

## Open house for Colonial Williamsburg employees at restored Courthouse June 3

Employees of Colonial Williamsburg and their families are invited to an open house at the restored Courthouse 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Monday, June 3.

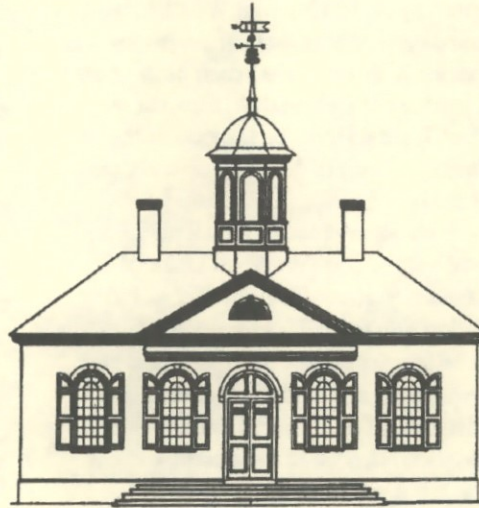
The restoration of the Courthouse began in 1983 and has involved efforts by many different departments within the Foundation—research into the architecture of the building and the legal system, work by historic craftsmen, and the development of a presentation that allows visitors to participate in an 18th-century justice system.

Visitors experience first-hand the workings of local government and see how local justice in the Colonial period helped establish the rule of law in the new American nation. The re-enactments demonstrate how traditions of civic responsibility began in the region and show the evolution of county justice in Virginia and its departure from British legal practice.

Using courtroom proceedings to bring life to the operation of county and municipal courts, costumed character interpreters demonstrate the power and status of justices and other court officials in the community, practice the lawyers' trade and depict court days and elections as community events.

Prior to entering the Courthouse, visitors are invited to serve as magistrates, deputy clerks, witnesses, plaintiffs and defendants in re-enactments of 18th-century legal proceedings presented by costumed character interpreters.

As they step across the Courthouse threshold, visitors are immersed in the 18th-century as a courtroom tableau unfolds, depicting one of several period legal proceedings conducted in the Courthouse. In addition to grave criminal charges, the court may hear charges involving non-attendance at church, complaints of an apprentice brought



against his master, or a merchant's petition to reclaim a debt. The court may also consider renewal of a tavernkeeper's license, appoint a guardian for an orphaned minor, or examine the financial accounts of an orphan's guardian accused of squandering his charge's estate.

The character interpreters portray the officers of the court, including the chief magistrate, the clerk of the court, king's attorney, defense attorneys and the sheriff:

\* John Randolph, portrayed by Jack Flinton, is a justice of James City County, an alderman for the city of Williamsburg, king's attorney in the General Court at the Capitol and a judge of the vice-admiralty court. Randolph studied law in London and was called to the bar as a barrister at Middle Temple, one of the Inns of Court. He is the son of Sir John Randolph and a brother of Peyton Randolph, speaker of the House of Burgesses.

\* Benjamin Waller, portrayed by John Greenman, is clerk of the General Court at the Capitol, advocate general of the vice-admiralty court, justice of the peace for the Hustings court of

Williamsburg, clerk of the James City County court and king's attorney in York County. Waller learned the practice of law in the office of the Secretary of the Colony.

\* Matthew Davenport, portrayed by Roman Alis, is clerk of the Hustings court of Williamsburg and a lawyer in counties adjoining the city of Williamsburg. Davenport trained in the law office of a practicing attorney and is a writing master at the College of William and Mary.

\* James Hubard, portrayed by Jeremy Fried, is a Williamsburg lawyer and serves as proctor in the vice-admiralty court and deputy clerk of the Governor's Council. In the past Hubard has pleaded cases before the Governor's Council at the Capitol.

\* William Lane, portrayed by Tom Hay, is sergeant of the Hustings court of Williamsburg and constable for James City County where he serves as assistant

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### What's happening

- ✓ Nimble Thimbles, Mondays, 5:30-7 p.m., Woodlands Caucus Room. For information call Brenda Pruitt at ext. 7658.
- ✓ Fencing, Tuesdays, 5:45 p.m. in the PTB.
- ✓ Town Criers Toastmasters, 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, noon, PTB. Call Libbey Oliver on ext. 7223 for information.
- ✓ Employee Family Picnic, Saturday, June 22, noon to 4 p.m., Bassett Hall.
- ✓ Winthrop Rockefeller Archaeology Museum Employee Open House, Tuesday, June 25, from 5 to 8 p.m.

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to the sheriff, responsible for serving writs and performing other administrative duties for the courts.

Following the courtroom re-enactment, the character interpreter leads the group of visitors outside the courthouse and answers questions from the visitors.

