

ALHFAM Annual Meeting & Conference 2015

Doing & Telling: A Living History Toolbox

ALHFAM



The Association for Living History, Farm and Agricultural Museums

2015 ALHFAM Annual Meeting & Conference Schedule

Thursday & Friday, June 18-19, 2015: Farmers Boot Camp: \$125

Are you ready to experience something really different? Then enlist for the Farmers Boot Camp! The workshop is for any conference attendee at any level of experience including no experience at all. This is your opportunity to really grasp what our ancestors intuitively knew and felt in a sweaty, gritty, hands-on way.

Led by a cadre of historic farming experts, this two-day experience is focused on a selection of basic agricultural skills. Most of the skills fit into multiple time periods. The featured crop is wheat. We will harvest by sickles, scythes, and cradle; tie and shock the sheaves; and build a stack. Other skills include: basic horsemanship and ox driving; woodworking; and field work with hand tools.

Hands-on participation is required. The workshop is limited to 15 on a first come- first serve basis so register early. Registrants will be contacted with details after the workshop fills.

Friday, June 19, 2015: Field Trips and Professional Workshops

Full-Day Field Trips: \$75

1. Peninsula Civil War Tour

The Peninsula Civil War Tour includes a visit to Fortress Monroe, nicknamed “Freedom’s Fortress” and now a National Monument; the Mariners Museum, where participants will visit the U.S. Monitor Center and see the Monitor turret as it undergoes conservation; and then learn about the Battle of Williamsburg by visiting the locations where it took place.

2. Archaeology and Colonial Homes Tour

Join archaeologists Thane Harpole and David Brown on a tour that includes “Rosewell,” the remains of what was once one of the most elaborate homes in colonial America; “Fairfield,” the ancestral home of the Burwell family and site of on-going archaeological investigations; and Werowocomoco, the town that served as the headquarters of the paramount chief Powhatan, father of Pocahontas. The site is owned privately and will be available to us by special arrangement.

3. Surry County Tour

Although only a ferry ride away from urban Williamsburg across the James River, rural Surry County gives visitors a glimpse of Virginia's agricultural heritage both past and present. Tour participants will visit Bacon's Castle, the nation's only surviving High Jacobean structure and the nation's oldest brick dwelling; Smith's Fort Plantation (both owned by Preservation Virginia); and Chippokes Plantation State Park, which has a large collection of agricultural equipment and agricultural machinery. The trip will include a ferry ride across the James River.

Morning Field Trip: \$15

1. Collections and Conservation Tour

A special "Behind the Scenes" tour of the Collections and Conservation Bruton Heights Wallace Building at Colonial Williamsburg for ALHFAM attendees only will include visits to selected storage areas and to one of the conservation laboratories.

Professional Workshops:

Full-Day

1. Collections, Preservation and Registration Professional Interest Group Helping Hands Project

Participants in this year's Helping Hands project will organize two storage areas at the York County Historical Museum, located on Yorktown's historic Main Street. They will also make recommendations on various collections management issues to help this small museum, its board, and its staff function more smoothly. Maximum: 10. No charge; lunch provided.

2. Cock-doodle-do's of Farm Based Education

Participants will explore interactive activities that can be customized for families and school groups, including age-appropriate teaching tips, group management, and information on the Farm-based Education Network. This full-day workshop is presented by Susie Marchand, and Rachel Cadwallader, of Shelburne Farms, Vermont. Includes lunch. \$75

3. Nigerian (Igbo) Open Hearth Cookery

Prepare traditional Nigerian foods in a clay hearth while learning about the material culture, crops, and cooking techniques of Africa's 18th-century Igbo People. Transportation to this full-day workshop site is provided. Presented by Karen Becker of the Frontier Culture Museum. Includes lunch. \$75

4. Giving Voice to Long Silenced Millions: Best Practices for Interpreting Slavery at Historic Sites and Museums

On location at Colonial Williamsburg's Peyton Randolph House, and Great Hopes Plantation, Interpretation Consultant, Kristin Gallas, and Colonial Williamsburg Training Specialist, Rose McAphee, discuss and demonstrate best practices for incorporating accurate and meaningful interpretations of slavery at your site. Learn why visitors' responses to interpretations about slavery are so varied, while gaining techniques to navigate complicated emotions, and handle controversy in this full-day workshop. Includes lunch. \$75

Half-Day Professional Workshops

Morning (9 a.m.-12 p.m.)

1. Beginning Shepherding

A hands-on half-day workshop for beginning shepherds. Learn how to handle sheep, trim feet, and all about the basics of maintaining a healthy flock. Colonial Williamsburg animal husbanders, Emily Hilburger and Eric Hunter, conduct this half-day workshop. Participants should be prepared to get dirty! \$40

2. Custom Draping

Bevin Lynn of Genesee Country Village & Museum guides workshop participants in the construction of a custom pattern, or “toile,” that can be used to make various styles of 18th and 19th century garments. You’ll need scissors, chalk, pencil & paper, straight pins, and your corset/stays for this half-day workshop. Tracing paper and muslin will be provided. \$40

3. 18th-century Sheep Butchering

Colonial Williamsburg Foodways Interpreter Barbara Sherer joins zooarchaeologist Joanne Bowen to compare written documentation with archeological evidence as you explore the tools and techniques of 18th century butchering. This half-day workshop includes classroom discussion and outdoor demonstration. Learn how to incorporate butchering at your site, as you discover what cut of meat is suitable for which receipts. \$40

4. Techniques for Time Travel

Lara Templin of the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation guides third-person interpreters in the use of role-playing and storytelling to create immersive and engaging experiences for guests without having to portray first-person characters in this half-day workshop. \$40

Afternoon (1 p.m.-4 p.m.)

1. Wait...there isn’t toothpaste?

Explore the overlooked world of personal hygiene products and home cleaning supplies in this half-day workshop as Katie Cannon of the DAR Museum helps you prepare non-food recipes from cookbooks and household manuals. \$40

2. Baking with the Miller

Recreate 17th-, 18th-, and 19th-century receipts in this using stone-ground flour in this half-day workshop. Learn about different types of wheat, grades of flour, and sources for your own foodways program. Presented by Alisa Crawford of Windmill Island Gardens. \$40

3. 19th-Century Clothing on a 21st-Century Schedule

Costuming your summer site hires just got easier! Kay Demlow of Lavender’s Green Historic Clothing instructs participants in this half-day workshop on 19th-century sewing techniques, along with modern shortcuts for creating appropriate period attire without a dedicated costuming staff. \$40

4. Poultry and how it relates to your site

Elaine Shirley, supervisor of Colonial Williamsburg's Rare Breeds program, is joined by 4th generation turkey farmer/historian, Frank Reese, Jr., and author Christine Heinrichs to provide an overview of poultry history and the importance of poultry products to a farm's success. In this half-day workshop discover what is needed to introduce the appropriate rare breeds of poultry to your site. \$40

5. Hair Dressing 101 on the Fly

If you have problems dressing your own hair or wig for that special occasion, this is the class for you, taught by Betty Myers and Terry Lyons. Learn the secrets of dressing one's own hair or wig to the appropriate style of the period you represent. We will instruct you in basic hairweaving techniques needed to construct your own hairpieces. Learn step-by-step how to create and design a variety of hairstyles using various paddings and accessories. You will also learn the simple steps to make cockades, rosettes, bows and bags to go with your impression. In addition you will see basic techniques implored in hand knotting that can be used in a variety of ways. Materials will be provided for you to practice on, using various techniques employed during the workshop. You will need to bring your own scissors and feel free to bring your wigs and/or hairpiece that you want to learn how to dress. \$40

5:30-6 p.m.

Newcomers' Reception

If you are a new member of ALHFAM or this is your first ALHFAM annual meeting, the Board of Directors cordially invites you to a reception in your honor complete with refreshments and casual conversation.

Don't worry: You won't miss the Opening Reception! This is just a friendly get-together to welcome you to the organization. We'll tell you what you really need to know and then send you out as members of the ALHFAMily. We are glad you are here! (Please: First-timers only!)

6-8 p.m.

Opening Reception: Salted, Smoked & Pickled

Join old friends and new ones at the opening of our 45th Annual Meeting! You are encouraged to bring a site or regional culinary contribution to share, whether it's salted, smoked, pickled or baked, and there will be plenty of Williamsburg's famous Pierce's barbecue for all!

Saturday, June 20, 2015

7 a.m.

Breakfast

8:30 a.m.

Conference Welcome, Introductions, Announcements

Ron Carnegie, Chair, ALHFAM 2015 Annual Meeting and Conference

9 a.m.

