



REVOLUTIONARY STORIES

Revolutionary Stories occur in the morning hours and will be advertised in This Week.

Collapse of Royal Government, 1774–1776



May 26, 1774 *Dunmore's Dilemma*

The royal governor is having a vexing morning! Pressures surround him on every front, not least from his superiors in London. Boundary disputes, Indians, and even the House of Burgesses seem intent on spoiling all his plans. How will he navigate Virginia's troubled political waters?

May 26, 1774

Lady Dunmore Prepares for the Ball

To acquaint herself with Virginia society, Lady Dunmore has asked Ariana Randolph, one of Williamsburg's finest ladies, for information about the colony's leaders. The burgesses are giving this ball at the Capitol in her honor, and she wants to be prepared to meet the legislators and assist her husband in his political aspirations.

Citizens at War, 1776–1781



Late June, 1776

The Challenge of Independence

Archibald Cary, Robert Carter Nicholas, and other members of Virginia's "Independence Delegation" discuss Virginia's Declaration of Rights and new state constitution. The future of the new republic is their responsibility.

July 1776 *What Holds the Future?*

Lord Dunmore's abandoned servants recall the governor's abrupt departure: how threatened he felt and how he hurried his family away from Williamsburg, fearing for their safety. The enslaved people now ponder their own fate; they are not eligible for freedom under the terms of Dunmore's Proclamation, and the Committee of Safety might decide to sell them away from town and from each other. (BEGINS MAY 7)

August–September 1776

Patrick Henry's Vision for Virginia

As the first governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia moves into the Governor's Palace, Patrick Henry makes known his plans for the new republic.

AMERICANS *Becoming* TODAY

NO. 1 FOR COLONIAL WILLIAMSBURG

SPRING 2007 PROGRAMMING

NATION BUILDERS

Monday

The world is familiar with Virginia's historical giants, men like George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and Patrick Henry. The efforts of these great men were essential to winning independence and establishing a self-governing republic. But their contributions were made possible only by the often overlooked people of history on whose shoulders these first line patriots stood. These people, preachers and house servants, enslaved and free, were nation builders no less than Washington, Jefferson, and Henry. Meet these Nation Builders, who helped shape their times and continue today to influence, and inspire our ideals and visions of the American dream, the promises of the Declaration of Independence, both realized and unfulfilled.

2:45 p.m. *Looking Back: A Founding Father Reflects on the Revolution*

One of our founders—Thomas Jefferson, 1796, Patrick Henry, 1796, or George Washington, 1791—remembers what Williamsburg has meant to him. He recalls important lessons in citizenship he learned in the former capital and challenges current citizens to consider their rights and responsibilities in a self-governing republic. [Capitol, West Side]

*In between the dramatic scenes listed here, meet on the street with some of the people of Williamsburg and learn how these changes touch their lives.**

3:30 p.m. *July 1776 That Freedom Ain't for Me*

After the reading of the Declaration of Independence, residents of Williamsburg wonder how this document will affect their lives. In the midst of uncertainty, enslaved Virginians, like Lydia Broadnax and Eve from the Randolph House, respond to the news that declares that "all men are created equal." [In front of Raleigh Tavern]

** Conversations with townspeople*

3:50 p.m. *August 1777 Lady Washington Visits the Capitol*

Martha Washington arrives in Williams-



Gathering of Nation Builders

burg to great fanfare and celebration. She receives honors in her husband's name for his service to "the Glorious Cause" of American liberty. [Capitol, South Side]

** Conversations with townspeople*

4:15 p.m. *Fall 1793 Thy Rod and Thy Staff*

Gowan Pamphlet, a former slave, discusses his vision for the black Baptist church at which he is pastor. He gains recognition for his congregations even as the shadow of slavery puts them all at risk. [The Coffeehouse Backyard]

Conclusion

4:35 p.m. *Looking Forward: A Founding Father Envisions the Future of the American Republic*

A different founder—Jefferson, Henry, Washington, or the Marquis de Lafayette—sums up his experiences in Williamsburg and expresses his hopes for the future of the young republic. [In front of Raleigh Tavern]

All programs are weather permitting. Times are approximate.



