



Colonial Williamsburg News

INFORMATION ABOUT COLONIAL WILLIAMSBURG PEOPLE AND PROGRAMS
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Photo by Darnell Vennie

Michael Twitty performed a cooking demonstration in the Peyton Randolph kitchen on Feb. 11. He made Madeira ham.

Michael Twitty brings a taste of Africa, South to CW's taverns

Michael Twitty, acclaimed culinary historian, author, interpreter and "Afroculinaria" blogger, visited Colonial Williamsburg on Feb. 10-11 to demonstrate cooking and talk with interpreters.

Michael is the first in a series of Revolutionaries in Residence, a two-year pilot program that will provide entertaining, educational and immersive experiences for guests and employees.

"He met with interpreters as a group and other staff members to talk about best practices, history and how to best interpret African and Southern foodways," said Marvin-Alonzo Greer, site supervisor at the Peyton Randolph House.

Michael worked in the Randolph kitchen on Friday and Saturday. "On Monday, he worked at the Powell House kitchen with group interpreters," Marvin said.

In addition to his skills as an interpreter, Michael brought his skills as a cook. Four of his recipes will be served in Colonial Williamsburg's taverns:

- Chowning's Tavern is currently serving barbecued ribs with sauce.
- Shields Tavern will serve a vegetarian black-eyed pea soup beginning on March 1.
- King's Arms tavern will serve an appetizer portion of Madeira ham and sweet

See Twitty page 2

"Bounce" between centuries at CW, Busch Gardens Williamsburg

New Historic Area programming brings families face-to-face and hands-on with 18th-century life; guests can enjoy a Spring Getaway stay with a Williamsburg Bounce Ticket featuring multiday admission to Colonial Williamsburg and Busch Gardens Williamsburg.

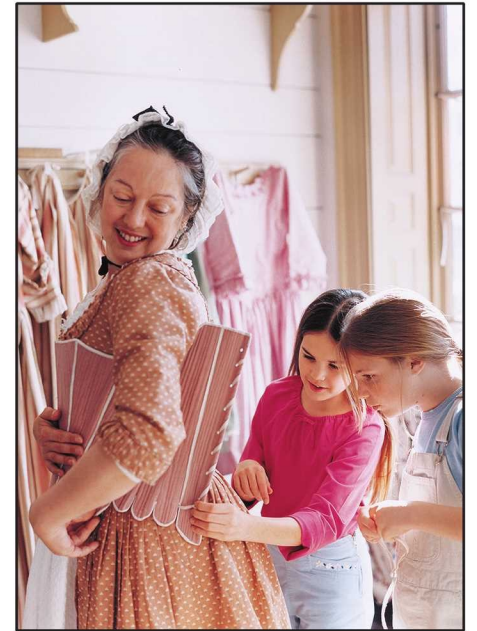
This Spring Break, families are invited to travel through time to the 18th-century city and enjoy an enriched Colonial Williamsburg experience, then "bounce" into modern thrills at Busch Gardens Williamsburg.

The popular spring Williamsburg Bounce Ticket offers admission to Busch Gardens Williamsburg in addition to Colonial Williamsburg sites, programs and the Art Museums of Colonial Williamsburg, plus parking for seven consecutive days March 25 through May 14.

The Bounce Ticket is included in the Spring Getaway package for guests who book their stay at a Colonial Williamsburg hotel, including Colonial Houses, the Williamsburg Lodge, the Griffin Hotel, and the Williamsburg Woodlands Hotel and Suites. The package also includes free breakfast daily with rates starting at \$159/night. The Bounce Ticket is also available online for \$99 and \$79 for youths ages 6-12.

This year Colonial Williamsburg unveils new, multifaceted programming at sites including the Geddy, Wythe and Randolph houses and Anderson's Blacksmith Shop and Public Armoury. Along with other shops and sites like the historic Raleigh Tavern, guests of all ages can meet the nation's founders, enjoy period stories, music or military drill, and even try their hands at historic trades and games, with a focus on fun for young revolutionaries.