Keynote Address

Dr. James P. Horn, Jamestown Rediscovery Foundation, Preservation Virginia

10-10:30 a.m. Break

10:30-11:15 a.m. Concurrent Sessions

Crop Killers: Wildlife Depredation at Historic Sites

Pete Watson, Director, Howell Living History Farm

Joe Schott, Landis Valley Village and Farm Museum

Are deer taking your corn crop from 20 bushels an acre to two bushels? Do raccoons devour the tomatoes? Enough is enough—Take action! Here are some tips from those who can't take it anymore.

Bob Peacock's View from the Furrow

Bob Powell, Farming Historian

Bob Peacock was an English Fenland horseman and farmer for his entire life, and a friend and mentor. Not only did he teach about working with horses, their associated culture, and maintaining standards but also about the importance of learning from experienced practitioners and documenting that knowledge. This friendship had a major influence on my personal knowledge, research interests, living history interpretation, skills and ongoing aspirations to encourage others to engage in similar ways to learn and enhance their skills.

11:30 -12:15 p.m. *Crop Failure – What Do We Do Now?*

Gary Houghton, Farm Manager, Howell Living History Farm

When farming, we are left to the vagaries of the weather, predators, equipment breakdowns and other difficulties that present challenges in producing crops, livestock, and opportunities to engage our visitors in living history. Rather than treating “crop failures” as calamities, let's get the creative juices going and investigate ways to demonstrate how our ancestors may have handled these problems and how we can keep the farm going. This session will discuss how some crop failures have been turned into new opportunities for living history farmers and interpreters and for the public that comes, to learn about the relationship of farming and farm life.

Cooking the Books

Carolyn Blackstock, Waterloo Region Museum

Can a blog be an interpretive tool in living history? Yes! In 2011 my historic site was temporarily closed. How was an interpreter and historic cook to survive? I opted to start a personal project in 2012: cooking every day from a local community cook book, researching the recipe contributors, and sharing the details in a daily blog. I did it again in 2014 with a different community cook book. This presentation will share what was learned through this form of interpretation and how it can be applied at other sites.

10:30-12:15 p.m.

The Art-Full Educator

Trish Balderson, Art Museums of Colonial Williamsburg

Christina Westenberger, Art Museums of Colonial Williamsburg

Folk art, decorative arts and fine art can inspire great discussions on tours, but how can the art in your collection inspire simple crafts? Join the discussion with other educators, bring a craft from your museum for an art-full “show and tell,” and try your hand at art projects from the Colonial Williamsburg Art Museums.

Including Progressive Reenactors in Your Living History Toolbox

Carrie Fellows, Executive Director, Hunterdon County Cultural & Heritage Commission

Mary Challman, Frontier Culture Museum

David Niescior, The Old Barracks Museum

Asher Lurie, The Old Barracks Museum

Andrew Watson Kirk, High School Teacher & Reenactor

Over the last decade, the formerly well-defined lines between professional living history interpreters and reenactors have blurred considerably. Many reenactors are also professional historians, curators, archaeologists, teachers, interpreters, or site managers — and enjoy spending their own time creating living history scenarios for fun. What attributes should a site manager look for when s/he considers bringing in reenactors to enhance programming or work on a building project? What should a reenactment group provide to a site if it wants an “in” to create a specific programmatic scenario or practice a skill? How much work is involved for each party? How do these relationships benefit each of the participants, including the visitor? What if the group is a composite of individuals from different groups, not covered by a single mission statement? The panel will discuss these questions and welcomes participation in what is sure to be a spirited and informative dialog.

18th-Century Trades in a Modern World

Jonathan Hallman, Journeyman Cooper, Colonial Williamsburg Foundation

This session will explore the preservation and presentation of 18th-century trades in a 21st-century environment. It will look at just how historically accurate it is practical or possible to be given the realities of material availability and other factors in the 21st century. It will also address how modern visitors' perceptions play into the interpretation of both workers and product, as well as exploring ways to help visitors connect the products of 18th-century tradesmen and women to their modern experience. While the session will focus on examples from the interpretation of 18th-century trades, interpreters of other eras will find the underlying ideas and principles useful as well. Ample time will be allowed for questions and discussion.

Toward a Greater understanding: First nations/Native Interpretation Programming

Del Taylor, Sainte Marie among the Hurons

Buck Woodard, Colonial Williamsburg

Warren Taylor, Colonial Williamsburg

Kody Grant, Colonial Williamsburg

Carol Kennis-Lopez, Casa San Ysidro: The Guitierrez House

Interpreting Native History has undergone a significant evolution in museums, parks and living history sites in North America. Today a growing number of institutions employ First Nations staff as interpreters to tell their own story from a Native perspective. Panel members from institutions at the forefront of this interpretation will share how their program started, where it is now, and what they have learned including the challenges and rewards.

How the Lesser Sorts Ate: The Material Culture of the Table for 18th-century "Middling" and "Lesser Sorts"

Nancy Webster, Friends Historical Association

Margaret A. Quinn, Howell Living History Farm

Many historic sites portray the tables and foodways of the well-to-do, while few correctly interpret the material culture and ingenuity of those less well off. Using a variety of primary source documents, the presenters will cover how court records, ledgers, farm accounts, tax records, etc., reveal the seasonal ingenuity and technology used by the less well-to-do (and the majority of citizens at the time). Re-examining this more accurate foodways interpretation, with the goals of depicting class and economic variations, changes in consumer prices and the availability of goods and spheres of connection, the presenters will also cover their findings on 18th-century street food (the "fast food" of the 18th century), journey food (carried with person vs. available at taverns and ordinaries), and itinerant workers fare, as time permits.

Rare Breeds of Livestock: Four-Footed Interpreters

Polly Festa, Accokeek Foundation

Elaine Shirley, Colonial Williamsburg Foundation

Jeanette Beranger, The Livestock Conservancy

Farm animals present a unique opportunity for historic farms to touch visitors on a very personal level. From an early age, people from all walks of life and throughout the world are exposed to farm animals through nursery rhymes and picture books. Farm animals have a capacity to reach a wide audience, while providing a living connection to the past. Utilizing endangered and historically traditional farm animals can be a useful tool that can bring your historic site to life. They provide opportunities for value added experiences for visitors and can create salable products and learning activities. The session will focus on the challenges and rewards of using historic breeds, the services and products they

can provide, how to pick the right type and breeds of livestock, and how to obtain and manage various species.

Farmer's Daughters: A Rare Breed

Dawn Bondhus Mueller, Wisconsin Automotive Museum

Debra A. Reid, Eastern Illinois University

Karen Clancy, Journeyman Weaver, Colonial Williamsburg Foundation

This panel discussion will continue and expand the conversation which began with last year's session "A View From the Furrow." Growing up a farm daughter in the late 20th Century provided all of the participants a unique perspective of the world on and off the farm. However, that perspective transcends geographic location and to some degree time, with more similarities than differences in their lives. With the number of active farms declining, even fewer women today have the opportunity to experience farm life beginning with childhood. In part it is a social history which demonstrates how the tie to the land has a lifelong effect.

Teaching with Music

Carson Hudson, Colonial Williamsburg Foundation

Music has the power to make history come alive and make the learning experience memorable and lasting. In this lecture-demonstration-discussion session, we'll contrast history with interpretation, music as history (politically-correct or period-correct), interpretive techniques for the museum professional using storytelling and music as partners, performing, participation and interaction, and understanding music as a slice of time. With music, you are actually hearing the past!

Cooks, The Greatest Tool is You

Carolyn Dilda, Historical Cooking Guild of the Catawba Valley

Sharon VanKuren, Historical Cooking Guild of the Catawba Valley

How do we keep cooks in a cooking group, especially volunteers, enthusiastic, purposeful, and committed? We've all had the experience of joining a group of people with whom we share activities around a strong common interest. Often, these informal groups slowly languish and disintegrate as they fail to meet the members expectations and needs. Establishing a formal organization - such as a guild - may be a tool that provides the necessary structure, clear objectives, and membership commitments that are needed for long-term success. Join us in a panel discussion as we explore the benefits, disadvantages, and life-cycle of a cooking guild. Participants on the panel will be members of a newly formed guild, an established and seasoned guild, and an organization that has reached its natural end.

Podcasting Made Easy: Telling the Stories of Our Past Using Modern Technology

Erin Brown, Curator of Collections, Pawnee Bill Ranch and Museum
Anna Davis, Historical Interpreter, Pawnee Bill Ranch and Museum

Small museums and historic sites constantly face the challenge of creating new ways to reach the public and maintain relevance without the benefit of big budgets. One way that museums can make a big impact is through the utilization of technology to create podcasts that further their mission, educate the public, reach new people, and offer the opportunity for creative marketing at virtually no cost. Podcasts are a fun, powerful, and economical way to stay relevant. By employing this kind of technology, museums can reach more people than ever before. This session will cover the step-by-step process of how to choose topics, research, write, record, edit, and upload podcasts for your museum. Davis and Brown are the creators, producers, writers, and hosts for the award winning "Pawnee Bill Ranch Podcast."

