

Surry County Board of Supervisors



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 Bacon's Castle District Dendron District Surry District Claremont District Carsley District County Administrator
 (Not shown - former County Administrator Terry Lewis and former Dendron District Supervisor Timothy L. Jones)

Surry County 2007 Commemoration Committee

Judy Lyttle, Chair, Surry 2007 Committee
 Troilen Seward, Mayor, Town of Claremont
 Terrie Barrett Foster, Chair, Claremont 2007 Committee
 Ervin Jones, Director of Parks and Recreation
 Bill Richardson, Dendron Historical Society/VDOT
 Greg Schaale, Greg Schaale Design, LLC
 Janet Moyer Schaale, Librarian/Claremont Branch
 Archie Elliott, Nottoway Indian Tribe of VA, Inc.
 Lynette Allston, Chief, Nottoway Indian Tribe of VA, Inc.
 Ed Branch, Nottoway Indian Tribe of VA, Inc.
 Greg Stephenson, Nottoway Indian Tribe of VA, Inc.
 Diane Stephenson, Nottoway Indian Tribe of VA, Inc.
 Robert Woollard, Scotland Wharf Enterprises
 Sopenia Pierce, Director of Office on Youth
 Linda Lewis, Former Director of Social Services/Treasurer

Tyrone Franklin, County Administrator
 Terry Lewis, Former County Administrator
 Blair Evans, Park Ranger/Chippokes Plantation State Park
 Beth Roach, Chippokes Plantation State Park
 Gloristine Evins, Chippokes Plantation State Park
 Gordon Bohannon, Surry County Historical Society
 Dr. Marion Wilkins, Superintendent of Schools
 Faye Grandison, Librarian/Surry Branch
 Surry County Sheriff's Department
 Surry County Emergency Services Department
 Elizabeth Kostelny, APVA
 Wallace Edwards, Jr.
 Vonnie Edwards
 Sheryle Newby
 Clarence Smith



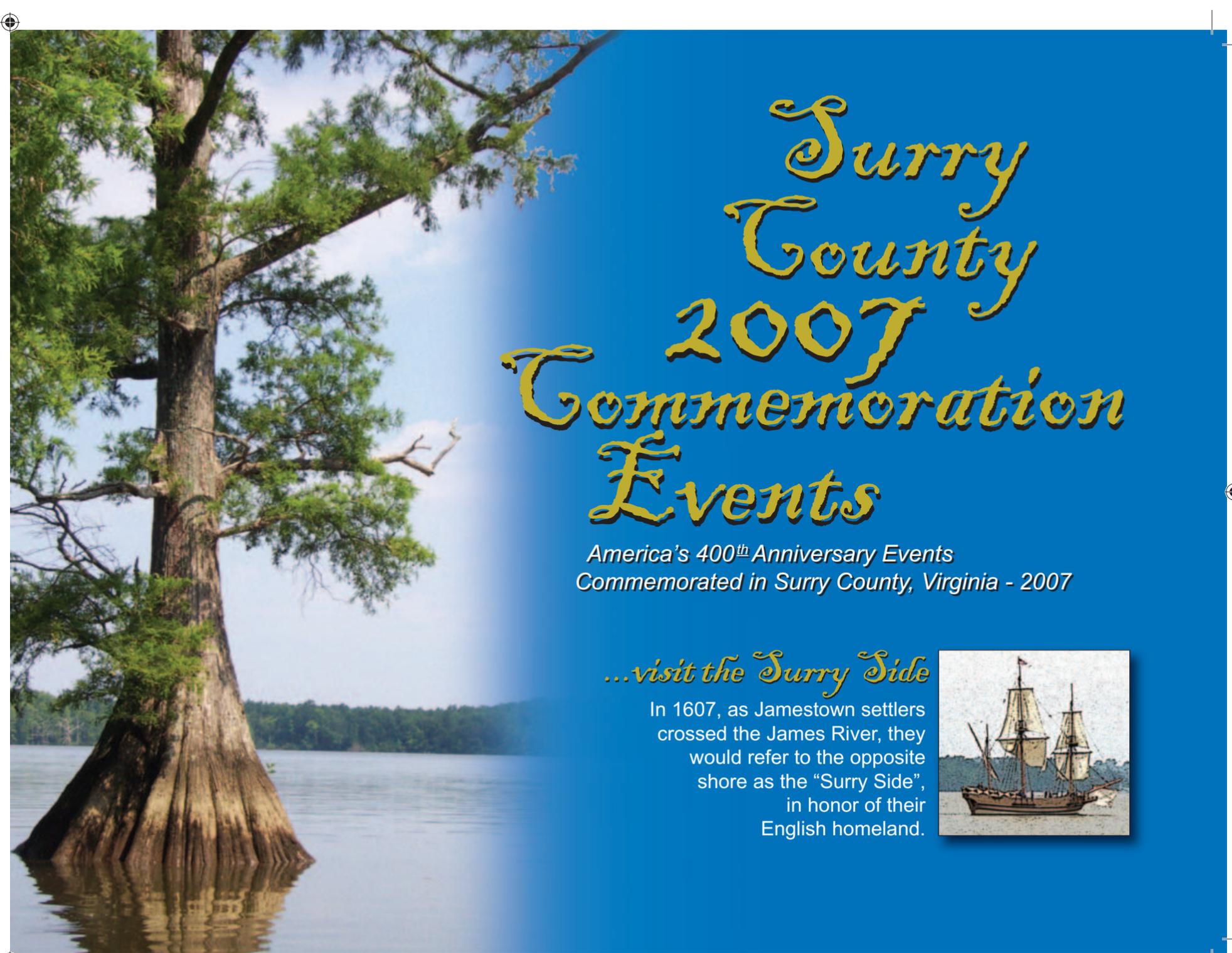
Melanie Wright
 Kathy Thompson
 Iola Pierre
 Cleopatra Savedge
 Gladys Hardy
 Hannah Bohannon
 Shirley Fudge
 John Fudge
 Pernel Watson, Jr.
 Danette Poole
 Andrew Hogwood
 Richard Blount
 James Atkins
 Janet Appel
 Glynis Shaw
 Mellisa Rollings

