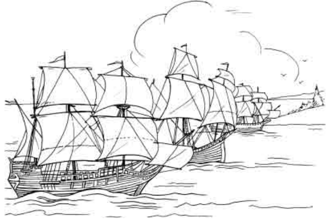


Washington and Northern Virginia Company
Jamestowne Society

Summer, 2008 Newsletter

Fall Tour of Historic Homes
Saturday September 27, 2008

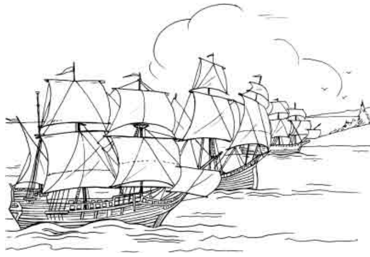
The Fall Tour via motor coach will include the following historic homes in Maryland. The tour begins with **Montpelier Mansion**, Laurel. The home was constructed between 1781 and 1785 for Major Thomas Snowden and his wife Anne Ridgely of Ann Arundel.

Next is **Mount Clare**, the 1760 colonial Georgian home built by one of Maryland's leading patriots, Charles Carroll, Barrister. Mount Clare was the center of Georgia Plantation on the Patapsco River in Baltimore. Luncheon will be served in the charming restored stables.

Charles Carroll Jr., son of Charles Carroll of Carrollton, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, spared no expense and overlooked no detail in the construction of **Homewood**. It was constructed circa 1801 and is an outstanding example of Federal Period architecture and it's a National Historic Landmark.

Built between 1783 and 1790 by Captain Charles Ridgely, when it was finished in 1790 **Hampton** was said to be the largest house in the United States. Hampton is a sedate Georgian mansion, elegantly furnished and settled amid gardens and shade trees.

Details and reservation information have been mailed to Company members.



From the Company Governor, Betsy Smith

I attended my first Governor's Roundtable on May 16, 2008 in Williamsburg, Virginia. Our company of 165 members is the largest of the thirty-four Jamestowne Society companies and probably serves the smallest area. Governors from states which have only one company reported the difficulty of getting members to attend meetings when they have to drive long distances. We are fortunate to have so many members living in the Washington Metropolitan Area.

Governors were invited to observe the Council meeting at which we were ably represented by Joseph Payne and two former National Governors, Daniel McGuire and Henry Mackall. Details from this meeting will be reported in the Jamestowne Society newsletter. One item of interest to us may be the amendment to the by-laws which was approved by the membership at the luncheon on Saturday, as follows:

> "Companies, at their discretion, may designate individuals who are not members of the Jamestown Society as 'Friends of the Company'. Friends of one company do not extend to another company or to the Jamestowne Society." These "Friends" may pay dues to help cover mailing costs, etc., but may not vote or hold office.

Our next activity, the trip to Maryland, which has been arranged by Roberta Carter and Louise Turner, will be on September 27 and promises to be another special tour. I hope you can go. The bus companies charge a flat rate so we need a good turnout to cover the cost. Meanwhile, I will be interested in your suggestions for activities in 2009.

Those of us who attended the Saturday luncheon in Williamsburg heard Dr. Douglas Owsley tell of the up-coming exhibition at the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History. We all have reason to celebrate. The story of the men and women who came to Jamestowne and founded the first permanent English-speaking colony in the New World will be told to the many thousands of people who visit the Smithsonian each year. More about Dr. Owsley's presentation follows on the next page. I will be working to arrange a tour for us after the exhibit opens in February 2009.

Betsy

Betsy Graves Smith
Company Governor

Written in Bone: Forensic Files of the 17th Century Chesapeake

Presented to the Jamestowne Society ~ Annual Spring meeting
17 May 2008, in Williamsburg, Virginia
by Rachel Wills

It is impossible to describe and give justice to the wonderful program we were privileged to see and hear at the annual spring meeting of the Jamestowne Society in Williamsburg, Virginia, May 2008. The word that readily comes to mind when I think of Dr. Douglas Owsley's presentation, is passion. He definitely conveyed his passion for forensic anthropology as he spoke for two hours on this subject to a mesmerized audience. I did not hear any restless scuffling, coughing, or any other form of boredom. When was the last time YOU heard a speaker talk for two hours without anxiously looking at your watch long before the end?

