



Colonial Williamsburg News

INFORMATION ABOUT COLONIAL WILLIAMSBURG PEOPLE AND PROGRAMS
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First-ever educational musket range celebrates grand opening March 19

By Joe Straw
Public Relations Manager

Colonial Williamsburg's educational musket range celebrates its grand opening March 19, for the first time offering Revolutionary City guests an opportunity to learn about and operate the types of firearms that won independence and supported life and livelihood in early America.

Guests learn from costumed interpreters about the history of flintlock weapons, particularly in colonial Virginia, their mechanics, use in hunting and defense, plus safety and proper handling.

"We provide guests an engaging, educational experience that immerses them in the period of our nation's founding. The educational musket range embodies that, but on an entirely new level," said Peter Seibert, Colonial Williamsburg director of Historic Trades and Skills. "For decades our guests could learn about these pieces and watch them being operated. Now they can really experience them – the weight, the smell and the sound – not to mention how challenging their operation was for people whose lives often depended on it."

Guests will be able to prime and fire replicas of two of early America's most important firearms: a "Brown Bess" British short

land service pattern musket and a fowling piece, a precursor of the modern shotgun.

The range's Brown Bess replicas reflect the variety manufactured between 1768 - 1804 within a broader category spanning from 1717 - 1815. They are the type of musket used by both British and American soldiers during the American Revolution.

Muzzle-loaded fowling pieces were used to hunt ducks and other waterfowl in Tidewater Virginia and for farmland pest control. Notably, during the period they could be legally owned by free blacks for the latter purpose.

The range is accessible only by ticketed guests via a shuttle from the Lodge. Admission includes instruction, safety equipment firearms, ammunition and targets.

To participate, guests must reserve spaces in advance and present photo ID to purchase tickets on-site. Tickets are \$119 and are available to guests ages 14 and older. Children under 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

The National Muzzle Loading Rifle Association was the range designer for Colonial Williamsburg's musket range.

Additional information is available at ticketing locations and hospitality properties, online at www.colonialwilliamsburg.com or by calling 855-296-6627.



Colonial Williamsburg photo
An interpreter fires a replica "Brown Bess" musket like those used in the American Revolution. Colonial Williamsburg's educational musket range offers guests a rare opportunity to operate replica flintlock firearms with guidance from certified instructors.

Vouchers issued to full-time employees

For the first time, current, full-time employees will receive 10 single-day admission vouchers. Employees are encouraged to distribute these to friends and family to take advantage of the Colonial Williamsburg experience. In order to receive the vouchers, employees must have been a full-time employee by Jan. 31, 2016.

"Through the distribution of these vouchers, we want our employees' friends and family to enjoy the Colonial Williamsburg experience," said Troy Mothershead, director of human resources and employee relations.

Engagement Team members of the human resources division will visit several sites throughout the Foundation to issue the vouchers. In order to obtain the vouchers, you must sign a receipt and have a valid CW ID.

Employees will have five days to pick up the vouchers:

- March 17, Woodlands Conference Center, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
- March 22, Taste Studio (Former Craft House location), 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
- March 24, Taste Studio, 3 - 6 p.m.
- March 29, Taste Studio, 1 - 4 p.m.
- March 31, Taste Studio, 3 - 6 p.m.

Vouchers should be presented at Colonial Williamsburg's Regional Visitor Center in exchange for single-day admission tickets. Vouchers have zero value and are not for resale. Vouchers expire on Dec. 31, 2016.

Spring programs bring Revolution down to a personal level

Colonial Williamsburg's spring programs are aimed at engaging guests in several different programs throughout the Revolutionary City.

Revolutionary City programs discuss the impact of the American Revolution on the residents of 18th-century Williamsburg. During the new program, "My Personal Revolution," guests walk through town with one of its citizens as they find out what "revolution" means to their life. 2:30 p.m., Sundays, March 20 - June 12 and Mondays, March 21 - June 13, Lumber House Ticket Office. Free reservation required with admission ticket.

Additional programs include:

- "For Cause and Country," 2 p.m., Fridays, March 18 - June 10, in front of

the Raleigh Tavern. It is 1777 and the war has brought hard times to the family of Alexander Hoy. Guests join him as he makes the decision of a lifetime - join General Washington and leave his family behind or stay on the home front and hope he can scrape by. Admission ticket required.

