ANNUAL REPORT 1976

THE BICENTENNIAL YEAR 1976 had special meanings for those of us who live and work in Williamsburg. For us, it was marked by a dual celebration:

It was the two hundredth anniversary of the remarkable events that earned the colonial Virginia capital its reputation as a cradle of American liberty.

It was also the fiftieth birthday of the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, during which we commemorated the fruitful collaboration between its founders, Mr. John D. Rockefeller, Jr., and the Reverend W. A. R. Goodwin.

Obviously, Williamsburg would be quite a different city today if those stirring events of 1776 had not taken place here. It was the inspiring story of Virginia leadership in the cause of Revolution that motivated both Mr. Rockefeller and Dr. Goodwin in their early work. The same inspiration marks the Foundation's efforts today.

Colonial Williamsburg is, indeed, both fortunate and proud to be able to present this ever-appealing chapter in our history through its varied programs of interpretation—on the streets and greens and in the buildings where history was made. It is toward this end that *Revolution in Williamsburg* is presented.

CARLISLE H. HUMELSINE

iamsburg

THE COLONIAL WILLIAMSBURG FOUNDATION

Revolution in Williamsburg

THE COLONIAL WILLIAMSBURG FOUNDATION

As a cultural and educational center reflecting an important chapter of eighteenth-century life, Colonial Williamsburg offers six major appeals. Any one of them, in a different and separate locale, might become an American landmark. The principal appeals of Williamsburg lie in its history and heritage, gardens, architecture, collections of furniture and furnishings, handcrafts, and preservation research in all forms, including archaeology. Each appeal is supported by a vigorous program; together, they are designed to reveal to visitors a full span of the social, economic, and political life of the colonial capital of Virginia.

Inspired by Dr. W. A. R. Goodwin, Mr. John D. Rockefeller, Jr., began the preservation and restoration of Williamsburg in 1926. He opened the way toward this unique and enduring contribution to contemporary American life by recalling the fundamental principles and appeals of the Williamsburg of two hundred years ago.

From 1699 to 1780 Williamsburg was the capital of Virginia and a proving ground for both ideas and leaders. A remarkable body of men reached political maturity in Williamsburg in this era and met its challenges: George Washington, George Wythe, Peyton Randolph, Edmund Pendleton, Patrick Henry, George Mason, Thomas Jefferson, and a score of other Virginians. The capital provided a setting for and a stimulus to their growth as leaders.

Revolution in Williamsburg

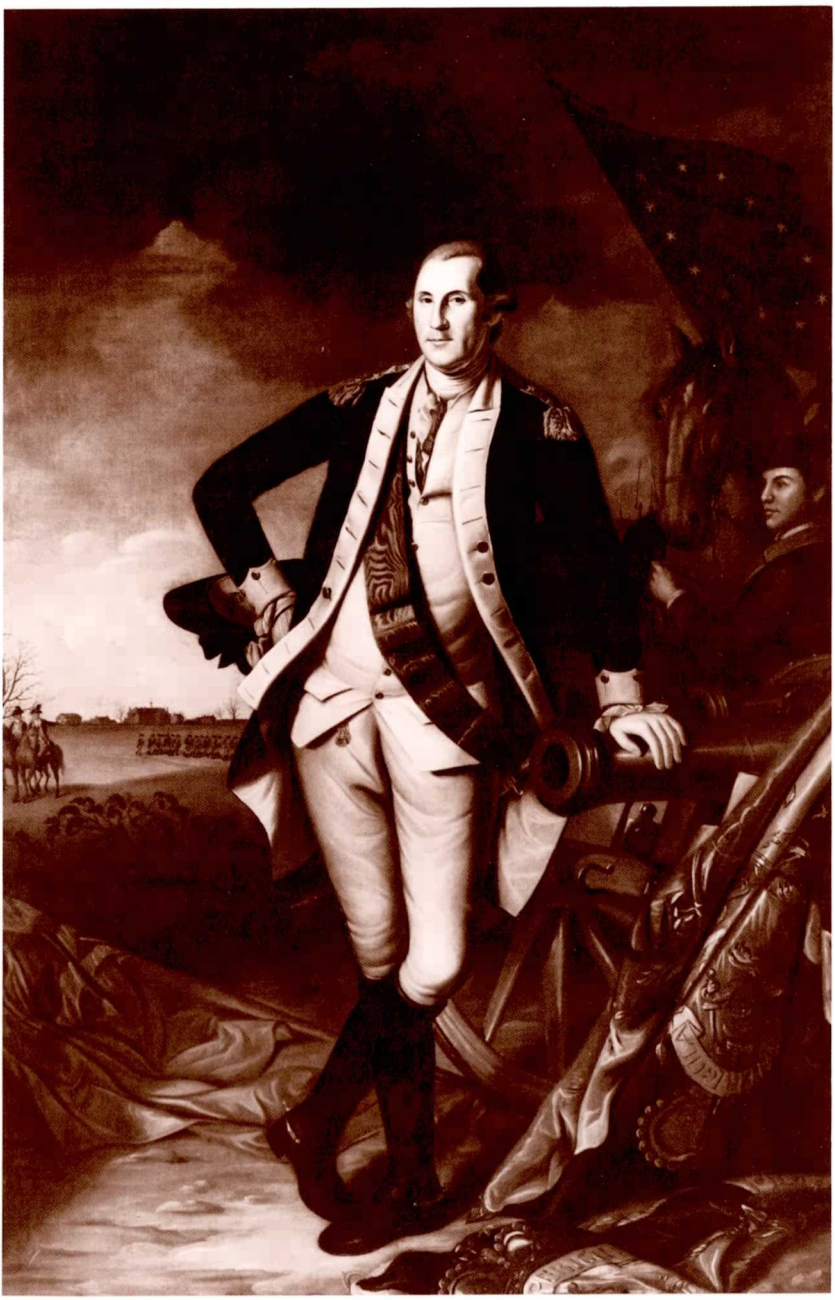
"Illuminations and other demonstrations of joy" at the Capitol on May 15 marked the two hundredth anniversary of the passage of the Virginia Resolution for Independence.

Revolution in Williamsburg

with

A SUMMARY OF THE YEAR 1976

THE
COLONIAL WILLIAMSBURG
FOUNDATION
Williamsburg, Virginia



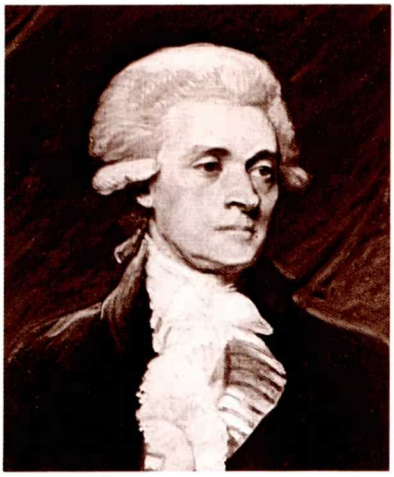
George Washington.

THE MOMENTOUS YEAR 1776 came to Virginia with a rolling of gunfire, an omen of the bitter warfare that was to wrack the nation for six years to come. On New Year's Day British warships bombarded Norfolk and landing parties burned several houses. The raiders were commanded by John Murray, Lord Dunmore, Virginia's last royal governor, who had fled the Palace in Williamsburg six months earlier.

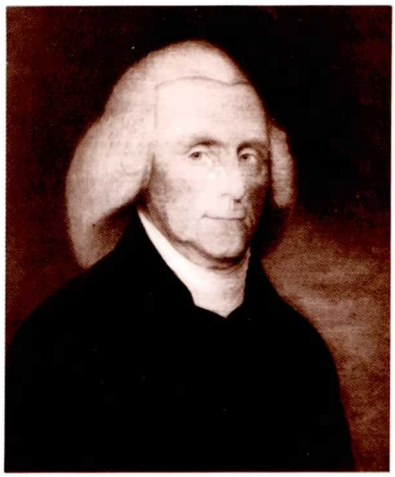
Military events were only a prelude to the period of creative political activity during which Virginia leaders were to win enduring fame. The burning of Norfolk, it may be said, ended the brief military career of Colonel Patrick Henry of the Virginia militia. In February, Henry appeared in the Council Chamber in Williamsburg before the Commissioner of Safety, who informed him that he had been passed over for promotion to brigadier general. Henry resigned at once. His troops protested loudly but in vain, and ex-Colonel Henry's loyal men had to content themselves with a noisy farewell banquet in the Raleigh Tavern on Duke of Gloucester Street. Only an eloquent plea from Henry prevented the wholesale resignation of his troops on the spot.

George Washington, for one, was gratified to see Henry out of uniform, since he felt that Virginia had made "a capital mistake" by permitting him to leave the legislature for the field.

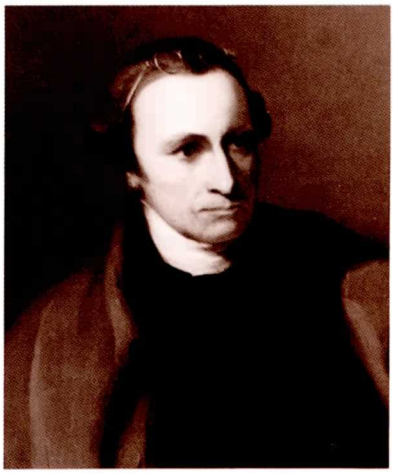
Washington himself was now on the threshold of military fame as commander of the Continental Army. On March 17—St. Patrick's Day—after six months of siege by the ragged and poorly armed rebels, British troops evacuated Boston and the Virginia general had won his first victory.



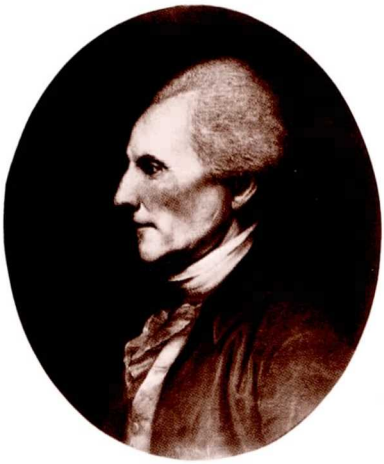
Thomas Jefferson.



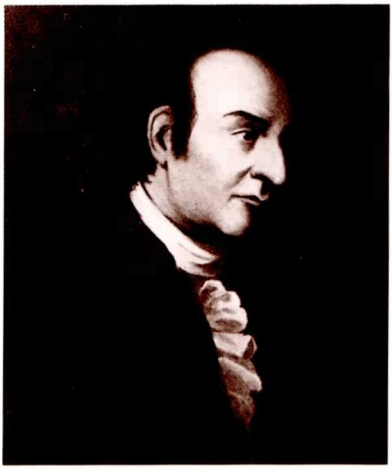
Edmund Pendleton.



