



# Colonial Williamsburg News

INFORMATION ABOUT COLONIAL WILLIAMSBURG PEOPLE AND PROGRAMS  
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## First major exhibition of 19th-century wooden toys made in “the Toy Center of the World” opens Oct. 29

By CW Staff

In today's world of advertising, what you see in a mail order or a sales rep's catalogue is usually what you get. In the 19th century, however, ordering toys to be sold in an American store meant perusing 200-page, hardcover “catalogues” filled with hand-colored engraved images of more than 2,400 toys that were hand-crafted in Germany, the so-called Toy Center of the World. A rare example of such a catalogue from the 1840s along with approximately 50 toys from the Colonial Williamsburg collections that directly relate to it is the basis for a new exhibition, “German Toys in America,” which will open on Oct. 29 at the Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Folk Art Museum. The exhibition, the first major show focused on these wooden and papier maché toys, will be on view through August 2018.

“In reading newspapers from the late 19th century,” Jan Gilliam, Colonial Williamsburg's associate curator of toys, states, “I noticed that almost every December there were articles about the Toy Center of the World, the specific regions in Germany (primarily Thuringia, Erzgebirge and Nuremberg) where the toys were made, the families that made the toys and the German toy markets. There was a thriving cottage industry where each toy was carved by one person and painted by another; the finished



Colonial Williamsburg photo  
This swan squeak toy demonstrates the popularity of animal toys in the 19th century. This toy was manufactured in Germany between 1840-1880. It is made out of papier maché, wood, leather, paint and wire.

toys were brought by an agent to a central location, such as Nuremberg, and assembled into play sets and shipped all around the world.”

The toys themselves—Noah's Ark sets, soldier sets, animal squeak toys, Jumping Jacks, dolls and more—are simple but

brightly colored with charming characteristics. They provided ample opportunity for a child's imagination to bring otherwise static toys to life. Some of the toys could move, such as a small soldier on a rocking horse or a drummer in full uniform whose arms moved up and down on his drum at

the turn of a small handle. These toys from the 1800s also offer a window into what delighted children of that era; by the turn of the century, tin and cast iron toys became more prevalent and wooden toys became somewhat old-fashioned.

“Colonial Williamsburg owns a spectacular collection of 19th-century German toys. Colorful and imaginatively detailed, they never fail to command the attention of those who see them. In this age of electronic playthings, these handmade animals, vehicles and figures can still stir the imaginations of our visitors, both the young and the not so young,” said Ronald L. Hurst, the Foundation's Carlisle H. Humelsine chief curator and vice president for collections, conservation and museums.

Among the highlights of “German Toys in America” is the toy sample book of the firm of Gi Mohrhard Father & Son, Nuremberg, Germany, ca. 1840. The majority of the more-than-2,400 toys represented within the rare volume were probably made in Thuringia, while others came from regions in Bavaria and Saxony, Germany. All of the toys to be displayed with it were made between 1840 and 1880. Most are made of wood or wood and papier maché; a few have paper and a few include leather (the hollow of the squeak toys). Each of the toys  
*See 19th-century Wooden Toys, page 4*

## New, enhanced CW Explorer mobile app introduced

By Joe Straw  
Public Relations Manager

For 21st-century guests looking to make the most of their visit to the 18th century's Revolutionary City, an enriched, fully interactive experience is just a tap away via the new Colonial Williamsburg Explorer mobile app, now available for free download.

Fun features like “Colonial Camera” mobile photo overlays and a location-based tool to track and meet favorite characters like official mascot Liberty add to functionalities like wayfinding, program information and reservations at Colonial Williamsburg restaurants via OpenTable.

Through Nov. 1 guests who display the new app qualify for 10 percent off purchases at Colonial Williamsburg retail stores and receive a free appetizer—“an app for

an app”—with purchase of an entrée at any Colonial Williamsburg restaurant.

“Guests visit the Revolutionary City to immerse themselves in the 18th century, yet they still look to their mobile devices to guide them and enrich their experience,” said Andrea Sardone, Colonial Williamsburg executive director of marketing. “We listened to what they want, and we're confident this new app will add fun and efficiency to an authentic trip back in time.”

