

# Colonial Williamsburg

The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation  
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## **Black History Month: Colonial Williamsburg Showcases the Best of African-American Programming in February**

WILLIAMSBURG, Va. (Jan. 23, 2020) – Throughout February Colonial Williamsburg commemorates Black History Month, showcasing the best of its year-round interpretation of 18th-century African-American life.

“American history is a shared story, and we’re thrilled to engage guests each day with the experiences of our African-American forebears,” said Stephen Seals, Colonial Williamsburg actor-interpreter and Black History Month program manager. “Every February we join the nation to spotlight the experiences of the people who composed more than half our city’s population in the late 18th century. This year as every day we invite guests and the community to share in a month of engaging and inspiring programming.”

The powerful “My Story, My Voice” presents personal stories at 11 a.m. daily and 3 p.m. Wednesdays, and Thursdays through Mondays at the Raleigh Tavern. Special site tours “African American Contributions at the Governor’s Palace,” “Freedom’s Paradox: The Randolph House Tour,” and “Slavery and the Law” at the Capitol are offered daily between 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The Famous Barber of York is open on Duke of Gloucester Street Sundays through Thursdays, and Colonial Williamsburg’s African American Religion Exhibit is presented 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. daily on S. Nassau Street.

“African American History in the Galleries,” 10:30 a.m. Tuesdays and 2:30 p.m. Thursdays at the Art Museums of Colonial Williamsburg, explores the accomplishments of African Americans from the 18th through 20th centuries in art. February programs at Art Museums’ Hennage Auditorium include:

- “An American Story: Edith Cumbo” at 1:30 p.m. Feb. 1, 22 and 29. Meet Ms. Edith, a free black woman with five brothers fighting in the Revolutionary War.
- “Teach them Diligently” at 1:30 p.m. Feb. 2, 9 and 23. Journey with Ann Wager as she runs Williamsburg’s School for African-American children.
- “Jefferson and Jupiter: Across the Board” at 1:30 p.m. Feb. 3, 10 and 17. Thomas Jefferson and his manservant play chess: a metaphor for their relationship.
- “Joy in the Morning” at 1:30 p.m. Feb. 6, 11, 18 and 25. Gather with members of the enslaved community to experience a thought provoking, music-filled message of hope.
- “Fight the Good Fight of Faith” Wednesdays at 1:30 p.m. Rev. Gowan Pamphlet, founder of the city’s First Baptist Church, and James Russell Brown, commissioned in 1944 as the U.S. Navy’s first African-American chaplain, span time to contemplate hope and courage during wartime.

- “Marquis and the Spy: Reunited,” at 1:30 p.m. Feb. 4, 13, 20 and 27. James Armistead Lafayette and the Marquis de Lafayette are reunited after nearly 40 years.
- “To Build a Life” Fridays at 1:30 p.m. Aggy of Turkey Island returns home after the death of her owner Ryland Randolph to consider her legacy.
- “Dressmaker to the First Ladies” at 3:30 p.m. Feb. 10 and 18. Meet Elizabeth Keckly, a former enslaved woman who dresses the first ladies of both the Confederacy and Union.

This year Black History Month follows Colonial Williamsburg’s 2019 commemoration of 40 years of comprehensive, character-based African-American historical interpretation, which coincided with the region and nation’s observance of the 400th anniversary of the first arrival of Africans in English America at Point Comfort on modern-day Fort Monroe.

The special exhibition “Revealing the Priceless: 40 Years of African American Interpretation,” remains on display in the Raleigh Tavern’s Daphne and Billiards rooms until Feb. 29, after which it will relocate to the Colonial Williamsburg Regional Visitor Center. The exhibition memorializes by name each of the enslaved African-Virginian men and women known to have lived in the city during the period Colonial Williamsburg interprets, from 1763 to 1785. It also examines the contributions of hundreds of interpreters, administrators, historians, archeologists, curators and community partners who have contributed to telling their story.

“Revealing the Priceless” is open daily 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. The Art Museums of Colonial Williamsburg remain open daily 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Sundays through Thursdays and 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays in February during their \$41.7-million expansion, funded completely by donors.

Programs and sites are open to guests with Colonial Williamsburg admission. Space is limited and schedules are subject to change. Tickets and current site and program schedule information are available at [colonialwilliamsburg.com/bhm](http://colonialwilliamsburg.com/bhm) or by calling 855-296-6627 toll-free. Additional information is available by following Colonial Williamsburg on [Facebook](#) and [@colonialwmsburg](#) on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

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*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 45 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.*