



Colonial Williamsburg News

INFORMATION ABOUT COLONIAL WILLIAMSBURG PEOPLE AND PROGRAMS
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Culinary historian named CW's first Revolutionary in Residence

By Joe Straw
Public Relations Manager

Acclaimed culinary historian, author, interpreter and "Afroculinaria" blogger Michael Twitty launches Colonial Williamsburg's new Revolutionaries in Residence program, in which Virginia's 18th-century capital hosts modern-day innovators to engage the nation with fresh perspectives that capture the spirit and relevance of its founding era.

As part of the Revolutionaries in Residence program, Twitty delivers Colonial Williamsburg's inaugural REV Talk at 5:30 p.m. Feb. 11. The event, in which he shares insights and fields audience questions, coincides with Colonial Williamsburg's Black History Month 2017 programs including the Films of Faith and Freedom series and original live dramatic programming like "Journey to Redemption," all at the Kimball Theatre in Merchants Square.

During Revolutionary City visits through February, Twitty is also scheduled to provide demonstrations and training for Historic Foodways staff and historical interpreters, to engage guests, and to collaborate with Colonial Williamsburg's hospitality team on authentic new culinary offerings in the Historic Taverns and at Traditions Restaurant in the Williamsburg Lodge.

"Colonial Williamsburg explores the events and ideas of the 18th century that continue to define our lives and challenge



Photo courtesy of Michael Twitty

Michael Twitty's work takes him throughout the country to preserve, prepare and promote African-American foodways along with the culinary traditions of Africa, the African diaspora and the American South.

us today," said Colonial Williamsburg President and CEO Mitchell B. Reiss. "With the Revolutionaries in Residence program, we engage thinkers who question convention and capture the disruptive spirit of America's founding generation. I can think of no one better suited to begin that journey than Michael Twitty, who illuminates huge

aspects of our shared history that too often have been overlooked."

Twitty's work takes him throughout the country to preserve, prepare and promote African-American foodways along with the culinary traditions of Africa, the African diaspora and the American South. His 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.

"Colonial Williamsburg has been a part of my life for almost four decades. I hope my presence will attract a wider audience to the pleasures of lifelong learning, exploring our past and moving forward into the future with purposeful vision," Twitty said. "As we approach the incredible 400th year anniversary of African arrival in mainland British America, there needs to be a homecoming of all African Americans to this very sacred place. The Historic Triangle has incredible stories to tell and Colonial Williamsburg is at its heart and I'm excited to help illuminate those stories."

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

Admission to Twitty's REV Talk is \$5, and seating is limited. Program schedules, tickets and more information about Black History Month events are available at Colonial Williamsburg ticketing locations including the Kimball Theatre box office, online at colonialwilliamsburg.com or by calling 855-296-6627 toll-free

Revolutionaries in Residence hosts modern-day innovators to engage guests

The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation has initiated Revolutionaries in Residence, a two-year pilot program that will provide entertaining, educational and immersive experiences for guests and employees.

"This program is intended to bolster the public's understanding of our nation's founding principles and again position Colonial Williamsburg as a vital center of education, citizenship and bipartisan dialogue as we reach out to wider audiences," said Penny Young-Carrasquillo, director of development services.

Michael Twitty, acclaimed culinary his-

torian, author, interpreter and "Afroculinaria" blogger, is the first Revolutionary in Residence and will participate in a variety of activities throughout the year. (For more information, please see the article on this page.)

Components of the new program are:

- **REV Talks** (Revolutionary/Educational/Visionary). The visiting revolutionaries will give talks on a variety of topics at the Kimball Theatre. Each talk will conclude with audience engagement through a question-and-answer session.
- **Staff Training**. Each resident expert will conduct at least one staff training. The goal is not only to enhance the guest experience but to provide one-of-a-kind professional development experiences to Colonial Williamsburg staff members.
- **Donor Experiences**. Colonial Williamsburg will host events where the revolutionaries give presentations and interact with the audience.
- **Guest Interaction**. To provide even more of an educational and immersive experience for guests, events with Rev-

olutionaries in Residence involve placing the experts in a public setting, such as the Raleigh Tavern or the Governor's Palace, and allowing them to interact with guests in a more casual, conversational atmosphere during one- to two-hour time periods.