- Other functionalities include:
- Location-based greeting: When the app opens, users with location-based services enabled will see a photo and message based on their location relative to or in the Historic Area.
  - Favorite events: Users receive a notification shortly before favored events begin.



The new features in the CW Explorer mobile app are accessible via a home-screen icon depicting the Governor's Palace.

- One-tap directions: One tap generates map-based walking directions to a selected site or event.
- Utility button: In the map, a quick-access button displays key locations by category: parking, bus stops, restrooms, ticketing, and “Near Me,” which recommends and displays three nearby locations for the user to visit.
- Downloadable map: Users can download a copy of the map for offline use.

The new Colonial Williamsburg Explorer mobile app, displayed on the user's homescreen with an icon depicting the Governor's Palace, is available for free download via the Apple App Store and Google Play. For users of the legacy Colonial Williamsburg Explorer app, the new application downloads as an update.

## Explore your options during Open Enrollment 2017

Open Enrollment only happens once each year. Open Enrollment for 2017 begins Oct. 31 and runs through Nov. 18. For eligible employees, this is your annual opportunity to engage and learn more about your benefit choices for next year. Each year, the array of benefits is evaluated to ensure that reasonable cost-sharing is maintained between the Foundation and plan participants, and that the benefits are competitive with those offered by other employers.

Look for Open Enrollment packets to arrive in your work unit around Oct. 28 with the information you need to understand changes for 2017 and to make personal decisions on any benefit enrollment adjustments you need to make. Please review your packets for benefit changes that may impact you and your family.

In addition to your Open Enrollment packet, there are several other sources of information:

- The Benefits section of the Colonial Williamsburg Intranet site will be updated with new information by Oct. 31.
- Open Enrollment information sessions will be held:
  - 3-6 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 1 in the Williamsburg Lodge, Virginia Room A
  - 8-11 a.m., Wednesday, Nov. 9 in Bruton Heights School, Room 117
  - 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Friday, Nov. 18 in the Woodlands Conference Center

Are you confident you're enrolled in the benefits that best meet your needs? Take a new look this year, explore your options and ask questions. Whether your questions are about existing benefits or new changes for 2017, the Benefits team is available to help on extension 2265 or via e-mail at [benefits@cwf.org](mailto:benefits@cwf.org). For more information on benefits, see page 2.







## Six CW employees awarded Gonzales Field Experience Fund grants

This fall, six grants were awarded to Colonial Williamsburg employees from the Mary and Donald Gonzales Field Experience Fund.

The fund provides individual grants of up to \$5,000 for continuing education opportunities for non-management employees within the public history, historic trades, historic sites, historic events, coach and livestock, conservation, collections, museums and landscape departments to pursue educational opportunities.

Recipients are:

- **Barbara J. Swanson**, orientation interpreter, and **Nathaniel Lasley**, character interpreter, in the education, research and historical interpretation division for the 2016 National Association of Interpretation Conference, Corpus Christi, Texas, Nov. 7 – 12. Swanson is looking for ways to develop science- and history-based children's programs at Colonial Williamsburg. "I've always loved science," she said. "If kids don't like history, they like science. I've always wanted to integrate the two fields." Lasley also has an interest in developing programs that are inexpensive and easy. "I want to study how people are interpreting science for the average guest and children."
- **Christina Westenberger**, assistant manager, museum education, collections, conservation and museums, for Creative Innovative Learning Programme Inter-



Barbara J. Swanson



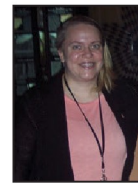
Nathaniel Lasley



Christina Westenberger



Brett R. Walker



Cari Kreidinger



Alexandra Mullins

national Training Course at the Victoria & Albert Museum, London, England, Nov. 11 -15. "It's exciting to find a weeklong program that specifically focuses on museum education," she said. "It's limited to 15 participants, and I am the only representative from the United States." Other workshop attendees represent Austria, Australia, Finland, Norway, Portugal, Sweden and Switzerland.

