

Jamestown Rediscovery

HISTORIC JAMESTOWNE

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Jamestown Rediscovery Foundation Awarded a 2024 Virginia Humanities Grant for Women's History Programming

JAMESTOWN, VA. (April 25, 2024) –

Jamestown Rediscovery Foundation was awarded a grant from Virginia Humanities, the state humanities council, to support public programs focused on women's experiences at Jamestown across the 17th century. The Foundation's mission is to "uncover, preserve, and share Jamestown's diverse history." The project, *Trials and Tribulations: Reinterpreting 17th-Century Women's History at Jamestown*, will address a recognized need for a more cohesive and inclusive story of the peoples of Jamestown.

Led by Historian and Interpretive Guide Dr. Amy Stallings, the suite of new programs will include third-person tours and first-person living history interpretations that span nearly the entirety of the 17th century. Featured women include Joan Pierce, Sarah Drummond, and others. Joan Pierce arrived at Jamestown in 1610 where her husband, William Pierce, would become a prominent and wealthy planter. Their household also included Angela, an enslaved Angolan woman who was one of the First Africans forcibly brought to Virginia in 1619. Sarah Drummond was the one-time first lady of Albemarle County in the Province of Carolina, patented land in her own name in 1662, and was a supporter of Nathaniel Bacon during Bacon's Rebellion in 1676. Telling the story of these women allows Jamestown historians to invite visitors to think critically about our shared past and to recognize themselves in Jamestown's history.

"I am a great believer in illuminating broader questions by exploring individual experiences," says Dr. Amy Stallings. "These specific women lived within a larger framework of race, class, and gender and were shaped by the political and cultural ideas current to their era; yet, they also shaped their world with their responses to economic pressures, political crises, and legal challenges. This research can point us toward a better understanding of women's sense of identity in the 17th century—what did they view as the limits and possibilities of their lives and how does that help us understand the past?"

New programs on women's history are expected to begin this fall. In addition, researchers will develop resources for students and teachers, including lesson plans and virtual field trip tours that highlight Jamestown's artifacts, historical and archaeological context, and primary source documents.

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[Available photos can be found here.](#) All images courtesy of Jamestown Rediscovery Foundation.

About Jamestown Rediscovery Foundation

The Jamestown Rediscovery Foundation (JRF) preserves and shares the original site of James Fort and Jamestown, established in 1607. JRF is dedicated to uncovering, preserving, and sharing Jamestown's diverse history, and highlighting its major contribution to the foundations of modern American society. Jamestown Rediscovery Foundation is a private 501(c)(3) nonprofit. JRF jointly administers Historic Jamestowne alongside the National Park Service. For more information about visiting Jamestown, please visit www.historicjamestowne.org or call (757) 856-1250.