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

Additional participants in the Revolutionaries in Residence will be announced throughout the year.

Sotheby's Museum Network adds CW's Art Museums to prestigious roster

By Colonial Williamsburg Staff

The Art Museums of Colonial Williamsburg are pleased to join the list of esteemed international museums that comprise Sotheby's Museum Network, a new online destination that makes videos from leading museums accessible to a vast global audience of art collectors and aficionados. The Art Museums will be added to a select group of museums that presently includes The Metropolitan Museum of Art and Met Breuer in New York City, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Tate and the Victoria and Albert Museum in London, Grand Palais in Paris, Ullens Center for Contemporary Art in Beijing, Garage Museum of Contemporary Art in Moscow, Museo Tamayo in Mexico City and The Peggy Guggenheim Collection in Venice among others. Launched in September 2016 with more than 150 videos from 18 museums, the network is expected to grow to include more than 100 of the world's leading cultural institutions.

"Sotheby's Museum Network offers a wonderful opportunity for The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation to share its outstanding cultural collections with a world-



Colonial Williamsburg photo

This weathervane of iron, pine, paint and gilt, comes from the exhibition, "Voices of the Past: Objects from the Colonial Williamsburg Art Museums." It will be added to Sotheby's Museum Network, a new online destination that makes videos from leading museums accessible to a vast global audience of art collectors and aficionados.

wide audience," said Ronald L. Hurst, the institution's Carlisle H. Humelsine chief curator and vice president for collections, conservation, and museums. "We are honored

to join this august assemblage."

The Art Museums will initially share video content based on recent events and exhibitions on the Sotheby's Museum Net-

work that includes the 60th anniversary of the Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Folk Art Museum, "From Forge and Furnace," "German Toys in America," "Pieces of American History: The Restoration of Colonial Williamsburg's Historic Area," "A Century of African-American Quilts," "Silver from Mine to Masterpiece" and "Lock Stock and Barrel." This content will continue to be updated as additional videos are produced.

"We are thrilled to welcome the Art Museums of Colonial Williamsburg to Sotheby's Museum Network at such an exciting time for the renowned institution," said Anthony Calnek, Sotheby's senior vice-president, worldwide director of media services. "Their distinctive and historic collections will be showcased alongside those of many of the world's leading art institutions on a platform that exposes a global audience to art and collecting."

The Sotheby's Museum Network content can be seen by visiting Sotheby's digital platforms, which currently include its website (museumnetwork.sothebys.com) and Sotheby's AppleTV app. Amazon Fire will offer the content in the future.



Presidents Day programs trace political careers of Founding Fathers

During Presidents Day weekend, Feb. 18 – 19, guests discover the roots of the political careers of Patrick Henry, Thomas Jefferson, George Washington and James Madison.

Saturday, Feb. 18

- The Great Men of Williamsburg, 11 a.m. – 12:40 p.m., Capitol. George Washington (**Ron Carnegie**), Thomas Jefferson (**Bill Barker**) and James Madison (**Bryan Austin**) were shaped by their experiences in Williamsburg, and the roles that each played in momentous events that occurred at the Capitol. In the House of Burgesses, President James Madison recounts how the small city of Williamsburg played a pivotal role in developing his earliest ideas of liberty. In the Joint Conference Room, President Washington discusses the challenges of faction and the importance of compromise towards both the old Colonial Government in Williamsburg and the new Federal Government in Philadelphia. In the General Court Room, Thomas Jefferson as president, reflects back upon his family's long association with the Capitol in Williamsburg and how, during the Revolution, he helped to introduce a radical system of revisal to Virginia's colonial code of laws. A Colonial Williamsburg admis-



Bryan Austin



Bill Barker



Ron Carnegie



Richard Schumann

sion ticket is required.