His involvement in the Jamestowne Rediscovery project enabled him to bring slides that revealed the lives of our colonial ancestors, as he read their bones for us. He showed us the teeth of a seamstress, someone who frequently held her needle in her teeth as she made adjustments to her work. Then, there was the pipe smoker, who clenched his pipe stem between his teeth as he steadily worked for long hours. He revealed their social status and also proved that there were drawbacks to being wealthy. The wealthy could afford pewter plates, tankards and eating utensils. Unfortunately, the pewter contained a lot of lead in those days and the regular use of pewter tableware was sure to bring about an earlier demise than the more simple wooden tableware used by the common folk. Certainly no deadly amounts of lead in the wooden items! There were many interesting facts about our ancestors that were revealed through forensic anthropology, such as their hygiene habits, illnesses, results of their medical knowledge, their food, their changing lifestyles and varied cultures.

When Dr. Owsley closed his presentation, people immediately surrounded him to exclaim their gratitude. He stated that because there will be no federal funds for this project, he needed to raise $50,000 to help fund the upcoming exhibit, *Written in Bone: Forensic Files of the 17th Century Chesapeake,* that he is presenting in February 2009 at Smithsonian Museum of Natural History. He received some contributions that day, but it is not too late to send your contribution now to:

Smithsonian Institution
National Museum of Natural History
10th Street & Constitution Avenue, NW
MRC 135 PO Box 37012
Washington, DC 20013-7012

I will probably see you at the Smithsonian in February!

Not only did our large contingent of the Washington – Northern Virginia Company members enjoy an exceptionally delicious lunch, but we all eagerly agreed that we were thrilled to have been present to hear this marvelous program by Dr. Douglas Owsley, Head of the Division of Physical Anthropology, Smithsonian Museum of Natural History. Among those present were our Company Governor, Betsy Graves Smith and her husband, Bob; Henry C. Mackall, Roberta Carter, Dorothy Werner, Rachel Wills and her husband, Duane; Louise Price, Florence Snodgrass and her husband, Paul; Danny McGuire and his wife Kirsty; Dabney Waring and his wife Jennifer.

Rachel L. Wills, Genealogical Activities
Washington and Northern Virginia Company
Jamestowne Society

The Glorious Revolution and Jamestown's Last Decade 1689 – 1699

St. Julien R. Marshall, Jr.
Past Company Governor

One of the famous transitional events in English history was the so-called Glorious Revolution which occurred in early 1689. In England it marked the final resolution of the issue of Catholicism versus Anglicanism, brought English monarchy further under limitations by Parliament and settled the question of succession. In England it was "Glorious" in that it was managed by the ruling powers without bloodshed. In Virginia it marked a lessening of the harsh imposition of the royal will.

The unexpected move toward this revolution was precipitated by the death on 6 February, 1685, of Charles II, a very intelligent, relatively easy-going monarch whose prime motivation was the maintenance of the Stuart line, which had suffered the dreadful days of civil war and was continually torn by conflicting loyalties of faith. The heir to the throne was the king's brother, James, who was an openly practicing Catholic as well as being hardworking, arrogant and a firm believer in the divine right of kings. His first wife, a Protestant, had given him two daughters, Mary and Anne, but his second wife, a Catholic, was childless. The leaders of staunchly Protestant England had protected its Anglican ways throughout Charles' reign with Test Oaths designed to ferret out those who had retained a loyalty to Rome, and with efforts to insure that even if one final Catholic monarch need be tolerated the line of succession thenceforth would pass through Protestant rulers.