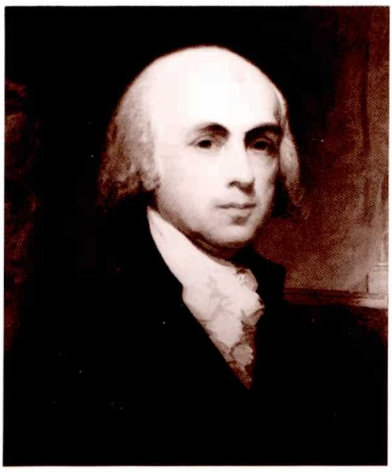
Patrick Henry.



Richard Henry Lee.



George Wythe.



James Madison.

Although war had not yet reached Williamsburg, the town was filled with troops that spring. General Andrew Lewis and his militiamen camped on Market Square Green and in almost every other available space in town.

Judging from his orders, General Lewis found this a trying time: "I am sorry to acquaint the soldiers that I have had a number of compliants from the inhabitants of this neighborhood, that they are guilty of the most unherd of bad behavour, such as pulling young Corn. It is observed that many of the Soldiers when posted as Sentries take the liberty of sitting down; this unjustifyable practice is strictly forbid."

A new excitement gripped Virginia as the spring advanced. Thoughtful men realized that a time of decision was approaching. The fifth session of Virginia's revolutionary Convention was to meet in Williamsburg, and it seemed inevitable that the delegates would move for American independence. Richard Henry Lee wrote prophetically, "Ages yet unborn, and millions existing at present, must rue or bless that Assembly, on which their happiness or misery will so eminently depend."

By the first week of May, delegates to the new Convention had gathered in Williamsburg. The old House of Burgesses, which had made several attempts to convene without drawing a quorum, expired at last on May 6. The final entry in the minutes of the historic body reads, "SEVERAL Members met, but did neither proceed to Business, nor adjourn, as a House of Burgesses. FINIS."

Thus, after some one hundred fifty-seven years of making laws for Virginians, America's oldest representative legislative assembly came to its end.

The Fifth Convention met the same day, with one hundred twenty delegates present. Among leading figures at the Convention were Edmund Pendleton, Patrick Henry, Edmund Randolph, and the twenty-four-year-old James Madison. A notable absentee was George Mason of Gunston Hall, who was delayed by illness. Otherwise, all important Virginia leaders were present except Washington and the Virginia delegation to Congress—Jefferson, George Wythe, Richard Henry Lee, Benjamin Harrison, and Carter Braxton.

The revolutionaries elected as president the self-possessed

political veteran Pendleton, who was said to be the handsomest man in Virginia. The fifty-five-year-old Pendleton was one of the more conservative members of the group and was the only major Virginia leader of the era who had won his way to prominence without the aid of inherited position or estate; in twentieth-century terms, he was a self-made man. Washington's trusted friend, Pendleton had written the general's modest speech of acceptance of the army command and had also drawn his will before he joined his troops in Massachusetts.

Pendleton accepted the chair of the Convention with words of caution: "We are now met . . . at a time truly critical, when subjects of the most important and interesting nature require our serious attention.

"The administration of justice, and almost all the powers of government, have now been suspended for near two years. It will become us to reflect whether we can longer sustain the great struggle we are making in this situation.

"In the discussion of these, and all other subjects . . . permit me to recommend calmness, unanimity, and diligence, as the most likely means of bringing them to a happy and prosperous issue."

For all his conservatism, Pendleton gave the Convention aggressive leadership. The delegates were not idle. Committees met at 7 A.M., the Convention heard reports at ten o'clock, and many members worked far into the night since there was much to be done and history offered them no guide. Pendleton wrote Thomas Jefferson, "We build our Government slowly, I hope it will be founded on a Rock."

Although sentiment in Virginia was overwhelmingly in favor of separation from England (the only delegate opposed was Robert Carter Nicholas), the Convention soon found itself divided. One group wanted to declare the old government dissolved and to call for the organization of a new one—but to avoid any direct mention of independence. The other faction sought to influence Congress to foster a move for independence. Pendleton wrote a compromise resolution favoring the hard-liners, which was accepted by both factions and was passed on May 15.

This resolution included instructions to Virginia's congres-

sional delegates "to declare the United Colonies free and independent states," and concluded by proposing a committee to write a Declaration of Rights "and such a plan of government as will be most likely to maintain peace and order in this colony, and secure substantial and equal liberty to the people"—in short, a constitution.

A collection was taken to treat the soldiers camped in town, and troops were inspected the following day. Toasts were drunk, cannon salutes were fired, and the new "Union Flag of the American States" was raised above the Capitol cupola. The houses of Williamsburg were illuminated in celebration that night. As the *Virginia Gazette* reported, there were "other demonstrations of joy; every one seeming pleased that the domination of Great Britain was now at an end, so wickedly and tyrannically exercised for these twelve or thirteen years past, notwithstanding our repeated prayers and remonstrations for redress."

The *Gazette* celebrated the event by removing the colonial seal of Virginia from its masthead and substituting a slogan written by Richard Henry Lee—"The Thirteen United Colonies,—United we stand . . . Divided we fall."

Pendelton hurried the resolves to Philadelphia, and the Convention continued its work. By now George Mason had arrived, almost two weeks late, to assume leadership of a committee of thirty-two assigned to draft a declaration of rights. He was destined to play a leading role in the dramatic events of that spring in Williamsburg. Complaining that the group was burdened by useless members who were likely to make absurd and impractical suggestions, he undertook the writing of the declaration himself.

Mason was the owner of the five thousand-acre estate Gunston Hall on the Potomac and the father of nine children, whose ages ranged from six to twenty-three. He was fifty-one, a courtly man of below average height, with "a grand head" and gray eyes. His disposition was crochety, the result of a chronic condition he described as "gout of the stomach." Although Mason found public service "an oppressive and unjust invasion" of his personal freedom, his sense of duty compelled him to serve the country. His contemporaries expected much of Mason.

Edmund Pendleton wrote to Jefferson, "The Political Cooks are busy preparing the dish, and as Colonel Mason seems to have the Ascendancy in the great work, I have sanguine hopes it will be framed so as to Answer it's [sic] end, . . . I find our session will be a long one, and indeed the importance of our business requires it and we must sweat it out with Fortitude."

Despite Pendleton's apprehensions, the committee com-

MAY 10, 1776. THE NUMBER 67

VIRGINIA GAZETTE.

ALWAYS FOR LIBERTY. AND THE PUBLICK GOOD.

ALEXANDER PURDIE, PRINTER.

PURSUANT to powers received from the Hon. the Continental Congreſs, the Committee of Safety are ready to grant commiſſions for making reprifals upon the property of the people of *Great Britain*, at ſea, or in the rivers, below high-water mark, to any perſons who ſhall apply for them, and comply with the terms mentioned by Congreſs.

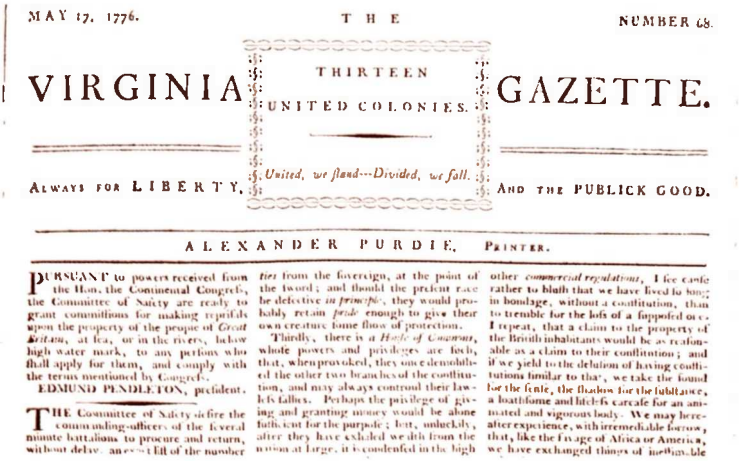
EDMUND PENDLETON, preſident.

poſes in view, has taken eſpecial care to provide as ſtrong a temptation as human nature, ſet above law and reſtraint, and furniſhed with every facility to corruption, can poſſibly be expoſed to.

Bthly. Becauſe we know nothing of the buſineſs of theſe commiſſioners, farther than the above arbitrary diſcretion with regard to pardons. Rumour gives out, that they are to have a power to treat with the Americans for a redreſs of their grie-

Be not deceived. It is not a little that is at ſtake. Reconciliation will not now go down, even if it were offered. 'Tis a dangerous queſtion, for the eyes of all men begin to open. There is now no ſecret in the matter; there ought to be none. It is a caſe that concerns every man, and every man ought to lay it to heart. He that *is* here, and he that was *born* here, are alike concerned. It is needleſs too to ſplit the buſineſs into a thouſand parts;

The mastheads of these two consecutive issues of Alexander Purdie's Virginia Gazette *mirrored the significance of the Virginia Resolution for Independence passed on May 15, 1776. The edition immediately prior to passage carried the colonial seal of Virginia. The following week it was replaced by the slogan: "The Thirteen United Colonies,—United we stand . . . Divided we fall."*



MAY 17, 1776. THE NUMBER 68.

VIRGINIA GAZETTE.

THIRTEEN UNITED COLONIES.

United, we ſtand---Divided, we fall.

ALWAYS FOR LIBERTY. AND THE PUBLICK GOOD.

ALEXANDER PURDIE, PRINTER.

PURSUANT to powers received from the Hon. the Continental Congreſs, the Committee of Safety are ready to grant commiſſions for making reprifals upon the property of the people of *Great Britain*, at ſea, or in the rivers, below high water mark, to any perſons who ſhall apply for them, and comply with the terms mentioned by Congreſs.

EDMUND PENDLETON, preſident.

THE Committee of Safety deſire the commanding-officers of the ſeveral minute battalions to procure and return, without delay, an exact liſt of the number

ties from the ſovereign, at the point of the ſword; and ſhould the preſent race be defective *in principle*, they would probably retain *pride* enough to give their own creature ſome ſhow of protection.

Thirdly, there is a *Houſe of Commons*, whoſe powers and privileges are ſuch, that, when provoked, they can demoliſh all the other two branches of the conſtitution, and may always controul their law-ſuits falſhes. Perhaps the privilege of giving and granting money would be alone ſufficient for the purpoſe; but, unluckily, after they have exhauſted wealth from the nation at large, it is condenſed in the high

other *commercial regulations*, I ſee caſes rather to bluſh that we have lived ſo long in bondage, without a conſtitution, than to tremble for the loſs of a ſuppoſed one. I repeat, that a claim to the property of the Britiſh inhabitants would be as reaſonable as a claim to their conſtitution; and if we yield to the delution of having conſtitutions ſimilar to that, we take the ſound for the ſenſe, the ſhadow for the ſubſtance, a beautiſome and lifeleſs carcaſe for an animated and vigorous body. We may hereafter experience, with irremediable horrors, that, like the Image of Africa or America, we have exchanged things of ineſtimable

pleted its work in little more than a week, although a final draft was adopted by the Convention only after two weeks of heated debate.

