# Festival Participants

## Mekong River

### Craft Traditions

**Bahnar Arts**
- A Kheng, Vietnam
- A Thao, Vietnam
- A Tik, Vietnam

**Bamboo Crafts**
- Bai Yongxing, Yunnan
- Bouamy Vannasone, Laos
- Gen Dequan, Yunnan
- Khampian Serlorborny, Laos
- Rasee Maedmingngao, Thailand

**Celebration Crafts**
- Adirek Chaichana, Thailand
- Bounlop Insixiengmay, Laos
- Phetsamone Vonglathikoun, Laos
- Pok Doeun, Cambodia
- Wirayut Natsaengsri, Thailand

**Fish Traps**
- Boungneng Ouansakdam, Laos
- Bun Sam Ath, Cambodia
- Ca Van Cu, Vietnam
- Kalathone Syphounsouk, Laos
- Kumsing Thongnuea, Thailand
- Ton Nieng, Cambodia
- Udom Saengpong, Thailand

**Lancang Arts**
- Cheng Zhirong, Yunnan
- He Guoyao, Yunnan
- He Xiudong, Yunnan
- Rao Kunsheng, Yunnan
- Shao Meihan, Yunnan

**Needlework**
- Li Changzheng, Yunnan
- Maly Ear-her, Laos
- Morxeng Yonglorvy, Laos
- Zhang Jili, Yunnan

**Pottery**
- Kongchay, Laos
- Lonny, Laos
- Mey Meton, Cambodia
- Savian Silakhom, Thailand
- Sorn Em, Cambodia
- Thongwan Srisawat, Thailand
- Xiang BinGong, Yunnan

**Pu’er Teahouse**
- Chanthaboury Vongsaavanh, Laos
- Manit Charoenkasemsap, Thailand
- Nut Panyavanish, Thailand
- Shirley Lang, United States

**Puppetry**
- Chumdet Detpimon, Thailand
- Pramoon Sribut, Thailand
- Samorn Plisak, Thailand

**Ritual Arts**
- Buapnet Sanyathoeun, Thailand
- Manothai Janthakorn, Thailand
- Pee Duangkaew, Thailand
- Pongsupun Tuptimchai, Thailand

**Silk Weaving**
- Bunlian Sraitong, Thailand
- Hem Sokhom, Cambodia
- Layord Mingvilay, Laos
- Mah Kiem, Vietnam
- Mon Sengmany, Laos
- Patchari Chobdee, Thailand
- Prapawadee Sratsong, Thailand
- So Yat, Cambodia
- Supan Pansri, Thailand

**Silver**
- Khanthiip Jiewthong, Thailand
- Mu Binlin, Yunnan
- Puan Jiewthong, Thailand

**Weaving**
- Arni Sae Jay, Thailand
- Arsami Biahpha, Thailand
- Bovy, Laos
- Namoei Piahpha, Thailand
- Sroch Chhunly, Cambodia
- Viengxay, Laos
- Voet Deng, Cambodia

**Wood Carving**
- Khamchan Yano, Thailand
- Yang Huanpei, Yunnan

### Performing Traditions

**Cambodia**
- Ayai Repartee Singing
  - Sok Bouny
  - Yos Sath

- Chamrieng Chapei Epic Singing
  - Kong Nay

- Khmer Classical Dance
  - Chey Chankethya
  - Proeung Chhieng
  - Ros Kong
  - Sam Limsothea

- Khmer Wedding Music
  - Chhorn Sam Ath
  - Hun Bunchhen
  - Men Sakhan
  - Proeung Prumon
  - Say Sareth
  - Yun Khean

- Smet Poetry Recitation
  - Prom Ut
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Y Gyai

Don Ca Tai Tu Vietnamese Folk Music
Dang Van Su
Dang Van Toai
Duong Minh Khuong
Huynh Hoa Guang
Pham Van Loan (Tu Loan)