- "To Be Free and Independent," 4:45 p.m., Sundays, March 20 - June 12, Capitol. It's May 15, 1776, and guests are at the Capitol as Virginians declare independence from England. Is the struggle really over? What challenges do we still face? No ticket required.

- "In Desperate Circumstance," 3:30 p.m., Mondays, March 21 - June 13, in front of

See **Historic Area Programs**, page 2

Map out an adventure at the Art Museums of Colonial Williamsburg

The Art Museums of Colonial Williamsburg map out experiences with a new exhibition and companion program.

The new exhibition, "We are One: Mapping America's Road from Revolution to Independence," explores the tumultuous events that led 13 colonies to forge a new nation. This loan exhibition from the Norman B. Leventhal Map Center at the Boston Public Library includes many maps from Colonial Williamsburg's collection.

The companion program to the exhibition, "Mapping Revolution to Republic," illustrates what guests can learn from maps about the Revolutionary War in this guided tour. Guests join the discussion about how the new Republic was established from the Revolution and the critical role played by printed maps. 3 p.m., Wednesdays, March 23 - June 15.

The second new exhibition opening this spring is "Architectural Clues to 18th-Century Williamsburg" at the Wallace Museum on May 28. Guests explore architectural ele-

ments from both surviving and demolished 18th- and early-19th-century buildings in the Historic Area. An extra ticket in addition to admissions is required.

New programs include:

- "An Art Museum Mystery," 4 p.m., Fridays, April 1 - 29. There's been an art theft and a murder at the museum. Guests join the fun and solve fictitious crimes including a suspicious murder and an attempted theft of an unusual object. They'll collaborate with a team of special investigators exploring the museum to figure out clues and interview dubious suspects, all while learning about objects in the collection. In the end, do guests have the sleuthing skills to solve the mystery? A ticket in addition to museum admission is required.
- "A Dog's Life," 10:30 a.m., Wednesdays, April 6 - June 15. This guided tour of figures, pictures and other items explore a dog's life as family pets and

workplace helpers in the 18th century. Admission ticket is required.

Returning programs include:

- "Music in the Museums," 2:30 p.m., Thursdays, March 24 - June 16. Guests enjoy live period music played on period instruments (antique or reproduction) by a member of the Governor's Musick as they tour the museum. Admission ticket is required.
- "That's How Old!" 2:45 p.m., Thursdays, March 24, April 7, 21, May 5, 19, June 2 and 16. This guided tour will share some of the methods and materials used by preventative conservators to keep museum objects looking their best, while keeping the objects safe. Admission ticket is required.
- "From a Woman's Perspective," 4 p.m., Tuesdays, March 29. Multi-instrumentalist Kelly Kennedy shares songs of politics, pots, pans, poetry and pioneering from

the lives of women in the 18th and 19th centuries. Admission ticket is required.

- "A Century of African American Quilts," 10:30 a.m., Fridays, April 1 - June 10. Guests explore the exhibit of African-American quilts on this guided tour and enjoy a hands-on activity. Admission ticket is required.

Family programs feature a tour and an activity and include:

- "By George!" 10:30 a.m. Mondays, March 21 - June 13. On a guided tour, families learn about George Washington through objects connected or owned by him. Admission ticket is required.
- "A Stitch in Time," 3 p.m., Mondays, March 21 - April 25. Guests tour 18th-century samplers on exhibit and discover who made them and why. Families then create a design for their own sampler. Admission ticket is required.

See **Museum Programs**, page 2



Women were in unexpected places in 18th-century Williamsburg

What was life like for women in the 18th century? Through programs during Women's History Month in March, Colonial Williamsburg explores the many roles of women, free and enslaved, on the eve of the Revolution.

Programs include:

- "Pleading Her Cause," 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Wednesdays, March 16 – 30, Capitol. Guests uncover the stories of three women who engaged with the highest levels of colonial law and government as not only victims but active participants – even criminals – as the guide reveals how their cases as abandoned wives and convicted felons shaped 18th-century law and shed light on women's roles in Virginia society. Admission ticket is required.
- "Women in Art," 10:30 a.m., Wednesdays, March 16 – 30, Art Museums. On a guided tour, guests explore women as depicted in art, as well as the work of women artists. Admission ticket is required.
- "Military Distaff: The Fairer Side of the Army," noon, Thursdays, March 17 – 31 and Tuesdays, March 22 and 29, Guardhouse. Women following the army were wives, mothers, sisters or otherwise associated with the soldiers.

