

Jamestown Rediscovery

HISTORIC JAMESTOWNE

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Jamestown Rediscovery Foundation expands its online reference collection, reaching over 200 artifact pages as of February.



Curator Leah Stricker records one of many Frechen stoneware Bartmann jug fragments recovered at Jamestown into the artifact database. Bartmann jugs were used for a variety of purposes, but primarily to hold and decant beer and wine.

JAMESTOWN, Va. (March 21, 2022) – As of February 2022, Jamestown Rediscovery Foundation now has over 200 individual artifacts represented online, a goal staff set for themselves at the start of the Covid-19 pandemic. “This initiative has been in progress for several years, but the pandemic really spurred it on,” said Director of Collections and Conservation, Michael Lavin. “The need for virtual engagement has never been more important than it is today,” he shared. Throughout 2020 while working from home and collaborating through video-conferencing platforms, curatorial staff sought new and improved ways to engage visitors online, which included expanding and improving access to Jamestown’s collection online.

This effort called on the expertise of a number of colleagues from across the Foundation. From curators who combed through the collection to select which artifacts would be featured, to the Digital Initiatives team responsible for photographing the items and managing online content, Jamestown staff created more than 50 new website pages over the past two years. “We were all very excited by this project. Whether you’re an elementary student, a researcher, or simply a lifelong learner, the discoveries made at Jamestown are universally important. Providing access to our finds, both in person and online, is a critical part of our work,” said Curator Leah Stricker.

Jamestown’s Collections and Conservation Department cares for an unparalleled archaeological collection across a wide variety of materials, such as botanicals, ceramics, faunal material, glass and metals, human remains, textiles, and much more. Twenty-eight years of ongoing excavations have revealed millions of extraordinary artifacts hundreds, sometimes thousands of years old. Artifacts recovered from the 1607-1624 James Fort site, including its military features, religious and secular structures, wells, ditches, trash pits, and the surrounding areas, provide physical evidence of life at James Fort 400 years ago as well as the Virginia Indian presence in the region for centuries prior to the English arrival. These lost or discarded items

were touched, treasured, and traded by those who came before us and help shed light on the people and events of the past.

For those who are unable to visit Jamestown in person to see these incredible finds up close, an ever-expanding selection of artifacts can be viewed on the Foundation's website, <https://historicjamestowne.org/collections/artifacts/>. Artifacts can be browsed by material type, category or use, the context in which they were found, or origin. "This is an ongoing effort that will continue for years to come. Our extraordinary team of archaeologists, conservators, curators, and educators are committed to bringing the remarkable stories of Jamestown to the public, whether on-site or in the comfort of their home," said Dr. James Horn, President and Chief Officer of Jamestown Rediscovery Foundation.

The Jamestown Rediscovery Foundation preserves the original site of the first permanent English settlement in America. Entrance tickets are available at the 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 for 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. For additional information or if you have any questions, please visit our website www.historicjamestowne.org or call the Visitor Center at (757) 856-1250.