



The Home Edition

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History and Heritage: Discover Gloucester County, Virginia

By Elaine VonCannon

A Place in American History: Gloucester County Virginia

Gloucester County Virginia was actually inhabited and visited after the first landing by English Settlers at Jamestown in 1607. The County was named for Henry, Duke of Gloucester, who was the third son of Charles I, Gloucester County was once a part of York County, until it was separated and in 1639, there were land grants made there. However, the crown did not deem it inhabitable until 1644 because of the Native American influences there. At the time, Gloucester was called Werowocomoco, and was home to Pocahontas and her father, the chief of the tribe. His stronghold was on the north side of Gloucester.

Gloucester also has ties to the daffodil. When colonists found themselves missing the English spring, they brought daffodil bulbs from England and planted them throughout the county. Today, the spring brings fields of wild daffodils to Gloucester, Virginia, and the county residents take pride in this natural beauty.

Famous Americans from Gloucester County, Virginia

There are many notable Americans from Gloucester County, Virginia. Perhaps the most well know of 19th Century figures is Dr. Walter Reed, who was born in Belroi, Virginia. Reed helped to conquer yellow fever, and the U.S. Army Hospital, Walter Reed General Hospital in Washington D.C. was named for him in 1906. John Page lived in the Rosewell Estate, and he attended the College of William and Mary, where he befriended Thomas Jefferson, a lifelong friend. There are many other notable Americans and historical facts about Gloucester, Virginia. Visit <http://www.co.gloucester.va.us/histindex.htm> for more information on Gloucester's place in American history.

Waterfront Estates, Country Estates, and Historic Property, in Gloucester County

Tyndall's Point is the tip of land jutting out across from Yorktown, named for Captain John Smith's mapmaker. Tyndall's Point was later renamed Gloucester Point.

Many grand, private historical homes, country estates, and waterfront estates exist in Gloucester today.

Locally Operated Seafood Restaurant in Gloucester County, Virginia

Visitors and residents of Gloucester Point Virginia will enjoy the Rivers Inn, with fresh local seafood in season and outdoor casual dining on the Crab deck. The Blue Fin restaurant on Route 17 also serves fresh local seafood depending upon the season and availability.

Historical Landmarks in Gloucester County

Some of these historic homes and estates are open to the public during Historic Garden Week in Gloucester. Warner Hall was once George Washington's maternal grandmother's home and is an actual residence today. Rosewell is another famous residence in Gloucester, where Thomas Jefferson spent many evenings with his friend John Page.

Gloucester County Marinas

There are many marinas in Gloucester County for the visitor or resident of the County to enjoy. Many find pleasure in boating, fishing or water skiing in the Chesapeake Bay, York River, Severn River and tributaries. The Ware River Yacht Club, Severn Marina, Crown Point Marina, and more are great spots for boaters to fuel up, eat, drink, relax, or stay. Read the article on Marinas in Gloucester, Virginia: Boating in Chesapeake Bay Country, for further information on even more marinas in Gloucester.

Gloucester County Wineries

The Williamsburg Winery, in Williamsburg, Virginia is the closest winery to Gloucester, Virginia. It's just a 20-minute drive to the Williamsburg Winery, where wine tasting and tours are held daily. The winery is the largest in Virginia, producing an estimated 60,000 cases on an annual basis.



Gloucester, continued from page 1 . . .

Gloucester County Outdoor Activities

Gloucester County is filled with a variety of possibilities for the outdoorsman, the athlete, and the adventurer. Watersports such as waterskiing, wind surfing, sail boating, and more are engaged in regularly on the York and Severn Rivers and the Chesapeake Bay. Biking, camping, hiking, birding, and walking on the sandy beaches are just some of the many activities visitors and residents of Gloucester County partake in.

Gloucester County Beaches

Gloucester Point Beach was a popular destination during the colonial era, and it remains so, today. The county beach is well equipped with a picnic area and shade trees, a bathhouse with shower and concession stand, and plenty of swimming for all to enjoy. Boat ramps and a fishing pier make the Gloucester Point Beach complete, and make for a great place to relax and spend time with friends and family.