We have very few names we can attach to these women, yet their numbers were in the thousands, and their contribution to the American Revolution should be recognized. Admission ticket is required.

- "Eighteenth-century Marriage: What's Love Got to do With It?" 3 p.m., Friday, March 18, Raleigh Tavern. How was marriage different, and the same, in the 18th-century? Guests hear from a Colonial Williamsburg historian about the legal and social dimensions of matrimony. Admission ticket is required.
- "Women in Trades and Business," 1:30 p.m., Saturday, March 19 and Friday, March 25, Raleigh Tavern. Guests meet a pair of 18th-century women who run businesses in Williamsburg. Admission ticket is required.
- "Lessons with Ann Wager," 3:30 p.m., Mondays, March 21 and 28, Raleigh Tavern. Guests meet Ann Wager of the Bray School for African-American children and experience some of the lessons those very children learned. Admission ticket is required.
- "Growing Up, Growing Older, Issues Peculiar to Women," 1:30 p.m. Monday, March 21, Raleigh Tavern. Many

women today are curious about how their sisters in the 18th century dealt with matters of maturation, fertility and growing older. This program offers a look at the answers available to women in the 18th century. This program is not recommended for young children. Admission ticket is required.

- "Women in Music," 4 p.m., March 22, Art Museums. Guests join Kelly Kennedy and John Turner for tunes and songs by or about women from the 18th and 19th centuries. Admission ticket is required.
- "Courage to be Lady Washington," 1:45 p.m., Wednesdays, March 23 – 30, Art Museums. A younger Martha Washington, on the eve of the Revolution, questions her older self's reluctance to join her husband in the presidency. Why shy away from the public duty now when you were the "Spartan Mother sending her sons off to battle"? Admission ticket is required.
- "The Pursuit of Beauty," 4 p.m., Thursday, March 24, Raleigh Tavern. Guests learn about 18th-century standards of beauty, body image and cosmetics with women from historic trades. Admission ticket is required.
- "A Gathering of Hair," 2:30 p.m., Sat-

urdays, April 2 – 23, May 7 – June 11, Raleigh Tavern. Guests meet Elizabeth, a free black woman, and her enslaved friends, Agnes and Lydia, as they prepare for a gathering. Guests discover how these women manage love, work, beauty, friendship and, of course, hair. Admission ticket is required.

- "Pleasures of the Dance," 10:15 and 11 a.m., Mondays, April 4 – June 13 and Wednesdays, April 6 – June 15, Raleigh Tavern. Guests visit with the dancing mistress and have a lesson in this important social grace. Seating is limited. Admission ticket is required.
- "Women Were (Almost) Everywhere," 4 p.m., Saturday, March 26 and Thursday, March 31, Raleigh Tavern. Guests speak with interpreters about finding historical women in unexpected places and working as women in historic trades. Admission ticket is required.
- "Unbecoming Her Sex," 10:45 a.m., Wednesdays, March 23 and 30, Fridays, March 18 and 25, Raleigh Tavern. Guests explore the lives of professional female musicians in a man's world. Admission ticket is required.

Want to know more? Visit www.colonialwilliamsburg.com.

Historic Area programs

Continued from page 1

- p.m., Wednesdays, March 23 – June 15 and Saturdays, April 2 – April 30 and May 7 – June 11, in front of the Raleigh Tavern. With the men away fighting the war, the women of Williamsburg are left to keep home and hearth safe and the city running. Guests witness the story of three of these women as the war turns their lives upside down. No ticket required.
- "On to Yorktown and Victory," 5 p.m., Fridays, March 18 – June 17, Saturdays, March 19 – June 11, Tuesdays, March 22 – June 14, Wednesdays, March 23 – June 15 and Thursdays, March 24 – June 16, behind the Courthouse. No ticket required.
- "Our Founding Documents: A Founding Father's Perspective," 1:45 p.m., Tuesdays, March 22 – June 14, Art Museums. George Wyrhe discusses the progression of thought upon which our nation's founding was based, from the Magna Carta through the U.S. Bill of Rights. Admission ticket required.

