

My Tale to Your Place, a Heartfelt Journey of Two Thirty Seven

Gentlemen and Ladies (it is the custom of my time to speak first to those who are the head of the household),

I am Squire Bin Forever and by your time telling I am two hundred and thirty-seven years old. My mother taught calligraphy¹ to Johan Fry, whom you will meet when you see our great movie in the Visitor's Center of Williamsburg.²

Although you don't think you know me, you do. My twenty-first century relatives are Dr. Dennis Forever, known as Dr. D. and Nana Forever, of the Forever family. They are related to those you with whom you went to high school, Dennis Cogswell and Nancy Mathis Cogswell.³

The Forever Family arrived here in America on the ship that came from England after the Good Ship Angel Gabriel wrecked in 1613 at Pemaquid Point in Maine⁴. Our ship was sent to resupply the brave men, woman and eight children who floated ashore that dreadful night on their family heirlooms. Amazingly, no one died although three of the children were thought to be lost. They got caught in some of the terrible currents in that Bay and in the darkness and chaos that was going on, were swept away from the other poor souls to a small island about three miles from the Pemaquid shore. They were not missed until way after dawn as all came to shore as individuals, not as families. They only became families again when their good parents called their family together to give thanks to Nature that they had all made it to the new land alive. It was then that they were missed and the whaling began.

The three youngsters did not know of the fortunate of their parents as they thought the Island where they landed was Pima quid Point, their destination. The Indians they met they thought were American Indians. They were not. They were descendants themselves of American Indians who had also been swept ashore on this smallest of islands and had lived there in isolation for many moons.

The story of these youngsters is now being told on the website of Bearley Bear, a dear friend of the Forever Family. It is being shared as a Children's book that is being written by co-authors John the Carpenter and Dr. D. To learn more go often to www.BearleyBear.com.

Bearley has another story developing as well. It is also a Children's book and tells about one of Bearley's family adventures when his two cubs, Natalie and Nate go to their favorite swimming hole to meet with their friends. Oh my, what did happen? I cannot spoil that tale so you will just have to go to that site to read more. It too starts at www.BearlyBear.com.

¹ See <http://la-papillon.hubpages.com/hub/The-Old-Art-of-Handwriting-Letters>

² <http://www.newstatesman.com/blogs/cultural-capital/2012/10/lost-art-handwriting>

³ To learn more about their lineage, go to: <http://www.cogswell.org/>

⁴ One can actually see in real time where this all happened by going to <http://www.pemaquidpoint.org/hist/>

How then did one get from Pemaquid point to Williamsburg in but a few years? One hundred sixty years, to be exact. You know the answer. Horseback. It didn't take the full century but it took a while for my great descendent Whitley to become Johan Fry's writing mentor. That tale also shall be told over other sparkling ale. You want no more tales but to hear about Williamsburg of the immediate past, say three days ago.

Here what Wikipedia, that great Voice of your century reports about this fair city:

Williamsburg, on April 1, 2013, was a bustling burg. **Williamsburg** is an [independent city](#) in [Virginia](#). As of the 2010 Census, the city had an estimated population of 14,068.^[3] Located on the [Virginia Peninsula](#), Williamsburg is in the northern part of the [Hampton Roads](#) metropolitan area, which also includes [Norfolk](#) and [Virginia Beach](#). It is bordered by [James City County](#) and [York County](#).

Williamsburg was founded in 1632 as [Middle Plantation](#) as a fortified settlement on high ground between the [James](#) and [York](#) rivers. The city served as the capital of the [Colony of Virginia](#) from 1699 to 1780 and was the center of political events in Virginia leading to the [American Revolution](#). The [College of William & Mary](#), established in 1693, is the second-oldest institution of higher education in the United States; its alumni include three U.S. presidents as well as many other important figures in the nation's early history.

The city's tourism-based economy is driven by [Colonial Williamsburg](#), the restored Historic Area of the city. Along with nearby [Jamestown](#) and [Yorktown](#), Williamsburg forms part of the [Historic Triangle](#), which attracts more than four million tourists each year.^[4] Modern Williamsburg is also a [college town](#), inhabited in large part by William & Mary students and staff.

