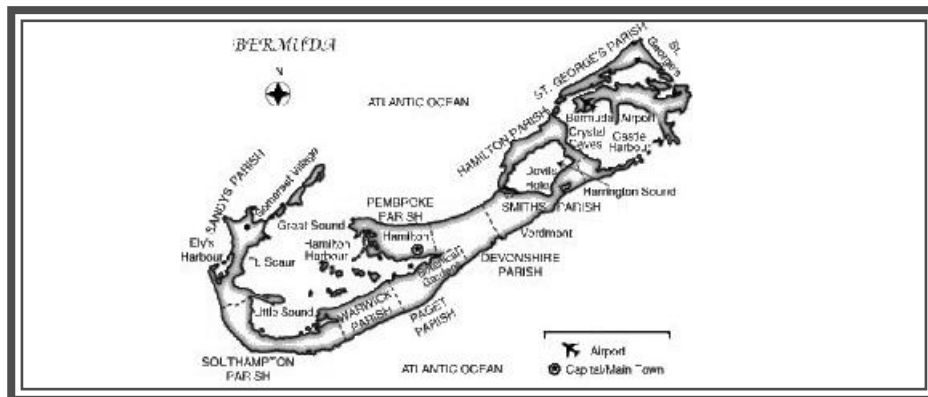




The Victorian Society in America
1634 Sansom Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103



"Welcome To Paradise"

A VSA Study Tour of Bermuda

Wednesday, October 15 through Saturday, October 18, 2008

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An hour or so off the coast of North Carolina, Bermuda is a little slice of paradise. Only 21 square miles, Bermuda, or "The Rock" as locals call it, has much to offer the visitor.

Located in turquoise seas in the Atlantic Ocean, Bermuda is not part of the Caribbean and the temperatures get to be a quite chilly 60 degrees in the middle of winter!

Economically, the population has the highest per capita income in the world. The people are friendly and polite and tourists are welcomed with open arms. Because Bermuda is so small, almost everything is imported from the USA, Canada and the UK. This means everything is more expensive than it would be on the mainland, and prices must be looked at in this light. As the Bermudian dollar is linked to the U.S. dollar, prices there are what they appear to be, and U.S. dollars are accepted as legal tender on the island.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2008

Cocktail reception

Dinner

Speaker

6:00 PM Opening Reception and dinner at the Hibiscus Room South at the Grotto Bay Resort

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2008

Breakfast on your own

Lunch included

Dinner on your own

St. George

St. George, located on the island and within the parish of the same name, was the first permanent settlement on the island of Bermuda, and was the third successful English settlement in the Americas, after St. John's, Newfoundland and Jamestown, Virginia. Today it is the oldest continuously inhabited English settlement in the New World.

St. George was first settled in 1612, three years after the first English settlers in Bermuda, who had been on their way to Virginia, landed on St. George's Island after the deliberate driving of their ship, the Sea Venture, onto a reef. They were led by Admiral Sir George Somers and Lieutenant-General Sir Thomas Gates. The survivors built two new ships, and most then continued their voyage to Jamestown, but the Virginia Company laid claim to the island. Several men remained behind, maintaining the company's possession of the archipelago (Bermuda is comprised of more than one island.) The boundaries of Virginia were officially extended far enough out to sea to include Bermuda by the Virginia Company's Third

Charter in 1612. The company then sent a party of 60 new settlers to Bermuda to join the three men left behind by the Sea Venture, who, after a brief period on neighboring St. David's, commenced construction of St. George, located in a sheltered sound that kept ships protected from bad weather. In 1615, the shareholders of the Virginia Company created a second company, the Somers Isles Company, which administered Bermuda separately until its dissolution in 1684 (the Virginia Company itself was dissolved in 1622).