EVENING PROGRAMS

"The Emperor of the Cherokee Nation . . . attended by several of his Warriors . . . were received at the Palace by his Honour the Governor . . . on Thursday the 9th Instant . . . and were that Evening entertained . . . with the Play, (the Tragedy of *Othello*) . . . which gave them great Surprize, as did the fighting with naked Swords on the Stage, which occasioned the Empress to order some about her to go and prevent their killing one another." (Virginia Gazette, November 17, 1752)

Although we hope to avoid warriors storming the stage, the audience is once again in for a "great Surprize", as Shakespeare's *Othello*, *the Moor of Venice* premieres in this year's 18th-century Play Series. Shakespeare was edited, rearranged, and rewritten to suit the tastes and technologies of the 18th century, not unlike many modern productions of classics, but *Othello* survived relatively unscathed. This production is based on a 1755 promptbook and a 1773 published edition. Both share many traits common to the period: characters seen as "unworthy" in noble drama are eliminated (clowns and courtesans), scenes that do not directly advance the plot are removed (military discussions, revels) and a scene considered essential to today's audiences between the two female characters is purged, being deemed nonessential and inappropriate, as it questions the need for wives' chastity to their husbands.

Othello juxtaposes the 18th century against the 21st century by casting an African American in the title role. Scholars still debate whether Shakespeare intended his Moor to be black or "tawny," which was the standard depiction in the 1700s. David Garrick, renowned for his Shakespearean characters, suffered a rare critical failure in this role. Contemporary reports blame part of the failure on his almost unheard-of decision to use black makeup, thus limiting the effectiveness of his highly expressive face.

This exciting, fast-paced blend of 400 years of theatre opens March 15 at 8 p.m. in the Kimball Theatre. Consult *This Week* for additional dates throughout the year.

—Todd D. Norris

REVOLUTIONARY CITY/STORIES 2007

REVOLUTIONARY CITY™

their lives uncomfortable. To complicate matters further, Edmund, the only son of the family, falls squarely on the patriot side. [In front of Raleigh Tavern]

** Conversations with townspeople*

3:45 p.m. *September 3, 1775 A Court of Tar and Feathers*

The men who answered Virginia's call for the defense of American liberty were proud, brave, and spirited. They were bound together by the ties of honor and love of country. Any who would challenge their rights and liberties had better beware! [In front of Raleigh Tavern]

** Conversations with townspeople*

4:10 p.m. *November 17, 1775 Dunmore's Proclamation, Liberty to Slaves!*

As Kate, Eve, and others meet to confront the issues of slavery, news arrives that could change their futures. What does Dunmore's Proclamation really mean for the enslaved? [The Coffeehouse Backyard]

** Conversations with townspeople*

4:30 p.m. *May 15, 1776 The Citizen Soldier!*

Alexander Hoy, a carpenter who has fallen on hard times, and his wife Barbry argue about his enlisting in the army. Mrs. Hoy is concerned that Alexander is too old to become a soldier and that the family can't survive without him. [In front of Raleigh Tavern]

Conclusion.

4:45 p.m. *May 15, 1776 Resolved, Free and Independent States!*

The representatives of the free men of Virginia take the bold first step in break-

ing from Great Britain by passing resolutions for independence. They must now set about establishing a republican form of government. [Begins in front of Raleigh Tavern and moves to Capitol, South Side]

Citizens at War, 1776–1781

2:45 p.m. *July 25, 1776 A Declaration of Independence!*

The Declaration of Independence is read to the citizens of Williamsburg. This news arrives only a few weeks after Virginia's representatives have adopted their own Declaration of Rights and a Constitution for the new state. [Capitol, West Side]

