



# Colonial Williamsburg News

INFORMATION ABOUT COLONIAL WILLIAMSBURG PEOPLE AND PROGRAMS  
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## AARFAM selected as the featured loan exhibition at the 2017 Winter Antiques Show to launch museum's 60th anniversary year

By CW Staff

The Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Folk Art Museum (AARFAM), which will commemorate its diamond anniversary in 2017, will launch its celebratory year in New York City as the special loan exhibition at the Winter Antiques Show to be held at the Park Avenue Armory, Jan. 20-29. "Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Folk Art Museum: Revolution & Evolution" will offer a selection of some of the finest pieces in the museum's collection including ceramics, sculpture, drawings, paintings, fraktur, furniture, weathervanes, utilitarian objects, needlework, quilts, toys and more.

The exhibition will honor Mrs. Rockefeller as one of the early female collectors of folk art and whose collection is the nucleus of the museum's American folk art collection. It will also salute her vision, which continues today to guide the evolving AARFAM—the oldest, continuously operating institution in the United States dedicated solely to the collection, exhibition and

preservation of American folk art—and to inspire its continued collecting and acquisitions process.

The Winter Antiques Show celebrates its 63rd year as America's leading art, antiques and design fair, featuring over 70 renowned experts in fine and decorative arts from around the world. All net proceeds from the show benefit East Side House Settlement, a nationally recognized community-based organization in the South Bronx area of New York City. The Winter Antiques Show's 2017 loan exhibition is sponsored by Bessemer Trust.

It is also noteworthy that the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, which operates the AARFAM, is the only cultural institu-

tion to be invited to present the loan exhibition at the Winter Antiques Show twice in the past 25 years.

"The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation is deeply honored to participate in the Winter Antiques Show for the second time since 2001," said **Ronald L. Hurst**, the foundation's Carlisle H. Humelsine chief curator and vice president for collections, conservation and museums. "It is fitting that the nation's finest collection of American folk art will celebrate its 60th anniversary at the critically acclaimed Winter Antiques Show in the city where Mrs. Rockefeller's remarkable philanthropy remains in evidence today."

Abby Aldrich Rockefeller (1874-1948), wife of John D. Rockefeller Jr. (1874-1960),

was an avid art collector. While European and Oriental art were among Mrs. Rockefeller's early collecting interests, American works came to attract her attention. She enjoyed discovering and patronizing unrecognized contemporary artists and was a founder of the Museum of Modern Art in New York. Stimulated by visual analogies between modern art and American folk art, she began building a collection of the latter in 1931. Mrs. Rockefeller was advised by a circle of influential folk art dealers, collectors and scholars, including Edith Gregor Halpert (1900-1970), Holger Cahill (1893-1960), Isabel Carleton Wilde (1877-1951) and the modernist sculptor Elie Nadelman (1882-1946). Opened in 1957, the AARFAM was built upon a core collection of over 420 objects that Mrs. Rockefeller gave to the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. Today it is home to more than 7,000 examples of American folk art, including works dating from the 1720s to the present that

*Please see Winter Antiques Show, page 3*



## "David's Father" telegram launched CW's Restoration



Photo by Penna Rogers

**Chris Brown**, a school and groups interpreter, told guests on a Christmas Decorations Walking Tour, about the significance of the "David's Father" telegram to The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. 2016 marks the 90th anniversary of the beginning of the Restoration of Williamsburg. On Dec. 7, 1926, John D. Rockefeller Jr. sent a telegram to Dr. W.A.R. Goodwin authorizing the purchase of the Ludwell-Paradise House on Duke of Gloucester Street. The telegram marked Rockefeller's first property purchase in Williamsburg and effectively began the Restoration. In order to honor Rockefeller's request for anonymity, the telegram employed vague language — the "antique" referred to was the house itself, and "David's Father" was, of course, Rockefeller. The telegram was sent in response to Goodwin's Dec. 4 letter to Rockefeller notifying him that the house was about to come on the market. The telegram was recently conserved and was on display at the John D. Rockefeller Jr. Library or on digital display.