Mason's declaration began, "That all men are by nature equally free and independent, and have certain inherent rights, of which, they cannot, by any compact, deprive or divest their posterity . . ."

These opening words drew the fire of conservatives who feared that they would invite slave uprisings. They argued that either all Americans were free, or they were not. In short, the dilemma of freedom-seeking, slaveholding patriots became clear at once. The Convention evaded the issue of black slavery by defining free men as those who had entered "into a state of society." Although Mason opposed slavery, he accepted the compromise to prevent the issue from causing the rejection of his declaration.

In the end the Convention adopted Mason's fourteen proposed guarantees of individual liberties and added two more, additions that Mason thought were "not for the better." Patrick Henry defeated other proposed amendments with his warning that some "towering public offender" of the future might make use of them.

The Virginia Declaration of Rights was a distinct break with the past, forcefully written, its meaning unmistakable. Mason proclaimed that all power stemmed from the people and that the government was their creature, to be tailored to their use or abolished in case they saw fit. No public offices should be hereditary, and government should be composed of three distinct branches, executive, legislative, and judicial. Elections should be free, with a broad base of suffrage for voters. Laws could be made or changed only by representatives of the people. There were echoes of the Magna Charta and other early documents bearing on the struggle for civil rights in England—trials by juries of peers and prohibition of excessive bail and cruel and unusual punishments. Although a militia must be organized for defense, standing armies in peacetime posed a danger, and the military should always be under control of "the civil power." Two other principles that had been only hinted at in earlier documents were proclaimed—freedom of the press and religion.

Mason's work was to become a landmark in the long struggle to establish free societies. The declaration was not only "closely imitated by the other United States," as Mason pointed out. It also served as the basic form for the first ten amendments to the United States Constitution and was to be echoed in the constitutions of other free nations for two centuries.

George Mason.

As the late Samuel Eliot Morison said, the Declaration was "one of the great documents of all time. Based on Natural Law, it boiled down the experience of freeborn Englishmen in the past; and it was the parent of the Bill of Rights of the rest of the thirteen States, of the Federal Government in 1791, of the French Declaration des Droits de l'Homme of 1789; and of innumerable later charters, including that of the United Nations, which have attempted to define the basic rights of man which no government or official may infringe."

In Philadelphia, on June 7, the Virginia Convention's resolves were read to Congress by Richard Henry Lee, the tall, red-haired senior member of the Virginia delegation whose reputation as an orator at forty-four rivaled that of Patrick Henry. Lee, who had lost several fingers in an accident, was a striking figure as he read the historic resolution to the

delegates, waving his maimed hand in its black handkerchief wrapping.

"Resolved That these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent States, that they are absolved from all allegiance to the British Crown . . . ."

Lee's resolution set off a bitter debate in Congress, but one Virginian was too busy to take part—Thomas Jefferson. Although he was a freshman and one of the junior delegates at age thirty-three, Jefferson's reputation as a writer had won him assignments to produce committee reports, resolutions, and other documents. He attended every session as the debate dragged on and took notes from each speaker in turn, but made no speeches himself. When a committee was formed to draft a declaration, Jefferson was among the five men chosen. John Adams, for one, had been deeply impressed by young Jefferson: "Though a silent member in Congress, he was so prompt, frank, explicit and decisive upon committees and in conversation . . . that he soon seized upon my heart."

Adams and Benjamin Franklin urged that Jefferson write the Declaration himself. Adams, who had intrigued for independence behind the scenes for so long, declined to write the document. When Jefferson questioned his decision, Adams replied, "Reasons enough . . . first, you are a Virginian, and a Virginian ought to appear at the head of the business. Reason, second, I am obnoxious, suspected and unpopular. You are very much otherwise. Reason, Third, you can write ten times better than I can."

"If you are decided," Jefferson said, "I will do as well as I can." He began work in his rented rooms and completed a draft, guided only by the brief recommendation of the committee. "I turned to neither book nor pamphlet while writing it," Jefferson recalled later.

The Declaration of Independence, approved by Congress on July 2 and announced to the world on July 4, was reminiscent of Mason's Declaration of Rights, although it had an eloquence and grandeur of its own. Jefferson's ringing phrases, which were to become so familiar to later Americans, were clearly more arresting than Mason's. Mason had set forth the rights of free men: "Namely, the enjoyment of life and liberty, with the means of acquiring and possessing property, and pursuing

and obtaining happiness and safety." The younger, more radical Jefferson transformed the statement of mankind's inalienable rights to "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

Meanwhile, Mason's work in Williamsburg continued. He wrote most of the constitution of the Commonwealth of Virginia, which was to become a model for other states. The Convention approved the constitution after three days of deliberation, as if the architects of the new government had exhausted themselves in the long debate over the Declaration of Rights. Adopted on June 29, this "Plan of Government" reflected the fears of Virginians that new tyrants might rise to govern them. As a result, the governor, who was to be elected by the house and senate, was to serve a one-year term and have no veto power. Patrick Henry, who expected to win the governor's chair, argued that the chief executive would be "a mere phantom, unable to defend the office from the usurpation of the legislative," the accuracy of which prophecy he was to test himself.

The widowed Henry was elected the first governor of the Commonwealth, took office on July 5, and moved into the Governor's Palace with his children. Cleared of Lord Dunmore's effects by public auction, the Palace had been refurbished for its first elected occupant.

As its final act before adjournment, the Convention approved a great seal, the design of which was largely the work of George Wythe. The seal depicted the Roman goddess Virtus as a thinly clad Amazon, posed with one foot on the neck of a prostrate king above the motto *Sic Semper Tyrannis*. After unsuccessful efforts to find an engraver in Virginia, Wythe's committee obtained advice from Jefferson, Franklin, and Benjamin West, but it was only after months of delay that a seal was received and put into use. Later generations were to make numerous changes in the great seal, notably a less revealing view of the charms of Virtus.

The Convention had completed its great work and most of the delegates had gone home by July 19, when Purdie's *Virginia Gazette* published news of the Declaration of Independence and promised its readers a full text of the document in the next issue, but the next day the competing *Gazette* of Dixon

and Hunter scored a news beat by printing the Declaration. Sheriffs throughout Virginia were ordered to read the document at their courthouses on the next court day. On July 25, Williamsburg staged its own celebration of Jefferson's Declaration.

The new General Assembly of Virginia held its first session in the Capitol on October 7. Jefferson thought it of such importance that he resigned from Congress and declined a post as United States commissioner to France in order to travel to Williamsburg and take a seat in the assembly.

It should be noted that although he was young and optimistic in general, Jefferson realized that American's future would be menaced by formidable problems. He warned later that the nation would outgrow its agricultural society, and then, "When we get piled upon one another in large cities, as in Europe, we shall become corrupt as in Europe, and go to eating one another, as they do there . . . our rulers will become corrupt, our people careless of their rights." Even idealistic Americans, Jefferson predicted, would "forget themselves, but in the sole faculty of making money."

Still, in the autumn of 1776, Jefferson was passionately involved in completing a new plan of self-government for Virginia. He had hardly arrived in Williamsburg before he joined George Mason in an attempt to pass a new law guaranteeing religious freedom in Virginia. He found the resulting assembly battle a lively one indeed.

Despite separation from England and strident protests from rival sects, the Anglican Church was still supported by taxes. Mason's committee was deluged by petitions of protest, one of which bore ten thousand names, but conservative delegates defeated the attempt to assure equal status for all sects and to bring freedom of religion to Virginia. Debates on the question were so bitter that Jefferson recalled them "as the severest contest in which I have ever been engaged." A compromise measure passed by the assembly removed rectors from public payrolls and relieved dissenters from supporting the Anglican Church, but it was to be ten years before a complete bill for full religious freedom was passed in Virginia.

In November, as Williamsburg's fateful year drew toward its close, the body of Peyton Randolph was brought home from

Philadelphia, where it had lain for more than a year since the death of this first President of the Continental Congress. Randolph's body was interred in a crypt beneath the chapel of the College of William and Mary beside the tomb of his father, Sir John Randolph.

A few days later, on December 5, five students of the College, moved by "a happy spirit and resolution of attaining the important ends of Society," met in the Raleigh Tavern and founded Phi Beta Kappa, which was to exert a profound influence upon education in the new republic.

In the final days of the year, gloom that spread across the country affected Virginia as well. The war, it appeared, was being lost in the north, where Washington's army retreated before the British after a series of disastrous defeats. Congress fled from Philadelphia to Baltimore. But on Christmas night the Virginian's ragged columns electrified the nation with a surprise attack on a Hessian outpost at Trenton, New Jersey, and won a victory that restored the nation's faith and kept alive hopes of final victory.

1776 had been a year that would live for centuries in the memory of mankind. Its accomplishments were to endure in the governments of free nations. During fifty days of Williamsburg's spring and early summer, Virginia had led the way to national independence. One Virginian had given America a Declaration of Rights, another the Declaration of Independence, and a third had led a despised army toward the establishment of these rights. Years later, when American independence had been won, George Mason was to look back on the momentous days of 1776 in wonder: "We seem to have been treading on enchanted ground."

One hundred and fifty years later—in 1926—there was one man who felt that Williamsburg itself was "enchanted ground" and cherished a vision of the city restored—the Reverend W.A.R. Goodwin, an Episcopal rector who had a lifelong interest in Virginia's past. His feeling for Williamsburg was strikingly like that of George Mason: "Intangible, but real; invisible, but ever present; the spirit of the days of long ago haunts and hallows the ancient city and the homes of its honored dead; a spirit that stirs the memory and fires the imagination."

Fortunately for future American generations, Dr. Goodwin imparted this spirit to Mr. John D. Rockefeller, Jr. The collaboration between these two extraordinary men ultimately led to the restoration of Williamsburg. It was the beginning of that collaboration which the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation celebrated during 1976.

The actual sites where Williamsburg history had been made in 1776 were of utmost importance to Dr. Goodwin and Mr. Rockefeller. They believed that such significant buildings as the Palace, the Capitol, and Raleigh Tavern should rise again on their old foundations. Without these important buildings, they felt there could be no comprehensive understanding of the town and the vital role it played in the beginnings of our nation.

