

# Jamestown Rediscovery

HISTORIC JAMESTOWNE

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## The Gateway to History: The Colonial Dames Of America Fund Restoration of Jamestown's Memorial Gates



**Above:** The elaborate wrought iron over mantle, with gilded CDA motto and crest depicting the CDA insignia, is placed above the majestic gates, set within brickwork pillars where our nation was founded.

JAMESTOWN, Va. – October 1, 2019

In 1907, the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities (APVA), now Preservation Virginia, welcomed friends and visitors to Jamestown Island to celebrate the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Jamestown's founding. Among those in attendance were leadership and members of The Colonial Dames Of America (CDA), whose support for the APVA has been nothing short of exceptional. To commemorate Jamestown's tercentennial, the CDA donated the ornate iron gates and elegant masonry marking the entrance of the Preservation Virginia property. Known as the Gateway to History, Jamestown's Memorial Gates are more than simply an entrance to a historic site. Rather, they symbolize the beginning of modern American democracy and the birth of our nation.

Now, after more than a century of sometimes harsh Virginia winters, occasional hurricanes, and torrid summers, they are in need of expert restoration. Just as their predecessors did over one hundred years ago, the CDA joined together to raise funds for the gates. "Since its 1890 inception, The CDA has been proudly committed to historic preservation," shared CDA President General Brantley Knowles. "The Society's erection of the iconic entrance gates at Historic Jamestown Island in 1907 represent one of the earliest examples of this commitment." Throughout the past year, the CDA made significant contributions toward the preservation of the gates.

Led by Michael Lavin, Director of Collections and Conservation, Jamestown Rediscovery was pleased to partner with world-renowned monuments conservator Jonathan Appell and expert custom welder Scott Hederer to complete the conservation efforts. Among the necessary repairs made over the course of several months, the team cleaned and repointed the brickwork in areas of erosion, replaced missing and corroded elements to the ironwork, and restored the hinges of the gates, making them fully functional

again. “The CDA’s generosity means so much to us,” said Lavin. “Not only has it enabled us to give the gates much-needed attention, but it has also provided us with a wonderful opportunity to share the project with visiting public.”



**Left:** Jonathan Appell (left) and Scott Hederer (right) examining damaged areas of the wrought iron gates

**Right:** Scott Hederer welding custom made replacements for missing components of the gates

With the restoration now complete, Jamestown once again welcomed members and leadership of the CDA to Jamestown Island for a rededication of the gates. On September 18, 2019, over 125 Dames and supporters were present at the ceremony, including descendants of the Honorable James Alston Cabell, president of the APVA at the time of the 1907 gate dedication. Mrs. Jane Cabell Quinn, Mr. Frederick Cabell Schoew, Ms. Carrington Cabell Morris (Cabell’s great grandchildren), and Ms. Amy Cabell Graziano (Cabell’s great great granddaughter) had the distinct honor of laying a commemorative wreath during the rededication ceremony.

“All of us here at Jamestown Rediscovery sincerely appreciate the generous support from the CDA, without which this restoration would not have been possible,” said Dr. James Horn, Jamestown Rediscovery Foundation President. “We are delighted to welcome the Dames to Jamestown today for the gate rededication and are truly grateful for this enduring friendship.”



**Left:** Leadership from the Colonial Dames Of America presenting a check to the Jamestown Rediscovery Foundation.

**Right:** *Descendants of James Alston Cabell laying a wreath at Jamestown's Memorial Gates in his honor*

### **About The Colonial Dames Of America**

The Colonial Dames Of America (CDA) was founded in New York in 1890, and is the oldest lineage group which embraces the Colonial Period. Candidates must be directly descended from an ancestor who has distinguished civic or military service rendered between 1607-1775, proven through primary source documentation. The Colonial Dames' mission of historic preservation, education regarding American history, also includes many patriotic activities. Today the CDA has 40 chapters in America and abroad including London, Paris, and Rome. For more information about the CDA, visit [www.cda1890.org](http://www.cda1890.org).



**Above:** *Members of the Colonial Dames Of America gather for a group photo in front of the restored gates.*

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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 \$20.00 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 \$5 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.*