
Questions & Answers

Vol. 6, No. 1

February 1985

This miscellaneous issue of Questions and Answers provides us with some answers to questions our visitors often ask. As you look at the answers it may be interesting to relate them to larger concepts in your interpretive areas.

Do you have any questions that you did not think to ask during your Core Curriculum classes? Please let us hear from you.

1. What was the population of Williamsburg on the eve of the Revolution?

The total population was 1,880

52% Black	48% White
469 Black Male	505 White Male
517 Black Female	389 White Female

Reference: The Interpreter, Vol. 1, No. 1, July 1980

2. Were there tobacco warehouses in the town of Williamsburg?

Tobacco warehouses were not located in Williamsburg itself, but there was a tobacco warehouse at the ports of College Landing and Capital Landing.

Reference: Peter Bergstrom

3. Where was "the Exchange" located in Williamsburg where the Meeting of Merchants was held for planters and merchants?

Using various sources, Pat Gibbs supports the recent claim that the part of town known as "the Exchange" was located in front of the Capitol at the east end of the Duke of Gloucester Street.

Reference: Research Query File, April 28, 1982

4. Where was Tazewell Hall, the home of John Randolph, located in eighteenth-century Williamsburg?

Tazewell Hall stood on a direct line south of the Magazine in the middle of what is now South England Street. Since it was outside the "Restored Area" ("Historic Area"), the house was dismantled by Colonial Williamsburg. The interior woodwork of the house was purchased by Lewis McMurrin who installed it in his own home in Newport News. For more information see, Singleton P. - Moorhead, "Tazewell Hall: A Report on The Eighteenth-century Appearance", Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians, XIV, No. 1 (March, 1955) PP 14-17.

Reference: Marley Brown

TOBACCO WAREHOUSES - MASKED BALLS - MISCEGENATION - TAZEWELL HALL - CIGARS - FOX HUNTING - COLONIAL WILLIAMSBURG PROPERTIES

5. Does Colonial Williamsburg own all the properties in the Historic Area?

Most properties are owned by Colonial Williamsburg the exemptions being: Bruton Parish Church, the Bowden-Armistead House and lots, the Armistead sisters' house, and the Masonic Lodge and Kitchen. The few properties on long-term lease to the Foundation are: the Print Shop and Bindery, Wetherburn's Tavern, and the Magazine.

Reference: The Architecture Department

6. What is the meaning of the term Miscegenation?

The term Miscegenation is defined as marriage or cohabitation between a man and a woman of different races or as interbreeding between members of different races.

Reference: Random House Dictionary

7. What is the gold paint on the Coat of Arms on the Capitol and the Coat of Arms above the Palace Supper Room door?

The gold is pure gold leaf which is applied over a gold size (a sticky substance like varnish) which adheres the gold to the wood.

8. How popular was fox-hunting in the countryside around Williamsburg?

There is no evidence of fox-hunting in the area during the eighteenth century. All references to fox-hunting are from the Northern Neck of Virginia.

Reference: Research Queries File, March 24, 1980

9. Is there any evidence that cigar smoking was popular in the eighteenth-century?

There is no reference to cigar smoking in America until after the Revolution. The Oxford English Dictionary includes a few references to cigars implying that they were unusual and unfamiliar in England during the eighteenth century.

10. Were masked balls ever given in eighteenth-century Williamsburg?

There is no evidence of masked balls being given in Williamsburg, however masks were available.

Reference: Research Queries File, March 19, 1984.

ERRATUM: Please note the typographical error in Q. No. 4 in the October issue Vol. 5, No. 5. It is "feme covert", not "femme covert."

Questions & Answers

Vol.6, No.2

April 1985

In an interview with Graham Hood, Vice President and Chief Curator, we asked him questions about the collections for the Wallace Gallery and the refurbishing changes taking place in some of our exhibition buildings. While responding to our questions, Mr. Hood sets forth both the rationale for the exhibition of our collections in a gallery setting as well as in period rooms within the historic area.

1. Why do we need a Decorative Arts Gallery?

The idea of great collections and a special place to show them is a well established one at the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. In the early 1930s Mr. Rockefeller "envisioned the ultimate enrichment of the collection of antiques at Williamsburg until it should become second to no collection of its kind in the country." After the great burst of acquiring in the 1950s and 1960s, the trustees formally adopted in 1971 the principle of establishing a museum at the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation when funding became available. Several years later the proposal was first made to Mr. and Mrs. DeWitt Wallace that they fund a museum. This finally became a reality in 1979-80. For over fifty years we have accumulated great collections, and it is only proper that we should exhibit them. The gallery will illuminate, enrich, and extend the interpretation we already offer in the Historic Area.