James assumed the crown to widespread acceptance by a people and Parliament that felt he would not threaten the status quo. A supportive Parliament voted him the same liberal financial support for life that it had given his predecessor. In November Parliament was summoned and through it James embarked on an effort to build a standing army. Further he sought to fill its officer ranks with Catholics wherever possible. He then prorogued Parliament. In the following year he increased the army and the navy pursuing his strategy of Catholic staffing and also moved Catholics into the University chancellorships, suspending the Test Oaths.

By 1687 James was planning that the next would be an anti-Reformation Parliament by identifying a large number of personnel at the local level favorable to his beliefs with whom he could pack the Commons. As the nation's leaders saw these actions, distrust and tension grew. In May 1688 he published his second Declaration of Indulgence, eliminating any constraints on freedom of religious choice. Bishops who petitioned for the retention of Test Oaths were tried for treason. Then came the straw that broke everything wide open. The Queen, who had been childless for a dozen years of marriage, suddenly gave birth to a son. The specter of a Catholic succession leapt full size onto the national stage, and the political leadership of the land was energized to save the nation by hopefully bloodless maneuvers.

The person by which the Protestant monarchy was to be saved was the older daughter of James' first marriage, Mary, wife of William, Prince of Orange. William, the grandson of Charles I, and already committed to preserving Protestantism in the Netherlands, was involved in a face-off with the armies of Europe's great Catholic monarch Louis XIV, and had already been concerned with the possible loss of England to the Roman faith. By the summer of 1688 he was planning to act, although plans were not yet specific. Now as James tried to build his forces the disaffected ranks of his officers melted away even as William entered into negotiations with Parliament. The end result was that England would let William and Mary rule jointly. On he came, landing on the south coast in November 1688, and James, remembering the past and the fate of his father, tried to flee but was captured. William spurned him and had him placed in a fishing boat in which he fled to France and the protection of Louis. Thus, fortuitously the threat of a civil conflict was avoided by the aristocracy acting decisively and by Parliament, which passed a new Act of Succession and blessed the new rulers' coronation, thus increasing its own stature.

Virginia in 1680's: Across the ocean the power of the throne in the 1680's had been projected in the persons of two governors committed to firm control. The first was Thomas, Lord Culpeper, who had arrived in Virginia as Governor in May 1680, having already secured from a group of close supporters of Charles II the management of Virginia's Northern Neck. He then jointly with Lord Arlington gained the right to receive all of Virginia's quit-rents and escheats for 31 years. Culpeper was a powerful peer but one who was definitely far more interested in lining his own pockets than forcing the king's wishes on the colony. Because of him Virginia was already paying for representatives in London to fight for relief from these burdens.

Culpeper spent only two short terms in Virginia, but between these two visits purchased the interests of all the others in his two charters, so that his position and his knowledge could help him make his fortune. And this they did as he traded back to the Crown the Arlington grant for a pension of 600 pounds sterling per year for 21 years and then gained from the king a permanent grant of the Northern Neck which after his daughter's marriage became the famous Fairfax grant.

He was followed by Francis, Lord Howard of Effingham, who was more single minded in his commitment to upholding the royal prerogative. Arrogant, ruthless, insulting, devious and persistent he fought doggedly to bring the colony's government into line with the Crown's desires. In the five years from taking his oath in February 1684 he tried to have the Assembly: pass an annual poll tax which would have financed government without annual meetings of the Assembly, pass a law requiring building a town in each county to facilitate control and collection of duty on tobacco shipments, and replace non-Catholic officials with Catholics. He refused requests that he publish all of his instructions from the crown, refused an accounting of tax and fee receipts, refused a request that he not void by proclamation those Acts of the Assembly which repealed unsuitable laws, and refused to forward petitions from the Burgesses to the king. Under his governance the House of Burgesses lost its role in receiving the final appeals in judicial matters, lost its right to name its own clerk, and lost control over certain revenues. It did, however, keep control over the annual tax levy.

