

Glass Music World

FALL 2010

Plans and Venues for the Williamsburg Festival



– By Carlton Davenport –

Dean Shostak has been working out plans for the March 24 - 27 Festival with the Colonial Williamsburg people and they all sound very exciting.

The festival will be held in two large spaces within Colonial Williamsburg - The Dewitt Wallace Museum and the Bruton Parish Church.

The Dewitt Wallace Museum has a large auditorium - the Hennage Auditorium, plus a classroom and a gallery. Concerts will be held alternating between the auditorium and the gallery during the afternoons which will allow groups and individuals to have alternating set-ups while others are performing. This was done in Paris and worked out very well. On Friday and Saturday mornings, we will have lectures, workshops, demonstrations and classes in the auditorium and classroom. There will be opportunities for people to try out differ-

ent glass instruments. Movies will also be shown there.

On Friday night, we are scheduled to have a candlelight concert at Bruton Parish which is a famous historic church.

There will be three types of performing opportunities based on the musician's eagerness to perform. Gallery performances will be the least formal concerts in the gallery of the DeWitt Wallace Museum on Friday and Saturday afternoons. These will be 30 minute to 1 hour performances with an audience size of 10-20 at a time. Concerts in the Hennage Auditorium will be more formal on a stage in a 240 seat auditorium. These will also be on Friday and Saturday afternoons with an audience size ranging from 50 to 200. The Bruton Parish Candlelight Concert will be the most formal concert

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General Information About The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation

The Historical Significance of Williamsburg

From 1699 to 1780 Williamsburg was the capital of England's oldest, largest and most populous North American mainland colony and the seat of power in the new nation's most influential state. Named in honor of William III, King of England and designed by Royal Gov. Francis Nicholson, Williamsburg is one of the country's oldest planned communities.

In its shops, taverns, government buildings, homes and streets George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Patrick Henry, George Mason and other Virginia patriots established the ideals—liberty, independence and personal freedom—that influenced the founding of our nation and have inspired generations of Americans and others around the world.

The Restoration of Williamsburg

Jefferson moved Virginia's government to Richmond in 1781 at the recommendation of the General Assembly. Williamsburg became a quiet country town disturbed only by Union Gen. George McClellan's 1862 Peninsula Campaign and the subsequent Union occupation during the Civil War.

In 1926 the Rev. Dr. W.A.R. Goodwin, rector of Bruton Parish Church, approached John D. Rockefeller Jr. about restoring the sleepy village of his ministry to its colonial past. Rockefeller proceeded cautiously at first, investing in one property at a time in Goodwin's vision. Rockefeller secretly authorized the purchase of the first property, the Ludwell-Paradise House, on Dec. 7, 1926, in a telegram signed, "David's father," a reference to Rockefeller's youngest son.

Rockefeller's enthusiasm grew to match

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Presidential Notes



Our upcoming Glass Music Festival, which will be held on 24 - 27 March, 2011, is being held in the year of the 25th anniversary of the founding of Glass Music International by Norm Rehme and Vera Meyer.

Norm was our first President serving in that position for some ten years after which he served for a few years as our Treasurer. He and his wife, Carol, who were both very active as performers in the 80s and early 90s, will both be attending the Festival in Williamsburg and Norm has offered to be one of our lecturers. I have been in touch with Vera, who is still a very active performer. She is very interested in our next festival, and I hope that she will be able to join us as well. Liselotte Behrendt, who has been at every glass music festival, will definitely be attending with her husband, Peter, although she no longer plays her glass harp. I will be also contacting other members by either phone or email in an attempt to have a good size membership turn-out to celebrate GMI's 25th anniversary.

Dean Shostak has been mentioning the concerts from the stage of the Kimball Theater where he gives his Crystal Concerts and says that he has been VERY surprised by the response of many folks who would like to make a special trip to Colonial Williamsburg in March to see the concerts. He says we should have a very good response from visitors. This festival no doubt will be the most highly attended one by the general public.

I have included a registration form with this GMW issue in order to provide us with valuable information for our planning purposes. If you are interested in attending the Festival, please complete the form and mail it to Carlton Davenport, P.O. Box 228, Princeton, MA 01541. I will see that Dean gets all the information from the returned forms. Alternatively, you could email Dean and me (DeanArmonica@aol.com and gmpres@verizon.net.) with the information.