## Culture Compass Team announces changes in sick leave policy

Beginning Jan. 1, 2017, Colonial Williamsburg's sick leave policy will be updated. Eligible employees will be able to use their accrued sick leave for doctor, dental and other medical appointments for themselves as well as their family members. The policy will also allow eligible employees to use accrued sick leave not only when they are ill, but to care for family members who are sick as well.

This change is the result of feedback the Culture Compass Team received from dedicated and hardworking employees, as well as questions and comments received during the most recent Town Hall meetings. Approximately one-third of the dialogue called for a change in our sick leave policy.

As a reminder, it is still essential for employees to inform their immediate supervisor in advance of time off to ensure appropriate workplace coverage and provide a positive guest experience.

Kudos to everyone who gave such excellent feedback on how the Foundation can collectively meet one of its strategic objectives — making Colonial Williamsburg a first choice employer. In the coming months, Human Resources will be reviewing other Foundation-wide policies and procedures and will explore new benefit options to include long-term care and pet insurance.

The Culture Compass Team was created earlier this year. The team of 35 employees—representatives of all tenures, backgrounds, levels, and roles—is tasked with leading an initiative to transform Colonial

Williamsburg's culture. This initiative is co-sponsored by **Nichole McDonald**, vice president of human resources, **Mark Hileman**, general counsel, and **Davelin Forrest**, chief of staff and is at the direction of **Mitchell B. Reiss**, president and CEO.

The Culture Compass Team is comprised of 32 employees from across the Foundation. Team members include: **Neal Hurst**, **Shelley Svoboda** and **Christina Westenberger**, Collections, Conservation and Museums; **Stephanie Hasselbacher**,



CULTURE  
COMPASS  
TEAM

**KaCey Jackson**, and **Janelle Wilson**, Development; **Bryan Austin**, **Chanceeta "Cheyney" Coggins**, **Carl Childs**, **Pam Douglas**, **Julia Eccleston**, **Lindsay Foster**, **Marvin Greer**, **Lisa Heuvel**, **Whitney Thornberry Austin**, **Buck**

**Woodard** and **Marilyn Younger**, all of Education, Research and Historical Interpretation; **Fern Chever**, Finance; **Jeff Metcalf**, Hospitality; **Chris Anderson**, **Trish Barner**, **Sharon Dorsey**, **Troy Mothershead** and **Jane Petro**, all of Human Resources; **David Jenner**, Information Technology; **Joanne Chapman**, **Kenny Gulden**, Operations; **Rhiannon Redding**, President's Office; **Marianne Johnston**, **Rachel West** and **Catherine Whittenburg**, Strategic Communications.

The Culture Compass Team is also working closely with expert consultants from THRUUE, Inc., a firm that specializes in measuring and changing organizational culture so that every employee can thrive.





EMPLOYEE NEWS

# Employee questions from Oct. 3 Town Hall meetings answered

**Nichole McDonald**, vice president of human resources, and her team answered questions from the Oct. 3 Town Hall meetings. Questions centered around bonuses, compensation, employee benefits and the guest experience.

**Bonuses**

*Would it not be better economy to base bonuses on merit rather than award them across the board?*

As for true merit pay, our financial situation over the past few years has not allowed for this. The \$50 incentive bonus for eligible employees is being reviewed for 2017. The bonus is meant to focus all employees on financial improvement in all different levels and divisions of the organization. All positions play a role in Colonial Williamsburg's success whether they are directly responsible for bringing in revenue, satisfying guests and influencing their experience and potential return visits, or helping to manage expenses behind the scenes.

*Bonuses are good for the employees but what about the volunteers? Are we really appreciated? We're here Christmas, Easter and 365 days a year.*

Volunteers are greatly appreciated and recognized for the thousands of hours that are volunteered across the Foundation annually at the Volunteer Reception. Paying a volunteer, even a bonus, classifies a volunteer as an employee.

**Compensation**

*Show us the money in the form of a raise.*

The 2017 budget is currently under development, and we will communicate at the appropriate time.

*Will there be raises or increases due to the compensation study in 2016-2017?*

The compensation study is complete. For more information, please speak with your Administrative Officer who will be able to speak to the plans for your particular division going forward.

*Is there differential pay for employees that work from midnight to 8 a.m.?*

There are some positions that are eligible for a differential between midnight and 6 a.m. Please see your supervisor to determine if your position is one that receives the differential.