Colonial Williamsburg's founders, the Reverend W. A. R. Goodwin and John D. Rockefeller, Jr.

The dramatic physical restoration of Virginia's colonial capital from 1926 to 1976 is reflected in these before and after views along Duke of Gloucester Street.

Equally significant, however, were the eighty-eight original buildings that survived, some of them saved just in time. Over the years they have been restored, and today many of them are public exhibition buildings.

Dr. Goodwin will long be remembered, not only for his overall concept for the restoration of the town, but especially for his farsightedness concerning the development of the Historic Area. In his words, the reborn town should "appeal to the imagination."

He was the first to suggest life on the scene, including working craftsmen and animals, a program to furnish the buildings with antiques, and a unique life tenancy approach to obtaining original buildings not otherwise available. Although he did not live to see all of his ideas become reality, he foresaw how fascinating the restored city would be to generations of modern Americans:

"If you have ever walked around Williamsburg late on a moonlight night, when most of the people who now live here are fast asleep, and felt the presence and companionship of the people who used to live here in the long gone years, and remembered the things that they did and *the things* that they stood for, and pictured them going into or coming out of the old houses in which they once lived, and remembered the things which they said in the House of Burgesses and at the old College—you would then know what an interesting place Williamsburg is. You would realize that it is about the most interesting place in America."

Mr. Rockefeller understood perfectly. The appeal of Williamsburg moved him strongly during more than thirty years of active association with the city's restoration. As he once said, "I feel I really belong in Williamsburg." In the words of his biographer, Dr. Raymond Fosdick, "Of all the things he ever undertook, Williamsburg seemed to reward him with the greatest satisfaction. To him it was 'hallowed ground,' as he said. He loved every square foot of it."

CARLISLE H. HUMELSINE

President Gerald R. Ford, accompanied by Governor and Mrs. Mills E. Godwin, Jr., of Virginia, rode to the colonial Capitol in a carriage on January 31, 1976. President Ford opened the national Bicentennial year with an address at a commemorative session of the Virginia General Assembly.

SUMMARY OF THE YEAR 1976

"The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation serves the world by vividly reconstructing America's heritage."

—PRESIDENT GERALD R. FORD

WITH these stirring words President Ford officially opened the nation's Bicentennial at the colonial Capitol on January 31, 1976.

By historic coincidence, Mr. Ford also signaled the beginning of the fiftieth anniversary year of Colonial Williamsburg.

These twin anniversaries of the nation and its largest historical restoration project opened a year full of major contrasts in the capital of the former Virginia colony.

Virginia's patriots of two hundred years ago would have been astonished—and generally pleased—with 1976 events that occurred on the site of their 1776 accomplishments. The commemorative year on Williamsburg's historic streets and in its halls was one of inspiring historical observances; of plans for record-breaking visitation that dwindled as the year ended; educational program innovations; and an excellent start on a new development effort.

The year's major activities seemed to be appropriately capped in the little city by its selection as the scene of the third presidential debate between President Ford and Jimmy Carter, and the two hundredth anniversary of the founding of Phi Beta Kappa. Both of these events were held at Phi Beta Kappa Hall on the campus of the College of William and Mary.

The Bicentennial and fiftieth anniversary year at Colonial Williamsburg began with President Ford's January visit. He opened the national Bicentennial with an address to the Virginia General Assembly in a commemorative session at the colonial Capitol.

Noting the important events of eighteenth-century Williamsburg and the contributions of early Virginia patriots, President Ford called for a revival of "the cherished values of

the American Revolution with a resurgence of the spirit that rang forth in the streets of Williamsburg in colonial times." In a tribute to Colonial Williamsburg, the President said, "I commend those whose initiative and patriotism has preserved and restored Colonial Williamsburg. The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation serves the world by vividly reconstructing America's heritage."

Historic Dates Commemorated

With this auspicious beginning, Colonial Williamsburg undertook to commemorate four outstanding historical events that contributed to the nation's independence two centuries ago.

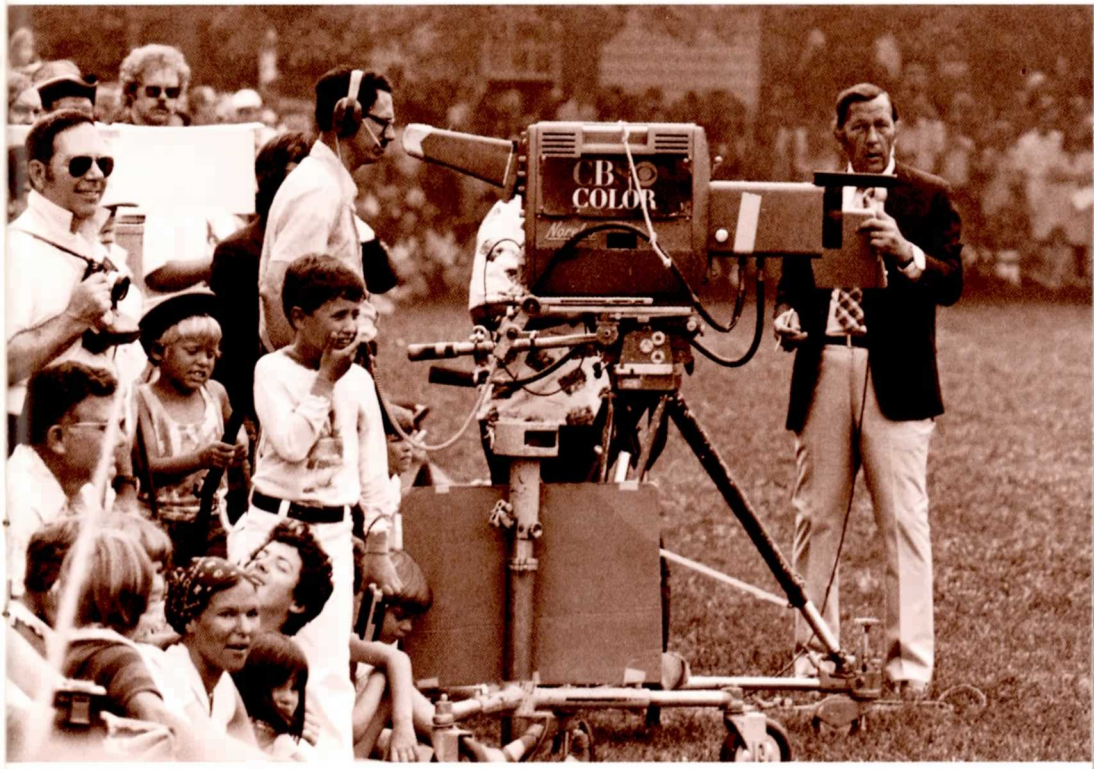
The first was the two hundredth anniversary of the adoption of the Virginia Resolution for Independence on May 15. An evening ceremony at the Capitol included an address by the noted Jefferson biographer, Dr. Dumas Malone of the University of Virginia. The program culminated with aerial fireworks recalling the "illuminations and other demonstrations of joy" that marked the occasion in the eighteenth century.

The two hundredth anniversary of the adoption of George Mason's Virginia Declaration of Rights on June 12 was commemorated with a program entitled "The George Mason Lectures." Featured were carefully researched papers and comments by eminent scholars before an audience of distinguished guests, which included Virginia Governor Mills E. Godwin, Jr. The three speakers were Peter Gay, Durfee Professor of History, Yale University; Julian Boyd, Professor of History, Emeritus, Princeton University; and A. E. Dick Howard, White Burkett Miller Professor of Law and Public Affairs at the University of Virginia. Daniel J. Boorstin, Librarian of Congress, served as moderator.

A colorful public celebration marked Independence Day in Williamsburg, highlighted by a reading of portions of the Declaration of Independence, volleys by costumed musketmen and artillerymen, and a display of thirteen historic flags representing each of the original American colonies.

A final Bicentennial observation recalled the two hundredth anniversary of the official reading of the Declaration of

The two hundredth anniversary of the adoption of George Mason's Declaration of Rights was commemorated with a program entitled "The George Mason Lectures." Featured in the program were presentations by three noted scholars (from left), A. E. Dick Howard, Julian P. Boyd, and Peter Gay. Seated next to Professor Gay is Daniel J. Boorstin, moderator. Justice Lewis F. Powell, Jr., chairman of the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation Board of Trustees, is shown in the background.



The traditional Independence Day celebration on Market Square Green was given nationwide attention by CBS-TV as one of many live telecasts of the day. Roger Mudd, CBS correspondent, reported the Colonial Williamsburg event.

On July 25, 1976, a costumed narrator read the Declaration of Independence from the steps of the Courthouse of 1770, one of three locations where the document was read in Williamsburg on July 25, 1776, the day the text arrived in town.

The Earl of Dunmore, a descendant of Virginia's last royal governor, visited Williamsburg last year along with a group of seven other British leaders. The tour included a visit to the Governor's Palace from which the fiery Governor Dunmore fled on the night of June 8, 1775. Standing with the Earl of Dunmore in front of the Palace gates is John Lowe.

Independence in Williamsburg. Visitors joined a costumed delegation in a march from the Capitol to the Courthouse of 1770, where the reading took place just as it did on July 25, 1776.

Presidential Debate, Distinguished Visitors

Modern history was made in Williamsburg in October when President Ford returned, along with Mrs. Ford, to meet presidential candidate Jimmy Carter, who was accompanied

Presidential candidate Jimmy Carter and Mrs. Carter were in Williamsburg in October for the third and final presidential debate, held at the College of William and Mary.

by Mrs. Carter, in the third and final presidential debate. President and Mrs. Ford stayed at the eighteenth-century Lightfoot House prior to the debate, while Mr. and Mrs. Carter were overnight guests at the Williamsburg Lodge. Colonial Williamsburg also provided working accommodations for more than 1,000 members of the nation's media who covered this historic event.

Heads of state of six foreign nations visited the Historic Area during 1976, including Prime Minister Liam Cosgrave of

Among the foreign heads of state to visit Colonial Williamsburg last year was Chancellor Helmut Schmidt of West Germany. During a tour of the Historic Area, Chancellor and Mrs. Schmidt visited the workshop of Karl Gayer, wheelwright.

The Commonwealth of Virginia's gift to visiting Queen Elizabeth II of England was prepared for presentation by three employees of the Colonial Williamsburg bookbindery (from left) Miss Sandi Yoder, binder, Gene Crain, master binder and Printing Office supervisor, and H. B. Frazier, binder.

Ireland in March, King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden and Governor-General Jules Leger of Canada in April, Chancellor Helmut Schmidt of the Federal Republic of Germany in July, President Urho Kekkonen of Finland in August, and President William R. Tolbert of Liberia in September.