- From a Virginia Governor, 1:45 – 2:45 p.m., Art Museums of Colonial Williamsburg. In the year 1779, retiring Governor Patrick Henry (**Richard Schumann**) discusses the friendships and political relations he has had over the years with General Washington, Commander in Chief of the Continental Army, James Madison, member of the Governor's Council, and Thomas Jefferson, just elected to succeed Patrick Henry as the next Governor of Virginia.
- Palace Concert: From Coronation to Inauguration, 7:30 and 9 p.m., Governor's Palace. An elegant evening of music in the home of the first two governors of the new Commonwealth of Virginia -- Patrick Henry and Thomas

Jefferson. A separate ticket is required.

Sunday, Feb. 19

- A Public Audience with the First President, George Washington, 10:30 – 11:15 a.m., Art Museums of Colonial Williamsburg. President Washington (Ron Carnegie) looks back over his long career in public service. A free separate ticket is required.
- A Public Audience with the Fourth President, James Madison, 12:15 – 1 p.m., Art Museums of Colonial Williamsburg. Guests join President James Madison (Bryan Austin) as he discusses present affairs and the state of the union, and reflects on the invention of the Executive Branch of the United States government. A free separate ticket is required.
- A Public Audience with the Third Pres-

ident, Thomas Jefferson, 1:45 – 2:30 p.m., Art Museums of Colonial Williamsburg. President Jefferson (Bill Barker) looks back over his long career in public service. A free separate ticket is required.

- A Public Audience with the First President, George Washington, 3 – 3:45 p.m., Courthouse. President Washington (Ron Carnegie) reflects on his years in the House of Burgesses, the American Revolution, serving as Commander in Chief of American forces in the War for Independence and his leadership in drafting the Federal Constitution that led to his election as the first president of the United States. A free separate ticket is required.
- Salute to the President, 4 p.m., Market Square. Fifes and Drums and cannon salute the nation's presidents. Washington, Jefferson and Madison will be in attendance. No ticket required.
- An Evening with the Presidents: Peaceful Transition of Power, 7:30 – 8:30 p.m., Kimball Theatre. Guests join presidents Washington, Jefferson and Madison in a discussion about how they as presidents interacted and negotiated with the Congresses of their times. A separate paid ticket required.

Journeymen, masters recognized for their hard work in historic trades

Seven Historic Trades employees were recognized for promotions to journeymen and masters during the annual dinner on Dec. 12, 2016, at the Fife and Drum Building.

Journeymen who received certificates were: **Jennifer Mrva**, historic gardener; **Aislinn Lewis**, blacksmith; and **Debbie Turpin**, wigmaker.

Jennifer came to Colonial Williamsburg four years ago. "We essentially have three planting seasons in the Colonial Garden. In February in hot beds, we begin planting cabbage, lettuce, radishes, beets, celery and peas. In May and June, we plant beans, tomatoes, peppers, carrots, fruit trees and flowers, which would have been a typical gentleman's garden in colonial times.

"In the fall, we will plant cabbage, kale, lettuce and vegetables. Many of the vegetables we plant eventually find their way into some of the many recipes prepared by our Colonial Williamsburg chefs and served to our guests. In addition to vegetables, the Colonial Garden also grows various plants, fruit trees and flowers, including roses and tulips, all of which are sold in our Colonial Garden Shop. Everything we grow is appropriate to 18th-century Virginia."

In addition to practicing her trade, Jennifer also interprets to guests. "I love working outdoors and learning more about colonial gardening and sharing this information with our guests. Engaging our guests and seeing them get excited about what we do in the Colonial Garden is especially rewarding to me."

Aislinn began working as an apprentice blacksmith in 2012. "We have a training curriculum with six levels," she said. "Once you've developed skills in one level you move to the next level projects that correspond to that and build on the skill set you have developed. Each year you have an assessment with your supervisor on where you are and where you need to go. At the end of the apprenticeship you make locks and more complex projects that use the skill sets you acquired over the apprenticeship."