As is normally the case at festivals, members attending the Festival can expect to pay for their own transportation and hotel costs as well as meals with the exception of a group dinner in a tavern and Sunday brunch at the Williamsburg Lodge. (Festival attendees will be responsible for their own beverages

at the tavern.) Those members staying at Colonial Williamsburg hotel properties will also receive an admission ticket to Colonial Williamsburg for sightseeing for their complete stay paid for by GMI, or in the case of any members staying elsewhere, \$30 toward an admission ticket. GMI members will also receive a ticket to the group Ghost Tour. Admission to Festival venues, i.e. the DeWitt Wallace Museum and Bruton Parish Church for glass music concerts and events will be free to GMI members.

The GMI officers anticipate that, as was the case in Paris, we will not have to charge a registration fee for this Festival. This would only change if we were to end up with a substantially greater number of members attending than anticipated resulting in substantial increases in the cost of GMI's festival related expenses (dinner, brunch, etc.).

We have been informed that U.S. Homeland Security now has very stringent security requirements for musicians from outside the U.S. bringing instruments into the U.S. Our source of information is Brian Goldstein, FTM Arts Law in Washington, D.C. whose phone number is 703-385-9444. Brian has referred us to the website, www.artsfromabroad.org. A professional musician who is going to perform before the public must be sponsored by someone in the U.S. who must file a petition with the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service in order to acquire a work Visa, include information on programs, etc., and pay \$320 for each petition plus \$250 to a union. The artist must also pay a \$100 to \$200 application fee as well as paying a fee to the union. Homeland Security looks at this on a case by case basis. Brian advises us that anyone wishing to bring an instrument to the Festival from abroad and to avoid this process should explain that they are an "amateur" going to a "conference" (not a public concert) and should have documentation with them which shows what their "real" profession is. We then need to have that person play in a strictly GMI, limited public, venue.

Lastly, I remind you that, if you have not sent in your dues for the next year, we would appreciate you doing so as soon as possible.

— Carlton Davenport

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with probably 2 to 3 acts performing over a two-hour period to an audience of 300.

Dean is also looking for folks to lecture on glass instruments and glass music.

Lastly, we will have a hands-on workshop to try glass instruments. We will have a cristal Baschet, glass armonica, and glass handbells from Dean's collection and he is working on having other instruments as well. This will most likely be on Saturday.

There are some wonderful historic taverns within the main Colonial Williamsburg area for great food and socializing. We can have planned sightseeing on Thursday with a dinner together Thursday night. We can have a couple of hours in Colonial Williamsburg on Saturday morning as well. The

amount of sightseeing will be somewhat dependent on the number of performers that we have. We can go out to dinner also on Saturday night, followed by a ghost tour, and/or have an informal music session somewhere too. We are planning a final brunch on Sunday somewhere as well.

June and I have spent several weeks in Colonial Williamsburg in recent years enjoying the enactments (Revolutionary City should not be missed), demonstrations, concerts, and many other activities and are planning on spending an additional week there this year. We highly recommend doing this if you can. We will be providing packages of information to give you the details of all activities available there. We will also be providing information on good rates at local hotels prior to the Festival.

GMI Happenings

– By Liz Mears and Carlton Davenport –

In the relatively short period of time since our last newsletter went out we have received quite a number of inputs, some related to the upcoming festival and others with general ongoing info. We will cover the festival related ones first.

From Michigan, **Steven Lash**, who manufactured a beautiful cabinet for his glass armonica and brought it to the Boston and Philadelphia festivals, writes that all is arranged for him to bring his armonica to Williamsburg in January and leave it with Dean. Steven added that he continues to build period furniture as an avocation and recently was awarded the Cartouche Award for lifetime achievement by the Society of American Period Furniture Makers. Congratulations, Steven!

Frederic Bousquet wrote from France that he will probably be with the Hope Ensemble in Houston around the time of the Festival to present the first titanium musical instrument in the world by a new enterprise called Titanium Sound. He hopes to have a chance to join us and will know more about this project which is supported by the U.S. French Embassy.

From Switzerland, **Liselotte Behrendt**, who is the one person who has attended all eight previous glass music festivals and played at several, wrote that she and her husband, Peter, will be attending the next festival. She does not play her glass harp anymore, but her instruments are waiting for one or the other of her granddaughters. For the last two years, she has been playing another instrument the “Schwyzerorgeli” which she can carry on her back and climb up to the alp meadows, sit down on a stone and just play by heart. She says she will bring it to the USA and make “jumping” music in the evening.

Doug Lee who attended the Philadelphia and Paris festivals will be playing his musical glasses for us at this festival. He is an excellent glass harpist and can be seen and heard on YouTube.

