



# Colonial Day at the Capitol

February 8, 2019

Presented By: Teresa Potter, Jessica Brandon, Jan Morris, Brenda Wheelock, Jane Williams,  
and the 2019 CW Teacher Institute Alumni Planning Team

## Colonial Day History

In colonial times, George Mason, the father of our Bill of Rights, believed good government was established "by frequent recurrence to fundamental principles." In 1987, Catherine Wootten, Colonial Dames of America and Gunston Hall Regent, sought to build character and provide leadership training through that very principle. Catherine began hosting a Bill of Rights Day educational program for students at her home. With additional guidance from Colonial Dames Elizabeth Coe and Ann Byrd, the outreach program grew and was moved to Enterprise Square in Oklahoma City, where 2,500 students participated in a special Bicentennial Celebration of the Bill of Rights in 1991. In 1995, Bill of Rights Day was moved to the State Capitol and received support from the State Department of Education.

Colonial Williamsburg Teacher Institute alumna Teresa Potter of Moore was a participant in the event. "I saw the educational benefits and the enthusiasm and excitement of the children. I wanted to once again be a part of this program," Potter said. Potter contacted Wootten, who had completed her term as Gunston Hall Regent and was seeking new leadership for Bill of Rights Day. In 2001, Potter became project director and began meeting with Teacher Institute alumni to plan the event. The OK Foundation for Excellence, a past sponsor of Bill of Rights

Day and administrator of Oklahoma's CWTI program, took on a greater role in supporting the educational event. As the program broadened in focus, the event was renamed Colonial Day at the Capitol in 2002, and two assistant directors, Brenda Wheelock of the Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence and Teacher Institute alumna Jan Morris joined the team.

In 2006, as part of the OK Foundation for Excellence 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Colonial Day at the Capitol partnered with Colonial Williamsburg, the Colonial Dames of Oklahoma and the State Department of Education to bring Williamsburg's renowned Thomas Jefferson, historical interpreter Bill Barker, to Oklahoma. The partnership was so successful that the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation has continued to annually send one of its outstanding historical interpreters to Colonial Day.

George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate joined in the partnership to bring Ron Carnegie as George Washington to Colonial Day in 2009.

2019 marked the 25th anniversary of Oklahoma's partnership with the Colonial Williamsburg Teacher Institute, which has served more than 971 Oklahoma teachers, and the 10th anniversary of Oklahoma's partnership with the Mount Vernon Teacher Institute. Colonial Day planners were pleased to host some of the nation's top interpreters, with Colonial Williams-

burg's Bill Barker as Thomas Jefferson and Bryan Austin as James Madison, as well as, Eben Kuhns as Alexander Hamilton, and Tom Plott as Dr. Craik, both from Mount Vernon. The teachers who attend these institutes serve on our Colonial Day Planning Team committee each year.

Colonial Day presenters are pleased to continue hosting some of the nation's top interpreters. This year with Colonial Williamsburg's Katherine Pittman as Martha Washington and Matt Mattingly as Tobias Lear and Tom Plott portraying Dr. Craik, both from Mount Vernon.

Thousands of Oklahoma students have participated in Colonial Day at the Capitol. "For my students to physically experience the three branches of government, to be in the House and Senate Chambers, and to participate in this living history day is an experience they will never forget," commented past Colonial Day teacher Randy Utt.

"This program is probably the most worthwhile for elementary students in Oklahoma. The experience is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity and is unequal to any other," said Deji Dugger former Colonial Day alumna. Colonial Day continues to foster a love of history in our students.

*It all began yesterday-*

*The wars that created nations,*

*The heroes that gave us new dreams,*

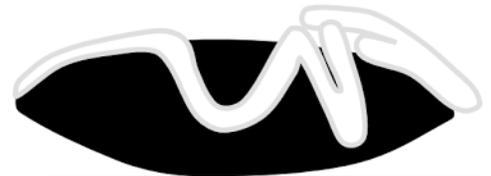
*The events that changed the world.*

*Experience firsthand the power of history.*

*Visit the past and discover*

*Who we are today; We are Americans!*

*We are Americans!*



### Inside this program:

<i>Colonial Day Beginnings</i>	1
<i>Martha Washington</i>	2
<i>Tobias Lear</i>	2
<i>Dr. Craik</i>	2
<i>Ben Franklin</i>	3
<i>Thank You</i>	3
<i>Other Presenters</i>	4
<i>The Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence</i>	4



## Martha Washington Portrayed by Katherine Pittman



“I’ve learned from experience that the greater part of our happiness or misery depends on our disposition and not on our circumstances.”