Other distinguished visitors who stopped in Williamsburg were Prince Gyanedra and Princess Komal of Nepal, eight British leaders, including the Earl of Dunmore, descendant of Virginia's last royal governor, and five members of the House of Lords, Vice President Nelson Rockefeller on two occasions, and Secretary of State Henry Kissinger.

Vice President Rockefeller visited in November at the beginning of a series of Colonial Williamsburg's fiftieth anniversary observances. He was joined by Mrs. Rockefeller, Mr. and Mrs. Laurance S. Rockefeller, and Mrs. John D. Rockefeller 3rd.

When Queen Elizabeth II of England visited Virginia during the Bicentennial year, the Commonwealth of Virginia presented her with a gift of Dumas Malone's five-volume work, *Jefferson and His Time,* which was prepared by members of the Colonial Williamsburg bookbindery craft shop. Work on the volumes included a cover of Moroccan leather, gold tooling, marbling the edges of the books, and preparing a special marbled paper case for them.

Fiftieth Anniversary

During the afternoon of November 12, Colonial Williamsburg sponsored a symposium entitled "Fifty Years of Historic Preservation" at the Capitol. Speakers were Charles B. Hosmer, Jr., Jay P. Walker Professor of History at Principia College; William J. Murtagh, keeper of the National Register of Historic Places; and Robert B. Rettig, chief of the planning branch of the National Register. Clement M. Silvestro, chairman of the President's Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, served as moderator.

The evening program featured the presentation of a resolution from the City of Williamsburg by Mayor Vernon M. Geddy, Jr., and remarks by Justice Lewis F. Powell, Jr., chairman of the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation Board of Trustees, Governor Godwin, and Vice President Rockefeller.

Special recognition was paid members of the Rockefeller family, including John D. Rockefeller 3rd, a former board chairman who was in the Far East at the time, and members of the family of the late Reverend W. A. R. Goodwin. Those representing the Goodwin family were Mr. and Mrs. Howard Goodwin of New York, and John S. Goodwin and Mrs. Rutherfoord Goodwin, both of Williamsburg.

Other golden anniversary commemorations included the proclamation by Mayor Geddy of a congratulatory resolution from the City of Williamsburg at a "militia muster" on Market Square Green on November 27, the actual anniversary date of Colonial Williamsburg's founding in 1926; a series of employee receptions at the Governor's Palace; and a day of community "behind-the-scenes" open houses that concluded with an illumination and aerial fireworks program on Palace Green. Among those attending in the evening were members of the Phi Beta Kappa Society who were in Williamsburg to mark the two hundredth anniversary of the founding of the society at the Raleigh Tavern on December 5, 1776.

Vice President Rockefeller followed his first visit a few days later when he returned to address parliamentarians of fifteen nations attending the North Atlantic Assembly, an arm of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). Vice President and Mrs. Rockefeller also entertained at a reception at Carter's Grove plantation for this distinguished international group.

Other significant groups and individuals visiting Williamsburg last year included the National Trust for Historic Preservation Board of Trustees, Southern Universities Conference, the Mayor of Bath, England, International Press Institute, a group of British parliamentarians who visited following presentation of a copy of the Magna Charta to the United States for the Bicentennial, Southern Governors' Conference, the Duke of Norfolk, CBS Radio Affiliates, National Gallery of Art Board of Trustees, Southeastern Council of Foundations, Inter-American Press Association, and a group of French descendants of the Marquis de Lafayette and the Comte de Rochambeau.

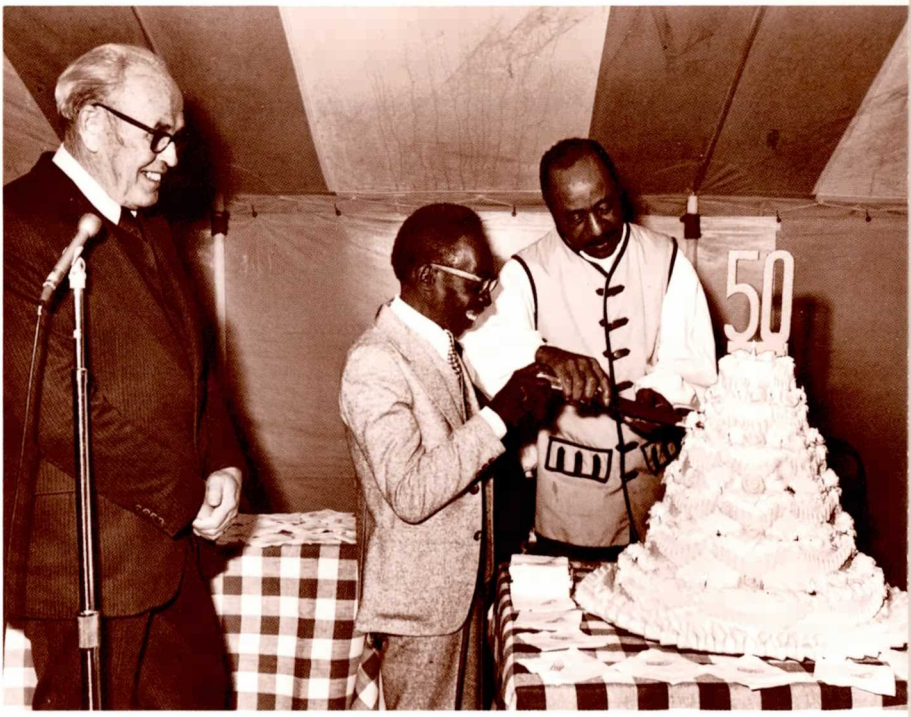
Vice President and Mrs. Nelson Rockefeller and Mrs. John D. Rockefeller 3rd (background) are shown touring the Historic Area during a visit to help mark Colonial Williamsburg's fiftieth anniversary. Colonial Williamsburg was founded in 1926 through the joint effort of Mr. John D. Rockefeller, Jr., and the Reverend W. A. R. Goodwin, rector of Bruton Parish Church (shown in background).

A special fiftieth anniversary evening program attracted a number of members of the Rockefeller and Goodwin families, among others. Shown above (from left), Mrs. John D. Rockefeller 3rd, Mrs. George D. O'Neill, George D. O'Neill, John S. Goodwin, Justice Lewis F. Powell, Jr., Laurance S. Rockefeller, Mrs. Laurance S. Rockefeller, Mrs. Lewis F. Powell, Jr., Carlisle H. Humelsine, Mrs. Mills E. Godwin, Jr., Howard Goodwin, Vice President Nelson Rockefeller, Mrs. Nelson Rockefeller, Governor Mills E. Godwin, Jr., and Mrs. Carlisle H. Humelsine.

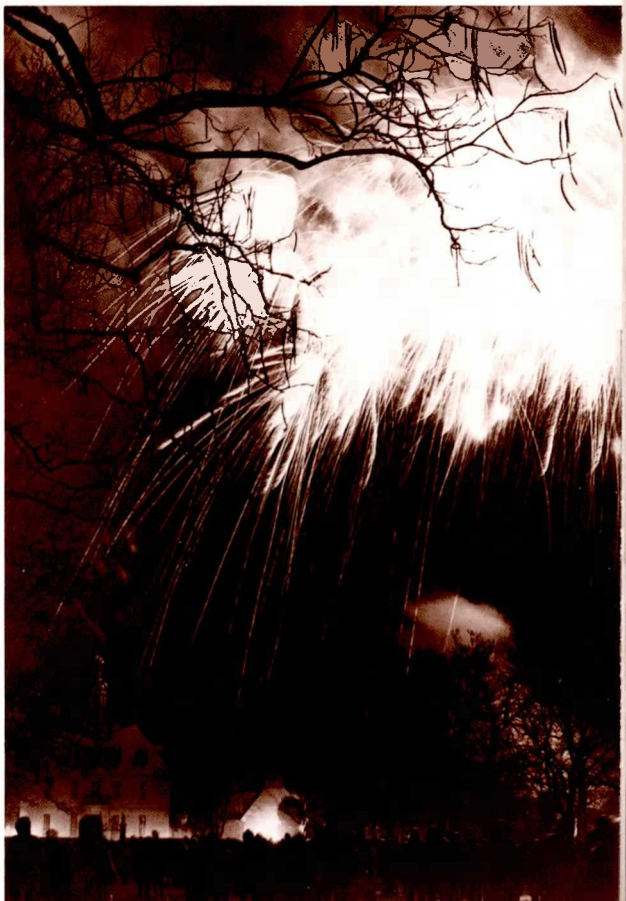
Williamsburg Mayor Vernon M. Geddy, Jr., publicly proclaimed a congratulatory resolution from the City of Williamsburg during a "militia muster" on Market Square on November 27, the actual anniversary date of Colonial Williamsburg's founding.

Munroe McGilvary, a flatwork supervisor, explains the operation of the organization's Laundry to visitors from the community. The Laundry was one of several "behind the scenes" locations opened to the community during the fiftieth anniversary celebrations.

Employees of the Foundation were honored at a series of receptions at the Governor's Palace in November. Here a group of employees are entertained by Cecil Houck, banjoist.



Ivan Johnson, a Colonial Williamsburg gardener and employee with the longest active tenure with the organization at the time, cuts a fiftieth anniversary cake during an employee reception at the Palace. He is assisted by John Billups, banquet waiter. At the left is Alden R. Eaton, vice president and director of construction and maintenance.



A narrated lighting program and a fireworks display on Palace Green culminated Colonial Williamsburg's community open house day and its fiftieth anniversary observances.

Visitation and Operating Difficulties

Colonial Williamsburg depends almost entirely upon admissions and other sources of operating income generated by annual attendance for the continuing support of its programs and activities. In its fiftieth year, nearly $50 million from various sources of visitor-generated income was needed to meet operating and capital expenses. The 1976 income requirement was the result of continually increasing annual attendance and the corresponding attempt of the Foundation to provide an enriching educational experience for each visitor during a period of rapidly escalating costs.

Consequently, when the American public failed to travel to Williamsburg in the numbers anticipated during the summer and fall of 1976—a phenomenon experienced by other East Coast areas—operational and financial difficulties resulted. Special preparations had been made and additional employees hired to accommodate the expected higher levels of attendance. When the higher levels of attendance failed to materialize, the result was unexpected rescheduling of programs, staff reductions, and financial losses for the year that amounted to about $693,800 in addition to the cost of required replacements and capital improvements to various facilities of the Foundation.