Dennis James, who organized the very first glass music festival back before GMI was founded and played at several of our festivals continues to be very active performing on his glass instruments as well as other instruments. On November 4th, a bulletin we received stated “The Washington Center for the performing arts presents MUSICA CURIOSA - Dennis James’ 50 Year Career as a Curious Musician.” The

first paragraph of the announcement reads “Dennis James, the official Theatre Organist of the Washington Center, is well known to the Washington Center audience as the organist and silent movie authority behind our annual silent movie series. Less well known is that he owns, and is a renowned authority, on some very unusual historical musical instruments. This Musica Curiosa Evening features our Mighty WurliTzer organ together with James also playing a glass armonica (the Benjamin Franklin invention), a seraphim, a theremin, and his first childhood instrument – an accordion!” His 2011 schedule calls for a performance of “Lucia di Lammermoor” with the Met orchestra at Lincoln Center in New York City as well as performances at theatres, auditoriums, and festivals in Oklahoma and New York State.

Lynn Drye wrote that she is continuing to perform glass music concerts throughout Arizona. Her website is still at www.glassvirtuoso.us, with her updated calendar for glass music concerts. She performs with several groups including the Prescott Pops Symphony Orchestra, Central Arizona Concert Band, and the Prescott Bavarian Band. Her husband, Toby, is continuing to write and arrange new compositions for glass music when he has time between his photography. A highlight of her summer was being able to meet with Carolinn Skyler when she came to Phoenix to attend the American Council of the Blind national convention. They had a great time catching up on everything!

Cecilia Brauer wrote that she will be performing for the fifth year at the Patriot’s Week Celebration of Washington’s Crossing of the Delaware in Trenton, NJ on Tuesday, December 28th. This past March, the Armonica and she were featured at the Vermont Philharmonic Concert in Montpelier and in June in two performances of Lucia di Lammermoor with the Green Mountain Opera Company in Barre, Vermont. At the Metropolitan Opera, she is involved in Boris Gudunov, Girl of the Golden West, Tosca, Wozzeck, and Ariadne...also with the Met Orchestra in Concert at Carnegie Hall in January.

Diane Hession, G. Finkenbeiner, Inc. in Waltham, MA, informed us that they recently received an order for the 42C model glass harmonica. They will be building it for the Mason School of the Arts at Rutgers University in New Jersey.

Glass Music International, Inc.

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Vice President – Elizabeth Mears
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Goodwin's. Guided by the goal of providing an opportunity to inspire future Americans by the patriotism and purpose of the past, Rockefeller supported and financed Williamsburg's restoration until his death in 1960. He and his wife, Abby, maintained a close personal interest in the restoration and spent part of each year at Bassett Hall, their Williamsburg home, which is open 9 a.m.-5 p.m. daily except Wednesdays.

The restored city is presented in the 301-acre Historic Area, which comprises 88 original buildings and hundreds of homes, shops, public buildings and other structures that have been reconstructed, most on their original foundations. The reconstructed Raleigh Tavern opened as the first public exhibition building in September 1932.

Colonial Williamsburg Today

The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation is a private, not-for-profit educational foundation that receives no regular state or federal funding. The Foundation preserves and interprets the Historic Area.

Historic Area

Discover the birthplace of a nation where patriots ignited the cause for freedom and laid the groundwork for the creation of a new nation. Colonial Williamsburg's fifth season of the highly acclaimed **Revolutionary City** program returns in 2010. This engaging street theater experience enables guests to follow the stories of their Revolutionary forebears' transition from subjects to citizens and to connect those Revolutionary changes with issues facing citizens today. The Native American presence in pre-Revolutionary War Williamsburg is reflected in a Revolutionary City Revolutionary Story. "So Far From Scioto" chronicles the story of three young Shawnee emissaries who were brought to Williamsburg in 1774 as security to ensure compliance with a peace agreement that ended Lord Dunmore's War in the Ohio Country.

R. Charlton's Coffeehouse, the Historic Area's newest exhibition building, reflects its 18th-century role as a gathering place for the politically connected as well as for the socially ambitious. Tours also give guests a taste of the colonial era with a sample tasting of period coffeehouse beverages – coffee, tea or chocolate. One of the most dramatic encounters of the period leading up to the American Revolution took place on the porch of R. Charlton's Coffeehouse in 1765 when an angry crowd protesting the hated Stamp Act confronted the appointed collector for Virginia, George Mercer, and demanded he swear an oath that he would not distribute the official stamped paper. The royal governor, Francis Fauquier, intervened and saved Mercer from the crowd. Mercer resigned his position the next day and the Stamp Act was repealed by the British Parliament the following year. The scene – "The Next Disagreeable Thing, the Stamp Crises and the Ball of Revolution" – will be added to Revolutionary City this spring.



