

Dr. William M. Kelso

For more than 30 years before he became director of archaeology for the APVA *Jamestown Rediscovery* archaeological project, Dr. William M. Kelso built a reputation as one of America's foremost historical archaeologists in Early American history. He has served as director of archaeology at Colonial Williamsburg's Carter's Grove, Monticello and Poplar Forest. He was also commissioner of archaeology for the Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission.

In 1993, he left Monticello and persuaded the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities (APVA) to hire him to find James Fort, on Jamestown Island, Virginia. Coincidentally, the APVA was embarking on its second century of service and wanted to make a significant contribution to the 400th anniversary in 2007 of the founding of Jamestown. In a major shift away from past policies, the APVA Board of Trustees decided to launch a ten-year archaeological search for James Fort with Kelso at the helm. Until then, the APVA had largely discouraged excavations on their land and advocated not disturbing the "hallowed" ground.

The excavation began in 1994, and by 1996, Kelso and a small staff of archaeologists had enough evidence to announce that they had discovered the remains of James Fort, dispelling the long-held belief that the fort was lost to the James River.

A native of Ohio, he received a B.A. in history from Baldwin-Wallace College and a master's degree in history from the College of William & Mary. He remained in the Williamsburg area as a seasonal archaeologist with Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. Kelso later completed his doctoral dissertation on the excavation of a plantation in Savannah for the Georgia Historical Commission and received his Ph.D. from Emory University.

Kelso has lectured throughout the U.S. and Europe and has authored or contributed to numerous books and articles on archaeology including *Jamestown Rediscovery I-VIII*, Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities, Richmond; *Kingsmill Plantations: Archaeology of Country Life in Colonial Virginia*, Academic Press Inc., San Diego; *Archaeology of Thomas Jefferson's Monticello: Artifacts of Everyday Life in the Plantation Community*, Monticello Monograph Series, Thomas Jefferson Memorial Foundation, Inc., Charlottesville

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