamestowne – and served as the arrival point for shuttle transportation to and from satellite parking areas and Historic Jamestowne. Jamestown Settlement hosted a record number of visitors for a three-day period.



A first-day-of-issuance ceremony for the U.S. Postal Service "Settlement of Jamestown" stamp was held at Jamestown Settlement on May 11. The three-sided stamp – only the third in U.S. Postal Service history – represents the triangular fort built by the Jamestown colonists and depicts the three ships that brought them to Virginia in 1607.



The arrival of the *Susan Constant*, *Godspeed* and *Discovery* on May 12 was a highlight of America's Anniversary Weekend events at Jamestown Settlement. After sailing in the James River, the replica 1607 ships began docking at mid-morning amidst musket fire, cannon salutes and commentary. Two weeks prior to Anniversary Weekend, the three ships were off First Landing State Park in Virginia Beach for an event marking the 400th anniversary of the 1607 colonists' first Virginia landfall, at Cape Henry.





On May 13, President and Mrs. George W. Bush had a private tour of Jamestown Settlement's *Susan Constant* and enjoyed interpretive demonstrations at the ships' pier prior to an appearance at Anniversary Park.

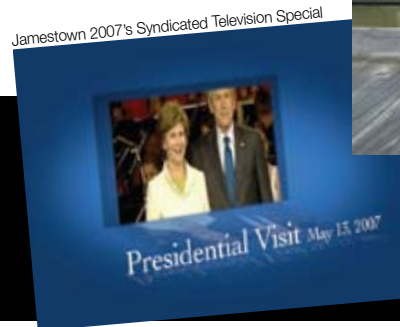


Mike Litterst, National Park Service



Special programming at Jamestown Settlement during America's Anniversary Weekend included music and dance performances, first-person portrayals of key figures in 17th-century Virginia history, traditional African storytelling, and presentations on various Jamestown historical topics. Visitors could participate in guided tours of the museum's exhibition galleries and in ongoing demonstrations on agriculture, food, technology, weaponry, seamanship, trade, recreation, religion and government in the outdoor interpretive areas.

Jamestown 2007's Syndicated Television Special

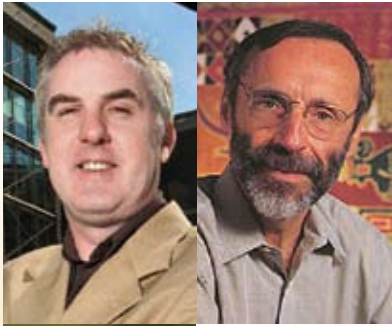


White House staff photographer

# America's Anniversary Weekend May 11-13, 2007



Courtesy of the Royal Armouries  
Board of Trustees



University of Virginia Department of History

Washington Speakers Bureau



Linda A. Cicero / Stanford News

Washington Speakers Bureau



Katherine Fogden / Smithsonian's National  
Museum of the American Indian

The 2007 Heritage Lecture Series featured six distinguished scholars speaking at Jamestown Settlement on a range of historical and cultural topics: Peter Armstrong, Joseph Miller, Doris Kearns Goodwin, Jack Rakove, Michael Beschloss and W. Richard West, Jr.



Thematic special events took place at Jamestown Settlement throughout the anniversary year. Among them were "African Imprint Day" on June 2, co-sponsored by the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation and the Virginia African American Forum; "The 1619 Assembly: A Jamestown Legacy" on August 4, commemorating the 388th anniversary of the first legislative assembly in British America; and "Virginia Indian Heritage Day" on November 3, presented in partnership with the Virginia Indian community.

# Special Events



From spring to fall in 2007, interpretive programming at Jamestown Settlement was enhanced with additional guided tours of the museum's exhibition galleries and outdoor areas and regularly scheduled demonstrations and presentations on more than 30 different topics, ranging from agriculture to religion. Throughout the anniversary year, guided tours and demonstrations at Jamestown Settlement and the Yorktown Victory Center emphasized a different theme each month.



# On-Site *Programming*



Innovative educational programming was a key element of the 400th-anniversary commemoration. On-site and outreach student programs, Web-based curriculum materials, and public television and radio broadcasts complemented and extended the learning experience presented at Jamestown Settlement and the Yorktown Victory Center.

The Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation is the leading provider of structured museum education programs in Virginia, and in the 2006-07 academic year service levels grew by 28 percent on site and 47 percent in outreach. Outreach programming took place in all of Virginia's 132 school districts, and Jamestown-related programming was taken to schools and community venues in the Baltimore and Philadelphia areas.

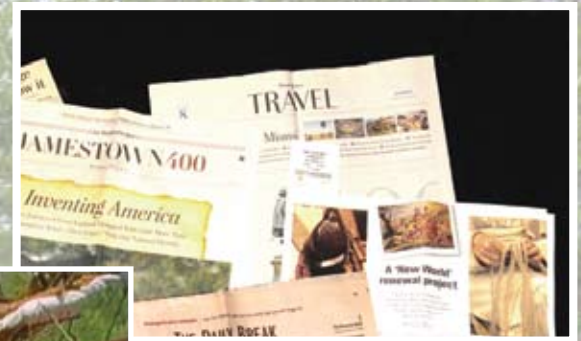
The Foundation partnered with WCVE Community Idea Stations in Richmond to produce a series of "Quadricentennial Minutes" for television and radio and with WHRO Public Broadcasting for Hampton Roads to develop a television documentary, *Jamestown: Founding of America*, and electronic classroom, *Discovering Jamestown*.

"Quadricentennial Minutes" and *Discovering Jamestown* were among a variety of curriculum materials made available on the Foundation Web site [www.historyisfun.org](http://www.historyisfun.org) along with lesson plans, background essays and video biographies.

# Educational Programs



Beginning with the *Godspeed* Sail in 2006, commemorative events and new museum exhibits attracted print and broadcast media coverage on a national scale. Organizations worked cooperatively to maximize public awareness of Virginia's important role in the history of the nation.



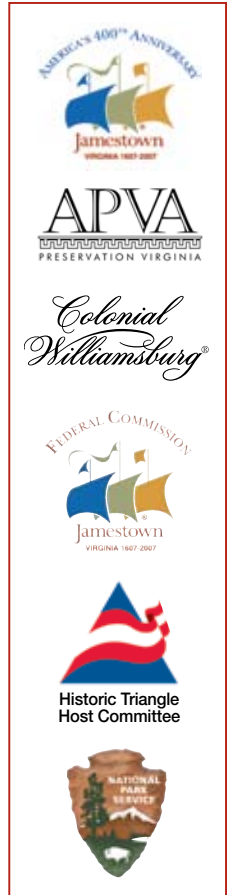
# 2006-2007 Media Coverage



More than 1,500 paid and volunteer staff contributed to the success of the quadricentennial commemoration. The number of paid staff peaked at 600 during the anniversary year. Volunteer roles ranged from board service to interpretive program support, and nearly 1,000 volunteers contributed 74,653 hours in 2007.



With 48,000 ticketed guests participating in America's Anniversary Weekend in May, Jamestown Settlement hosted a record number of visitors for a three-day period. Paid and complimentary visitation at the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation museums totaled 1,129,574 in 2007, a 46 percent increase over the previous year. Visits to the [www.historyisfun.org](http://www.historyisfun.org) Web site increased by 40 percent to 1,371,970.



The Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation worked with local, state and federal partners to realize the full potential of the Jamestown quadricentennial for bringing national and international attention and economic benefit to the region and state.

# Behind the Scenes

An important legacy of the Jamestown quadricentennial is a new standard for exhibits and programs at Jamestown Settlement and the Yorktown Victory Center. The spirit and momentum of America's 400th Anniversary carries forward into 2008 and beyond through the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation's continuing commitment to stimulating on-site programs, educational outreach and dynamic content on the [www.historyisfun.org](http://www.historyisfun.org) Web site.



Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation

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The leadership and support provided by members of both boards, private donors, and federal, state and local partners during 10 years of planning toward 2007 is gratefully acknowledged, along with the contributions of past Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation chairmen, the late V. Earl Dickinson, the late Richard J. Holland, Stuart W. Connock, L. Ray Ashworth, the late Hunter B. Andrews and the late Lewis A. McMurrin, Jr.

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## Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation

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