Virginia 1689: Effingham sailed in early spring of 1689 for London leaving Nathaniel Bacon, Sr, the senior councilor, to govern in his absence. In the previous autumn the king had sent a warning to the colonies that there was a threat of invasion from Holland against which they should be prepared to defend. Knowing that government was in turmoil at home the people in the colonies were becoming restless. When word came that Indians had been seen moving from Maryland into the forests near Stafford, Virginia, rumors spread that this was a Catholic move to kill Protestants before William could act. As further rumors spread that King James had fallen, and the mood edged toward crisis, the council acted forcefully to quiet the people and protect the only Catholic Burgess, George Brent of Stafford County. On 26 April, 1689, Bacon was able to announce to widespread rejoicing that William and Mary had been welcomed as the new rulers of England.

Evidence of improved relations with the Crown was not long in coming. The previous year's petition for redress of grievances carried by the colony's agent, Philip Ludwell, was allowed to be presented in person to the king, who then had it reviewed. This resulted in a tactful support of the Governor's position, but then a repeal of the offending act as prejudicial to the interests of the colony. Similarly, fees imposed by the Governor were ruled to have been approved by incorrect procedures and were disallowed. By autumn it was determined to keep Effingham in office but also to keep him at home, and a new Lieutenant Governor was dispatched to Virginia.

Captain Francis Nicholson was sworn in on 3 June, 1690. He had been a soldier serving in Africa and then in the Dominion of New England, commanding a company under Governor Sir Edmund Andros. He had risen to Lieutenant Governor there as New England's territory expanded, and then under his new sovereign had been identified as the experienced military leader Virginia needed. Nicholson's arrival was a breath of fresh air in Virginia. Personally inspecting the frontier from Maryland to North Carolina he identified weaknesses in the rangers and the militia. He instituted reforms, requisitioned arms and coordinated with the adjacent states in a common defense against both Indians and the seaborne threat of piracy. His activities were supported by the evident new interest of the Crown in the welfare of the people and the obvious end of the divine right of kings. All of this was in turn helped by Nicholson's openness and plain manner of living, his hospitality to individual burgesses, and his initiation of sporting contests among the upper social classes.

One of the most powerful men in Virginia in this decade would prove to be James Blair, a Scottish-born clergyman, encouraged in 1685 by Dr Henry Compton, the Bishop of London, to emigrate to the colonies. Successive Bishops of London prior to Compton had never exercised any responsibility for the Anglican Church in the colonies. Now a bishop with strong links to the highest levels of government was moving to exert greater influence where the colonists had enjoyed total autonomy. By 1689 Blair had married the daughter of a prominent planter and been made the bishop's commissary or representative in Virginia, which two factors gave him both status and power. Cooperating with Governor Nicholson in his first term as governor,

Blair, as a leader of the clergy, worked with the Assembly in preparing a petition to the King and Queen for establishment of a college. Pledges of support having been raised from all gentlemen of substance in the colony and

sought from a wide range of merchants in London, the Assembly elected Blair to seek a charter and an endowment for a college from the Crown. The charter and some funds were approved, and the charter named the College William and Mary and , Blair was named its President. While a main reason for the College was to train ministers for the church, few Virginians wished to become ministers, especially considering that it would require a voyage to London to be ordained. Thus the College was soon serving a more general educational mission.

In September 1692 Francis Nicholson was transferred to Maryland, which needed a firm hand, and Sir Edmund Andros, having just served as Governor of the Dominion of New England, was sworn in as Governor of Virginia. He was an honest and efficient administrator of an aristocratic background, but quite reserved and unused to the less formal ways of business in the colony. The Governor and Council declined to forward to the king a petition to give the Burgesses the right to choose their own clerk. In turn they were unable to win the passage of two bills requested by the Crown, a bill to create ports and a bill to permit tobacco shipments only in hogsheads. After a relatively peaceful first year problems began to mount as the Burgesses demonstrated their independence particularly on aid to