"Colonial Williamsburg offers a setting like no other for families to immerse themselves in our shared history," said Colonial Williamsburg actor-interpreter Michelle Smith. "We admire, and even envy, the ease with which kids transport themselves into this 18th-century world we craft. To watch



Colonial Williamsburg photo

Janea Whitacre, mistress of Colonial Williamsburg's Milliner Shop, shows young guests 18th-century clothing.

them play along as they learn never ceases to be rewarding, and we hope new and returning guests will join us this spring for new, fun experiences in the Revolutionary City."

Busch Gardens Williamsburg opens March 25 and 26, March 31-April 23, then Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays through May 21 before opening seven days a week May 26 through Labor Day. Colonial Williamsburg is open seven days a week.

Tickets, reservations and additional information are available at Colonial Williamsburg ticketing locations, online at colonialwilliamsburg.com/spring-break and for the Williamsburg Lodge, which is a member of the Marriott Autograph Collection, at marriott.com/phfak or by calling 855-296-6627 toll-free. Additional information on Busch Gardens Williamsburg is available at buschgardens.com/va.

Acquisitions, loans herald importance of African-American heritage

With its mission to tell America's enduring story through its material culture, the Art Museums of Colonial Williamsburg have actively diversified its collections over recent years and have bolstered efforts to increase their holdings of African-American works of art and artifacts. In the past six months, the Art Museums have acquired by purchase, gift or loan several significant pieces that further this goal.

"Colonial Williamsburg has long believed that art and artifacts speak loudly about the people, places, and events of the past. Because we strive to tell the broader American story, it is important that we continue to seek out those objects that speak to the African-American experience during the colonial and early national periods. These newly acquired works address that mission handsomely," said Ronald L. Hurst, the foundation's Carlisle Humelsine Chief curator and vice president for collections, conservation, and museums.

The Art Museums have just received the country's most extensive collection of pre-Revolutionary woodworking planes made by African-American artisan Cesar Chelor. Prior to receiving his freedom, Chelor was owned by the earliest documented



Colonial Williamsburg photo

The Art Museums have just received the country's most extensive collection of pre-Revolutionary woodworking planes made by African-American artisan Cesar Chelor.

American plane maker, Francis Nicholson (1683-1753) of Wrentham, Mass., and eventually became his apprentice. Chelor later became a plane maker in his own right as did Nicholson's son John. Upon the elder Nicholson's death, he willed Chelor his freedom, 10 acres of land and the tools and materials to continue his work on his own, thus making him the earliest known African-American toolmaker in North America. Of the more than 700 Chelor and Nicholson planes known to exist, the Colonial Williamsburg collection now owns more than one third of them. This new group of almost 250 planes was amassed over several decades by the late David V. Englund of Seattle; it was Englund's longtime vision that his collection should go to Colonial Williamsburg where the tools could be shared and studied.

"The Englund collection encompasses the spectrum of woodworking planes crafted by the first dynasty of truly American toolmakers," said Erik Goldstein, senior curator of mechanical arts and numismatics. "Spanning the middle quarters of the 18th century, it is highlighted by the products of Caesar Chelor, Francis Nicholson's manumitted slave, and latter free tradesman. This

See African-American art, page 3



Continuing education helps employees create a better guest experience

Development Award winners in the Education, Research and Historical Interpretation Division allow 14 employees to pursue continuing education opportunities within their areas of expertise.

Chris Brown of group interpretation will take a Virginia Association of Museums workshop on “Applying Virginia Standards of Learning (SOL) to Museums” in April. SOLs describe the commonwealth’s expectations for student learning and achievement in grades K-12 in several topic areas including social science and history.



Chris Brown

“The main idea is to see what other museums are doing,” Chris said. “Many of the museums are from bigger markets.”

James Jolly of group interpretation received an award to go to Prickett’s Fort, a living history museum in Fairmont, W.Va. “I’m going to be learning about interpreting history, trades such as the blacksmith, and school and group outreach.”



James Jolly

Jamie Mesrobian and **Joseph Wixted**, both of group interpretation, are traveling to the Museum of Science in Boston. “We are going to work with the Education Resource Team,” Jamie said.



