



Colonial Williamsburg

REPORT BY THE PRESIDENT
FOR THE YEAR 1952

Report by the President for the Year 1952

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^{*} Elected April 20, 1953

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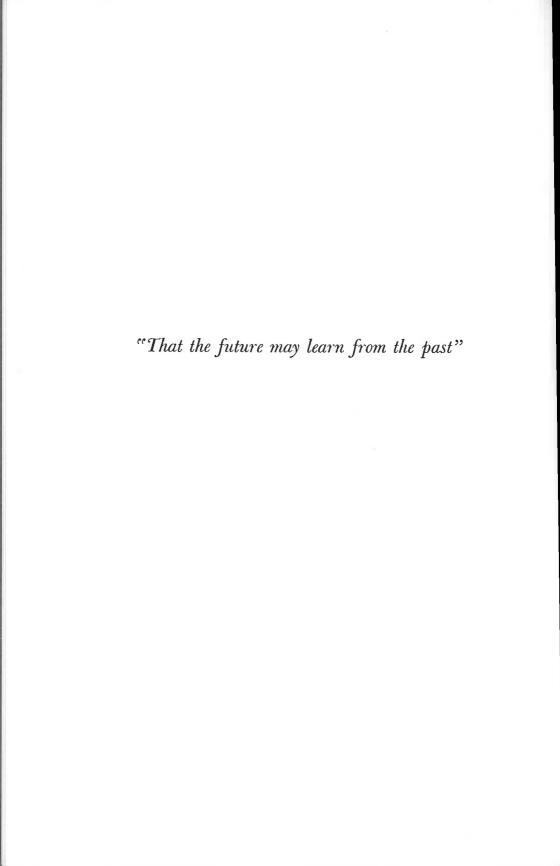
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* Elected April 20, 1953



Colonial Williamsburg

REPORT BY THE PRESIDENT FOR THE YEAR 1952

THE suggestion of the Board of Trustees, and as a preliminary to a regular program of annual discussions of the affairs of the Restoration, a Report by the President was published covering "The First Twenty-Five Years," to December 31, 1951. We now publish the first annual report of Colonial Williamsburg.*

The aim of these reports will be to make the affairs of the Restoration a matter of public record. Colonial Williamsburg exists for the American people, and we believe they should be kept informed concerning it.

Since Colonial Williamsburg is an educational enterprise, we will try to appraise our progress in helping people to discover the truths that this one-time capital of the great Virginia Colony has to tell modern America and the world.

Since this is an institution with income and outgo, we will indicate where its money comes from and how it is spent.

^{*}Two corporations have been organized to carry on the Restoration. Colonial Williamsburg, Incorporated, serves the historical and educational purposes of the organization, and holds title to properties within the designated historic area. Williamsburg Restoration, Incorporated, is a business organization and holds title to business properties outside the historic area. The term "Colonial Williamsburg" is the institutional name used to define the entire project and includes both corporations.

Because the physical work of restoration goes on — and will go on for many years — we will report on the physical changes taking place as each year goes by.

Because Colonial Williamsburg is a live and vital institution, we will indicate what it sees as it looks ahead.

America's Thirst for Understanding

Never since the beginning of the Restoration have Americans seemed more thoughtful in the presence of the American past, seeking to understand fully the meaning of America, than during 1952. A deep desire for understanding is written in the faces of thousands who come to Colonial Williamsburg — and during 1952 they came in larger numbers than ever before in the history of the Restoration.

Thus, again in 1952 we saw a justification of the purpose of the Restoration: "To re-create accurately the environment of the men and women of 18th-century Williamsburg and to bring about such an understanding of their lives and times that present and future generations may more vividly appreciate the contribution of these early Americans to the ideals and culture of our country."

Never has it seemed more important that Colonial Williamsburg should make it possible for Americans to-day to walk thoughtfully in another and historic century; to hear the bold voices of our American revolutionaries declare their vision of a great free land; to be aware of our own legacy of political, social and intellectual responsibility.

A Year of Record Attendance

Colonial Williamsburg established a record in 1952 in the number of visitors to the Exhibition Buildings, and as usual the number who came to see the Restoration was greater than the number who actually visited the buildings. The total number of admissions to the Exhibition Buildings for the year was 283,424, a 9.7% increase over 1951. This included 707 school groups totaling 31,668 students, an increase of 32.8% over the number of students visiting the buildings in 1951.

Special Events

The Virginia General Assembly held its commemorative, one-day session in Williamsburg on February 1, 1952, with Governor James F. Byrnes of South Carolina as guest speaker.

In January, more than 600 men and women came to Williamsburg for the two sessions of the Antiques Forum, again sponsored by Colonial Williamsburg and Antiques magazine.