**Diversity/Inclusivity**

*What is the Foundation doing to help tell a more inclusive story including the story of LGBT and sexual minority people of Colonial Virginia?*

The Foundation has taken a major step forward in the past year in expanding the stories we tell in ways that are more inclu-

sive, with the goal that all Americans are able to find their story here. For example, we now have more full-time interpreter positions dedicated to representing the perspectives of Native Americans than ever before, and we are expanding the presence and impact of our Native American programming next year. We have unveiled a number of courageous theatrical programs this year representing a wide range of African-American individuals and experiences, and we're planning on expanding our emphasis on African-American perspectives at several key sites next year. In addition, we're considering new directions in programming that reflects a greater diversity of religious views, languages and ethnic identities than ever before. Finally, we are examining ways that we might include programming in the future that reflects Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transsexual, Intersexual and Asexual (LGBTIA) perspectives and furthers our goal of being America's Williamsburg.

**Employee Benefits**

*The Costume Design Center eyeglass voucher does not cover the cost for the higher index lenses that is required for those of us with worse vision. We shouldn't have to pay out of pocket to cover the difference. Just a \$30-70 increase in cost would cover the fee for those of us who need it. I have heard this complaint from multiple people, but no one knows how to address it.*

Employees should not have to pay for any additional charges due to their prescription. The only additional fees result from add-ins requested by the employee. The Costume Design Center is in the process of reviewing the fees and agreements with Dr. Rosser and Premium Health Optical who are the eyeglass vendors. Once the new agreements are in place, employees will be notified of the changes.

*Is it possible to turn the hundreds of sick hours (like many have) into personal time to go to doctor appointments or take kids to doctor appointments or when school is closed due to bad weather, etc., instead of having to use vacation time?*

The current sick pay policy is being revised and using sick time for doctor appointments is included in the coming changes. Please see the story on page 1 that outlines the changes that are effective Jan. 1.

*Is there any plan to add benefits that support growing families such as:*

- Paid leave for mothers and fathers
- Day care -- especially on weekends
- Maternity break room for breastfeeding mothers who return to work (there currently isn't one in the Historic Area).

*What is being done to bring more interactive elements to Colonial Williamsburg that can take the Historic Area's unique nature to improve guest experience and compete with other museums in the area? Would a 4D theater be feasible? More interactive use of historic sites/property? Sponsored festivals on museum property?*

The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation provides Family Medical Leave (FML) for mothers and fathers upon the birth or adoption of a child. While FML is unpaid time, employees can use paid time (sick/vacation) during the same time frame as FML. The R. F. Wilkinson YMCA child care center offers CW employees a discount. We are reviewing our paid time off policies and can certainly consider your suggestion for maternity/paternity leave (outside of FML). Maternal breakrooms are being updated across the Foundation. Currently, there is one in Greenhow West. If you need assistance in identifying a space, please contact a Human Resources representative.

**Guest Experience**

*Improving the overall guest experience is a top priority at the Foundation. So much so that Colonial Williamsburg President and CEO Mitchell B. Reiss formed a cross-foundational team in December of 2014 focused solely on making the guest experience best in class. To date this team has made major changes to the daily map as well as new wayfinding signs with even more to come. We launched a brand new mobile app that will improve the guests' ability to navigate our complex. Regarding new events, we are always trying new things to draw in new audiences. This past June we hosted a three-night music festival on the museum lawn that was headlined by Bruce Hornsby. We welcomed more than 20,000 guests during Halloween weekend for our trick-or-treating and "Curse of the Sea Witch" event.*

*I understand the need to emphasize the high-end experience for the 1-5 percent since that is where the money is. However, what is being done given the huge and growing inequality to keep some of the experiences affordable for the 95 percent of Americans who have very little extra money?*

Thank you for your question. It is very important that we balance both the health of the Foundation with outreach to the community. To do this we have developed several ways guests can affordably visit us:

- Free Admission.
- 1. In the second week of August each year

we welcome local residents from Virginia Beach to New Kent with a free single day ticket for everyone in their household and more than 8,000 residents take advantage of this.