This small town has considerable historical importance. Not only did it play a pivotal role in Bermuda's history (it was the capital until 1815), but it also helped shape that of the United States as well. Ten-thousand Bermudians emigrated, primarily to Virginia and the American South-East before US independence closed the door. Branches of wealthy Bermudian merchant families dominated trade in the area's ports. Bermudians settled towns in the area, and contributed greatly to the make up of the populations of several US states. As Bermuda's population center, and only real port throughout this period, St. George factored considerably in Bermuda's contribution to US development. During the American War of Independence, Bermudians stole much-needed gunpowder from a magazine, which supplied neighboring forts protecting St. George, and then smuggled it out of Tobacco Bay (over the hill from St. George) to George Washington. They also probably prolonged the American Civil War by ferrying supplies and munitions to the desperate Confederates, a trade that was based in St. George. Today, St. George remains basically untouched by the economic boom that has shaped the capital, Hamilton. Most of its buildings were constructed in the 17th to 19th centuries, and the authorities have made a deliberate effort both to prevent development and to hide any signs of later changes, so narrow streets such as Barber's Alley and Aunt Peggy's Lane remain just as they were centuries ago.

St. George is no sterile relic, however, and its historic buildings function not only as museums but also as houses, restaurants, pubs and shops.

We will have a walking tour of Old Town, including Unfinished Church, St. Peter's, Austen House, Confederate and Tucker House, and shopping if time permits.

Following lunch in the square we will visit the Vermont Museum.

Built circa 1710, the **Vermont Museum** is the flagship of all the properties owned by the Bermuda National Trust. The Georgian-style house, with its 4 chimneys, was a private residence until it was sold to the trust in 1951. Its previous owners never had electricity or any other modern amenities installed, hence the house remains architecturally unchanged since its construction. In 2001 the Society of American Travel Writers awarded the Trust its prestigious Phoenix Award in recognition of their restoration work here.

The Vermont Museum is a treasure trove of antique cedar and mahogany furniture. There is a fine collection of English and Chinese porcelain on display, portraits of former residents and a children's playroom complete with original furniture and toys, as well as what is arguably the finest cedar staircase in Bermuda.

The house is set in pleasant gardens which offer panoramic hillside views of the ocean. The flowers and shrubs found here are typical of those grown in 18th century Bermuda.

Orange Valley - Orange Valley is a private property, not usually open to the public except on special occasions. Set in 15 acres of glorious woodland gardens and citrus orchards, it was built in 1802 by Bermudian sea captain William Cox, in an estate he owned since 1796. Six generations of the Cox family have occupied the house and the family's heritage has been carefully preserved by each, in a delightful old-fashioned style that has preserved all the original charm of the house. The house is furnished with handsome antique cedar and mahogany pieces and a lovely collection of Sevres porcelain. The house is reputed to have ghosts. There are fine marine paintings, English landscapes and family portraits. The well-tended grounds and interesting garden areas boast a croquet lawn and some of the oldest and most beautiful trees in Bermuda, including guava, palmetto, black ebony, mahogany, royal poinciana, Indian rubber and silk cotton.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2008

Breakfast on your own

Lunch included

Dinner on your own

Gibbs Hill Lighthouse - (external tour only, unless someone would like to climb 185 stairs). Gibbs Hill Lighthouse began its job on May 1, 1846 and has been flashing out its beam to seafaring men ever since first by the use of kerosene, and finally these days by electricity. In the decade before the lighthouse was constructed, a total of 39 vessels were wrecked off the Western end of the islands. Here the reefs extend some 16 miles or more out to sea. At the time of its construction in 1844, steel was not available for building purposes, so Gibbs Hill Lighthouse is one of the few in the world made of cast iron.

The lighthouse is built next to the Signal Station on Gibbs Hill, originally operated by the British Army. Oddly enough, the house occupied as the Signal Station was owned by a family of seafaring men who sailed through the dangerous reefs back in the 1700's without benefit of the warning light which now bears the family name. The hill on which the lighthouse stands is 245 feet high, while the structure itself measures 117 feet from base to light. Its beam of light runs 362 feet above sea level. Ships 40 miles away can see it. Its flash can be spotted by planes flying 10,000 feet 120 miles away, while the light itself can be seen on the horizon which is about 26 miles distant.

Fort Scaur - On the highest hill in Somerset, Fort Scaur was part of a ring of fortifications constructed in the 19th century, during a period of troubled relations between Britain and the United States. Intended as a last-ditch defense for the Royal Naval Dockyard, the fort was skillfully constructed, taking advantage of the land contours to camouflage its presence from detection at sea. The fort has subterranean passages and a dry moat that stretches across the land from Ely's Harbour to Great Sound. The fort sits on 22 acres of parkland filled with interesting trails, picnic areas, a rocky shoreline for fishing, and a public dock.

