

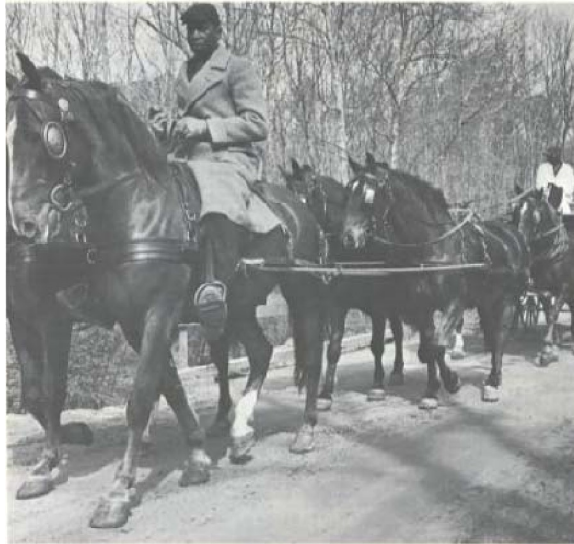


Coach and Livestock

Coachmen of the Past

For the next year, we will be highlighting and honoring the many contributions of African American coachmen to Colonial Williamsburg and the Coach and Livestock program. In this issue, we spotlight the achievements of Charles Jackson. Charles Preston Jackson was born 7/12/1909. He was employed by the Foundation as Coachman from 8/15/1958 through 9/28/1982.

CW News 1965 April 20 p.4



Another Lively Addition To CW Scene Six-Horse Carriage Driving

Charlie has been a coachman-interpretor since 1958, driving CW carriages down Duke of Gloucester Street. This spring, he and coachman Willie Minkins are working with six horses at a time, instead of the usual pair. Willie rides one of the lead horses as postillion, while Charlie drives the others, four-in-hand, from the high seat of an old Tally-Ho pressed into service for practice.

"We're training ourselves to drive as much as we're training the six horses to work together," explains Jake Keyser. The training, for the men and horses, usually takes place early in the morning. They drive out through Kings Mill to the James River. "We always make a little better time coming back," Jake says, "because the horses know they're heading for the stable and food."

The largest and heaviest horses -- Star and Pet -- drew the wheel position. The swing team (middle pair) are Damon and Valiant; while CW's youngest members of the equine family, Duke and Earl, are used as leaders. There are two reasons for arranging the horses in that order, according to Jake. The wheelers have the burden of holding the carriage back on a downgrade, as well as starting the carriage up from a stop. And, perspective makes the leaders look larger to an observer, so placing the smaller horses up front gives the team a nice, balanced appearance.

After sitting in the driver's seat for a few minutes to get a first-hand impression of four-in-hand carriage driving, a CW News representative turned to Charlie to comment, "I'll bet you're a champ at Indian wrestling." Charlie just flexed his muscles and laughed.

CW News 1961 Dec. p. 1

Baughman Uses Colonial Scene For '62 Calendar

A scene at the Ludwell-Paradise Stable is the setting of the widely distributed 1962 calendar done by Baughman Company, color lithographers of Richmond. An ektachrome taken by CW Photographer John Crane, entitled "Saddling Up," shows Public Relations Staff Writer Burke Davis with John's oldest daughter, Jennifer, and Coachmen-Interpreters Charles Jackson and Willie Minkins, all in colonial costume.

The Baughman Company has recently printed a brochure offering for sale prints of the many Williamsburg scenes used for calendars in the past. Scenes in the pamphlet include the Bootmaker's Shop which was the setting of the 1960 calendar, Bruton Parish Church, the Palace Garden, the Palace Canal, the Sabbath in Williamsburg and Winter in Old Williamsburg. These scenes may be purchased for two dollars each directly from the Baughman Company, 801 South Randolph Street, Richmond.

Breeding Season

Fall is breeding season for the Leicester Longwool sheep. Most breeds of sheep only ovulate in the fall because they are attuned to the days of shortening daylight. Their gestation period is five months, which means they lamb in the spring when the grass growth is good for optimal milk production. We usually put the rams in during October and lambing usually starts in mid-March around St. Patrick Day.

The shepherd likes to know when the ewes are due and one way to do that is by using a marking harness. Two of the four rams that are currently breeding in the historic area are wearing a marking harness. The harness resembles a backwards backpack, which sits on their chests. The harness contains a colored crayon about the size of a deck of cards. When the male mounts the female to breed her, a crayon mark is left on her rear and the shepherd knows that the ram has finished his work. This is an updated process for an old idea. In the 18th century, you would smear tar on the ram's chest, and he would leave a mark behind in that manner.

We don't usually use the marking harness till later in the season, but this year two of our ewes have been sold and we want to know when they are bred for the new owner. After 17 days, the average length of heat period in sheep, the crayon color is changed in case a ram didn't impregnate a ewe in the first round. The rams usually get three to four heat cycles to breed the ewes. Now you know why the sheep's butts are currently blue and not green - the second color of choice, or even black - the third color of choice. So, keep an eye out for more bouncing baby lambs in the spring!



The Royal Governors Coach



The Royal Governors Coach was built in 2004 in Vienna, Austria and arrived in Williamsburg in 2006. A coach much like this was built by coachmaker Elkanah Deane in 1773 for the Earl of Dunmore. "I made, in the city of New York, for his Excellency the Right Honorable the Earl of Dunmore, a coach, phaeton, and a chaise, which may now be seen by any gentleman that has an inclination."

Coaches similar to the Royal Governors Coach would have been above and beyond the means of most people in the 18th century. This type of carriage would have been used for in town trips and was not intended to be driven out into the wilderness. Owners of such carriages were generally rich or aristocratic as they were the only ones who could afford such luxury.

While the carriage was built in Austria, the Geddy Foundry was responsible for the harness buckles and Phil Moore of Colonial Williamsburg's paint shop was responsible for the coat of arms and fine details to the coach.

It was shipped in a container across the Atlantic in 2006 and has been in service ever since.

Retired Horses

As with all working animals, the time to retire eventually comes. This year we have retired 6 horses. Captain and Ranger, who were the pair that pulled the Queens carriage during her 2007 visit, have retired to being professional grass cutters in Charlottesville. Toby, who was often a carriage horse and riding horse to Mrs. Washington has retired to Ohio where the weather suits his allergies. Chief, who was a carriage horse along with Sergeant has become a family pet and often participates in small carriage competitions. Finally, John and Zander, who were riding and driving horses have retired to be therapy horses and are making children and veterans smile every day.



The Coach and Livestock Newsletter is a publication of Colonial Williamsburg Coach and Livestock Department

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