- 2. We offer free single day admission to all active duty military all year long.
- 3. Retired military and veterans can visit free on Memorial Day Weekend as well as Veterans Day weekend.
- 4. Any child under six is free all year.

**Deep Discounts.**

- 1. Homeschoolers and their families can come during our Homeschool Days programs for only \$8 and \$10 respectively.
- 2. Retired military and veterans get in for 50 percent all year.
- 3. We offer a "sampler ticket" for budget conscious guests for only \$25.99 that is good for one day. It allows access to two trade shops, one family home and the shuttle service.

**General Pricing.**

- 1. We have not raised our prices in two years after taking a price reduction in 2015 in our general admission.
- 2. In 2014 we had a consultant review our pricing and make recommendations which we currently are using in our structure and pricing.

**Hiring**

*Is there any definitive word on ending the hiring freeze and the standstill for casual employees looking for full-time work?*

Colonial Williamsburg has constantly had positions posted and are recruiting to fill vacancies currently. Each division has looked critically at the number of positions they have posted and determined in some cases to delay posting. All employees, including casual employees, may apply for posted vacancies.

**Layoffs**

*Why do you have to look for jobs when laid off knowing that you are returning to work?*

This is a requirement of the Virginia Employment Commission, not a Colonial Williamsburg decision.

**Retirement**

*Are employees that retired eligible to come back now?*

Employees who retire are eligible to apply for a new position with the Foundation after they have been separated from the Foundation for at least four months.

*Will early retirement be offered again?*

No, there are no plans to offer another retirement incentive program.

## Grand Illumination kicks off holiday season



1.



2.



3.



4.



5.

Colonial Williamsburg's annual Grand Illumination kicked off the holiday season on Sunday, Dec. 4, when guests were invited to enjoy a full day of fun culminating in free fireworks. Guests had the opportunity to tour exhibition sites and trades shops. Christmas Decorations Walking Tours were offered. (1) Guests took a spin around Dominion Presents Liberty's Ice Pavilion. (2) Guests toured the Revolutionary City by ox cart. (3) For the first time, food trucks were invited to guests in the Historic Area. (4) *Eve Otnar* showed off etched glasses that were auctioned off during a reserve sale. (5) Fireworks were launched at three different places in the Historic Area.

Photos by Penna Rogers

Photo by Tom Green





## Building, program schedules established for January 2017

Colonial Williamsburg will pause its Historic Area programming from Jan. 3 - Jan. 27, 2017. Hotels, retail shops, restaurants and taverns also have adjusted their schedules as well.

### Hotel schedules

- Governor's Inn closed through March 3, 2017.
- The Williamsburg Inn closed after check-outs Jan. 22 - April 21 for renovation.
- Taste Studio is closed.
- Williamsburg Lodge, Traditions and Sweet Tea & Barley are open.
- The Colonial Houses, Griffin Hotel and Williamsburg Woodlands Hotel & Suites remain open. Registration for the

Colonial Houses and Griffin Hotel takes place at the former Orrell Kitchen.

### Retail

Merchants Square stores (Craft House, WILLIAMSBURG Celebrations, Everything WILLIAMSBURG and WILLIAMSBURG At Home) are open.

The following Colonial Williamsburg retail stores are open: The Williamsburg Lodge Gift Shop, The Museum Store, Greenhow Store, Tarpley's Store, Prentis Store and William Pitt Shop.

All others are closed.

### Museum Schedule

The Art Museums of Colonial Williamsburg will remain open during normal operating hours. Bassett Hall, Wetherburn's

Tavern and the Thomas Everard House are closed. Bassett Hall and Wetherburn's Tavern open on Jan. 28. The Everard House opens on Jan. 31.

### Continuing programs during Winter 2017 hiatus

- Dominion Presents Liberty's Ice Pavilion is open through Feb. 20.
- Limited carriage rides
- Spa of Colonial Williamsburg
- Chowning's Tavern

### In Merchants Square

- All restaurants and shops will be open during the pause.
- Kimball Theatre. Closed Jan. 1 - 31. Opens Feb. 1.
- The Winter Farmers Market is open

Feb. 11. Market season opens on March 4.