New York and on the system of land grants while James Blair demonstrated his intransigence on all issues involving the Church and the College. Blair was appointed to the Council in 1694, and within a year a confrontation had resulted in Andros suspending him. A few months later the king had reinstated him, and then arguments again broke out as Blair insisted on having his way on Church and College affairs. The Burgesses turned away the Crown's first request that the clergy's pay be improved with a statement to the effect that except for a few of the most greedy sort, the clergymen were well paid and content. This was followed by a negotiated settlement that resulted in a house on glebe land in every parish and a standard salary of sixteen thousand pounds of tobacco. The College proceeded apace: the site at Middle Plantation was chosen in October 1693, the building's foundations were laid in 1695, and the center and north wings had been completed and occupied by 1698.

The Anglican Church in Virginia was confident and growing with a 1702 list showing fifty parishes and forty clergy. Parliament's 1689 Edict of Toleration was written into Virginia law in 1699 providing that everyone must attend service in his parish church at least once in each two month period. Dissenters were authorized to attend at the same frequency their own churches, and there were three such denominations in the colony: Presbyterians strongest in the Norfolk area, Baptists around Yorktown, and Quakers in the Henrico area. When in 1698 it became obvious that Governor Andros' days in Virginia were numbered, Francis Nicholson, who had been very popular six years before, was able to call on the support of Blair and the Bishop of London in gaining the office of governor.

At Century's End: What would you have seen and sensed in traveling in Virginia in 1698? Royal direction to build a port or town on each of the four main rivers in 1662 and in every county in 1680 had disrupted trade and caused the profits of London merchants to drop, until the Crown had terminated each Act. Again passed by the Assembly in 1691, land was appropriated this time for half acre lots in Yorktown and Norfolk and most of these were claimed quickly. Though the Act was again terminated within the year this time most did not wish to relinquish their purchases and six years later the land titles were confirmed and at last Virginia had two towns newly created. Virginia's population was near 60,000, three times that of either Maryland or New York, and 10% were now black as slavery had become permanently established to replace indentured servants.

Virginia at the century's end was very different in social structure from its early years. Where upward social mobility of indentured immigrants had been possible before 1640, by 1700 the reins were firmly in the hands not of an aristocracy but of an interlocking group of often-related individuals that formed a self-perpetuating government. Much of the responsibility for this is attributed to Sir William Berkeley, Governor for 35 years, and in his early years aggressive in encouraging educated younger sons of royalist families to immigrate, granting them offices and estates. Out of 72 families whose arrival dates can be determined, and whose members held major offices through 1776, more than half initially entered Virginia between 1647 and 1660. The strength of this network is shown by the fact that where in 1660 every seat on the Council was filled by a member of one of five connected groups, by 1724 all twelve members were related to each other and in 1775 every member of the Council was descended from a councilor who had served 115 years earlier in 1660.

At the century's end, three prominent men in a report to the Lords of Trade described the colony in the following terms: "As to all the natural advantages of a country it is one of the best, but as to the improved ones, it is one of the worst of all of the English Plantations in America." There are few towns because the Assembly, "the major part of the members whereof having never seen a town nor a well improved country in their lives, cannot therefore imagine

the benefit of it." "For want of towns, markets and money there is but little encouragement for tradesmen and artificers, and therefore little choice of them." "As to the outward appearance, the country looks all like a wild desert, the high-lands overgrown with trees, and the lowlands sunk with water, marsh and swamp; the few Plantations and cleared grounds" being very rare amidst the wilderness.

Of the population they observed, "the great labor about tobacco being only in summertime," the colonists "acquire great habits of idleness all the rest of the year."

Where then did this leave Virginia, now solidly established? It was a colony made up of the country seats of successful planters some 10 to 30 in number situated along each of the four major rivers, these plantations being larger than most of the towns. It was ruled by an oligarchy which had the confidence to resist encroachment and keep the colony functioning smoothly even when England was in turmoil. While its Assembly had yielded to Culpeper's demands to give up one tax in perpetuity to the king to support the government, it had kept enough of the powers of the purse to contend successfully with England for the next 75 years. Its population was filling in the land off the riverbanks and beginning to expand west beyond the fall line.

