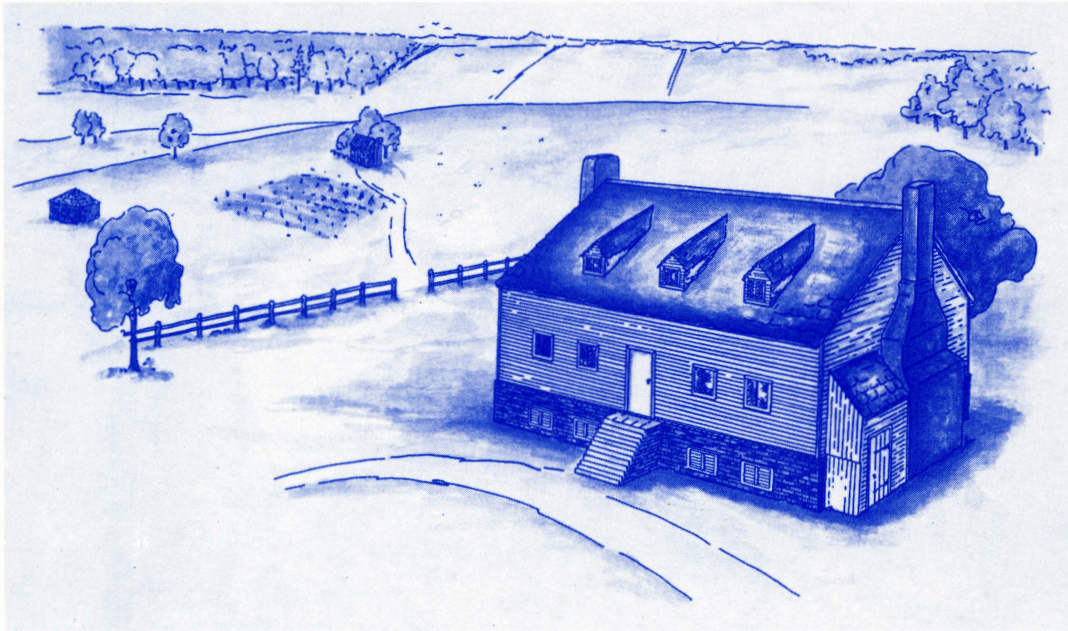


Donald W. Linebaugh



# Kippax Plantation:

*Traders, Merchants, and Planters*

An Exhibit Celebrating the Families of Pocahontas



Donald W. Linebaugh

**KIPPAX PLANTATION:**  
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Supported by a grant from the Virginia Foundation  
for the Humanities and Public Policy  
with additional support from Myra Birchett Butterworth

CENTER FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH  
The College of William and Mary  
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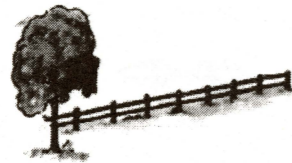
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**COVER:** *Conjectural Drawing of the Kippax Plantation House and Outbuildings.* This drawing is based on the archaeological evidence from the excavations at Kippax and on other excavated examples of dwelling houses in Tidewater Virginia. (Drawn by Toni Gregg, 1990; Watercolor by Joseph Gilley)

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Donald W. Linebaugh, Co-Director of the William and Mary Center for Archaeological Research, has served as project director for the Kippax Plantation archaeological project since 1982, and is the curator of this exhibit. Mr. Linebaugh was assisted in the research by former student Ronald W. Fuchs II. Center Co-Director Dennis B. Blanton provided expertise and advice on the Native-American component of the project. David W. Lewes served as the graphics production editor, and assisted in mounting the exhibit. Deborah L. Davenport has served as artifact analyst and curator for the project and assisted in preparing materials for the exhibit. Anita Watkins, the Center's fiscal administrator, has provided invaluable assistance in managing this entire project. Dr. Norman Barka, Professor of Anthropology, The College of William and Mary; Dr. Marley Brown, Director, Department of Archaeological Research, The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation; and Dennis Blanton, Co-Director, Center for Archaeological Research, The College of William and Mary, have served on the advisory board and offered valuable assistance.

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The descendants of Stephen V. and Mary Mikuska Heretick  
Department of Historic Resources  
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Donald W. Linebaugh  
Williamsburg, Virginia  
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## Introduction

This exhibit is the result of an ongoing interdisciplinary study of the Kippax Plantation site. This project has brought together historians, archaeologists, and architectural historians to research the evolution of Kippax's social, economic, and political ties. Established in the late 17th century as the home of merchant, trader, and land speculator Robert Bolling and his wife Jane, the granddaughter of Pocahontas, the site has served as the headquarters for the Bollings's early business dealings, a successful agricultural plantation for the family of Theodorick Bland, and finally a small farmstead occupied by the family of Joshua Poythress.

Kippax Plantation is located east of the Appomattox River in the southern portion of the City of Hopewell. Unlike many of the James River plantations, Kippax has no above-ground evidence of its previous existence. The present 10-acre site, first known as Kippax and later as Farmingdell, has been occupied from the prehistoric Archaic period (8000 BC) to the present.

The current research project started in 1980, when graduate students from the College of William and Mary's program in historical archaeology visited the site and initiated the first controlled excavations. This group located a root cellar or outbuilding foundation filled in the mid-18th century. In 1986, a small root cellar, thought to be the location of the slave quarter, was identified and excavated. A large brick house foundation, possibly the main house used by the Bollings and Blands, was discovered in 1987.

This exhibit comes at an important time in our study of the early Chesapeake culture, when the degree of interaction and interdependence of the Native-, European-, and African-American communities is just beginning to be realized. It contributes to this dialogue while telling a story often left untold: that of the lives and families of Pocahontas's descendants. Historian Grace Steele Woodward has noted that

*though Thomas [Rolfe] visited among the Powhatans, he preferred English life and participated in colonial rather than Indian affairs. He married an Englishwoman, Jane Poythress, and from their union descended seven successive generations of educators, ministers, statesmen, and lawmakers, among whom were the Blairs, the Bollings, the Lewises, and the Randolphs .... Thus, through her son and his descendants, Pocahontas lived on in American history.<sup>1</sup>*

During 1995, many exhibits and projects are celebrating the 400th anniversary of Pocahontas's birth. However, few have highlighted her family and descendants, and the mixing of the Native and European cultures that they represent.

## The Plantation in our Memory

Our collective memory of the development of society in the early Chesapeake has long been shaped by images of those great brick houses along the James: Westover, Berkeley, or Shirley. This popular view of the plantation, the big house, honor-bound master and family, and thankful, happy slaves producing fields of tobacco, was introduced during the first half of the 19th century and was revived and expanded during the last decades of the century.

The literary plantation created by writers like John Pendleton Kennedy, William Alexander Caruthers, or Nathaniel Beverly Tucker in the early 19th century was a complex economic and social entity; Tidewater planters and their lives



Westover Plantation, Charles City County

The main house at Westover, home of Robert Bolling's friend William Byrd II, was constructed ca. 1750. Westover is another of the large brick plantation houses along the James River that conjure up images of the plantation legend.

(Photograph by Willie Graham)