



Graves Family Gathering . Jamestowne-Williamsburg

Oct. 25-28, 2017

2 pages of overview
2 pages of schedule
. as of July 23, 2017 .

OVERVIEW

Graves family members — whose ancestors of the 1600 and 1700s resided in Virginia coming out of the Eastern Shore — Tidewater area of what today is known best for Historic Jamestowne and Williamsburg — will gather there this October. A Thursday, Friday, Saturday Oct. 26-28 touring schedule based from the Courtyard Marriott in Williamsburg will devote a day each to (1) Historic Jamestowne (the real deal), (2) the Jamestown Settlement (replica & living museum) and on to the Eastern Shore's Eastville area which was later a home area to Capt. Thomas Graves, and Hungars Church and other historical sites, and (3) Colonial Williamsburg. Wednesday Oct. 25 an optional trip to Spotsylvania Co. / Fredericksburg area is offered.

Two previous gatherings brought together known cousins and close Y-DNA matches. A 2015 tour of Harrisonburg, Staunton, & Graves Mill, Virginia was followed by a 2016 Bardstown, Lexington, & Frankfort, Kentucky tour organized by Deb Lowe (Danville, KY), Michael "Mike" D. Graves (Humble, TX), and Steve Graves (St. Petersburg, FL). Good times were had by all !

Since the 2007 Graves Family Association organized reunion in Williamsburg, great use has been made of DNA testing to identify close family ties. Also, new kin have come into researching Graves family history and are looking to confirm their most distant ancestors including for many—Capt. Thomas Graves (~1580 - ~1635). He was one of the founders of Jamestown and served on the first legislative body. He is considered to have been the first to bring the Graves name to America. All Graves descendants are welcome! Efforts will be made to connect various clusters of DNA-matched-Graves among those participating.

While we don't yet know exactly through whom or when many branches connect, this gathering looks into interesting bits of Graves family and American history in the company of closely related cousins with hopes of advancing the search for our shared connections. After all, none of us are as smart as all of us working together! **Come learn more about your ties to early America!** Overview below—in detail on pages 3 and 4

SCHEDULE

- Wednesday: Spotsylvania Co.** Spotsylvania & Louisa Co.: home area of Thomas & John Graves Gen. 169, [Spotsylvania Co. Museum](#), maybe [Fredericksburg battlefield](#). Many Graves descendants and lines tie to Spotsylvania & Louisa counties—locals are researching 1700s Graves family sites for us to visit. For those who stay behind, a day trip—45 min. distance—to Richmond may be organized.
- Oct. 25, 2017 optional**
- Thursday: Historic Jamestowne & Jamestown Settlement** [Historic Jamestowne](#), the *actual site* of the James Fort and settlement dating from 1607. Guided tour by *Preservation Virginia's* Mark Summers plus self-touring. Lunch along side the James River at [Dale House Café](#). [Jamestown Settlement](#) "next door" are replica English and Indian settlements and ships that brought settlers from Europe. Also to Sandy Point.
- Oct. 26, 2017**
- Friday: Eastern Shore, St. Johns & Hungars Church, Custis plantation, etc. Oct. 27, 2017** Off to the Eastern Shore were Capt. Thomas Graves later relocated, owned land, and died at the end of 1635 or the first of 1636. [St. John's Episcopal Church](#), [Hungars Church](#), [Custis tomb and plantation site](#), fishing point, and likely burial location area of Capt. Thomas Graves.
- Saturday: Colonial Williamsburg** Succeeded Jamestowne as the center of government, education & culture 1700-1781. It is a [terrific living history museum](#) with restored & recreated buildings, exhibits, and experiences.
- Oct. 28, 2017**

