

Patrick Henry spoke here

Williamsburg is a Yankee patriot's dream

By Cynthia Rantoul

The birth-place of parliamentary rule in North America, Williamsburg, Virginia, was visited by eighteen York students last week.

Together with Professors Ernst and Merrens, students in The European Influence on the Thirteen Colonies joined the tourist set and experienced the restoration of the colonial capital.

The home of America's earliest parliament, Williamsburg is a re-enactment of what every true American patriot would like to believe history was like.

Wide boulevards and carefully groomed homes offer the impression of perfect peace. But hundreds of colourful tourists dissipate the illusion.

Eighty - eight of the original buildings remain. Several have been restored both externally and in-

ternally to the period of the eighteenth century.

The Peyton - Randolph house, the Brush - Everard and the Whyte houses tried to illustrate the private lives of some early prominent citizens.

Fifteen craft shops were open to demonstrate the care craftsmanship involves. Candlemaking, wigmaking and gunsmithing attracted the curious.

At the end of the Duke of Gloucester Street stands the prominent Capitol Building. Inside its brick walls, famous orators like Thomas Jefferson and Patrick Henry have spoken their minds.

The Public Gaol (pronounced jail) stands as a bleak reminder of the dangers of colonial living.

In its 250-year history it has housed pirates, Indians, political

prisoners, runaway slaves and transported convicts.

The less serious crimes of petty theft and intemperance were followed by a stint in the stocks.

Once in the stocks you were the target of any verbal abuse which it suited the passing residents to hand out. Leg irons and whippings were also part of the good times.

Fatigue was catching up to the group by Wednesday, so a vote for a change was carried unanimously. While the rain was coming down in sheets, we headed over to Jamestown.

The earliest British fort in Virginia, Jamestown stood on a peninsula on the James river.

Deserted in favour of Williamsburg late in the seventeenth century, it is now a quiet park. Paintings depicting the hardy colonialists' lifestyle are com-

plemented by wild deer darting within the woods.

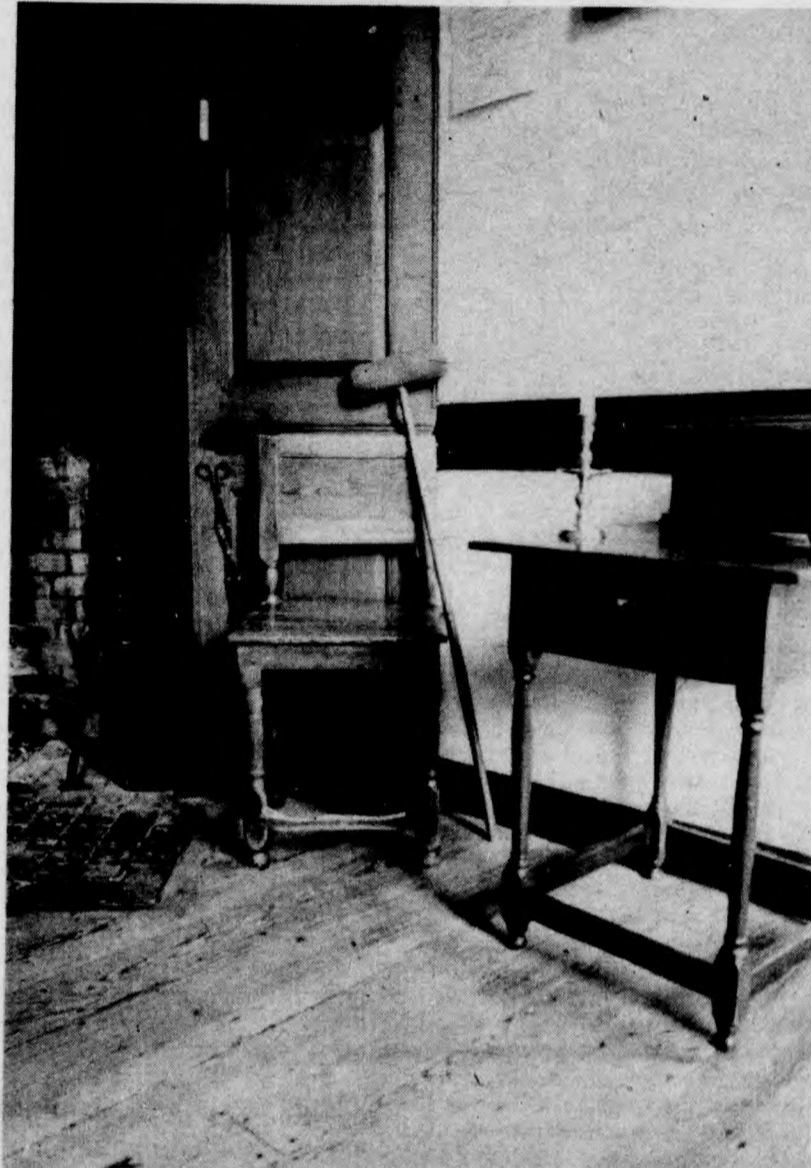
The only true remnant of the fort is the small stack of bricks on the site of the church.