In February, 210 persons attended the sessions of the annual Garden Symposium.

In February, Colonial Williamsburg's Democracy Workshop was broadened to include Voice of Democracy contest winners from the thirteen original states, as well as the four national winners, and winners from twenty Virginia communities. They were brought to Williamsburg by local chapters of the U.S. Junior Chamber of Commerce, which sponsors the Voice of Democracy competition nationally in conjunction with the National Association of Radio and Television Broadcasters and the Radio-Television Manufacturers Association. Ten guest authorities joined the students in round-table discussion held in the Wren Building.

On May 15, 1776, the Virginia Convention passed the first resolution calling upon the Continental Congress to

declare the colonies free and independent, thus strongly influencing the historic decision on July 4. To commemorate this "Prelude to Independence" period, an exhibit centering on the Declaration of Rights was opened on May 15, 1952, in the Courthouse of 1770. The exhibit attracted an estimated 100,000 visitors and, because of the interest aroused, was continued from its original closing date of July 4 to September 1.

On June 12 — the anniversary of the adoption of the Virginia Declaration of Rights — fifty exiled leaders of central European countries adopted a Williamsburg Declaration at the Capitol which embodied a pledge to restore the principles of liberty to people of oppressed countries.

During the summer, Colonial Williamsburg joined the College of William and Mary to provide discussion leaders, films, and special tours for two new educational activities: a six-week Workshop on American Life and Culture for elementary and secondary school teachers and a six-week Orientation Program for students from overseas who would attend American colleges and universities during the year.

Publications and Films

During the year Colonial Williamsburg produced four new books and one film. Their titles were:

"The City That Turned Back Time: Colonial Williamsburg's First Twenty-Five Years." By Parke Rouse, Jr. Photographs by Thomas L. Williams.

"Virginians at Home: Family Life in the Eighteenth Century." (Williamsburg in America Series, II.) By Edmund S. Morgan.

"St. George's Day in Williamsburg: A Children's Book." By Edith Thacher Hurd and Clement Hurd.

"Plants of Colonial Days: A Guide to 160 Flowers, Shrubs, and Trees in the Gardens of Colonial Williamsburg." By Raymond L. Taylor. Illustrated by Dorothy L. Park.

"The Colonial Printer." Colonial Williamsburg Films. 16 mm., 25 minutes. Sound, color. Script by Howard Turner, music by Herman Price, direction by Ross Patton. Designed for junior high school use.

The Continuing Program of Restoration

Although the restored area of Williamsburg has become a city of more than 400 residences, public buildings, outbuildings and shops, the work is not yet finished. Important construction projects remain to be completed and 1952 was a year of significant activity toward that end. Total expenditures for Colonial Williamsburg construction in 1952 amounted to \$1,556,869.66.

MAJOR BUILDINGS COMPLETED

Late in January the Brush-Everard House on the east side of the Palace Green was opened as a notable addition to the Exhibition Buildings. It is the first residence of moderate proportions and furnishings to be opened to the public.

Later in the year restoration of the stately Carter-Saunders residence with its dependencies and terraced gardens across the Palace Green to the west was completed.

There were other important additions, especially in the eastern section of the restored area. The work of removing

more recent structures and restoring or reconstructing all of the original colonial buildings was completed at three residences: the Palmer House, the handsome brick residence across Blair Street from the Capitol; the Benjamin Waller House at the far eastern end of Francis Street; and the unique Semple House, where the classical influence, evident in the porch and elaborate cornice details and enriched pediment, was a precursor of the Federal style of architecture that became popular following the Revolution.

At the other end of the restored area, nearest the business blocks, the south side of Duke of Gloucester Street saw the completion of the reconstructed Blaikley-Durfey House, Durfey Shop, and holly garden. Further to the east, across Queen Street from Market Square Tavern, where Dr. Peter Hay had his apothecary shop in the mid-18th century, Peter Hay's shop and outbuildings were finished during 1952.

PLANNING AND RESEARCH

Meanwhile, the architects completed their plans on the Carter Brothers' Store, a brick building adjacent to the west side of the Raleigh Tavern, where John Carter operated a general store in one side of the building, and his brother, Dr. James Carter, had the Unicorn's Horn apothecary shop in the other part; and on the Margaret Hunter Shop, nearby to the west, where Mrs. Hunter carried on a business in millinery and ladies' finery. This latter, most appropriately, has been designed to be occupied by the costume section of Colonial Williamsburg.

The decision early in the year to extend the restored area to the east side of Waller Street resulted in the inauguration of extensive archaeological research in this area, known to include the sites of the Second Theatre and Mrs. Campbell's Coffee House — establishments often frequented by George Washington and other notables of the period.