~Martha Washington

**Katharine Pittman’s** parents would often take her to Colonial Williamsburg on family vacations that spurred a deep love of history from childhood. She would go on to graduate from Wake Forest University with degrees in theatre and history. This would take her around the country for the next several years performing in musicals and opera, however history was always her passion. Eventually she found her way to Colonial Williamsburg first as an Actor/Interpreter and eventually becoming a Nation Builder, portraying Martha Washington. She has been with the Foundation for almost

six years and is married to Stewart Pittman, supervisor of the Fifes and Drums Corps.

**Martha Dandridge Custis Washington** was an extraordinary woman in extraordinary times. Born in New Kent, Virginia, Martha Dandridge was the daughter of the clerk of New Kent County. Fate saw her married at age 18 to one of the richest men in Virginia, Daniel Parke Custis. After seven years of marriage, and four children, she was widowed suddenly. This led her to meet and marry the man who would become a national hero, George Washington. Through

her marriage to Washington, Martha would experience life as a plantation mistress, a grueling war where she attended every winter camp, and becoming the original first wife setting the precedent for president’s wives for generations to come. Through each episode of her life she exemplified

grace and dignity, truly earning the name afforded to her, “Lady Washington.”



## Tobias Lear Portrayed by Matt Mattingly



Tobias Lear, Executive Secretary to G.W.

Matt Mattingly began his interpretive career at Historic St. Marys City while studying theater at St. Mary’s College of Maryland in 1985. A native of Southern California, Matt moved to southern Maryland in 1984 where he first developed his passion for Tidewater history. As his Grandmother used to say, “We’ve been here since there’s been a here to be from”.

Over the past 30 years Matt has worked his way through

the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries with an extended stay in 1775 as Manager of the National Colonial Farm directly across the Potomac River from Mount Vernon. Matt has spoken about ordinary life along the colonial Potomac at George Mason’s Gunston Hall and Historic Londontown and Gardens and has led interpretive workshops at other historical institutions in the area. He has a passion for food culture, agriculture and helping people understand that

no matter where they’re from, something remarkable happened!

Mattingly now works at George Washington’s Mount Vernon portraying Tobias Lear and presenting on culture, fashion, education, and politics to over a million visitors a year.

## Dr. Craik portrayed Tom Plott



**Dr. James Craik served** as Physician General of the Army and was George Washington’s close friend and personal physician.

Craik served under Washington during the French and Indian War. During the Revolutionary War, Craik served as an army surgeon, ultimately advancing to the second highest post in army medicine. In 1798, Washington summoned Craik out of private practice and installed him as Physician General of the Army. As

Washington’s personal physician, Craik was one of three doctors to attend to him during his final illness on December 14, 1799. Washington complained of respiratory distress, described by Craik as “cynache trachealis.” When Washington proved unable to swallow medicines orally, Craik and the other two physicians treated his condition with bloodletting. Washington’s condition deteriorated, but Craik and Brown decided against a tracheotomy and Washington died at 10:10 p.m.

**Historical Interpreter Tom Plott** brings over 25 years of professional acting and directing experience to Mount Vernon. Tom has made a career of portraying historical characters, from Shakespeare to John Wilkes Booth. He now uses his versatility to depict several key figures in Washington’s life, among them Doctor Craik, Samuel Vaughn and James Anderson. Tom has also served as writer for several special performances at Mount Vernon.

History comes alive as you talk with **Ben Franklin**, portrayed by **Stephen Smith**.

Ben Franklin was a printer, inventor, statesman, and our oldest founding father. As an inventor, Ben Franklin was very practical. If he needed something that was not available, he invented it. He invented a better stove so he did not have to chop so much wood. He loved his rocking chair, so he made it do chores while he rocked. He also invented bifocals for his changing eyes. Proving that lightning and static electricity are the same was the discovery that

made Ben the only internationally known scientist in the colonies.