Jamie Mesrobian

They want to know how Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) can be incorporated into school and group tours. “STEM has been give more and more intense focus,” she said. “We also have a lot of science and math teachers coming to see what Colonial Williamsburg offers.”



Joseph Wixted

Character interpreter **Nicole Brown** attended three fashion workshops with Burnley & Turnbridge in Williamsburg. The workshops covered making 18th-century

jackets, stays and hats.

Nicole portrays three characters – Hannah Powell, Martha Jefferson and Clementina Rind. She wanted to know the basics so she could talk knowledgeably about 18th-century garments, as well as the relationship with the millinery.



Nicole Brown

Actor-interpreter **Felicity** will visit the Smithsonian National Anthropological Archive in Suitland, Md. “I will study different objects such moccasins and leggings,” she said. “I’m looking for things I can create here and how I can interpret them.”



Felicity

She portrays Mary Squirrel, a Nottoway Indian. “My character is a seamstress,” she said. “I have made some of my clothing by hand. I’m hoping the collections can give me insight into sewing techniques.”

Historic interpreters **Warren Taylor** and **Michelle Watson** will attend the Cherokee History and Cultural Institute in Cherokee, N.C. Their colleague, **Kody Grant**, attended the July event last year and recommended it. “Conference speakers discuss different topic areas such as storytelling, culture, anthropology, archaeology, geology and history,” Michelle said.



Warren Taylor

Katie Van Duinen of Historic Trades and Skills is planning a day trip to the National Rifle Association National Firearms Museum in Fairfax, Va.



Michelle Watson

Adrienne Lotto of performing arts is learning how to play the baroque guitar. “It’s a very interesting instrument,” she said. “I want to be able to accompany other instruments or accompany myself when I’m singing.”

Adrienne has been taking lessons from music teacher Tim Olbrych at the Col-



Photo submitted by Adrienne Lotto
Adrienne Lotto has been learning baroque guitar since October 2016.

lege of William and Mary since October 2016. Currently, she practices at the Wythe House while guests tour the historic home.

Jeff Thomas of military programs is pursuing two National Rifle Association courses as a firearms instructor and training counselor. “As an instructor, I will teach guests at Colonial Williamsburg’s musket range,” he said.



Jeff Thomas

As a training counselor, Jeff will work with instructors. “I will be able to work with staff,” he said.

He also will be able to perform the duties of range safety officer.



Kurt Smith

Kurt Smith, who portrays young Thomas Jefferson, is learning how to play violin on a pouchette or kit violin.

“There are so many possibilities

with programming,” Kurt said. “When Jefferson was writing the Declaration of Independence, on the first, second and third drafts, we can see changes that he made in between periods of inspiration. It would be great to create a program around that.”

Colonial Williamsburg musician **Wayne Hill** will teach Kurt how to play the violin. To date, Kurt can play “Mary Had a Little Lamb” and “Hot Cross Buns.”

Apprentice weaver **Jason Hillegas** took a weaving theory and drafting class on Feb. 17 - 18. “Master weaver **Karen Clancy** encourages us to keep up our education,” he said. “It’s a class that will help me get to the next level.”



Jason Hillegas

Apprentice weaver **Aubrey Moog** will attend the May 6-7 Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival. She will be able to participate in competitions and take fiber arts classes, among other activities.

Regular, non-exempt, non-supervisory staff members with direct interpretive contact with guests are eligible to apply for grants up to \$1,000 for professional development activities including seminars, conferences, courses, programs, research projects and presentations related to current or planned programming, exhibits or interpretive sites. Awards may be used for, but are not limited to, travel, tuition expenses, museum admission, meals and general expenses.

Applications are being accepted for the Spring 2017 grants by March 1.

A committee comprised of six representatives from the qualified departments will select award recipients. Current Committee members are: **Cathy Hellier** (Chair), **Mary Carter**, **Susan Gilliam**, **Stewart Pittman**, **Jason Whitehead**, **Layne Anderson** and **Brenda Leek**.

The Douglas D. and James S. Watkinson Educational Endowment at Colonial Williamsburg supports the Education, Research and Historical Interpretation division Professional Development grants.

