

Our Organization

Vintage Ladies of Williamsburg thrives as it continues the vision of our founders. Interested in the field of antiques, they wished to expand their knowledge while making new friends. Combining social time with talks by noted scholars and specialists – and an occasional excursion – has served those purposes.

Do You Know:

What qualities are represented in an object of desire and great value?

For what was it used?

What are the design inspirations for various periods of antiques?

Who were the makers of these pieces?

Where and when were these pieces produced and for whom?

Answers – and more – are often found in our programs that have included a vast array of presentations by museum curators, representatives from auction houses, personalities from *Antiques Roadshow* and The Wedgwood Society, antiques dealers, craftsmen who specialize in restoration, antiquarians, and historians. On occasion our club members have shared their collections in displays and talks.

Beyond our monthly meetings we have ventured out on day trips and overnight destinations. Among sites visited are Winterthur/Pennsylvania Brandywine Valley and Charleston, S.C., as well as points of interest throughout Virginia and Washington, D.C.

Our History

The first **Vintage Ladies** chapter was founded by Bettie Wright and a group of her friends in northern Virginia in 1992. They selected their name, “Vintage Ladies,” a moniker denoting quality, not “age.” The purpose of the group was to gather and share their love of antiques and to study their history.

Following her move to Williamsburg, Bettie met Barbara Shamsey and Judy Reinsberg and discovered that they shared a common interest in antiques. As they spoke with other friends, the interest grew, and 50 ladies attended the first meeting at which Jeanne Maxey provided an overview of antiques resources available in the Williamsburg area.

Vintage Ladies of Williamsburg, Inc. was officially organized in 1999. Officers were chosen, a newsletter was published, and a schedule of meetings began. There were morning outings with lunch to follow or a meeting in a member’s home with refreshments served. Small study groups with interests in glass and porcelain were introduced. When attendance outgrew the capacity of members’ homes, a second group was established. The first group chose the name “Lady Dunmore,” wife of the royal governor in Virginia; the second group chose “Abby Aldrich Rockefeller,” a great patron of the arts and a philanthropist.

Other Vintage Ladies chapters exist in Fairfax, Virginia; Annapolis, Maryland; and North Carolina.

Membership

Today we have over 100 members, and we invite you to join us!

Active Membership is offered to ladies in the Williamsburg area and requires each member to attend a minimum of five meetings per year. Ladies must also serve either on the Executive Board or on various committees in support of the organization’s goals. Others may participate by providing refreshments (co-hostesses) at meetings – a fun way to be involved.

Active Members have voting privileges, receive our newsletter, the *Vintage Voice*, and are welcome to participate in all club activities.

Members meet once a month, from September through May, including festive luncheons for all in December and May.

Each meeting begins with a social time when an array of delicious treats is served with coffee and tea. A short business meeting is followed by a stimulating presentation arranged by our Program Committee.

We are delighted that you are interested in joining Vintage Ladies.

Most important are the friendships created by our common interests and desire to keep learning!

You are welcome to visit our website, **vintageladiesofwilliamsburg.org**, for more information and to view past issues of our newsletter, *Vintage Voice*.

Creating Friendships



Namesakes for Our Vintage Ladies' Groups



Williamsburg, Virginia, was the capital of the Colony and Commonwealth of Virginia from 1699 to 1780 and the center of political events in Virginia leading to the American Revolution. When the capital moved to Richmond, the city "went to sleep" until John D. Rockefeller, Jr., was con-

vinced by Rev. W.A.R. Goodwin to embark upon a major renovation; the Governor's Palace (above) is a 1930s reconstruction.

Lady Charlotte Murray Dunmore was the highest-ranking woman in British North America after she crossed the Atlantic in 1774 to join her husband Royal Governor John Murray, Earl of Dunmore. She was the last in a line of English first ladies to make the palace in Williamsburg her home.

Abby Aldrich Rockefeller was an outgoing, curious, intelligent, and vibrant personality. She was a woman of the world at a time when such prominence was unseemly. Perhaps her greatest legacy is the Museum of Modern Art, which she co-founded. Together, the Rockefellers implemented and funded restoration of Williamsburg to its 18th-century glory.

Vintage Ladies of Williamsburg, Inc.



An organization of women who are enthusiastic about sharing and expanding their knowledge of the history of antiques and the decorative arts, it is dedicated to friendship and learning.