### Tickets

The Visitor Center and the Merchants Square Ticket Office will be closed. The Lumber House Ticket Office, which is located on Duke of Gloucester Street, is open from 9:45 a.m. - 5 p.m. Dominion Presents Liberty's Ice Pavilion tickets will be sold at the skating rink. Carriage ride tickets will be sold at the ice rink and the Lumber House. Tickets for the Art Museums of Colonial Williamsburg will be sold at the Museum Store and the Lumber House. While the Wm. Pitt Shop remains open, no tickets will be sold there.

For more information on the winter 2017 pause, visit the [Making History Blog](#).

### CW honors service to America during Veterans Day



Photo by Lael White

The Colonial Williamsburg Fifes and Drums and military programs staff led a march of Williamsburg veterans groups honoring America's veterans to the Courthouse on Friday, Nov. 11. A commemorative service was held at the Courthouse following the march.

## New map and guide makes wayfinding much easier for guests

"Welcome to Virginia's colonial capital. Explore the complex world of the 18th century and meet the diverse people who helped shape the America of today!"

This is how the new Colonial Williamsburg's Map and Program Guide begins. It has been reformatted for ease of use by employees and guests. The brochure was renamed the Colonial Williamsburg Map & Guide.

"The format and redesign help employees more easily direct guests to Art Museums of Colonial Williamsburg, exhibition buildings, trades shops and retail stores," said **Susie Davis**, program and events administrator.

The new guide divides the Historic Area into the Palace Zone, Market House Zone and the Capitol Zone. Each zone highlights its historic sites, historic trades, shopping, and food and dining with short descriptions. The Palace and Market House zones

also feature locations to purchase tickets.

"A daily schedule called Today's Programs will be issued with special events and programs that change from day to day," Susie said. "Today's Programs highlights guided tours, museum programs and evening programs."

The map provides straightforward navigational tools with an easy-to-read key. Under Get Connected, guests can access the new Colonial Williamsburg Explorer app to navigate the Historic Area.

Employees can also refer guests to any of the ticket outlets to pick up a brochure. The CW Map and Guide and Today's Programs will be distributed through interoffice mail to replace the Map & Program Guide.

*Want to know more? Employees can find regular updates of the CW Map and Guide and Today's Programs on Colonial Williamsburg's [Intranet](#).*

## Winter Antiques Show

Continued from page 1

represent the diverse cultural traditions and geographical regions of the United States.

The objects to be seen in "Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Folk Art Museum: Revolution & Evolution" are artifacts of 18th-, 19th- and 20th-century material culture; they were made and used by everyday people, and they make strong aesthetic statements, a guiding principle in American folk art appreciation. The exhibition will reflect dynamic periods of collecting that occurred not only for this institution but also for American arts in general: the 1930s, when Mrs. Rockefeller's collection was amassed; the 1950s, when there was a significant push in the study of American art across the country; the 1970s, when the Bicentennial heightened anew the country's interest in the revolutionary period and Americana; and the 21st century, in which the geographical regions and time periods of the AARFAM's collection expanded.

Among the highlights of "Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Folk Art Museum: Revolution & Evolution" will be: "Baby in Red Chair," an oil on canvas painted in Pennsylvania (1810-1830), which Mrs. Rockefeller acquired in 1931, the year she began collecting folk art. The painting was featured in the landmark 1932 exhibition, "American Folk Art: The Art of the Common Man, 1740-1900," that was organized at the Museum of Modern Art, of which all but one object were drawn anonymously from Mrs. Rockefeller's personal collection. In 1939, Mrs. Rockefeller presented a portion of her folk art collection to Colonial Williamsburg. At the same time, she gave 54 pieces of folk art to the Museum of Modern Art, which later shared the gift with The Metropolitan Museum of Art. Through the cooperation of these two museums and her