Several of Colonial Williamsburg's Historic Trades shops are celebrating anniversaries in 2010:

- **Silversmith Shop**, 55 years. In July 1955, the Silversmith Shop opened at the Golden Ball-James Craig shop in Colonial Williamsburg's Historic Area. James Craig acquired the property from a surgeon named James Carter in 1765. For the first two decades that Craig worked in Williamsburg, he was known primarily as a jeweler.
- **Printing Office**, 60 years. The printing office was originally located in the Archibald Blair Storehouse on the corner of Duke of Gloucester Street and Colonial Street. In 1957, however, the site of the printing office was moved to the Prentis Store. On May 15, 1958, the office re-opened to the public on its original site, where William Parks had established his office in 1746. Parks was the public printer for the Virginia colony and published the first issue of The Virginia Gazette.
- **Apothecary Shop**, 60 years. The shop opened in October 1950 as an exhibition building; however, in the late 1700s it served as a workplace for two influential apothecaries, Dr. William Pasteur and Dr. John Minson Galt. The shop was stocked with tools for bleeding patients, for surgery, for setting broken bones and for extracting teeth. Today the Apothecary Shop features pharmaceutical equipment, surgical tools, and medicines and explains their uses in the 18th century.

Historic trade demonstrations, dramatic vignettes, interactive programs and encounters with "People of the Past" take place in exhibition sites and historic trade shops throughout the Historic Area. Homes, public buildings and shops are furnished with objects from Colonial Williamsburg's extensive collection of English and American antiques and reproductions made by Colonial Williamsburg tradespeople.

The Historic Area encompasses 301 acres of greens and gardens that range from the formal splendor of the Governor's Palace garden to the utilitarian kitchen garden of the James Geddy site. The Historic Area is protected from modern intrusions by a 2,800-acre greenbelt.



Museums

Colonial Williamsburg operates: the Public Hospital, which provides exhibits that document the treatment of mental illness from the hospital's founding in 1773 to its destruction by fire in 1885; the DeWitt Wallace Decorative Arts Museum that displays the Foundation's exceptional collection of British and American decorative arts; and the Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Folk Art Museum that is the oldest institution in the United States dedicated solely to the collection and preservation of American folk art. The Foundation also operates Bassett Hall, the Williamsburg home of Mr. and Mrs. John D. Rockefeller Jr. Both the Public Hospital and the DeWitt Wallace Decorative Arts Museum celebrate their 25th anniversary in 2010. Bassett Hall celebrates its 30th anniversary in 2010.

In 2009, Colonial Williamsburg's collections were made accessible through an online museum. The eMuseum collections database with images, descriptions and object histories is broadly accessible to scholars, historians, collectors and the general public. In addition to objects currently on view in the foundation's museums and historic buildings, eMuseum also makes available portions of the collections that are too fragile or light sensitive for frequent exhibition.

Accommodations

Colonial Williamsburg guests may choose from 1,000 guest rooms in five hotel properties: the elegant Williamsburg Inn; 26 Colonial Houses—Historic Lodging where guests can immerse themselves in the 18th century; the newly renovated and expanded Williamsburg Lodge; the contemporary Williamsburg Woodlands Hotel & Suites, nestled in the woods near the Visitor Center; and the moderately priced Governor's Inn, located four blocks from Merchants Square. Vacation packages include length-of-stay passes to the Historic Area and special rates for evening programs. Details are available online at www.ColonialWilliamsburg.com.

Conference Facilities

Meetings have played a part in the story of America since Thomas Jefferson, George Washington, Patrick Henry and other ousted members of the House of Burgesses debated indepen-

dence from King George in the Apollo Room of the Raleigh Tavern in Williamsburg in the 18th century. Important meetings have been taking place in Williamsburg ever since. Today, Colonial Williamsburg offers ideal venues for 21st-century meetings and conferences of all types. Groups that hold an event in one of Colonial Williamsburg's properties help preserve the very history of our country. Purchase of Colonial Williamsburg products and services supports the foundation's preservation, research, and educational programs. Colonial Williamsburg's first benefactor was John D. Rockefeller Jr., whose mission for the Foundation he generously supported was "that the future may learn from the past." Conference guests are doing just that.

