

# Jamestown Rediscovery

HISTORIC JAMESTOWNE

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## **Jamestown Rediscovery Launches New Online Series of Virtual Tours**



*(Willie Balderson, Director of Living History & Historic Trades, portrays Anas Todkill and Chuck Dufor, Staff Photographer, assists with creating the digital tour).*

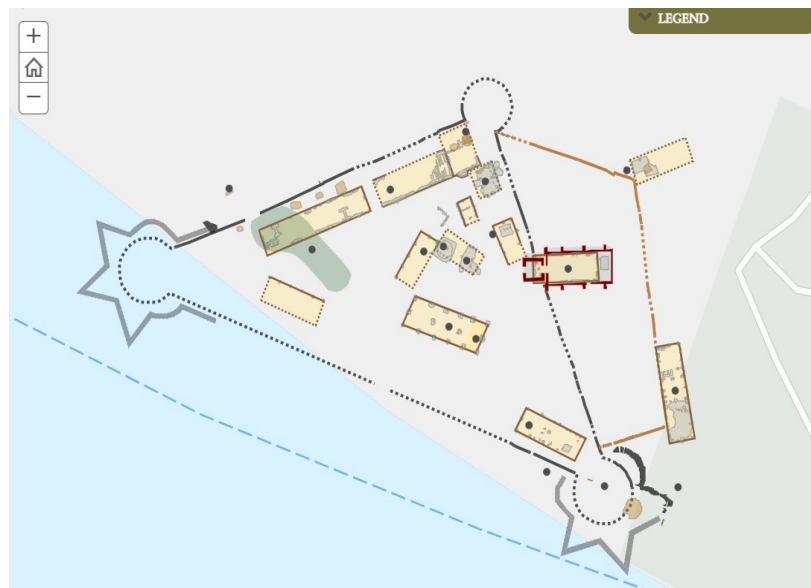
JAMESTOWN, Va.- August 25, 2021

Jamestown Rediscovery has launched a brand new series of virtual tours focused on the exploration of the rich resources related to the history and archaeology of Jamestown, the first permanent English settlement in North America. This exciting new platform, entitled, “Digital reDiscovery: A Virtual Tour of James Fort,” was made possible in part through a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, awarded to Jamestown Rediscovery last year.

Video tour segments, accessed through an interactive map, guide viewers around the James Fort site and the award-winning Voorhees Archaearium museum at Historic

Jamestowne. Beginning with a video overview, each tour stop is connected to related resources, including images, artifacts, historical sources, web pages, reports, and additional videos, for exploring each location or topic further.

One tour focuses on how archaeology has shed light on the settlement of James Fort, weaving together the history of Jamestown with the many significant discoveries made at the site over the past quarter century. Narrated by members of our education and archaeology teams, the videos present the most current interpretations of the site. Some of the archaeological findings are made even more vivid through the use of 360° technologies. Five of the videos were filmed in a 360° format bringing the viewer inside the building or feature being discussed. In addition, some of the related artifacts have been scanned and are presented as three-dimensional objects.



*(Above: Screenshot of the interactive map utilized in the digital James Fort Archaeology Tour.)*

The other tour, “Anas Todkill’s Jamestown,” provides a unique first-person perspective on the history of Jamestown as told through primary source materials. Todkill, a comrade of Captain John Smith, is portrayed by William Balderson, Director of Living History and Trades. Set in the fall of 1609, this video series is based upon the writings of Todkill as well as other early settlers, inviting viewers to analyze historical themes in light of the archaeological evidence presented through the other tour.

The videos and interactive maps also lend themselves to use in schools, and the website includes lesson plans for incorporating the resources into both elementary and middle/high school classrooms. “We are most grateful to the National Endowment for the Humanities,” James Horn, President and CO of Jamestown Rediscovery said, “for helping us develop this new multimedia, online approach to making the archaeology and

history of Jamestown accessible to a broader public.” To begin exploring the portal, please visit: <https://historicjamestowne.org/digital-rediscovery>.

This project has been made possible in part by a major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities: Democracy demands wisdom and from the support of the Donna J. and James C. Reagan Fund for Educational Programs, and Two Friends of History.

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*Historic Jamestowne (HJ) preserves the original site of the first permanent English settlement in America and is jointly administered by Jamestown Rediscovery and the National Park Service. Entrance tickets are available at the HJ Visitor Center from 9:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m., and the grounds remain open until dusk. General admission is \$25.00 per adult (which includes both Historic Jamestowne and Yorktown Battlefield for seven consecutive days). Children 15 & under are free. National Park Passes and Preservation Virginia Memberships are accepted; however a \$10 per person fee may apply. Entrance tickets and passes include admission to the archaeological site, the Memorial Church, the Voorhees Archaearium Archaeological Museum, as well as scheduled daily walking tours and public programs. For opening hours of the Dale House Café and information about special events, please visit [www.historicjamestowne.org](http://www.historicjamestowne.org) or call (757) 856-1250.*

*This project, entitled "Digital reDiscovery: A Virtual Tour of James Fort," has been made possible in part by a major grant from the [National Endowment for the Humanities: Democracy demands wisdom](#). Any views, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this document do not necessarily represent those of the National Endowment for the Humanities.*



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