Are You Connecting with Your Audiences?

Stefanie Joy Muscat, Bevara

Communication is an important tool for museums and historic sites, especially in an increasingly competitive landscape. How do you know if the intended message is reaching the desired audience? Borrowing from the corporate sector, a well-conceived communications audit is an effective management tool that helps target messages, media and audiences and improves the effectiveness of communications efforts. Methods are applicable for both internal strategies, and those used to reach outside audiences. This hands-on workshop will provide attendees with the tools needed to complete such an audit at their own organization.

12:15 p.m.

Lunch and P.I.G. Meetings

1:30-3:15 p.m.

Concurrent Sessions

“Harness the horses, and get up, ye horsemen” – A Look at Harness Theory and Practice

Barbara Corson, Colonial Pennsylvania Plantation
Bob Powell, Working Horse and Farming Historian

Serious students and interpreters of historic agriculture study the skills required to use draft animals. These skills include not just how to pick up the lines or goad and drive the animals, but also how to harness them effectively. This presentation will use illustrations, diagrams and photographs to address several factors that influence harness design and how to harness horses accurately and safely.

Organizing Your Intellectual Pantry

Kathleen Wall, Culinarian, Plimoth Plantation

Learn the ten commandments of a foodways culinarian. This session provides an action plan that keeps your intellectual pantry of sources, resources, and recipes, in apple pie order.

Poster Session

ALHFAM members are currently engaged in challenging and important work at historic sites, farm and agricultural museums, and museums throughout North America and beyond. They are doing research, producing exhibits, conducting oral history interviews, creating website content and developing public programs. This poster session will showcase projects on a variety of subjects of interest to ALHFAM and offers a way for our presenters to connect with conference attendees and engage in one-on-one conversations on their work.

Portraying Historical Agriculture Through Public History: A Work in Progress, **Betsy McCabe**, Bennington College

Work in Progress: Interpreting Applewood, the C.S. Mott Estate, **Susan McCabe**, Independent Museum Professional; **Mary Seelhorst**, Independent Museum Professional; **Megan McAdow**, Ruth Mott Foundation/Applewood

Creating the Connecticut Maritime Heritage Corridor with GIS, **Edward Baker**, New London County Historical Society

Living History Interpretation: The Next Generation, **Morgan Magnuson**, Student Living History Enthusiast

Ways in Which History Students Can Get Involved in the Museum World: Introducing Academic Youth to the Field of Living History, **Alexa Wallace**, Old Sturbridge Village

What is History? **Tiffany Foresi**, Madonna University

Collecting Today for Tomorrow: What Should We Save? **Bob Benner**, Homestead Arts and Benner's Farm

Lay Healer and Midwife Gives a Neighborhood Update, 1767, **Nancy Webster**, Friends Historical Association

This is Not Knitting: Other Needlework Techniques Throughout the Ages, **Deb Fuller**, Amalgamated Classic Clothing and Dry Goods

1:30-2:15 p.m.

Concurrent Sessions

The Western Heritage Project – *Youth Collaboration Waiting to Happen*

Will Abbot, Assistant Curator of Education and Living History, Greeley History Museums

Natalie Abbot, Nevada City Living History Museum, Montana Heritage Commission

The 4-H Western Heritage Project is the newest national program in the stable of youth education programming from 4-H. Conceived as a program to attract youth interested in history of the American West, it has quickly outgrown the “Western” portion of the curriculum and is developing into a history/heritage based, family oriented, educational and inspirational activity that is gaining support and participation nationwide. Learn more about the Western Heritage Project, its success in developing a broader reach and national appeal, and how youth interpreters see their role in participating in living history.

Beyond the Script: The Five Senses, The Interpreter and the Construction of Meaning

Joanna Rickert-Hall, Joseph Schneider Haus Museum & Gallery, and Adelaide Hunter Hoodless Homestead Museum

The real challenge in terms of successful living history interpretation is visitor engagement beyond the script or what can be called “pulling them in off the streets.” Sometimes the canned speech just isn’t enough. This presentation examines ways to meet visitor’s need to engage all of their senses: To see, smell, taste, touch, and feel living history for themselves.

Put Yellow Fever in Your Toolbox: The Evolution of Savannah's Dreadful Pestilence

Jamie Credle, Director, Davenport House Museum

The session will provide an example of a successful evening living history program designed to enlighten a growing audience in a tourist destination on early 19th century health care and how a community reacts to disaster: Savannah’s yellow fever outbreak of 1820. Included will be a discussion of the use of historic research and primary sources, script development, casting and volunteer performers, marketing and logistics, and video production to expand a program’s audience that make this an anticipated and polished annual presentation.

Hantavirus, Lockjaw, Lacerations - Oh My!

Jamie Rigsby, Curator, Farmers Branch Historical Park

Do you work with rusty farm tools? Are there furry animals at your site? Then this session is for you! Safety is a major concern for workers in living history and no toolbox would be complete without safety equipment. This session will cover

the standards of PPE (Personal Protection Equipment) as established by OSHA, and the different museum settings where safety equipment should be used. Attendees will learn about proper application, fit, removal, and replacement of equipment, as well as the supplies every site should have. Bring your respirator for a free fit test!

More Than Candy: Replicating Merchandise for an 1850s Confectionary and Grocery at the Genesee Country Village & Museum

Charles LeCount, Senior Director of Programs & Collections, Genesee Country Village & Museum

Learn how Genesee Country Village and Museum used a variety of sources and methods, including newspapers, artwork, and artifacts and evidence from the steamboats *Arabia* and *Bertrand* to replicate display merchandise for an 1850s confectionery and grocery exhibit. Included will be sources and ideas for replicating period product containers that can be sued by other museums, and examples of recreated merchandise will be featured.

Heads in History: The Backstory is the Tool

Lauren Muney, Historical Demonstrating Artisan

A complete “backstory” becomes your greatest personal tool in interpreting a complicated historical concept rarely explained thoroughly to modern audiences; this session intends to inspire any interpreter in any subject to learn the fullest history about his/her activities, thus stimulating visitors’ interest about the past itself. Using phrenology interpretation as a working example, this session provides an overview of how the history of brain science, and evolving social philosophies, gives context to the practice of phrenology.

The Best Tool to Reach Your Audience

Tess Rosch, Publisher, *Early American Life*

The best demonstration, restoration or event is all wasted prep if no one shows up. Participants will receive a worksheet/rubric for determining the best means for your site to reach its intended audience and get them in the door at the least possible cost. And you’ll leave with some new tools for your toolbox and some ideas for sharing them with your staff.

Taking Debate: Reeling In Your Audience, Hook, Line, and Sinker

Christopher Wilson, National Museum of American History

Bill Barker, Colonial Williamsburg Foundation

As history museums look to offer informal learning opportunities that successfully compete for the time and attention of busy visitors, we search for new tools and methods to engage guests in conversations about our nation's past and its relevance to their present. This session examines debate as a powerful tool

to facilitate such engagement by examining programs at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History and at Colonial Williamsburg. The session explores the theater programs at NMAH, particularly the “Time Trials” series, which considers the historical legacies of controversial figures, and the experiences of longtime character interpreter Bill Barker, who has portrayed Thomas Jefferson at Colonial Williamsburg for over 21 years.

AG 101: Tobacco

Wayne Randolph, Colonial Williamsburg Foundation

An introduction for non-farmers to the culture of tobacco. The processes, tools, and machinery involved will be discussed, giving insight into the mysteries of a crop that was of critical importance to the economy of European settlement in eastern North America.

2:30-3 p.m.

AG 101: Corn

Ron Westphal

An introduction for non-farmers to the culture of corn, with a discussion of the processes, tools, and machinery of corn cultivation, and their evolution through the years.

Blind Eyes, Tied Tongues, and Rigor Mortis: The Tools and Art of Interpretation and Communication

Mike Follin, Ohio History Connection

Today’s interpreter is called upon to use a number of interpretive programming techniques that include discourse, demonstration, and interaction within a historical or simulated environment. This necessitates a broad range of skills and tools including, but not limited to, communication, history, practical technology, and theater as well as eyes, mouth and tongue, and a body. Mastering the use of these tools is the focus of this interactive session.

