

RARE BREEDS AND RANDOLPH STABLE PROJECT

> *There are approximately 150 animals in our Rare Breeds program.*



The Rare Breeds program, which began in 1986 to preserve breeds that could have been present in Williamsburg in the 18th century, provides access to these animals that offer perspectives and sensory experiences that the spoken word cannot.

The Rare Breed and Randolph Stable Project



Above: Valiant, a Cleveland Bay foal, walks in a pasture with his mother, Fudge.

Below: Coach & Livestock's Darin Durham harrows the land at Ewing Field using a team of Milking Shorthorn oxen.

By providing interpreters with a horse, a cow or a sheep, we help them tell their stories.

Colonial Williamsburg's mission, *That the future may learn from the past*, will be greatly advanced through the reconstruction of the Randolph Stable. This project will complete the grounds of the Randolph House to more broadly interpret the site and provide a place for guests to interact with and learn about the approximately 150 animals in Colonial Williamsburg's Rare Breeds program.

Many guests who visit the Historic Area can point to specific experiences that became formative moments in their lives. Animals in our pastures and streets transport guests to another time, playing a major role in the interpretation of life in the 18th century.

The Rare Breeds program, which began in 1986 to preserve breeds that could have been present in Williamsburg in the 18th century, provides access to these animals that offer perspectives and sensory

experiences that the spoken word cannot. Included are Cleveland Bays, endangered horses whose numbers today include only about 500 purebred worldwide and just over 220 in the United States; Leicester Longwool sheep; oxen; American Milking Devon cattle; and Dominique chickens.

Gifts toward the reconstruction of the Randolph Stable will allow us to examine what we believe to be the site of the stable on North England Street, based on the location detailed in the Frenchman's Map. Drawing on archaeological research, we plan to recreate the stables and secure support for staff who care for animals in the Rare Breeds program while interpreting the site for our guests.

Investments will allow us to develop the stables, hire additional staff and secure resources for the care and feeding of the animals. These investments also will support our ability to more fully integrate animals into Historic Area programming. For example, by providing interpreters with a horse, a cow or a sheep, we will help them tell their stories.

The Randolph Stable and the site as a whole represent a broad cross section of life in 18th-century Williamsburg, not just the animals, but the people — enslaved and free — who lived at the property and were responsible for many aspects of its operation. Reconstructing the stables will give us an enormous opportunity to engage guests with many different perspectives and forge unforgettable experiences only possible in Colonial Williamsburg's Historic Area.