One of her favorite projects has been making hardware for folding furniture for the Museum of the American Revolution, Philadelphia, Pa. Working with other Colonial Williamsburg trades, they reproduced campaign furniture that belonged to George Washington. "Desks, beds, tables and chairs were designed to fold up so you could move it more easily," Aislinn said. "The bed we know that Washington owned folds up into a fairly small box. It was a small four-poster bed, and the four posts folded down on the bed itself."

She studied surviving examples of folding furniture at Mount Vernon and one in Fort Wayne, Ind. "It's a way to learn how to accomplish the physical project," she said. "I learned how to record it from the original product. It's something that goes into our records in our shop."

Debbie started working for the Foundation Dec. 1, 2000, in school and group services, and at the Wig Shop Oct. 27, 2007. "I became interested in the Wig Shop during my very first tour of the Historic Area," she said. "As a new hire in school and groups, we were taken on tours, as if we were students on a visit. I remember thinking after leaving the Wig Shop that if there was ever a trade shop I would absolutely love to work in, it would be that shop. I had no background, no experience, but when the apprentice posi-



Photos by Lael White

Senior master and master blacksmith **Ken Schwarz** (left) and **Mitchell B. Reiss**, president and CEO of Colonial Williamsburg, presented **Jennifer Mrva** with her journeyman certificate.



Senior master and master blacksmith **Ken Schwarz** (left) and **Mitchell B. Reiss**, president and CEO of Colonial Williamsburg, presented **Aislinn Lewis** with her journeyman certificate.



Mitchell B. Reiss, president and CEO of Colonial Williamsburg, presented **Debbie Turpin** with her journeyman certificate. Debbie's supervisor, master wigmaker **Betty Myers** gave her a porcelain replica of the Wig Shop.

tion became available, I applied, they hired me, and I have loved every minute of my, now, over nine years in the trade. One of the biggest things I love about what I do is the fact that I can say that I am one of only a handful of people that can do this trade, in this method, in the country, if not the world."

One of the most important things the tradeswomen at the Wig Shop do is to answer questions. "People can relate to the need for fashion," she said. "The fashion of wig wearing is quite foreign to so many people that it is a great opportunity to draw people into great discussions about the changing fashions and the need to stay current."

Debbie is proud of the accomplishments she has had while working here that include working on the Winchester Wig, a project that was worked on solely by women in the trades; working on journeyman shoemaker **Brett Walker's** handmade wig, which was her first independent large-scale piece.

She has had the opportunity to travel to Copenhagen, Denmark, and several locations in Germany in September 2013 in order to study original wigs from the 17th, 18th and early 19th centuries. "My final journeyman project is a reproduction of one of the wigs I studied while in Germany, which is my absolute biggest accomplishment."

New masters who received certificates were: **Karen Clancy**, weaver; **Jason Whitehead**, masonry trades; **Ted Boscana**, joiner; and **Kaare Lofthelm**, cabinetmaker.

Karen began her career as a casual employee in Historic Foodways in 1987. Afterward, she worked for **Shirley Flora** at the Sign of the Rooster and **Carer's Grove** gift shops. She returned to the Historic Foodways program to work with **Rosemary Brandau**. Her career path led to the Costume Design Center where she became responsible for assigning costumes and inventory. Karen became a business analyst at the Visitor Center. "Then I became manager of evening programs," she said. "I oversaw 300 people on staff. It's a lot of different people doing a lot of different stuff."

Following that, she moved to human resources to become a compensation analyst. Karen has a passion for weaving so she took a job as an apprentice weaver when she had the opportunity. In December 2015, she was named master and received the certificate at the December 2016 dinner.

In her position as master, she oversees three apprentice weavers – **Annie Goode**, **Jason Hillegas** and **Aubrey Moog**. The Weave Shop currently is creating osnaburg linen, a fabric used to make slave clothing, for Black History Month.

Jason began work at Colonial Williamsburg as a summer casual at **Tarpley's Store** in May 1995. "I worked two years in products and then worked for two years as an intern with the collections and conservation department. I began in the brickyard in the fall of 1999. I became an apprentice in 2002, a journeyman in 2008 and master in 2015."