Surry County 2007 Commemoration Events

America's 400th Anniversary Events
 Commemorated in Surry County, Virginia - 2007

...visit the Surry Side

In 1607, as Jamestown settlers crossed the James River, they would refer to the opposite shore as the "Surry Side", in honor of their English homeland.

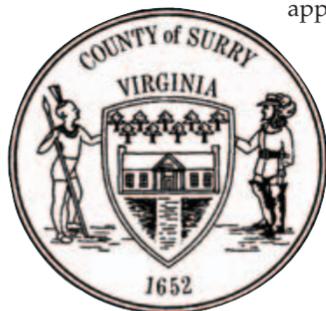


Dedicated to the Citizens of Surry County

The Surry County 2007 Program Committee was organized under the state's Jamestown 2007 Community Program. Amy Ritchie, manager, asked County Administrator Terry Lewis if Surry County would like to participate. A chairperson would be needed who was eager, and available to organize and rally the citizens to develop programs for the community. The purpose of these programs would be to promote tourism, economic development, and an awareness of Virginia's role in the creation of our nation under the main theme "Coming Home to Virginia - Our Nation's Birthplace".

As a newly elected Board of Supervisor in 2000, I was eager, and volunteered to take on this task. Not only was it an opportunity to get to know the citizens of Surry and surrounding localities, but it would allow me to learn about Virginia history and Jamestown's importance in the "Birth of a Nation".

With the help of Amy Ritchie and members of the APVA, Surry County Historical Society, members of the General Assembly, Delegate Bill Barlow, and Senator Fred Quayle, the community rallied to organize a committee. An application was submitted for approval on February 25, 2003.



Governor Mark R. Warner announced at the State Capital in Richmond on June 11, 2003, that Surry County had become one of the twenty Pilot Communities on board for Virginia's 400th Anniversary Observance! These 20 localities were charter members of the Virginia 2007 Community Program. It was a fine event that Terry Lewis, I, and others attended.

The year 2007 felt like a long way off as we continued to meet and make plans. The committee members changed from year to year, but with persistence and endurance, the group moved forward to have one of the best series of events in Surry County's history! This booklet highlights the hard work and planning involved in creating each of these successful programs.

