

## Gary C Worrell

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**From:** Gary C Worrell <gcw@igx.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 12, 2014 22:47  
**To:** gcw@igx.net  
**Subject:** Postcard  
**Attachments:** Hello.jpg; TheChamberlin01.jpg; TheChamberlin02.jpg; TheChamberlin03.jpg; OldPointComfortLight.jpg; NorfolkIngress.JPG; TheChamberlinAndFortMonroeBySatellite.JPG

Hello (see attached).

In 1607, The ship **Susan Constant** (owned by the Virginia Company of London) anchored just inside a large body of water on the coast of North America. Their purpose was to establish a 100 square mile British Colony on an area of land chartered for that purpose by King James I, named Jamestown.

Scoping out a landing via rowboat, the crew discovered a protected channel, which was reported to have put them “in good comfort.” They named the point of land creating the channel Cape Comfort, then later renamed it to Old Point Comfort (as opposed to New Point Comfort, some 20 miles up the bay).

Old Point Comfort had strategic value as a choke point for ships entering the local rivers. First at the site was Fort Algernourne which burned after three years. Next was “the fort at Old Point Comfort,” followed by Fort George which lasted until the beginning of the Revolutionary War with England.

In 1819, construction began on what would then have been the largest stone fort in the United States. It took nearly 25 years to complete, and was named after the president that spearheaded its construction, James Monroe.

Fort Monroe still exists today, but Old Point Comfort was also the site of The Hygeia Hotel (named after the Greek Goddess of Health). It was built along the south shore of the point, and opened in 1820.

Here is a portion of a travelers review written on 6 AUG 1842 and printed in the Baltimore Sun a month later:

<http://www.newspapers.com/clip/839543//>

After the Civil War, the hotel was torn down and rebuilt bigger and better:



Then another hotel was built alongside, the Chamberlin. This image of the two hotels was taken at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century:



In 1920, the Chamberlin (and I think the Hygeia as well, hard to nail down a time) went down in flames. But not to fear, yet another structure was erected and today the Chamberlin stands overlooking Hampton Roads, where the Nansemond, James & Elizabeth Rivers meet the Chesapeake Bay.

I had the opportunity to sail past Old Point Comfort the other day, it was the end of a short jaunt up the Atlantic from Port Canaveral Florida.

Some of you may have never had the opportunity to sail the open ocean, especially during hurricane season. For you, here is ninety minutes compressed into three:

<http://igx.net/Video/3MinuteStormLR.wmv>

I captured the entire trip on VoyageCAM, recording one frame per second played back at thirty frames per second (you do the math). It's over two hours in length and includes some brilliant lightning, heavy rains and rough seas. It's as much fun to watch as it was to be there.

Here is the ingress to Norfolk, it's just six minutes long and on calmer waters:

<http://igx.net/Video/HamptonRoadsIngressLR.wmv>

It starts before dawn as the ship was approaching the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel Thimble Shoal Channel (see NorfolkIngress satellite image).

Cheers,  
G.

<http://igx.net/Postcards/>



