**Interpreter-Stephen Smith**, a freelance artist, began performing as Ben Franklin over thirty years ago and has portrayed Ben for the Oklahoma Humanities Council, O.G & E, the State Arts Council and in schools and libraries across America. This marks Ben's 16th appearance as a guest speaker at Colonial Day at the Capitol. Students learn of his travels to England and France, his involvement in the Revolutionary War, and his work on the Constitution.



**“Remember not only to say the right thing in the right place, but far more difficult still, to leave unsaid the wrong thing at the tempting moment.”**  
~Ben Franklin

### *A Big Thank You to Our Sponsors, Organizers & Presenters!*

#### **Sponsors**

- ◆ The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation
- ◆ George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate and Gardens
- ◆ The Oklahoma Humanities Council and the National Endowment for the Humanities
- ◆ The Oklahoma History Center
- ◆ The National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in the State of Oklahoma
- ◆ The Oklahoma State Daughters of the American Revolution Society
- ◆ Champion Hotels
- ◆ Mr. Charles L. Oppenheim
- ◆ The Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence
- ◆ Mattocks Printing
- ◆ Panera Bread

#### **To Support Our Donors Visit**

- ◆ [www.ofe.org](http://www.ofe.org)
- ◆ [www.okhumanities.org](http://www.okhumanities.org)
- ◆ [www.mountvernon.org](http://www.mountvernon.org)

#### **Presenters**

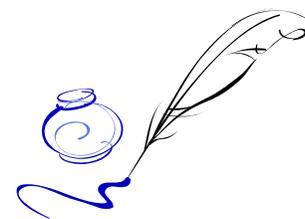
- ◆ Martha Washington portrayed by Katherine Pittman, Colonial Williamsburg
- ◆ Tobias Lear portrayed by Matt Mattingly, Mount Vernon
- ◆ Dr. Craik portrayed by Tom Plott, Mount Vernon
- ◆ Benjamin Franklin portrayed by Stephen Smith
- ◆ Colonial Dancing & Games by Sarah Dumas, Kathryn Grossman and Kimberly Hagan, the Oklahoma History Center
- ◆ Mrs. Charlton portrayed by Teresa Potter
- ◆ Patsy Jefferson portrayed by Brooke Potter
- ◆ Wyn Mabee portrayed by Janet Bass, Oklahoma Christian School
- ◆ Spying presented by Deji Dugger, Moore
- ◆ Native Americans presented by Gaye Backer & Tiffany Watkins, Crescent
- ◆ Tinsmithing presented by Jill Clark, Oakdale
- ◆ Debate Facilitators-Anthony Potter, FAA Division Manager; Sheri Admire, Mid-Del Schools, Pamela Atkinson, OK State Child Support Agency & Chip Oppenheim, Managing Partner the Oppenheim Group

#### **Event Planners**

- ◆ The CWTI Alumni Planning Team Organizers: Jessica Brandon, Jan Morris, Teresa Potter, Brenda Wheelock & Jane Williams
- ◆ The CWTI Alumni Planning Team Teachers:
  - ◆ Roy Bartnick, Enid
  - ◆ Donna Collier & Kathy Gentry, Mid-Del
  - ◆ Sarah Francois, Vanoss
  - ◆ Jennifer Gibson, Epic Charter
  - ◆ Johnnie Keel, Norman
  - ◆ Regina Mabray, Stuart
  - ◆ Kristle Morris, Putnam City
  - ◆ Mitzi Ridinger, Gore
  - ◆ Gena Schuck, Edmond
  - ◆ Melia Wheeler, Arnett
  - ◆ Traci Woods, Tuttle

**“Learning is not attained by chance, it must be sought for with ardor and attended to with diligence.”**

~Abigail Adams



*Also thank you to...*

- ◆ The Nat'l Society of the Colonial Dames of America in the State of Oklahoma
  - ◆ The Oklahoma State Daughters of the American Revolution
  - ◆ The Sons of the American Revolution, Oklahoma City Chapter
- for their assistance today!*



**OKLAHOMA  
HUMANITIES**

Patsy Jefferson portrayed by Brooke Potter

**Martha (Patsy) Jefferson Randolph** was the daughter of Thomas Jefferson and Martha Wayles Skelton Jefferson. She was born at Monticello, Virginia, and was nicknamed Patsy.