Dining

Colonial Williamsburg's dining experiences are as rich as its history.

Guests may choose from 10 restaurants including four historic dining taverns. Brunch served in the elegant Regency Room in the Williamsburg Inn, or the sumptuous Friday seafood buffet in the Williamsburg Lodge Restaurant. If an authentic colonial tavern is your choice, you can enjoy Breakfast with Citizens of the Revolution Fridays through Sundays in the King's Arms Tavern or tea with Mrs. Campbell seasonally afternoons in Christiana Campbell's Tavern. For a special evening, reserve the Chef's Table in the Purdie House Kitchen behind the King's Arms Tavern and enjoy a five-course dinner inspired by recipes from the 18th century and learn from the chef how each was prepared.

Recreation

The 45-hole Golden Horseshoe Golf Club includes the award-winning Gold Course designed by Robert Trent Jones Sr.; the Green Course, designed by his son, Rees Jones; and Spotswood, a nine-hole executive course designed by Robert Trent Jones Sr. Both courses were named to the 2006–2007 *Zagat Readers' Survey* of "America's Top Golf Courses." Guests at Colonial Williamsburg's hotels also can enjoy swimming pools, tennis courts, lawn bowling greens, lawn croquet, shuffleboard, bicycling and miniature golf.

Spa

A team of world-renowned experts collaborated to create The Spa of Colonial Williamsburg, a full-service spa that exudes Southern charm, harmonizes with its historical surroundings and reflects the personality of its colonial heritage. Extensive research into treatments dating to Native Americans, English settlers, African Americans and immigrants from near and far influenced 21st-century treatments designed to soothe, refresh and calm. The spa includes men's and women's locker rooms, an indoor lap pool, a full fitness center, whirlpools, steam rooms, separate lounges for men and women and a couples treatment room. The Spa is open to guests of the resort and to day visitors.

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Williamsburg: Local Attractions

Dean Shostak has provided the following information on places to visit when coming to the Festival.

Colonial Williamsburg

Scores of original buildings, hundreds of homes, shops, and public buildings are reconstructed over 301 acres - most on their original foundations. Rare animal breeds, trades, and gardens add layers of authenticity to the recreated town.

Colonial Williamsburg consists of 301 acres encompassing 88 original buildings and hundreds of other homes, shops and public buildings. Colonial Williamsburg operates the Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Folk Art Museum, the DeWitt Wallace Decorative Arts Museum and Bassett Hall.

Jamestown

Jamestown Settlement

The story of the people who founded Jamestown and of the Virginia Indians they encountered is told through film, gallery exhibits and living history. Outdoors, visitors can board replicas of the three ships that sailed from England to Virginia in 1607, explore life-size re-creations of the colonists' fort and a Powhatan village, and tour a riverfront discovery area to learn about European, Powhatan and African economic activities associated with water.

Historic Jamestowne

The mission of Historic Jamestowne is to preserve, protect and promote the original site of the first permanent English settlement in North America and to tell the story of the role of the three cultures, European, North American and African, that came together to lay the foundation for a uniquely American form of democratic government, language, free enterprise and society.

Yorktown

The Yorktown Victory Center, a museum of the American Revolution, chronicles America's struggle for independence, from the beginnings of colonial unrest to the formation of the new nation.

Exhibits provide accounts of the Revolution and describe the convergence of forces on Yorktown in 1781. The Declaration of Independence Gallery features a rare early broadside printing of the Declaration dating to July 1776, before a handwritten copy on parchment was signed by members of Congress.

Outdoors, historical interpreters engage visitors in everyday life of the Revolution in re-creations of a Continental Army encampment and 1780s farm.

Charlottesville

Charlottesville is centrally located in the eastern foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains in the Central Virginia region. Charlottesville's rich cultural, natural, and artistic history is showcased in a selection of first-rate museums, galleries, wineries, shops, and parks dispersed throughout the area.

Spectacular scenery and championship courses designed by some of the industry's top architects create a winning combination for golfers. The many rivers and lakes provide the perfect setting for aquatic pursuits, such as sailing, swimming, fishing, kayaking, canoeing and tubing. The many beautiful parks offer wonderful settings for sports, picnics, relaxation, and adventure.

Visitors will also find charming boutiques, antique shops, antiquarian bookstores, distinguished local wineries, and small towns nearby filled with pleasant surprises.