We extend our thanks to the citizens of Surry County, committee members, businesses, the Claremont 2007 Committee, Surry County School System, the Board of Supervisors, County Administrators Terry Lewis and Tyrone Franklin, Amy Ritchie and the Jamestown 2007 Committee, the State of Virginia, the Nottoway Indian Tribe of Virginia, Inc., Chippokes Plantation State Park, and countless other individuals and groups who made these events so memorable!

Judy S. Lyttle, Chair



Surry County, Virginia

Virginia History Month A program by the Surry County Historical Society

Sussex-Surry Dispatch, Wednesday, November 7, 2007—A5

Dr. Kelso reveals Jamestown treasures to Surry Historical Society

By Carol Bailey

Dr. William Kelso, famous archaeologist, came to Surry October 29th to explain what archaeology work at Jamestown proves about the first English colony in America.

Using a series of slides, Kelso talked about the day that he found evidence that the original fort was still there, that it is not under water from the nearby James River. Kelso found traces of the original wooden palisades logs, which showed clearly where the fort stood. This triangular fort was secretly mapped earlier by the Spanish who were also interested in starting a colony in the area.

Using the map drawn by a Spanish spy, the archaeologist and crew began to dig through layers of dirt and immediately turned up many, many artifacts that dated back to the time of the fort--1607. "The quantity of the artifacts was unbelievable, over one million artifacts were discovered. We even found a half penny with the date 1607.

"The ground above these artifacts had not been disturbed although the place had been farmed at one point. The colony was in a sense undisturbed, and that was good for our work when we were digging. I was ecstatic when we found the first artifacts, for it again proved that the colony was undisturbed, and that the fort was still there."



Surry County 2007 Commemoration Events

Surry County Business & Professional Women's Organization

Recognition & Award Ceremony

The Surry Business & Professional Women celebrated the contributions of Great Women of Surry County during National Women's History Month, 2007.

A banquet was held on March 31 honoring 30 women selected in the following categories: Business, Legal, Military, Education, Medicine, Religion and Community Pioneers. The event was an elegant affair with nearly 500 guests in attendance. Honorees were escorted by their spouse, son, grandson or significant other and introduced to the audience with a short biography, eloquently narrated by 2006-2007 President, Eunice Gay.

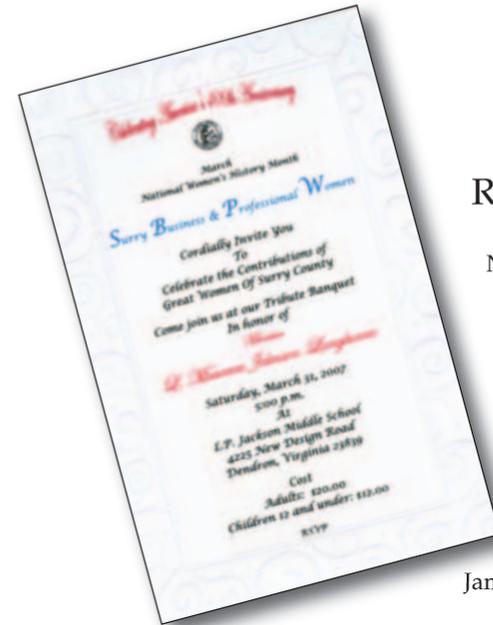
Guest speaker for the event, Dr. Melinda Brown, Chief Academic Officer for the Norfolk Public Schools, gave an electrifying speech focusing on the value of women's contribution to family and community.

The purpose of the project was three-fold: celebrating America's 400th Anniversary, celebrating Women's History Month, and honoring women who have made exemplary contributions to the Surry community.

Each honoree was presented a plaque as an award of merit for outstanding community service.

This event, planned and hosted by the Surry BPW Chapter, was marked as one of the highlights of the Jamestown - Surry 2007 Committee's scheduled activities in recognition of America's 400th Anniversary.

Submitted by Linda Lewis, Surry BPW



Anniversary Gardens

Created by the Surry County Garden Club, Barbara Egar, chairperson



I. Seward E. Seward D. Grubbs G. Hardy J. Lyttle E. Pierce



Surry chosen as one of the first 20 pilot communities!