2. So, you see the gallery as a logical and practical extension of the Historic Area?

Yes, When Mr. John D. Rockefeller, Jr., and the Reverend W. A. R. Goodwin first began their collaboration on Colonial Williamsburg, their vision revolved around a town that would reflect as accurately as possible its eighteenth-century appearance. As Mr. Rockefeller wrote after the fact: "I wasn't trying to recreate a lovely city, nor was I interested in a collection of old houses. I was trying to recreate Williamsburg as it stood in the eighteenth century." This sentiment was echoed by Dr. Goodwin, who felt that our first priority in acquiring furniture should be "colonial furniture known to have been made and used in Virginia." Both these men had as their dream an authentic recreation of Williamsburg. As we know, however, concepts of "authenticity" differ from generation to generation, as research discoveries are made. For example, Wallace Gusler's research on the furniture actually made in Virginia (published in his book Furniture of Williamsburg and Eastern Virginia, 1710-1790 1979) has changed our way of thinking about the furniture used locally. Furthermore, increased understanding of the appearance of rooms in the eighteenth century has prompted us to make changes, resulting in what we believe to be more accurate period interiors. We now believe that "museum-quality" pieces made in New England, Pennsylvania, or London would not have been in Williamsburg in the eighteenth century. So, while the Historic Area portrays a specific place and a specific time, the Gallery will provide a broader English and colonial American context.

DEWITT WALLACE GALLERY OF THE DECORATIVE ARTS

We made many changes in our exhibition buildings in the 1970s, which left us without a place to show our vast and important study collection of furnishings (not just furniture, but also textiles, metals, ceramics, prints, and paintings.) Many of these pieces, such as the textiles, are not only inappropriate for our period houses but also too fragile for the climate and traffic conditions in our exhibition buildings.

Going hand-in-hand with our increasing knowledge of regionally-identifiable groups of objects has been a heightened awareness of how items would have been placed in eighteenth-century rooms. Research in this country and abroad, which we incorporated into the refurnishing of the Governor's Palace in 1981, made us aware of many inaccuracies in our exhibition buildings. For instance, we realize that parlours and dining rooms contained large sets of matching chairs. In the past, we had sometimes used an "art museum" approach of putting several pairs of superb chairs from various regions in the same room.

We have also striven to place objects in a believable context, based on print and painting sources of the eighteenth century. Period graphics illustrate sets of chairs lined up against walls, and we have duplicated this practice in various rooms in most of the exhibition buildings; for example, the parlours at the Wythe, Peyton Randolph, and Geddy Houses. Also, inventories show that older and consequently less expensive articles were moved away from more public rooms. We have illustrated this practice at the Brush-Everard House where the William and Mary chest on frame previously in the downstairs chamber has been moved to one of the upstairs chambers. In addition, inventory sources occasionally give descriptive entries that extend beyond the usual cursory ones. Such descriptions, however short and cryptic, provide us with invaluable information about the furnishings of eighteenth-century Virginia homes.

Therefore, our aim has been to make changes in the exhibition buildings based on the most up-to-date research. Interpreters may miss some of their favorite pieces from the exhibition buildings, but they will be replaced with more appropriate and authentic furnishings.

3. Exactly how will the gallery "illuminate, enrich, and extend" the interpretation we offer in the Historic Area?

By providing the wider context of Anglo-American decorative arts of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries with which to compare the abundance of similar types of objects we see in our exhibition buildings. Making comparisons is one of the best ways actually to see intrinsic qualities--comparing the kinds of objects normally found in colonial Virginia with those typical for other colonies helps us better understand Virginia characteristics. Quality levels are also important distinctions--in the gallery, different quality levels will be seen side by side, not in different buildings. And you will simply be able to see the objects in the gallery better closer up, and not several feet away across a period room. Finally, special exhibitions such as the initial "Patron and Tradesman" exhibit will organize and highlight themes that are very appropriate to the Historic Area, but are too spread out there to grasp clearly. This exhibit in particular will strengthen the relationships between craft shops and house museums in the Historic Area.

Questions & Answers

Vol. 6, No. 3

June 1985

June is here and we find ourselves thinking about ways to enjoy ourselves. Most of our summer visitors are here on their vacations, and it might be interesting for them to learn about the ways eighteenth-century Virginians spent their leisure time. Notice how many of their amusements and celebrations were competitive and actively shared with others.

The answers to these questions are from Jane Carson's Colonial Virginians at Play.

1. Did colonial Virginians participate in team sports?

There were no organized games in the modern sense, but individuals joined together in informal teams for games of cricket, football, and the like.

2. What was the favorite amusement of colonial Virginians?

Visiting was the favorite pastime. Visitors were greatly valued as a relief from the loneliness and monotony of daily life on far-flung plantations. Eating, drinking, and dancing were significant parts of most visits.

