After Jamestown was established in 1607, the English began exploring nearby areas to settle. By 1634 colonial Virginia consisted of eight shires. Warwick River Shire was one of the eight. It took its name from Robert Rich, the second Earl of Warwick and a prominent member of the Virginia Company. Warwick River Shire became Warwick County in 1643; the City of Warwick in 1952; and eventually it consolidated with the city of Newport News in 1958.

Join us on an historic house tour of Endview Plantation, The Boxwood Inn, and Lee Hall Mansion to learn how these stately homes are entwined in the history of Newport News. During your visit to each home, we will serve one course of a three-course lunch, so wear your most comfortable shoes and come hungry!

**APPETIZERS AT ENVIEW PLANTATION**

We will start our tour at Endview Plantation. Built in 1769 by William Harwood and originally named Harwood Plantation, this home linked the colonial capital of Williamsburg with the town of Hampton on the harbor of Hampton Roads. The 248 year-old home and grounds were used by military forces during the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812 and the Civil War. After a tour of the house and grounds, we will enjoy tasty appetizers at the front of the home.

**LUNCH AT THE BOXWOOD INN**

The Boxwood Inn was built by Simon Curtis and completed in 1894. As businesses in Lee Hall grew, additions were made to the house to include a general store, post office, rooms to rent, and a tea parlor. After Simon Curtis was elected tax collector for Warwick County, he opened his tax office in the house. Soon he was known as the “Boss Man of Warwick County” and with his wife’s help, their home became the social gathering place on the Virginia Peninsula. After a tour of the house, we’ll have a seat in the beautiful double parlors to experience a traditional Southern meal.

**DESSERT AT LEE HALL MANSION**

Our final stop is Lee Hall Mansion. Built between 1851 and 1859, Lee Hall Mansion was home to affluent planter Richard D. Lee, his wife Martha, and their children. One of the last remaining antebellum homes on the Virginia Peninsula, Lee Hall offers visitors a step back to the mid-Victorian period with its authentically furnished rooms, including an elegant ladies parlor. During the Civil War, the house was used as headquarters for Confederate generals Joseph Johnston and John Magruder. Enjoy homemade desserts to end our day in the Historical Corridor of Newport News.