

Foreword

The Washington and Northern Virginia Company, the second oldest company of the Jamestowne Society, was originally formed in 1959 in the District of Columbia. The founder and organizer of the Company was Cornelia Magruder Bowie, who served as governor of the Company from its inception until she resigned in 1967. She was then by acclamation named as honorary governor with a lifetime position on the Council. Others who executed the initial certificate of incorporation were Audrey H. Starke; R.F. Johnson, Jr.; Louise Hill Conkey Powell; Alice Garnett Thomas; and Mae Helm.

The original name—Washington and Northern Virginia Branch, Jamestowne Society—was changed in January of 1963 to Washington and Northern Virginia Company, Jamestowne Society. The second company governor was Francis W. Hill, during whose term it was thought that bylaws would be nice and some were enacted in 1968. Governor Hill submitted his resignation due to a family illness in December 1969. In his absence, the lieutenant governor, Miss Eloise Page, presided at the December meeting when Mrs. Merillat Moses was elected as the next governor. She, too, was forced to resign due to illness and, in June of 1970, Miss Eloise Page became governor. She continued to serve until the annual meeting in December 1977, when she was succeeded by Herschel H. Helm, son of Mae Helm, who was one of the original founders.

At this meeting a resolution was passed unanimously thanking Mrs. William J. (Virginia) Lescure, Sr., for her service since the inception of the company and making her a lifetime honorary member of the Council. At the very beginning of his term, Governor Helm proposed the publication of a regular company newsletter that would advise the members about past and future activities. As will be seen, this action later led to the articles reproduced in this book.

At the December 5, 1981, annual meeting, Rosalie Helm, wife of the governor, was honored for her many years of assistance including cooking and serving delicious meals at the Council meetings, all of which have regularly been held at the home of the governor. She was by acclamation made an honorary member of the Company. In March of 1983, the council discussed printing the bylaws, to which there had been only one revision. Later that year at the annual meeting, Charlotte Wilton was made an honorary member of the Council for life. The 25th annual meeting of the Company was held at the Washington Club. In 1986, Mrs. C.A. Ramstetter and Mrs. Kendrup (Anne) Gray were elected honorary members of the Council.

At the 1987 annual meeting, new articles of incorporation were adopted, creating a Virginia corporation. It appears that the original corporate charter had either

been lost to memory or as a result of a failure to pay fees. At any rate, the corporation is now in good standing in Virginia. Lt. Governor Douglass S. Mackall, III, conducted this meeting due to the illness of Governor Helm. Henry C. Mackall was elected governor while Herschel Helm was elected lieutenant governor. Unfortunately, Mr. Helm died shortly thereafter. However, during his term of office great strides were made. The membership grew and regular meetings were held at many different venues, including several on Capitol Hill.

The most recent past governor, St. Julien Ravenel (Rav) Marshall, Jr., was first elected in 1989. At the many Council meetings held during these years, Mr. Marshall's lovely wife, Sheila, demonstrated her exceptional culinary skills while serving as a wonderful hostess for the Council members and their spouses.

The year 2008 began with a new governor, Betsy Graves Smith, whose regime opened on a high note as a group of members toured Mrs. Smith's home territory in the Shenandoah Valley. This tour allowed the members to visit several ancestral homes and enjoy lunch at the newly renovated Mimslyn Inn. In the fall, we toured three historic homes in Maryland: Montpelier, Mount Clare, and Homewood.

Mr. Marshall's 17-year tenure saw great advances in the activities of the Company designed to promote the society's objectives, which are to encourage and support interest in, and knowledge of, our Virginia heritage and history. An excellent example is the Herschel Helm memorial collection in the library of George Mason University. It has grown to include a large number of books that will provide the students with improved resources for the study of our history. Also, for the last 15 years, annual tours of historical sites and homes throughout Virginia have been organized for company members and led by Mr. Rav Marshall and Mrs. Roberta Carter. More recently, Duane and Rachel Wills have created a Company Web page, which can be reached at www.jamestowne-wash-nova.org/.

Even more impressive have been the many historical essays Mr. Marshall has written and included with the newsletters mailed to the members. He continues to write for our Company's newsletter, which currently is excellently designed and edited by Mrs. Jacque-Lynne Schulman. Nearly 20 years worth of these essays—which were so well researched and so well written—have been gathered and are hereby published by the Company in tribute to our leader, St. Julien Ravenel Marshall, Jr.

3 December 2008
Henry C. Mackall