Heydon Chapel - A reminder of what the island was like in its early days, this blissfully peaceful 43-acre preserve remains an unspoiled open space, save for a few citrus groves and flower gardens. Pathways with park benches wind through it, affording some wonderful water view, and rustic Heydon Chapel lies on the main path. Built in the early 1600s, it is Bermuda's smallest church.

In order to gauge member participation in this trip an immediate 'good faith' deposit of \$200 – payable by check – is required. Space is limited so please respond quickly. This deposit will be refunded only in the event that the trip is canceled. And of course you may pay the entire registration fee at this time.

Nondenominational services featuring stirring Gregorian chants are still held in the single-room sanctuary Monday through Saturday at 3:00.

Royal Naval Cemetery - The Royal Navy purchased the land where the cemetery sits in 1809 and consecrated the ground in 1812. The cemetery grew in size and was open for burial to all until 1849 when convicts were excluded. Also known as "The Glade," it has memorials to many Royal Navy personnel from warships stationed here who died of the yellow fever that ravaged the British military in Bermuda during the mid-19th century. It also records the numerous accidents that befell the young servicemen in Bermuda, including deaths during World War 2 when Bermuda was a transit point in the Battle of the Atlantic.

Royal Naval Dockyard - With their defeat in the American War of Independence the British lost the use of the ports of its former colonies. To compensate, work began in 1809 at Bermuda's Ireland Island on the construction of the "Gibraltar of the West", the Royal Naval Dockyard. The work was carried out using both slaves and convicts shipped from England. Of 9,000 convicts shipped to Bermuda, approximately 2,000 perished during construction, many from yellow fever.

The Royal Naval Dockyard remained a major Atlantic outpost for the British Royal Navy until 1951, when most of the facility was closed, but a limited number of buildings and facilities remained opened for the support of British and NATO ships until complete closure in 1995.

Since then the location has been transformed into one of Bermuda's most popular tourist areas. The former Keep became the Bermuda Maritime Museum and Dolphin Quest, while the Royal Navy's administrative headquarters are now a shopping center, the Clocktower Mall. The Cooperage, originally used for making barrels, is now home to the Frog and Onion Pub, the Bermuda Art Centre, the Bermuda Craft Market and the Neptune Cinema. Buildings previously used for repair work now house the Bermuda Clayworks and Dockyard Glassworks.

Following **lunch at the Frog & Onion Pub** we will visit the Maritime Museum

The Keep - Separated from Dockyard proper by its massive bastions, the six-acre Keep is an enclave within an enclave. This enormous fortress, the largest in Bermuda, is the home of Bermuda Maritime Museum. Once the citadel of the Royal Naval Dockyard, the Keep was an arsenal and a proud symbol of British naval might, built to guard — in conjunction with other forts — the entire naval base against attack, whether by land or sea

The Keep's seven irregular bastions and ramparts, reinforced at intervals by casemated gun emplacements, were designed by the Royal Engineers to offer sweeping views of Bermuda and the Atlantic. The lower grounds of the Keep contain a level area carved out of the hillside ranged around by long stone Georgian magazines and workshops. Lighters dispatched from the Keep Pond served the fleet at anchor in Grassy Bay by transporting munitions between ships and the Keep stores, so that

ships were stocked with ammunition for combat, or conversely, safely empty of it while undergoing repair at the Dockyard.

Commissioner's House - Edward Holl, Chief Architect of the Royal Navy, designed this extraordinary structure in 1822, and construction was complete by 1827. Like the White House in Washington DC, it was intended as a combination of private quarters, ceremonial residence and administrative offices for a high state official — in this case, the civilian resident commissioner in overall charge of the Dockyard. The House was occupied by Dockyard Commissioners from 1827 to 1837 and was then turned over to the Army, which retained control of it until 1862. The House served as the Royal Marine Barracks from 1862 to 1914 and as married quarters and barracks for naval ratings during the First World War. In 1919, the Commissioner's House was formally commissioned as a ship, as per the naval tradition. The name HMS Malabar remained the Commissioner's House designation until 1951 at the closing of the Dockyard. Prior to this, during the Second World War, Commissioner's House served as Allied headquarters for North Atlantic submarine radio interception.