3. Is it true that some guests stayed for long periods of time?

Friends and family from far away might visit for days or weeks, but neighbors within easy riding distance slept at home and frequently offered sleeping to other guests when the host could not care for them all.

4. What kinds of entertainment did the plantation host provide for his guests?

When guests were few in number, they were taken into the family group and became part of the daily routine, i.e., gentlemen might enjoy a morning ride over the home quarters, while the ladies attended to household affairs and personal appearance and gossiped, of course. Everyone gathered around the dinner table early in the afternoon to enjoy the company and the food and drink for several hours.

5. How did Virginians spend evenings?

After dinner, they strolled through the gardens in good weather or devoted the remainder of the day to cards and billiards, dancing and music, eating and drinking. Running through the entire day was spirited conversation, which was practiced as a social art and a practical substitute for newspapers and books. Towns like Williamsburg offered more variety in entertainment with plays, balls, assemblies, lectures, and so forth.

LEISURE TIME - AMUSEMENTS - CELEBRATIONS

6. Did they celebrate birthdays?

Birthday parties were annual customs with many Virginians. Landon Carter, for example, on his birthday invited guests for dinner and to spend the evening.

7. How did they celebrate a wedding?

The best excuse for a big house party was a wedding. Throughout the colonial period the ceremony was performed by an Anglican minister and usually in the home of the bride, and the entertainment consisted of cards and dancing, an elegant supper, a cheerful glass, and a convivial song.

Although the lesser folk had less to do with, they made as much of weddings as their betters. During the morning of the wedding day, friends of the groom gathered at his father's house and accompanied him to the bride's home in time for the ceremony at noon. On the way they amused themselves with a headlong race, started with a Indian yell and finished at the bride's door, where the winner received and shared the prize, "black betty", a bottle of liquor. The wedding breakfast was a hearty meal of beef, venison, pork, chicken, and perhaps bear steak with plainly cooked vegetables and pie, served by the bride's attendants. Dancing began immediately after the meal and lasted until dawn.

8. Is it true that Virginians loved to dance?

John Kello writing from Hampton to a London friend in 1755 stated: "Dancing is the chief diversion here, and hunting and racing." Governor William Gooch shortly after his arrival in Williamsburg wrote to his brother Thomas Gooch December 28, 1727: "The Gent [le]m [en] and Ladies here are perfectly well bred, not an ill Dancer in my Gov [ern]m [en]t."

9. Who provided music for dancing?

Music for dancing was usually played by members of the family. A German officer who visited Monticello during the Revolutionary War later observed that "all Virginians are fond of music." Music teachers, like dancing masters, traveled about from plantation to plantation. Blacks played fiddles, french horns, banjos, and other instruments for their own dances, as well.

10. Did they entertain outdoors?

In good weather outdoors fish feasts and barbecues were popular with Virginians of all classes and ages. Men and boys went fishing in the morning, and all the guests gathered under trees by the riverside for dinner. While servants cooked the fish or roasted the pigs, the young people danced to the music of fiddles and banjos.

11. Did they enjoy reading aloud?

Sometimes the company spent an agreeable evening reading selections from plays and novels. If there was a gentleman present, he did the reading and the ladies listened with eager attention, their "sensibilities" greatly moved while their hands lay idle, holding neglected needlework. William Byrd often entertained the ladies by reading aloud to them, sometimes from his own writings.

12. What kinds of games did they play?

In Virginia homes card and board games were favorite indoor amusements that ladies shared with their husbands and guests. The following are some of the games they enjoyed:

Whist, an ancestor of modern bridge, this became the favorite four-handed card game.

Piquet was a two-handed game similar to modern rummy but scored somewhat like cribbage and played like whist.

All-Fours (also called pitch) is still played today as seven-up or setback.

Put, a card game popular with the lower classes, was a primitive ancestor of modern poker.

Loo was more genteel than put and a faster gambling game played with three cards or five and either limited or unlimited stakes.

Cribbage was a five-card game of 61 holes. Today we prefer the six-card game of 121 holes, but the rules are essentially the same, and the count for both hands and melds is unchanged.

Chess, the ancient game of intellectuals and introverts, was not popular among convivial Virginians.

Draughts was the same game as modern checkers. Like chess, draughts had a limited following in the colony.

Backgammon had greater appeal in Virginia, probably because it is an easy game to learn, and the use of dice immediately suggests a greater element of chance in the play.

Dice were common items in household inventories all over the colony and standard equipment in taverns. Throughout the colonial period, hazard and other dice games were favorites of the middling sort, and occasionally the gentry played them.

Billiards equipment was part of the furnishings in taverns and in planters' homes throughout the Virginia colony. This game of skill was played by both men and women.