[Courtyard by Marriott Williamsburg Busch Gardens](#) [Click here to reserve your group rate room for Graves Gathering](#) is our lodging spot . Touring begins and ends here. 470 McLaws Circle, Williamsburg, VA (757) 221-0700. An initial block of rooms has been saved at a discounted rate of **\$109/night plus tax for nights Oct. 24—Oct. 28** (versus \$119-\$159/night plus tax). Additional rooms will be added when the first block fills. At the same time, the hotel is taking reservations toward their total capacity. You can cancel later if you decide to do so. Room block held until Sept. 29, 2017 but, again, rooms may all be taken by then, so **best to reserve now** to be assured. To reserve a room [click](#), or call the hotel direct or Courtyard national reservations at **1-800-321-2211**. You must mention the Graves Gathering for the low rate. Of course you may stay anywhere you like. Any problems with booking, do contact us for assistance. Please [email us](#) to say that you plan to participate. **MORE ->**



Graves Family Gathering . Jamestown-Williamsburg

RELATED INFORMATION

[Let us know now](#) if you are planning to participate or are considering it.

As of July 23, 2017 (communication #3)

- **In general, participants simply pay their own way.** The **“Triangle Pass”** permits entrance to all these: **Historic Jamestowne, Jamestown Settlement, Colonial Williamsburg as well as the Yorktown Battlefield and the American Revolution Museum at Yorktown.** These should be purchased in advance online. Good for 7 consecutive days following first use, the pass is \$91 for adults 16 & up, \$42.50 for those 6 to 15 years of age. [Click to Buy](#) Admissions can be purchased separately for those coming for just one or two days. For the Spotsylvania Co. Museum on Wednesday, donations welcome, no admission fee.
- **Participants will also carry the cost of their own lodging and meals.** See *“Transport”* below.
- **Meals:** we will have meals together whenever possible and once the number of participants is better known.
- **Transport:** At the 2015 and 2016 gatherings we were able travel mostly in our own vehicles and share-a-ride. You can still do that if you wish for the entire event. If the number of participants grows such that a commercial vehicle(s) (van to over the road coach) is appropriate, for those who use it, there will be a fee equal to the cost divided by the number of passengers. Details on this will be shared in September as our number of participants becomes clear. This all relates to tours on Wed. Oct. 25 and Friday Oct. 27—on the other days , personal and rental cars will be used—ride sharing too.
- **Hotel**—if you want days beyond the Tuesday evening through Sunday morning you must book those as a separate reservation. We point to going to [TripAdvisor](#) for our hotel to get a better rate for extra days, but you can also search on your own.
- **Spouse, significant others, and children:** The tour is organized with those who are 12 and older in mind. In future communications, our more exact time schedule will be shown so one can coordinate with others who may accompany you to Jamestowne—Williamsburg, yet, may not be touring. For Wednesday Oct. 25, a group, not wanting to go to Spotsylvania Co. — may consider going 45 min. from Williamsburg, to tour around historic Richmond for the day, for example. Advise if you’ve interest in this kind of offering for Wednesday, Oct. 25th so it can be planned ahead of time.
- For more on your Graves line go to these **Graves Family Association** online sites lead by [Ken Graves](#).
<http://www.GravesFA.org/> . Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/gravesfa/> **Schedule on following pages ->**

QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, or SUGGESTIONS ? Contact the Organizers

Mike Graves in TX mdg440@yahoo.com 832-857-7815 . Steve Graves in FL sgraves@tampabay.rr.com 727-804-3399
 Deb Lowe in KY dalowe_1@yahoo.com 859-319-8012 . Pat Durda in AZ patdurda@gmail.com 602-999-3815

TUESDAY October 24, 2017

Some will begin arriving and gather in the evening at the Courtyard Marriott

Courtyard Marriott, 470 McLaws Circle, Williamsburg, VA (757) 221-0700

5:00pm onward Optional early check-in table near the entrance to the Bistro or lobby.

Perhaps you want to have dinner with other participants who have arrived — meet up here.

Courtyard Marriott's Bistro [menu](#): appetizers, soups, salads & sandwiches along with beverages including beer & wine. Additional nearby options include: [The Whaling Company](#) seafood, 0.1 miles; [The Sportsman's Grille](#) American, 0.2 miles; [Maurizio's Italian Restaurant](#) Italian, 0.5 miles; [Yorkshire Steak & Seafood](#) steakhouse, 2.0 miles

7:30–9:00pm In the Bistro — connect and socialize with those who have arrived. Bistro open 5pm-10pm.