A Museum Worker’s Guide to InDesign

Krystal Willeby, George Ranch Historical Park

InDesign can be an invaluable tool in any museum professional’s toolbox. While this program can seem incredibly non-intuitive and complex at the outset, with a little guidance and practice, this versatile software can open up a new world of possibilities to the museum worker. This session provides a basic overview of InDesign software and its potential uses in the museum world from spatial design and mapping, to flyers and other print media. Additional time will be given to discuss sources for support materials such as stock photos and fonts.

Living History: Understanding the Past Through Historical Thinking Skills and Social Media

Dr. Ted Green, Webster University

This session will discuss living history projects used in K-12 classrooms that utilize historical thinking skills and social media. Sample of media integrations will also be shared, from virtual museums to virtual artifacts that enhance museum experiences.

Shattering the Fourth Wall: Meaningful Visitor Participation Techniques for Live Interpretation

Andrea K. Jones, Director of Programs and Visitor Engagement, Accokeek Foundation

Shemika Berry, Museum Interpreter, Accokeek Foundation

Ashley Thompson, Museum Interpreter and Programs Assistant, Accokeek Foundation

Today's cutting-edge museums are increasingly inviting visitors to take part in their own learning experience – to participate. Although participation is a powerful engagement tool, not all applications are created equal. This session is designed to provide attendees with a forum to critically analyze the various forms of participation in museum settings and to learn to design programs that create meaningful experiences for visitors. Attendees will be involved in several participatory activities that showcase and reinforce the methods presented in the session.

History vs. Heritage

Jim Lauderdale, Grapevine Heritage Foundation

Living history is a wonderful interpretive technique that helps connect guests with the historic resources of the site that they are visiting. Occasionally, historic sites and living history farms may find themselves in a predicament when attempting living history in a modern setting and find that heritage programming is more appropriate. How do we determine what form of programming is most beneficial? Is heritage programming a form of living history, even if the activities are not done by costumed interpreters using period specific tools or methods? Can living history work in a modern setting? All of these ideas will be addressed in this session.

Ingress: How a Smartphone Game Can Benefit Your Institution

Gary Rohrer, Old Salem Museums and Gardens

Ingress is a multi-player virtual reality game that takes smart phone gaming to a new level. With the recent release of Missions in Ingress, it is possible for you to create a virtual tour to guide players through a series of points of interest at your site and beyond.

"So Is It Organic?" Historical Farming Practices and the Question of Agricultural Sustainability

Laura Sayre, Independent Scholar

Pete Watson, Howell Living History Farm

Rob Flory, Howell Living History Farm

This session will explore the connections between historical farming practices and questions of past, present, and future agricultural sustainability. How are such questions best answered? Although many aspects of historical farming systems were environmentally friendly, farmers of the past also struggled with soil erosion, soil depletion, deforestation and other problems that living history farms try not to physically recreate. At the same time, the number of commercial farms making use of elements of historical farming systems (draft animals, cover crops, crop rotations, heirloom varieties, some types of older equipment) is on the rise. How can living history farms and agricultural museums act as a link between visitors' interests in agricultural sustainability, farmers' development of hybrid historic-innovative systems and historians' and curators' interest in better understanding and interpreting the past?

3:15 p.m.

Break

3:55 p.m.-4:40 p.m. Regional Meetings

4:45 p.m.-5:30 p.m. Town Hall Meeting

6 p.m.

Dinner & Evening Program

Northern Neck Chanty Singers

Fifty years ago and more, African American fishermen along the East Coast sang chanties, or work songs, to coordinate their labor and provide a sense of teamwork during the long days hauling in fish. When machines replaced manual labor, the chanties died away. But a group of fishermen from the Northern Neck of Virginia (a peninsula formed by the Rappahannock and Potomac Rivers as they flow toward Chesapeake Bay) are working to keep the songs alive. All in their 70s and 80s now, this group of former menhaden fishermen will share some of the chanties that once set the tempo for their workdays on the water.

Sunday, June 21, 2015

7 a.m.

Breakfast

9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Site Visit: Colonial Williamsburg

Our site visit will include a mix of special activities open to all Colonial Williamsburg guests as well as annual meeting attendees, and exclusive programming for annual meeting attendees only. Activities will include:

- “Dress in a Day” at the Millinery Shop, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- Raising the frame of the Scale House, 9-9:30 a.m. Work on the frame will continue throughout the day.
- Fire Engine demonstration
- One-hour hair weaving workshop with the Wigmakers
- Silversmiths will pour an ingot and do wire-drawing.
- Blacksmiths will do a bloomery.
- Open house at the Spinning and Weaving Shop for ALHFAMers only.
- Penmanship session
- The Ceramic Storage Vault will be open from 2:30-4 p.m at the Art Museums
- A roof top tour of the Governor’s Palace (space limited)
- Behind the Scenes Kitchen Tour for Foodies (walking tour; space limited)
- The Oaks of Colonial Williamsburg (walking tour; space limited)
- Dessert display for a ball at the Governor’s Palace
- The Oaks of Williamsburg Tour
- Dessert Display for a Ball

Box lunches will be served from 12-2 p.m. in the garden behind Shield Tavern.

6 p.m. Dinner

7 p.m. Annual ALHFAM Auction

Monday, June 22nd:

7 a.m. Breakfast

8 a.m.-1 p.m. Extended Sessions: No extra fee; sign up at conference check-in

Museum Horsemanship (Maximum:15)

Joyce Henry, Colonial Williamsburg

Barbara Corson, Colonial Pennsylvania Plantation

Andy Morris, Rock Ledge Ranch Historic Site

Bob Powell, Working Horse and Farming Historian

Beginning Ox Driving (Maximum: 9)

Lisa Carpenter, Colonial Williamsburg

Rob Flory, Howell Living History Farm

Estonian Rye Bread Workshop (Maximum: 15)

Merli Sild, Estonian Agricultural Museum, and President, International Association of Agricultural Museums

9-9:45 a.m.

Concurrent Sessions

An 1820s Farmer's Coat: A Conservation Challenge and a Tool for Interpretation

Colleen Callahan, The Costume and Textile Specialists

Dr. Karen I. Bohleke, Fashion Archives and Museum, Shippensburg University

This presentation is a case study of a rare coat in the collection of the Fashion Archives & Museum (FA&M) at Shippensburg University that belonged to an ordinary farmer from upstate NY in the late 1820s. The linsey-woolsey coat had suffered extensive rodent damage and could not be displayed or studied. The conserved coat and the pattern generated as part of the project are useful "tools" for identifying the type of fabric, construction and style details used in a non-elite man's best coat of this period. Because living history practitioners often have limited access to historic garments, by detailing the techniques used in creating the pattern, the replacement fabric and the conservation of this coat, this presentation will augment information currently available for recreating early 19th century menswear. Handouts of a miniature scale pattern of the coat and a FA&M newsletter describing all aspects of the project will be available.

Gardening Under Cover

Wesley Greene, Colonial Williamsburg Foundation

Being a thorough EXAMINATION of the most approved uses for bell glass, hotbeds, paper frames and other such devices and tools for the production of vegetables all the year round as well as a concise history of their development. In ADDITION a description will be provided for several coverings and impedances to discourage the depredations caused by various vermin. CONCLUDING with an explanation of the ancient art of blanching vegetables. All provided with INSTRUCTIONS from the most accomplished English gardeners and botanists of the 18th century for the management of the kitchen garden as currently practiced in the town of Williamsburg, Virginia.

Let the Task Speak for Itself

Jim Slining, Tillers International

Living history implies a visitor encounter more complete than verbal discourse. Money and attention may create an historically-accurate physical environment, but if interpreters fill such a space merely with words they literally become human label copy; the lifeless objects cannot tell their story. In some cases museum interpretive staff supervisors focus on quality verbal interpretations to the detriment of skilled activity. In other cases the interpreters themselves rely on talk to disguise their lack of confidence to convincingly perform tasks typical of another (historic) culture. Either way, the living component at many of our sites is lackluster. In this session we will discuss the benefits to the interpreter, guest and the integrity of the site when work is commonly undertaken at the rote level of

proficiency, and attaining that level of presentation with high turnover and inexperienced interpreters. Also addressed will be the importance of a skill preservation program.

Engage Families: Looking at Intergenerational Programs in a New Light
Lauren McCormack, USS Constitution Museum

For over a decade, the USS Constitution Museum has studied family learning in exhibits at history museums. Now they have turned their focus to the study of the techniques, strategies, and characteristics of design and facilitation that encourage active, intergenerational engagement in programs. Staff will share findings from year one of the Museum's three-year, IMLS-funded National Leadership Grant Project, "Engage Families." What should you consider when designing a family program at your site? What techniques work best to keep adults actively involved in your program, rather than sipping coffee in the background? How can you use prototyping and evaluation methods to find what works best for your audience? Participants will be encouraged to share their own theories, techniques, and issues around family program design and facilitation.