Goose, a board game similar to parcheesi, this game is a race between two or more players, who move their men along a track as the throw of the dice directs.

Games for children. In tidewater Virginia where the weather is warm half the year children could play out of doors a great deal of the time. Hop-scotch, leap-frog, blindman's bluff, hide and seek, prisoner's base, rolling the hoop, flying kites as well as ring and counting games were popular.

13. What kinds of sports or outdoor activities were popular with Virginians?

Virginians of both sexes and all ages and classes were at home in the saddle. Their horses were "their pleasure and their pride." Horseracing developed from informal, often impromptu tests of speed and endurance. In addition to horseracing, occasional boat races on rivers provided similar activities for social gatherings.

Fish and game were welcome additions to colonial tables, but fishing and hunting were done more for sport than necessity after the first years of settlement.

In the opinion of visitors, colonial Virginia sporting tastes placed cockfighting immediately after hunting and horseracing.

Wrestling, next to cocking, was standard recreation in the back country and among the lower classes. For the gentry, boxing was a polite accomplishment like dancing and fencing. The art of fencing could be learned in Virginia, where a number of competent teachers were available.

The duelling contests of Virginia fairs were cudgeling matches patterned after the traditional village sport in England.

Another outdoor sport, bowling, was enjoyed in England by both men and women of all classes. Ordinary people used public alleys and greens maintained by towns and taverns and the well-to-do had private bowling greens on their estates. Two European forms of the sport came to the colonies. The Dutch brought ninepins to New York, and the English brought bowles to Jamestown where they played in the streets.

The quit resembled a discus but with a hole in the middle. Its homespun variant is pitching horseshoes.

Before he laid out the bowling green at Westover, Byrd often played cricket with energetic friends. A modern cricketer would not recognize the informal sport these Virginians played. The British national game as it is played today did not begin to develop until the Hambledon rules were drawn up in 1774.

Another ball game colonial Virginians played was fives or hand tennis, what we call handball today. The origin of the name and of the game is uncertain.

Early badminton, called shuttle-cock, was a fashionable pastime in seventeenth-century England, but in colonial America only children seem to have played it.

Ice skating and swimming were popular in the appropriate seasons.

A Reminder:

You are invited to attend the Department of Historical Interpretations June Enrichment Lecture.

Subject - Jefferson in Williamsburg

Lecturer - Sylvia Cooke

Time - Monday, June 17, 1985 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Place - P.T.B.

If interested please call Missy Rodney Ext. 2401

Questions & Answers

Vol. 6 No. 4

August 1985

This issue of Questions and Answers responds to a few of the questions asked by the summer visitor. We are sure you received many more during this busy season. Let us hear from you. Please get in touch with Jane Strauss at the Davidson Shop. Send her a note or call Ext. 2449.

1. When did numbers start appearing on playing cards?

The modern 52-card deck of playing cards evolved from the ancient tarot fortune-telling cards in which all cards are numbered. Designs of playing cards varied widely. There is an 1801 deck from Spain that shows numbering of cards of each suit, from one to twelve, at the upper right-hand corner, but this numbering did not become customary until many years later. An American version printed in the mid-nineteenth century had numbers in two corners and was marketed under the brand-name "Squeezers." C. P. Hargrave's A History of Playing Cards is an intriguing and very informative work on the subject.

2. Was it illegal to make pottery in the colonies or was it just discouraged as a cottage industry?

The making of pottery as well as other kinds of manufacturing were discouraged in England's colonies. The Mother Country's purpose in settling colonies was partly to create markets for goods manufactured in England and as sources of raw materials. There is considerable evidence of colonial potters. The "Poor Potter" of Yorktown by C. Malcolm Watkins and Ivor Noel Hume tells about William Roger's work and shows examples of local pottery.

3. After someone received tobacco notes for their tobacco at a warehouse and later exchanged the notes for goods at a store, how would the storekeeper cash in or retire the tobacco note?

After the establishment of the warehouse system in 1730, all tobacco which was presented for and passed inspection was stored in public warehouses until it was loaded aboard ship for export to Britain. Planters whose crops were deemed "good and merchantable" received receipts for their tobacco in the form of warehouse notes or "tobacco notes." These notes came in two forms: 1) Crop notes which were issued on a "whole-hogshead" basis (minimum 950 pounds), and which

SUBJECT INDEX:

PLAYING CARDS - TOBACCO NOTES - HALF PENNIES - MASON DIXON LINE - SMOKED MEATS -
SEA BISCUITS - WILLIAMSBURG'S ELEVATION - PUBLICK TIMES

guaranteed the return to the planter of the same hogshead originally presented for inspection; and 2) Transfer notes which were issued for quantities less than a whole hogshead and which guaranteed only the return of a like quantity of tobacco.