Prior to the arrival of the English colonists at [Jamestown](#) in the [Colony of Virginia](#) in 1607, the area which became Williamsburg was within the territory of the [Powhatan Confederacy](#). By the 1630s, English settlements had grown to dominate the lower (eastern) portion of the [Virginia Peninsula](#), and the Powhatan tribes had abandoned their nearby villages. Between 1630 and 1633, after the war that followed [Indian Massacre of 1622](#), the English colonists constructed a defensive palisade across the peninsula and a settlement named [Middle Plantation](#) as a primary guard station along the palisade.^[5]

Jamestown was the original capital of Virginia Colony, but was burned down during the events of [Bacon's Rebellion](#) in 1676. As soon as Governor [William Berkeley](#) regained control, temporary headquarters for the government to function were established about 12 miles (19 km) away on the high ground at Middle Plantation, whilst the Statehouse at Jamestown was rebuilt. The members of the [House of Burgesses](#) discovered that the 'temporary' location was both safer and more pleasant environmentally than Jamestown, which was humid and plagued with mosquitoes.

A school of higher education had long been an aspiration of the colonists. An early attempt at [Henricus](#) failed after the [Indian Massacre of 1622](#). The location at the outskirts

of the developed part of the colony had left it more vulnerable to the attack. In the 1690s, the colonists tried again to establish a school. They commissioned Reverend [James Blair](#), who spent several years in England lobbying, and finally obtained a royal charter for the desired new school. It was to be named the [College of William & Mary](#) in honor of the monarchs of the time. When Reverend Blair returned to Virginia, the new school was founded in a safe place, Middle Plantation in 1693. Classes began in temporary quarters in 1694, and the College Building, a precursor to the [Wren Building](#), was soon under construction.

Williamsburg as capital



Capitol Building



Capitol Building, from a silver gelatin photograph, ca. 1934-1950

Four years later, in 1698, the rebuilt Statehouse in Jamestown burned down again, this time accidentally. The government again relocated 'temporarily' to Middle Plantation, and in addition to the better climate now also enjoyed use of the College's facilities. The College students made a presentation to the House of Burgesses, and it was agreed in 1699 that the colonial capital should be permanently moved to Middle Plantation. A

village was laid out and Middle Plantation was renamed Williamsburg in honor of King [William III of England](#), befitting the town's newly elevated status.

Following its designation as the Capital of the Colony, immediate provision was made for construction of a capitol building and for plotting out the new city according to the survey of [Theodoric Bland](#). His design utilized the extant sites of the College and the almost-new brick [Burton Parish Church](#) as focal points, and placed the new Capitol building opposite the College, with [Duke of Gloucester Street](#) connecting them.

[Alexander Spotswood](#), who arrived in Virginia as lieutenant governor in 1710, had several ravines filled and streets leveled, and assisted in erecting additional College buildings, a church, and a magazine for the storage of arms. In 1722, the town of Williamsburg was granted a [royal charter](#) as a city (now believed to be the oldest charter in the United States).

Middle Plantation was included in [James City Shire](#) when it was established in 1634, as the Colony reached a total population of approximately 5,000. (James City and the other shires in Virginia changed their names a few years later; James City Shire then became known as [James City County](#)). However, the middle ground ridge line was essentially the dividing line with [Charles River Shire](#), which was renamed [York County](#) after King Charles I fell out of favor with the citizens of England. As Middle Plantation and later Williamsburg developed, the boundaries were adjusted slightly. For most of the colonial period, the border between the two counties ran down the center of Duke of Gloucester Street. During this time, and for almost 100 years after formation of the Commonwealth of Virginia and the United States, despite practical complications, the town remained divided between the two counties.

