



Hampton

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“Pocahontas and Sacagawea - Interwoven Legacies in American History” Author to Speak at the Hampton History Museum July 1

Hampton, VA- Cyndi Spindell Berck, author of *Pocahontas and Sacagawea - Interwoven Legacies in American History*, will talk about her book as part of the Hampton History Museum's Port Hampton Lecture Series on Monday, July 1, 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

So many myths surround Pocahontas and Sacagawea that the fascinating true stories are often obscured. Mysteries about their lives remain even today. For instance, did Pocahontas really save John Smith's life? Did Sacagawea die young or live a long life? *Pocahontas and Sacagawea* brings the legacies of these famous women and their peoples up to the present. This rigorously researched work of nonfiction focuses on the personalities and adventures of the American west.

In her book, Berck weaves the stories of these two Native American heroines with those of their friends, kin, and contemporaries, tracing a slice of American migration from the

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first permanent English settlement in Jamestown, across the Appalachian Mountains, through the land of the Cherokees, to St. Louis, up the Missouri River, and finally to the Pacific.

“We meet John Smith, Daniel Boone, and William Clark on this journey,” said Berck in a recent interview. “We also meet the famous mountain man James Beckwourth, who was a friend of Sacagawea’s son, and a Northern Paiute woman named Sarah Winnemucca, whose family gave its name to a town in Nevada.”

“The nation-building set in motion in Jamestown, and accelerated by Lewis and Clark, led to terrible consequences for American Indians,” Berck added. “Yet, not all of the interactions between whites and Indians were brutal. There appeared to be genuine friendships between Pocahontas and John Smith, and between Sacagawea and William Clark. These cross-cultural relationships are important to understand,” the author said in closing. “I see them as hopeful alternatives to the territorial and cultural conflicts so common in our world today.”

About the Author

Cyndi Spindell Berck received her Bachelor of Arts from the University of California, Los Angeles and Master of Public Policy and Juris Doctor degrees from the University of California, Berkeley. She is the founder of International Academic Editorial Services of Berkeley California. “I enjoy my editorial work,” said Berck, “but history is my intellectual true love.” While researching her book, *Pocahontas and Sacagawea - Interwoven Legacies in American History*, she canoed up the Missouri, walked along the silent ruts of the Oregon Trail, gazed over the Cumberland Gap, and visited the Jamestown settlement. She found inspiration in the hope that she could support those struggling for coexistence today by remembering the remarkable accomplishments of

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these extraordinary women. Berck was born in New York, grew up in Los Angeles, and now lives in Berkeley, California, with her husband, Peter, and their younger son, Joe.

Hampton History Museum

Admission is free for museum members, \$5 for non-members. *Pocahontas and Sacagawea - Interwoven Legacies in American History* (Commonwealth Books, 2015) is available in the museum gift shop for \$19.95. Museum members receive a 10% discount. 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.

During 2019, Hampton commemorates the 400th anniversary of the first African landing in English North America at Hampton’s Old Point Comfort on Fort Monroe National Monument. In addition to remembering the men and women who arrived in 1619, the city will also honor the contributions of African Americans have made to our city, state and nation. A commission has planned events across the entire year to recognize and celebrate African American impact, including a three-day long Commemoration event, August 23-25.

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