Hat Boi Folk Opera
Huynh Thi Yen Linh
Huynh Van Hen
Pham Van Mau Mot
Nguyen Van Thin
Nguyen Van Tot

Khmer Robam Music and Dance
Lam Huynh
Lam Phuong
Lam Thanh Hung
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Festival Participants

NORTHERN IRELAND

TRADITIONAL CRAFTS

Basket Making
Bob Johnston, Bangor, County Down
Bob Johnston works for the Ulster Folk and Transport Museum near Belfast, where he was trained in the art of willow-basket making by his colleagues. Over the years, he has done extensive research on Irish basket making, particularly on the wide variety of baskets used in traditional occupations. Winner of a United Kingdom National Training Award, he regularly exhibits his work throughout Europe.

MUSICAL INSTRUMENT MAKING

Bodhran Making
Eamon Maguire, Belfast, County Antrim
In addition to being a respected maker of bodhrans—the round frame drums widely used in traditional Irish music—the Belfast-based Maguire is also known for his talents as a painter, bog-oak carver, and dance instructor. In his Ogham Gallery and workshop on Belfast’s Antrim Road, he handcrafts all facets of his bodhrans—from wooden frames to goatskin drumheads and decorative Celtic artwork.

Lambeg Drum Making
Darren Sterritt, Markethill, County Armagh
Richard Sterritt, Markethill, County Armagh
Richard Sterritt and his family come from the town of Markethill in County Armagh, one of the centers of Northern Ireland’s Lambeg drumming traditions. Richard learned to make the large, impressive instruments from his father, who learned, in turn, from his neighbors. Starting from scratch with wood, rope, and goatskins, Richard crafts the iconic Northern Irish instrument in a small workshop behind his home and plays them with assistance from his brother and nephew.

Uilleann/Irish Bagpipe Making
Robbie Hughes, Strangford, County Down
Hughes is a respected maker of the uilleann, or Irish bagpipe, one of the world’s most complex musical instruments. His firm, Hughes and McLeod, was established in 1977. Today, in addition to pipes, Hughes is also renowned for researching and producing Clanrye Pipe Chanter Reeds, the world’s first synthetic bagpipe reed, which Hughes researched in collaboration with scientists at Queens College. info@bagpipers.co.uk

TEXTILES

Dance Dress Maker/Embroiderer
Lorainne Mullin, Portadown, County Armagh
Designing and making ornate dance costumes for Irish Feis and Festival dancers is a specialized skill. Seamstress and embroiderer Lorainne Mullin outfits solo dancers and dance troupes in the Portadown area. Her work is in great demand, especially as the competition season approaches. She adapts ideas from ancient sources to produce striking new designs.

Hat Maker/Milliner
Maureen Paterson, Islandmagee, County Antrim
Hats are an important fashion accessory throughout Britain and Ireland, where hat stores and hat-hire shops abound. Originally from the Ards Peninsula on Northern Ireland’s east coast, Paterson spent many years in Scotland and studied to be a milliner in Glasgow before returning to Islandmagee to establish her home-based shop, Hats by Maureen, which specializes in couture hats and hairpieces. www.hatsbymaureen.co.uk

Lace Making and Needlecrafts
Mabel Bogie, Saintfield, Ballynahinch, County Down
Mabel Bogie learned traditional Irish textile techniques, such as Mountmellick work, cut work, drawnthread work, and fine white embroidery on linen, while growing up on a farm near Lough Erne in County Fermanagh. Today, she remains an active needleworker and teaches her crafts to others through classes at the Northern Ireland Women’s Institute.
**VISUAL ARTS**

**Claymation and Animation/The Nerve Centre**
*Tomás Ó Maonaigh, County Londonderry*
*Gary Rosborough, County Londonderry*

At Londonderry’s celebrated Nerve Centre, a community-based arts center and “cultural factory” in the heart of the old, walled city, Derry natives Tomás Ó Maonaigh and Gary Rosborough—animators-in-residence, filmmakers, and educators—use Claymation, modern technology, and stories from Irish history to capture young imaginations, teach skills, and encourage inter-community communications.