Sussex-Surry Dispatch, Wednesday, April 14, 2004—Page 5

Surry County plans for 2007 events

The Surry County 2007 Committee was formed around October 2002. A group of Citizens met and formulated plans for the Surry County 2007 Committee. The Committee was asked by the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation to follow their Guidelines in formulating projects for the Surry Community.

Community Legacy Projects:

- The APVA plans to enhance Smith's Fort to better exhibit its relationship to the Jamestown settlers.
- The Surry County Historical Society plans to create a Surry Towne Historical Square.
- The Town of Claremont plans to erect a monument recognizing the contributions of Native Americans on the "Surry-side" to the Jamestown Settlement Special Events.
- Chanco Pageant — An outdoor theatrical performance portraying the efforts of Chanco, a Native American.
- Pending approval of the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, a May 2007, commemorative landing of one or all three of the Jamestown Ships at Claremont as part of the reenactment of the sailing of the three ships from England to Jamestown.
- The dedication and opening of the Surry Towne Historical Society.
- An African American Homecoming Weekend.

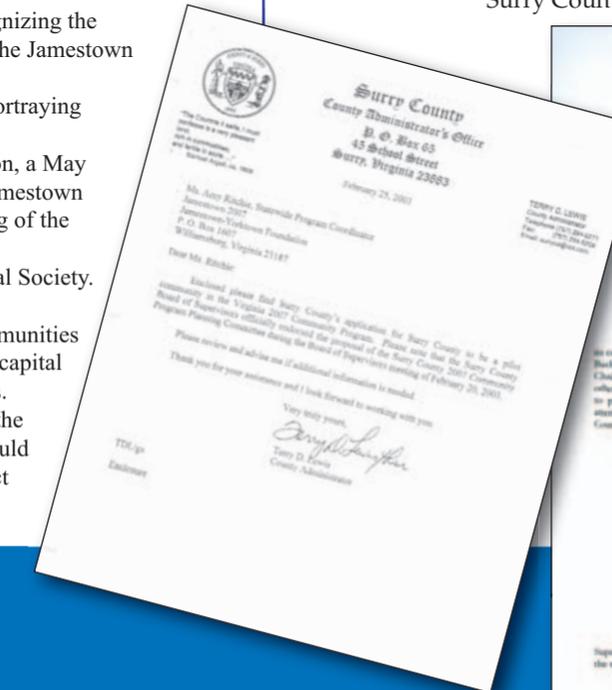
Surry County was chosen as one of the first 20 pilot communities and a ceremony was held in Richmond on the steps of the capital with Governor Mark Warner announcing the Communities.

The Chairman for the Surry County 2007 Committee is the Honorable Judy S. Lyttle. If you have any questions or would like to participate with the activities in Surry please contact her at (757) 294-3837.

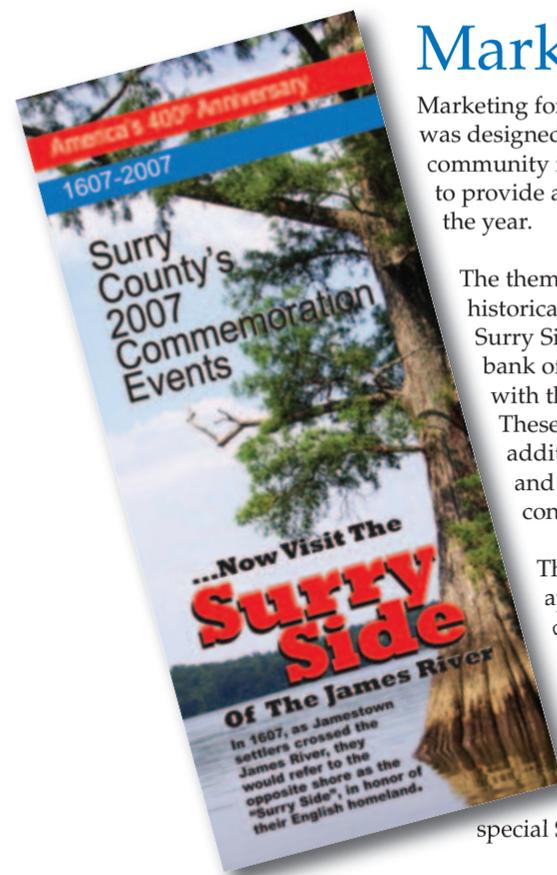
Surry County School Board Partners With Surry County/Jamestown 2007 Committees