Breakfast is offered in Bistro 6:30-9:30am \$7-\$9. Wed. tour(s) departs at 8:25am from the Courtyard Marriott.

WEDNESDAY October 25, 2017

Departs Courtyard Marriott at **8:25am** sharp

Optional Historical Tour to Spotsylvania Co. & also perhaps an alt. tour to Richmond

Breakfast on your own & finished before 8:15am. Breakfast is offered in the Bistro 6:30-9:30am \$7-\$9

Perhaps an alternate tour, 45 minutes to Richmond, for spouses etc. who are not going to Spotsylvania. Speak up now if interested, so we might make arrangements. We will then advise on this in September or before.

Spotsylvania Co., formed in 1721, had a mix of Graves lines in the 1700s. Local researchers are working for us to see if they can unearth, by October, more information and physical sites where they may have lived for us to visit.

Spotsylvania Co. Tour 8:25am Depart Courtyard Marriott toward Spotsylvania Co. Depending on the number of persons who have indicated in advance their desire to go on this tour, a commercial vehicle may be arranged. So speak up in advance that you want to go and would like the commercial vehicle (16 passenger van to an over-the-road coach). You may drive your own vehicle if you wish. 1 hour 30 minute trip to first stop—Springfield House and Farm near Bumpass, VA (Bump-us). How are we traveling? - see "Transport" on the earlier page of information.

10:00am-11:15am Arrive *Springfield Farm* on Rt. 601 Greenes Corner Rd. ~2.5 miles north of Bumpass, VA in Louisa Co. VA. Springfield Farm was approximately 400 acres when purchased in 1735 by Thomas Graves of Spotsylvania Co. (1691–1767). The two story L-shaped *Springfield* house still stands, built in phases, certainly before the Civil War. Its origins are uncertain; it perhaps includes part of an embedded log cabin. Graves also built a mill and mill house a half mile north on the northern perimeter of the property at the mouth of Little Rocky Creek where it connects to North Anna River which serves as the border between Spotsylvania Co. and Louisa counties. Thomas and brother John, it is said, routinely bought land in nearby counties, built a mill, and sold off the mills.

12:00-12:55pm Lunch at [Butternut & Blue Bistro & Bakery](#) 7610 Heths Salient Street #104, Spotsylvania, VA.

1:00-2:00pm [Spotsylvania County Museum](#) two blocks away at 9019 Old Battlefield Blvd. Spotsylvania, VA. Museum viewing and presentation by Curator, Terry Dougherty relative to life in early Spotsylvania Co. 1721-1800.

2:30-4:00pm Connection with [Fredericksburg Regional Genealogical Society's](#) President, Bob Epp. This maybe either, Graves related stops, if discovered by October or visit the [Fredericksburg Battlefield](#) at the Stonewall site.

4:00-5:30pm Return to Williamsburg's Courtyard Marriott.

5:30pm onward at Courtyard Marriott. 470 McLaws Circle, Williamsburg, VA (757) 221-0700 Check-in for the gathering, near the entrance to the Bistro. Consider dinner with other participants who have arrived.

Courtyard Marriott's Bistro [menu](#): appetizers, soups, salads & sandwiches along with beverages including beer & wine. Other nearby options include: [The Whaling Company](#) seafood, 0.1 miles; [The Sportsman's Grille](#) American, 0.2 miles; [Maurizio's Italian Restaurant](#) Italian, 0.5 miles; [Yorkshire Steak & Seafood](#) steakhouse, 2.0 miles

7:30–10:00pm Informal gathering at the Courtyard Marriott Bistro and lobby.

Breakfast is offered in the Bistro 6:30-9:30am \$7-\$9. Thurs. touring departs at 8:45am from Courtyard Marriott.

THURSDAY October 26, 2017

Depart Courtyard Marriott at **8:30am sharp**

Historic Jamestowne, the real deal, and the, brought to life, Jamestown Settlement

Breakfast on your own & finished before 8:20am. Breakfast is offered in the Courtyard's Bistro 6:30-9:30am \$7-\$9

8:30am Depart for Historic Jamestowne Visitor Center, 1368 Colonial Pkwy, Jamestown, VA 10 miles/18 min.

