

Colonial Williamsburg

The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation
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colonialwilliamsburg.org

Colonial Williamsburg Highlights Women's Stories During Women's History Month



Journeyman blacksmith Aislinn Lewis at work in the James Anderson Blacksmith Shop & Public Armoury.
Image courtesy of The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation.

WILLIAMSBURG, Va. (Feb. 23, 2022) – Martha Washington and Abigail Adams may be familiar names, but what about Ann Wager, Elizabeth DeRoasario, Sarah Ponsonby, or Hannah Corbin? Celebrate [Women's History Month](#) this March with a visit to The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation to learn the stories of some of the many women who played important and often overlooked roles in 18th-century Virginia and beyond.

“All too often – both historically and today – women are reduced to the roles they played in society: wife, mother, sister, daughter,” said Beth Kelly, Colonial Williamsburg’s vice president for education, research and historical interpretation. “But we know that women played surprising roles in the founding of our nation. By sharing women's perspectives, we tell a more complete story of life in colonial America. And in doing so, we gain a more complete understanding of the character of American women today.”

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

- Dramatizations offered on a rotating basis at 1:30 p.m. daily in the Hennage Auditorium at the Art Museums:
 - [*The Doctrine of Representation*](#): Hannah Corbin and her brother, Richard Henry Lee, explore the future of voting rights and the meaning of representation (Sundays).
 - [*First Impressions*](#): The friendship between Sally Cary Fairfax and Martha Washington is tested by distance, time and politics (Mondays).
 - [*Good Progress*](#): Ann Wager, teacher of the Williamsburg Bray School, debates the nature of her school with Elizabeth DeRosario, a free woman of color (Tuesdays).
 - [*Nation Builders Discuss the Rights of Women*](#): Two Nation Builders discuss how they viewed and debated the rights of women (Wednesdays).
 - [*Succordia's Prayer*](#): Succordia, an enslaved woman mourning the passing of her beloved, tells her story of love and faith that transcends her enslaved status (Thursdays).
 - [*A Determined Spirit*](#): Charlotte, a women enslaved by Martha Washington, speaks for herself to find justice (Fridays, with the exception of Mar. 11).
 - [*My Dear Madame*](#): After eight years by the side of the United States’ first President, Martha Washington reflects on her life in the public eye. (Friday, Mar. 11).
 - [*She Had on When She Went Away*](#): An exploration of the material culture and lives of self-liberated Black women in the 18th century based on runaway ads from 18th-century newspapers (Saturdays).
- Short plays (35 min) offered at the Play House Stage at 10:15 a.m. and 1:15 p.m.
 - [*The Comet Huntress*](#): the story of Caroline Herschel who discovered a comet in 1786 (Saturdays all month and Wednesdays beginning Mar. 16)
 - [*The Widow's Masquerade*](#): the story of Hannah Snell who joined the British Royal Navy in 1747 (Mondays and Thursdays beginning Mar. 14).
- Historic Site interpretation throughout the day including [Women and the Law tours](#) at the Capitol.
- Online livestreamed programming including:
 - [LIVE! from History: To Her Heirs Forever](#) (Mar. 3 at 1 p.m.)
 - [CW Kids Ask: How do we learn about women in colonial America?](#) (Mar. 16 at 1 p.m.)
 - [Trades Tuesday - Fashion and Health: Advice for Patients and Practitioners](#) (Mar. 8 at 1 p.m.) and [Life's Balance: Women in the Workplace](#) (Mar. 22 at 1 p.m.)
 - [U.S. Past Present Future CW Conversation: Women's History](#) (Mar. 22 at 7 p.m.)

Protecting the health and safety of guests, employees and the local community has been Colonial Williamsburg’s highest priority through the COVID-19 pandemic. Face

coverings are currently required while inside Foundation-owned buildings that are open to the public regardless of vaccination status and their use is encouraged outdoors as well. Guests are encouraged to practice social distancing while visiting Colonial Williamsburg. Up-to-date COVID-19 health and safety policies are available at colonialwilliamsburg.org.

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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.

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