

Jamestown Rediscovery

HISTORIC JAMESTOWNE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Bacon's Rebellion at Jamestown

JAMESTOWN, VA (August 28, 2025) –

Throughout September, Jamestown historians will reflect on the anniversary of Bacon's Rebellion, which peaked on the night September 19th, 1676, when Nathaniel Bacon and his rebels marched on the capital and burned it to the ground. They were attempting to overthrow the government of Sir William Berkeley, a wealthy planter who was seen as too accommodating to Indigenous tribal nations as European colonists pushed further west. After Bacon's death, the rebellion fizzled, but its impact would be felt in the courts and the further entrenchment of slave labor in Virginia. One-hundred and fifty years after the rebellion, American patriots looked to the events of 1676 as a harbinger of the power of the common man. Today, nearly 350 years later, understanding the history of this failed rebellion is even more vital.

Walking Tours Every Saturday:

Every Saturday in September, join public historian Mark Summers for an in-depth walking tour of the most important sites of Bacon's Rebellion at Jamestown, with a deeper look at the causes and impacts of the year-long rebellion. With an eye for the complex cultural context of local

history, Mark brings visitors along for an exploration of Jamestown politics in the latter half of the 17th century.

The Bacon's Rebellion Walking Tour is included with admission to the Preservation Virginia portions of Historic Jamestowne.

Special events on Saturday, September 20:

On Saturday, September 20, Jamestown Rediscovery will bring the events of almost 350 years ago to life with two immersive living history programs, walking tours, and historic trades demonstrations.

Schedule:

11:00 a.m. – Before the Rebellion

Join public historian Mark Summers for a lecture that will discuss the events, in both England and Virginia, which led to the conflict that tore Virginia apart between 1675 and 1677. Mark will examine the many sides of the conflict, including Virginia loyalists, indentured servants, enslaved Africans, Virginia Indians, and those who switched sides. This program will lead directly into "The Burning of Jamestown," an immersive walking tour led by Thomas Mathew, on whose property the rebellion began and may have played both sides of the fight.

12:00 p.m. – The Burning of Jamestown

Merchant and planter Thomas Mathew finally tells his story of how Bacon's Rebellion began with the murder of his herdsman and ended with the torching of "James Cittie." Along the way, he'll introduce visitors to other residents who were for or against the rebellion, including a powerful story of an enslaved man who joined Bacon because he promised freedom to enslaved people. In this immersive walking tour, Mathew will make plain the high cost of the failed uprising.

3:00 p.m. – "Forst upon the Stadge:" The Interrogation of Lady Berkeley

Sit in on the "jury of inquiry" as one of the most prominent women in 17th c. Virginia, Lady Francis Berkeley, is challenged to defend her late husband's actions by the widow of William Drummond, a rebel who was hanged for his part in Bacon's Rebellion. For several years, Drummond's widow, Sarah, has taken issue with how her family has been treated and now, she's brought suit against Lady Berkeley in an attempt to recover losses from her late husband's estate. This special program will expose contradictions, interrogate legacies, and invite visitors to personally and powerfully engage with our shared history.

All events on Saturday, September 20 are included with admission to the Preservation Virginia portions of Historic Jamestowne. More details can be found at historicjamestowne.org.

Promotional photos with captions can be found [here](#). All images should be credited "Jamestown Rediscovery Foundation."

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About Jamestown Rediscovery Foundation

The Jamestown Rediscovery Foundation preserves and shares the original site of James Fort and Jamestown, established in 1607. The Foundation 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 and jointly administers Historic Jamestowne alongside the National Park Service. Admission includes the James Fort site, New Town, and the Voorhees Archaearium Archaeological Museum, as well as walking tours, living history, and public programs. For more information about visiting Jamestown, please visit www.historicjamestowne.org or call (757) 856-1250.