He jokes that the brickyard is compatible for him because it's the perfect job for someone who is a history major who loved playing with Legos as a kid. "I enjoy seeing the tangible work of producing bricks and then using them in



Marketing and IT employees worked together to create Colonial Williamsburg's next generation digital experience on www.colonialwilliamsburg.com.

Employees assist with major upgrade of CW website

A major upgrade to the Colonial Williamsburg website, <https://www.colonialwilliamsburg.com>, is now online. This upgrade transforms our aging web presence into a modern, immersive experience.

The Marketing and ITS divisions have made significant strides as our new website couples a responsive design delivered by a new customer experience (CX) platform. This launch represents the culmination of over a year of design and development effort.

The new website introduces several major enhancements that include the following new features:

- Full PC, Tablet and Smartphone compatibility
- Content Management System
- Promotions System
- Interactive map that allows users to determine what is shown based on the user's choices
- New booking flow that makes use of third party booking engines provided by Marriott and iHotelier
- Enhanced search functionality
- Enhanced Analytics
- Integration with our new ticketing and payment processing solutions

Colonial Williamsburg has embarked on a digital transformation program designed to:

- provide the services across the Founda-

tion that our customers have come to expect from a first-class destination and capture customer preferences so that we can better align our offerings to their needs.

The program involves multiple projects that are built upon our new digital customer experience platform. Our new website, the 'CW Explorer' mobile application and our guest 'MakeHistory@CW' WiFi network lay the foundation for a single 360 degree view of our customer.

Employees are invited to take a moment to click around the site and experience what the foundational layer of Colonial Williamsburg's next generation digital experience.

Digital Experience employees who assisted with the project are: **Brian Nesslage, Ivy Garrenton, Cameron Dolak and Rachel West.**

IT employees who worked on this project are: **Anthony Conyers, Emily Bollinger, Andrew Winfree, Jonathan Dryden, Paul Huelskamp, Ryan Pinto, Josiah Dunn, Chris Leber, David Jenner, Sharon Dericotte, Verna Nye, Nancy Plummer, Carol Marley, Kimberly MacMillan, Katie Palmer, Mary Stutz, Kim Spruill, James King, Bob Hodges, Ed Johnson, Chad Corman, Bryan Dunn, Rick Todd and Mike Lapping.**

Milestone Memories

Wilmarth divides his time between grocer, bakery and rink

EMPLOYEE NAME: Greg Wilmarth
POSITION: Cashier at Raleigh Tavern Bakery. Seasonally, I am also a cashier in the food booth at Dominion Presents Liberty's Ice Pavilion from November until February.

WHAT I DO: Although I began my career with The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation in December 1988, I have also had several short interruptions of service during my time here, leaving for brief periods and then returning later. I began my career as a dishwasher at the Williamsburg Inn, then transferred to the Commissary and later worked in the kitchen at the Huzzah restaurant. I left Colonial Williamsburg in 2005 and then returned in March 2006 to work in the kitchen at Chowning's Tavern for a few years before leaving again. I returned in March 2012 and have been here continuously since that time. I am presently a cashier at both the Raleigh Tavern Bakery and at DuBois Grocery, alternating between the two sites wherever I am needed.

DO YOU HAVE FAMILY WHO



Greg Wilmarth

WORKS HERE: I am originally from northeastern Pennsylvania in the Scranton-Wilkes Barre area and served in the U.S. Navy for four years following my graduation from high school. I was stationed at Naval Station Norfolk while in the military and decided to remain in the area after my discharge from active duty. I am not married and have no children. I have a sister who lives in Smithfield and have no other relatives who are employed at Colonial Williamsburg.

INTERESTS/HOBBIES: I enjoy playing computer games in my spare time.

ADVICE TO NEW EMPLOYEES: My advice to new employees is to always be tolerant of any changes that may occur in your respective work areas.

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 dis-

cussion 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/GF45Z-51pbHm78LK2>.

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

Historic Trades

Continued from page 2



Senior master and master blacksmith **Ken Schwarz** (left) and **Mitchell B. Reiss**, president and CEO of Colonial Williamsburg, presented a master certificate **Jason Whitehead**, masonry trades.

restoration work all over town. I also love finding that 'aha' moment when guests make the connection that what we do makes a difference in preserving the Historic Area," he said.