- **Brett R. Walker**, journeyman shoemaker in the education, research and historical interpretation division for a research project, "H.M.S. Invincible Shoes," Chatham Historic Dockyard Trust, Kent, England, early 2017. Walker will study footwear that was salvaged from the H.M.S. Invincible that sank in the English Channel in 1758. "We're studying the technical aspects of the shoes, making line drawings and cataloging them," he said. "It better informs us so

we can better inform our guests."

- **Cari Kreidinger**, senior audio-visual technician, collections, conservation and museums, for an online course, "Game Design and Development," created by Michigan State University. The course is available spring 2017. **Kreidinger** creates interactive games for exhibitions. For the display, "A Century of African-American Quilts," she made a computer game that allows players to design their own quilts on a screen block by block with designs from the 12 colorful and stunning quilts on exhibit. When finished, guests can post their creations on Facebook.
- **Alexandra Mullins**, itinerant musician in the education, research and historical interpretation division, Edinburgh International Harp Festival, Edinburgh, Scotland, March 29 – April 14, 2017. "This is

the largest festival for folk harp," she said. "It's going to help me with the technical side of performing."

Eligible employees apply for grants in the spring or fall, and grants of up to \$5,000 per person are determined by a three-member selection committee. Since its initial award in the spring of 2007, the fund has provided grants to 70 employees—29 in collections, conservation and museums; 34 in the Historic Area; and seven in landscape services.

In 2006, Colonial Williamsburg received a \$250,000 gift from Deborah S. Pulliam of Castine, Maine, a longtime friend of the Gonzales family and former Colonial Williamsburg employee, to establish the fund.

Pulliam established the fund in memory of the late Donald Gonzales, retired Colonial Williamsburg senior vice president, and his wife Mary, a musician and community activist, who died in 2011.

## FSA vs. HSA: How to Make the Best Choice during Open Enrollment

With Open Enrollment beginning Oct. 31, it is time to start thinking about your benefit plan choices. The Foundation provides both the Medical Care Flexible Spending Account (FSA) and the Health Savings Account (HSA) to help you pay for health care with tax free money. Both are good options to save money on your health care expenses, but they are different and can be complicated to understand. Your Benefits team is here to help.

To enroll in a Health Savings Account, you must participate in a High Deductible Health Plan. Additionally, you cannot have a medical FSA and a HSA at the same time. If you are currently participating in a medical FSA, you will need to have a zero balance in your FSA account by the end of this year to participate in the HSA next year.

The Foundation introduced the High Deductible Health Plan last year and will offer it again in 2017. High Deductible

Health Plans have lower paycheck premiums than other health plans, but you will need to pay for medical expenses you incur until you reach the annual deductible. To help you set aside money to pay for your medical expenses, an HSA account is available with enrollment in the High Deductible Health Plan.

With the Health Savings Account, you can save up to \$3,400 a year for an individual or \$6,750 for a family for medical expenses. An individual age 55 or over may make an additional \$1,000 catch up contribution to their account. You can make contributions to your HSA account, change your contribution amount at any time or contribute nothing. The Foundation will contribute to your HSA plan with each pay period, an annual total of \$500 for employee only HDHP coverage or \$1,000 for other tiers plus \$45 to cover the annual account fee. That is free money! It can never be for-

feited. If you do not use the money in your HSA account it will continue to roll over year after year indefinitely, and if you have a balance when you retire, you can use it for health care expenses in retirement.

The Medical Care flexible spending account has been available to Foundation employees for many years. With an FSA, you can use up to \$2,550 of pretax dollars to pay for medical expenses. You can enroll in the Medical Care Spending Account if you are a benefit eligible employee and if you are not enrolled in a High Deductible Health Plan. An advantage of the FSA is that you can withdraw money up to your annual contribution amount for a valid medical expense even if the amount has not yet been contributed into the FSA. During Open Enrollment, you will need to predict your medical care expenditures in advance and once you have chosen the amount to contribute, you cannot modi-

fy it unless you have a change in circumstances. With the FSA, you will need to use the money during the plan year and grace period or it will be forfeited. If you have never had an FSA, start out with a smaller contribution amount that you know you will spend. You will start to benefit from the savings, and it will be much easier to predict the next year.

