



**Williamsburg**, was originally named Middle Plantation, a 1632 fortified settlement located on high ground on the Peninsula between the James and York rivers, it was renamed Williamsburg after the capital of the Virginia Colony was moved there from Jamestown in 1698. The town received a royal charter as a city in 1722, and was the center of political events in Virginia leading to the American Revolution.

Williamsburg is well-known for Colonial Williamsburg, the restored Historic Area of the city, and for the adjacent College of William & Mary, established in 1693, the second-oldest university in the United States. Nearby, and established in 1770, the predecessor of the current Eastern State Hospital is considered to have been the earliest mental hospital in the United States.

The Historic Triangle of Virginia, which also includes Jamestown and Yorktown, is among the most popular tourist destinations in the world, with Williamsburg located in the center.

## THE HISTORIC TRIANGLE STORY

The Historic Triangle gave birth to the United States, and a huge nation grew from a tiny place in Virginia. In that same tiny place, Europeans, American Indians, and Africans first lived together and became the seed of the American people. The first permanent English settlers sent by the Virginia Company of London were at Jamestown.

The ideas of revolution were fanned at Williamsburg.  
Independence was won in the final victor at Yorktown.

Representative self-government started in the Historic Triangle, as did civilian control of the military and the right to private ownership of property. If even one of those concepts, any one, had been missing, the United States would be a completely different place.



It might not even be the United States.

At times before independence, the Dutch were to the north,  
the Spanish to the south, and the French to the north and west.

If the Jamestown settlers had given up or the revolutionaries in Williamsburg been less intent or the British had won at Yorktown, what nation might have moved in?

The citizens would not necessarily be better or worse off, but they would be different.

Europeans, American Indians and Africans met each other here. It was not an equal meeting. Europeans enslaved Africans and killed and displaced Indians. Four hundred years later, the United States is still trying to deal with the results of all that began in the Historic Triangle.

*Extracts from Wikipedia & [www.historictriangle.com/historicTriangle](http://www.historictriangle.com/historicTriangle).*