His accomplishments to date include being the first journeyman and master of masonry trades. "I have also had the chance to travel and teach brick firing to our friends in the United Kingdom. However, my biggest accomplishment at Colonial Williamsburg was meeting my wife 20 years ago."

Ted started working at the Foundation as a casual employee in 1989 before joining the Historic Trades in the mid-1990s. He served as an apprentice under master carpenter **Garland Wood**. "My journeyman project was the backup kitchen at the Peyton Randolph House," he said.

Ted developed the Joiner Shop as its own trade during his career here. "The R. Charlton Coffeeshop was the first real



Senior master and master blacksmith **Ken Schwarz** (left) and **Mitchell B. Reiss**, president and CEO of Colonial Williamsburg, presented master certificates to **Karen Clancy** of the Weave Shop (above) and **Ted Boscana**, Joiner Shop (below).



project that separated the carpenters and the joiners," he said. "That was the first of the big three projects I was involved in. The other two were the James Anderson Blacksmith Shop and Public Armoury and Market House."

The variety of his trade is what appeals to Ted. "We work on both architectural and furniture projects," he said. "We currently are building a corner cupboard for Ferry Farm, George Washington's childhood home, near Fredericksburg."

Kaare joined Colonial Williamsburg in June 1979 and worked nine months in landscape. "Our crew was responsible for the Inn," he said. "We had two snows a week apart. The first snow was 16 inches and the second snow reached 21 inches. I stayed up all night knocking snow off of boxwood and other trees and shrubs."

He was looking for a position at the Cabinetmaker Shop. "A spot opened in the shop as an interpreter," Kaare said. "Interpretation was a change for me."

Before he became an apprentice the director of trades tested him. "He wanted me to make something to demonstrate the potential of being an apprentice so I made a Chipendale mirror."

Kaare's apprenticeship lasted about six years. "During that time, I made a large mahogany desk reproduced from a Virginia piece and completed a set of Virginia chairs."

One of his biggest accomplishments during his 35 years in the shop has been the opportunity to engage the public. "I think we are all excited about what we do," he said. "That excitement can't help but carry through to the visitors. We have guests who have been coming back to the shop for decades."

The Cabinetmaker Shop also has had the opportunity to participate in the "Working with Wood in the 18th Century" for 18 years. "We have access to an amazing collection of period pieces we can study firsthand," he said. "Because we work for Colonial Williamsburg that often gives us access to other collections across the nation."



Your Story

Wright educates our guests on the slave society in early America

EMPLOYEE NAME: Willie H. Wright III

POSITION: Actor-interpreter, Education, Research and Historical Interpretation Division

YEARS OF SERVICE: I initially began my career with The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation in 2006, but I left in 2008 when I served on the staff at George Washington's Mount Vernon for two years. While there, I portrayed William Lee, one of Washington's manservants. I returned to Colonial Williamsburg in 2010 and have been an actor-interpreter ever since. Collectively, I have about eight years of service here.

WHAT I DO: As an African-American actor-interpreter, I generally perform as a cast member in four scripted scenes in the Revolutionary City. These scenes include "Love and Loyalty," "What Holds the Future," "Hated Spy" and "Faith, Hope and Love." These scenes are generally performed on either the Governor's Palace stage or on the Charlton Coffeehouse stage and generally are of 20-25 minutes duration. I have different roles in each of these scenarios and have portrayed both a free and enslaved black man in colonial times. In "What Holds the Future," I play the part of an enslaved man at the Governor's Palace along with my wife, **Hope Wright**, also an actor-interpreter with Colonial Williamsburg.

When not performing in the scripted scenes, I often can be found in front of the James Anderson House engaging our guests in the conversations of the day and depicting the life of an enslaved black man in the Revolutionary City. I will normally appear in at least two of the scripted scenes each day and will appear as a cast member in all four scenarios each week.