After a thorough indoctrination at the library of the College of William and Mary (founded 1693), the last stop for the group was Carter Grove Plantation. Though

not authentic in its furnishings, this former tobacco plantation still maintains its original dignity.

And what were the feelings of the professors at the end of this trip?

"Each time I teach this course I learn more about the subject matter and more and MORE about students," remarked Professor Merrens.



Some scenes from Williamsburg, clockwise from upper left: the Guard House, which still smells of muskettire as it did centuries ago; a quiet corner of Raleigh's tavern; York students lunched in a colonial atmosphere at Wetherton's tavern; an oxcart lumbering through the streets is of constant delight to tourists.

Cynthia Rantoul photos

Gertrude Stein show at Stong

A return performance of Gertrude Stein's *Gertrude Stein* will be featured at 8 p.m. next Tuesday in

CKRY-FM

The next edition of CKRY's Bearpit show, on Wednesday, November 16 from noon to two, will feature the following guests: John Page of CLASP (Community Legal Aid Services Program); Sue Kaiser of Harbinger, York's peer counselling centre; Mimi Mekler of York's feminist magazine, *Breakthrough*; Howard Crosner of the Course Union Administration Commission; and musical interludes with Steve Rimmer and Randy Sach.

Yesterday's Bearpit show was cancelled due to technical difficulties.

the Stong College Series in Sylvester's (201).

Ms. Cole, who has presented her one-woman show throughout the world, has created her performance entirely from the writings of Stein, informed by research into her life and conversations as well as correspondence with people who knew Stein.

Set in the home of Gertrude Stein in Paris, the presentation evokes the atmosphere of her Paris world while touching on some of her ideas about writers and artists she knew (Hemingway, Joyce, Picasso).

Excerpts from Stein's work include *Melanctha*, *The Making of Americans*, *Broadcast to America*, and *The Autobiography of Alice B. Toklas*.

Ms. Cole, who has just arrived from Paris where she lives, is

currently performing in a series of workshops at Toronto elementary schools, under the auspices of the Inner City Angels. She leaves this week on tour to Montreal, Kingston, Calgary, Banff, and Vancouver where, in addition to her Stein show, she will read from the poetry of the Beatles and Jacques Prevert (in translation) and monologues representing women and forms of communication written by Toronto free-lance author Scott Taylor. Two of the monologues will be aired later this month by CBC.

Gertrude Stein's Gertrude Stein is free and open to the public.



One of the women involved in Sinstrip, York Cabaret's latest production, playing tonight and Friday in Mac Hall. When David Crombie closed the Yonge St. Strip, did he ever dream it would move to Downsview? Performances are at 9 and 10:30 pm, boozing begins at 8. Admission is free.