A Peace Pipe, Tomahawk, Strings of Wampum and a Jaeger Rifle: The Tools of Conrad Weiser, Pennsylvania's Provincial Peacekeeper, 1731-1760
Rich Pawling, History Alive!

Using his own journals, this session will focus on the sensitive situations facing Conrad Weiser, Pennsylvania's official provincial peacekeeper and interpreter. Through the topics of language, social customs, laws, religion, burial customs, music, money, power and wealth that could mean the difference between peace and war, participants will learn how Conrad Weiser used all of these and more in trying to keep peace in a world built on greed and power.

Please Turn ON Your Phone: Using Augmented Reality in Our 19th Century World
Rhys Simmons, Old Sturbridge Village

New tools and technologies available to a living history site can enable new forms of engagement with 21st century audiences. As of January 2014, 58% of Americans own a smartphone (Pew Research) and 29% say their phones are "something they can't imagine living without" (Pew Research). These numbers increase among the younger demographic, and educators can creatively leverage these powerful mobile devices. Partnering with MIT's Scheller Teacher Education Program, Old Sturbridge Village has used the TaleBlazer software platform to develop a location-based AR (augmented reality) role-playing game "Dollars and Sense" which invites guests to explore the village in a brand new way. This session will discuss how Old Sturbridge Village has been incorporating this new tool.

Simple Tools to Enhance Your Emotional Connection to Visitors
Wendy Zucal, Dennison Railroad Depot Museum

Drawing upon a collection of tips and tools from leading businesses such as Starbucks, Disney and Zappos, together with proven business strategies shared in leading books including *Good to Great*, *Made to Stick*, *Purple Cow*, *Free Prize Inside* and *The Experience Economy*, this session will offer creative ideas to build and enhance the emotional connection with your audience. Participants will hear many examples that can be adapted to any size museum/ historic site and will take away a minimum of 20 tools they can immediately put to use.

Conserving Your Toolbox: Resources for Collections and Architectural Assessment
Melanie Zucker, Conservation Assessment Program

Collections are the backbones of museums and sometimes they need a little TLC. Come join us for a discussion on resources for funding your collections care endeavors, including places to look for professional advice on how to care for what you have! We will discuss funding for museums of all sizes, including smaller institutions that may be new to the grant-application process, as well as museums with living collections.

But They Didn't Have iPads Back Then
Katie Cannon, DAR Museum

What do iPads and popular culture have to do with history? A lot, if you use these tools properly. At the DAR Museum, we designed a tour for fans of the popular show *Downton Abbey*, using a new tablet to enhance the experience. We'll tell you what we did, what worked, what didn't, and how to protect yourself from a hoard of fans thirsting for more. In this session we will share our experiences, and open up a discussion on how other sites can use both these tools.

Fake Fanny Receipts and Other Travesties...
Carolina Capehart, Independent Culinary Historian

Many historic sites, museums, etc. offer a link to the past via foodways. Various tools are employed, from cast iron pots to some pretty funky ingredients. But the unseen tools are the recipes used. And so, what of those? Are they truly historical? Or are they mere wanna-bes? Do they resemble the originals? Or have they been so altered, re-written and re-worked, as to make them unrecognizable? More importantly, are they appropriate for your time period? You wouldn't wear an outfit not of your time, so why use a recipe that is? All this will be examined and discussed. Examples of original recipes and their imposters will be shared, along with tips on how to tell the difference. We'll also delve into the reasons for using only what fits a particular time period. Attendees will gain new insights into historic recipes and their use.

The Humanity of the Machine

Randy Kvill, Reynolds-Alberta Museum

The session will examine the Reynolds-Alberta Museum approach to understanding and interpreting their agricultural collection. The session will guide the participants through the methodology and processes that are used within the museum to try and gain a most complete understanding to the more complex history behind the tools of our ancestors. Too often we pick up historic tools or machines and rush off to use or place them into a case. At the Reynolds-Alberta Museum, each artifact is studied; we ask the artifact to tell us what is the best treatment and presentation that it may need. It has led to interesting conversations, in-depth research and fantastic discoveries. Hopefully the session will allow the participant to leave with a greater appreciation of their tools and machines.

Historic Education Meets Augmented Reality

Justin Clement, University of California, Davis

An augmented reality (AR) app can have a place in a museum setting, visually transforming a landscape with a computer simulation downloadable on phones, tablets, or other electronic devices. Participants will be directed to a website upon check-in to the Conference, and there will be a sign-up sheet for participants to borrow a few devices, so that all may take part, regardless of what they own. After exploring AR during our site visit to Colonial Williamsburg on Sunday, June 20th, we will discuss our experiences in this session.

Reviewing RevQuest

Kenneth Treese, Colonial Williamsburg Foundation

RevQuest is Colonial Williamsburg's interactive alternate reality game available to all guests. It involves solving a historical mystery using clues found throughout the city and does not require that guests have a text-capable phone or other device. Conference attendees will have the opportunity to play the game, now in its fourth season, on Sunday, June 20th, and then discuss the game, its development, its challenges and successes in this session.

9:45-10:15 a.m.

Break

10:15-11 a.m.

Concurrent Sessions

*“Just Imported and To Be Sold... On Reasonable Terms by the Subscriber”:
Visualizing 18th-Century Textiles*

Angela Burnley, Burnley & Trowbridge Co.

When we read one of the popular fashion magazines, or a fabric store advertisement, we are usually familiar with the textile terms used. If we follow fashion or sew for ourselves we also know the best applications for the textile mentioned. The 18th-century consumer likewise had the same basic understanding when they read their local newspapers, eagerly searching the ads for the latest offerings in fashionable or utilitarian textiles. This session will therefore focus on providing the audience with a small portion of what my husband and I have found in our research thru explanation and visuals so that attendees too can begin to understand what was "just imported...."

11:15 a.m.-12 p.m. *Creating Costumed Living History Interpretation Guidelines for California State Parks*

David W. Rickman, Historical Author and Illustrator

How does a state park system use costumed (living history) interpretation at their historic sites when their interpretive periods are often completely foreign - ethnically, linguistically and/or culturally - to both the average interpreter and visitor? How do these same historic sites begin to dress their interpreters authentically when almost nothing reliable has been published about the dress of early California and the temptation to represent such real historical personalities as Mexican rancheros, mountain men, Gold Rush miners and saloon girls through fantasy costumes is so strong? These are just some of the many challenges facing historic sites in California and why California State Parks has asked me to create two tools to address these challenges: a well-documented and illustrated history of regional dress from 1822-1860, and a handbook for creating and maintaining costumed interpretation programs written with this region's particular challenges in mind.

10:15 a.m.-12 p.m. *Research Collections: Managing Access and Expectations*

Leo Landis, State Historical Society of Iowa

Deb Arenz, Nebraska State Historical Society

Jim McCabe, The Henry Ford

Wayne Randolph, Colonial Williamsburg Foundation

This round-table session will deal with the issue of access to research and study collections by living historians. While many living history museums have superb collections for study and research, artifacts that might be used for study and/or reproduction are not always present in "home" institutions. How have interpreters and curators gained access to relevant collections? What have been some successes and failures? What are museums doing to facilitate access and what are best practices that meet the needs of living historians, collections managers, and curators? Representatives from private and taxpayer-supported institutions will discuss their experiences in managing access to collections as well as expectations by all parties involved in the study and use of objects in museum collections.

Long Ago and Far Away: Reinterpreting and Furnishing an 1830s Mission Storeroom and Doctor's Office

Mike Smola, Hawaiian Mission Houses Historic Site and Archives

Mary Seelhorst, Independent Exhibit Developer

The oldest extant frame structure in Hawai'i is the 1821 house in which Dr. Gerrit Judd treated native Hawaiians, and which also served as Levi Chamberlain's Depository, a storeroom for goods shipped from Boston for distribution to various mission stations. This session will focus on the tools and processes they used to conduct new research, create new interpretation and furnishings plans, install reproduction furnishings and finally welcome visitors to this historic house. Tools used creatively in this process included primary source archival materials, creative fundraising, a whiz-bang spreadsheet, the Internet machine, and extensive use of human intelligence, especially ALHFAM subject-matter experts. The presentation includes a short video about the project. Session participants may receive a copy of the spreadsheet used in the project, contact information for select suppliers and craftspeople, and instructions on how to fold a paper for powdered medicines.

