



Fall 2017

Dear Friends of Bruton,

As we approach the end of the calendar year, Bruton Parish Church is working toward 2018. There are programmatic plans in the form of education, pastoral care, mission and outreach and various relationship-based ministries. While a new year is daunting, it is also full of hope and dreams for God's work among us.

This past year was exciting. We did the unique work of a "public church." We had a marvelous Friends' Day. We continued our Travel with Friends program to England and Scotland. We welcomed half a million visitors and shared the Bruton story. We renovated the Bruton Parish Shop, a very important face of this church. We are nearing the completion of an effort we have called the "Heritage Center." It is a brief but comprehensive introduction to Bruton Parish. It will be full of photographs, treasures and story to provide an orientation for our visitors. An area with digitized, searchable parish records will enable the visitor to gather data about figures from the early days of this parish.

This has been a busy year, but it is time for the next. We are working out the details of our next Friends' Day. We are recruiting for Travel with Friends; this time to Ireland. We are exploring the possibilities for day trips and other activities of interest for and with Friends.

The vision for Friends of Bruton is to grow in relationship with our local community and those who live at a distance. We want to offer exciting, formative and substantial programs that Bruton Parish is uniquely positioned to offer. We are growing in this direction.

A big thank you to those who have renewed annual membership in the Friends of Bruton Cornerstone Circle. Your ongoing support sustains and grows this community. For those of you who haven't joined the Cornerstone Circle, please consider. Your support makes a difference in the quality and quantity of what we can do together.

At the church, this is the time of year that we ask members of the residential parish to consider a gift given to do God's redeeming work. I ask you to consider the same. Please make a gift, designate it to Friends of Bruton and we will continue to grow and develop this important community.

The Rev'd Christopher L. Epperson, Rector  
Bruton Parish Church





## Traveling With Friends

Join our rector, The Rev'd Chris Epperson, and other friends for an unforgettable trip to the Emerald Isle sponsored by the Friends of Bruton from May 1-12, 2018. This twelve-day tour will visit Dublin, Belfast, Derry, Limerick, Killarney, and along the way visit historic castles, cathedrals and many wondrous sites such as the Cliffs of Moher and, of course, Blarney Castle.

Total Price from Washington, DC  
\$5,899/person, double occupancy  
\$1,599 single room supplement  
(The price includes all air taxes and fuel surcharges) and includes

Airfare from Washington, DC, economy class

Hotels: 10 nights in deluxe hotels (where available), all rooms with private facilities

Meals: Breakfast, lunch, and dinner daily

Sightseeing: In private deluxe motor coaches, expert guides, and all entrance fees

Director: Experienced Tour Director will accompany group throughout Ireland

Transfers: In private deluxe motor coaches

Miscellaneous: Hotel taxes and service charges, baggage handling and portage at the hotels.

For the complete itinerary and to get registration details, please visit <http://bit.ly/FOBIRELAND2018>. Make your reservation by Friday, December 15, to join us next year!

## Friends' Travel Seminar

If you are in town, please plan to join us in the Parish Hall for refreshments on Thursday, November 9, from 5:30 - 7:30pm and a Friends of Bruton Travel Seminar that will cover: where we've been (Scotland & England), the advantages of traveling with Friends, and more details about our customized group travel and local day trips that we've arranged (National Cathedral, Richmond, Jamestown, Smithfield).

If you're one of our over 1700 Friends of Bruton who live outside of the Williamsburg area and are interested in the overseas trip to Ireland in 2018, a video of the seminar will be available on our YouTube Channel on November 15!

"We travel not to escape life, but for life not to escape us."

## Stay in Touch through Our Website

Whether you live near or far, there are many ways in which to stay in touch with Bruton Parish just by visiting our website at [www.brutonparish.org](http://www.brutonparish.org) — concert schedules, calendar, ministries, children's and youth programs, adult formation and much more!

## Bruton Sermons on the web ... become a subscriber!

"Just who do you think you are?" ... "Kind sir, what is the source of your authority to do and say what you do, dear boy?" Read the entire sermon by our Rector, The Rev'd Chris Epperson on our website at [www.brutonparish.org/sermons](http://www.brutonparish.org/sermons) or view the sermon on our YouTube Channel below.