Gloucester County Public Schools

Gloucester County is equipped to serve young families with an extensive public school system. In the Gloucester County school system there are six elementary schools (Abington Elementary, Achilles Elementary, Bethel Elementary, Botetourt Elementary, Petsworth Elementary and T.C. Walker Elementary) two middle schools (Peasly Middle School and Page Middle School), and one high school (Gloucester High School). For more information on the scholastics, athletics, and extracurricular activities in each school, visit Gloucester County Schools.

Gloucester County Private Schools

Gloucester County also has a nice selection of private schools, too. Parents may consider sending their children to Christchurch, Saint Margaret's, Gloucester Montessori, Majesty Christian Academy and Ware Academy.

Colleges in or Near Gloucester County

The Virginia Institute of Marine Science, a division of the College of William and Mary, has a campus in Gloucester County. Rapahannock Community College has a campus right in Glens, Virginia, and another nearby in Warsaw, Virginia. For those seeking Bachelor's or Master's degrees, the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, Virginia, Christopher Newport University in Newport News, and Hampton University are all within reasonable commuting distance to Gloucester County Virginia.

Contemporary Gloucester County on the Chesapeake Bay

Gloucester County is 216 square miles and much of this is waterfront property on the York River, Chesapeake Bay or the Mobjack Bay. There are approximately 35,000 residents of Gloucester County in Virginia and the population continues to expand as new development finds a place for growth in the Northern Neck area of the Chesapeake Bay.

“Courage is the discovery that you may not win, and trying when you know you can lose.”

~ Tom Krause

***** If you would like to see all of the properties that have sold in your zip code in the past month, please email me or call me at (757) 564-1557. This is a great way to see how the market is doing in your area, especially if you are considering listing your home for sale in the near future. I am more than happy to offer you this complimentary service, so please let me know if you are interested in receiving this information. *****



Jamestown 2007 - America's 400th Anniversary

America's Anniversary Weekend May 11-13

Jamestown 2007 is the event commemorating the 400th anniversary (quadracentennial) of the founding of Jamestown, Virginia in 1607. The anniversary is an 18-month long commemoration that will include events and programs planned throughout Virginia as well as in major cities along the East Coast as well as in the United Kingdom. The commemoration began on May 27, 2006 with the sailing of the replica ship Godspeed to major ports along the East Coast.

The highlight of the celebration is expected to be a visit by Queen Elizabeth II of the United Kingdom. Elizabeth is the direct descendant and heir of James I of England. In November of 2006, she announced that she and her husband, Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh would indeed be making a state visit to the US in May of 2007. This will be her first visit to the US since 1991.

The Commonwealth of Virginia has made a major commitment to Jamestown 2007 and has enlisted the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation as well as large corporate sponsors such as Verizon Communications and the Norfolk Southern Corp. (which itself has a rich Virginia history, being involved in early railroads; the Norfolk Southern Railway's predecessor railroads, including the Norfolk and Western Railway and the Virginian Railway, provided major transportation services for attendees at the 1907 Jamestown Exposition).

In February 2006, it was announced that retired Supreme Court Associate Justice Sandra Day O'Connor would become the honorary chair of America's 400th Anniversary. In October 2005, she accepted the ceremonial role of becoming the 23rd chancellor of the College of William and Mary, which was founded in nearby Williamsburg in 1693.

Where:

Anniversary Park
Historic Jamestowne
Jamestown Settlement

When:

May 11-13, 2007
(single day tickets only)

Cost:

\$30 Adults
\$15 Youth (12 - 6 year olds)
Free for under 6

*Saturday, May 12th concert is included in the \$30 ticket price.

PERFORMANCE HIGHLIGHTS

Friday, May 11

Performance Highlights:
The Virginia Symphony Orchestra, under the direction of JoAnn Falletta, and Richmond Symphony Orchestra, under the direction of Mark Russell Smith, play separately and then combine – for the first time ever – to premier new works by John Corigliano, John Duffy, Adolphus Hailstork and Jennifer Higdon written especially for the commemoration.



