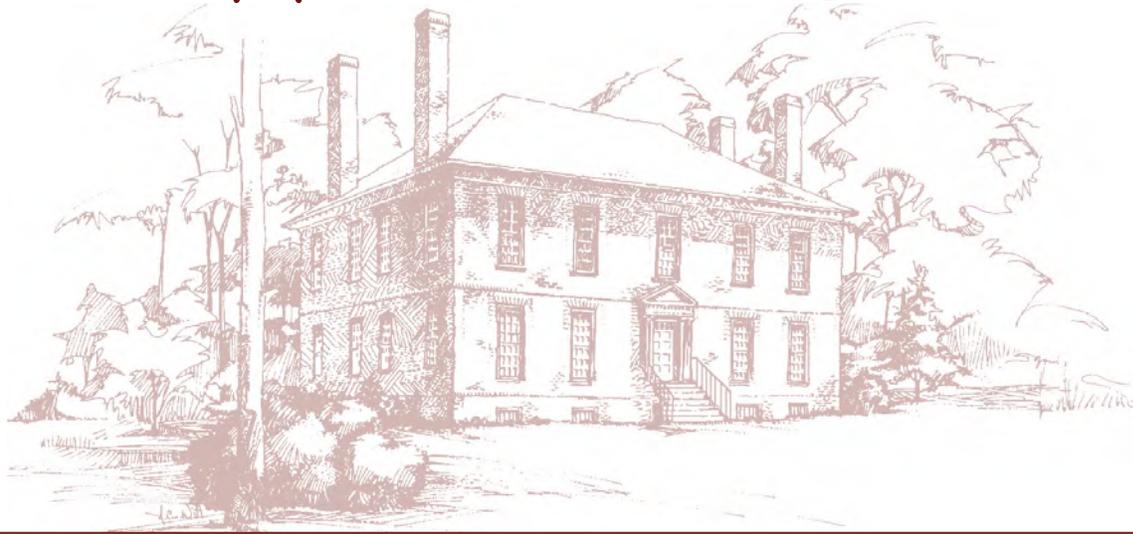


Wilton News



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Welcome New Director of Education

Wilton House Museum is pleased to announce Katie Watkins as the new Director of Education. A native Virginian, Katie is a 2013 graduate from Christopher Newport University with a degree in history. “My key interest in the field is social history, and I find that there is no better way to connect people with the past than through exploring the lives of historic individuals.” Before joining Wilton House Museum in December, 2018 “I began my career as a young costumed interpreter with the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, a role I would continue throughout high school and college.” Following this, Katie Watkins served as a Visitor Engagement Associate at The Civil War Center as well as Archeological Technician and Interpreter with Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. “It has become very clear to me that the survival and preservation of Wilton is due entirely to the dedication of those entrusted with its care, and I’m thrilled to add my name to that growing list.”

Following the multi-year effort of conducting investigations of the historic structure and paint analysis, hosting think tanks, roundtables, and open houses, and engaging the community with strategic planning, museum accreditation, and surveying visitors, Wilton House Museum is embarking on a period of transformation. “We sought a Director of Education who recognized that momentum and could build on it,” explains Executive Director Keith D. MacKay. “Katie Watkins is bright, inquisitive, and innovative, and will contribute to advancing our mission and strategic plan.”

The 2017 Strategic Plan outlines an ambitious role for museum education and programming including (but not limited to) developing new guided tours and related docent training, contributing to a new Interpretation Plan, and developing mission-based programming that is inclusive of diverse audiences and perspectives. “Achieving these bold goals certainly cannot be accomplished alone; I look forward to working with all of you to shape Wilton’s future.”



A Wilton House Museum Symposium: Women and Historic Preservation

This symposium celebrates the significant roles women have played and continue to achieve, in preserving historic sites. Numerous iconic historic buildings and neighborhoods owe their very existence to the determination of women to preserve them. This was achieved by building awareness, securing private philanthropy, and fighting to establish public policy.

Women have led the historic preservation movement from its earliest efforts until today. Speakers from across the country will come together for a symposium to explore and contextualize these achievements. Six presentations will consider various women's contributions to historic preservation from the founding effort to preserve Mount Vernon, to Colonial Williamsburg, the White House, and historic neighborhoods in Richmond, including contemporary concerns in preserving Richmond's more troubling past. This daylong symposium is in celebration of the 125th anniversary of the founding of women's organization that saved and restored Wilton, The National Society of The Colonial Dames of America in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

We hope that you join us on Saturday, October 13, 2018.

Reservations available online as of May 1, 2018



Mount Vernon's first Regents



Jaqueline Kennedy views plans for Lafayette Square

The Militia at Wilton During the Revolutionary War

Much has been said about Wilton's most famous visitors: among them are counted George Washington, the Baron von Steuben, Thomas Jefferson, and the Marquis de Lafayette. Less attention has been paid, however, to the accounts of the everyman encamped at Wilton plantation during the Revolutionary War.