Each week, the sermons given by our clergy at the Sunday morning services are recorded and posted online for the members of our community who are not physically present, or for those who would like to revisit a particular sermon. Along with other videos of parish life, they can also be viewed on our YouTube Channel as well at <https://www.youtube.com/user/BrutonParish> — become a subscriber today!

## Thanksgiving Eve Service of Holy Eucharist

If you are in town for the Thanksgiving holiday, please join us at Bruton Parish Church for a service of Holy Eucharist at 6pm on Wednesday, November 22. Bruton has begun our annual Thanksgiving Food Drive benefitting the FISH Food Pantry, a local non-profit organization which helps clothe and feed the needy. You are welcome to bring non-perishable items to the church to receive a blessing.

Volunteers of all ages are needed at 8:30am on Friday, November 24, to help transport the donations to FISH and help stock the pantry shelves. We anticipate hundreds of bags this year, requiring people-power and vehicles, so please plan to join us at the Parish House at 8:30am on the morning of the 24th. Let's thank God for our blessings and bless others by donating food to FISH.

If you won't be in town to join us, we hope you will donate at your local parish towards those who are without so that "none go hungry" this holiday season.



### A Prayer for Friends

We know that prayer changes things. Prayer gives us strength when we need it and discernment when we are looking for answers. Visit [bit.ly/friendsprayers](http://bit.ly/friendsprayers) online if you have a prayer request. Your confidential requests will be forwarded to our clergy, who will lift you up in prayer daily for a month.

### The Prayer of the Chalice

Father, to you I raise my whole being ... a vessel emptied of self. Accept, O Lord, this my emptiness, and so fill me with yourself, your light, your love, your life ... that these your precious gifts may radiate through me and overflow the chalice of my heart into the hearts of all with whom I come in contact this day revealing unto them the beauty of your joy and wholeness and the serenity of your peace which nothing can destroy. Amen.

## Reserve a private tour

When planning your next trip to Williamsburg, you may want to arrange for a private tour of the church and/or churchyard with one of our experienced Bruton Parish guides. Whether it be for a group of two or twenty, we are pleased to offer you the convenience and personalized attention of a private tour by reserving a specific date and time in advance of your visit. To make a reservation, please contact Hilary Cooley via email at [BPC@brutonparish.org](mailto:BPC@brutonparish.org).

## Holiday Music at Bruton

Rebecca Davy, Music Director

Our annual choir holiday concert will take place on Tuesday, December 12, this year at 8pm in the church sanctuary. Accompanied by strings, flutes, oboes, and handbells, the choirs will sing music from the baroque period and the end of the 20th century.

We'll open with Georg Philipp Telemann's Christmas cantata of 1720, *Uns iste in Kind geboren* (To us a child is born), part of a cantata cycle he composed for the entire year while living in Frankfurt. The cantata is in eight varied movements with solos and choruses, not dissimilar to the famous cantatas of J. S. Bach, but certainly less contrapuntally dense. It is a delightful, joyous work, appropriately intended to celebrate the birth of our Savior.

Next on the program is a setting of Mary's Magnificat, which has been attributed to the early German baroque composer, Dieterich Buxtehude, but was not likely written by him. No better or secure attribution has been made, and the connection with Buxtehude is based solely on its inclusion in the library of a friend, who owned much of his music. The style suggests another composer, but the date of origin is surely still the latter part of the 17th century. The Magnificat is divided into six movements which alternate choral and solo passages and brief instrumental ritornelli.

We will end the concert with American composer Libby Larsen's *Ringeltänzei*, completed in the 1980s, arranged for choir, strings, and handbells. The movements of this work depict festive caroling and dancing during the Christmas season, especially as was the tradition in medieval France. Larsen is one of America's leading composers and has been especially hailed for her sensitive settings of fine text to fine music. I hope many of you will have the opportunity to experience this concert and enjoy both something old, even possibly familiar, along with something fresh and new. May you have a blessed holiday season filled with family, friends, and music.