While the vexing financial experience of 1976 was unquestionably the year's major disappointment, the underlying causes of the dilemma created even greater concern for the future of the Foundation and its goals. The dilemma is one that few people—particularly those who might observe large numbers of visitors in Williamsburg on a beautiful spring or summer day—can readily appreciate. Understandably, not many are in a position to grasp the ongoing cost of the elements that make up and support their Williamsburg experience. In its golden anniversary year, for example, the cost to Colonial Williamsburg to maintain and operate the Historic Area and its related educational activities was approximately $17.4 million. Admissions income, the primary source of funding these operations, totaled about $8.7 million, or only about one-half of the funds needed. The balance, of

course, is provided from sales of craft objects, publications, and other educational materials, from the net operating profits of the hotels and restaurants, from investment income, and from gifts and contributions.

All income from every source is used each year to maintain and carry forward the programs and activities of Colonial Williamsburg. In 1976, not only was all such income applied to the year's operations, but substantial funds from the Foundation's reserves were also needed to cover the operating deficit and scheduled replacements and improvements to buildings and equipment. The depletion of reserve funds left the Foundation in an unfavorable financial position as it entered 1977.

Future Planning

By year's end, the financial experience of 1976 clearly indicated that the organization could not ignore these economic realities in the future. The solution appears to be two-fold. First, new ways must be found to insure that those who enjoy and appreciate Colonial Williamsburg and its programs pay a proportionate share of the cost of these activities. This will require more efficient and effective ways of sharing the Williamsburg experience at reasonable cost to the visitor. Second, Colonial Williamsburg must find the means to improve and expand its educational offerings to larger numbers of visitors. This only can be done by utilizing annual endowment income, together with the gifts of those who value Colonial Williamsburg and want to share in insuring its future, for long-range improvements.

Development Program

The economic facts confronting Colonial Williamsburg serve to underscore the organization's increasing need for the financial support of those who value the institution's purposes and role in contemporary American society. This need is directly related to the initiation of Colonial Williamsburg's first development program.

The response to this new effort in 1976 was tangible evidence of the commitment of many friends to the future of

Colonial Williamsburg. The Foundation feels a deep sense of gratitude for these expressions of loyalty and generosity which mean so much to the continuing excellence and vitality of this unique institution. Such support reflects a strong belief in the future of Colonial Williamsburg and the Foundation's own confidence in its ability to educate, to innovate, and to inspire.

The Foundation received gifts valued at more than $2.3 million during 1976, compared with $318,800 during 1975. Moreover, the number of donors was over 500, more than double the 1975 total.

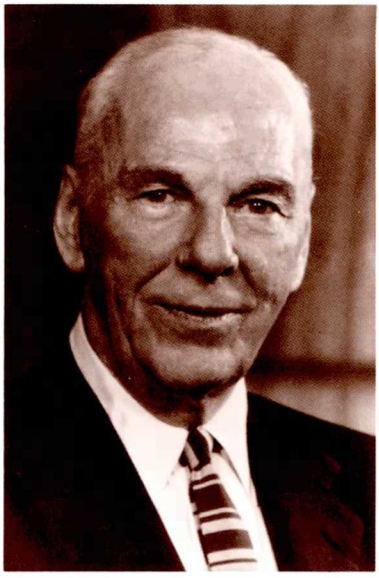
The response by friends to Colonial Williamsburg's specific needs has been remarkable and most gratifying, and is an excellent beginning on a national basis. Colonial Williamsburg is also particularly grateful to the people of Williamsburg and Virginia for their continued loyalty and support.

Although this progress is most encouraging, it is essential to note that all but $85,000 of the $2.3 million was for specific programs and cannot be used to meet operating expenses. The need is to attract additional unrestricted gifts to assist with current operating expenses.

In addition to gifts actually received, Colonial Williamsburg also received pledges of $5 million. In 1976 Mr. DeWitt Wallace, who with his wife, Lila Acheson Wallace, founded *Reader's Digest,* agreed to provide approximately $4 million for a major addition to the interpretive and educational programs of Colonial Williamsburg. The funds will be used to construct facilities for showing the orientation film *Williamsburg—The Story of a Patriot* and for special educational programs.

Mr. Wallace's gift is truly magnificent and extremely significant for the future of Colonial Williamsburg. It is the largest gift ever made to the Foundation, apart from the support of Mr. John D. Rockefeller, Jr., and his family. This gift ushered in a new era of broad-based public support for Colonial Williamsburg.

The overall gift figures include more than $1.1 million in gifts of objects. An outstanding collection of seventeenth- and eighteenth-century furniture, in addition to real estate that will be converted to a supporting endowment, were given to the Foundation by Colonel and Mrs. Miodrag Blagojevich, now of Williamsburg, Virginia. The appraised value of the gift



DeWitt Wallace.

and real estate totaled more than $1.5 million. The Blagojevich collection is one of the most important in the country and is the largest gift of a collection and supporting endowment, apart from those constituting the Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Folk Art collection, ever received by Colonial Williamsburg. The well known and highly regarded collection of American furniture and furnishings in the William and Mary style, with additional superb objects in the seventeenth-century and Queen Anne styles, raised the status of the Foundation's collection of American furniture incomparably.

The Coon collection of Worcester porcelain donated by Mrs. Owen L. Coon of Chicago, Illinois, and the initial portion of the Worcester porcelain collection of Samuel and Pauline Clarke, also of Chicago, greatly extended the range and quality of our English porcelain collection.

Among other gifts of importance was a rare item associated with Carter's Grove plantation—an English stoneware bottle of the mid-eighteenth century bearing a plaque with the names "G. Burwell" and "Edwd. Atthaws," and the date "1775." Fragments from an identical bottle were discovered during excavations at the plantation. The bottle was donated

by Mrs. Adelia Peebles Moore in memory of her husband, Joseph Porter Moore, and has immense historical value to Colonial Williamsburg.

In December the National Geographic Society made a research grant of $71,000 to assist with the archaeological excavations at Carter's Grove. The grant will enable the

Colonel and Mrs. Miodrag Blagojevich, now of Williamsburg, last year presented Colonial Williamsburg with one of the most important private collections of seventeenth- and eighteenth-century furniture in this country. Typical of this large collection are these two pieces. The chest of drawers was made in eastern Massachusetts around 1690. The side chair dates from about 1740, and its details, proportions, and excellent condition make it a fine example of the Philadelphia Queen Anne style.

Foundation to devote its field crew to this project for an entire year.

During 1976 the Board of Trustees named trustee David Brinkley as chairman of the first Development Committee of the Board of Trustees. The committee adopted several new development programs for the Foundation, the most significant of which is the Raleigh Tavern Society. The annual membership of the Raleigh Tavern Society will include those individuals who make an *unrestricted* gift of cash or securities of $2,500 or more during the calendar year. Members are encouraged to make a minimum pledge of $25,000, payable over ten years, although a ten-year pledge is not required for membership. By adopting the annual gift standard, the Development Committee felt that the Foundation could emphasize the *recurring* need for gift income and the continuing leadership of Society members.

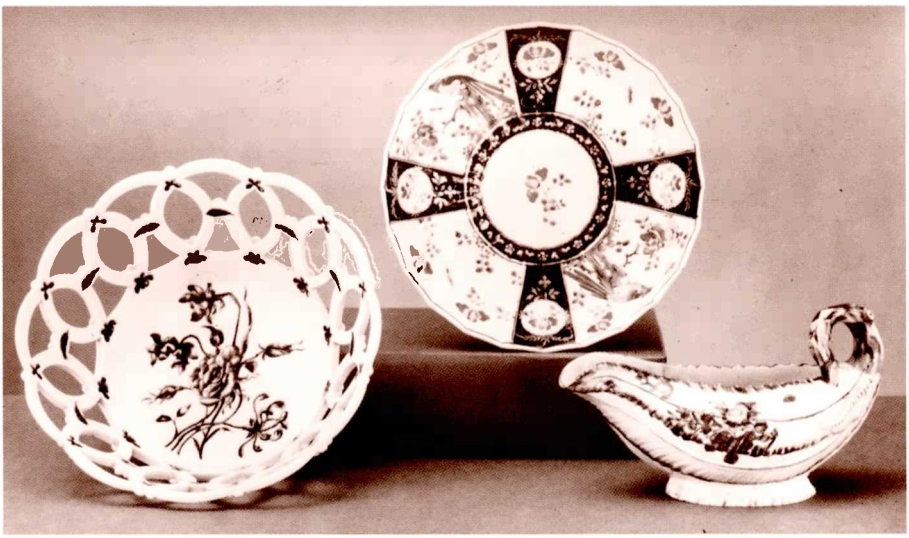
In recognition of the special interest of Society members in the programs of Colonial Williamsburg, a permanent office of Secretary of the Society is being considered to encourage members to participate in a wide variety of Colonial Williamsburg activities.

The Foundation is pleased with the progress it has made in its new development program to date. More than ever, as the Foundation enters its second fifty years, we must now turn to our many close friends whose philanthropic support is necessary to continue its development and its service to the nation.

Historic Area Activities

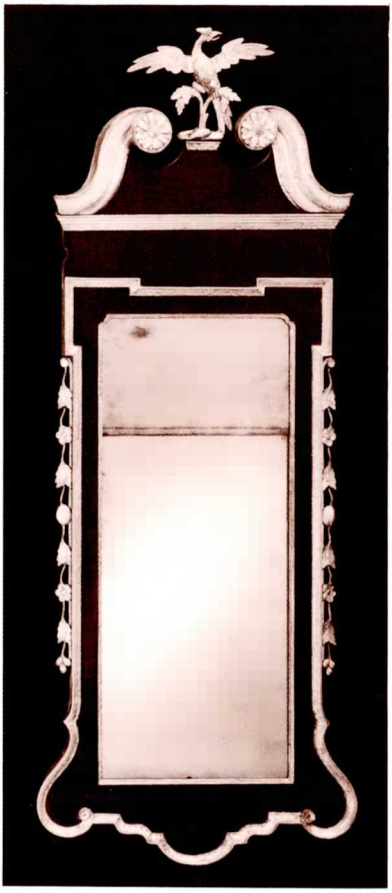
Among the innovations involving Historic Area programs undertaken in 1976 were an experimental orientation process at the Information Center and special craft workshops at the Conference Center using modern audiovisual techniques. These demonstrations of thirteen crafts in July and August proved highly rewarding and promising for the future.

More than 16,000 visitors availed themselves of one or more 45-minute, in-depth examinations of colonial printing, silversmithing, wheelwrighting, cabinetmaking, basketmaking, bookbinding, brass casting, clockmaking, coopering, gunmaking, musical instrument making, spinning and weaving, and a

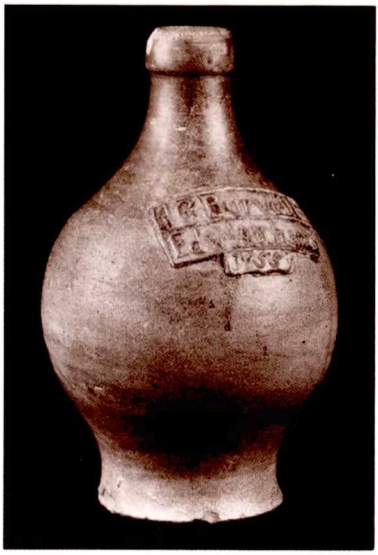


These three examples of porcelain illustrate the diversity within the large collection of Worcester porcelain presented to Colonial Williamsburg by Mrs. Owen L. Coon of Chicago. Mrs. Coon's gift includes more than 300 pieces of Worcester, mostly of the Dr. Wall period.

