

OUR HISTORY

Our first Vintage Ladies of Williamsburg chapter was founded by Bettie Wright, Barbara Shamsey, and Judy Reinsberg in 1999. The purpose of the group was to share the love of antiques in a social setting.

When attendance outgrew the capacity of meeting in members' homes, a second group was established. The two groups were named Lady Dunmore and Abby Aldrich Rockefeller.

Looking thru many past issues of the Vintage Voice here is a brief snapshot of a few of our past programs:

- ! Antique linens & antique lace by Sandy Patterson
- ! Louis Comfort Tiffany program
- ! Tatiana Faberge, granddaughter of Peter Carl Faberge program on Faberge Imperial Easter Eggs
- ! Speakers Matthew Quinn and Ken Farmer – both appraisers on Antiques Roadshow
- ! Wedgewood Program by Adele Barnett, "Queen of Wedgewood" title given in a BBC interview
- ! In 2008 Charles Rhodes spoke on Gilding & Restoration. Charles previously worked at Christie's Auction House & restored the frame on VanGogh's "The Sunflowers" prior to auction.
- ! Over 40 programs were presented by our very own members. Some of the topics include Vintage Clothing, Transferware, Meissen Porcelain, David Roberts Lithograph Prints, Antique purses, Antique Dolls, Artifacts from the Holy Lands,

Japanese Wood Block Prints & Asian Antiques, and British and American Valentines.

! 8 interesting programs by Va. Museum of Fine Arts speakers.

Our members enjoyed 13 Joint Chapter meetings with VL chapters from Northern Virginia, Southport N.C., and Annapolis Maryland.

Of course, living here in Williamsburg we have benefitted greatly from at least 13 excellent programs presented by CW experts. Some of these include Janine Skerry – Dining in America & Great Britain and Silver made in England & early America; Suzanne Hood – Stoneware in British America and Chinese Porcelain; Linda Baumgarten – CW Curator of Textiles – “Fashions of the Past.”

TRIPS – Some of our past DAY trips include Richmond to tour the Governor’s Mansion and Capitol Building, Tour of Lisburne Lane in Gloucester, 18th century home of Mr. and Mrs. Peebles, Washington D.C. tour of the DAR Museum. In 2009 we traveled to Richmond to tour Agecroft Hall, the American Civil War Museum, and the Richmond Antiques Show. We also toured Maymont in Richmond. 2019 brought us to the American Revolution Museum in Yorktown.

Many of us remember wonderful OVERNIGHT trips. Our first was in 2002 to Washington D.C. to tour the Hillwood Museum – the home of Marjorie Merriweather Post, then a tour of the State Department rooms with lunch at the downtown Army Navy Club.

In 2003 we traveled to Charlottesville to tour Monticello and visit Michie Tavern, Boars Head Inn, and Keswick Hall.

We also enjoyed two overnight trips to the Brandywine Valley area in Delaware to visit Winterthur, Nemours Mansion, Longwood Gardens, Longwood Museum and the Brandywine River Museum.

In 2009 we ventured to Ashville, N.C. to visit the famous Biltmore Estate. In 2010 we traveled to Washington D.C. to view the Terra Cotta Warriors and tour Woodlawn Plantation.

Two memorable trips to Charleston, S.C. were some member favorites. In 2012 we toured the Nathaniel Russell House, Robert William Roper House (with wine reception on the piazza), and a fabulous program on silver by Dawn Corley, “The Silver Lady”. Born in Charleston she was self-taught as a true lover of silver. Considered an expert in her field, she was chosen to appraise the jewelry objects that were found when the Hunley submarine was raised from the Charleston harbor.

Winston Salem was our destination in 2018 with visits to Duke University to the Rubenstein Library, Ayr Mount Home in Hillsboro, the beautiful Graylyn Estate, MESDA Museum and the Reynolda House Museum.

DONATIONS – VL donated 6 books on antiques to our local library. Many monetary donations were made to Colonial Williamsburg, Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Muscarelle Museum, DeWitt Wallace Museum, and several individual speakers.

In conjunction with CW, Vintage Ladies sponsored an educational forum on Ceramics. The speaker was Jonathan Horne, Chair of British Antique Dealers' Association. \$2,500 was raised and donated to CW Ceramics Acquisition funds.

A few interesting statistics –

During the first 22 years we enjoyed:

- Over 225 programs

- 42 Luncheons

- 198 Newsletters

- 13 Joint Chapter meetings

- 18 Day Trips and 9 Overnight Trips