*In between the dramatic scenes listed here, meet on the street with some of the people of Williamsburg and learn how these changes touch their lives.**

3:05 p.m. *June 18, 1779 War in the West*

Henry Hamilton, the British governor of Detroit, and other prisoners of war are being held in the Public Gaol. The charges against them are vague, and no evidence has yet been supplied. Hamilton resents being treated as a common prisoner, without the usual provisions allowed for officers and prisoners of war. [The Coffeehouse Backyard]

** Conversations with townspeople*

3:25 p.m. *September 15, 1780 In Desperate Circumstance!*

Barbry Hoy, a local woman who followed her husband southward with the army, returns to Williamsburg. Her husband Alexander was captured in the siege of Charleston, and she now seeks work at the Raleigh Tavern. She tells the story of the war in South

BIOGRAPHIES



THOMAS JEFFERSON

THOMAS JEFFERSON, third president of the United States, second governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia, author of the Declaration of Independence and the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom, diplomat, founder of the University of Virginia, architect, husband, father, and slave owner

Jefferson was born at Shadwell in Albemarle County, Virginia, to Peter Jefferson (planter, surveyor, and mapmaker) and Jane Jefferson (née Randolph). He was the third of ten children. From the late 1740s until 1752 he received private tutoring with his sister and cousins at the one-room school house at Tuckahoe Plantation. In 1752 he attended the Latin school of the Rev. William Douglas, and from 1758 to 1760 he studied under the Rev. James Maury. Jefferson then attended the College of William and Mary for two years. He studied under Dr. William Small, an exemplar of Enlightenment learning. Jefferson later wrote,

It was my great good fortune, and what probably fixed the destinies of my life that Dr. Wm. Small of Scotland was then professor of Mathematics, a man profound in most of the useful branches of science, with a happy talent of communication, correct and gentlemanly manners, & an enlarged & liberal mind . . . He returned to Europe in 1762, having previously filled up the measure of his goodness to me, by procuring for me, from his most intimate friend G. Wythe, a reception as a student of law, under his direction, and introduced me to the acquaintance and familiar table of Governor Fauquier, the ablest man who ever filled that office.

Jefferson read law with George Wythe in Williamsburg from 1762 to 1765. He then became a practicing attorney arguing cases before Virginia's General Court from 1767 to 1774.

After he reached his majority, Jefferson became a lifelong Virginia planter managing some 10,000 acres and between 100 and 200 slaves. He married the widow Martha Skelton (née Wayles) on 1 January 1772, and the young couple began their married life together at Monticello. Their marriage lasted ten years until Martha's death in 1782 from complications during childbirth. They had six children of whom only two daughters reached adulthood. Jefferson was grief-stricken at the loss of his dear "Patsy," and never remarried.

On May 8, 1769 Jefferson took his seat in the General Assembly as a newly elected Burgess from Albemarle County. In his Autobiography he wrote, "I made one effort in that body for the permission of the emancipation of slaves, which was rejected; and indeed, during the regal government, nothing liberal could expect success. Our Minds were circumscribed within narrow limits by an habitual belief that it was our duty to be subordinate to the mother country in all matters of government, to direct all our labors in subservience to her interests, and even to observe a bigoted intolerance for all religions but hers."

In 1770, Jefferson represented Samuel Howell, a mulatto man who had come to the General Court in Williamsburg seeking early release from servitude. Howell was bound until the age of 31 because he was the mulatto child of an unmarried servant woman. Claiming (probably for the first time) that "Under the law of nature, all men are born free," Jefferson argued that the lengthy curtailment of his client's liberty was based on the actions of Howell's great-grandparents (a white servant woman and a black man) and that a law that applied through three generations was unusually harsh. The judges, unmoved by Jefferson's line of reasoning, did not even require a rebuttal from the opposing attorney, George Wythe, Jefferson's friend and mentor. The court held that Virginia law required Howell to continue in his master's service until he reached the age of 31.

