

Jamestown Rediscovery

HISTORIC JAMESTOWNE

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The Jamestowne Society contributes over \$150,000 to the Jamestown Rediscovery Foundation



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This July, Jamestown and the nation will commemorate the 400th anniversary of the first form of representative government in the western hemisphere—the General Assembly. Here, beneath Jamestown’s 1907 Memorial Church, is the precise location where this historic meeting took place in the summer of 1619. Thanks to over \$150,000 of ongoing support from the Jamestowne Society, whose members trace their lineage to Jamestown’s earliest settlers and leaders, the Jamestown Rediscovery Foundation has had the privilege to excavate in and around the Memorial Church for the past two years. The team has been searching for any remaining physical evidence of the 1617 church where colonial Governor, Sir George Yeardley, his four councilors, and 22 appointed burgesses convened from July 30 to August 4, 1619—and where democracy in America was born.

Aside from records stating that the 1617 church was timber-framed and stood 50 feet by 20 feet, little else was known about it. Archaeology had been conducted on this site in the early 20th century, but the Jamestown team was eager to employ modern archaeological methods and technology to learn more. Committed to preserving and sharing the stories of America’s first

settlers and forefathers, the Jamestowne Society has generously supported this investigation, as well as many others, for the past several years.

“Jamestown is America’s birthplace. We are proud to support this fascinating archaeological project which tells the story of our nation’s first settlers. This long-term partnership is important to our members whose ancestors shaped the earliest days of our nation,” said Ms. Bonnie Hofmeyer, Executive Director of the Jamestowne Society.

Since the excavation began in 2016, archaeologists have unearthed some extraordinary discoveries which provide great insight into the layout and construction of the 1617 church. Following completion, Jamestown plans to install new exhibits allowing visitors to view portions of the church’s original framework and flooring and many of the remarkable finds that the team has uncovered throughout the project. “This groundbreaking archaeological work and research would not be possible without the ongoing support and generosity of the Jamestowne Society,” states James Horn, President and Chief Officer of the Jamestown Rediscovery Foundation. Horn shares how “fortunate we are to have such dedicated friends with us, and we look forward to a continuing partnership with the Jamestowne Society in the years ahead.”

Historic Jamestowne is jointly administered by the National Park Service and Jamestown Rediscovery and preserves the original site of the first permanent English settlement in the New World. Entrance to the site is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The Historic Jamestowne Visitor Center is open from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m., and the grounds remain open until dusk. General admission is \$20.00 per adult (which includes both Historic Jamestowne and Yorktown Battlefield for seven consecutive days). Children 15 & under are free. National Park Passes and Preservation Virginia Memberships are accepted; however a \$5 per person fee may apply. Please note, hours and admission fees are subject to change during government shutdowns. For further information, visit www.historicjamestowne.org or call 757-229-4997 x 100.