



# United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
Colonial National Historical Park  
Post Office Box 210  
Yorktown, Virginia 23690

IN REPLY REFER TO:

K18/6.A.1

December 30, 2014

Walter L. Akers, President  
Twisted Oaks Foundation  
110 Kenneth Drive  
Seaford, Virginia 23696

Dear Walt,

I am writing to express my appreciation for the donation of the Tobacco Press Exhibit that you designed and constructed for placement in Historic Yorktown. This exhibit is a great addition to the interpretive experience on the waterfront. It will provide visitors to the site with information on the significance of tobacco as a cash crop in early America, as well as the technique for preparing tobacco for shipment to Europe. It will also connect visitors with the history of slave trade, and the demand for labor that was created by the tobacco industry.

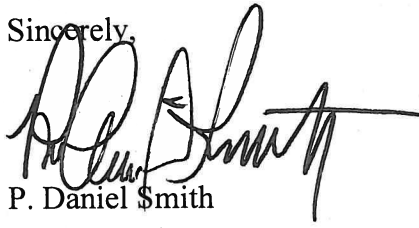
I would like to thank the Twisted Oaks Foundation for the research, design, construction and placement of the Tobacco Press. It is most appropriately located at the entrance to the "Great Valley", which is a path where tobacco hogsheads were rolled from the Custom House to the Yorktown waterfront for transport. An interpretive wayside at the top of the hill discusses the role of the "Great Valley" in Colonial commerce. A new wayside has been placed at the bottom of the hill near the Tobacco Press that describes the location as a point of entry for African slaves, and their role in the early American economy.

I gratefully accept this donation with the understanding that the Twisted Oaks Foundation will also continue to maintain and provide needed repairs of the Tobacco Press. This donation is intended for a long-term exhibit, however, it is also understood that the Foundation will take responsibility for removal of the exhibit should that become necessary.

This cooperative effort serves to enhance the visitor experience at Colonial National Historical Park, and contributes to the Park Service Call to Action goals of "Connecting People to Parks" and "Advancing the NPS Education Mission". For your convenience, I have enclosed a copy of

our consultation with the Commonwealth of Virginia. Thank you again for your effort in this most worthy project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P. Daniel Smith". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

P. Daniel Smith  
Superintendent

Enclosure