Jefferson's pen produced two documents of great importance to the emerging United States. In August 1774, as a delegate to the First Convention of Delegates in Williamsburg, he wrote his proposed instructions for Virginia's delegates to the First Continental Congress. The document was not approved but was published later under the title *A Summary View of the Rights of British America*. In the document Jefferson appealed to George III for redress of the colonists' grievances, arguing that their "natural" rights as free-born Englishmen had been violated. He also maintained that "the abolition of domestic slavery is the great object of desire in those colonies where it was unhappily introduced in their infant state."



LYDIA BROADNAX

LYDIA BROADNAX, a slave woman freed by George Wythe; tavernkeeper in Richmond

It is likely that the first reference to Lydia Broadnax was on January 24, 1778 when Martha Jefferson noted that she "Gave Mrs. Wythe's cook" eighteen shillings. Lydia's name appeared as a member of George Wythe's household on the 1783, 1784, and 1786 Williamsburg Personal Property Tax lists. She received medical treatment from doctors Galt and Barraud in 1782, 1783, 1784, 1785, and 1788. Wythe emancipated Lydia on August 20, 1787. The deed of emancipation noted that she was over 45 years of age and according to law, Wythe was responsible for her financial well-being. Possibly Lydia grew up at the Wythe plantation in Elizabeth City County (present-day Hampton). On August 20, 1787—two days after his wife's death—Wythe conveyed descendants of his wife's slaves to her brother, Richard Taliaferro, and her nieces and nephew.

Lydia remained in Wythe's household after she gained her freedom. Wythe paid for the medical treatment that she received in 1788. She was probably one of the two

From August through December 1775 and again in May 1776 Jefferson attended the Continental Congress in Philadelphia. On June 11, 1776 Jefferson was appointed to a committee to draft a declaration of independence and became its primary author. The document was a supreme statement of the natural rights of man "as derived from the laws of nature" with the state of society.

Jefferson represented Albemarle in Virginia's new House of Delegates from 1776 until 1779, when he was elected governor. As governor and a member of the Board of Visitors of the College of William and Mary, Jefferson had a hand in abolishing the Grammar and Divinity schools. After independence was declared, Jefferson, along with George Wythe and Edmund Pendleton, was appointed to work on a general revision of the laws of the commonwealth.

Jefferson's Statute of Virginia for Religious Freedom celebrates the freedom of man's mind and is a powerful statement of the Revolution and the Enlightenment. In a letter Jefferson wrote to George Wythe in 1786, reacting to the passage of the Statute, he stated that "If all the sovereigns of Europe were to set themselves to work to emancipate the minds of their subjects from their present ignorance & prejudices, & that as zealously as they now endeavor the contrary, a thousand years would not place them on that high ground on which our common people are now setting out." Jefferson wished to be remembered as the author of the Declaration of Independence and the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom and the founder of the University of Virginia.

blacks at the Wythe property between 1789 and 1791. Lydia moved to Richmond with Wythe in 1791.

Lydia was in possession of property in Richmond by 1797, the first year that she paid property taxes. Lydia took in boarders as early as 1799. She continued to cook for her former master, who referred to her as his "freed woman Lydia" when he wrote his will on April 20, 1803. Wythe bequeathed to his neighbor William DuVal "the houses and ground in Richmond, which I bought of William Nelson, and my stock in the funds, in trust, with the rents of one and interest of the other, to support my freed woman Lydia, and freed man Benjamin, and freed boy Michael Brown, during the lives of the two former, and after their deaths, in trust to the use of said Michael Brown."

Lydia survived the poisoning by George Wythe Sweeney that killed her former master. However, she was unable to testify at Sweeney's trial because she was a free woman of color.

In 1810, Lydia Broadnax appeared as the head of a household of six free persons and two enslaved individuals on the United States Census. In 1820 the census taker reported that Lydia Broadnax was the head of a household in which a free female between 25 and 45 years of age, and two free women over the age of 45 lived. She continued to earn some money each year by taking in boarders.