*Want to know more? Employees from the Education, Research and Historical Interpretation division can review the Frequently Asked Questions and download an application on the Intranet at <http://intranet/historicarea/RHI/index.htm>. Applications should be submitted to **Brenda Leek** through interoffice mail at BHS or bleek@cwf.org.*

Twitty

Continued from page 1

potatoes with a biscuit beginning on March 2.

- Christiana Campbell’s Tavern will serve a catfish stew beginning March 14.

As a Revolutionary in Residence, he talked about his first visit to Colonial Williamsburg at an inaugural REV Talk on Saturday, Feb. 11. “My dad brought me here begrudgingly after I saw an ad,” Michael said. “My father – a military man – wanted to see the guns and cannons. All I wanted to see was cooking. I remember going to the Governor’s Palace, and the interpreters brought a peacock that was covered in beautiful blue, green and red feathers, and began plucking it. My father got me out of there.”

When Michael attended college, he had the opportunity to meet August Wilson, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of “Fences.” Wilson told him that he would find his culinary roots by “going back to the South and find Africa through your grandmother.”

He found his roots in Alabama, North Carolina and South Carolina. “I had to relearn what African-American means,” he said. “It was such a big surprise. I’m part of history.”

Michael has toured plantations including Historic Brattonsville in McConnells, S.C., to study African-American foodways. “It was like channeling something,” he said. “I found the place of origin of my ancestors’ food.”

He not only discovered his ancestors but a way to honor them as well. “My art is built on the ground of the slave quarter,” Michael said.

Families can learn from their ancestors, Michael said. “Our ancestors had gardens to grow their own food.”

Lack of access to fresh produce has caused food deserts today. “African-Americans want to build better diets and become healthier,” he said.

Twitty’s past projects include a presentation with the Center for the Study of Southern Culture and the Southern Foodways Alliance, and as a 2016 TED fellow he delivered the TED Talk “Gastronomy and the Social Justice Reality of Food.” He is the author of “The Cooking Gene: A Journey through African-American Culinary History in the Old South,” scheduled for release later this year by HarperCollins.

The Revolutionaries in Residence program is generously sponsored by The Grainger Foundation of Lake Forest, Illinois.

Applicants sought for Spring 2017 Professional Development grants

The Education, Research and Historical Interpretation division (ERHI) is seeking applicants for Spring 2017 Professional Development grants. Front-line staff have the opportunity to pursue continuing education opportunities that will enhance the guest experience.

Last fall, 15 employees received the opportunity to study in the areas of their specific fields. For more information, see the story below.

Regular, non-exempt, non-supervisory staff members with direct interpretive contact with guests are eligible to apply for grants of up to \$1,000 for professional development activities.

Opportunities for continuing education can include, but are not limited to, seminars and conferences, courses, lectures, programs, research projects, presentations related to current or planned programming, exhibits and interpretive sites and museums.

Covered expenses include tuition,

travel, museum or park admission, performance admission, meals and lodging.

Applications should be submitted by March 1. A committee comprised of six representatives from the qualified departments will select award recipients. Current Committee members are: **Cathy Hellier** (Chair), **Mary Carter**, **Susan Gilliam**, **Stewart Pittman**, **Jason Whitehead** and **Layne Anderson**.

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Did your New Year's resolutions include health, wellness?

2017 is here! There's no better time to start a path to improved health and wellness – or to continue building on good progress that you've already made. Join the Wellness Revolution!

More than 600 of your colleagues participated in the program last year, and more than 400 qualified for the health care premium reduction. If you were among our Wellness participants, congratulations!

This year, we've made it even easier. Just complete your physical or well-woman visit by Dec. 1 to receive a \$25 reduction on your CW health care premiums each pay period in 2018 (\$650 annually).

Once you've had your appointment, you will need to self-report the visit on our updated wellness website www.WellnessRevolution-CW.com or the free Viverae app by simply uploading either:

- A physician's note stating the date of your appointment, or
- An EOB (Explanation of Benefits) from your insurance company. It's that



simple!