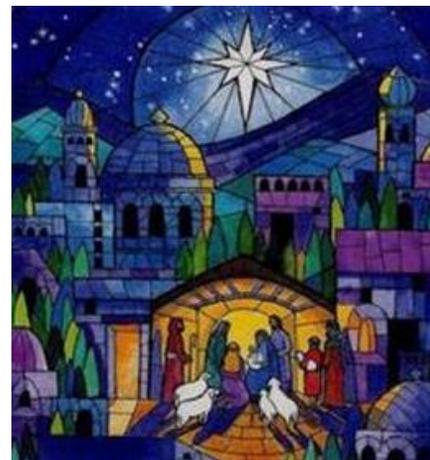


Image from [etsystatic.com](http://etsystatic.com)

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# Interpreting Colonial Williamsburg and Bruton Parish Church

First in a Series

[Editor's Note: Interpreting Bruton Parish Church was inspired by those who developed the program of informing visitors about Williamsburg's restoration. This series will tell how Bruton's unique history and spiritual journey is revealed to the millions who visit our venerable old church.]

Adapted from Colonial Williamsburg Today, Autumn 1982

By J. Douglas Smith, Director of Exhibition Buildings

Of the four hundred townspeople and visiting dignitaries gathered on a warm Friday afternoon in September 1932 to celebrate the opening of the Raleigh Tavern, perhaps the most interested and excited were the two ladies who were to begin interpreting the Williamsburg Restoration's first exhibition building. The first hostesses guided visitors through the building from 9am to 6pm every day except Sunday, when operating hours were 9-11am and 1-6pm.

In those formative years, administrations grappled with such questions as: the rate of pay (40 cents an hour originally); the type of schedule (originally two to three days per week); should the buildings open on Sunday morning (originally, yes; later, no; still later, yes, again); who lowers and raises venetian blinds and opens shutters (Curator sets policy, janitors have responsibility); may visitors take pictures in the buildings (no; yes; then no, again); accept tips from visitors (no); ill-tempered remarks within visitors' hearing (please be careful not to); do licensed City guides or hostesses take groups through buildings (hostesses do); visitors smoking in buildings (politely, but firmly, no); may visitors linger after a tour to study rooms unaccompanied by a hostess (absolutely not); pets in the buildings (no, not even a Pekingese [Note: Service dogs not an issue at this time]); discussing with visitors Restoration policies (please be discreet); Williamsburg water (please do not call attention to its peculiar taste); staff smoking in costume (absolutely not in front of visitors); recommending Restoration restaurants first (please do this always). In 1935 a block ticket cost \$1.25 and covered admittance to the Capitol, Palace and gardens, Raleigh Tavern, and Ludwell-Paradise House.

Colonial Williamsburg hostesses and hosts have always been among the most effective public relations voices for the Restoration. Their key role, however, has been to interpret the Williamsburg story for the millions of annual visitors. The archives reveal that from the earliest years the interrelated matters of interpretive philosophy or goals, research, the training of personnel, and interpretive methods have been subjects of major amounts of time, energy, and money.



A colonial Williamsburg Hostess in an interpretive costume worn in the 1930s and '40s (Courtesy of the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation)

As early as January 1934, a Committee of Education was formed to determine the interpretive emphases of Colonial Williamsburg. The focus in the 1930s was naturally on the archaeological, architectural, decorative, and horticultural areas.

By March 1938, prospective candidates for hostess positions were given an open-book examination covering fifty questions related to the history of Virginia and the Restoration. This was followed by two oral examinations to insure their mastery of the required information, which included all of the details of each exhibition building. Successful completion of these examinations was required before acceptance as a hostess. The regimen prepared aspirants for the Raleigh Tavern, the Capitol and Governor's Palace (both opened in 1934), the Ludwell-Paradise House (1935), and the George Wythe House (1940).

By 1941, it was recognized that the focus of interpretation should become more broadly historical with less emphasis on the physical details of the Historic Area. Recommendations were made from both outside and inside Colonial Williamsburg to strengthen training and to broaden interpretation to encompass not simply the great figures of colonial Virginia but the wider sweep of family, institutional, and community history.

As a result of these recommendations, training was invigorated in 1954. As the program developed, each hostess and host was given approximately 150 hours of paid training, including an introductory and preliminary structured curriculum that progressed through the five exhibition buildings, the Brush-Everard House having been opened in 1952.