Tours of the Governor's Palace will run from 9:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. Guests are invited to explore at their own pace from 4 – 4:30 p.m. Capitol tours will run 9:30 a.m. – 4

p.m. beginning March 11. On March 17, both the Palace and the Capitol offer programs 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. From 4 – 4:30 p.m., guests are welcome to tour the historic buildings at their own pace.

Historic Trades has expanded the guest experience this spring with new and returning programs. As part of new programs, guests can talk to Colonial Williamsburg interpreters who started at the brickyard, view their collection of photographs and hear descriptions of their experiences. The Weaving Shop opened at the Greenhow Tenement. Sheep shearing is scheduled to take place at the site. The new Tailor Shop is tentatively scheduled to open this spring. The Print Shop offers guests the opportunity to make their own Declaration of Independence. Coach and livestock will set up an egg incubator to hatch rare breed chickens. The Silversmith Shop produces the only hand-cut reproductions of Paul Revere's Boston Massacre plate.

Candlemaking returns on March 22. Guests have the opportunity to watch candles being made. The Fire Engine and Bucket Brigade makes a comeback in April. Great Hopes, the Brickyard, the Carpenters and Historic Foodways also will feature hands-on activities.



Colonial Williamsburg photo

Elaine Shirley, manager of the Rare Breeds program, explained to an audience about how sheep were sheared in the 18th century. Eric Hunter demonstrated the 18th-century technique. Sheep shearing takes place this year at the Weave Shop.

Museum programs

Continued from page 1

- "The World Made Small," 10:30 a.m., Tuesdays, March 22 – June 14. During a guided tour, families explore doll-houses on exhibit, then create their own miniature to take home. Admission ticket is required.
- "Creature Crafternoon," 2:45 – 4:15 p.m., Tuesdays, March 22 – June 14. Young guests drop in and create a work of art inspired by the creatures on view in "Birds, Bugs & Blooms: Observing

the Natural World in the 18th Century." Admission ticket is required.

- "Heraldry Hunters," 2:45 p.m., Wednesdays, March 23 – June 15. During a guided tour, families discover coats of arms in the galleries and learn the meaning behind the symbols, and illustrate a book to take home. Admission ticket is required.

Want to know more? Visit <http://history.org/history/museums/index.cfm>.



Photo by Penna Rogers

Master carpenter Garland Wood told guests about the bull's-eye window that they made for Mount Vernon.

Employee Referral and Recognition program

Employees who bring new talent to Colonial Williamsburg by referring applicants who are hired and successfully employed for 30 days will be recognized through the Employee Referral and Recognition program.

Monetary awards of \$75 for hourly employees and \$150 for salaried employees will be given to employees with successful referrals. Referring employees will receive the bonus in their normal paycheck on the pay date immediately following their referral's first 30 days of employment.

In addition to the monetary reward, employees will be publicly recognized and thanked for their referrals.

Employees from across the Foundation can participate in the program with the exception of human resources professionals directly involved in hiring and hiring managers for referrals of positions within their own departments. Former employees who return to the Foundation after a five-year absence are considered new hires.

To nominate someone for the award employees can find cards at work units throughout the Foundation, on bulletin boards and on the Intranet.



70th Annual Garden Symposium explores “Gardens We Call Home: Insights from the Trailblazers and Trendsetters”

Colonial Williamsburg hosts its 70th garden symposium April 24-26 with presenters who include long-standing garden friends and tomorrow's trendsetters. For its 70th anniversary, Garden Symposium is partnering with the Garden Club of Virginia and the American Horticultural Society to offer an extraordinary garden experience.

Special focus will be given to art in the garden, which complements the theme of the Garden Club of Virginia's Historic Garden Week. Lecturers will discuss planting for architectural interest, plants with style, perennials, foliage plants and food-scaping.

Guest presenters include Joe Lamp'l, the trailblazing host of the popular television garden program “Growing a Greener World,” nationally recognized author and lecturer Kerry Mendez, and the trendsetting horticulturists Brie Arthur and Kelly Norris. They, along with Colonial Williamsburg landscape professionals and other garden experts, will share practical information for transforming the home garden into a personal oasis.