Here is what you can experience in 2017:

- An updated web portal with a new URL: www.WellnessRevolution-CW.com.
- Beginning in February, earn badges for your wellness successes through the web portal.
 - New employee challenges – look for information on the first one in March.
 - And don't forget our health coach options, peer challenges, and the Wellness Fair in June!

As a reminder, you must be a benefits eligible employee by Dec. 1, in order to be eligible for the premium discount in 2018. The incentive

is a reduction on CW health care premiums for active employees, and is not a cash payment.

If you have any questions, please contact **Amy Goldschmidt** at extension 7026.

To register for the Wellness Revolution, visit www.WellnessRevolution-CW.com. Instructions for registering can be found on the CW Intranet under the Benefits section of the Human Resources page.

Milestone Memories

Good advice: Be polite to everyone, both CW employees and guests

EMPLOYEE NAME: David Becker
POSITION: Utility worker at King's Arms Tavern

WHAT I DO: I have been employed by The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation continuously since 1991, all in the food service area. I have been working in my present position, primarily the cleaning of pots and pans, for about 10 years. I have also worked in the kitchens at the Williamsburg Lodge, Cascades and the Williamsburg Inn, as well as in the clubhouse kitchens at both the Gold and Green Golf Courses. Prior to my employment with Colonial Williamsburg, I worked for the Williamsburg Pottery for 28 years.

DO YOU HAVE FAMILY WHO WORK HERE? I was born and raised in the Miami, Fla., area and attended Hialeah High School in that city. I moved to Virginia in 1977, and my wife and I now live in King and Queen County where we have approximately two acres of property. My wife, Karen, works as a cook at Chowning's Tavern, and we both work on the same days. She has been working at Chowning's for almost six years. She is originally from the Poquoson area in Virginia. We have no



David Becker

children, and no other relatives employed by Colonial Williamsburg. We have been married for 35 years.

INTERESTS/HOBBIES: In my spare time, I love to build model cars and ships, and also enjoy decorating my rock garden and doing landscaping

around my property.

ADVICE TO NEW EMPLOYEES: My advice to new employees is to try to get along as best you can with your fellow employees and be polite to everyone, both other staff and our guests. Work hard and follow the instructions of your supervisor. Don't be afraid to ask questions if you have any concerns and issues.

African-American art

Continued from page 1

unique assemblage of colonial planes will serve as a core of Colonial Williamsburg's woodworking tool collection."

Another exceedingly rare addition to the Art Museums' collections is a pair of silver teaspoons marked by Peter Bentzon, examples from the less than two dozen known objects bearing his touchmarks (of either his initials or "P. BENTZON"). Bentzon, a free man of color, was born about 1783 in the Danish West Indies (now the United States Virgin Islands) to a mother of African and European descent and a Norwegian father. Trained as a silversmith in Philadelphia, he worked both there and in St. Croix, moving several times between these locations prior to his death sometime after 1850. The two teaspoons were made in either Philadelphia or St. Croix between 1815 and 1830.

"Few objects survive to bear testament to the work of enslaved and free people of color as silversmiths in early America. We are very pleased to share these spoons as examples of the diversity of craftsmanship on these shores," said **Janine E. Skerry**, senior curator of metals.

Another exciting addition to the collections is a pale pink silk drawstring workbag made in 1827 by the Birmingham (England) Female Society for the Relief of British Negro Slaves. English and American women of the day carried workbags as a fashionable accessory to hold their pocket-books, handkerchiefs and even keys. While often embroidered with floral motifs, this workbag takes a more political and moral conviction. The Female Society for the Relief of British Negro Slaves, established on April 8, 1825, produced literature, printed albums, purses and workbags for sale to help raise awareness of the cruelty toward enslaved Africans and to provide money for their relief. The workbag's central roundel (or decorative medallion) is printed with a copper plate image of a slave kneeling and chained to the ground. The foreground shows a group of slaves being whipped by their master. The reverse is also printed, but with a stanza from William Cowper's poem on slavery printed in "The Task" in 1784. The stanza reads:

Thus man devotes his brother, and destroys;

And worse than all, and most to be



Colonial Williamsburg photo

An exceedingly rare addition to the Art Museums' collections is a pair of silver teaspoons marked by Peter Bentzon, examples from the less than two dozen known objects bearing his touchmarks.

deplored,

As human nature's broadest, foulest blot,

Chains him, and tasks him, and exacts his sweat.