Unlike Bills of Exchange (or a modern third-party check), "tobacco notes" circulated freely without need for endorsement. In the absence of a special declaration that a specific note had been lost or stolen, anyone could present any note to the warehouse that issued it, and receive the tobacco that the note represented. Thus, if a planter chose to consign his tobacco to a British merchant, he need only give his notes to the captain of the ship who would take his tobacco "home." The captain then presented the note at the warehouse, received the tobacco, and loaded his ship. If, instead, the planter used his notes to pay a debt to a fellow planter, or to buy goods from a local merchant, the notes simply were "passed on" until someone, typically a merchant or his agent, presented them at the warehouse where they were issued, collected the tobacco, and loaded it aboard ship for export to Britain.

It is important to remember that as tobacco notes of either variety were not legal tender for anything other than taxes levied in tobacco, their cash value varied with the current price of the tobacco which they represented. The only thing constant about tobacco notes was the pounds of tobacco stated on the face of the note. The holder always got back the same amount (weight) of tobacco for which the note was originally issued, regardless of its current market price.

4. Why was such a small denomination of money such as the half penny minted in England for the colonists use? Did they feel a 1/2 penny would be reasonably big enough?

To understand the context of the Virginia half-penny, Virginia's only "official" coin, two points must be made about Virginia and English money. First, after 1760, when Virginia had its own paper currency, bills of fixed denominations were available in the following denominations: f 5, f 3, f 2, f 1, 10 shillings, 5 shillings, 2 shillings 6 pence (2/6), one shilling 3 pence (1/3) and one shilling (1/). These were printed in Williamsburg, under the direction of the Treasurer of Virginia. By the mid 1760's the demand for a coin for small change was being heard by the Board of Trade in London, and in 1763, King George III authorized a copper half-penny to have value only in terms of

Virginia's "current money." Not until May of 1775 was the half-penny actually circulated in the colony, and as royal government was effectively ended with the flight of Lord Dunmore in the spring of 1776, its life as an "official" coin was short indeed.

The second point to be made is about the size or denomination--half-penny. True, it was a small coin, but many, many items in the Virginia economy were priced down to a farthing, or quarter of a pence. In fact the farthing was still in use in Great Britain as late as the mid 1950's. By comparison, the half-penny--a value of two farthings--was deemed to be very useful indeed by Virginians seeking small change on the eve of the American Revolution.

5. Who were Mason and Dixon for whom the Mason-Dixon Line is named?

From 1763 to 1767 English astronomers and surveyors Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon measured the dividing line between Pennsylvania to the north and Maryland and present West Virginia to the south. By complex measurement and computations, they fixed the border, settling a long and bitter controversy between the Calverts of Maryland and the Penn family of Pennsylvania.

6. Could or would more than one type of meat be smoked in a smokehouse? Were fish smoked there? What was done with meat stored in a smokehouse while other meat was being smoked? Would it be smoked again?

Answer "No" to the first two questions. Smoked hogmeat could remain in the smokehouse indefinitely and was unaffected by additional smoking.

Smoking adds flavor but, used alone, is an insufficient meat-preservation process in warm climates such as Tidewater Virginia. For this reason, salting was the standard method of preserving beef, pork, and fish for home use and export--especially to the West Indies--in eighteenth-century Virginia. Hams, shoulders, and sides of bacon commonly received the combined salting-followed-by-smoking method of curing. Householders varied the salt cure by adding pepper, alum, hickory ash, molasses, sugar, saltpeter, or a combination of these to the first rubbing but generally agreed on burning hickory wood in their smokehouses.

7. What are sea biscuits?

These are hard, dry, flat cakes of bread known for their keeping quality. Packed in tin-lined casks, sea biscuits would keep a year, and were essential for long sea voyages.

8. What is Williamsburg's elevation above sea level?

Williamsburg is about 85 feet above sea level.

PLEASE NOTE

When the sun rises at Colonial Williamsburg on Saturday, August 31, reveille will peal across Market Square and some 300 re-enactment soldiers will snap to attention.

The recreated encampment will come alive by 9 a.m. with campfire cooking and military drills. Across the street on the other side of the square, merchants and peddlers will set up their finest wares in fair booths, and street entertainers will begin to assemble.

That's Publick Times and Fair Days, at Colonial Williamsburg, Labor Day weekend, August 31 - September 1 ... two days filled with the sights, sounds, and smells of fall market days in the 18th-century capital. Hours of the event are Saturday, 9 a.m. to 10 p.m., and Sunday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The Publick Times of the mid- to late-1700s in Williamsburg was a period when the General Court met and the Meeting of Merchants was held. Virginia merchants attended this gathering to set commodity prices and exchange rates. Sometimes these functions coincided with a business session of the Virginia legislature. The various events drew traders, planters and socialites making it a natural time for an extensive fair or market.