After her mother's death, from age 12-17, she lived in Paris with her father as he served as the United States Minister to France. She was enrolled at the Pentemont Abbey. During these years in Paris, she emerged as a well-educated, cultivated young lady, experienced in the arts.

"Patsy" Jefferson became one of the most educated women, traveled in the circles of presidents and aristocrats, and was known on two continents for her particular grace and sincerity.

**Brooke Potter** is a professional actor and singer. She graduated from The Academy of Contemporary Music at UCO. She performed one of her dream roles on stage as Belle in the musical *Beauty and the Beast* at the Sooner Theatre. Brooke writes her own music and sings at the Oklahoma Rodeo Opry, The Blue Door and other live venues around Oklahoma City.

She her own company, Project Princess. She loves portraying princesses at birthday parties and doing historical re-enactments for elementary schools. Contact [projectprincessok@gmail.com](mailto:projectprincessok@gmail.com) if you'd like to book her for an event.

Wyn Mabee portrayed by Janet Bass



**Wyn Mabee** was an accidental secret agent for His Excellency, General George Washington. When Fort Washington was captured, important papers were left behind in the Patriot's headquarters. Wyn volunteers to retrieve the papers, and the adventure leads her to discover additional information that is key to the success of the Battle of Trenton.

Janet Bass is the elementary librarian at Oklahoma Christian School in Edmond. Mrs. Bass enjoys portraying characters to bring history to life for audiences, whether it is a colonial character whom she discovered at Colonial Williamsburg or Mount Vernon, or a local legend, such as Kentucky Daisy, from the Oklahoma Land Run.

Oklahoma History Center Presenters

**Carrie Fox and Sarah Dumas**, both educators from the **Oklahoma History Center**, are excited to be back at Colonial Day at the Capitol. Sarah and Carrie will portray sisters, colonists Temperance and Charity Smith. Colonists made sure to keep up with the latest dance trends in London, and in fact, dancing was often a part of their daily lessons. They will teach lessons in colonial dancing. The wealthy held elaborate balls and formal affairs, but dancing was also an amusing pastime in the parlor. A young woman learned to dance properly to increase her chances for marriage.

**Kathryn Grossman**, also an educator at the Oklahoma History Center, will teach about colonial agriculture and milling as colonist Patience Campbell, and **Mike Sherriff**, a volunteer with OHC, will portray a Revolutionary War soldier.



I want to say thank you and share my gratitude for everything I have been blessed with. Thank you to my family, friends, and the organizations that continue to support our Colonial Day at the Capitol so that history can come alive for our children! ~Teresa Potter, Colonial Day Director

## Teacher Institute and The Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence

Thirty years ago, Cindy Burns, retired Colonial Williamsburg Teacher Institute Coordinator and Tab Broyles, Director of Teacher Institute Development at CW asked the question, "Where are the teachers at Colonial Williamsburg?" With their inspiration to develop a Colonial Williamsburg Teacher Institute, they sought donors who might share that same vision. Mr. Robert Wilson out of California made it

possible to send the first 44 teachers to attend the Teacher Institute. He is considered the "Founding Father" and continues at 90 years of age to support California teachers today.

Several years later, Mr. Edward C. Joullian III, a friend of Mr. Wilson's said if California can send their teachers, let's send Oklahoma teachers too. Through his and other donor's generosity, we have

been sending teachers to the Colonial Williamsburg Teacher Institute ever since. We are extremely grateful for their kindness, generosity and vision for the importance of history.

Mount Vernon also started a Teacher Institute Program and through the generosity of donors, we have teachers who annually attend the George Washington Teacher Institute.

It is these teachers who attend

either the Colonial Williamsburg Teacher Institute or the George Washington Teacher Institute who join us on the planning committee each year for Colonial Day at the Capitol.

With the help and support of the OK Foundation for Excellence and a generous donation from the OK Humanities Council, we continue to strive for excellence as we make history come alive at Colonial Day at the Capitol!