With stripes, that mercy, with a bleeding heart,

Weeps when she sees inflicted on a beast.

"This small work bag shows the very active role that Female Societies took in working toward the abolition of slavery during the 19th century. While many fancy workbags survive from this time period, these politically and morally charged women's accessories are seldom found and make this piece a unique acquisition to the Colonial Williamsburg's collection," said **Neal Hurst**, associate curator of costumes and textiles.

From roughly the same time period as the workbag, comes another extraordinary acquisition: a signed, ash-glazed stoneware storage jar made in 1849 by the enslaved African-American potter, David Drake, often known as "Dave," who worked for various owners in the Edgefield district of South Carolina for more than 50 years. This is the first signed piece of Drake pottery to join the collection. At a time when it was illegal for slaves to be literate, David Drake not only signed many of his pieces but also was known to inscribe verses on them. Al-

though this jar, which stands almost 17 inches in height and includes distinctive features, such as five incised punctuates to indicate its five-gallon capacity, does not include any of Drake's poetry, it is, however, signed "Mr. Miles Dave" and dated October 15, 1849. Miles refers to Lewis J. Miles, who owned David Drake from about 1840 to 1843 and again from 1849 until Emancipation.

"The work of David Drake is important for many reasons: It speaks to the role enslaved labor played in the manufacture of utilitarian wares in 19th-century South Carolina; it helps to illuminate some of the complexities of that system; and most of all it gives us a glimpse into the life of this man and the world he inhabited," said **Suzanne Findlen Hood**, curator of ceramics and glass. "This storage jar relates directly to the attributed, but unsigned example that has been in the collection since the 1930s and will allow us to more fully interpret the life and work of David Drake."

These stoneware vessels were refined works of art in their own right. To make some of these containers, he combined turning and coiling techniques in which he turned the bottom portion of the pot on a wheel and then coiled clay ropes around the top of its walls. This enabled him to create vessels of remarkable height and diameter.

In 2016, "A Century of African-American Quilts" opened in the Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Folk Art Museum to great acclaim and features 12 quilts created by African-American quilt makers in the years following the abolition of slavery (from



On loan from Mary Jo Case

Margaret Carr (b. ca. 1909), an African-American school teacher in Rogersville, Tenn., made or inherited this quilt with a schoolhouse pattern from her mother, Lema Carr, between 1940 and 1960.

the 1870s to approximately 1990). By generous loan, this colorful variation on the typical "schoolhouse" pattern joins the exhibition, which remains on view through April 2018. According to family tradition, Margaret Carr (b. ca. 1909), an African-American school teacher in Rogersville, Tenn., made the quilt or inherited it from her mother, Lema Carr, between 1940 and 1960. The quilt features eight houses facing each other on either side of a central vertical band. Shiny synthetic fabrics in bright solid colors create the houses, each of which is further embellished with charming embroidered flowers around the foundations and bordering the windows, doors and rooflines.

"The charming 'schoolhouse' pattern seems especially appropriate for a woman who was a teacher," said **Linda Baumgarten**, senior curator of textiles and costumes. "We are indebted to collector and scholar Mary Jo Case for lending us this bold and colorful example of Tennessee quilting."



WHAT'S HAPPENING

Your Story

Watson brings history to life at Peyton Randolph House

EMPLOYEE NAME:

Robert Watson Jr.

POSITION: Historic interpreter and candle maker in the Historic Area, primarily at the Peyton Randolph House

YEARS OF SERVICE: I now have approximately 38 years of service with The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. I began my career in 1979 by working in the dish room at the Williamsburg Lodge. My career here has been quite varied as I followed my dish room experience with three years in the landscaping department and then became involved in learning various domestic crafts, such as shingle making, candle dipping, spinning and weaving, and other colonial skills.