Publick Times often took place simultaneously with a general muster of every able-bodied male in the Williamsburg military district. The law required that most men aged 16 to 60 serve in the state militia, available for service during times of emergency of civil disturbance.

Questions & Answers

Vol. 6, No. 5

October 1985

We wish to thank those of you who did respond to our request in Septemer for questions asked of you during the final days of Summer. We encourage you to keep in touch with us. The attached form is just a reminder to jot down questions while they are still on your mind. Please return to Jane Strauss, the Davidson Shop, or call her on Extension 2449.

Miscellaneous Questions

1. When were "greenbacks" first issued?

"Greenbacks" were first issued in 1862; they take their name from the devices printed in green ink on the backs. The first U.S. paper currency was issued in 1775 and was called the Continental dollar; the first Virginia paper money appeared in 1755.

2. Are there any records of many young girls being apprenticed to craftsmen?

Four females are named in the 110 York County apprenticeships between 1747 and 1789. Earlier York County records contain several others. Generally, these were apprenticed for household work or the textile trades (spinning, weaving, and knitting). So, no, not many young girls were apprenticed.

3. For what actual crimes did the county courts use the stock and pillory? How long was a person punished in the stocks and pillories?

Only one law (dated 1696) in the Statutes at large calls for punishment in the stocks. If a person as convicted of drunkenness and couldn't pay the fine of 10 shillings or 100 pounds of tobacco for each offense, he or she was put in the stocks for two hours for each offense.

The pillory was more frequently mentioned as an instrument of punishment, and usually ear nailing was a part of being put in the stocks. Here are the statutes that call for use of the pillory:

1705 and 1748--For any person's (including a slave's) second conviction of hog stealing, two hours in the pillory on court day with both ears nailed to it; at the end of two hours, the ears to be cut off close to the nails.

SUBJECT INDEX: MONEY-GREENBACKS-DOLLAR, STOCK AND PILLORY, APPRENTICESHIP AND GIRLS, SMOKED MEAT, NOTTOS, APOLLO ROOM, ORDER OF THE GARTER

1705, 1748, and 1753--A runaway servant convicted of using a forged or stolen certificate had to make reparation for lost time, pay recovery charges, and stand two hours in the pillory on court day.

1723 and 1748--A Negro mulatto, or Indian who gave false testimony in the trial of a slave for a capital crime had one ear nailed to the pillory for an hour, then the ear cut off and the other ear nailed to the pillory and cut off in an hour, as well as 39 lashes on his or her bare back.

1734--An Indian witness who gives false testimony in the trial of a free Indian for murder or other felony had one ear nailed to the pillory for an hour, then the ear cut off and the other ear nailed and cut off after an hour.

1748--Anyone, except a slave or servant, convicted of using a forged or counterfeited pass for transportation out of the colony had to pay £10 and recovery charges, and stand in the pillory, two hours on court day; for forging or counterfeiting a pass, or for using one knowingly, the offender stood in the pillory two hours on court day and received thirty lashes on his or her bare back at the whipping post.

1772 and 1776--For the third conviction of altering or counterfeiting the brand of a flour manufacturer or inspector, the offender had to stand in the pillory as long as the court directed.

Judging from these few and very specific statutes, the stocks and pillory may have been little use, except for convicted runaway servants. But each county court house was required by law to have these and other instruments of punishment. They seem to have been important as visible reminders of potential punishment.

4. What is the origin of the Latin phrase over the fireplace in the Apollo Room of the Raleigh Tavern?

In it is carved "Hilaritas Sapientiae et Bonae Vitae Proles." This is translated as "Jollity, the offspring of wisdom and good living." We haven't found a literary source of the quotation; it may be original with the Apollo Room.

5. Were wedding rings worn in eighteenth-century America?
If so, were they worn on the left or right hand?

Wedding rings are mentioned in wills, inventories, and other documents of colonial Virginia. We can find no reference to the exchange of rings between bride and groom, so wedding rings may have been worn only by women. In fact, it was not a general custom for men to wear wedding rings until World War II.

John Davis in the Department of Collections is checking on the customary design of eighteenth-century wedding rings and may possibly find more about who wore them and on which hand.

6. What is the process of smoking meat? How long must it smoke and what kind of wood is used?

Nicholas Cresswell gives a fairly specific description of the ham curing and smoking process as it was done in colonial Virginia:

The bacon cured here is not to be equalled in any part of the world, their hams in particular. They first rub them over with brown sugar and let them lie all night. This extracts the watery particles. They let them lie in salt for 10 days or a fortnight. Some rub them with hickory ashes instead of saltpetre, it makes them red as the saltpetre and gives them a pleasant taste. Then they are hung up in the smoke-house and a slow smoky fire kept under them for three or four weeks, nothing but hickory wood is burnt in these smoke-houses. This gives them an agreeable flavour, far preferable to the Westphalia Hams, not only that, but it prevents them going rancid and will preserve them for several years by giving them a fresh smoking now and then.