Williamsburg was the site of the first attempted [canal](#) in the United States. In 1771, [Lord Dunmore](#), who would turn out to be Virginia's last Royal Governor, announced plans to connect [Archer's Creek](#), which leads to the [James River](#) with [Queen's Creek](#), leading to the [York River](#). It would have formed a water route across the [Virginia Peninsula](#), but was not completed. Remains of this canal are visible at the rear of the grounds behind the [Governor's Palace](#) in [Colonial Williamsburg](#).^[6]

The first purpose-built [psychiatric hospital](#) in the United States was founded in the city in the 1770s: 'Public Hospital for Persons of Insane and Disordered Minds'. Known in modern times as [Eastern State Hospital](#), it was established by Act of the [Virginia colonial legislature](#) on June 4, 1770. The Act to 'Make Provision for the Support and Maintenance of Ideots, Lunaticks, and other Persons of unsound Minds' authorized the House of Burgesses to appoint a fifteen-man Court Of Directors to oversee the future hospital's operations and admissions. In 1771, contractor Benjamin Powell constructed a two-story building on Francis Street near the College, capable of housing twenty-four patients. The design of the grounds included 'yards for patients to walk and take the Air in' as well as provisions for a fence to keep the patients out of the nearby town.

The [Gunpowder Incident](#) began in April 1775 as a dispute between Governor [Dunmore](#) and Virginia colonists over gunpowder stored in the Williamsburg magazine. Dunmore, fearing rebellion, ordered royal marines to seize gunpowder from the magazine. Virginia militia led by [Patrick Henry](#) responded to the 'theft' and marched on Williamsburg. A standoff ensued, with Dunmore threatening to destroy the city if attacked by the militia. The dispute was resolved when payment for the powder was arranged. This was an important precursor in the run-up to the [American Revolution](#).

Following the [Declaration of Independence](#) from Britain, the [American Revolutionary War](#) broke out in 1776. During the War, the capital of Virginia was moved again, in 1780, this time to [Richmond](#) at the urging of then-[Governor Thomas Jefferson](#), who feared Williamsburg's location made it vulnerable to a British attack. However, during the Revolutionary War Williamsburg retained its status as a venue for many important conventions.

http://www.ask.com/wiki/Williamsburg,_Virginia?qsrc=3044

Tomorrow Will Come Soon

You will soon be staying within the city limits at Kingsgate, a modern and well-kept village by Wyndam that will enable Sir Ladner to feel at home. The buildings display order and comfort but no history. One will have to venture outside of said quarters for that and you will find it in multiple places.

First there is the old village. **Colonial Williamsburg** is a [living-history museum](#) and [private foundation](#) representing the [historic district](#) of the city of [Williamsburg, Virginia](#), USA. The 301-acre (122 ha) Historic Area includes buildings dating from 1699 to 1780 which made [colonial Virginia's capital](#), as well as [Colonial Revival](#) and more recent reconstructions.

Early in the 20th century, the restoration and re-creation of Colonial Williamsburg, one of the largest such projects in the nation, was championed by [W. A. R. Goodwin](#) and the patriarch of the [Rockefeller family](#), [John D. Rockefeller, Jr.](#), along with his wife, [Abby Aldrich Rockefeller](#), to celebrate the patriots and the early [history of the United States](#). Today it is a major tourist attraction for the Williamsburg area, and is part of the [Historic Triangle of Virginia](#) area, which includes [Jamestown](#) and [Yorktown](#), linked by the [Colonial Parkway](#). The site has been used for conferences by world leaders and heads of state, including U.S. Presidents. In 1983, the United States hosted the first World Economic Conference at Colonial Williamsburg. The Historic area is located immediately east of [The College of William & Mary](#).

The motto of Colonial Williamsburg is "The future may learn from the past". The Historic Area is an interpretation of a [Colonial American](#) city, with exhibits including dozens of authentic or re-created colonial houses and relating to [American Revolutionary War](#) history. Prominent buildings include the [Raleigh Tavern](#), the [Capitol](#), [The Governor's Palace](#) (all reconstructed), and [Burton Parish Church](#) (original). Rather than an effort to preserve antiquity, the combination of restoration and re-creation of the entire colonial town attempts to re-create the atmosphere and the ideals of 18th-century American people and revolutionary leaders. Interpreters work and dress as they did in the era, using colonial grammar and diction (although not colonial accents).¹³

http://www.ask.com/wiki/Colonial_Williamsburg?qsrc=3044

One has to pay the dreaded tax to enter the Colonial Williamsburg buildings, of about \$41.00 for three days. However, you are free to roam the cobblestone streets at any time. Be prepared to walk unless the cycle is your friend. It is the way to move about as there is much to be seen that you will never see by walking. Mostly because there is so much to be seen within its main streets.