Architectural research and design continued on many projects, among them the First Theatre of 1716, which was located on the east side of the Palace Green; and a windmill, the site of which appears on the Frenchman's Map.*

Maintenance

As a constant host to approximately 1,000 visitors each day in the year, Colonial Williamsburg is faced with varied and complicated problems in keeping its buildings, furniture, furnishings, and gardens in good order. These increasing demands are reflected in the sum of \$471,143 which was spent for maintenance in 1952.

Organization

The growth of Colonial Williamsburg over the years and the growing importance of educational functions led to a decision by the Board of Trustees in December, 1951, that a management survey of the entire organization be undertaken. The survey was made by the firm of Cresap, McCormick and Paget. Recommendations were presented to the officers and then announced to the staff on October 22, 1952. Many organizational changes have now been made on the basis of the survey to prepare the Restoration for its expanding responsibilities as an educational institution.

^{*} This is a remarkably accurate and complete map, author unknown, dated 1782. Probably it was the work of a French engineering officer of the army of Comte de Rochambeau during the period of demobilization following the end of the Revolutionary War.

As of December 31, 1952, Colonial Williamsburg had 1,363 employees in 81 general categories, including those with such diverse talents as an apothecary, a flower arranger, bus drivers, coachmen, and master carpenters.

Changes in Trustees and Directors

Effective February 1, 1952, John D. Rockefeller, 3rd, at his request, was granted a leave of absence from his duties as Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Colonial Williamsburg, Incorporated, and Chairman of the Board of Directors of Williamsburg Restoration, Incorporated, and as Chairman of the Executive Committee of each corporation. The leave was granted in order to give him more time for work with the United States Department of State on problems of cultural relations with Japan.

Effective as of the same date, Winthrop Rockefeller was made a member of the Executive Committee of each corporation and Chairman of both committees.

During 1952 two new Trustees were added to the Board of Trustees of Colonial Williamsburg — Dr. H. M. Stryker, Mayor of Williamsburg, Virginia, and Armistead L. Boothe, of Alexandria, Virginia. J. B. Herndon, Jr., was elected to the Board of Williamsburg Restoration, Incorporated, and attended the June meeting, but was taken ill and died early in January, 1953.

Death of Vernon M. Geddy

Colonial Williamsburg and the entire community suffered a great loss in the sudden death of Vernon M. Geddy on October 18, 1952. He had been closely associated with the late Dr. W. A. R. Goodwin in the various stages of the early Restoration projects, and assisted in the legal transactions of the first property purchase, the Lud-

well-Paradise House. Subsequently, he became Executive Vice President, a position he held until ill health forced him to retire from active direction of Restoration affairs on June 1, 1948. From then until the time of his death, Mr. Geddy was Counsel for Colonial Williamsburg, a member of the Board of Trustees of Colonial Williamsburg, Incorporated, and a member of the Board of Directors of Williamsburg Restoration, Incorporated. He had been a leading figure in the life of the community for more than three decades.

It is impossible to recapture in words the friendly heart, the quick enthusiasm, and the willingness of Vernon Geddy to accept responsibility and to carry heavy burdens with delight. He had a rare capacity for leadership by example, and great good judgment in carrying forward any project he undertook. He was at his best in fighting for basic principles. He had the courage to espouse unpopular issues when necessary, and yet his kindliness and deep consideration for others were such that few causes ever seemed unpopular after he espoused them.

Colonial Williamsburg has been fortunate in its friends and counselors but never more fortunate than in Vernon Geddy. His imprint will be on the Restoration as long as it stands. Eighteenth-century Williamsburg in the days of its early greatness did not produce a more delightful or public-spirited man.

Financial

During 1952 Colonial Williamsburg, Incorporated, which serves the historical and educational purposes of the Restoration and holds title to the properties within the designated historic area, had income amounting to

\$1,259,648, exclusive of income from the securities in its General Capital Fund. Approximately half of the income came from exhibition building admissions. Expenses amounted to \$1,386,646. The excess of expenses over such income was therefore \$126,998.

A list of securities in the General Capital Fund of Colonial Williamsburg, Incorporated, as of December 31, 1952, will be found on page 46. The 1952 income from these securities in the General Capital Fund amounted to \$1,670,740. This was expended as follows:

Acquiring, reconstructing, and restoring historic buildings \$1,302,055 Purchase of antiques, furnishings, and equipment 168,735 Other projects 72,952 \$1,543,742 Excess of expenses over income as 126,998 shown above \$1,670,740

Gifts of property having an estimated value of \$1,207 were received by Colonial Williamsburg, Incorporated, during 1952.