Journal of Nicholas Cresswell, 1774-1777, p. 199

7. Why do the English and French use the motto "Honi soit qui mal y pense"? Is this motto used by the Order of the Garter?

Honi soit qui mal y pense is old French for "Evil to him who evil thinks." The story is that in the reign of King Edward III (1327-1377) a lady was embarrassed when her garter came loose at a formal function. To set her at ease, the chivalrous king came to her rescue, said "Honi soit qui mal y pense," and founded the most honorable and exclusive of English orders of knighthood, the Order of the Garter, which ever since has used that expression as its motto.

8. What is the origin of the term dollar?

Several different coins have been called dollars, but in the eighteenth century in America, north and south, the Spanish milled dollar was the silver coin most frequently found. It became the standard of value for the paper money of several English colonies before 1776 and became the basic unit for the paper currency issued by or authorized by the Continental Congress. Following calculations and reports made by Thomas Jefferson in 1776, 1784, and the dollar became in 1792 the basic unit of our decimal currency system. Those interested in fuller details should also consult John J. McCusker, Money and Exchange in Europe and America, 1600-1775 (Chapel Hill, University of North Carolina Press, 1978).

Questions & Answers

This issue of Questions and Answers on transportation in eighteenth century Virginia is a follow-up to the essays on transportation in the November 1985, Vol. 6., No. 6 issue of the Interpreter.

1. Where did people park carriages?

There was no designated spot for parking on the street. Sometimes horses were tied to rails while others were trained to stand still. When not in use carriages were put in carriage houses, sheds, stables, and so forth. In other words, anywhere out of the elements.

2. How many different kinds of wagons and carriages did people use in eighteenth century Virginia?

The most numerous types mentioned are berlins, calashes, chairs, chariots, chaises, coaches, choachees, landaus, phaetons, post chariots, stage wagons, sulkies, curricles, wagons, and carts of all description, including tumbrils and drays.

3. Who owned wagons, carts, carriages?

In 1768 in James City there were some 419 taxable persons. Seventy-two wheeled vehicles were taxed, and there were far more two-wheeled vehicles in the area than four-wheeled vehicles (60 chairs, 7 chariots, and 5 coaches).

Edward Ambler and Robert Carter Nicholas each owned a coach, chariot and chair. John Randolph owned a coach and chariot, and Benjamin Waller owned a chariot and chair. Taverns in Williamsburg rented horses and wheeled vehicles for travelers and others in need of transportation.

4. What did a carriage cost?

Prices of carriages ranged widely. A coach and harness for two horses was valued at £20 in the 1768 inventory of Governor Fauquier's estate. Governor Botetourt's elaborate state coach was apparently worth much more. Ishmael Moody's estate included a chair and harness for two horses valued at £9 in 1749. Henry Wetherburn's estate included a chair and harness appraised at £10 in 1760. In 1760, Westwood Armistead's estate included a four-wheeled chaise and harness worth £30.

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5. How many miles could a traveler cover in a day?

The distances covered in a day by eighteenth-century travelers varied considerably depending on the weather, the travelers' intentions, and road conditions. Whether or not the traveler was on horseback or in a vehicle made no difference as to the miles covered in a day. One person mentioned that he went 15 miles in a chair in 2 1/2 hours while his servant, in a chair with baggage and "the old horse" traveled 45 miles in a day. The same man rode the stage in 1786 from Petersburg to Suffolk (91 miles) in 18 hours.

The post rider, who in about 1738 rode horseback from New Post (the general post office three miles below Fredericksburg on the south side of the Rappahannock River) to Williamsburg each week, left New Post on Thursday mornings and arrived in Williamsburg on Saturdays. He allowed from two to two and a half days for the trip, stopping to rest and refresh himself and his horse at necessary intervals. While there are rare instances of George Washington making the trip between Mount Vernon and Williamsburg in a little more than two days (probably nearer three days), he usually took from four to six days for the journey and stopped for business or visiting en route.

Andrew Burnaby traveled through Virginia in 1759 and 1760, moving around at a rather leisurely pace. Most days he made between 25 and 35 miles. On one occasion he commented that he arrived at Winchester "after a long day's journey of above fifty miles."

Robert Hunter, Jr., a London merchant, thought that the road between Williamsburg and Chickahominy Ferry was "exceedingly pleasant." One traveler observed in 1746 that the Virginia roads were "some of the best I ever saw, and infinitely superior to most in England."