9:00-11:30am [Historic Jamestowne](#), the actual location of the first successful English colony in America with Fort James, digs of today, etc. Tour by Mark Summers of *Preservation Virginia* (90 min.) plus additional self-touring. Visit with the *Jamestown Rediscovery* archaeologists and ask them about their latest excavations in front of you. The 1907 Memorial Church, with its historic foundations and informative plaques, is a nice space to contemplate the beginning of English representative democracy in North America. Step inside the Archaearium, a museum that houses some of the most spectacular finds of the two million artifacts uncovered since the *Jamestown Rediscovery* Project began in 1994. Capt. Thomas Graves distinguished himself as a leader here from 1608.

11:30-12:45pm Lunch there at the [Dale House Café](#), inside or outside, with the best view of the James River for miles in either direction! Then back to the cars to go "next door", 5 minutes (1.5 miles), to Jamestown Settlement.

1:00-3:00 Touring [Jamestown Settlement](#) brings to life—through film, gallery exhibits and outdoor living history — the world of Jamestowne, America's first permanent English colony. Jamestown Settlement was created in 1957 as Jamestown Festival Park for the 350th anniversary celebration. It includes replicas of English and Indian settlements as well as the ships that brought the settlers and supplies from and back to Europe.

3:30-4:15pm Visit to area of St Mary's Church, [Sandy Point](#) and [Smythe's Hundred](#), a settlement for which [Capt. Thomas Graves](#) was one of two representatives to the first House of Burgesses in 1619. Back at Courtyard 4:45pm

Dinner: with numbers known, will arrange a spot where we can dine and discuss Graves family history.

FRIDAY October 27, 2017

Depart Courtyard Marriott at **8:30am sharp**

Eastern Shore where Capt. Thomas Graves relocated, Hungars Church, Custis site, ++

Breakfast on your own & finished before 8:20am. Breakfast offered in the Courtyard's Bistro 6:30-9:30am \$7-\$9

8:30am Depart south to [St. John's Episcopal Church](#) in Hampton estb. 1610—most cherished possession is the communion silver made in London 1618 for St Mary's Church Smythe's Hundred. Virginia's Eastern Shore where Capt. Thomas Graves relocated over time, owned land, died in 1635/36, and was buried. Travel south to Norfolk and north toward Cape Charles—travel is 1 hour 15 minutes. Eastern Shore Historian Vaughn Baker has been invited to share his 40 years of research which includes Capt. Thomas Graves' English and Irish connections.

- Lunch—Cape Charles [The Shanty](#) or [Kelly's Gingernut Pub](#)
- [Hungars Episcopal Church](#) at Machipongo VA 20 min. from lunch Capt. Thomas and family involved
- [John Custis Tomb](#), and site of mansion & plantation 2157 Arlington Chase Rd, Cape Charles, VA History to be shared by descendant, Dennis Custis. 25 min. back south from Hungars Church.
- Capt. Thomas Graves' believed-to-be burial site area Then 1:45 min. back to Courtyard Marriott.

SATURDAY October 28, 2017

Depart Courtyard Marriott 9:45am or as you wish

Colonial Williamsburg— the famous 301 acre living history museum on colonial life

Breakfast on your own. Breakfast is offered in the Courtyard's Bistro 6:30-9:30am \$7-\$9

Depart 9:45am * For those who wish to go and tour as a group to Colonial Williamsburg (open 9am-5pm) depart Courtyard Marriott for the 10 minute car ride to the Colonial Williamsburg Visitor Center. **We will meet at the Visitor Center 10am** for those wishing to connect there then. Some may go earlier /later, touring on their own.

10:00am Touring [Colonial Williamsburg](#), which is 4 miles / 10 minutes up the road from Courtyard Marriott, at 101 Visitor Center Drive 1-888-965-7254. Open 9am-5pm. There is plenty to do and see—a full day for sure!

Dinner with Your Cousins—when we know the number of participants we will advise on dinner arrangements. ●