

Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation

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November 17, 2017



An Agency of the
Commonwealth of Virginia

Accredited by the
American Alliance
of Museums

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Megan Clark
Town Manager
For the Attention of The Mayor and Council of Boonsboro, MD
Boonsboro Town Hall
21 North Main Street
Boonsboro, Maryland 21713

Dear Ms. Clark:

The Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, an agency of the Commonwealth of Virginia, with the support of its private affiliate, Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, Inc., would like to request the loan of an artifact from The Mayor and Council of Boonsboro, Maryland for a special exhibition, *Blast from the Past: Artillery in the War of Independence*. The exhibition will run from June 1, 2018 through January 5, 2019 at the new American Revolution Museum at Yorktown. Presented in a 5,000 square-foot gallery, the exhibition will explore how improved technology and scientific knowledge regarding artillery production and use in Britain, France, and the American Colonies impacted the outcome of the Siege of Yorktown.

In support of our very special exhibition, we would like to borrow the **Mount Aetna Revolutionary War Cannon** in Boonsboro's Shafer Park. In the mid-late 18th century, an artillery revolution swept through the Western world, which was brought on by the use of science and mathematics to better expand and utilize artillery systems. France and Britain instituted standardized mass production systems for gun founding. The American Colonies soon followed suit and, under General Henry Knox's guidance, established a national department to procure and help streamline the production of ordnance. Throughout the colonies, local foundries harnessed new technology, previously pioneered in Europe, to produce guns capable of countering the British threat. The cannon that we are requesting was successfully cast at the Mount Aetna furnace and will be displayed next to another Mount Aetna cannon that was an unsuccessful casting, thus illustrating to our visitors how American iron founders learned the art of cannon casting. Furthermore, by exhibiting the cannon we hope to convey that the American Colonies' nascent artillery system was borne out of their resourcefulness and determination to gain independence.

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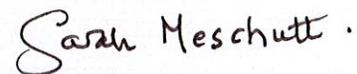
educating • interpreting • preserving • commemorating

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The town of Boonsboro would join a list of internationally-recognized institutions that have entrusted their artifacts to the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation's American Alliance of Museums (AAM)-accredited museums, such as the Royal Armouries, The Society of the Cincinnati, George Washington's Mount Vernon, Harvard Art Museums, and the Smithsonian Institution. Should our loan request meet with your approval, we would like to propose a loan period inclusive of the exhibition's dates as well as the additional time needed for conservation, mount-making, installation, and loan return. When the loan is agreed to in principle, we recommend that an on-site condition assessment should be made of the cannon by a conservator selected by us at our expense. The intent of this is to establish the extent of conservation treatment needed, if any, in order to prepare the cannon for exhibition. If the conservator recommends conservation treatment, he or she will provide a written conservation treatment proposal which would need to be approved by the Mayor and Council of Boonsboro prior to treatment commencing. Depending on the extent of the treatment necessary, the Maryland Archaeological Conservation Lab, which is currently conserving another cannon for the exhibit, may be a possible site for treatment of your cannon. The Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, Inc. will be responsible for all approved and requisite expenses associated with the loan, including any expenses related to the cannon's conservation. As an agency of the Commonwealth of Virginia, we are able to provide "wall-to-wall," "all-risks" insurance coverage for artifacts on loan to us through the state's fine arts insurance program with Willis Towers Watson. Enclosed you will find a copy of the American Revolution Museum at Yorktown's AAM General Facility Report, which describes our facilities and capacities to care for your artifact.

Thank you for considering our loan request. If you have any questions, please contact me at sarah.meschutt@jyf.virginia.gov, or Registrar Jane Hohensee at jane.hohensee@jyf.virginia.gov.

Sincerely yours,



Sarah Meschutt, Ph.D.
Senior Curator

SCM/mwk

Enclosures