6. Why are the carriage wheels dish shaped?

The dish shape of the wheel is to counteract pressures in two directions both down and outward. The dish counteracts the pressure outward, and the camber of the axle arm then puts the spoke at the bottom of the wheel, perpendicular to the ground, the strongest position for downward pressures.

7. How much did it cost to board horses at taverns?

The following were the going rates in several Tidewater counties in the 1770s: stable room and fodder for each horse per night, 7 1/2 pence; stable room and fodder for each horse for 24 hours, 11 1/4 pence. The rates were set by the county or city court in each jurisdiction. Those rate schedules posted in taverns in the Historic Area today are composites based on court records of nearby counties and cities as none survives for the period for the Williamsburg area.

8. What roles did blacks play in transportation?

Many stable hands and drivers of carriages, carts, and wagons were black. Many of the jockeys in quarter path and course racing in the eighteenth century were blacks, one of the most famous being Austin Curtis, who raced in North Carolina and Virginia from 1759 to 1809. He was renowned for his judgement, skill, and courteous manner.

9. Were horses taxed in any way in colonial Virginia?

Taxes were levied on horses from time to time. During and after the Revolution, Virginia taxed horses, at a rate of two shillings for every mare, colt or horse; and in the years 1782 to 1786 an additional two shillings were added.

10. Where were horses kept?

In the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries Virginians passed a law requiring that horses of inferior size and quality be fenced in order that quality of Virginia horses not be further degraded by indiscriminate breeding. It appears, however, that horses were still running free in the eighteenth century. Hugh Jones wrote, "I have known some spend the morning in ranging several miles in the woods to find and catch their horses only to ride two or three miles to church, to the court-house, or to a horse-race." Dr. Johann D. Schoepf recorded in 1783, "With the exception of those horses upon which as racers a high value is placed, all the others are let run about in the fields for pasture, without giving them in the hardest winter any protection against the inclemencies of the weather . . . and many of these poor beasts are actually forced to get what little nourishment they can from under ice and snow."

In Williamsburg, taverns provided stabling for horses as indicated in answer #7. Some private lots had stables and paddock areas; those on the town's periphery had stables and pasturage adjacent.

11. How are oxen steered?

There are five basic commands with several regional variations:

GEE -- Right	BACK--up
HAW -- Left	HUP -- move forward
	WHOA -- stop

A goad or whip is used in conjunction with the voice in order to get the oxen's attention rather than as punishment.

12. What were horses fed?

In the eighteenth century beans, fodder, hay, straw, root crops were fed to horses.

13. How did common folk move around? Did many people own horses?

Mostly walked or rode. The Reverend Hugh Jones wrote in 1724 that Virginians were "such lovers of riding, that almost every ordinary person keeps a horse." As noted above, some vehicles and horses were hired out by tavern keepers.

14. Was there public transportation in the eighteenth century?

There was little horse drawn public transportation in the eighteenth century in the Tidewater and Peninsula area. There apparently existed for a short time in 1760 a stage that ran between Hampton and Williamsburg, a distance of about 32 miles. Ferries were available for a fee to carry travelers over waterways.

15. What rates were charged for riding ferries in the eighteenth century?

The charges for ferriage in the eighteenth century varied somewhat, but the following prices from 1757 seem to be typical: fourpence for a man; fourpence for a horse; two shillings for a coach, chariot, or wagon with driver; one shilling fourpence for a cart or four-wheeled chaise with its driver; eight pence for a two-wheeled chair or chaise; fourpence for a hogshead of tobacco or a head of

cattle; one penny for a hog; and each sheep, goat, or lamb was charged one fifth of the fare for a horse.

16. What was the most popular breed of horse in Eighteenth-century Virginia?

It is difficult to answer this question in just a few short sentences. We suggest that you see Colonial Virginians at Play (hard cover), p.p. 112-118.

17. Why do the English drive on the left side of the road and the Americans on the right side?

We have searched early Virginia laws and find no colonial legislation concerning traffic patterns. There may have been an established custom in a place like Williamsburg where vehicles and horses were more concentrated, but our records do not reveal what that custom was. Curators from the Henry Ford Museum have heard it said that "the tradition of mounting a horse from the left (due to the position of one's sword), combined with the desire to walk in the center of the road, led the early Conestoga drivers to drive their vehicles on the right side of the road." The transportation division at the Museum of History and Technology at the Smithsonian feels that the Conestoga wagon, driven as it was from positions on the left, greatly influenced vehicles to drive on the right side of the road. This takes us back to about 1750 so there may be earlier precedents. "The British practice of driving to the left is rooted in chivalry and the wish to be able to fight with the right hand..."