

Historic Christ Church & Museum Readers

2019 Book Selections & Schedule

May 21, 2019 ***Jamestown, the Truth Revealed* by William M. Kelso**

What was life really like for the band of adventurers who first set foot on the banks of the James River in 1607? The written records are scarce, ambiguous, and often conflicting. Kelso takes us literally to the soil where the Jamestown colony began, unearthing footprints of a series of structures, beginning with the James Fort, to reveal fascinating evidence of the lives and deaths of the first settlers, of their endeavors and struggles, and new insight into their relationships with the Virginia Indians. He offers up a lively but fact-based account, framed around a narrative of the archaeological team's exciting discoveries. He also recounts how researchers confirmed the practice of survival cannibalism in the colony following the recovery from an abandoned cellar of the cleaver-scarred remains of a young English girl. CT scanning and computer graphics have even allowed researchers to put a face on this victim of the brutal winter of 1609–10, a period that has come to be known as the 'starving time.'

July 16, 2019 ***Jefferson's Daughters: Three Sisters, White and Black, in a Young America* by Catherine Kerrison**

Thomas Jefferson had three daughters: Martha and Maria by his wife, Martha Wayles Jefferson, and Harriet by his slave Sally Hemings. For this groundbreaking biography, Catherine Kerrison, a scholar of early American and women's history, uncovered never-before-published documents written by the Jefferson sisters when they were in their teens, as well as letters written by members of the Jefferson and Hemings families. She interviewed Hemings family descendants (and, with their cooperation, initiated DNA testing) and searched for descendants of Harriet Hemings. The book recounts the remarkable journey of these women and how their struggle to define themselves reflects both the possibilities and the limitations that resulted from the American Revolution.

September 17, 2019 ***When the Moon Has No More Silver (1610-1620)* by Connie Lapallo**

The second book in Lapallo's 'Jamestown Sky' series is based on the true story of the women and children who ventured to early Virginia. The women of Jamestown have survived a hurricane at sea, the 'starving time', and Indian wars. Now, when Sir Thomas Dale arrives at the settlement, the women little know that Dale's fear of Spanish attack and desire to keep the colony alive will drive them all to the brink of physical and emotional collapse. Then, a Spanish warship in the Bay brings everyone's worst fears to fruition. And the women of Jamestown will face floggings and childbirth, moldy foods and censorship, contagion and betrayal from within their own Governor's house. After eleven years in the colony, these women will learn that Virginia – still – is a very wild place.

November 19, 2019 ***Thomas Jefferson's Crème Brûlée: How a Founding Father and His Slave James Hemings Introduced French Cuisine to America* by Thomas Craughwell**

This culinary biography recounts the 1784 deal that Thomas Jefferson struck with his slave, James Hemings. Traveling to Paris, Jefferson wanted to bring James along 'for a particular purpose' — to master the art of French cooking. In exchange for James's cooperation, Jefferson would grant his freedom. Thus began one of the strangest partnerships in United States history. As Hemings apprenticed under master French chefs, Jefferson studied the cultivation of French crops (especially grapes for winemaking) so they might be replicated in American agriculture. The two men returned home with such marvels as pasta, French fries, Champagne, macaroni and cheese, crème brûlée, and a host of other treats. This narrative history tells the story of their remarkable adventure — and includes a few of their favorite recipes.

Meetings: Research Library in the Carter Center at 9:30 a.m.

Free & Open to the Public

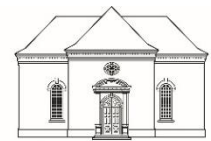
*** Books may be purchased at [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) or [Alibris.com](https://www.alibris.com)**

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