You Just Can't Find Good Help These Days: Casting/Staffing First-Person Interpreters

Kandie Carle, K & C Enterprises

Peter Pacey, Fredericton, New Brunswick

Tom Kelleher, Old Sturbridge Village

Finding the right person for any job is tough, but the staffing of interpreters has its own challenges. Let us give you a few tools to help you navigate the process of finding the right person for your needs. For both those seeking positions and those looking to hire the right talent/skill for interpretive positions, here is a chance to pick the brains of three ALHFAM members from distinctly different backgrounds, all of whom have experience in the staffing and training of first- and third-person interpreters.

How to Hone Reenactors and Volunteers for Ongoing Interpretation

Deb Fuller, Amalgamated Classic Clothing and Dry Goods

Mary Challman, Frontier Culture Museum of Virginia

Asher Lurie, The Old Barracks Museum

Carrie Fellows, Executive Director, Hunterdon County Cultural & Heritage Commission

Reenactors have sometimes said that sites don't take them seriously, that they're not real historians, and even that reenactors should be charged a fee to "come play at their site." What happens when your site needs to include this very dedicated, interested corps of potential volunteers, but the reenactors just aren't "visitor-ready"? This session looks at ways to provide basic training to willing reenactors, with a view towards long-term site-reenactor relationships that will benefit the

site, the reenactor, and the visitor. After presentations and discussion, sample volunteer waivers, safety checklists, and other information will be available for sites that are thinking about using reenactors to enhance programming. This is a follow-up session to "Including Progressive Reenactors in Your Living History Toolbox."

Tools for Interpretation Planning I: Developing a Framework for Your Interpretation

Blake Hayes, The Cherry Valley Group

Katie Boardman, The Cherry Valley Group

Principals from The Cherry Valley Group will provide a mini-workshop in the process of creating an "interpretation framework" -- an initial step in drafting an interpretation plan. Participants will be given an overview of the framework concept, definitions of the components of the framework -- such as interpretative significance, main message, objectives, topics and themes -- and finally the specific set of data elements that must be assembled and analyzed in the process, including visitor demographics, existing program types, research-base, cultural resources, human and economic resources, and intended visitor outcomes.

They will then participate in a hands-on exercise, using a simple set of forms/templates for assembling and organizing their own set of interpretation planning information, and creating their own basic "framework." This procedure can be applied to planning for a wide range of interpretation projects, from a one-time special interest tour, a new exhibition, or to a complete re-interpretation of your historic site interpretation. Part two of this mini-workshop series will explore another component of interpretation planning, but does not require that you participate in this session.

Empty Space, Full of History

Daniel Kellogg, Atlanta History Society

Kelly Whitfield, Atlanta History Center

Learn how the Atlanta History Center approached the writing of an interpretive plan for a newly-installed log cabin on their campus. The session will cover how to interpret a site that allows for multiple stories to be told and the various interpretive styles that were considered and implemented in the plan.

Private James Leary's Visit to Williamsburg, 1862

Ron Kley, Museum Research Associates

Jane Radcliffe, Museum Research Associates

A "readers' theater" presentation of the Civil War letters of Private James Leary of the 1st Massachusetts Volunteer Regiment, detailing his experiences from the First through the Second Battles of Manassas (Bull Run), including his

participation in the 1861-1862 Peninsula Campaign and the Battles of Yorktown and Williamsburg.

Dressing the Part: Clothing and Textiles on the Job!

Kimberly Costa, Colonial Williamsburg Foundation

Kay Demlow, Lavender's Green Historic Clothing

Linda Evans, High Desert Museum

Eileen Hook, Talbott & Co. Heritage Goods

Anna Lenters, Innisfail Historical Village

This is a panel discussion with a practical approach! Panelists are ALHFAM members and costume or textile specialists. We will discuss our work, our favorite tools, our research, how we work with clothing budgets, and our advice to others starting out in clothing and textiles. There will be time for questions and answers from the audience.

Keeping Agriculture Relevant

Tracie Evans, Sauder Village

In the past, most of American society had some connection with the land, but today less than 1% of the population is farmers. How can we, as museums, help tell the story and importance of agriculture when so many no longer are connected to the story? How can we continue to build and develop an interest in both agricultural history and agriculture today? What tools do we have as agricultural sites that make us relevant to telling this story of agriculture yesterday and today? Join us as our panel discusses how they continue to make agriculture relevant to their audiences, as well as, identifying obstacles, issues and partnerships to its success.

Ensemble Assemble! Using Drama at Your Small Museum

Abbie Wilson, National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum

Sarah Zimmerman, First State Heritage Park, Delaware State Parks

This session will be a practical, how-to session on crafting, writing, and implementing museum theatre programs for small institutions and will cover topics including research, dialogue writing, costuming, and casting. We'll discuss many types of museum theatre, including 1st-person improvisational, interactive scripted vignettes, and partnerships with local theatre groups. Participants will discover what historical topic lends themselves best to theatre and how to tackle difficult or controversial topics in appropriate and sensitive ways using drama. They will also learn best practices for program length, hiring actors, finding scriptwriters, and crafting period correct language and characters.

An Interpretive Tool Box Used to Develop Programming for Five Very Diverse Historic Sites Administered by the Same Organization

John Caramia, Coastal Heritage Society

Seven years ago, after becoming the Director of Interpretive Programs for the Coastal Heritage Society, I was faced with the problem: how to develop interpretive programs for the five very diverse historic sites administered by the Society. These sites varied in time period from the 1700s to the 20th century and represent different topics that include military history (Revolutionary War through the Civil War), railroad history, and African American experiences through the various time periods represented at the historic sites. The goal was to create and implement interpretive and education programs that would be educationally sound, enjoyable and help to build and sustain audiences at each of the five sites and to develop an interpretive staff that could deliver these new programs. This session will look at a number of interpretive tools that were developed over 20 years of work at a colonial history site, and which were used to create the new programming and train an interpretive staff to conduct the interpretive and educational programming.

Why Aren't They Smiling?: An Introduction to Early Photography 101

Carson Hudson, Colonial Williamsburg Foundation

Through both lecture and demonstration, participants will learn how early photography was done and also find out the answers to questions about the process. Myths such as "They never smiled in the old photos" will also be dispelled. It will be a very useful introduction to photography for museum interpreters who work at and/or interpret the 19th century.

12 p.m.

Lunch and Annual Business Meeting

1:30 p.m.

Concurrent Sessions

1:30-2:15 p.m.

A Year in Farm and Foodways

Victoria Belisle, Old Sturbridge Village

Dave Hruska, Old Sturbridge Village

The seasonal swing of agriculture has a tremendous effect on what we eat and when. Using rural New England as a guide, join the discussion to better understand the yearly cycle of farm and foodways that will add authenticity to your interpretation and invite repeat visitation in all seasons.

Hot and Cold: Starting a Fire in the Olden Days
Del Taylor, Sainte Marie Among the Hurons

Have you ever researched building fires using a fire board? Has the process confounded you? Have you heard about these techniques, tried and failed? Ever hear an interpreter say that building a fire was hard to do so you keep it going at all costs? This session will give you all the tools necessary to build fires without the use of matches or flint and steel, using age-old techniques. We'll try them out on Tuesday, June 23rd, during our visit to Jamestown Settlement.

Interpreting the 18th Century Soldier: How to Turn Your Kit Into A Storybook
Brian Mast, Public Historian, Black Belt Museum

Soldiers of the 18th century are more than muskets and cannons, their stories mirror those of individuals today. They were not all simple farmers who put down their implements to go fight. How do we connect our audience to the fighting man? Using the material culture of an early 18th and 19th century soldier, learn how to harness the power of your objects to make your story three dimensional to your audience.

Aligning the Fibers: A Standardized Work Path to Creativity
Lisa Pettry, Hale Farm & Village

Providing standardized work training tools – from behind-the-scenes visual organization and task cards, to built-in bench-marking – allows new staff to quickly acquire the basic skills to engage and deliver creative interpretation to the public. This session will introduce standardized work tools that will build confidence and encourage creativity in your staff.

Exhibit Start-Up: A Toolbox for Planning
Donna R. Braden, The Henry Ford Museum,
Dean Krimmel, Principal, Creative Museum Services/Qm2

The term living history often implies live presenters, live demonstrations, and living artifacts. But what if you're tasked with interpreting your stories through the format of an exhibit—in a visitor center, a rehabbed building, or simply a small display case? This session provides the tools and a road map for reducing the uncertainty of how to get started and getting on your way toward creating an effective and engaging exhibit.

2:30-3:15 p.m.

“Sufficient to Subsist the Inhabitants”

Clarissa Dillon, Independent Scholar

Eating locally is not a new concept. In the 18th century Benjamin Franklin promoted using locally produced foods. This presentation will explore the foods needed to produce, prepare or present items for the table.