You will save on taxes with both the FSA and the HSA through pretax contributions and tax free withdrawals. The money you contribute to the HSA can be invested and all of the investment earnings are tax free if used for medical expenses.

It is important to do the research and the math to determine which health plan and tax savings plan will be most beneficial to you.

*Want to know more? Attend an educational session scheduled for Friday, Oct. 28 from 1 - 2 p.m. at the Lodge – Virginia Room A.*

## Protect your Vanguard 401(k) account online

More than one-third of U.S. consumers experienced a computer virus, hacking incident or other cyberattack in the past 12 months according to a recent survey by Zogby Analytics. Online fraud leading to theft of money or property was experienced by 18 percent of those surveyed.

The privacy and security of your financial and retirement accounts is very important. Vanguard, Colonial Williamsburg's 401(k) Plan Administrator, maintains a comprehensive Information Security Program with a Security Center that works around the clock to keep your 401(k) account safe. Vanguard hires computer specialists and continuously reviews intelligence data collected by private security companies, the FBI, the Department of Homeland Security and other government agencies to keep your account secure.

Recently Vanguard added another security feature that you as a participant can set up. It is a security code authentication log-on. If you elect to set up this feature, you will receive a text message with an online security code when you attempt to log on to your Vanguard account. You can choose

to receive the code each time you log on or only when logging on from an unrecognized device. You will need to enter this code online (in addition to your user name and password) in order to complete the log-on process.

To secure your account:

- 1) log on at [vanguard.com/retirement/plans](http://vanguard.com/retirement/plans);
- 2) Select "My Profile";
- 3) "Overview";
- 4) Under "Security Preferences" click on security code.

A Vanguard financial representative will be available to provide assistance setting up your security online, enrolling in the 401(k) plan, or answering questions at the upcoming Benefits Fair. The Benefits Fair is scheduled for Friday, Nov. 18 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Woodlands Conference Center. Additionally, Vanguard will host a free 401(k) investment session prior to the start of the Fair, from 9:30 to 10 a.m. on Nov. 18 at the Woodlands Conference Center.

*Want to know more? If you have any questions, please contact **Christina Beitzell** at extension 7020.*

## W&M freshmen launch into community service work on SHOW Day



Photo by Trish Bamer

On Aug. 23, 14 freshmen from the College of William and Mary painted fences on SHOW Day, a service program for incoming students. Students joined one of nine community projects each designed to illustrate a unique element of Williamsburg while having an impact through service. Volunteers worked alongside other incoming students, upperclassmen leaders and community members. William and Mary students also had the opportunity to work with other organizations including Head Start, Waller Mill Park, the Arc of Greater Williamsburg, Activism in Action, Matty's Garden, Heritage Humane Society, the college's Student Environmental Action Committee and Swem Library's W&M Lemon Project.





## Navy veteran makes a gift to Liberty Lounge for operating expenses

A Navy veteran donated \$15,000 to cover operating expenses at the Liberty Lounge, a popular new space where active duty and retired military as well as military veterans can relax and recharge during their visit as tickered guests to Colonial Williamsburg.

Jim Sacra served in the Navy for more than 20 years and retired as lieutenant commander. During his career, he served in Vietnam, working on the A-6A Intruders while aboard the USS Coral Sea. In addition to serving in Vietnam, Mr. Sacra was also called up to serve in Desert Storm. After his military career, Mr. Sacra worked for the Department of Defense.

Mr. Sacra has two sons who have also followed in their father's footsteps through military service. One son is a major in the Army and has served two tours in Iraq. He will retire in May/June 2017. His other son is a lieutenant commander in the Navy. Mr. Sacra swore in both sons in at their commissioning ceremonies.

The Sacras have been faithful donors to the Foundation. "My wife, Sandy, and I wanted to do something extra for Colonial Williamsburg," Mr. Sacra said. "Supporting the Liberty Lounge was a natural fit."

Situated behind the Margaret Hunter Workshop just off Duke of Gloucester Street, the Liberty Lounge offers amenities for relaxation including hot and cold beverages and a children's activity area.