The restoration of the Courthouse began in 1983. Colonial Williamsburg architectural historians developed plans for restoring and refurnishing the Courthouse, performing extensive documentary and field research involving hundreds of county court record books and scores of early public buildings throughout the eastern United States and the United Kingdom.

The restoration plan reflects the emergence of local courthouses from plain, small structures of the 17th century to highly specialized structures in the 18th century with built-in fixtures. Costumed historic trades **carpenters**, using tools and techniques of the period brought the plans to life during the past year as visitors enjoyed a rare opportunity to witness restoration of an original 18th-century building in progress.

During restoration, visitors could observe and talk to craftsmen involved in the restoration of 18th-century fittings requiring the finely-honed skills of cabinetmakers and joiners as the carpenters constructed a justices' bench, sheriff's boxes and lawyers' bars.

The centerpiece of the interior restoration is the chief magistrate's chair, a towering structure made by **cabinetmakers** at the Anthony Hay shop in the Historic Area. The cabinetmakers also provided jury tables, book presses, chairs and other furnishings for the restored Courthouse.

Several other historic trade shops contributed to the restoration project. Anderson Forge **blacksmiths** manufactured hardware, nails and tools for use in the restoration. **Spinners and weavers** wove cloth for use by the **bookbinders**, who bound court record books in cloth and leather.

Restoration and interpretation of the Courthouse is a major addition to the exhibition buildings in the Historic Area, representing continuing commitment to the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation's mission of teaching the history of early America.

## Supreme Court Justices headline ceremony opening Courthouse

The recently restored 18th-century Colonial Courthouse on Market Square opens as a major exhibition building in the Historic Area during ceremonies at 11:30 a.m. Saturday, June 1.

Principal speakers are retired Supreme Court Justice Lewis F. Powell Jr., Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor and Charles R. Longworth, president of the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. The master of ceremonies is Charles R. Brown, chairman of the board of trustees of Colonial Williamsburg. Chief Justice Harry L. Carrico of the Supreme Court of Virginia also addresses the audience.

The observance begins with a Fife and Drum Corps parade on Duke of Gloucester Street from the Capitol to Market Square at 11 a.m.

Representatives from the legal and government communities, donors and other friends of Colonial Williamsburg have been invited to the opening event which is also open to the public.

Following the ceremony, the Courthouse will be open to visitors at no charge from 2 - 5 p.m. Saturday and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday.

## Volleyball Independents need you!

Spring volleyball began this week. One team is on the look out for any interested players. If you want to play and do not have a team, call Sue Houser at ext. 7029 #8, or show up ready to play at the sand courts across the street from the Franklin Street Office Building on Tuesday, May 28, for the 6 p.m. match.

## How comfortable are you in the water?

John Turner will teaching a Red Cross course on Water Safety beginning Monday, June 10, through Friday, June 14, from 8 to 9:15 a.m. This class will be held at the Tazewell Club and the only cost is \$6 for the book.

Call John at ext. 7559 or Sue Houser at ext. 7029 #5 to register.

## Shirley Plantation books and papers on display

Manuscripts, books and photographs from the Shirley Plantation Collection are on exhibit in the Foundation Library now through June 21.

The exhibit documents the Carter and Hill families' occupation of Shirley for the last 300 years. Featured subjects include plantation life, Carter family matters, the relationship of Robert E. Lee to the Carters, slavery and freedmen at Shirley, and navy history.

The books include Williamsburg imprints and signatures by Edward and Robert "King" Carter, as well as a 16th-century copy of the Magna Charta. The Shirley Plantation Collection includes more than 15,000 manuscripts, 1,200 photographs, 1000 books, art and sheet music from the 16th to the 19th century.

For more information about the collection, refer to the Spring 1991 *Colonial Williamsburg Journal*.

## Join the trip to the Phantom of the Opera

Have you had the opportunity to see the musical, *Phantom of the Opera*?

Virginia Cooke is planning a trip to see the production at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., on Wednesday, September 18. The cost is \$95 per person, and includes your transportation, tickets and dinner. The trip is limited to 30 participants. If you are interested, please call Virginia at ext. 7068, or Sue Houser at ext. 7029 #2.

## Exercise rebate checks

If you participate in the Exercise Incentive Program, please note that your rebate will be included in your paycheck. Call Sue Houser at ext. 7029 #6 for more information.

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**The Extra is published weekly by the Communications Department. Deadlines are 5 p.m. every Tuesday. Call Sally Riley, ext. 7968, for assistance. Send announcements via interoffice mail to CW News Extra, GBO. Or, FAX them to Sally Riley, ext. 7702.**