

Colonial Williamsburg

The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation
P.O. Box 1776
Williamsburg, Va. 23187-1776
colonialwilliamsburg.org

Colonial Williamsburg Celebrates Women's History Month with Special Programming



Image courtesy of The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation
Download high-resolution images [here](#).

WILLIAMSBURG, Va. (Feb. 28, 2023) – From women's rights to 18th-century fashion, Colonial Williamsburg is exploring the many contributions of women this March in honor of [Women's History month](#).

“Women's contributions to society are often undervalued or erased by those who write history,” said Katharine Pittman, who portrays Colonial Williamsburg Nation Builder Martha Washington. “By bringing attention to the women of the past, we have an opportunity to make their lives and their work visible and to help our guests see themselves in American history.”

Today, women play a significant role not only in Colonial Williamsburg's Historic Area, but throughout the Foundation. Women currently make up over 50% of the Foundation's staff, in departments ranging from finance and public safety to coach and livestock and blacksmithing.

"Our extensive historic trades research in particular has revealed that while discrimination was frequent, no trade was off-limits to women on the basis of their gender," added Chris Strum, journeyman silversmith. "Mothers and daughters, sisters and wives often helped with family business, no matter what it was; or took their fate into their own hands as necessary or desirable. A close look at the facts can change the way you think about history, ultimately changing the way you think about the future."

Visit colonialwilliamsburg.org/whm to see a full list of in-person and online special programming for March. Highlights include:

Wednesdays (March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29):

- [Excavation to Programming](#) – A Colonial Williamsburg archaeologist and a Nation Builder discuss what recent archeological findings reveal about women in the 18th century. Hennage Auditorium, 1:30 p.m.

Thursdays (March 2 and 9):

- [She Had on When She Went Away](#) – A collaboration between actor interpreters and the Miliner and Mantua-maker who used runaway ads from 18th-century newspapers to explore the material culture and lives of self-liberated Black women. Hennage Auditorium, 1:30 p.m.

Fridays (March 3 and 10):

- [Nation Builders Discuss the Rights of Women](#) – Two Nation Builders discuss how they viewed and debated the rights of women in 18th-century Williamsburg. Hennage Auditorium, 1:30 p.m.

Saturdays (March 4, 11, 18, 25):

- [Tour: Women in the Trades](#) – A walking tour in the Historic Area focused on women's labor, skills, and rights in 18th-century Williamsburg and beyond. Historic Area, 11 a.m. (additional ticket required).
- [From Freedom to Slavery](#) (March 4, 11 only) - A museum theater piece exploring the story of Methotaskie, an adopted Shawnee Indian who is brought back into slavery. Hennage Auditorium, 1:30 p.m.

Media contact: Ellen Morgan Peltz
Colonial Williamsburg
epeltz@cwf.org
757-220-7287

The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation preserves, restores and operates Virginia's 18th-century capital of Williamsburg. Innovative and interactive experiences highlight the relevance of the American Revolution to contemporary life and the importance of an informed, active citizenry. The Colonial Williamsburg experience includes more than 600 restored or reconstructed original buildings, renowned museums of decorative arts and folk art, extensive educational outreach programs for students and teachers, lodging, culinary options from historic

taverns to casual or elegant dining, the Golden Horseshoe Golf Club featuring 36 holes designed by Robert Trent Jones and his son Rees Jones, a full-service spa and fitness center, pools, retail stores and gardens. Philanthropic support and revenue from admissions, products and hospitality operations sustain Colonial Williamsburg's educational programs and preservation initiatives.

– CWF –