Colonial Williamsburg employees who will assist with programming are:

Historic Area Garden Tour, 3:15 and 4:30, April 24. A member of Colonial Williamsburg's landscape staff will

familiarize guests with their efforts to maintain and preserve the gardens during this walking tour in the Historic Area. Guests will see how gardens reflected the wealth and status of people living in 18th-century Williamsburg and how archaeological and historical documentation are used to recreate the gardens today. Plant identification will also be included.

Tall Tales, a History of North American Trees, 3:15 p.m., April 25. The Eastern Hardwood Forest is the most diverse temperate forest on the planet. This walking tour talk identifies many of the trees found in North America by the colonists and trees that are not so common in landscapes today. **Scott Hemler**, senior gardener, will share identification tips and discuss the different uses of these tall treasures, everything from wagon wheels to gun stocks. Scott oversees the propagation, maintenance and distribution of the plants sold at the Colonial Garden and Nursery.



Scott Hemler



Katherine Teiken



Margaret B. Pritchard

Birds, Bugs and Blooms Exhibit Tour, 4:30 p.m., April 25. Guests explore the growth of interest in natural history during the 18th century through period illustrations with **Katherine Teiken**, assistant curator, prints, maps, and paintings. She curated the exhibit, “Bugs, Birds, and Blooms: Observing the Natural World in the 18th Century,” which opened in February 2015 at the DeWitt Wallace Decorative Arts Museum. With the settlement of the New World, many Englishmen and colonists were fascinated by the plants and animals that were native to the region. These gentlemen on both sides of the Atlantic exchanged specimens and ideas and sponsored the avid collecting and

documenting of birds, bugs and plants. Gardens, carefully planned and laid out, furthered the studies and enjoyment both privately and publicly. Beautiful watercolors, hand-colored prints and period books illustrate this story.

Illustrating Nature: Mark Catesby and His Circle of Friends, 7:30 p.m., April 25. Mark Catesby made two trips to the American South during the first decades of the 18th century. During the 10 years that he was here, he observed and painted the natural life of the region. Upon his return to England, he set about producing and publishing the “*Natural History of Carolina, Florida, and the Bahama Islands*,” the most important publication on the flora and fauna of America to appear prior to the American Revolution. **Margaret B. Pritchard**, senior curator and curator, prints, maps, and wallpaper, talks about the inspiration of his original drawings. Margaret is responsible for selecting appropriate prints, maps, and wallpaper to hang on the walls of buildings in the historic district and curating exhibitions for the Art Museums of Colonial Williamsburg.

Attendees must be preregistered for the symposium. Employees receive a 50 percent discount off the \$350 admission ticket.

Pulitzer Prize winning-historian Annette Gordon-Reed elected trustee

By Joe Straw
Public Relations Manager

The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation board of trustees has elected Pulitzer Prize-winning historian and legal scholar Annette Gordon-Reed a trustee of the foundation.

Gordon-Reed's research into the historiography of the relationship between Thomas Jefferson and Sally Hemings, an enslaved woman whom he owned, was discussed in her groundbreaking 1997 book “Thomas Jefferson and Sally Hemings: An American Controversy.” Her scrutiny of previous research challenged longstanding assertions that Jefferson was not the father of Hemings's children and that the father was one of his nephews, Peter or Samuel Carr. DNA testing completed the following year confirmed a genetic match between a Hemings descendant and Jefferson descendants. There was no match between the Hemingses and the Carrs. The DNA evidence, combined with conventional historical evidence, has led most Jefferson scholars, and The Thomas Jefferson Foundation (Monticello), to conclude that Jefferson was the father of all of Hemings's



Annette Gordon-Reed

children.

In 2009 Gordon-Reed became the first African American to win the Pulitzer Prize for History with her book “The Hemingses of Monticello: An American Family.” She is the Charles Warren Professor of American Legal History at the Harvard Law School, a professor of history in Harvard's Faculty of Arts and Sciences, and the Carol K. Pforzheimer Professor at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study.