WHAT I LIKE ABOUT MY JOB: First and foremost, I am given the opportunity as an African-American interpreter to give a voice to the people whom history has chosen to ignore, for the most part. Visitors here soon learn that approximately 52 percent of the population in Williamsburg during colonial times were of African-American descent and played a major role in the early history of our country.

Performing as a cast member in a variety of scenes each day gives me an excellent opportunity to educate our guests on the slave society in early America and helps them gain a better understanding on the important roles that black men and women played in our nation's early beginnings.

I also enjoy working with our other actor-interpreters each day, who have helped me in my career here. I also enjoy meeting our many and varied guests who come here hoping to learn about Colonial Williamsburg.

WHAT I DO TO IMPROVE THE GUEST EXPERIENCE: My philosophy has always been that when you focus on the history of a nation, you need to present all sides and all aspects of colonial history. I approach all of our visitors with love and respect, believing that this has always been the best approach in reaching out to them and teaching them about our nation's early history. Whether you may agree with me or not, I hope that I have at least planted a seed in someone's mind about the role and importance of the enslaved population here in Williamsburg in the 18th century, even though I am unable to vote as



Willie H. Wright III

a black man. Following many of our performances, I and the other cast members will remain to answer any questions that our visitors might have on the performance itself and discuss candidly with them any issues and concerns that may have been raised during the scripted scenes in the hopes that they will gain a better understanding about the lives of free and enslaved black citizens of Williamsburg. I often talk to a lot of school groups and families when I am out in front of the James Anderson House and engage in meaningful conversations with them while there.

MEMORABLE EXPERIENCES: I have had several very memorable experiences during my time as an actor-interpreter, both at Colonial Williamsburg and while working at Mount Vernon. Many involve special interactions with our visitors. On one occasion, after a reading of the Declaration of Independence, a very large white man came up to me and started asking me questions about the life of an enslaved black man in colonial times. I was in costume, obviously, and this man and I talked as we walked from the Capitol to the James Anderson House, all in polite conversation. We were able to connect and became very friendly during this special walk.

I also met a former law enforcement officer on another occasion, and he later indicated that I had provided him with a different perspective on the enslaved population that he had previously not considered or thought about. While an enslaved interpreter at George Washington's Mount Vernon, I also had many other similar encounters with the visitors there, providing many positive experiences and enhancing their knowledge of enslaved populations. I consider myself an historical interpreter and take pride in giving voice to this particular group.

Reaching children and interacting with school groups is also very important to me. They are the future of our country.

BIGGEST ACCOMPLISHMENT: For me, I am still working on my biggest accomplishment. Although many of our actor-interpreters have had prior theatrical training before they came to Colonial Williamsburg, I have no such background. While growing up, I divided my time between Trenton, N.J., and Washington, D.C. Many of the staff here have been helping me become a better actor in my various roles here which is making my job easier. I become a better actor everyday with their guidance, direction and assistance.

INTERESTS/HOBBIES: I spend a lot of time with my family. I have a son, Melquan, who is 15, and a daughter, Quantajia, who is 17, and both attend Warwick High School in Newport News. As mentioned earlier, my wife, Hope, is also an actor-interpreter here at Colonial Williamsburg. I do play the drums at my church, and I played in bands in Washington, D.C., while growing up.

Sign up for Active Shooting training

The annual training for Active Shooter and Situational Awareness has been scheduled for February at Bruton Heights School Lane Auditorium. This is part of the mandatory training established by Colonial Williamsburg President and CEO **Mitchell B. Reiss**.

There will be two classes. Employees who have not attended this training before will take a two-hour class from 9 – 11 a.m. on one of these dates:

- Friday, Feb. 10
- Thursday, Feb. 16

• Thursday, Feb. 23
Employees who attended last year's training will take the one-hour refresher course on these times and dates:

- 1 – 2 p.m. and 2:30 – 3:30 p.m., Friday, Feb. 10
- 1 – 2 p.m. and 2:30 – 3:30 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 16
- 1 – 2 p.m. and 2:30 – 3:30 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 23

Employees should contact **Walt Troy** at wtroyc@cw.org to make reservations.

