

Jamestown Rediscovery

HISTORIC JAMESTOWNE

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The Jamestown Rediscovery Foundation Welcomes New Trustees



(New Jamestown Rediscovery Foundation Trustees from left to right: William “Bill” Barker, Marilyn Brown, Wilma & Marc Sharp.)

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The Jamestown Rediscovery Foundation is a private non-profit committed to supporting preservation, education, and the archaeological investigation of Historic Jamestowne, the original site of the first permanent English settlement in North America and meeting place of diverse peoples: American Indian, European, and African. The Foundation recently welcomed several new members to its Board of Trustees. “On behalf of the Foundation, I am honored to welcome Bill Barker, Marilyn Brown, and Wilma and Marc Sharp to our Board of Trustees,” said Jim Horn, President and CO. “Their addition reflects the further strengthening of support for the Jamestown Rediscovery archaeological project, begun more than twenty-five years ago by Dr. William Kelso and his team, and is a testament to the extraordinary success of the work here.”

William “Bill” Barker

Bill Barker is a veteran historical actor-interpreter, portraying the nation’s third president Thomas Jefferson, for nearly 40 years. A Philadelphia native, Barker graduated from the William Penn Charter School and earned a Bachelor of Arts degree, majoring in history, from Villanova University. Attracted to the stage at an early age, he became a professional actor,

theater director, and producer. Barker served as the artistic director of the Savoy Opera Company of Philadelphia, the world's oldest continually producing Gilbert and Sullivan troupe, for eleven years. However, his life was changed forever when he was hired to do a photo shoot as Jefferson at Philadelphia's Independence Hall in 1984.

Over the next decade, Barker performed as Jefferson regularly and it quickly became his passion and life's work. In the spring of 1993, he joined the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation's Nation Builder program, where he continued to interpret and study Jefferson for 26 years. Much like the statesman's own return home following the completion of his term as president in 1809, Barker relocated to Charlottesville, Virginia in 2019 to continue his portrayal and scholarship of Jefferson at his historic home Monticello.

Throughout his tenure, Barker has taken his unparalleled characterization of Jefferson all across the country and world. From invitations to the headquarters of the FBI and NASA, the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, and the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis, to the Palace of Versailles, the *Musée de la Légion d'honneur* and the U.S. Ambassador's Residence in Paris, and many other locations throughout France, Great Britain, and Italy, Barker's performances are innumerable. In addition to his countless stage appearances, Barker has also been featured in a variety of magazines including *Time*, *People*, *Reader's Digest*, *Southern Living*, *Virginia Living*, and *Philadelphia*, and has been a guest on ABC, NBC, CBS, PBS, CNN, C-SPAN, and Comedy Central's *Colbert Report*.

Barker's effortless artistry combines theater, historical scholarship, and the relation of Jefferson's life and times to our world today in such a way that excites and engages audiences of all ages. We are truly fortunate to welcome someone with such knowledge and incredible expertise in living history presentations to Jamestown Rediscovery Foundation's Board of Trustees.

Marilyn Brown

A Colorado native, Marilyn Brown's interest in American history spans decades. She and her late husband Doug Morton, a William & Mary alumnus, shared a love for education and understanding the stories of our nation's past. Throughout their 29-year marriage, they enjoyed countless trips to various historic sites and museums across Virginia and the east coast.

A graduate of Colorado Woman's College and Regis University in Denver, Brown is a distinguished businesswoman. For nine years, she was the Director of Personnel at the law firm of Sherman & Howard, after which she joined the Denver office of Chicago-based law firm, Mayer, Brown, and Platt, as a Legal Administrator.

Today, Brown stays busy as the owner of Morton Publishing, founded in 1977 by her late husband out of his home in Denver, CO. Originally a custom publisher, the company now publishes best-selling, higher education course material in anatomy and physiology, biology and microbiology, chemistry, and astronomy.

Over the past twenty-plus years, Brown has become very involved with many educational charities and historic organizations both in the Denver area and in Williamsburg, Virginia. Recognizing her dedication and service to the Swem Library Board of Directors, she was made an honorary alumna by the William & Mary Alumni Association in 2007. Among her many other charitable interests, Brown is also a member of Colonial Williamsburg's President's Council and Jamestown Rediscovery Foundation's Governor's Council.

The Jamestown Rediscovery Foundation is honored to welcome Ms. Marilyn Brown to the Board of Trustees. Her leadership experience and deep love for our nation's history will continue to be invaluable assets.

Wilma and Marc Sharp

Locals Wilma and Marc Sharp have been active members of the community and the greater-Tidewater area since their move to Williamsburg in 1987. Married for over 50 years, the couple met at Wilma's alma mater, Longwood University. Together, they have five children and six grandchildren.

Wilma remains involved with both Longwood University, where she completed her undergraduate studies in 1966, and William & Mary where she received her Masters of Arts in Education. After a 30-year career as an educator with a gifted-resource specialization, she retired and poured her heart into volunteer work. Wilma, a Master Gardener, volunteers in Colonial Williamsburg Gardens and in the Therapeutic Gardening programs for assisted living facilities. Additionally, she holds many leadership positions, serving on the boards of the Williamsburg Community Foundation, Literacy for Life, and the Comte de Grasse Chapter, National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Marc received both his Bachelor of Science in Commerce and his Masters of Science in Accounting from the University of Virginia. Though his time at UVA was interrupted serving five years in the U.S. Army, including two years in Vietnam as an attack helicopter pilot, he graduated with honors in 1973. Marc can boast a wonderfully successful 31-year career in real-estate and development, during which he was President of Bush Development Corporation for 21 years and continues to serve as President of Greensprings Plantation, Inc. and Manager/Co-Owner of Plantation Group, LLC. Like his wife, he also has sat on several boards in the area, including the boards of Child Development Resources, Housing Partnerships, the Williamsburg Community Foundation, Optima Health, and Sentara Healthcare. One such term hits closer to home for us at Jamestown; while on the Board of the local Friends of the National Park Service, Marc facilitated and donated approximately 180 acres of land to increase the size of the Colonial Historical Park.

We are deeply grateful to welcome Wilma and Marc to the Jamestown Rediscovery Foundation Board of Trustees. Their in-depth knowledge of the area and expertise in education and development will offer unique new perspectives on our board vital to our continued growth.

The Jamestown Rediscovery Foundation is a private non-profit committed to supporting preservation, education, and the archaeological investigation of Historic Jamestowne, the original site of the first permanent English settlement in America, where three cultures--Native American, European, and African--came together to lay the foundations of modern American society.

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 \$25.00 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 \$10 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 or call (757) 856-1250.