Williamsburg Restoration, Incorporated, which is a business organization holding title to business properties outside the historic area, had gross income for 1952 amounting to \$3,683,123, the largest part of which was from the operation of hotels and restaurants. However, expenses and other charges amounted to \$3,835,529, resulting in a net operating loss for 1952 of \$152,406. All

the stock of Williamsburg Restoration, Incorporated, is owned by Colonial Williamsburg, Incorporated.

A Gift of \$15,000,000

From the beginning, Colonial Williamsburg has adhered to a policy of painstaking and costly fidelity to historic truth. This policy, involving high standards of quality and performance in all aspects of the Restoration project, has reflected the personal conviction of Mr. John D. Rockefeller, Jr., and has had his unfailing support. Looking toward the future, as we sought ways to help Colonial Williamsburg to live within its income, a question was raised in the mind of Mr. Rockefeller, Jr., as to whether the character of the Restoration might suffer through any such restrictive effort. As always, he was anxious that the Restoration should be an experience as rich in meaning as possible for those who visited Williamsburg in the 20th century. With these thoughts in mind, on April 10, 1952, he pledged to Colonial Williamsburg an additional \$15 million for enrichment purposes, to be paid within a period of ten years.

In making this added contribution Mr. Rockefeller expressed his hope that the Restoration would not only be guarded against any possible lowering of its standards but encouraged to increase its contribution to our understanding of the place and its times.

The Future

Colonial Williamsburg looks to the future, aware that there is much for it to do. Although more than six million people have already visited the Restoration, and modern communications have taken it and its ideas to additional millions, we know that far-reaching opportunities remain to be explored. We shall continue to recognize and deal with Colonial Williamsburg's basic problems and opportunities — among them the problem of accommodating the increasing number of Americans who visit it; the problem of permitting large numbers of people to immerse themselves in the spirit, culture, and traditions of 18th-century Williamsburg individually and with a minimum of intrusion from the 20th century; the opportunity of enriching this experience for all who come here; the opportunity of helping Colonial Williamsburg to speak to those people of all ages who may never visit the Restoration.

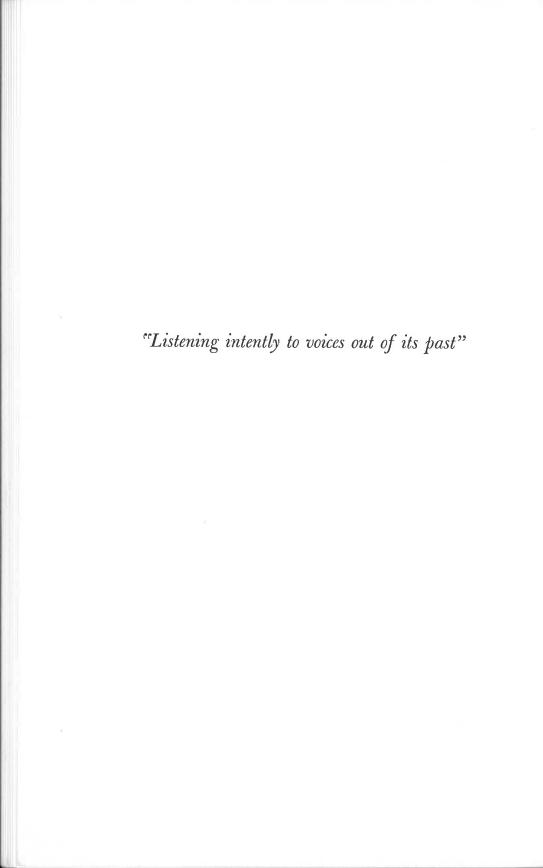
Colonial Williamsburg was never more certain than today of its mission, or more sure that it has a message for 20th-century America. It is our hope that its voice will reaffirm in those who hear it the faith of their predecessors, and help to fortify them with the strength of that faith.

We know, indeed, "that the future may learn from the past."

KENNETH CHORLEY, President

AN AMERICA DEEPLY INTERESTED IN ITS ORIGINS

What has been the effect of Colonial Williamsburg on the more than six million people who have visited it? On the following pages we offer one answer—seen in the faces of people as they roamed the Exhibition Buildings and the restored area. Here, we think, is an America deeply interested in its origins and listening intently to voices out of its past.