Much of the fighting done in central Virginia was done by militia forces. A March 1775 resolution called for the counties of Brunswick, Dinwiddie, Chesterfield, Henrico, Hanover, Spotsylvania, King George, and Stafford to "pay a more particular attention to the forming a good infantry." The people of central Virginia rose to the call and Wilton served as a frequent base of operations for militia units. William Mann, resident of Nottoway County, recalls visiting Wilton in 1777, 1779, 1780 and receiving his final discharge at Wilton plantation in 1781. While encamped here, this combination of militia and Continental troops stood guard over "Randolph's ferry," performed military drills in the fields surrounding the mansion and even participated in the somewhat unusual practice of performing a "sham fight, in which the left wing got much the advantage of the right." The sham fight was not the only unusual occurrence at Wilton during the Revolution, however.

David Pearson of Chesterfield County recounted in his pension application a dramatic event at Wilton while serving under General Muhlenberg, probably in late 1780 or early 1781. As Benedict Arnold was burning Richmond and Chesterfield in January, local sympathizers took up his banner and began looting the surrounding area. Pearson claimed that, "while the declarant was encamped at Wilton the Negroes and Tories were plundering and committing other outrages of James River, and Colonel Richard Randolph was sent with a detachment of infantry in pursuit of them." They then fought at, "the dwelling house or at the Farm of Colonel Charles Carter," probably Shirley Plantation, and after defeating the force sent a message to Wilton to send, "a reinforcement to bring off the property taken ... it was brought to camp and exposed at public auction, and amongst it was two Negroes," in a rare example of slave auction in a military camp.

Most of the militia serving under General Muhlenberg and encamped at Wilton were reaching the end of their three month enlistments. Henry Nuneley of Chesterfield County recalled that after joining Lafayette's infantry at Wilton he, "volunteered to surprise the British who then lay in Petersburg," until the death of General Phillips. He then, "marched back to Wilton where applicant and his company were discharged and sent home." This mass discharge in 1781 heralded the end of the fighting for many men in the greater Richmond area. While some volunteered or were drafted again to serve at the Siege of Yorktown, like Nuneley, most of the militia returned to their homes, farms and plantations as the war soon reached its conclusion. Independence had been hard won, and now came the time for the men who passed through Wilton in those years of revolution to begin to rebuild Richmond.

UPCOMING MUSEUM EVENTS



Preservation and Photography: Frances Benjamin Johnston

Thursday, April 12; 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Lecture by Chris Oliver

VMFA's Assistant Curator of American Art, explores the important photography of Frances Benjamin Johnston's survey of Virginia architecture in the early 20th-century

\$10 each or register for all three for \$40. Purchase tickets in advance through the Wilton website.



Fun Fridays

Beginning, June 1; 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Come join us for family friendly activities. Kids and adults alike will explore themes of revolution, art, and colonial life throughout the summer months.

Free



Jammin' on the James

Saturday, June 9; 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Reflections Big Band

From Sinatra to Santana, from swing to Motown and R&B, Reflections plays and sings your favorites; you'll find it hard not to sing and dance along!

Free Admission - Parking will be directed through the neighborhood with shuttle service to the museum. All concerts are rain or shine - Donations are appreciated



Wilton Discovery Days

Saturday, June 16th - July 21st - August 18th 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Join us for interactive activities that examine the physical facets of Wilton.

and/or

Wilton Artists

Saturday, June 23rd - July 28th - August 25th 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Examine the creative skills of colonial life.



\$20.00 per session or \$50 for all three. Please register on our website.



Jammin' on the James

Saturday, July 14; 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Handsome Molly

Combining the best of traditional Irish and Scots dance tunes, airs and songs with musical virtuosity and all around good 'craic'.

Free Admission - Parking will be directed through the neighborhood with shuttle service to the museum. All concerts are rain or shine - Donations are appreciated



Jammin' on the James

Saturday, August 11; 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

After Jack

Named 2014 Americana Vocal Group of the Year by Appalachian Cultral Music Association, After Jack is a musical celebration of togetherness. The trio couples modern sensibility with distinctly old-time energy to blend bluegrass, gospel and folk elements.

Free Admission - Parking will be directed through the neighborhood with shuttle service to the museum. All concerts are rain or shine - Donations are appreciated

KEEP UP WITH ALL OF WILTON'S PROGRAMS AND EVENTS AT

WWW.WILTONHOUSEMUSEUM.ORG/EVENTS

Planned Giving Makes a Difference

The National Society of The Colonial Dames of America takes the statement “Entrusted with History’s Future” to heart in our ongoing mission of preserving the history of this country through our stewardship of **Wilton House Museum**.

Your planned giving is a way to ensure and insure the value of this history never gets lost.

As part of our Society Strategic Plan we will be actively developing our 1892 Society in stages over the coming years and we hope that our members will remain open to our communication about this meaningful way to support the mission.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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Richmond, VA 23226