Examples from the Dr. Wall period Worcester porcelain presented to Colonial Williamsburg by Mr. and Mrs. Samuel M. Clarke of Chicago in 1976. The items were a part of an ongoing gift from their outstanding Worcester collection.



This large looking glass was made in Albany, New York, around 1775. It was given to Colonial Williamsburg by Mr. and Mrs. Joseph H. Hennage of Chevy Chase, Maryland.



One of the rarest gifts made to Colonial Williamsburg last year was this English stoneware bottle. It has a definite connection to Carter's Grove plantation, where identical fragments have been discovered. It was the gift of Mrs. Adelia Peebles Moore in memory of her husband, Joseph Porter Moore.

demonstration by the music teacher. These presentations were complemented by several exhibits of objects and an introductory film made by members of the Colonial Williamsburg Audiovisual Department.

Three Bicentennial exhibits were unveiled during the year, along with two exhibitions related to Colonial Williamsburg's fiftieth anniversary. Two of the Bicentennial exhibits opened in January to coincide with the annual Williamsburg Antiques Forum, which had as its theme, "American Independence and the Arts in the New Nation." These were "Maps of the Revolutionary War Period" in the original Public Records Office near the colonial Capitol, and an exhibition of English and American satirical prints primarily dealing with the Revolutionary War entitled "Rebellion and Reconciliation," which was placed on view in the galleries of the Conference Center. The third exhibit, "Popular Images of a Nation," featuring patriotic folk art, was offered at the Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Folk Art Collection during the year.

Archaeology at Carter's Grove

Outside the Historic Area, renewed archaeological work northeast of the mansion at Carter's Grove plantation revealed extensive remains of a farming settlement dating from the second quarter of the seventeenth century on what, in the eighteenth century, became the Carter's Grove tract. Eight buildings have been identified, ranging in size from a 40 foot x 18 foot dwelling to outbuildings measuring no more than 6 feet x 5. The artifacts indicate that one building possessed a fireplace lined with Dutch tiles, and that at least some of the windows were of glazed casement type. Clearly the site was occupied by a person of substance, a supposition strongly supported by many other artifacts that include fragments of Venetian-style drinking glasses, ceramics from Italy, Spain, France, Holland, and the German Rhineland, and traces of clothing decorated with threads of gold and silver.

There is strong evidence that a potter was working nearby in the 1630s or 1640s and it is hoped that continuing archaeology will lead to the kiln. Examples of what are believed to be his products have been recovered from rubbish pits on the

domestic site and suggest that the craftsman was producing wares far more sophisticated than anything yet attributed to an American potter of the seventeenth century. If the kiln can be found, these discoveries will add not only to our knowledge of life at Carter's Grove in the seventeenth century, but also to the history of American ceramics.

Colonial Williamsburg's archaeology program received wide attention in 1976 with the television showing of a special feature entitled "The Williamsburg File." The British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) produced the 55-minute examination of the organization's archaeological efforts during 1975 for release last year. Besides two national showings on the BBC in England, the film was shown several times by educational television stations in the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) in this country.

In 1976 the Architects' Office completed a special project with the Historic American Buildings Survey which included the documentation and measured drawings of four public buildings and three residences—the Public Records Office, Bruton Parish Church, Wren Building, Brafferton, St. George Tucker House, Tayloe Office, and Bowden-Armistead House. The Historic American Buildings Survey is concerned with the collection of information that architects, historians, preser-

The most successful innovation in Colonial Williamsburg's educational program last year was the presentation of craft workshops in July and August. Some thirteen crafts were presented in 45-minute sessions in the Conference Center, utilizing modern audiovisual techniques and static exhibits. Shown here is the presentation by Jon Laubach, gunsmith.

A major exhibition at the Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Folk Art Collection last year was "Popular Images of a Nation." It featured patriotic folk art in a variety of forms.

"Colonial Williamsburg—The Early Years" was one of two fiftieth anniversary exhibitions organized in 1976. This exhibit of objects and items relating to the development of the organization was displayed in the galleries of the Conference Center.

vationists, and others will find useful. Its purpose is to record an almost complete résumé of the building art by including all construction types, all use-types, and periods of all regions of the country.

Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Folk Art Collection

During 1976 the Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Folk Art Collection offered its 169,000 visitors a series of four special exhibitions, which begin with a showing of patriotic folk art mentioned earlier. Organized by curator Don Walters, the exhibit used trade figures, weathervanes, paintings, decorated pottery, and other folk art forms to illustrate the development of such national symbols as Columbia, the eagle, and Uncle Sam. An unusually handsome, circa 1850 Baltimore album quilt, resplendent with patriotic motifs and city landmarks, was borrowed for this show and was subsequently presented to the museum by its owners, Mr. and Mrs. Foster McCarl, Jr., of Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania.

A second exhibit, "Jacob Frymire: American Limner," featured portraits by an itinerant painter from Pennsylvania who was active between 1794 and 1818. The show was circulated by Washington's Corcoran Gallery, whose curator, Linda Crocker Simmons, did the research on Frymire and wrote the accompanying catalogue. A selection of seldom seen paintings, carvings, and weathervanes from the folk art collection of Bernard Barenholtz of Princeton, New Jersey, was displayed in the museum's first floor galleries through the fall.

The annual Christmas show was developed around the theme "Folkways and Fantasy" and focused on some of the ideas presented in the museum's first how-to craft manual. Entitled *Christmas Decorations from Williamsburg's Folk Art Collection,* this 80-page book contains easy-to-follow instructions for making ninety tree trims, many based on traditional folk crafts. The ideas for most of these decorations were contributed by talented friends of the museum when Mrs. Gerald R. Ford issued an invitation to them to provide simple, old-fashioned ornaments for use on the 1975 White House Christmas tree.

To support its Bicentennial exhibit and research programs,

the museum borrowed eighty objects and, in turn, seventy-one pieces from its holdings were loaned to sister institutions. During 1976 research continued on material in the Folk Art Collection in preparation for a new catalogue. Photography for this project was begun with the generous assistance of the late Mr. William H. Murdoch and Mrs. Murdoch of Brielle, New Jersey, long-time friends of the museum and frequent donors to Colonial Williamsburg.

Finally, a self-guided tour of the museum was devised for the use of high school teachers last year and, with the assistance of Gail Andrews, an intern with the National Endowment for the Humanities, the long-awaited checklist of America's professional coverlet weavers was expanded and readied for publication.

Books and Films

Colonial Williamsburg published five new books in 1976. Two new titles were added to the growing decorative arts series: *English Silver at Williamsburg*, by John D. Davis, assistant to the director of Collections and curator of metalwork; and a catalogue to accompany the exhibit mentioned earlier, *Rebel-*

The first seventeenth-century settlement site to be excavated at Carter's Grove plantation was undertaken in 1976. Dating from about 1635–1645, the remains of the buildings survive only as groups of holes in the ground in which framing posts had stood. The large hole in the background was the cellar for what is believed to have been the first structure built on the site.

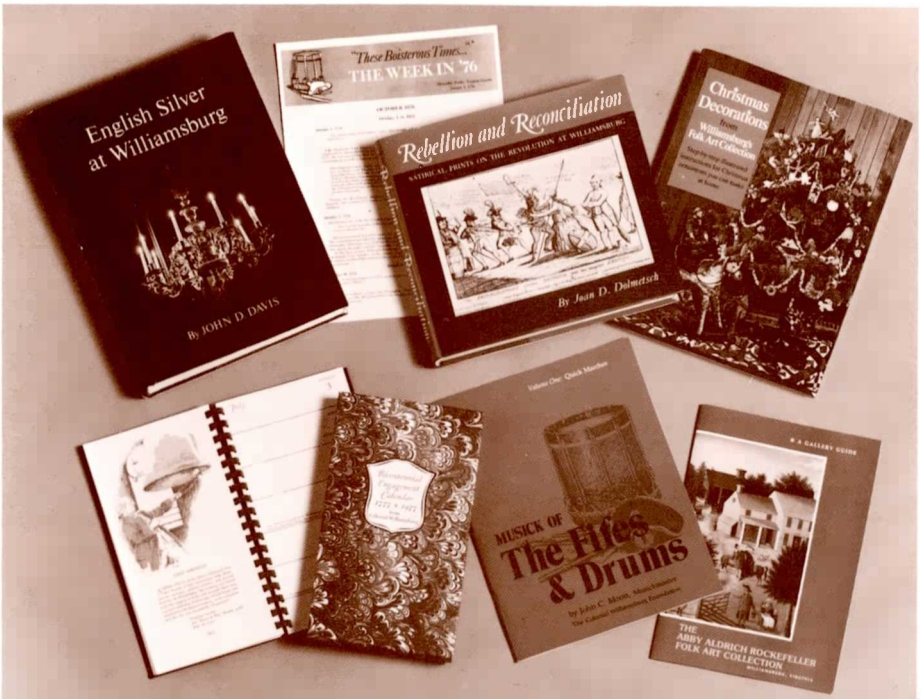
lion and Reconciliation: Satirical Prints on the Revolution at Williamsburg, by Joan D. Dolmetsch, curator of maps and prints.

Two publications for the Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Folk Art Collection, *Christmas Decorations from Williamsburg's Folk Art Collection,* and a softbound gallery guide, were also issued.

The first publication in a new series on the music of the Colonial Williamsburg Fifes and Drums, *Quick Marches,* by John Moon, musickmaster in the Museum Operations Division, appeared during the year. In addition to revising three and reprinting seven titles, the Foundation published two special Bicentennial items. The first was a 1977 version of the popular Colonial Williamsburg Bicentennial Calendar, introduced in 1976, and a weekly internal flyer, "These Boisterous Times," edited by Harold Gill of the Research Department and used by interpreters in the Historic Area.

Colonial Williamsburg's offering of educational motion picture films through its Audiovisual Department expanded with the addition of four new films. New productions included *The Musical Instrumentmaker of Williamsburg* and two spin-off films, *Spinet Making in Colonial America* and *Violin Making in Colonial America.* The fourth production was *Colonial Clothing, 1760-1770,* which won a "Golden Eagle Award" for excellence from the Council on International Non-Theatrical Events. By

Colonial Williamsburg's publication activity included the issuing of five new books, a second Bicentennial calendar, and a weekly internal flyer for use by members of the interpretive staff.



virtue of the award, the film was selected to represent the United States in motion picture events abroad.