I have also worked at the Carter's Grove Plantation when it was owned by the Foundation and supervised the Slave Quarters there until its closing. I then transferred to the Great Hopes Plantation and was involved in its initial construction and its adaptation to a middling plantation for our guests. We used 18th-century tools in constructing Great Hopes when it opened about 2007. I then became an African-American interpreter in various Historic Area programs and locations, but I have been working primarily at the Peyton Randolph House since 2011.

WHAT I DO: Presently, I am a costumed African-American interpreter at the Peyton Randolph House and am involved in the candle making program taking place in the scullery and laundry building in the slave quarters on the Randolph property. Mr. Randolph was a leading citizen in Williamsburg and served as the president of the First Continental Congress. He did own 27 slaves when he lived here, and I try to bring history to life as I both show and explain to our visitors the art of candle making in colonial times. My normal work days are Tuesday-Saturday, and I consider myself to be a teacher of Historic Trades.

WHAT I LIKE ABOUT MY JOB: I love being an African-American interpreter and being able to bring history to life at the Peyton Randolph House and at the other locations where I am assigned. I take pride in the opportunity I am given each day in conveying and explaining to our guests the normal day in the life of the enslaved population in the 18th-century capital of Virginia. Guests are able to see our work, touch our work and see with their own eyes how people actually lived and worked in colonial times and how capable people had to be to live in this time period.

WHAT I DO TO IMPROVE THE GUEST EXPERIENCE: I consider myself to be a hands-on interpreter and apply my trades at both the George Wythe House and the James Geddy House, in addition to the Peyton Randolph House. In addition to candle making, I have also been involved in the making of pitch forks, rakes, brooms, baskets and other items, all while using 18th-century tools and techniques. I want to teach our visitors about the lives of the enslaved population and how capable and skillful they were as they lived and worked for their masters and mistresses.

Last year I was involved in the candle making program on Duke of Gloucester Street which had just been re-instituted in the Historic Area after a prolonged absence. Many youthful guests, and even adults, were thrilled with the idea of making and dipping their very own



Robert Watson Jr.

candles to take with them. This was a very positive and interactive experience for our guests and I tried to make this program as honest and real as I could. I like to teach by showing living history, and the candle making program did just that.

MEMORABLE EXPERIENCES: I have had several interesting and memorable experiences throughout my 38-year career with Colonial Williamsburg. Chief among them was building the Great Hopes Plantation on our property. Transforming what was once an overflow parking lot into a middling farming plantation, all while using 18th-century tools and techniques, was a very rewarding and challenging experience for all staff who were involved in this project. This endeavor took almost eight years to complete and was truly a One Foundation effort and involved carpenters, other Historic Trades personnel, African-American interpreters and rural farmers.

When the Great Hopes Plantation opened to visitors, I was involved in the development of a tour of the property, which was entitled "Working the Soil, Healing the Soul" which focused on slavery all over the world from Africa to America and presented to our guests what it was like to be taken from your homeland, placed on a slave ship, survive the middle passage of crossing a large ocean and then end the journey by becoming a slave in the New World and being sold at an auction.

BIGGEST ACCOMPLISHMENT: Receiving a Silver Bowl after 25 years of service to the Foundation was certainly one of the highlights of my career. I also take great pride in helping many of my new and younger colleagues become more competent and knowledgeable in their presentations to our visitors and guests. I want to teach others many of the skills that I have learned over the years in the hopes this will enhance their own careers with Colonial Williamsburg.

INTERESTS/HOBBIES: I love being able to travel and visiting other small towns in the Commonwealth of Virginia. I especially enjoy the mountains surrounding Charlottesville and other rustic settings where I can just relax and take in the scenery. I love making walking sticks and weaving baskets in my spare time and enjoy spending time with my family, including my wife, two daughters and two grandchildren, a grandson who is 16 and my granddaughter who is 10.

VITA offers free income tax assistance and electronic filing

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program, sponsored by The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, will provide free tax assistance to employees, retirees and volunteers at Bruton Heights Education Center on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays for this year's tax season.

Through April 15, 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 **one location only – Bruton Heights School Education Center, Room 204.**

The schedule is as follows:

- Tuesdays, 2 – 5:30 p.m.
- Thursdays, 2 – 5:30 p.m.
- Saturdays, 9:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.