son David, a number of these works, including the delightful portrait "Baby in Red Chair," were reunited with the Williamsburg collection in 1956. Another featured object in the exhibition will be a yellow pine blanket chest painted by Johannes Spittler, a furniture decorator working in Shenandoah County, Virginia (1795-1807). His colorful designs on blanket chests, tall case clocks and a cupboard often included cultural as well as naturalistic motifs reflecting his Swiss-German heritage and that of most of his neighbors. This particular chest is decorated with a design that echoes the shape of a tall case clock pediment surrounded by geometric and cultural motifs. A salt-glazed stoneware water cooler, made by Henry Lowndes (Petersburg, Va., 1840-1842) is another highlight of the exhibition. This cooler decorated with a molded patriotic eagle and 13 stars confirms Henry Lowndes as a potter who produced some of the most ambitious and lavishly ornamented stoneware vessels in Virginia before 1850. The molded and applied decorative technique on this cooler evokes Lowndes's heritage since his father emigrated from Staffordshire, England. "Portrait of Amanda Clayanna Armstrong," a carved sculpture by Asa Ames (1847), is another object that will be featured in the loan exhibition. Carved in upstate New York when his subject was three-and-a-half years old, Ames (who was barely 23 years old at the time), showed her wearing what was, most likely, her own, fashionable, late 1840's frock. The familiar costume, Amanda's relaxed stance, and her outstretched hand provide a degree of spontaneity not seen in more academic likenesses. An exceptional achievement for the carver, the sculpture reminds us of the importance Americans attached to

images of children at a time when infant mortality rates were high.

"Washington and Lafayette at the Battle of Yorktown," by Ruben Law Reed (1860-1880), an oil and gold paint on canvas, is another of Mrs. Rockefeller's works that will take center stage in the exhibit. Ancestors of the artist fought at the battles of Lexington and Bunker Hill, and he was described by his grandson as having "an ardent and life-long interest in historical matters." This painting shows the American and French generals surveying the land segment of the single most decisive engagement of the American Revolution. The picture is said to accord with a description of the battle given by an eyewitness who later congratulated Reed on the likeness. The Beardsley Limmer's "Portrait of Oliver Wight" (Massachusetts, 1786-1793) is one of a pair of oils on canvas that are considered to be the artist's strongest and most effective pictures in which he used a series of triangles to structure the compositions. (The other portrait is of Harmony Childe Wight, Oliver's wife.) This work, to be shown at the Winter Antiques Show, illustrates the artist's emphasis on his sitter's features: a carefully painted face, the hair and the modish beaver hat contrast with the sketchy painting of the coat buttons. The Pennsylvania-German tradition of *fraktur* will also be represented in the loan exhibition. One excellent example to be seen is "Exselenc Georg General Washington and Ledy Washington" [sic], attributed to The Sussel-Washington Artist (Pennsylvania, ca. 1780), a watercolor and ink work on laid paper. (In keeping with tradition and practice, the unidentified watercolorist was almost certainly a man and most likely a schoolteacher.) Identified by the artist as George and Martha Washington, the subjects' stiff, frontal stances,

colorful cheeks, costume detail and style of execution, however, resemble other examples of the maker's work, some of which are identified by other inscribed names and some of which remain untitled. A number of these figures grace birth and baptismal certificates, while others appear to have been executed out of sheer love of decorative color and pattern. Purely decorative pieces such as this may have been created as gifts or simply for personal enjoyment.

"Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Folk Art Museum: Revolution & Evolution" will be curated by **Laura Pass Barry**, Juli Grainger curator of paintings, drawings, and sculpture; **Tara Gleason Chicirida**, curator of furniture; and **Suzanne Findlen Hood**, curator of ceramics and glass. Barry chairs this committee. The exhibition will be designed by Jeff Daly of Jeff Daly Design, New York.

In addition to the loan exhibition itself, the Art Museums of Colonial Williamsburg will host a lecture series during the Winter Antiques Show. All lectures will be given at 2 p.m. in the Park Avenue Armory. On Saturday, Jan. 21, Nancy Druckman, folk art expert and president of Nancy Druckman, LLC, will present "Pioneer and Pre-Eminent: The Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Folk Art Museum (and the World of American Folk Art)." On Sunday, Jan. 22, Barry will speak about "Celebrating 60 Years of Collecting at the Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Folk Art Museum." On Monday, Jan. 23, **Kimberly Smith Ivey**, Colonial Williamsburg's curator of textiles and historic interiors, will expound on "The Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Folk Art Museum's Collection of Quilts: From the Chesapeake to Apple Pie Ridge & Beyond." On Tuesday, Jan. 24, Hood will present "Collecting American Made: From a Tennessee Face Jug to a New York Coffeepot."