Many historic attractions bring visitors to the city, such as Monticello, the Grounds of the University of Virginia, Ash Lawn-Highland, Historic Court Square and Michie Tavern, ca. 1784. Each has played a unique role in the history of the nation, and their tours, special events, and educational programs ensure that the spirits of the past remains vibrant today.

Monticello (Charlottesville)

No other home in the United States more accurately reflects the personality of its owner than Monticello, Thomas Jefferson's architectural masterpiece and beloved mountaintop home. Guided tours of the house are offered daily throughout the year; outdoor gardens and plantation tours are offered daily April-October.

Richmond

Richmond offers a wide range of cultural attractions. One of the finest museums in the Southeast, the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts features collections from Europe, the Far East, and America. Special collections include the Faberge Russian Imperial Jewels and the Lewis Collection of Art Nouveau. Other major museums include the Science Museum of Virginia, the Children's Museum, the Edgar Allen Poe Museum, the Valentine Museum and the Museum of the Confederacy. These reflect Virginia's heritage as well as the wonders of the modern age.

Norfolk: The Heart of the Virginia Waterfront

The city of Norfolk is strategically located in the southeastern Hampton Roads region at the mouth of one of the nation's fastest-growing ports. It is located within the Virginia Beach-Norfolk-Newport News Metropolitan Statistical Area.

Two major regional shopping malls are located in Norfolk, and the waterfront offers Waterside Festival marketplace with revitalized places to dine and enjoy entertainment, too.

Chrysler Hall is Norfolk's downtown performing arts center and is home to the Norfolk Forum lecture series, the Virginia Symphony and touring Broadway Shows. The Virginia Opera is the official Opera Company of Virginia and its home-base is Norfolk. The Chrysler Museum of Art, considered as one of the Top 20 museums in the USA, features masterworks from every major civilization, historical period and culture of the past 5,000 years! Nauticus, the National Maritime Center is in Norfolk, too, and features the USS Wisconsin, the world's largest battleship.

James River Plantations (Between Williamsburg and Richmond)

Explore Civil War history during self-guided touring of the gardens and grounds of four historic landmark plantations and stopping at highway historic markers, all along the Virginia Route 5 Scenic Byway in Charles City County, between Williamsburg and Richmond. The Civil War Trace ticket includes admission to the grounds of Westover-1730, Edgewood-1847, North Bend-1819 and Piney Grove-1790, and provides a map identifying the

(continued on next page)

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locations of the highway historic markers for Fort Pocahontas and Grant's Crossing of the James River, as well as Charles City Courthouse, the site of a local Confederate monument.

Guided interior house tours of Westover, North Bend, Edgewood and Piney Grove may be arranged in advance for an additional fee.

Westover, Piney Grove and North Bend are official sites of Virginia's Civil War Trails.

Berkeley is Virginia's most historic plantation. Visit the site of the first official Thanksgiving (1619). See the birthplace of

Benjamin Harrison, signer of the Declaration of Independence, and President William Henry Harrison, our nation's ninth president, whose grandson Benjamin became the 23rd president. Envision Lincoln reviewing 140,000 Union troops. Hear "Taps" (composed here in 1862). We invite you to experience Berkeley's famous hospitality, as did the first ten presidents. An architectural gem, the elegant 1726 Georgian mansion is furnished with rare period antiques. Five terraces of restored boxwood and flower gardens overlook farmlands and offer breathtaking vistas of the James River. Audio-visual program. Museum. Gift Shop. Costumed guides.

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How to Get Here

Williamsburg is located 150 miles south of Washington, D.C., near Interstate 64 (exit 238). Guests can fly into Norfolk, Newport News/Williamsburg International and Richmond International airports. All have rental cars and limousine services. Amtrak also serves the Williamsburg Transportation Center with a connecting train from Washington, D.C. The center is just blocks from the Historic Area and provides car rentals, a cab stand and Greyhound Bus connections.

Operating Hours

Colonial Williamsburg's operating hours generally are 9 a.m.–5 p.m. but vary by season. Colonial Williamsburg's Historic Area is open seven days a week, 365 days a year.

Philanthropic Support

As a private, not-for-profit educational institution, The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation welcomes and encourages tax-deductible gifts and bequests from all who treasure the Williamsburg experience. Gifts to Colonial Williamsburg support the research, documentation and interpretive training fundamental to all its educational activities; the presentation of programs in Historic Area buildings, trade shops and museums; acquisition and conservation of art; buildings and grounds preservation and maintenance; and production of publications and audiovisual programs.

General Information:

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