The site will close daily when maximum number of taxpayers who can be served is reached.

Filers should bring:

- Government picture ID (driver's license)
- Social Security card(s)
- Healthcare insurance form 1095-A,B,C (if received)
- 2016 Income W2s/1099s
- Receipts for deductions
- Bank account info (voided check), if e-filing
- 2015 Federal and State Returns
- Identity theft PIN/letter (if received)

A new IRS software program requires that taxpayers bring a copy of 2015 federal and state returns. Preparers are unable to access prior year information.

For more information, please call the automated message line at (757) 220-7029 (press option 3), e-mail at VITAub@cox.net or contact **Jane Lloyd** at 220-7163.

Judges sought for Virginia History Day

On April 22, Virginia History Day, the state competition of National History Day will take place at a new location, the Virginia Historical Society in Richmond. The students will compete in regional competitions first to qualify for the state level, where they will bring their historical research projects to be judged for the opportunity to represent Virginia in the National competition in June. One of the requirements is that three highly qualified historians, history professionals or educators judge each entry.

The Kenneth E. Behring National History Day Contest is a series of competitions on local, state and national levels. This year students have focused on the theme "Taking a Stand in History." More information about the competition can be found at <http://www.vahistorical.org/virginiahistoryday>.

Evaluation of student projects and discussion with fellow judges will take place between 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. Most judging ends at 2 p.m. Awards presentation ends at 4 p.m. An orientation session will be held at 8 a.m., prior to the actual judging.

To ensure the highest quality of judging, it is imperative that all judges attend this meeting. The students will be anxious to receive the evaluation of professionals. In return for time and effort, the Virginia History Day events offer coffee and breakfast, catered lunch during judge deliberation, a judge thank you gift, endless gratitude and a positive perspective on Virginia's youth.

Employees who would like to serve as judges are asked to complete the registration form for judges, <https://goo.gl/forms/GFlt5Z-51p-bHm78lK2>.

For any additional questions, contact cgrodek@vahistorical.org or (804) 342-9672.

News Briefs

Remembering Friends...

Ms. Mutter Woodward Hageman died Jan. 8. She came to work for Colonial Williamsburg in 1968 as a hostess in presentations, then exhibition buildings. In 1983, her job title was changed to historical interpreter. She was then promoted to senior interpreter in 1985. She retired in 1986 with 13 years of service. She is survived by two sons, a daughter and five grandchildren.

Ms. Poksu Cavanaugh died Jan. 16 in Newport News. She began her 19-year career at Colonial Williamsburg as a room attendant at the Williamsburg Lodge. In 1993, she transferred to the Craft House Inn Design Studio as a fabricator and worked several years before working for the Foundation's Costume Design Center as a tailor. She was a costume maintenance technician when she retired in 2012. She is survived by a son, sister and brother.

Ms. Irmalee S. King died Jan. 20 in Plano, Texas. She worked for Colonial Williamsburg in several positions in the Historic Area, beginning in 1971 as an escort in group visits. In 1981 she was promoted to adult visits coordinator and was administrative manager when she retired in 1993. She is survived by a son, a daughter and three grandchildren.

Ms. Ethel Blount died Jan. 24 in Richmond, Va. She began her 17-year career at Colonial Williamsburg as a flatwork finisher in the laundry in 1965. She transferred to the Williamsburg Inn in 1970 to work as a relief housekeeper. In 1983, she transferred to the Upholstery Shop and worked as a seamstress until her retirement in 2004. She is survived by her husband, two sons, a daughter and a host of grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Marketplace

FOR RENT: Furnished, two bedroom, 865 sq. ft. apartment- \$950/month. Washer/dryer and utilities (power, water, sewer) included. In Lightfoot area - a quick 10-15 minute drive to CW. **CALL:** (757) 291-1979 or leave message at (757)565-2054.

FOR SALE: My grandfather's old barn tools used at the turn of the 20th century. Includes brace drill bits, rat tail files and some

wooden handles, draw knife, hanging scale, tin snips, wood chisels, sharpening stone, large wooden pulleys and heavy natural fiber rope. \$20. **CALL:** Jim at (757) 784-1651.

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