Your Story

Andrews helps guests understand the importance of Williamsburg in the nation's early history

EMPLOYEE NAME:

Sarah Andrews

POSITION: School and groups interpreter, group interpretation in the Education, Research and Historical Interpretation division

YEARS OF SERVICE: I began my career here in October 2010, so I now have six years of service with The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. I have been a school and groups interpreter throughout this entire time.

WHAT I DO: My primary responsibility is leading various school groups on tours when they visit Colonial Williamsburg. I specialize in groups between the fifth and eighth grades, and we are extremely busy during the months of October and March and April. I also lead specialized tours for adult groups and Christmas Decoration Walking Tours.

On occasion, I also serve as a costumed orientation interpreter at several locations in the Historic Area. I have been trained to give tours at all the exhibition sites.

During the summer months, I am one of 10 coordinators at the Benjamin Powell House, and I assist with programming at the Benjamin Powell House. I coordinate schedules for junior interpreters who volunteer there and assist supervisor Pamela Blount with their training. The Powell House has a variety of programs geared to young children and is a very popular visit for many families.

WHAT I LIKE ABOUT MY JOB: I love being able to communicate with the school groups and families with children during their visits to Colonial Williamsburg. I take great pleasure in providing information to our visitors and helping them understand what it means to be an American and the importance of Williamsburg in our nation's early history.

I also enjoy leading the wide variety of groups that I am assigned to lead. I was recently able to spend time with a group of pre-schoolers and later with a group of retirees. All of our groups have a maximum capacity of 26 individuals, including children and their chaperones. This allows us ample opportunity to get to know our groups on a more personal level, as we will often spend at least several hours with them. I am with some of our groups all day.

WHAT I DO TO IMPROVE THE GUEST EXPERIENCE: As a school and groups interpreter, we essentially cater the visits of our school groups to where they want to go during their time at Colonial Williamsburg. Our responsibilities are to ensure that the people in front of us are able to see the sites that they came here to see. Our most popular sites in the Historic Area seem to be the Governor's Palace, Capitol, Goal, Magazine, and the Anderson Public Armoury and Blacksmith Shop. Other venues may also be visited, such as the Historic Trades, when our school groups are here.

We also know when various scenes are being re-enacted and at what times, so we may elect to take the groups to these areas or simply go around them, depending on their schedules. We work in close cooperation with our actor-interpreters, site interpreters and orientation interpreters to enable our guests and tour groups to have the best experience possible when visiting Colonial Williamsburg.



Photo by Penna Rogers

Sarah Andrews recently received a Professional Development Award that allowed her to attend the Close-Up Foundation Professional Development Program in Washington, D.C., from May 29-June 5. This foundation teaches middle and high school students about citizenship.

Biggest Accomplishment: In May, I was fortunate enough to receive a Professional Development Award that was offered to employees in the Education, Research and Historical Interpretation division that allowed me to attend the Close-Up Foundation Professional Development Program in Washington, D.C. This occurred from May 29-June 5. This foundation works with middle schools and high schools from across America, teaching them about citizenship and being involved in their government. I was able to stay in the same hotel as the students and their teachers and shadow their classes on experiential learning and the methodology they use in enhancing the learning experience.

During the summer before my senior year in high school, I participated in the National Institute of American History and Democracy (NIAHD) at the College of William and Mary. I was here for three weeks involved in the Pre-Collegiate Summer Program in Early American History. It was at this time that I came to love Williamsburg and wanting to become a part of Colonial Williamsburg. This was a special experience for me.

After my senior year of college at Gettysburg College, I also participated in the Teacher Institute offered by Colonial Williamsburg. All of these experiences have helped me immensely as a group interpreter.

During one semester while attending Gettysburg College, I studied abroad in Florence, Italy. While over there, I received the Coluccio Salvirate Award for excellence in academics and appreciation of the Italian culture. I am also getting more involved in the training and education of our costumed interpretive staff, which was evident this past January, where I was involved in teaching my fellow staff members about the daily life of a notable housewife.

INTERESTS/HOBBIES: I am currently leading a book club with some of my colleagues. I have also started working on some crafts for our Colonial Williamsburg Craft Fair later this year.

