



Foundations

June 2007

BERMUDA'S EARLY ROLE IN NEW WORLD HISTORY

Bermuda and Virginia have maintained an inextricable link since 1609 when the **Sea Venture**, the flagship of the **Virginia Company**, left England for Jamestown, Virginia and was blown off course ending on the reefs of Bermuda.

The story is common knowledge on both the island and across Virginia.

Much like ours, Virginia museums and literature tell the story of the **Sea Venture** wreck along with the heroic efforts of the **Patience** and **Deliverance** in 1610.

The two ships arrived in Jamestown on May 23, 1610 to find the colony in ruins and near abandonment. Of the near 500 settlers who preceded them only 100 remained. Despite the replenished provisions aboard the **Patience** and **Deliverance** it was decided to abandon the colony.

Everyone was placed on board the ships bound for England on June 7, 1610.

Conversely, during the settler's period of difficulty **Captain John Smith's** book, detailing his Virginia adventures, was published in England producing a rekindled interest in the colony. Shortly thereafter, additional colonists, a doctor, supplies and a new governor, Thomas West, **Baron De La Warr**, set sail for Jamestown in early 1610.

DeLa Warr and his party arrived on the James River just as the **Deliverance** and **Patience** were preparing to leave Virginia. Intercepting them about 10 miles downstream from Jamestown, the new governor forced the remaining 90 settlers to stay, thwarting their plans to abandon the colony. Instead, the **Deliverance** and **Patience** turned back, and all the settlers were landed again at Jamestown.

This year Jamestown celebrates the 400th year of that history and Bermuda's role is being included in every major event.

Norfolk

Virginia International Tattoo

The word tattoo refers to a ceremonial performance of military music by massed bands.

The **Bermuda Regiment Band**, **Bermuda Pipes and Drums Band**, **H&H Gombey's**, and the **Vasco De Gama Folklore Dancers** joined elite bands and performing artists from the U.S., Canada, Holland, Republic of Korea, Trinidad and Tobago, and the United Kingdom at the 11th Annual **Virginia International Tattoo** held in Norfolk, Virginia April 20-22.

More than 10,000 spectators, including military personnel and dignitaries, viewed Bermuda's performance commemorating Jamestown's 400th anniversary through a depiction of Bermuda's critical role in the history of the Jamestown Colony.



HALF MOONE CRUISE AND CELEBRATION CENTER

In late April the city of Norfolk, VA opened the **Bermuda Room** during the inauguration of the **Half Moone Cruise and Celebration Center**.

Overlooking the Atlantic Ocean, the **Bermuda Room** is a spacious, tastefully decorated conference room and mini-museum with eye caressing views of Norfolk by the sea. The room is filled with warm Virginia cedar panels and Bermuda artifacts and maps highlighting the Bermuda-Virginia connection.

Tourists, cruise passengers, school groups and residents who use the facility for conferences and meetings will receive an introductory lesson on Bermuda and the history we share with Virginia.



Jamestown

A delegation of twenty-seven representatives from **The St. George's Foundation**, including **St. George's Mayor**, the **Hon. Mariea C. Caisey JP** attended **Anniversary Weekend** events May 11-13 in Jamestown, VA.

Hosted by the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation the delegation attended the festivities including the opening ceremony featuring a **Commemoration Time Capsule** to remember major organisations and groups, which contributed to both the founding of Jamestown and this year's commemoration. **Mayor Caisey** placed a friendship cup, made of Bermuda Cedar containing a commemorative coin issued in 2001 featuring a design of **Captain John Smith's** 1624 drawing of St. George's historic State House, in the base. The coin was issued by the **Royal Mint of Bermuda** to mark the acceptance of St. George's and its related Fortifications as a **World Heritage Site** in December 2000.



Save the Date

What: 'A Somers Evening'

When: Friday June 29, 2007 from 7-9:30 p.m.

Where: St. George's

In partnership with The Bermuda National Trust, The Bermudian Heritage Association, The St. George's Historical Society, Lodge St. George, St. Peter's Church and many other individuals and businesses, we will offer The 2nd Annual **A Somers Evening**.

If you missed this event last year, you are in for a treat! We will offer historic reenactments, lively skits and musical entertainment held throughout the evening in the Town at key locations. This is a fantastic evening of family entertainment - an event not to be missed. Last year's attendees were delighted with the performances and we know you will be too!

For more information, please phone us on 297-3686.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Once again Bermuda will take center stage at the **Smithsonian Folklife Festival** in late June when **Dame Jennifer Smith JP, MP**, presents the Jamestown 2007 Anniversary with a commemorative stamp. The festival, held on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., begins June 27-July 1 and July 4-8.

Did You Know?

Bermuda

The Third Charter of the **Virginia Company** was extended far enough across the Atlantic to include Bermuda in 1612 and Bermuda remained apart of Virginia until 1615 when the **Somers Isles Company** was formed.

Virginia

In 1613, **Sir Thomas Dale** founded the settlement of **Bermuda Hundred** on the James River, which, a year later, became the first incorporated town in Virginia.