"HUZZA FOR THE MILITIA!" Interpreting the Battle of Caulk's Field

Mark Dubin, University of Maryland

On the night of August 30-31, 1814, British Royal Marines and Navy personnel landed on the Chesapeake Bay shores of Kent County, Maryland, seeking to ambush the 21st Regiment of Maryland Militia located at the farm of Isaac Caulk. Exactly 200 years later, period military interpreters recreated those fateful actions which occurred during this historically significant battle of the War of 1812. The resulting public interpretive program was made possible through the efforts of a diverse private/public partnership implementing a wide spectrum of tools over the course of several years. The successful program raised public awareness of this little-known engagement, increased our understanding of the military maneuvers and weaponry employed, and solving several historical myths.

The Care and Handling of Scrapbooks

Eva Grizzard, Northeast Document Conservation Center

Scrapbooks are unique artifacts that combine personal and historical records often representing family moments alongside local and natural history. Learn about the construction, contents and risks to scrapbooks and discover low-cost methods for care and exhibiting, as well as preservation and conservation methods.

Ashley's Sack: An interpretive Dichotomy

Jeff Neale, Middleton Place Plantation

In 1921, Ruth Middleton embroidered a mid-19th century seed sack with the history of her great-grandmother, Rose and grandmother, Ashley, who were slaves on a South Carolina plantation. As displayed at Middleton Place House Museum, "Ashley's Sack" has proven to be an interpretive dichotomy. The object vividly tells a story of slavery; yet it's a story that is unverified. This session will explore the difficulties and rewards of interpreting an object's utilitarian value as well as its intrinsic value.

1:30-3:15 p.m.

"But You Don't Look Indian:" Exploring Local Native History through Mixed-Bloods, Adoptees, and Allies

Ross G. Shaw, Program Developer, Cincinnati History Museum

The purpose of this session is to provide museums that do not have a native or mixed-blood native on staff with a framework for developing respectful interpretation of local tribal history, including research, working with local tribal groups and addressing both sides of a museum's area history. Historical examples and context of "white" Indians including mixed-bloods, willing and unwilling adoptees, and European or American allies will be provided. The presenter is of Shawnee descent, so a special emphasis will be placed on his tribal history while explaining how the lessons can be applied to other tribes.

Shifting Gears: The Transition from 3rd (person) to 1st (person)

Kelly Whitfield, Atlanta History Center

The Atlanta History Center recently transitioned from third-person guided tours to first-person living history and museum theater. This session covers the changes, challenges and triumphs of that process. Tools and techniques from the interpretive handbook will be offered, and participants will have the chance to brainstorm ways to update their interpretive training techniques as well.

Tools for Interpretation Planning II: Tools for Interpretation Planning II: Finding & Learning From Your Stakeholders & Program Partners

Blake Hayes, The Cherry Valley Group

Katie Boardman, The Cherry Valley Group

Principals from The Cherry Valley Group will provide a mini-workshop in the process of engaging your most important audiences—often referred to as key stakeholders and potentially your new program partners. This represents another crucial step in developing any Interpretation Plan. Participants will be given an overview of the “audience-first” considerations that should be employed when creating any type of interpretation plan, provided with some basic concepts about defining audience/market segments, and be introduced to a process for organizing the exploration for, and contact of, new stakeholders/partners.

They will then participate in a hands-on exercise where they will be led through a mock stakeholder/program partner input session—the process for actually gathering critical interpretation planning input from these key stakeholders and potential program partners. This procedure can be applied to planning for a wide range of interpretation projects, from a one-time special interest tour to a new exhibition or to a complete re-interpretation of your historic site interpretation. Tools for Interpretation Planning I is NOT a prerequisite for this session.

Eyesore or Opportunity? How the Canal Quarters Program Turned Deteriorating Historic Structures into Award-Winning Interpretation and Outreach Tools

Heidi Glatfelter, Director of Communications, C&O Canal Trust

The Canal Quarters program has turned deteriorating lockhouses into restored structures that offer an overnight, interpretive experience to guests, allowing them to “step back in time” and experience life as a lock keeper once lived. Learn how the non-profit C&O Canal Trust and their National Park Service partner, the C&O Canal National Historical Park, turned blighted structures into a program that has won awards for both preservation and cultural resource stewardship, and also generates income.

There's More to Bloomers than They Seem!

Valarie LaBore, San Diego History Center

Pamela Poulin, Cortland County Historical Society

There are only two known extant examples of mid-19th century bloomer dresses in the U.S. This session will explore their history and function, and the story behind the interesting women who wore them and made history. Beginning as a dress reform and symbol of women's rights in the 1850s, bloomers influenced future dress styles and gave freedom to women in the following decades. Styles included fashionable dresses to those worn working in the home and in the fields. A surprising number of real photographs showing women dressed in them will be shared. Come and hear the story of the one recreated from the San Diego History Center's collection, and get a hands-on look at the dress. *An extant bloomer gown may be on exhibit if available*

Historic Agricultural Collections: Their Past, Present, and Future in ALHFAM

Deb Arenz, Nebraska State Historical Society

Deb Reid, Eastern Illinois University

Farm and agricultural museums constitute two-thirds of our organization's name and have long been a part of our history. This session will explore historical arguments for and against amassing agricultural collections, the types of collections available and who has them, how agricultural collections, and the people who oversee them, have contributed to ALHFAM's development, their continuing relevance, and current and future plans within ALHFAM to make these collections available to our members.

Steel Mills and Steel Petticoats: Using Historic Clothing as a Tool to Interpret Seemingly Unrelated Topics

Carolann Schmitt, Genteel Arts LLC

Historic clothing is more than a glimpse of the prevailing fashion. It is a window into the lives of the people who wore the clothing and can be used as a starting point to present and discuss a wide variety of other seemingly unrelated topics. This presentation will discuss how to best use elements of a period wardrobe and how to create accurate and affordable clothing for your wardrobe.

STEM-ing the Tide: Incorporating STEM without casting History adrift

Jay Templin, Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation

Sally Stook, Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation

Brian Beckley, Jamestown, Yorktown Foundation

Lately, many museums that do not traditionally deal with science have been asked to add science, engineering, and math to their programming in order to meet the STEM (or STEAM) requirements of their school customers. This session will discuss the challenges and joys of finding ways to increase these aspects of our interpretations and presentations without losing the main focus of our museums.

Weaving the Stories of Women's Lives into the Essential Fabric of Our Nation's History

Barbara Scherer Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, Foodways Journeyman

Andrea Squires Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, Tavern Character Interpreter

Christina A. H. Strum Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, Traditional Jeweler /Apprentice Silversmith

Sarah Gould Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, Roving Trades Interpreter

In part ALHFAM's mission reads "shares practical knowledge and skills among those who make history relevant to contemporary lives." What's more relevant than to provide our visitors an opening into the other half of our history often hidden along the gender line? This presentation will give a glimpse into real women of the 18th century and include a discussion on what others are doing at their sites to bring women's history alive.

3:15 p.m.

Break

3:45 p.m.

Concurrent Sessions

Fermentation: What a Bottle of Beer and a Loaf of Bread can Teach us about 19th Century Scientific Knowledge

Amy Scott, Black Creek Pioneer Village

Sometimes tools for teaching and learning are ephemeral. Beer and bread, as well as wine, spirits, butter, cheese and certain pickles were all prepared using forms of fermentation to produce edible or potable products, and in many cases to preserve them for longer periods. This session will explore the scientific theories of fermentation in the nineteenth century and how a better understanding of it became the foundation for the germ theory of disease.

Murder in the Museum? A Guide to Preventing and Surviving Violence

Kathy Dickson, Oklahoma Historical Society

Leo Goodsell, Historic Westville

Marie-Sophie Desaulniers, Canada Agricultural and Food Museum

Debra Friedman, Old Sturbridge Village

How safe is your museum? In the US alone nearly 2 million workers are victims of workplace violence each year. While we might not like to believe it, museums are not in some ivory tower magically protected by Clio, our patron muse. Violence can and does happen in museums. Do you have what you need in your toolbox? What happens if someone is shot and killed in your museum or you need to lock down an open-air site? Join the discussion as four museum professionals discuss events that have happened at their facilities, and offer strategies to preventing, surviving, and recovering from violence.