“Colonial Williamsburg tells the essential stories of rare people who changed the course of history,” said Thomas F. Farrell II, chairman of Colonial Williamsburg's board of trustees and chairman, president and CEO of Dominion Resources. “Annette's work illustrates that one scholar's research can change how we see fundamental individuals and events of that history,

and with it our shared American identity. We are deeply grateful for her generous assistance of educational mission, which will benefit both our guests and students of history everywhere.”

“Annette's remarkable work illustrates not only the undiminished relevance of our nation's history, but that history itself grows and evolves as we learn more about our collective past,” said **Mitchell B. Reiss**, Colonial Williamsburg president, CEO and board member. “Her scholarly leadership and support are critical as we seek to engage a far broader audience with the real stories of our shared, complex heritage.”

Gordon-Reed's honors include a fellowship from the Dorothy and Lewis B. Cullman Center for Scholars and Writers at the New York Public Library, a John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship in the humanities, a MacArthur Fellowship, the National Humanities Medal, the National Book Award and the Woman of Power & Influence Award from the National Organization for Women in New York City. She was elected a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2011 and is a member of the Academy's Commission on the Human-

ities and Social Sciences.

Gordon-Reed is also the editor of “Race on Trial: Law and Justice in American History” and author of “Andrew Johnson and Vernon Can Read!: A Memoir,” with Vernon Jordan. Her next book, with Peter S. Onuf, entitled “Most Blessed of the Patriarchs”: Thomas Jefferson and the Empire of the Imagination,” is due for release on April 13, 2016.

Gordon-Reed was born in Livingston, Texas, and grew up in Conroe, Texas. She earned her bachelor of arts degree from Dartmouth College and her Juris Doctor from Harvard Law School. She served as an associate with the firm of Cahill Gordon & Reindel and as Counsel to the New York City Board of Corrections.

She was previously Wallace Stevens Professor of Law at New York Law School and Board of Governors Professor of History at Rutgers-Newark University before joining Harvard's faculty. Last year she served as Harold Vyvyan Harmsworth Visiting Professor of American History at the Queen's College, University of Oxford. She holds honorary degrees from the College of William & Mary and Ramapo College.

AT&T supports “The Idea of America” history and civics course content for more than 7,500 students in 32 states

By Joe Straw
Public Relations Manager

The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation's “The Idea of America” history and civics course content will be available free to more than 7,500 students across 32 states thanks to a \$35,000 contribution by AT&T.

A hallmark of Colonial Williamsburg's award-winning educational outreach products, “The Idea of America” is a suite of supplemental, interactive course content based upon “the great debate” that forms the nation's civic lifeblood and provides framework for students to better understand history and its importance today.

“The same debates that took place in the halls, streets and taverns of Williamsburg more than 200 years ago continue today, and are as relevant as they were then,” said Colonial Williamsburg President and CEO **Mitchell B. Reiss**. “We are deeply grateful for AT&T's critical support for ‘The Idea of America’ course content,

which will help ensure that today's students understand, appreciate and engage in ‘the great debate.’”

The 111 awarded teachers were selected from among 482 educators requesting 33,865 student accesses. Thanks to AT&T's support 7,550 students will receive access to this program.

“Supporting education has been important to AT&T for more than 100 years,” said J. Michael Schweder, president, AT&T Mid Atlantic. “We're excited to work with Colonial Williamsburg to provide teachers and students in Virginia and across the country with access to this course content, which is especially timely in this presidential election year.”

Classes studying “The Idea of America” consider 65 case studies that capture Americans' contrasting interpretations of shared values, from the colonial period to the debates over enslavement and the New Deal to contemporary political discourse. Course-

work highlights the basic value tension at play, such as unity versus diversity, private versus common wealth, freedom versus equality and law versus ethics.

The original course content spawned a printed text in 2013, while a new version of the classroom curriculum launched this year offers interoperability across different learning management systems.

“The Idea of America” was developed with support from the late Frank Batten, Sr. and the Batten Foundation; Mr. and Mrs. Theodore W. Brickman, Jr.; Marcia Randall, and Mr. and Mrs. Robert S. Wilson among other generous donors.

More about “The Idea of America” and licensing information is available at theideaofamerica.org or by calling 800-761-8331.