By action taken on January 24, 2006, the Surry County School Board partnered with the Surry County 2007 Committee and the Jamestown 2007 Committee in an awareness campaign for the upcoming 2007 Commemoration. In 2007, Virginia, the Nation, and the world will commemorate the 400th anniversary of the founding of Jamestown, the first permanent English settlement in North America. Surry was one of the first 20 pilot communities to be recognized by Governor Warner. Watch for upcoming news and events through our local schools.

Surry County Public Schools Annual Report 2005-2006



Surry County 2007 Commemoration Events



Marketing & Sponsors

Marketing for the Surry County 2007 Commemoration Events Program was provided by Greg Schaale Design, LLC. It was designed to achieve 3 distinct objectives: generate funds through sponsorships from local businesses; encourage community involvement and add promotional color to events and the community for the commemoration year; and to provide advertising information to the community and tourists about the county, and events planned throughout the year.

The theme chosen for the promotional package involved creating a positioning statement to set up the historical significance of the county. "Now visit the Surry Side of the James River" or abbreviated to "Visit the Surry Side" represents the rekindling of the original Jamestown settlers' jargon when referring to the southern bank of the James River. As explained in the brochure, the expression came from the familiarity the settlers had with their London homeland, and the fact that the other side of the Thames was referred to as the Surry Side. These settlers enjoyed the use of four ferries to travel to the south side of the river to tend crops and manage additional land that was settled in the area. The entire area, including the south side of the James, was settled and inhabited simultaneously, with land holdings on register reflecting the vast amount of land under the control of the early residents of Jamestown, and the origins of Surry County.

The logo identity for the package was "Surry Side," stacked and set in Rockwell Bold type. This identity appeared on all elements of the package: brochure, t-shirt, flag, and web site. The identity colors chosen coincide with the identity theme colors chosen by the 400th Anniversary Committee - Red, White, and Blue. The blue also was representative of the official Surry County flag's field for the white seal.

Sponsors were offered three different packages in which to participate. For a \$100 donation, sponsors were listed in the brochure and on the 2007 Events Web Site. \$150 donations included the brochure, web site, and listing on the special Commemoration T-shirt that was sold throughout the county during the year. For \$200, all of the above were offered, in addition to receiving one of the special Surry County flags for display at their business location.

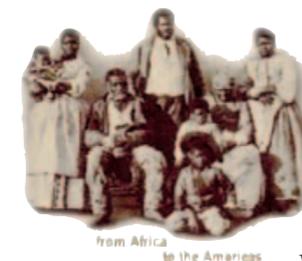
The Brochure

The purpose of the brochure was to provide a calendar of events for the year that could be used by both residents and tourists. Brief information (with contact phone numbers and locations) was included for each event. The inside of the brochure displayed a locator map of the county and ads of sponsors to the Events Committee. These ads gave value to the sponsorship by helping the individual local businesses gain recognition with the community, as well as tourists who would be visiting and shopping during the 2007 year. A quantity of 30,000 was printed - 18,000 distributed by insertion in three local newspapers and the remainder distributed throughout the County during the year.

African-American Family Reunion Weekend August 17-19, 2007 Presented by The Surry County African-American Heritage Society



2007 served as the inaugural year for the Surry County African American Family Reunion Weekend. The Surry County African American Heritage Society, Inc, elected to conduct the Reunion Weekend as part of the 400th year observation of the 1607 founding of Jamestown, the first permanent English speaking settlement in America. The Family Reunion Weekend was one of the primary community projects held in Surry County under the County's Jamestown 2007 Community Committee. The Reunion Weekend served as a forum to highlight the important role Africans played in the founding and development of America.



