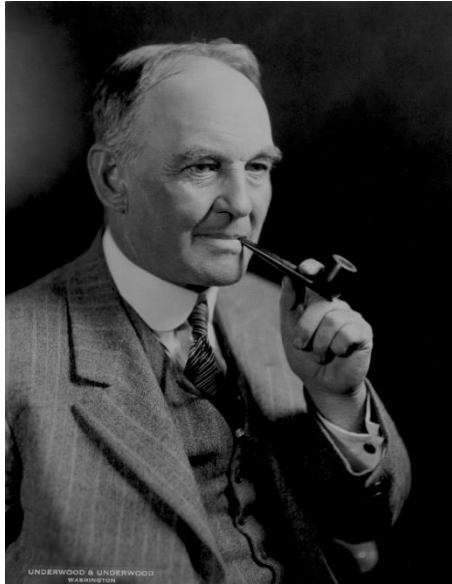


**Description of the Homes on the 62nd Homes Tour
Presented by Green Spring Garden Club, inc.
December 2nd, 2023**

Reverend Doctor W.A.R. Goodwin - Father of Colonial Williamsburg



This year our Christmas Homes Tour is celebrating the 100th Anniversary of Reverend Goodwin's return to Williamsburg. In 1923, he planted the seed that would flourish into the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation.

Rev. Goodwin originally came to Williamsburg in 1903 as the Rector of Bruton Parish Church. During his 6 years at Bruton, he was responsible for restoring the church and once more elevating both it and Williamsburg onto the national stage. If you visit the church today, you will see the Angel of Peace lectern given by President Theodore Roosevelt. At the Heritage Center, the beautiful

Bible sent by King Edward the VII is on view. These gifts were received in 1907 upon the restoration and dedication of Bruton Parish Church.

This young, dynamic minister will advance his career and his reputation as a fundraiser in Rochester, N.Y. He had "developed a talent for asking for money on behalf of worthy causes and getting it." In 1922, President Chandler of W&M saw the need for more and better facilities at the college. He reached out to Rev. Goodwin with the offer of a Professorship if he would head the endowment campaign for the college.

Goodwin's initial plan was to buy buildings in the city and renovate them for the students and faculty as housing. An endowment would be set up and then the properties would be deeded to the college. This is what Rev. Goodwin originally proposed to Mr. John D. Rockefeller. Of course this changed and instead the foundation was created. The question was always asked of Rev. Goodwin, when and how did he get the idea of restoring Williamsburg? Rev. Goodwin said, "... it was God who gave me the idea and Mr. Rockefeller who gave the money..."

Bruton Parish Church has graciously extended an invitation for you to learn more about Rev. Goodwin by visiting the church and the Heritage Center located on Duke of Gloucester St.

Information resource: [A Link Among the Days *The Life and Times of the Reverend Doctor W.A.R. Goodwin, the Father of Colonial Williamsburg* by Dennis Montgomery](#)

Custis Tenement



In 1714, John Custis purchased land occupying a prime location on Palace Green facing Bruton Parish Church. By 1717, a one-story frame tenement was built that he and his descendants leased for decades. Carpenter John Wheatley resided here for many years, followed by cabinet-maker Peter Scott. The house accidentally caught fire and was destroyed in 1776, while sheltering continental soldiers. The reconstructed property was rebuilt on its original foundations in 1932 by Colonial Williamsburg. Today, Bruton Parish Church has arranged a long-term lease with the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. It is in the Custis Tenement that the parishioners gather after church services and after christenings, weddings, and funerals.

The interior exudes the warmth of the original eighteenth-century with an eclectic collection of period furnishings and artwork. In the living room hangs an original painting of Bruton Parish Church by E. Lear.

The Red Lion



The Red Lion is a reconstruction of a house that was built in the early 1700's by innkeeper Francis Sharp. It was known as the Red Lion in 1737, when John Parker obtained a license to operate an ordinary. It still bore the name in 1770, though by this time it was no longer in use as a tavern. It was acquired by Walter Lenox, along with the Ludwell-Paradise House next door, as part of the estate of Phillip Ludwell III of Green Spring.

The combination of glazed-header, Flemish-bond brick with rubbed brick decorations at the window and door openings is similar to that used in Williamsburg in the 1750's. Inside the fireplace surround in the parlor is an antique taken from an unknown house in eastern Virginia. The staircase was also moved here from another house in Williamsburg. When the Red Lion was reconstructed in 1938, the re-use of colonial woodwork was not uncommon in museums. This practice was later discontinued by Colonial Williamsburg to discourage the removal of historic materials from their original locations.

William Waters House



In 1701, Henry Gill built a house on this site and opened it as an ordinary. The next owner, Robert Davidson operated an apothecary here. John Holt occupied the property and he ran a store on the premises. In 1753, Holt mortgaged the property to Peyton Randolph, who lost the property when he was unable to meet the payments.

The reconstructed house is named for its most prominent occupant William Waters, a wealthy planter from the Eastern Shore. Waters owned several plantations and bought it for his house in town when he moved to Williamsburg about 1750. Waters was a “universally respected gentleman for his amiable disposition” according to the Virginia Gazette’s brief obituary, dated July 4, 1767. Upon his death, the property was bequeathed to his wife, Sarah Waters, who held the property until the early nineteenth century. William Coleman who served as Mayor of Williamsburg, purchased the property in 1803, and his family kept the residence until the Civil War. In 1942, the house was reconstructed by the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation.

Benjamin Waller House



Benjamin Waller (1716-1786), was born in King William County, Virginia. His family came to the colony in the seventeenth century. He attended William & Mary College and studied law using Sir John Randolph's law library. He was a distinguished lawyer and his career included many important offices for the Crown. These included clerking for the General Court and serving on the bench for the first Court of Appeals. He was appointed by Governor William Gooch as Judge of the Court of Admiralty in Williamsburg, Virginia.

Waller and his wife had 10 children. His grandson married U.S. President John Tyler's daughter, and the couple also lived in Williamsburg in the Benjamin Waller House. Waller was a vestryman at Bruton Parish Church and a land developer.