[www.nerve-centre.org.uk](http://www.nerve-centre.org.uk)

**Banner Painting**
*William McGowan, Garvagh, County Londonderry*

Elaborately painted banners and smaller bannerettes are a hallmark of British and Irish parades and processions. Banner-painter William McGowan began his career lettering and painting advertising images on shop signs and trucks but was drawn to the complex, iconic artwork found on traditional banners. Today, in his home-based shop, Brush Creations, he works long hours to fill orders for his sought-after banners, as well as for the handsome images he paints on the shells of Lambeg drums.

**Foodways**
*Norah Brown, Dungannon, County Tyrone*

Norah and her husband Ralph are owners of the Grange Lodge Country House, a beautiful Georgian guesthouse in the picturesque countryside of County Tyrone. She is the recipient of numerous commendations, including an MBE by Queen Elizabeth for her contributions to Northern Irish cuisine and hospitality. In addition to operating an award-winning guesthouse, Brown teaches cooking courses using the best of seasonal local produce. She has represented Northern Ireland at numerous international food events.

[www.grangelodgecountryhouse.com](http://www.grangelodgecountryhouse.com)

**Muralists**

The tradition of mural painting in Northern Ireland dates at least to the nineteenth century. During The Troubles, various groups turned to murals to address political issues, commemorate political activists, or depict paramilitary groups. With the return of peace, there has been a movement to replace the more divisive murals with new ones that incorporate the best of the powerful local mural tradition with a more positive, inter-community vision of Northern Ireland’s past and future. Two groups of muralists are attending the Festival:

*The Bogside Artists*
Kevin Hasson, Derry, County Londonderry
Tom Kelly, Derry, County Londonderry
Will Kelly, Derry, County Londonderry

During The Troubles, the Republican neighborhood of Bogside in Londonderry became an epicenter for mural painting. Since 1993, muralists and brothers Tom and Will Kelly and their friend Kevin Hasson have worked together as The Bogside Artists, creating social art that is “by the people, for the people.”

[www.bogsideartists.com](http://www.bogsideartists.com)

*East Belfast Muralists*
David “Dee” Craig, Belfast
Rachel Sinnamon, Belfast

During The Troubles, the Protestant neighborhood of East Belfast attracted international attention for its murals. Artists, muralists, and Belfast natives Dee Craig and Rachel Sinnamon are outstanding examples of the many talented muralists involved in the “re-imaging” of mural art to reflect the changing political landscape of Northern Ireland.
Hugh Browne,
Warrenspoint, County Down
In addition to his expertise as a chef, Browne is also a ghillie, or fishing guide, in the beautiful Mourne Mountains. Enthusiastic and knowledgeable about local produce, especially fish and seafood, Browne teaches catering and hospitality at the Newry Institute. During the Festival, he is joined by his colleague and fellow chef Tanya McAleenan and several Newry Institute students. www.nkifhe.ac.uk

Reverend Robert James Mattison,
Poyntz Pass, Newry, County Down
A Presbyterian minister by profession and an expert on Ulster-Scots culture, Reverend Mattison has toured Northern Ireland with his popular presentation “An Evening’s Craic with the Cooking Cleric.” Adept at both very traditional and more modern adaptations of Ulster-Scots cuisine, he is an engaging speaker about his community, its history, and its food.