"We have hosted nearly 20,000 guests since the Liberty Lounge opened," said Les-

ley Hamer, community affairs manager.

Liberty Lounge is part of a much larger military outreach initiative that encourages service men and women to visit Colonial Williamsburg.

"Expanding military outreach is both our duty and privilege, and this promotion plays an important role in that outreach," said Elisabeth Reiss, wife of Colonial Williamsburg President and CEO Mitchell B. Reiss. "All of us here at the Foundation look forward to hosting our brave members of the military and their families."

Liberty Lounge offers a place where military guests can sit and talk, get refreshments—and see framed pictures of military leaders on the wall welcoming them.

Liberty Lounge is staffed by Colonial Williamsburg volunteers. Joe Garcia, supervisor of orientation in the Historic Area, oversees the daily operation of Liberty Lounge. He said a team of 65 volunteers—many with a military background—supports Lounge operations.

Volunteers tell Garcia that military guests come in and swap stories. "A volunteer told me a World War II veteran came in with his granddaughter and shared stories of his service," he said.

Liberty Lounge is open to service members and their families with Single-day, Multiday, Annual, Good Neighbor, Collegiate and service-related complimentary passes. Proof of military service is required at time of purchase to gain access to the Lib-



Photo by Penna Rogers

The Liberty Lounge offers amenities for relaxation including hot and cold beverages and a children's activity area. (Above) Guests at Liberty Lounge reviewed menus for the dining taverns and read other materials available there.

erty Lounge.

Corporate sponsors Lowe's, Royal Cup and The Fresh Market also contribute to Liberty Lounge.

Liberty Lounge is open seven days a

week and is open the same hours as the Historic Area.

Want to know more about military outreach and discounts? Visit <https://www.colonialwilliamsburg.com/military>.

## Dogs of DoG Street raise awareness of Heritage Humane Society



Photo by Tom Green



2.



Photos by Dave Doody

The "Dogs of DoG Street" returned for a second year on Saturday, Oct. 15. Hundreds of dogs trotted down the Revolutionary City's main drag to benefit the Heritage Humane Society — this time sporting their spookiest Halloween finery for the event's first-ever canine costume contest. (1) Apprentice joiner Amanda Doggett sketched a dog bone with the name of Colonial Williamsburg's mascot, Liberty, emblazoned in the center. (2) The fun began at 8 a.m. when gourmet dog treats prepared by Colonial Williamsburg's apprentice chefs were available at the Williamsburg Farmers Market in Merchants Square. Karen Watson, supervisor of stable operations, watched as her golden retriever, Chelsea, sampled a gourmet dog treat. (3) George Washington, portrayed by Ron Carnegie, arrived with Colonial Williamsburg's mascot, Liberty, in a carriage. (4) Moxy, who wore a Black Widow costume, and Duke, who was dressed as spaghetti and meatballs, were two of the contestants in the pet costume contest. (5) Jessica Waubop, social media content strategist, Kim Laska, executive director of the Heritage Humane Society, and communications coordinator Sheri Wood (left to right) totaled the scores for the top five runners-up in the pet costume contest. The audience chose the winner. Duke won first place as spaghetti and meatballs. (6) The march of Dogs on DoG Street ended at the Capitol. Gen. Washington thanked the crowd for its participation.



Photo by Dave Doody



5.



6.

Photos by Tom Green





Photo by Penna Rogers

Orientation supervisor Joe Garcia also manages the Liberty Lounge.

## Your Story

### OIs are first people guests come in contact with in Historic Area

**EMPLOYEE NAME:** Joe Garcia

**POSITION:** Orientation supervisor

**YEARS OF SERVICE:** I have 18 years

of service with The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, which follows my honorable discharge after serving a little over 20 years of military service with the U.S. Navy. I have been in my present position as an orientation supervisor for the past 14 years. Prior to that, I was a costumed interpreter on the Courthouse staff as well as performing in other venues throughout the Historic Area.