Noël Hume remembered for archaeological contributions to CW

Renowned archaeologist and historian Ivor Noël Hume died Feb. 4. He was 89.

During his 30-year career, he virtually invented historical archaeology. Noël Hume is perhaps best known for his work at Martin's Hundred at Carter's Grove, where he directed the excavation of the 17th-century Wolstenholme Town. He published the book, "Martin's Hundred," based his discoveries at this site.

Noël Hume became chief archaeologist for Colonial Williamsburg in 1957. From 1964-73, he served as the director of archaeology. He was resident archaeologist from 1973-1986. He served as Foundation archaeologist from 1986 until his retirement in 1988. He was the consulting archaeologist and curator for the Winthrop Rockefeller Archaeology Museum.

Born in London in 1927, he was educated at Framlingham College and St. Lawrence

College in England. During World War II Noël Hume served with the Indian Army.

In 1949, he joined the staff of Guildhall Museum in London as an archaeologist. In connection with the work at Guildhall, Noël Hume was responsible for the recovery and recording of antiquities revealed as a result of wartime bombings in London.

From 1959-77, Noël Hume served as research associate (hon.) for the Smithsonian Institution. He was reappointed in 1978.

In 1992, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II of the United Kingdom made Noël Hume an Officer of the British Empire (OBE). OBE is awarded to people who serve British cultural interests.

He is author many books including "Here Lies Virginia," "1775: Another Part of the Field," "Historical Archaeology," "A Guide to Artifacts of Colonial America" and "All the Best Rubbish."

News Briefs

Remembering Friends...

Ms. Donna F. Hartman died Nov. 30 in Lanexa, Va. She worked for the Foundation as a tailor at the Costume Design Center for six years. She retired in 2013. She is survived by her husband, three children and three grandchildren.

Mr. Charles Thomas (Tom) Allen died Jan. 4 in Greensboro, Ga. He worked for Colonial Williamsburg as a manager of environmental and health programs in security and safety for 20 years. He retired in 2008. He is survived by a son.

Ms. Gloria C. Whitby died Jan. 6 in Hampton, Va. She began her 22-year career at Colonial Williamsburg as a seamstress at the Costume Design Center in 1967. In 1972, she transferred to the Williamsburg Inn as a waitress. She returned to the Costume Design Center at the end of 1972 to work in positions as office clerk, tailor/fitter and assistant supervisor. She was an inventory control specialist when she retired in 1992. She is survived by a daughter, four grandsons and three granddaughters.

Mr. Manfred Roehr died Jan. 7 in Newport News, Va. He began working for Colonial Williamsburg's Hospitality division

in 1972 as a cook at the Williamsburg Lodge, then assistant chef and sous chef. In 1977, he was promoted to assistant manager at Chowning's Tavern, chef in 1979 and manager in 1986. He also managed Campbell's and Shields Taverns during his 24-year tenure. He retired in 2004. He is survived by a son, a daughter and four grandchildren.

Mr. Arthur E. Fleming died Jan. 13 in Hayes, Va. He worked as a maintenance service worker in Hotel Maintenance for 20 years and retired in 2010. He is survived by his wife, two sons and a daughter.

Mr. Davis "Curley" Wallace died Jan. 14 in Williamsburg. He began employment in 1962 as a buffet runner at the Williamsburg Inn. He subsequently worked there as a pantry helper and apprentice cook. In 1970 he transferred as a cook to the Williamsburg Lodge, and held positions as first cook, second cook and broiler cook. In 1987, he transferred to the Commissary as acting head butcher. He was head butcher when he retired in 2000 with 36 years of service. He is survived by his wife, **Prince Wallace**, also a retiree.

Marketplace

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 pulley and heavy natural fiber rope. \$20. **CALL:** Jim at (757) 784-1651.

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Director, Public Affairs..... Kevin Crosssett, 7286
Editor..... Penna Rogers, 7121

Contributors: Tracey Gulden, Anna Harry, Jane Lloyd, J.A. Lyon, Chuck Reusing, Joe Straw, Darnell Vennie

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