Schools in Virginia who have received awards included:

- Wilson Memorial High School, Augusta County Public Schools, Fishersville, 30 students

- Louisa County High School, Louisa County Public Schools, Mineral, 10 students
- New Horizons Regional Education Center, Newport News, 15 students
- Madison Alternative School, Norfolk Public Schools, Norfolk, 30 students
- Riverheads High School, Augusta County Public Schools, Staunton, 23 students
- King's Fork High School, Suffolk Public Schools, Suffolk, 64 students
- Williamsburg Montessori School, Williamsburg, 30 students

AT&T Inc. is committed to advancing education, strengthening communities and improving lives. Through its community initiatives, AT&T has a long history of investing in projects that create learning opportunities; promote academic and economic achievement; or address community needs.



Your Story

Katharine Pittman new face of Martha Washington

EMPLOYEE NAME: Katharine Pittman

POSITION: Nation Builder Martha Washington. "Currently I am exploring her younger years and connections to Williamsburg."

YEARS OF SERVICE: "I will have five years of service with The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation in June of this year. I became a Nation Builder in September of last year to portray Martha Washington. I also portray dancing mistress Sarah Hallam as part of Nation Builders. Prior to that time I was with the actor/interpreter department primarily portraying Betsey Nicholas Randolph. I was fortunate enough to have the opportunity to portray her in the Revolutionary City as well as in a Henrage Auditorium program for Religion Month called, 'The Pious Man's Daughter, The Rebel's Wife.'"

WHAT I DO: "I have the honor of bringing to life the younger years of Martha Washington's life. For the first season of portraying her, I am focusing primarily on the years of her widowhood after the death of her first husband, Daniel Parke Custis, into her second marriage to Colonel George Washington. As I grow and progress in the role, Martha's timeline will grow and progress as well. My supervisor, Lee Ann Rose, and I have been very careful in how we plan to portray her story to our guests. Not many people know about her early life or her connections to Williamsburg. My goal is for our guests to have a new understanding and appreciation for the woman who stood so loyally by George Washington for so many years as her own person with her own story."

WHAT I LIKE ABOUT MY JOB: "I am very fortunate that my position allows me to be both an actor and historian. One of my favorite things about my position is that I have the ability to have one-on-one conversations with our guests in character. It can be very scary for our guests to speak to people 'in character' but when you create that relationship and comfort with them and they allow themselves to be immersed into the world you've created, it's amazing the response that you get. It's a way of learning that is unlike any classroom setting."

WHAT I DO TO IMPROVE THE GUEST EXPERIENCE: "It is my belief that we should be the foremost scholars on our subjects. To that end I have immersed myself in the world of Martha Washington as best that I can. I have devoted the last seven months to researching every piece of information I can about Martha. I have created quite a library of books about Martha, her family and world. I have gone to our Special Collections at the John D. Rockefeller Jr. Library and studied her account books and her letters. I had the great fortune of going to Mount Vernon for three days this past November with Lee Ann Rose as part of a Gonzales Field Experience Fund. I have also attended a seminar at the University of Virginia called 'Martha Washington's World' where I spent the day speaking with scholars about Martha and the world she lived in. I have tried to totally immerse myself in all things Martha in preparation for playing her. While I have done much research on her life, I know that it will be a continuous and a constant part of my position. "Through this research phase I have been able to create programming for the future season. I am very excited to begin my first program as young Martha



Katharine Pittman

in March for Women's History Month; it is called 'Courage to be Lady Washington.' Lee Ann Rose and I will be doing the program together as presidential Martha and Revolutionary War Martha, respectively. This program will have the two Martha Washingtons discussing two moments in her life where she hesitated, once when she first went to the winter camps, and again when she was going to the presidency. In April/May I will be doing a program called, 'A Mother's Wisdom' where Martha Custis is receiving advice from her mother on her wedding day to Colonel George Washington. In June I will be doing a program called 'Becoming Mrs. Washington' where Martha arrives at Mount Vernon for the first time since her marriage to Colonel Washington."

MEMORABLE EXPERIENCES: "My trip to Mount Vernon this past November was extremely formative in my development as Martha. To have the ability to quite literally walk where Martha walked, see the view from the portico that she would have seen every morning, and climb the same stairs to the third floor bedroom that she climbed every day was a very humbling and rewarding experience. We also had the opportunity to meet with the Mount Vernon curators and go through their Special Collections department. I was able to actually hold and examine Martha's clothing, jewelry, letters and items that were most near and dear to her. It took her from a figure in history to a real person."