**WHAT I DO:** I directly supervise orientation interpreters each day, and they work in front of our Historic Trades locations and at exhibition buildings, such as the Courthouse and the Governor's Palace. These are all costumed interpreters but do not portray any special colonial characters, such as Founding Fathers Thomas Jefferson and James Madison. I am also involved in the interviewing, hiring, training, supervising and scheduling of our orientation interpreters.

On any given day, we will have 25 or more costumed interpreters interacting with our guests at various locations in the Historic Area including at the Market House bus stop when guests first arrive. Our orientation interpreters consider themselves the 'Bridge Between the 18th and 21st Centuries' as they meet and greet our guests and provide them with information that will make their visit to Colonial Williamsburg a positive experience for each family. Since they are not tied to any specific historical character or building, they are free to answer any and all types of questions our guests may ask.

Since mid-August, I have also been assigned the responsibilities of supervising the Liberty Lounge, Colonial Williamsburg's new venue for hosting our active duty, reserve and retired military veterans and their families. This also includes the monthly scheduling of the many volunteers who staff the Lounge each day, seven days a week. As a retired military veteran myself, it gives me great pleasure and satisfaction to see the many military personnel and their families enjoying their visit to Colonial Williamsburg.

**WHAT I LIKE ABOUT MY JOB:** I love the people who I work with each day. We have a wonderful staff from many and varied backgrounds. Some of our orientation interpreters are very young who are just beginning their careers with the Foundation, while other interpreters have already had other careers before coming here. From my standpoint, our interpreters must first and foremost be 'people persons' if they want to succeed as an orientation interpreter. They must love to engage our

guests each day and provide them with a very positive and educational experience when they visit the Revolutionary City. We try to make our early morning briefings each day very upbeat and positive in order to set the tone each day for all of our staff. This is very important since our costumed interpreters are often the very first Colonial Williamsburg staff that our guests encounter as they begin their day at Colonial Williamsburg. Lastly, I also enjoy meeting the many wonderful guests who come to Colonial Williamsburg. They are many and varied from all over the world and make each day special and unique.

**WHAT I DO TO IMPROVE THE GUEST EXPERIENCE:** As mentioned earlier, we begin our day with morning briefings to ensure that all of our interpreters have the latest information on what is happening during that particular day, such as any special events, programming changes, etc. Our orientation interpreters need to have a wealth of information on Colonial Williamsburg including the events of the day, dining establishments and the different locations that will be open that day. At the end of the day they report any issues and/or problems that may have surfaced during the day to the supervisor. What I enjoy the most, however, is getting into costume myself and interacting directly with the guests to create a great experience.

**MEMORABLE EXPERIENCES:** I was working the day that Tim Kaine was inaugurated as Governor of Virginia here in the colonial capital.

Being able to bring my family to the visit of Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Phillip in 2007 during the 400th anniversary commemoration of Jamestown was also very special to me.

Meeting many of the celebrities who visit Colonial Williamsburg, such as David McCullough, the author of the book, "John Adams," has also been eventful for me.

**BIGGEST ACCOMPLISHMENT:** I have participated in—and completed—the Richmond Marathon on three separate occasions. All 26.2 miles of it. I started to run when I was in my 30s and still enjoy the challenge of completing a marathon is an accomplishment for me.

**INTERESTS/HOBBIES:** As mentioned above, I love to run in my spare time. I also love to watch my favorite team, the San Antonio Spurs, during the basketball season. San Antonio, Texas, is my hometown where I was born and raised. One of my sons and I were involved as actors in one of the early EFT productions called "Freedom Bound" where I was able to speak a little Spanish during the filming and share my Mexican-American heritage.

## CW salutes military service Veterans Day Weekend Nov. 11 - 14

Colonial Williamsburg honors the sacrifices and dedication of U.S. active duty military personnel, guard and reservists, retirees, veterans and their immediate dependents during special Veterans Day programs on Friday, Nov. 11.

On Veterans Day, an afternoon march and ceremony honoring America's veterans highlights the day. The event kicks off at 4 p.m. and features the Colonial Williamsburg Fifes and Drums, Military Programs staff and members of Williamsburg community veterans groups. All armed forces veterans are welcome and encouraged to participate. A commemorative service behind the Courthouse will be held after the march. No Colonial Williamsburg admission ticket is required.