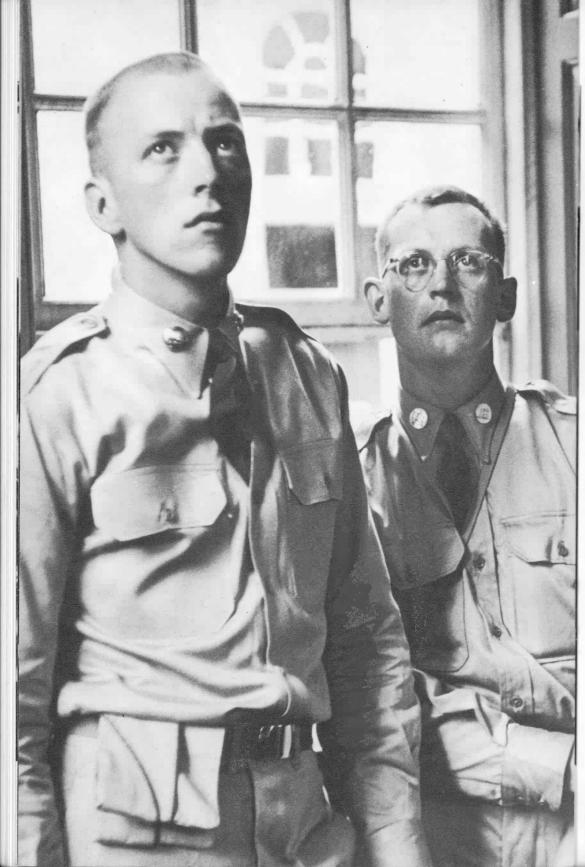




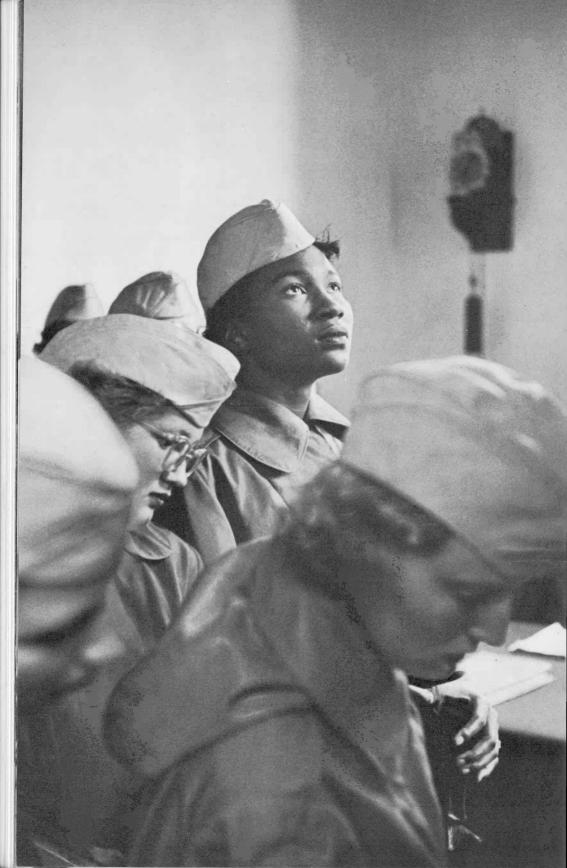












"... that present and future generations may more vividly appreciate the contribution of these early Americans to the ideals and culture of our country."

AN ACKNOWLEDGMENT TO MANY GENEROUS CONTRIBUTORS

WHILE the Restoration of Colonial Williamsburg has been almost entirely financed by gifts from Mr. Rockefeller, Jr., we have reason to be deeply grateful to many people who came to share his interest in the rebirth of the 18th-century capital city and who, over the years, have made substantial and significant gifts and loans.

Colonial Williamsburg welcomes loans and contributions not only for their own value but also as evidences of the interest of living Americans in the reconstruction of their heritage. Following is a list of those who have made gifts and loans to date. In each case, the name and address given are as of the date the gift was presented.

List of Donors

Allen, Miss Mary Adele Holyoke, Massachusetts

American Antiquarian Society Worcester, Massachusetts

American Bank & Trust Company (Through Mr. Oliver J. Sands) Richmond, Virginia

American Forestry Association Washington, D. C.

American Type Founders Elizabeth, New Jersey

Anderson, Alexander F. Cincinnati, Ohio

Anderson, W. P. Cincinnati, Ohio

Andrews, Alexander B. Raleigh, North Carolina

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Baer, Mrs. Mary E. Clayton, Missouri

Bagby, Family of late Mrs. George (Through Miss Ellen Bagby) Richmond, Virginia

Bagby, Miss Ellen Richmond, Virginia

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Bowyer, Otis Baird, Texas

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Brooks, Archie
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Brown, Donaldson
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Brown, George M. West Hartford, Connecticut

Bruton Parish Church, Vestry of Williamsburg, Virginia

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