Creating a Toolkit for Hosting Reenactments, Living History Timelines, and Other Reenactor Events at Your Site

Deb Fuller, Reenactor

Deb Friedman, Old Sturbridge Village

Joyce Henry, Colonial Williamsburg Foundation

Gary N. Costello, Hull Family Home & Farmstead

Veronica Wiese, Crooked Tree Farm

Megan Barrell, Genesee Country Village and Museum

Battle reenactments can be exciting for both visitors and participants. They can also be potentially dangerous and disastrous involving firearms, cannons, edged weapons, and an overly-eager public that gets in the way. The panel will discuss aspects of what you need to host a successful reenactment or other living history event such as a timeline or living history weekend. Discussion topics will include, but aren't limited to, logistics, crowd control, parking, safety measures, and legal paperwork. Panelists are site managers and event planners as well as reenactors to give both perspectives.

Practical, Protective and Fanciful: Aprons in the Late 18th-Mid-19th Centuries
Eileen Hook, Talbott & Co. Heritage Goods

An apron is a tool to protect you and your clothing, a statement about your occupation, and it's decorative, too. Is your apron cotton, wool, linen or leather? Does it suit your occupation, economic status and persona? View a wide assortment of men's, women's and children's aprons in art and period images from the late 18th century to the mid-19th century, and discuss fabrics and construction details.

Understanding Intellectual Disability: Increasing Accessibility in Educational Programming and Interpretation

Mary Challman, Frontier Culture Museum of Virginia

A vital "tool of the trade" is the ability to incorporate all levels and styles of learning into museum education. While there are many different formats for educational programs for typically developing/developed visitors, few have been offered for individuals with intellectual disabilities (IDs), who process and internalize information in a different way than unaffected visitors. To increase the intellectual accessibility of a museum for visitors with IDs, programs that are tailored to their styles of learning should be offered. This presentation will increase museum professionals' knowledge of what these disabilities are, how it affects their learning styles, the current legislation concerning individuals with disabilities, and how all of these components could be used by living history museums to adapt the current programming that they offer.

Historical Games and Recreational Activities for Museum Visitors at El Rancho de las Golondrinas

Larry Marken, El Rancho de las Golondrinas

At El Rancho de las Golondrinas, games and children's "make your own" activities are ways to involve visitors and, at the same time, interpret activities of the past. The session will include an introduction to Monte, a gambling game, and the Spanish board game Pitarilla, with information on their history in the American Southwest, the necessary game equipment, suggested additional props, how the games are played and visitor feedback. The children's "make your own" activities that include making a Spanish colonial-style map, a trade beads bracelet and a frontier neck pouch will also be discussed, along with information on how these projects were developed.

Frozen Assets: The 19th-Century Ice Cutting Business
Tom Kelleher, Old Sturbridge Village

In the early 1800s new marketing tools were developed to turn ice, an abundant seasonal resource, into a lucrative cash crop and a global commodity. New tools and techniques were also developed to improve the harvesting and storage of this crop. This session will examine those tools and the men who invented and used them.

Reaching Beyond the Beyond
Susan Reckseidler, Heritage Park Historical Village

Old buildings and public perceptions of haunted places tend to go hand in hand. The question, “is this place haunted?” is something most living history sites have addressed at one time or another. It might be a request from the media to camp out in your historic house on Halloween night or a television show calling to undertake a paranormal investigation. You may simply have to decide if ghost tours are a fit for your programming. How do you avoid sensationalism and still maintain respect for the past? Can the public’s natural curiosity be turned into an interpretive opportunity? Drawing on our experiences at Heritage Park and those at other museums, we’ll conjure up some considerations and guidelines that will help you in making these important decisions.

From the Neck Up
Thomas G. Shaw, The Clothing Bureau

Period dress is expensive but crucial for many living history programs. This session will examine the changing fashion and function of hair, grooming, neckwear, collars and hats through contemporary artwork, photographs, graphics and artifacts.

Sailing and Sailhandling on a 19th-Century Whale Ship
Susan J. Jerome, Mystic Seaport Museum

The *Charles W. Morgan* provides the staff at Mystic Seaport Museum with a wide variety of opportunities to demonstrate the actions needed to sail a square-rigged vessel. She also offers museum visitors the chance to participate in setting a sail. The *Morgan* is the finest kind of museum tool: very touchable, exciting to explore, historically accurate, and just plain cool. But she needs interpretive staff to fulfill her most important mission: education. From explaining why the steering wheel is at the “back of the boat” to demonstrating sail handling, museum staff guide the visitor away from visions of pirate ships (think Jack Sparrow) to the realities of nineteenth century sailing vessels, the *Morgan* and museum staff work together. This presentation will discuss the use of the *Charles W. Morgan* as a museum tool, with special focus on the experiences gained by Mystic Seaport Museum staff through sailing the *Charles W. Morgan* during the summer of 2014.

S.T.E.M. and Living History: Staying Relevant in a Changing Educational Climate

Peter Friesen, Historic St. Mary's City

Currently schools are limiting the amount of field trips and changing their focus of which subjects are emphasized. This session will discuss how incorporating and developing tours with the history of STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) subjects in mind will attract new schools or other classes on field trips. This will give living history museums a fighting chance in keeping and growing their audience base. Participants will learn how Historic St. Mary's City has incorporated STEM subjects into its educational tour offerings and developed tours with STEM as the focus without sacrificing the history. Time will be allocated to help develop ideas of how to incorporate and create these tours for your sites as well.

Interpreting "Gypsies" in Living History

Ciwin Ferrin, O Porrajmos Education Society

Due to the popularity of current television shows depicting Gypsy weddings and families, the Romani people, more commonly known as "Gypsies," have become a popular addition to living history museums. The mystique of the "Gypsy" culture adds a sense of adventure to events and often draws teens to living history programs they may not otherwise attend. A "Gypsy" interpreter in your programming toolbox may seem like a great idea, especially if you can reach a new audience. But educators and interpreters must take into consideration that the Romani are a very real people with very real issues. No one can read one book and be able to interpret this complex culture. Attendees will learn about the Romani people and their current situation in both the United States and in Europe and consider the true value of using interpreters to portray this misunderstood people.

The Outdoor Cooking Toolbox

Nick Castelberg, George Ranch Historical Park

Learn about the tools of the trade that enabled the great outdoor cooks of the west to rustle up some grub out on the open range. From the early 1600s thru the great migration westward, the same tools and skills were used again and again by many different peoples to enable the settlers to provide edible foods for their families and camps. We will explore the many facets that affect outdoor cooking and the tools that can be used to harness, rather than fight, the elements in this very unpredictable environment.

7 p.m.

Presidential Banquet; Schlebecker Award Presentation; Fashion Show

Tuesday, June 23rd:

7 a.m. **Breakfast**

8:40 a.m.-12 p.m. Yorktown Victory Center/Colonial National Historical Park

Spend your morning exploring Yorktown museums. At the Colonial National Historic Park on the Yorktown Battlefield, see the actual site of the battle that led to the end of the Revolutionary War. Take a ranger-led walking tour to understand the lines and tactics, or walk to the redoubts with a museum educator and interpreter, to visualize the taking of redoubts 9 and 10, crucial actions that helped secure victory. See the Yorktown Visitor Center's exhibits while you're there.

At the Yorktown Victory Center be among the first to tour the new museum building that will eventually become the American Revolution Museum at Yorktown. Special demonstrations in the living history farm and encampment will be presented at timed intervals, and discussions about tools and techniques will follow. The final half of Del Taylor's fire-starting session will take place here. Visit the new classrooms to talk with educators about programs for groups, and hear about the new museum galleries that will open late 2016.

12-1 p.m. Board buses and travel to Historic Jamestowne (*Box lunches will be distributed on the bus.*)

1 p.m. Historic Jamestown and Jamestown Rediscovery (Preservation Virginia)
At the actual site of the 1607 settlement of Jamestown, tour the National Park Visitor Center and the extensive site of the first permanent English settlement. Participate in visitor walking tours to see how this unique and beautiful site is interpreted. At Jamestown Rediscovery, where excavations have been conducted for twenty years, watch archaeologists at work (weather permitting) and tour the excavation with staff. Visit the Archaearium, a museum housing many of the amazing artifacts that communicate the smallest details of daily life in this early English settlement.

3 p.m. Board buses and travel to Jamestown Settlement
Light snacks and water available on arrival, followed by free-flow touring of Jamestown Settlement's museum galleries, recreated Powhatan Indian Village, full-size replica 1607 ships, and fort. Interpretive staff will offer special demonstrations including canoe-making, sail handling or lifting and lading, and military drills. The Historic Clothing manager invites participants to an open house in the historic clothing shop to talk "shop", and museum educators will be on hand to show and tell the tools and methods they use.

7 p.m. Dinner on the Pier & Evening Program featuring *Poisoned Dwarf*

Wednesday, June 24th: Conference concludes after breakfast.

