



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Colonial National  
Historical Park

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## Colonial National Historical Park News Release

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### Retreat to Green Spring *235<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Green Spring*

YORKTOWN, Va. –Colonial National Historical Park wishes to extend an invitation to the public to visit historic Green Spring near Jamestown, in James City County. The site was formerly the residence of Sir William Berkley, Governor of Virginia in 1641. The plantation would eventually exceed 2040 acres. In its day as the Governor’s residence, it encompassed a stately manor and large experimental garden. Usually closed, the site is only frequented by archaeologist and historians as little exists of the manor house today.

Historically, nearby grounds saw the battle of Green Spring, the 6<sup>th</sup> of July, 1781, a “carpe diem” moment for the British commander, Lord Cornwallis. On that day, Cornwallis had fashioned an elaborate plan to counter what he believed would be an inexperienced, brash attack by the young Marquis de Lafayette’s division. As General Cornwallis expected, Lafayette did indeed launch an attack on the British rear as Cornwallis began to cross to the south side of the James River near Jamestown. But, Lord Cornwallis had cleverly kept a sizable force hidden in the trees, prepared for the American attack. General Wayne and his approximately 800 Pennsylvanians quickly found themselves outnumbered by the hidden British force. General Lafayette’s division found itself in peril, but Wayne’s unbelievably brave and surprising men stormed the British at the point of the bayonet, stunning the British and buying time for Lafayette to execute a withdrawal. Then, rather than commit his forces to route Lafayette’s command, Cornwallis continued to cross the James and thereby gave up an opportunity to perhaps alter the future by destroying a sizable American force, bewildering many historians to this day.

On the 9<sup>th</sup> of July, the plantation site will be open to the public. Visitors will have a rare opportunity to walk the grounds of a once prominent estate, and in the footprints of Major Generals Lafayette and “Mad” Anthony Wayne, heroes of the American Revolution.

**MORE**

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The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

Colonial National Historical Park has arranged, with the assistance of the Friends of Green Spring, Rangers and volunteers to conduct tours of the site. There will be displays and demonstrations reminiscent of the period, such as musket demonstrations, cannon demonstrations, and a military medicine program as well. In addition, Eastern National will have a small sales area for park-related purchases.

Access to the site will only be permitted via a free shuttle that will begin at 9:00 am, leaving from the National Park Service Neck of Land facility (near kilometer marker K32 on the Colonial Parkway) and Historic Jamestowne Visitor Center parking lot. Shuttles will run regularly through 4:30 pm. Advance reservations are not available, and “first come, first served” is the order of the day. Water and rest facilities will be available at the site. It is recommended that visitors bring a snack or lunch as food will not be available. Sunscreen and insect repellent is highly recommended.

Come spend Saturday, the 9<sup>th</sup> of July, 2016 at the site of historic Green Spring. Take advantage of this National Park Service property not otherwise open to the public. “Come Find Your Park” in this, the 100<sup>th</sup> year of America’s best idea!

For additional information on Colonial National Historical Park, please visit [www.nps.gov/colo](http://www.nps.gov/colo) and participate in the conversation at <https://www.facebook.com/COLOYORK>, <https://www.facebook.com/COLOJAMESTOWNE>, <https://instagram.com/colonialnhp/>

Colonial National Historical Park includes both Historic Jamestowne and Yorktown Battlefield. Historic Jamestowne is jointly administered by the National Park Service and Preservation Virginia and preserves the original site of the first permanent English settlement in the New World. Yorktown Battlefield interprets the final major battle of the American Revolution, the victory of General George Washington’s army which secured independence for the United States. The Colonial Parkway continues to link the sites in its 23 miles, and is today recognized as an “All-American Road.”

### ABOUT THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

The National Park Service preserves unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the National Park System and its 412 National Park sites for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations. The National Park Service works with partners to extend the benefits of natural and cultural resource conservation and outdoor recreation throughout this country and the world. For more information, visit [www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov).