Commissioner's House was designed with cast iron replacing all structural wood, and was the first residential building in history to utilize cast-iron framing. The floor framing, truss work and verandah pillars are iron castings fabricated in England. Like many other Dockyard buildings, the walls of Commissioner's House are hard Bermuda limestone, which was quarried and shaped into blocks by convicts from Britain, and lesser numbers of local workers and slaves.

We will have some free time for relaxing and shopping before returning to the hotel.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2008

Breakfast on your own

Lunch included

Closing reception included

Dinner on your own

Bermuda Botanical Gardens - Originally opened in 1898, the Bermuda Botanical Gardens feature 36 acres of trees, flowers and shrubs — all of it clearly labeled. John Lennon visited the gardens in 1980 and named his subsequent album "Double Fantasy" after a flower he spotted here.

There's a palm garden featuring native palmetto trees, a flowering hibiscus garden, a rose garden, a frangipani collection, banyan trees and an enormous ficus tree. The Garden for the Sightless is a sensory garden designed primarily for the benefit of the blind. All the signs are in Braille and the garden abounds with fragrant flowers and aromatic herbs. There are several greenhouses filled with collections of cacti and orchids and the gardens also have an aviary.

Camden House - Nestling in the grounds of the Bermuda Botanical Gardens, Camden is typical of Bermudian architecture and is the official residence of the Premier of Bermuda, although the Bermuda Government pays for him to live elsewhere. It was first built in the early 1700's, and was purchased by Henry James Tucker in 1823, who began to produce arrowroot on a large scale in a factory at the back of the house. He initiated the appearance the property has today. The verandah, porch and bow windows in the dining room and drawing room were probably by his son, whose descendants sold the property to the Bermuda Government as an extension to the Botanical Gardens.

The present interior decor was undertaken by Lady Gibbons, wife of a former Premier, and Colin Cooke, then Chairman of the Properties Committee of the Bermuda National Trust. Their aim to achieve an air of "casual elegance" was realized.

Hamilton

Hamilton is the capital and vibrant heart of Bermuda. It is the home of most government offices and the majority of Bermuda's international businesses. Named after Henry Hamilton, Bermuda's Governor from 1788 to 1794, the plans for the town were laid out in 1790. By 1815 it had grown so much that Bermuda's capital was

VSA Fall Board Meeting: The VSA Fall Board meeting will take place all day Wednesday, October 15th in the Hibiscus Room East of the Grotto Bay Beach Resort. A cold lunch will be served. A detailed mailing will be sent to all Board members.

Event Hotel: The headquarters hotel is the Grotto Bay Beach Resort, 11 Blue Hole Hill, Bailey's Bay, Bermuda www.grottobay.com. The Society has reserved a block of rooms at a special rate of \$200.00 (\$224.50 including all taxes) single or double. You may also upgrade your reservation to include breakfast for an additional cost of ca. \$21.00/day. Please call 800-592-3190 to reserve and be sure to mention the VSA when you are making your reservation. **Hotel reservations must be made before September 12, 2008.**

Weather: Mid-October weather in Bermuda can be warm and humid, with average daytime temperatures of 80 degrees. Nights are cooler but never cold. There is always the possibility of showers so an umbrella is recommended.

Dress: Tasteful summer attire is fine. "Bermuda length" (i.e. knee or near knee length) shorts are acceptable for both women and men. Bermuda shorts with knee-length socks, a shirt and blazer are appropriate "dress" wear for men. Khakis are dressy enough for dinner but jeans are not. Ties are not necessary but gentlemen might want to bring a blazer for dinner.

Footwear: This study tour involves a considerable amount of walking, as tours on foot are important components of each day's activities, so it is important that you wear comfortable shoes.

Getting There: Many major airlines serve Bermuda, but most have only one or two flights per day, so be sure your flight will get you there in time for the opening reception. There is taxi service available at the Bermuda airport to get you to the Grotto Bay Resort. **We strongly suggest booking your flights as soon as possible as airfares will continue to rise.**

Special Note: ALL persons traveling by air between the U.S., Canada and Bermuda are required to present a passport to enter or re-enter the United States.