I have also recently purchased a bike and hope to start biking with my husband in the near future. I have also enrolled in an online class from Yale University on American history. It is a non-credit class, but I enjoy learning more about this subject.

Gifts for the bookish on your list

"A book is a gift you can open again and again," said Garrison Keillor. And what could be better than getting a Colonial Williamsburg book? Here's a selection of 2016 publications:

- "The Art and Soul of African American Interpretation. Experienced interpreters discuss how they research and create characters, often with little documentary evidence; how they connect with diverse and sometimes hostile audiences; and how they use a variety of techniques, from storytelling and acting to carpentry and gardening, to make the past relevant.
- "The Art of Quilting." Both coloring and quilting tap into creativity within disciplines defined by lines, borders and structure. The patterns in this book are taken from quilts in Colonial Williamsburg's extraordinary collection.

- "Fifes and Drums." This elegant book of photographs presents fifers and drummers in their many roles—regulating the loading and firing of artillery, drilling in front of the Governor's Palace, participating in special events and marching up Duke of Gloucester Street.
- "Founding Feuds." Think partisanship has never been so bad? Think again. Founding Feuds shows the founders smearing, screaming, spitting and occasionally shooting at each other.
- "Williamsburg Hauntings." On the Official Colonial Williamsburg Ghost Walk, guests can wander the streets and gardens of the Historic Area while their guide tells stories of spirits who still call Williamsburg home.

Want to know more? Books are available at Colonial Williamsburg retail outlets and at [shop.cwf.org](http://shop.cwf.org).

Remembering Friends...

Mr. Donald H. McLain died Nov. 13 in Toano, Va. He began his 20-year career at Colonial Williamsburg as an auto mechanic in mechanical operations and maintenance in 1969. In 1984, he was promoted to acting foreman of automotive maintenance. He retired in 1989. He is survived by his wife, four sons, two daughters, 13 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Ms. Evelyn D. Kilmon died Nov. 19 in Mathews, Va. She began work at Colonial Williamsburg in 1946 as a telephone operator at the Williamsburg Inn. During her 18-year career, she worked as an inspectress at the Inn, in telephone operations at the Williamsburg Lodge and as a telephone operator in office services for the Foundation. She retired in 2006. She is survived by a son, seven grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Ms. Mary Stewart died Nov. 22 in Williamsburg. She began her 10-year career at Colonial Williamsburg as a custodian in 1987 and was promoted to custodian B in 1989. She retired in 1997. She is survived by three sons, two grandsons and two great-granddaughters.

Ms. Jeanette (Jean) Redpath died Nov. 16 in Yorktown, Va. She began work at Colonial Williamsburg in 1963 as an escort in the tour office and later in group visits. She was an historical interpreter when she retired in 1985 with nine years of credited service. She is survived by two sons and five grandchildren.

Open Enrollment concludes with Benefits Fair



Photo by William Sullivan

Colonial Williamsburg held its annual Fall Benefits and Wellness Fair for employees and their dependents on Friday, Nov. 18 at the Williamsburg Woodlands Conference Center. Representatives of organizations including American Family Fitness, the YMCA, Vanguard 401(k), Health Savings Administrators and Optima's EAP were on hand to provide wellness, health and financial information. Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield and Optima Health representatives were at the fair to answer questions about selecting the medical plan that best meets the needs of employees and their dependents. Seasonal flu shots were available to employees and dependents age 18 and over with a valid 2016 Colonial Williamsburg I.D. Nov. 18 was also the last day to turn in Open Enrollment forms.

Marketplace

FOR SALE: Two light oak book cases 30" wide x 84" high x 12.5" deep. Each has 6 adjustable shelves. They are \$50 each; one light oak computer desk, 48" wide x 24.5" deep. Has pullout keyboard drawer, one pencil drawer, and one shelf. \$65. CALL: Sue at 870-1262.

Goods and services advertised in CW News are offered by individuals and as such are not endorsed by The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation or Colonial Williamsburg Company.

Deadline for Marketplace text is Monday at noon one week prior to publication. Ads must include employee's name and personal telephone number. Ads can run for up to two consecutive issues if you would like your ad to run again, please submit the ad in person or through e-mail to [progrmgr@cwf.org](mailto:progrmgr@cwf.org).

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