Lydia wrote in her will in September 1820:

In the name of God Amen. I Lydia Broadnax of the city of Richmond, being old and infirm, but in my perfect senses at present, and intolerably good health, do make this my last will and testament.

And I hereby give, devise and bequeath all my property, subject to the said reservation of a burial ground, which property consists of a house and half acre of ground in the City of Richmond, and my household furniture, and whatever ready money, and other goods I may die entitled to, or possessed of, to Philip Wythe (Judah) and Benjamin Wythe (Judah), free boys of colour, grandsons of my sister Letty Robertson, deceased, to them and their heirs and assigns forever.

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Carolina and of the Americans' grim defeats. **[In front of Raleigh Tavern]**

* Conversations with townspeople
3:45 p.m. April 20, 1781 The Town is Taken! The British Occupy Williamsburg

The American turncoat—now British Brigadier General—Benedict Arnold seizes Williamsburg. Redcoats raise the British flag over the Capitol and the officers announce the rules of occupation. **[Capitol, South Side]**

* Conversations with townspeople
4:05 p.m. July 4, 1781 Running to Freedom!

As Lord Cornwallis and the British army prepare to leave Williamsburg, Eve and other enslaved people prepare to leave with them. Can she be convinced not to run? Or will Eve join the more than 600 former slaves who left their rebel masters in the Carolinas to follow the British northward?

[The Coffeehouse Backyard]
* Conversations with townspeople
4:15 p.m. September 28, 1781 The Promised Land, or A Matter of Faith

An African American Baptist preacher talks about his hopes for the future in a new society where all citizens are equal and where there will be no state church connected to the government as the Church of England had been. A young soldier confronts him with questions of faith in the face of war and world-changing events. **[The Coffeehouse Backyard]**

Conclusion.
4:40 p.m. September 28, 1781 On to Yorktown and Victory!

The general addresses his men and the citizens of Williamsburg as he prepares to leave for Yorktown. Guests and townspeople are recruited to march to the Court-house. **[In front of Raleigh Tavern]**

BIOGRAPHIES



EVE

EVE, an enslaved woman and mother, owned by Peyton and Betty Randolph

Eve was the mother of George, who was baptized on July 6, 1766. Peyton Randolph left Eve and her children to his widow Betty Randolph. Eve was the first female to appear on the list of Randolph's personal property. Her value of £100 indicates that she was an important part of the day-to-day activities in the household and that she might have been Betty Randolph's personal maid.

The widow Randolph bequeathed Eve and George to her niece, Ann Copeland, in her June 1780 will. It is likely that Eve and George ran to join the British in 1781 and that Eve did not return to Williamsburg. In the July 1782 codicil to her will Betty Randolph noted that she had been forced to sell Eve because of her "bad behavior." The money from the sale was to be used to buy a slave girl for Ann Copeland and a slave boy for her nephew Peyton Harrison. The widow Randolph's sale of Eve indicates that she took greater offense to Eve's decision to join the British during the Revolution than she did to the departure of the other slaves who ran to the enemy. Eve might have remained with the British and the other Randolph slaves returned to Williamsburg. Advertisements placed by Harrison Randolph in the Virginia Gazette and General Advertiser in 1782 suggest that he purchased Eve from his aunt:

TWENTY DOLLARS REWARD,

FOR apprehending EVE, Negro woman slave, who left York after the surrender; she is about forty years old, very black and slender, has a small mouth for a Negro, and a remarkable mole on her nose: She has since been seen on her way to Hampton. She carried with her a variety of striped and checked Virginia cloth cloathes. Whoever delivers her to the subscriber in Richmond, shall receive the above reward.

Perhaps the "bad behavior" that Betty Randolph mentioned in the codicil to her will was Eve's decision to stay with the British.

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