



# The History Behind the Vision



The Battle of Great Bridge, December 9, 1775, played a critical role in the Revolutionary War and the subsequent creation of our great nation. It was this patriot victory that forced Lord Dunmore, British Royal Governor of Virginia, and his soldiers to evacuate and ultimately leave Virginia. As a direct result of this victory, four days after this crucial battle The Virginia Convention adopted the first public declaration expressing a spirit of independence. How different our country might be, had it not been for the Battle of Great Bridge and the significant contributions of our waterways.

## *The Great Bridge Battlefield & Waterways History Foundation*

is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the preservation and presentation of the historical significance of the Battle of Great Bridge, the Albemarle & Chesapeake Canal and the Dismal Swamp Canal.



## Impact Your Community... Make a Difference

### Membership Opportunities

**Lifetime Charter Membership...** With a one-time contribution of \$1,000 you will receive:

- ❖ Free, unlimited Visitor Center admission
- ❖ Discount in Visitor Center gift shop
- ❖ Discount for lectures and selected ticketed events
- ❖ Patriot newsletter delivered to your door quarterly
- ❖ Email updates with special news and events
- ❖ Invitation to exhibit previews

\*Lifetime membership benefits are available to all family members living under the same household.

**Annual Patriot Membership...** Our annual \$20 membership includes a membership pin, quarterly newsletters, events.

### Sponsorship Opportunities

Sponsorships bring our signature events to life. With your help, these events will continue to grow and thrive, attracting statewide and national visitors to Chesapeake.

### Dedication & Naming Opportunities

Leave a legacy for generations to come. Name a room in the Visitor Center, or a bench or picnic table in the Historic Park. Name a seat in the auditorium. The possibilities are endless. Please contact the Foundation office for assistance.

### Bequests & Endowments

Be part of the continued success of the Visitor Center and Historic Park for generations to come – consider giving an endowment gift or leave a bequest.

*Each of these gift opportunities represents a chance to preserve and better your community and represent you and your business as a charitable leader in the area. No matter the size of your company, or the industry you represent, there is a place for everyone in this essential mission.*

## Tourism Development



- Heritage Tourism, as evidenced by the annual report for 2010, is a direct product of historic preservation, which is the basis of this project.
- First-time Heritage Tourism visitors are Historic Preservation Visitors. They represent 15% of the \$18.89 billion spent by travelers in Virginia annually.
- The Great Bridge Locks had an average of 13,792 vessels traveling through *every year* for the last 29 years.

**Capturing these tourism dollars is key  
to the continued development and  
economic vitality of our region.**

\*All Statistics according to the Army Corps of Engineers and the Virginia Department of Economic Development, Division of Tourism



The Rose of Nelson batteau went through the Great Bridge Locks in October 2011.