Registration Information: Study tour registration can be made via check (preferable), credit card or money order. Checks should be made payable to The Victorian Society in America. The Victorian Society in America is not responsible for accidents, injury or loss of personal items during this program. The Victorian Society in America reserves the right to make such changes to the schedule, sites to be visited, or personnel as may become necessary or desirable. Reservations are made on a first come, first served basis. **As this mailing has been sent via first class mail reservations will be taken immediately. RESERVE EARLY AS SPACE IS LIMITED.** Phone or fax reservations will ONLY be taken with a credit card payment at the time of reservation. Send your fax reservations to 215-636-9873.

Refunds: Refunds will only be given until September 15, 2008. A \$50.00 administrative fee will be deducted for each refund. After September 15, 2008 no refunds will be given.

If you think there's a chance that you will need to withdraw from this trip after you have paid, you may wish to consider buying trip insurance. Trip insurance protects you against unforeseen need to cancel a trip, and may also provide medical coverage while outside the US (which your existing medical insurance probably doesn't provide; it may also provide for emergency return to the US should you become seriously ill. Insurance can cover the VSA fee, your airfare and hotel costs. There are many providers of this kind of insurance: one place to look is www.insuremytrip.com, 800-487-4722. The VSA is providing this information purely as a service to you: we do not receive any compensation from any insurance organization.

relocated here from St George. Rather confusingly, Hamilton is actually in Pembroke Parish and not Hamilton Parish.

Front Street lines the dock and is Hamilton's main street and center of activity. Its pastel-painted Victorian Buildings are a haven for tax-free shops selling everything from perfumes to Swiss watches. Cruise ships berth here and on Wednesday evenings in summer the street is closed to traffic for Harbour Nights; a weekly evening festival featuring craft and food stalls, performers and late-night shopping.

The city also has the island's greatest concentration of restaurants and bars; many of those on Front Street have verandas overlooking Hamilton Harbour. It also serves as the Bermuda's main transportation hub, as both the central bus and ferry terminals are located here.

Hamilton is by no means a large city and can easily be explored on foot in a couple of hours.

We will take a brief walking tour to include the following sites:

Bermuda Cathedral - Appropriately located on Church Street, the Bermuda Cathedral is a neo-Gothic Anglican church designed by Scottish architect William Hay. Work began in 1886 and was completed in 1911. Much of the building is constructed from Bermuda limestone,

although the decorative features are carved from Caen stone, imported from France.

Sessions House - This impressive Italian-style building, constructed in 1819, dominates Hamilton. The clock tower was added in 1887 to commemorate the golden jubilee of Queen Victoria. Sessions House is the home of both Bermuda's House of Assembly and Supreme Court.

The House of Assembly meets on the second floor and is the third oldest parliament in the world. The layout is much the same as that of its British equivalent, the House of Commons, with the two major political parties sitting opposite each other and presided over by a speaker. Wearing a long black robe and wig, it is the speaker's responsibility to maintain order during parliamentary debates. If the scary outfit isn't sufficient to keep the rabble in check, the speaker is also armed with a silver mace, a blow from which should subdue even the rowdiest of members!

Victoria Park - Situated behind the City Hall & Arts Centre, the most notable feature of this small city center park is its bandstand. Erected in the 1887 to commemorate the golden jubilee of Queen Victoria, the park also features a sunken garden and ornamental shrubbery.

Following our walking tour of Hamilton we will have free time until the final reception (location to be determined)

Study Tour: Wednesday – Saturday, October 15-18, 2008

\$800 x (____) = \$_____

Membership in the Victorian Society in America

Individual: \$50 x (____) = \$_____

Household: \$60 x (____) = \$_____

(Non-members wishing to attend the Annual Meeting must join the Victorian Society in America.)

TOTAL \$_____

Enclosed is my check for \$_____ made payable to the **Victorian Society in America**. Please mail your completed form with your payment to: The Victorian Society in America, 1634 Sansom Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103 — OR — you may Fax your registration (credit card payments ONLY) to 215-636-9873. Please note that we do NOT take American Express.

Please let us know if you have any medical or dietary restrictions BEFORE registering for this event.

Please bill my MasterCard / VISA

Name _____

_____ Expires _____

Signature _____

Additional Participant Name _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State ____ Zip _____

Phone: (day) _____ (evening) _____

Fax: _____

e-mail address _____

RESERVATIONS