If one tires of Colonial Williamsburg, one must either be deceased or a resident of Eastern State Hospital there in the city, the oldest hospital in America. But alias, some do. They then, to maintain their sanity, either visit one of Williamsburg's many taverns for some of the best ales around or go to one of the forty-six attractions. Many visit

http://www.tripadvisor.com/Attractions-g58313-Activities-Williamsburg_Virginia.html

To learn more.

Just a free Ferry Away

They will think I am a loyalist if I mention Jamestown, Virginia so rarely a word of it shall leave my lips. However, many say that if one is in the area, it is a must day's visit. That is especially so as it has just been renovated for its 200 year anniversary. To learn more, do you dare visit

<http://www.virginia.org/JamestownVirginia/?gclid=CMKX9Pu7sLYCFdGd4AodploA8g> ??

For those who march to a different drummer than the Internet allows, some brief history may help:

- The Virginia Company sailed from England to try and establish the **first permanent English colony** in the New World. Their instructions were to settle Virginia, find gold and a water route to the Orient. The explorers landed on Jamestown Island on the banks of the James River on **May 14, 1607**.

[Historic Jamestowne](#)

The mission of **Historic Jamestowne** is to preserve, protect and promote the **original site** of the first permanent English settlement in North America and to tell the story of the role of the three cultures, European, North American and African, that came together to lay the foundation for a uniquely American form of democratic government, language, free enterprise and society.

[Jamestown Settlement](#)

The story of the people who founded Jamestown and of the Virginia Indians they encountered are told through film, gallery exhibits and living history. Outdoors, visitors can board replicas of the three ships that sailed from England to Virginia in 1607, explore life-size re-creations of the colonists' fort and a Powhatan village, and tour a riverfront discovery area to learn about European, Powhatan and African economic activities associated with water.

[Jamestown 1607](#)

Experience Jamestown online and learn the **Stories of a Nation** from the various perspectives of the English settlers, the Natives who had been living on the land for more than 10,000 years, the early Africans who were brought over on a Dutch trade ship, as well as the investors in the Virginia Company, who had expected gold returns and a northwest passage to the Orient. Enjoy the continuing episodes with sound effects, videos and games!

[America's 400th Anniversary: Jamestown 2007](#)

The goal of **Virginia's 400th anniversary, in 2007**, was to capture the spirit, imagination, and diversity of the people of Virginia, and develop that energy into a myriad of signature events, national and international programs that bring a renewed historical awareness of Virginia's role as the birthplace of modern America and the cradle of American democratic traditions, ideologies and principles.

<http://www.virginia.org/JamestownVirginia/?gclid=CMKX9Pu7sLYCFdGd4AodploA8g>

Then just a few leaps and skips away is Virginia Beach and Norfolk where one may swim and sail the ocean. The links from England have made their way here and are calling those who carry their tools of ignorance. Fine ale houses are everywhere and the fare that they serve to keep one sober is awesome.

It will indeed be a busy week for those of the gentry who have fared well in their journey to date. I bid you well as I have to return to www.thefamilyforever.com where I am needed to keep order among the eighty-six pages that are there. Come and enjoy the crowds. Visit Nana's Nook and Kelly Kroners and then Dr. D.'s books to learn about the publication of his first family journal. Bring no tools but a brave disposition and enter the World's Only Underground Golf Course, The Doctor for a round. As always, don't let the Devil take you astray. He likely will entice you to his deep and hellish course itself but of course you won't go.

I finally, but not forever. I leave foreverness to my family. Bid you ado.

I am yours in good health and spirits.

Squire Bin Forever.

New to You but not the World.