BACKGROUND

The land encompassing Surry County has long served as home to African Americans. Even during America's Colonial Era, Surry was home to African-Americans. Many were freed men and some were escaped slaves. Some born to the women of other ethnic groups were born free men. Some were indentured servants and thus received the same privileges as white indentured servants upon completion of their term of service, and some bought their freedom. The land of Surry during its earlier days was often a haven for them. The African Americans who settled in Surry formed families, and those families and their offspring spread across America.

Today, many of the present generation of these families return to Surry annually to conduct family reunions.



The Surry County Community Center hosts approximately 150 such reunions annually, and about another 50 reunions are held at other venues in the county.

THE SURREY COUNTY AFRICAN-AMERICAN FAMILY REUNION WEEKEND



The celebration drew thousands of participants who enjoyed excellent entertainment, educational exhibits, scrumptious food, a health fair, and fellowship with kinfolk and old and new friends. Saturday's events started with drumming by the drummers of the Suwabi African Ballet who led the "Parade of

Families". General Assembly Delegate William "Bill" Barlow and members of the Surry County Board of Supervisors served as Grand Marshals for the parade that featured floats and marching units representing families and churches of Surry County. The parade included 35 units. Awards were presented to the Blount family for the most participants, the Spratley family for the most outstanding family float, Lebanon Baptist Church for the most outstanding church float, the Clark family for the best truck, and the Sadie Slade-Boulding and Mt. Nebo Baptist Church for best car.

Terry Lewis,
Chairperson



Surry County 2007 Commemoration Events

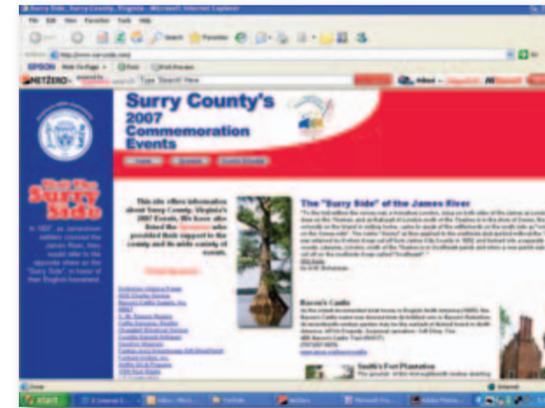
Nottoway Indian Tribe of Virginia, Inc. Pow Wow June 23 & 24, 2007



As part of the Surry County Jamestown 2007 Commemoration, the Nottoway Indian Tribe of Virginia, Incorporated, reconnected with the territory of their ancestors. American Indians from many tribes came together on June 23-24, 2007, on the grounds of the Surry Parks and Recreation Center for the Nottoway Indian Tribe of Virginia, Inc. Powwow. It was infused with spiritual emotion in celebration of the indigenous people who live in Virginia and throughout the country. Along with the fellowship of the event, attendees participated in social dances, indulged their palettes with

Native American foods, and listened to storytelling and Native skills presentations through an interactive educational experience. The success of the event was evident in the responsive and enthusiastic crowd.

...The spirit of 2007 has created a bond between the people of Surry County and the Nottoway Indian Tribe of Virginia, Inc. that will continue with future activities taking place during 2008.



Web Site

www.surryside.com was developed to mimic the information in the brochure with event information and ads listing the sponsors to the Events Committee. Other county links were also included as an aid to prospective tourists in gaining information about the County. The web site also provided a platform for changing information during the year.

T-shirts

The shirts were intended to be walking billboards for the events. Emblazoned with the "Visit the Surry Side" logo, the shirts called attention to the County's significance for tourists in the surrounding area, compelling them to investigate the other side of the river. The sponsors were proudly identified at the bottom of the design, giving them recognition as supporting members of the community.



Flag

The flag was designed to add local color to the events and community throughout the year. Its distinctive "Surry Side" logo and graphic representation of a 17th century sailing ship again called attention to the County's significance in the settling of Jamestown. Flags were provided gratis for local governments and libraries.