Special audiovisual productions produced during the year included "Williamsburg's Finest Hour: 1776," a two-screen Bicentennial slide lecture, and "Chapters from a Restoration Album," a multimedia program reviewing Colonial Williamsburg's first fifty years.

A number of Colonial Williamsburg departments and employees assisted in a variety of Bicentennial related projects. For example, the Research Department frequently provided information to CBS "Bicentennial Minutes," as well as to other domestic and foreign news and information media. Likewise, the Archives and Records Office was a constant resource for Bicentennial and fiftieth anniversary projects.

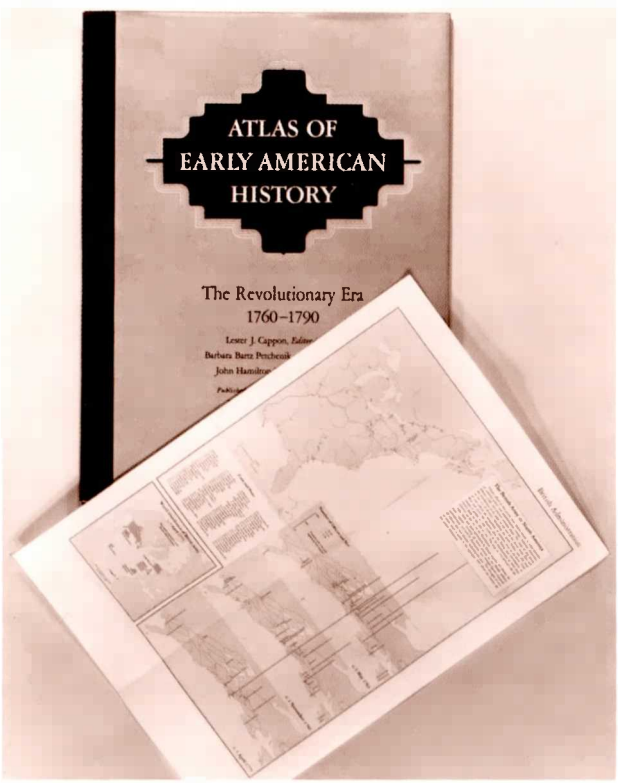
Institute of Early American History and Culture

Since its founding in 1943 under the joint sponsorship of the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation and the College of William and Mary, the Institute of Early American History and Culture has had a continuous interest in the American Revolutionary era. Therefore, the Bicentennial year was a commemorative year, but not an unusual one for the Institute. The appearance of the Institute's most distinguished publication in 1976, Lester

The Musical Instrumentmaker of Williamsburg *was among four new educational films produced in 1976. The new titles brought the Foundation's total number of educational films to twenty-four.*

J. Cappon's *Atlas of Early American History: The Revolutionary Era 1760-1790*, was deliberately timed to coincide with the anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, but it would have been a major contribution to scholarship in any year.

Conceived at the Institute fifteen years ago by Mr. Cappon, who was then director, and Lawrence W. Towner, then editor of the *William and Mary Quarterly* and now president of the Newberry Library in Chicago, full-scale work on the *Atlas* project began in 1970. Over five years in preparation, the *Atlas* is entirely composed of newly drawn maps, 271 of them in as many as six colors, based upon original research. The *Atlas* describes all aspects of America in the period, from demo-



Atlas of Early American History: The Revolutionary Era 1760–1790, *the most distinguished and comprehensive publication ever offered by the Institute of Early American History and Culture, appeared in 1976 to coincide with the anniversary of the Declaration of Independence.*

graphic to cultural characteristics, from military history to manufacturing, from politics to commerce. Published for the Institute and the Newberry Library by Princeton University Press, funding for the project, not including publication costs, came to $1.6 million, including contributions from forty different foundations, government agencies, corporations, and individuals, led by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Other Institute publications in 1976, coincidentally related to the Bicentennial celebration, were Peter Shaw's biography, *The Character of John Adams,* first choice of the History Book Club for March, and Harold E. Davis's study of social and cultural life in colonial Georgia, *The Fledgling Province.* Production and distribution of both Shaw's and Davis's books were handled for the Institute by its long-time collaborator, the University of North Carolina Press.

Also, as planned in 1975, the regular July 1976 issue of the *William and Mary Quarterly* was devoted entirely to the theme of the American Revolution. Articles appeared on such diverse topics as loyalist women, the fate of the proprietary gentry in Philadelphia, and the American origins of "Yankee Doodle," among others.

The Institute worked closely with the American Society for Legal History in planning and cosponsoring a conference on "The Legal History of the American Revolutionary Era, 1763-1790," which was held in Philadelphia in October. In addition, the Institute lent official support to a conference at Kent State University in May on the subject of "The American Revolution in International Perspective." Members of the staff also contributed to the planning and in other ways to the meeting in Williamsburg in December of the Modern Language Association's early American literature group, a gathering of over two hundred scholars.

The Bicentennial year 1976 was a busy and productive one for Colonial Williamsburg. As the organization commences its second fifty years, it is confronted with a number of serious challenges which it must meet with a resolve and commitment reminiscent of that shown by the town's colonial forebears.

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Retiring from the Board of Trustees in November 1976, after eight years of distinguished service, was J. Harvie Wilkinson, Jr., of Richmond, Virginia. Mr. Wilkinson, a leading business and civic figure in state and national affairs, was especially valued as a member of the executive and finance committees of the board.

Shirley M. Hufstedler, of Pasadena, California, was elected a trustee at the meeting of the board on May 15, 1976, effective as of the annual meeting on November 13, 1976. Mrs. Hufstedler has served as Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit since 1968.

Continuity of Management

As noted earlier, plans for long-range personnel changes in the two top policy and administrative posts of the organization were announced last year. The present chairman of the board, Lewis F. Powell, Jr., reaches mandatory retirement age in November 1977. In order to assure appropriate planning and continuity of management, the board designated Carlisle H. Humelsine, president of Colonial Williamsburg since 1958, as Mr. Powell's successor as chairman of the board. Mr. Humelsine also continues as chief executive officer of the Foundation until 1980.

The Board of Trustees selected Charles R. Longsworth, who has been president of Hampshire College since 1971, to succeed Mr. Humelsine in November 1977 as president of Colonial Williamsburg. Mr. Longsworth also will become chief administrative officer of the Foundation.

Staff

F. Roger Thaler joined the staff in July and was elected vice president for development and associate counsel. Mr. Thaler previously served as director of development and associate counsel at Duke University, Durham, North Carolina.

Carlisle H. Humelsine.

Charles R. Longsworth.

Effective in November 1977, Carlisle H. Humelsine becomes chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, and will continue as chief executive officer. At the same time, Charles R. Longsworth becomes president and chief operating officer of the organization.

Miss Mildred Layne, having reached mandatory retirement age for administrative officers, retired as vice president at the end of the year after completing thirty-nine years of truly distinguished service. She was re-elected secretary of the Foundation and retained as consultant for the coming year. During her long service Miss Layne was a close associate of Mr. John D. Rockefeller, Jr., and each board chairman and president of the organization since 1937.

Dr. Edward M. Riley, director of the Department of Research, retired after twenty-two years of distinguished service as historian and scholar. During his tenure the Colonial Williamsburg Department of Research attained status as a major repository of resources in colonial American history. Dr. Cary Carson succeeded him as director of the department. Prior to coming to Colonial Williamsburg, Dr. Carson served as coordinator of research and architectural historian for the St. Mary's City Commission, an agency responsible for the preservation and development of Maryland's first capital.

Cost of Operations

During 1976 the cost of all operations of the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation (presenting its educational and interpretive program, providing necessary services and facilities for the accommodation of the visiting public, carrying forward current works of historic preservation, and maintaining its properties) amounted to $46,990,200.

Income during 1976 (derived from admissions to the exhibition buildings, sales of Craft House and craft shop merchandise, books and films, the rental of residential and other properties in and near the Historic Area, and from the furnishing of facilities and services to the public) amounted to $46,296,400.

The resulting deficit of $693,800 was offset by investment income of $2,984,500 from the permanent endowment of the Foundation. The $2,290,700 balance of funds remaining, together with charitable contributions and a substantial portion of the capital reserves of the Foundation, were required for capital replacements and improvements in the Historic Area and at Carter's Grove and in the various service facilities of the organization. As noted earlier, the depletion of reserve funds in 1976 was of serious concern as the Foundation entered 1977.

Taxes

The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, as a not-for-profit educational organization, is exempt from the payment of federal income taxes in accordance with Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code (with the exception of net income derived from the operation of the Williamsburg Inn, the Williamsburg Lodge, The Motor House, the Cascades Restaurant, the Cafeteria, the Ham Shop, and the Williamsburg Theatre, which is taxable to the same extent as that of any other such business enterprise). The organization is classified as a publicly supported foundation, in accordance with Section 509(a)(2) of the Code. Gifts and contributions made to the Foundation are tax deductible.

The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation paid real estate taxes to the city of Williamsburg on all properties it owned with the exception of the major exhibition buildings. The Capitol, Governor's Palace, Raleigh Tavern, Wythe House, Peyton Randolph House, Wetherburn's Tavern, James Geddy House and Shop, Brush-Everard House, Gaol, Powder Magazine, and the Courthouse of 1770, the Information Center, the Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Folk Art Collection, Market Square, and Palace Green, all of which are exempt from taxation under Virginia law, are subject to a service charge by the city of Williamsburg.

Taxes of $361,664.80 paid to the city of Williamsburg during the year amounted to 29 percent of all real estate taxes collected in the city in 1976. Taxes paid to the adjoining counties of James City and York on properties subject to prevailing real estate taxes totaled $41,941.06 for the year.

Audits

The books of the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation are audited annually. Auditors of the independent public accounting firm of Coopers & Lybrand reported that in 1976, in their opinion, proper procedures were used in recording the financial transactions of the Foundation.

AN ACKNOWLEDGMENT TO MANY GENEROUS CONTRIBUTORS

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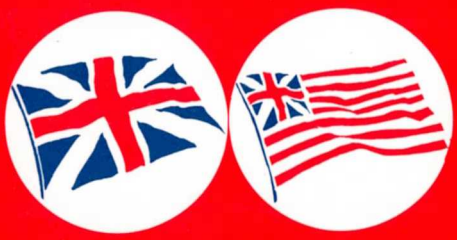

The British flag fluttered down from the Capitol cupola in Williamsburg for the last time on May 15, 1776, to be replaced by the Grand Union flag, an early progenitor of the modern Stars and Stripes.