Transition: In 1662 Governor Berkeley at the direction of Charles II had directed the construction of a row of brick townhouses on the ridge beyond the western edge of Jamestown's community. The first construction was of four two story houses completed in 1663, and two years later the fifth on the east end of the row was the double sized house designed to serve as the capitol. (Note: this building's remains were surmounted in the year 2007 by the construction of an Archaearium to provide a place to display artifacts from the excavations that could be a focus for the celebration of Jamestown's 400th anniversary.)

This entire row structure had been burned in 1676 by the rebels at the time of Bacon's rebellion and sections of it had been rebuilt in ensuing years so that at the beginning of the 1690's house 1 was serving as the "country house" or Governor's Jamestown residence, houses 2, 3, and 4 had not been rebuilt but house 5, the statehouse, had been rebuilt in 1685 and was serving as the site of governmental sessions. This building has been said by the archeologist William Kelso to have been the "largest secular public building in seventeenth century America". In 1694 Philip Ludwell, owning the ruins of houses 2,3, and 4 rebuilt the latter two and to the rear of house 4 was added a prison. On 20 October,1698, a fire starting in house 4 destroyed that house, its attached prison, and house 5, the statehouse.

Francis Nicholson, replacing Governor Andros and already enroute at the time of the fire, reported in December 1698. He summoned a General Assembly meeting in Jamestown on 27 April which was then adjourned to meet a day later at Middle Plantation where in light of the disastrous fire the main topic for decision was the site for Virginia's capital city and the construction of a new statehouse. James Blair, President of the College, arranged that five students each give a talk to a group including the governor, councilors, burgesses and others. The first talk was on the value of learning in creating useful public servants, the second on the advantages of procuring this learning close to home instead of by going abroad, and the third was on the best way in which a Virginia education might be gained, a talk which also emphasized the need to site the College in the vicinity of both markets and a town. His talk also described Middle Plantation as an ideal site for a capital city and how great value could be given to, and received from, the adjacent College. The fourth speaker gave a history of the origins and development of William and Mary, while the fifth complimented the college's patrons for their service to the colony in creating this fine source of educated men.

Following this the House of Burgesses voted to establish the capital at Middle Plantation close to the College of William and Mary and to rename it the City of Williamsburg. Great care was taken to lay out the new city with definition of minimum lot size, of minimum house size on the main street, and of setback distance from the streets. On either side of town on navigable creeks that led to the York and the James Rivers ports were established as part of Williamsburg. The new century began with the Assembly and the Council for the first five years holding their meetings in the College. The William and Mary Commencement in 1700 was attended by guests from as far away as Pennsylvania and New York. Jamestown, which was estimated to have had only twenty or so houses, now dwindled to a few farms, even as the door was opening on Virginia's Golden Age.

Material for these historical notes was drawn from the following sources:
1. "Economic History of Virginia in the Seventeenth Century", by Philip A. Bruce; Macmillan & Co., New York, NY, 1896
2. "Religious Life of Virginia in the Seventeenth Century", by George MacLaren Brydon: Virginia 350th Anniversary Publication,

Williamsburg, VA, 1957
3. “Albion’s Seed Four British Folkways in America”, by David Hackett Fischer; Oxford Univ. Press, New York, NY, 1989
4. “The Present State of Virginia, and the College”, by Henry Hartwell, James Blair, and Edward Chilton; written in 1697 printed 1727, reprinted by Colonial Williamsburg, Inc.; Williamsburg, VA, 1940
5. “Jamestown The Buried Truth”, by William M. Kelso; University of Virginia Press, Charlottesville, VA, 2006
6. “Colonial Virginia”, Richard L. Morton; University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill, NC, 1960