2007 Event Sponsors

Dominion Virginia Power
 ACE Charter Service
 Advanced Locksmith Services
 Bacon's Castle Supply, Inc.
 BB&T
 C. W. Reeson Nursery
 Cathy Saccone, Realtor
 Chazzkell Electrical Service
 Country Harvest Antiques
 Dendron Museum
 Farmers United, Inc.
 Griffin Oil & Propane
 GSH Real Estate
 Farmer Joe's Greenhouse Gift Shop & Florist
 Lyttle's Four Seasons Landscaping
 Peanut Soil and Water Conservation District
 Prince George Electric Cooperative
 Poole's Funeral Home
 R. A. Goodrich Trucking
 S. Wallace Edwards & Sons, Inc.
 Scotland Wharf Enterprises, Inc.
 Seward Lumber Company, Inc.
 Seward RV Park
 Slade's Park
 Small Business Web Design
 J T Construction
 James River Gift Baskets
 John J. Marilla, Realtor
 New Circle Store
 Newby's Mechanical
 Parth Food Mart
 Starke's Grocery at Cabin Point
 Surry County Farm Bureau
 Surry County Historical Society
 Virginia Home & Land Company
 Wayne Garrett Logging, Inc.
 WindsorONE™

Surry County 2007 Commemoration Events

Legends of Surry: History Told by Locals

Sussex-Surry Dispatch, Wednesday, January 17, 2007—A1

Local history recalled

By Cortney Langley, Reporter

SURRY - "History is old, and it is new," Lynette Allston, chair of the Nottoway Indian Tribe of Virginia, told a group of local residents Sunday. "It is as distant as what you read in books and is as close as your reflection in the mirror."

It was fitting that Allston was the first speaker at "Legends of Surry: History Told by Locals," the first event presented by the Surry Jamestown 2007 Committee, as the Nottoway's history goes back thousands of years. Allston only took the crowd back 500 years.

"This is the short version," she said.

Allston joined nine other speakers invited to share their memories of Surry's history at the Parks and Recreation building.

"We have all three cultures represented on our panel today," Committee Chairperson Judy Lyttle said. "Indian, English and African."

Speakers told tales of growing up in Surry, about education, family, farming, and about changes in culture, about inequality and tough times.

"Surry wasn't like it is now," said Mary Bingham, a 101-year-old Surry native.

"A lot of people had a hard time here."

Bingham remembered when her father pulled her out of the one-room school, "down from the white man's cemetery," in third grade to go work on the farm. "My knees collapsed," she said. "That was the worst thing that could have been done to me on this earth."

She worked for him six days a week.



Above - Rev. James Harrison holds picture of Mary Bingham, in wheelchair, and her friend Mozelle Taliaferro.

Top, Left - Lynette Allston, Chief of the Nottoway Indian Tribe of Virginia, Inc., speaks.

Left - Judy Lyttle, Chair of the Surry Jamestown 2007 Committee.

Below - Guest speakers & Surry High School Jazz Ensemble



It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as Chair of Claremont's 2007 Commemoration Committee. In such a small community where volunteers are small in numbers, one should have experience in all areas to assist, if not complete, the tasks at hand. This I have learned along with the necessity of having a Plan B and Plan C! Also, no matter how challenging things become, keep the faith and keep plugging along. The end results are the reward of a lifetime.

It was Claremont's goal to honor our Virginia Indians. We did so with a beautiful Plaque of Gratitude. The tribal members and Chiefs were very pleased. Keep in mind; the Native Peoples are a peaceful people going about things calmly. My nickname is "She who wears army boots" given to me by Chief Lynette Allston of the Nottoway Indian Tribe of VA, Inc. I've since learned the importance of walking softly, having patience, and speaking when it would be most beneficial for the cause.

I hope at the 450th, our Virginia Indians will have their Federal Recognition and the Nottoway Indian Tribe of VA will have achieved State recognition AND Federal Recognition!



Terrie Barrett Foster
Chair — Claremont 2007 Committee

Claremont 2007 Committee
(From Left to Right)
Greg Schaale, Terri Foster, Chair,
Jan Schaale, Renee Johnson,
Assistant Chief Glenn Canaday
of the Chickahominy Tribe,
Clarence Smith,

Judy Lyttle, Chair of Surry County 2007 Committee
(Missing: Lynn Hayes, Alissa Nolan, Troilen Seward)



Surry County 2007 Commemoration Events

...more Claremont May 5, 6, 2007



Surry County 2007 Commemoration Events



Black History Month

Sussex-Surry Dispatch, Wednesday, February 14, 2007—A1

History Teacher Recalls Black History Revolution

By Cortney Langley, Reporter

DENDRON - Jamestown could have been so different.

