



Hampton

CONVENTION & VISITOR BUREAU

Media Release

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Divergence: Native and Colonial Histories Symposium at the Hampton History Museum Presented May 11 as a Lead-up to Hampton Heritage Day Festival

Hampton, VA- Sponsored by the Hampton 2019 Commemorative Commission and the National Park Service as a lead-up to the Hampton Heritage Day 2019 festival taking to following Saturday, The Hampton History Museum presents **Divergence: Native and Colonial Histories**, a symposium exploring the region's early history from Indigenous and European perspectives on Saturday, May 11, 2:00-6:00 p.m. This event is free and open to the public.

Native leaders and historians will meet to discuss life before European arrival as well as first contact and early histories of culture and conflict. This program will delve into both the Native traditions and written European histories of Native America, with a special

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focus on contrasting Indigenous and English perspectives on the pivotal events at Kecoughtan between 1607 and 1610. The symposium will comprise three sessions:

1) **Indigenous World Origins** - Native Americans from Algonkian, and Iroquois nations will discuss Indigenous life in the greater Hampton Roads area before European colonization. The panel will explore Native America's origins, culture, presence, and inter-tribal networks, all from a Native perspective.

2) **Rival World Views** - A local example of rival world views can be found in the story of John Smith spending Christmas with the Kicotan Indians in 1608, the first recorded Christmas in English America, is familiar to many in Hampton. But what was the purpose of John Smith's voyage, and why did the Kicotan Indians welcome the English crew? Historians and Native speakers re-examine the controversial history of one of Hampton's most well-known historical events. This session will explore how very different Native and European viewpoints shaped interactions in the Virginia colony's infancy.

3) **1610: The English Attack on Kicotan** - On July 9, 1610, the Virginia Company attacked Kicotan, killing several Natives and expelling the survivors from the land that became Hampton. This discussion will explore the Native and English perspectives of the attack and the First Anglo-Powhatan War (1609-1614), what happened to the surviving Kicotans, and why the attack was a turning point in Native and Colonial history.

Presenters

Symposium participants include Nikki Bass of the Nansemond Indian Nation, Chief Walt

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Red Hawk Brown, of the Cheroenhaka Indian Tribe; Chief Charles Bullock, of the Patawomeck Indian Tribe; Chief Robert Gray, of the Pamunkey Indian Tribe; Dr. Karen Kupperman, Silver Professor of History at New York University; Jeanne McDougall, Co-Founder and Executive Director at Ramblin' Conrad Folklife Institute; Dr. Helen Rountree, Professor Emerita of Anthropology at Old Dominion University; and Buck Woodard, Professorial Lecturer of Anthropology at American University. Other guests have been invited, but not confirmed at this time.

Hampton Heritage Day

Saturday, May 18, 2019, 10:00 am-6:00 p.m.

Mill Point Park, 100 Eaton St, Hampton, Free and open to the public

Join in commemorating the Native American, European and African cultures that shaped Hampton's early history. This family friendly festival presents a colorful and lively array of traditional music, dance and storytelling and other performances and presentations that will take place throughout the day, along with hands-on activities, cultural displays and demonstrations, glassblowing, blacksmithing, heritage arts & crafts, artisan vendors, food and more.

Hampton Heritage Day is sponsored by the Hampton 2019 Commemorative Commission, Hampton Convention and Visitors Bureau, National Park Service, Downtown Hampton Development Partnership, City of Hampton and the Hampton History Museum Association.

2019 Commemorative Commission

The mission of the 2019 Commemorative Commission is to promote the history of the first Africans in the new world and to plan events leading up to a yearlong remembrance-commemoration program in 2019. In 2019, join the global commemoration of the 400th anniversary of four pivotal happenings in English North America's Virginia colony: the

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arrival of the first Africans, the arrival of women, convening of the first General Assembly, and celebration of the first Thanksgiving. The First African Arrival occurred at Point Comfort in 1619, present site of national monument Fort Monroe in present-day Hampton, Virginia.

Hampton History Museum

The symposium is free and open to the public. The Hampton History Museum is located at 120 Old Hampton Lane in Downtown Hampton. There is free parking in the garage across the street from the museum. For more information call 757-727-1102 or visit www.hamptonhistorymuseum.org.

Partially bordered by the Hampton Roads harbor and Chesapeake Bay, Hampton, with the 344,000 sq. ft. Hampton Roads Convention Center and the award-winning Hampton Coliseum, is located in the center of Coastal Virginia and the Hampton Roads metropolitan area. Hampton is the site of America's first continuous English-speaking settlement, the site of the first arrival of Africans in English North America, and is home to such visitor attractions as the Virginia Air & Space Center, Fort Monroe National Monument, Hampton History Museum, harbor tours and cruises, Hampton University Museum, The American Theatre, among others.

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