

Winthrop Rockefeller Archaeology Museum tells of Martin's Hundred

"Discovering Martin's Hundred" is the name of the permanent exhibit at the Winthrop Rockefeller Archaeology Museum due to open Thursday, June 27.

Curated by retired CW archaeologist Ivor Noël Hume, the exhibit mixes the 1619-1622 history of Martin's Hundred and its principal settlement, Wolstenholme Towne, with the story of the lost town's discovery through archaeology in the 1970s. Along the way, visitors see artifacts uncovered on the site and learn how Noël Hume and others on the project used them as stepping stones into the past.

"Although most potsherds, scraps of rusted iron and bits of broken glass are visually no more gripping than yesterday's garbage," says Noël Hume, "in the museum ours help us piece together the story of Martin's Hundred's settlers and the fate that befell them. They illustrate how the archaeologists and curators did their work."

The exhibit has opportunities for interaction. Peering through a diver's mask, visitors can see a shipwreck being excavated. They can inspect the first intact face-covering helmets found in North America, and at the touch of a button see them as they must have been new.

From the twilight over London at its start to the ruins of Wolstenholme Towne at its end, the museum makes use of high-tech displays, detailed models, reconstructive paintings and museum-quality antiques that show what the archaeological finds looked like when whole. There are photographs of the excavation's progress and a theatre where audiences follow the helmets from their discovery, to their removal and



conservation in the laboratory, to their reproduction by a modern armorer.

The self-guided exhibit can be experienced on two levels. A short tour of about 30 minutes addresses the history of Martin's Hundred and what the archaeologists found. For those having more time, detailed labels about the archaeological process and the helmet video can easily expand the experience beyond an hour.

Unlike many archaeological exhibits, at Carter's Grove most visitors will experience the museum *before* they even see the Wolstenholme Towne site. According to Noël Hume, the intent is to use the museum's exhibits and narratives "to prepare visitors for their site tour, enabling them to put it in an historical and archaeological perspective, drawn not from a guide's answered questions, but from their own newly-acquired knowledge."

Employees, community will see museum first

Colonial Williamsburg employees and their dependents are invited to preview the Winthrop Rockefeller Archaeology Museum before the museum opens to the public Thursday, June 27.

The employee preview is set for 5 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, June 25. Bring your employee ID and use the main entrance to Carter's Grove. A community open house for residents of Williamsburg, James City County and the Bruton district of York County will be held from 5 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, June 26. Visitors should use the main entrance.

Special tours for public contact employees will be conducted from 9 a.m. to 4:50 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday, June 25 and 26. A shuttle bus service will operate to and from the Group Arrivals Building on the following schedule:

Depart	Return
9 a.m.	10:50 a.m.
11 a.m.	12:50 p.m.
1 p.m.	2:50 p.m.
3 p.m.	4:50 p.m.

What's happening

- ✓ Employee Family Picnic, Saturday, June 22, noon to 4 p.m., Bassett Hall.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ Lecture, "The Research and Restoration of the Williamsburg Courthouse," Carl Lounsbury, Architectural Historian, Wednesday, June 26 at 4 p.m., Wallace Gallery.

New archaeology museum involved many departments

Designing, building and outfitting the 7,000-square foot underground Winthrop Rockefeller Archaeology Museum required the talents and efforts of dozens of Colonial Williamsburg employees.

Begun in the spring of 1989, the building devotes 5,500 square feet to exhibit space, 500 to a meeting room 1,000 to support services. The single-level contemporary museum is built under a hillside overlooking the James River at Carter's Grove. It is just north of the mansion between the Reception Center and Wolstenholme Towne.

According to Beatrix Rumford, vice president of Museums, the project has been a major collaborative effort involving employees from across the Foundation.

She cites major involvement from many departments including Carter's Grove, the Office of Archaeological Documentation, Archaeological Research, Audiovisual Services, Conservation, Landscape, Construction Management, Facilities and Property Management, Purchasing and the Paint Shop.

Sunshine Foundation visit starts Saturday

Sunshine Foundation, a non-profit group that answers the dreams and wishes of chronically and terminally ill children, is sponsoring its 10th annual reunion of progeria-stricken children in Williamsburg Saturday, June 22 - Friday, June 27.

Progeria is a children's disease that causes rapid aging, making its victims look elderly when in fact they are very young. Only 130 known cases exist in the world today.

As well as visiting local attractions, the children and their families will be our guests on a lantern tour on Sunday night and for an afternoon program at the Powell Property on Monday.

Summer evenings bring a wealth of special programs

A variety of evening programs offer 18th-century entertainment to our summer visitors.

Sunday evenings visitors can learn more about 18th-century African-American families at "Night Walking." When the workday ended slaves would "night walk," building and reinforcing family and community networks. These brief scenes portray moments in their public and private lives. The one-hour program is offered at 7 and 8:30 p.m. on the grounds of the Governor's Palace.

On Monday evenings during June, August and October, *Cry Witch* dramatizes an inquiry into the charges of witchcraft brought against Grace Sherwood in 1706. The audience is invited to question the witnesses, weigh the evidence and determine the guilt or innocence of the "Virginia witch." Performances take place at 7 and 8:30 p.m. in the General Court at the Capitol.

Under the Jolly Roger is presented at 7 and 8:30 p.m. Monday evenings during July and September in the General Court at the Capitol. This program is a dramatization of the 1719 trial of Israel Hands, who was charged with piracy for his alleged role as one of the notorious Blackbeard's bloodthirsty crew. The audience is invited to question the witnesses, weigh the evidence and determine Hands' guilt or innocence.

Tuesday evenings, June 18 through September 3, a "Musical Diversion" is



offered at 8 p.m. at the Hall of the House of Burgesses in the Capitol. Costumed musicians present vocal and instrumental music of the colonial period, played on period instruments.

The "Grand Medley" is a lively, fast-paced program of songs, dances, feats of physical prowess, magic tricks and a spectacular puppet show complete with pyrotechnics at the Playbooth Theater. Performances were held Sundays in late May and early June, but changed to 7 p.m. on Wednesdays the rest of June, July and August. Additional performances will be given Saturday, July 27 and August 10.

On Thursdays, June 20 through August 29 (except July 4), "Dance, Our Dearest Diversion" offers visitors an opportunity to learn about the importance of dance in 18th-century Virginia society through interpretation, demonstration and by possible participation in a dance. Presentations are at 8 p.m. in the Capitol.

"A Capitol Evening" is held Fridays at 7:30, 8 and 8:30 p.m. in the Capitol now through August 30. The candle-lit building springs to life with dramatic scenes in the General Court and heated debate in the Hall of the House of Burgesses. Patrick Henry provides the oratorical fireworks for which he was renowned.

Also on Fridays is the "Black Music" program, which runs from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. June 21 to August 23 at the Playbooth Theater. African-American interpreters revive the music of African-Americans in 18th-century Virginia. Polyrhythms, work songs, hymns and African-American stories are presented.

The Irish Widow, an 18th-century comedy by David Garrick, is presented Saturday evenings at 8:30 in the Lodge Auditorium. Please note that there will be no performances July 27 and August 10.

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.