As part of this tribute, Colonial Williamsburg is offering free admission during Veterans Day weekend, Friday through Tuesday, Nov. 11 - 14, to all active duty military, reservists, retirees, veterans, National Guardsmen and their immediate dependents with proper identification.

The "Honoring Service to America" ticket provides admission to Colonial Williamsburg exhibition sites, the Art Museums of

Colonial Williamsburg and most daytime programs. The ticket also includes free parking at the Visitor Center, access to the short movie, "Williamsburg—The Story of a Patriot," and complimentary use of Colonial Williamsburg shuttle buses.

A valid Department of Defense photo ID, DD Form 214 or Report of Separation must be presented at one of the official Colonial Williamsburg official ticket locations to receive free admission.

Direct dependents of military personnel also are entitled to this program. If the service member happens to be deployed, dependents may take advantage of the offer without their service member. An adult must accompany minor dependents, and dependents ages 10 and over must present valid dependent ID.

These tickets are available only at the Colonial Williamsburg Regional Visitor Center and on-site ticket sales locations including the Lumber House Ticket Office or William Pitt Store in the Revolutionary City or ticket window in Merchants Square.

Want more information? Visit [www.colonialwilliamsburg.com](http://www.colonialwilliamsburg.com) or call 1-800-HISTORIAL.

## 19th-century Wooden Toys

Continued from page 1

has a corresponding image in the catalogue, and a digital copy of the entire book will be shown so exhibition visitors can flip through all the pages. While merchants aimed to offer toys at all price points (from as little as a few cents to more than \$50), the toys in "German Toys in America" were on the lower end of the scale and targeted toward the middle class.

Featured in the exhibition will be a 24-inch, painted wood Noah's Ark (the largest toy to be on view) that comes with approximately 80 pairs of animals. A staple for a child's nursery throughout the 19th century, a Noah's Ark was sometimes referred to as the "universal toy of childhood" and was available in a variety of sizes for a range of prices. Small arks came with Noah and his wife and a few pair of animals while the largest ark carried Mr. and Mrs. Noah along with all of his sons and their wives and innumerable pairs of animals from ladybugs to elephants. It was also the perfect Sunday toy: Noah and his family and animals could entertain young children while inspiring them with the famous biblical tale.

Many toys in the catalogue came as sets—after all, you can't construct a village or manage a farm with only one building or a have farmer with no animals—and individual pieces were packaged together in wooden boxes. A wood-and-paint village to be shown in "German Toys in America" is another highlight. Each of the 14 pieces in this set is a simple, shaped piece of wood painted a bright color and dotted with black windows. Building sets could be as small as a few buildings for a village or as large as 50

or 60 structures that form a walled city. If one set wasn't enough, additional sets could be purchased and added on.

During the 1800s, toy soldiers were one of the most popular toys for boys, and they are probably also best in large sets as it is hard to fight a battle with only one or two. The mounted soldiers to be shown in "German Toys in America" are more detailed than some and are expertly painted. Since Germany shipped toys all over the world, many uniforms were represented. Some seemed to be based on actual armies while others were more general. Newspapers reported wars from around the world and featured engravings of armies in battle so boys recognized uniforms and countries and could re-create their own version of events.

Another popular toy of the period was the squeak or bellow toy. The duck featured in the exhibition also represents the popularity of animal toys, which have natural appeal for children to this day. While the shelves of toy shops were filled with sets of wooden animals, representing the wild beasts of a jungle or the mild mannered creatures of the farm, large individual animals were mounted on wheels or on bellows. These bellows toys were charming in that the animals could "talk." When a child pressed on the bellows, the creature seemed to speak. (In reality, many sounded just alike and emitted a one-note squeak.) Some, like this duck, also incorporated movement: as the sound came out, the duck's wings flapped.

"German Toys in America" was generously funded by Don and Elaine Bogus.

## Marketplace

**FOR SALE:** Silver, handmade Egypt carouche/pendant. Name: "Robin." Never worn. Beautiful. \$50. CALL: Terry at (757) 814-7397.

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 [progr@cw.org](mailto:progr@cw.org).

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