

## History Abounds at Chelsea Plantation

During the Revolutionary War, General Lafayette encamped there during the campaign of 1781, just before the Battle of Yorktown where he defeated Cornwallis.

Robert E. Lee's grandmother was both born and married there.

Thomas Jefferson attended the wedding of his best friend Dr. John Walker at Chelsea.

The Knights of the Golden Horseshoe was formed at Chelsea by Governor Spottswood.

George Washington stopped at Chelsea on his Burgess Route on his way from Fredericksburg to Williamsburg.

Captain John Smith passed by the site of Chelsea on his way to Chief Powhatan at Werewocomoco when he was taken captive.



Rich soils provide fertile fields for farming



Since 1990, the Williamsburg Land Conservancy has been protecting and preserving significant natural, scenic, agricultural and historic land in the lower James and York River watersheds. The Conservancy ended 2012 with about 5,000 acres permanently protected. With 30 easements and 4 parcels of land owned fee-simple, the Conservancy's holdings span from King William County to Suffolk.

The organization is stronger than ever! We are grateful to the members of the Stewards of the Land Society for their commitment and generosity that have played a significant role to help the Conservancy prosper and grow.

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*Williamsburg Land  
Conservancy*

## *Historic Chelsea*



*Land Forever Protected*

## About Chelsea Plantation

Situated on the shores of the



The property contains wetlands, woodlands, marshlands.

Mattaponi River in King William County, Chelsea Plantation is owned by William W. Richardson, III. In 2012, Mr. Richardson worked with the Williamsburg Land Conser-

vancy to protect his homestead in perpetuity. Chelsea Plantation was built in 1709 by Colonel Augustine Moore, a socially and politically well-connected gentleman and a highly successful tobacco entrepreneur in the Tidewater area.

### 568 Acres Conserved

The property contains prime agricultural soils and is farmed. There are numerous springs, marsh, small wetlands and streams. The land is home to extensive wildlife and plant species and contains mature forest.

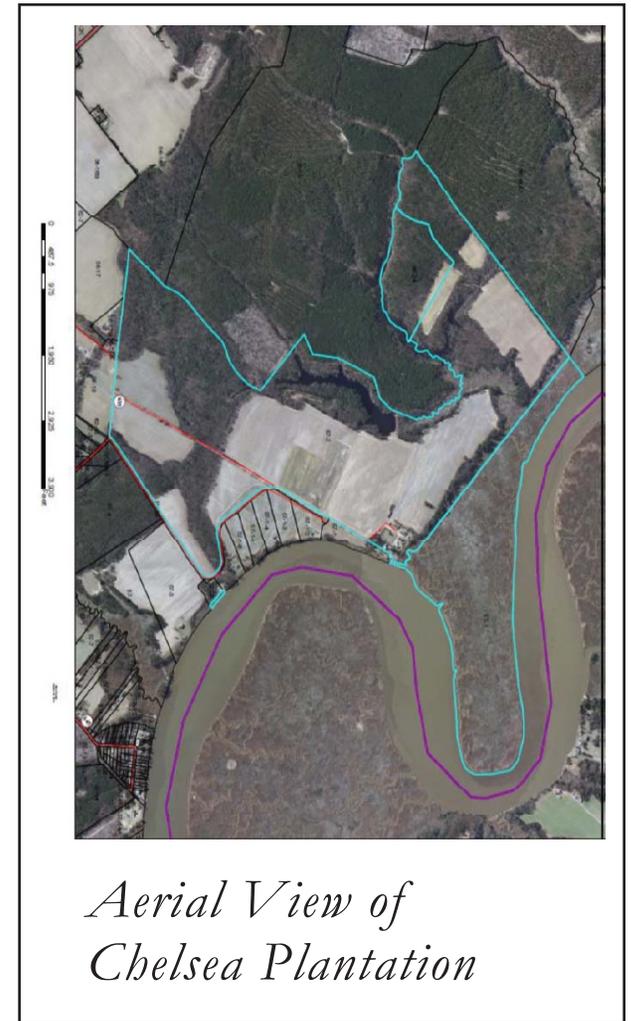
“Ensuring that Chelsea Plantation would be preserved for the generations to come was paramount to me and my family,” said Mr. Richardson. “We take great pride in knowing that the protection of this land through a conservation easement will forever preserve an important piece of Virginia’s history,” he continued.

The grounds surrounding the historic home encompass nearly five acres of lawn with extensive English Boxwood gardens overlooking the Mattaponi River. The house is listed on the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Historic Registry. The surrounding curtilage includes historic



The old barn still stands proudly as part of the plantation.

buildings such as a schoolhouse, smokehouse, kitchen, seed building, milking parlor, a barn with two silos and a wash house.



*Aerial View of  
Chelsea Plantation*