By the close of the 1960s, hostesses and hosts were receiving over 250 hours of paid training and were given a recommended bibliography of approximately 13,000 pages to be read over a span of from two to five years.

Wintertime in-service training was built around a curriculum of sequence courses that included classes in history, architecture, archaeology, furnishings, costuming, gardens, and public relations.

Prior to 1954, too, costumed males known as gaoler guardsmen had interpreted the Public Gaol (Jail) and Magazine-Guardhouse. In 1954, the first men were hired as hosts to interpret the Capitol, a move that eventually spread to all exhibition buildings.

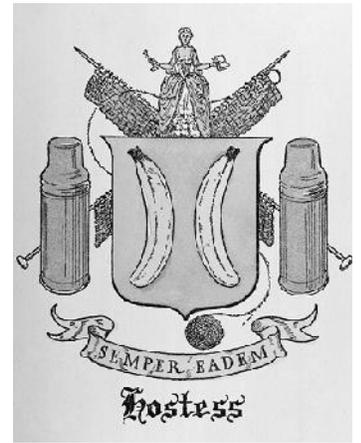
In 1966-1967, training was reorganized in preparation for the opening of four new exhibition buildings on July 1, 1968, a momentous date. Hostesses and hosts in the first six months of 1968 worked enormously hard as they prepared to interpret the James Geddy House, Peyton Randolph

House, Wetherburn's Tavern, and the refurbished and reinterpreted Wren Building.

The Restoration of Colonial Williamsburg and the resulting millions of annual visitors had an impact on Bruton Parish Church. No longer just a small parish church in a sleepy southern town, the Rector and Vestry decided to keep the church open so that visitors to the restored colonial capital could come in.

The story of inter-pret[ing] the history of Bruton Parish Church for visitors will be the subject of additional installments in this series.

Above, the "Hostess Coat-of-Arms", done in jest as a cover for an anniversary banquet, features the Latin motto "Always the Same" along with the symbols of a hostess - an exhibition building key, a study text, knitting for spare moments, a banana for snacking, and a thermos for the lunch break. (Courtesy of the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation)



## A Cornerstone for a Sure Foundation

from Isaiah 28:16

Jim Morford

The special focus of the Cornerstone Circle is to provide a way for Friends of Bruton, especially for those who live distant from Williamsburg, to provide financial support for the goals of Our Worldwide Congregation. Those goals are to preserve and promote the unique historic and spiritual heritage of Bruton Parish Church and the Cornerstone Circle is intended to provide a "sure foundation" for achieving them.

The Friends of Bruton Committee is considering a number of projects, both short- and long-term, that may be funded by the Cornerstone Circle. An early priority is to support the new Bruton Heritage Center. Of the projects under consideration, each is aimed at enhancing the experience for all who visit Bruton Parish Church.

Annual membership in the Cornerstone Circle requires a minimum donation of \$100/person. If you have not already done so, please renew your tax deductible membership now or become a first time member. Cornerstone members are pleased to wear the Bruton Weathervane lapel pin.

Members renewing for 2017-2018 may select a limited edition art tile signed by the artist. (shown at left)

For more information go to the Bruton website at [www.brutonparish.org](http://www.brutonparish.org) and click on Friends of Bruton.

Art Tile: Second-year Membership in Cornerstone Circle



Bruton Weathervane Pin  
First-year Membership in Cornerstone Circle



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# Integrity. Courage. Leadership. Service.

Anne Conkling

These are a few of the qualities of the myriad patriots in whose footsteps we walk every time we enter Bruton. We are still living the experiment they put into reality when they collectively launched a new nation. With twelve other disparate colonies, the Virginia gentlemen were respected, reliable, and moved to action.

The tea which went overboard in Boston harbor stimulated action on many levels. The Committees of Correspondence formed a script -- actors both great and small stepped onto the world stage and changed history. Before the Constitution, the colonies worked through a Continental Congress, and two of the many Presidents have a tie to Bruton.

Though largely a ceremonial one, members relied on the President of the Continental Congress for leadership, direction, mediation, accountability, integrity and reasoning. There were many different sessions of the Congress and many presidents. The position required solid, substantial, and able leadership who could keep it all together without seeing immediate results. Patience and resilience was needed.