In 1619 the first African black people arrived in Jamestown aboard a Dutch ship. Rather than slaves, the 12 men and eight women were indentured servants, slavery having been outlawed in England.

As indentured servants, within a decade they were free and marrying other freed indentured servants, regardless of color.

"The planters were not for amalgamation," said Robert Spencer, who taught Government with Surry Schools for 35 years and returned last week to speak on black political history in Virginia.

Spencer said the planters reached back to Genesis and the curse of Ham to convince free whites not to marry free blacks.

"In the first time in the history of Virginia, blacks ran across discrimination," Spencer said.



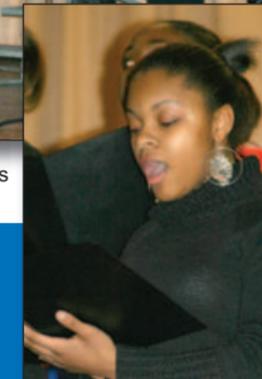
Foster Spain also performed at the program



Bill Foster

Robert Spencer (above) speaks on black political history. The Surry High School Choir (right) also took part in the Black History Month program.

Marecka Davis



Rita Holmes



Reflections on Claremont/Surry County's 2007 Commemoration of America's 400th Anniversary

It was truly a privilege to serve as Mayor of the Town of Claremont during the Commemoration of America's 400th Anniversary. It was most gratifying to experience the spirit of community and the excitement that pervaded the town during the weekend of May 5 and 6, 2007. The Town of Claremont hosted its own event, one of Surry County's major commemorative events during that weekend....It was estimated that some 1500 visitors and residents were with us during the two day event.

...Claremont honored the Native Americans. This theme was chosen in recognition of the fact that the Quioughcohannock Indians, a tribe who inhabited the land along the James River in present day Claremont, welcomed Capt. John Smith when he came ashore here before returning to Jamestown to establish the first permanent English colony in the New World. These Native Americans, so history reports, were very kind and continued to be helpful to the colonists. Thus, Claremont's 2007 Committee decided that honoring the Native Americans was the most appropriate way to commemorate this historic event. The Chickahominy Tribe from Charles City County was with us throughout the weekend. Their native dress was colorful, interesting, and quite an attraction for both young and old. They performed native dances at Kirby Field. On both days, a Friendship Dance culminated the days' events and was a beautiful sight as visitors of all ages joined the Native Americans in dance.

...The Town was so very appreciative of Mr. Lewis Kirby allowing use of "the ball field," which he owns. Without this venue, much of the weekend would not have been possible, as that is the only large, open area within the town limits. Mr. Kirby, in a note to this Mayor,



An Indian-style dugout canoe carved by a local resident, John Raymond Johns, in the late 1800's. Acquired by Aurelius Powhatan Bohannon, circa 1890, who used it while hunting sora on Gray's Creek.

indicated that he had purchased the property to ensure that the Town would have a place for such events. His gesture was well received and appreciated by all.

...Sunday began with a church service at Ritchie Memorial Episcopal Church where the liturgy from the service of 1604 was repeated. I am a member of that church and have never seen the church as full. People stood at the back of the church in the doorway and sat in the choir pews. Assistant Chief Canaday of the Chickahominy Tribe worshipped with us.

...The landing of the Godspeed, which was a featured event for Sunday and made possible by the Surry County Board of Supervisors, was not possible because of high winds. Although quite disappointing, we were so thankful that Capt. Eric Speth sailed her to Claremont. Many visitors came to the riverfront and watched her sailing back and forth even though they could not board.

...Although the 400th Anniversary was proclaimed a commemorative event, the by-product for the Town of Claremont was celebratory.

... Our duties are officially over, but there will always be a certain bond among those who participated for 3 years in the planning and implementation of the 2007 Commemoration of America's 400th Anniversary in Surry County and in Claremont.

Troilen Seward, Mayor
Town of Claremont



Surry County 2007 Commemoration Events