BIGGEST ACCOMPLISHMENT: "This past February I had my very first photo shoot as Martha. Putting on an outfit and having my hair dressed in Martha's style really brought her to life for me. Martha was a very strong, powerful woman throughout her life and to have costuming that reflects that strength is a testament to our fine people at the Costume Design Center for finding the right wardrobe for the character. I also went into the St. George Tucker House as young Martha Washington and spoke to our donors for the first time this past February. It was an amazing experience to finally put all the months of research into practice. I feel that honestly, the best is yet to come in portraying Martha. She has so many wonderful facets of her life and personality. I am looking forward to bringing them to our guests in exciting new ways."

INTEREST/HOBBIES: "My husband, Stewart, and I enjoy living on Duke of Gloucester Street with our two dogs, Savannah and George (he was already named that before I got this position!). We are fortunate enough to have a very close group of friends that we enjoy spending time with on a regular basis. We love having game nights and watching 'Dr. Who' or 'Downton Abbey' together. I also enjoy exercising one of Colonial Williamsburg's new Cleveland Bay horses, Isabella."

News Briefs

VITA volunteers offer free income tax assistance

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program, sponsored by The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, will provide free tax assistance to employees, retirees and volunteers at four neighborhood sites for this year's tax season.

Through April 16, VITA volunteers, certified by the Internal Revenue Service, will complete "while-you-wait" Federal and Virginia income tax returns on a first-come, first-served basis at the following locations:

- Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2-5:30 p.m. at Bruton Heights School Education Center, Room 204;
- Wednesdays (all tax season) 2-5:30 p.m. at James City County Recreation Center, 5301 Longhill Road, Room C;
- Saturdays from 9:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. at Quarterpath Recreation Center, 202 Quarterpath Road.

- Filers should bring:
- Year 2015 tax documents, including wage and earnings statements (W2s and 1099s), receipts for deductions;
 - a copy of Federal and State tax returns for 2014;
 - a driver's license or other government-issued picture ID;
 - dependent Social Security card(s) if claiming dependent;
 - health insurance information (e.g., Form 1095);
 - bank account routing information, and any other relevant information about income, expenses and deductions.

For more information, please call the automated message line at (757) 220-7029 (press option 3) or contact Jane Lloyd at 220-7163 or jlloyd@cwfb.org.

Spring Employee Yard Sale slated for April 9

Colonial Williamsburg's corporate and foundation relations department will sponsor the Spring 2016 Employee Yard Sale from 8 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 9 at the corner of First Street and Capitol Landing Road.

To reserve a space, complete and return an application form by Thursday, April 7 to Sophie Hart in GBO-105. There is a \$2 fee to participate to cover the cost of advertising in the Virginia Gazette.

Sale locations are on a first-come, first-served basis. Employees are asked to

bring a mat or table to display items and money to make change. No crafts, food or drink items can be sold. Employees may park in the Costume Design Center parking lot.

Employees may donate unsold items to the Disabled American Veterans. A truck will pick up any unsold, donated items after the sale has ended.

If it is raining the morning of the sale, call 220-7272 for a message on whether the sale will take place. The rain date is Sunday, April 10.

CW Job Expo



Photo by Emily Slicer-Smith

Colonial Williamsburg hosted three Job Expos in February. On Feb. 17, employees were invited to meet with hiring managers, attend interview workshops and meet with representatives for CW Day, Foundation Nation, the Job Referral Award program and the Wellness program. (Above) Journey brickmaker Josh Graml (left) and Jason Whitehead, master of masonry trades, represented the Brickyard during the job expo. The Feb. 24 - 25 expos invited the public to see what career opportunities Colonial Williamsburg has to offer.

Marketplace

FOR RENT: Townhome in Fairways Villas. Cheerful and elegant. 2 master bedroom suites, one up/down – walk-in closet. Vaulted ceilings. Loft/office w/built-in bookshelves. Private patio. Washer/dryer. Lovely community pool, tennis, playground included. Serene neighborhood yet convenient to everything. \$1,125/mo. No pets/ no smoking. CALL: (757) 253-8668.

Goods and services advertised in CW News are offered by individual

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 progr@cwfb.org.

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