The position of President of the Continental Congress was held by many men between 1774-1788. Both the first, Peyton Randolph, and the last, Cyrus Griffin, are buried in Williamsburg. These gentlemen maintained balance, kept lines of communication open, and social interaction lively. The body politic understood its purpose and its life span and when it was exactly the right time, they had the courage and wisdom to bring it to an end, and move on to a true Federal system.

Peyton Randolph was known for his fine legal perspective, his family heritage, and his extensive library. Wed to Betty Harrison, he had the perfect political partner in a society where lineage carried a great deal of weight. And one of his cousins was a young man named Thomas Jefferson.

After matriculation at the College of William and Mary, he read law in England. Upon his return to Virginia, he served in high profile positions...Attorney General, Burgess, Bruton Vestry, Board of Visitors for the College, Rector for the College. Chosen to serve as a special agent to London to mediate a very delicate situation involving the head strong Governor, whom he actually was serving, he sailed for London again. Politically deft and deliberate, he solved the situation with the Governor and the English government, and returned in everyone's favor.

Life took a dangerous and exciting turn when the Port of Boston was ordered to be closed. Randolph started a collection of needed supplies to be sent to Boston. Jefferson's resolution for a Day of Fasting, Humiliation and Prayer was adopted, and Randolph led the entire community to church to seek Divine Guidance. Lord Dunmore responded by dissolving the House of Burgesses, but they continued to act as late representatives of the people.

Delegates were chosen to go to Philadelphia, and Randolph was elected President of the distinguished group not once but twice. He added a calming presence which inspired deep respect. On one return trip to Williamsburg, the local militia met him on the road, acting as a safe escort. By now his name was on the infamous Black List, and his life was in jeopardy.

By early fall of 1775, John Hancock had succeeded Randolph as Chair of the Congress. On October 22, he suffered a stroke, died and was buried at Christ Church. Later his nephew Edmund Randolph traveled to Philadelphia and moved the remains to the crypt under the Wren chapel at the College of William and Mary, joining his father, Sir John Randolph, and his mother, Lady Susanna Randolph. His estate was settled after Betty Harrison died, and that wonderful and extensive library was purchased by Mr. Jefferson. Some time later Jefferson sold his library to the government, and that formed the nucleus for the Library of Congress. This would include Peyton Randolph's books, some of which are the earliest records of the Virginia colony.

As the years of the Revolution continued to unfold, the Continental Congress remained in session. Most terms for President were about a year. Many of the delegates to the Congress were very involved in keeping the states on an even keel, and found that a compelling duty. Leadership was built into the system of governing in Colonial Virginia, and frequently a gentleman would serve in multiple capacities. Membership on

vestries of the Church of England, and then the new Episcopal Church provided hands on experience in handling many aspects of society. Judgeships were critical appointments, and reputations were well known and exceedingly valuable. One of the emerging young leaders in this story was a Richmond County native, one Cyrus Griffin.



Peyton Randolph  
(picture from Wikipedia)



Cyrus Griffin  
(picture from Wikipedia)

He studied in both Edinburgh and London, and met Charles Stuart, Lord Linton, son of John Stuart, the Sixth Earl of Traquair. Invited to the family estate in Peebleshire for the Christmas Holidays, Cyrus met Lady Christina, the charming and particularly beautiful sister of his new friend. He decided immediately to make her his bride. This arrangement was not agreeable to the Earl, and the courtship was filled with fireworks ... followed shortly by an elopement, a secret wedding, and an estrangement which lasted until the Earl was near death. Benjamin Franklin aided in the reconciliation.



Cyrus Griffin matured into a fine lawyer, statesman, and the last President of the Continental Congress. Distinguished in his service to the infant country, he was elected to the Va. House of Delegates, was an appeals court judge, President of the Supreme Court of the Admiralty, Commissioner to the Creek Nation, as well as his work with the Continental Congress. Shortly thereafter, Mr. Washington appointed him to a Federal Judgeship. He served in this post from 1790 until his death In Yorktown December 14, 1810. A Williamsburg resident by 1794, he is buried next to Lady Christina in our churchyard. He was a thrifty and careful man, and wanted no expense wasted on his own grave, which remains unmarked. This notice was published after his demise: "Died, on 14th December, at York, the Hon. Cyrus Griffin, Judge of the United States Court for the District of Virginia. He was a gentleman highly respected for his eminent virtues, his integrity and independence. He has filled many public appointments, and always with honor to himself, and with advantage to the country."