Saturday, May 12

Performance Highlights:
Three-time Grammy winner Bruce Hornsby & The Noise Makers leads an evening of rock, R&B and progressive bluegrass. Bruce will be joined by legendary funk and R&B artist Chaka Khan, as well as progressive bluegrass master Ricky Skaggs and his band Kentucky Thunder. Their performances caps "400 Minutes of Music," an afternoon-long program featuring contemporary rock infused with native American musical traditions from Brule', a mix of folk, world, blues and soul music from South African artist Vusi Mahlasela, folk roots music from Michael Seeger, poetic urban folk from Jen Chapin, and alternative country from Scott Miller & The Commonwealth.

Sunday, May 13

Performance Highlights:
Anniversary Weekend concludes with the performance of a 400-Piece Orchestra and a 1,607-Voice Choir created especially for the commemoration and representing most of the United States. The individual choral and orchestra groups performing at Anniversary Park throughout the weekend join for a powerful concert worthy of America's 400th Anniversary. A fireworks finale completes the evening.

To get more information on the events of Jamestown 2007, please visit <http://www.jamestown2007.org/>

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Ask Elaine . . .

Dear Elaine,

I have had my house on the market for over 6 months now. I have only had a handful of showings since I listed it in the fall. I wanted to try and sell it myself, to save on commission. It really seems that I will need to use the professional services of a Realtor. Can you tell why Realtors are able to sell the homes they list more quickly than for sale by owners? What is my benefit of hiring a Realtor over trying to sell the home myself?

Thanks,

Heather Newport News, Virginia

Dear Heather,

I know that you are not alone in your assumptions. Many homeowners believe they can list their own home and save money on commission. They do not realize how much is involved in a real estate transaction. Not only is selling a home time consuming, but consultation and coordination with professionals at every level is necessary. There are many legal loopholes that leave you vulnerable as a seller. You need the expertise of a Realtor to help you avoid these issues. Also, A staggering 80% of home sales are done through a Multiple Listing Service. Realtors have access to this. Sellers may have as much as several thousand members depending on the area or residence. An MLS listing is the most effective way to bring in qualified potential buyers. Please remember, attendance at a seminar or reading information online does not make you an expert on home selling. For additional information, please visit my website to read my article entitled "Debunking the Myth of More Net Gain with For Sale by Owner".

Thanks for Asking, Elaine

Please send any questions for Elaine to voncannonrealestate@cox.net or call us at (757) 564-1557

From Nana's Kitchen FARRO VEGETARIAN JAMBALAYA

- 6 cups vegetable stock, recipe follows
- 1/4 cup olive oil
- 1 cup finely chopped onions
- 1/2 cup finely chopped yellow bell pepper
- 1/2 cup finely chopped red bell pepper
- 1/2 cup finely chopped celery
- 1 tablespoon minced garlic
- 2 cups whole grain farro (or spelt), picked over for impurities and rinsed
- 2 cups diced tomatoes
- 2 cups quartered cremini mushrooms
- 1/4 pound okra, halved lengthwise
- 1/4 pound whole baby carrots, tops removed and scrubbed
- 1 small zucchini, sliced into 1/2-inch thick half circles
- 1 bay leaf
- 1 tablespoon chopped fresh thyme leaves
- 2 teaspoons salt
- 1/2 teaspoon black pepper
- 1/4 teaspoon cayenne pepper
- 1/4 cup chopped fresh parsley leaves

In a medium saucepan, bring the vegetable stock to a simmer. Lower the heat to keep warm.

In a medium pot, heat the olive oil over medium-high heat. Add the onions, peppers, and celery and cook until soft, 4 to 5 minutes. Add the garlic and farro to the pan and cook, stirring, until the farro is toasted and coated with oil, 3 to 4 minutes. Add the tomatoes, mushrooms, okra, baby carrots, zucchini, bay leaf, and thyme, and cook, stirring, for 2 minutes. Add 2 cups of the warm stock, salt, black pepper, and cayenne, and bring to a boil. Reduce the heat to medium-low and simmer, stirring, until the liquid is absorbed. Continue adding the stock, 2 cups at a time, as the previous addition is absorbed, cooking and stirring, until all the stock is used and the grains are plump and tender.

Remove from the heat and discard the bay leaf. Stir in the parsley and adjust the seasoning, to taste. Serve immediately. Serves 6.

Source: Food Network