## Clarification

It was stated in an article titled "Bruton Parish: Church of Presidents" in the previous edition of the Bruton Fount (Summer 2017) that future President, James Madison "would have attended services at Bruton while serving as a member of the House of Burgesses." Actually, James Madison was never a member of the House of Burgesses. In 1776, when the colony declared itself the independent Commonwealth of Virginia, the House of Burgesses was terminated, later to become the House of Delegates. Madison served as a member of the Fifth Virginia Convention which met in Williamsburg from May to June of 1776. While not substantiated in any surviving written documents, it is reasonable to assume that at some point during several years of intermittent visits and extended stays in Williamsburg coupled with an understanding of customs and courtesies of the day, James Madison would have, on one or more occasions, visited Bruton Parish Church.

## Bruton Parish Shop Renovated & Reopened

When you are in town next, be sure to stop by our newly renovated Parish Shop. The shop was closed this past winter and spring while undergoing a full renovation along with new merchandise.

The Christmas Shop is currently in the space where our new Heretage Center is being planned, opening sometime in 2018. Stop by for gifts for all of your family, friends, and neighbors on your list. All proceeds benefit Mission & Outreach.

## Friends of Bruton Badges

In addition to members' names, the Friends of Bruton badges feature Bruton's historic weathervane — the symbol for Friends of Bruton. They are an ideal way to show support for Our Worldwide Congregation and are appropriate to be worn at all parish events, especially on Friends Day or while attending travel and other Friends' sponsored programs. The badges are available to all and may be purchased at a cost of \$10; an additional \$2 for magnetic pin. To request your Friends of Bruton name badge, please contact Hilary Cooley at [hcooley@brutonparish.org](mailto:hcooley@brutonparish.org) or 757-345-2252.

## Share your connection

Readers of the The Bruton Fount enjoy learning of Friends' connections to Bruton Parish Church. What is your link to Bruton? Are you a former member, descended from a colonial Virginia family, alumnus/a of William and Mary, a student of history? For these or other reasons, you have chosen to become a Friend of Bruton, and we would like to share your story. Whether you write a sentence, a paragraph, or an essay, tell us about your attraction to Bruton that we may share it with others. Please send your story via email to Hilary Cooley at [hcooley@brutonparish.org](mailto:hcooley@brutonparish.org). Photos are welcome!

If you are an alumnus/a of William & Mary and would like to be included in their electronic communications, please send an email to the Rev'd Tyler Montgomery at [tmontgomery@brutonparish.org](mailto:tmontgomery@brutonparish.org).

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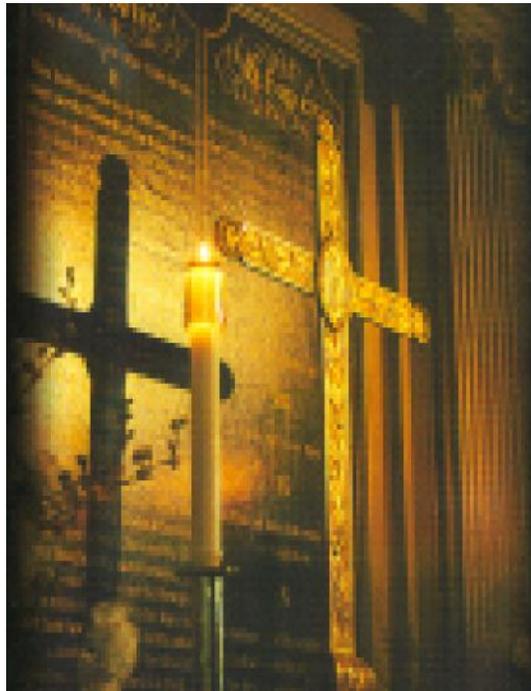
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The Rev'd Lauren M. McDonald, Associate Rector  
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The Rev'd Joshua P. Stephens  
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The Rev'd Jan Brown, Deacon



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