Liz Moore, Belle Isle,
County Fermanagh
Moore is known throughout Ireland for her unique approach to the kitchen and her innovative use of fresh local ingredients in traditional Irish recipes. Her relatively new Belle Isle Cookery School, on the castle grounds in Fermanagh’s lovely lake district, is already attracting international attention. The residential facilities accommodate a modest number of students, who attend the school for short-term food and wine courses. www.irish-cookery-school.com

Mary Fox and the All Set Ensemble
Sheila Boylan,
Belfast, County Down
Ian Carmichael,
Portadown, County Armagh
Caroline Fegan,
Newry, County Down
Mary Fox,
Portadown, County Armagh
Padraig Mac Cionnaith,
Colomiers, France

Mary Fox is a leading exponent of Northern Irish set, or ceili, dancing; solo step; sean-nós-style dancing to northern tunes (such as “Maggie Pickens”); and two-hand dances, such as the fling. After founding the Belfast Set Dancing & Traditional Music Society and the inter-community All Set Schools Project, she established All Set to promote northern-style music, song, and dance. In 1994, she was recognized for her contributions by a BBC and Belfast Telegraph Entertainment Media Arts Award.

Armagh Pipers Club/Vallely Family
Eithne Vallely,
Armagh, County Armagh
Caoimhin Vallely,
Armagh, County Armagh
Cillian Vallely, Armagh, County Armagh/Queens, New York

When Eithne and her husband Brian founded the Armagh Pipers Club in 1966, uilleann, or Irish bagpipes, were an endangered musical species. Beginning modestly with weekly lessons for adults and children on a few traditional Irish instruments, the club quickly developed a following. Their innovative community-based program and enormously influential instruction books did much to revive interest in Irish music and traditional culture. The club has trained many of today’s leading Irish musicians. It hosts the annual William Kennedy Piping Festival, and its teaching staff includes some of Ireland’s most talented performers. The Vallely’s children grew up to be mainstays of such renowned Irish traditional bands as Lúnasa, Nomos, and Buille. Two of them join Eithne at the Festival. www.armaghpipers.com

Armagh Rhymers
Brendan Bailey,
Portadown, County Armagh
Anne Hart,
Armagh, County Armagh
Peter J. Shortall,
Keady, County Armagh
Dara Vallely,
Armagh, County Armagh

For nearly three decades, the Armagh Rhymers have brought Ireland’s ancient “rhyming” tradition to audiences throughout the world. Rhyming and “mumming” are types of Irish folk drama that date back hundreds, and possibly thousands, of years. They involve small troupes of masked performers who travel from house to house during the darkest days of winter to perform short skits for luck and prosperity. The Armagh Rhymers maintain and preserve this ancient tradition and share it across community boundaries and generations. www.armaghrhymers.com
Aughakillymaude
Community Mummers
Leanne Drumm,
Enniskillen, County Fermanagh
Carina Ferguson,
Belcoo, County Fermanagh
Jim Ledwith,
Enniskillen, County Fermanagh
Michael McBarron,
Derrylin, County Fermanagh
Adrian McBrien,
Derrylin, County Fermanagh
Donard McClean,
Bangor, County Down
Dessie Reilly,
Irvinestown, County Fermanagh

The Aughakillymaude Community Mummers are a sixteen-member, cross-community group dedicated to maintaining and reviving ancient mumming traditions in rural County Fermanagh. Like the Rhymers in nearby County Armagh, they go door-to-door performing ancient skits that bring prosperity, good luck, and fun to neighboring households. The group has begun touring internationally and recently opened the Mummers Museum in a repurposed schoolhouse in Aughakillymaude, not far from Derrylin. www.fermanagh.info/ aughakillymaude

Craobh Rua
Michael Cassidy,
Belfast, County Antrim
Brian Connolly,
Belfast, County Antrim
Conor Lamb,
Crumlin, County Antrim
James Rainey,
Belfast, County Antrim

One of Northern Ireland’s most prominent traditional music ensembles, Craobh Rua has numerous international tours and well-received recordings to its credit. The group is a frequent visitor to Washington and has performed at The John F. Kennedy Center and The Smithsonian Associates. The band takes its name from the legendary Red Branch Knights, who figured prominently in the pre-Christian Ulster Cycle legends. www.craobhrua.com

Lucy Mulholland and Cuckoo’s Nest
Lucy Mulholland,
Carryduff, County Down
Lyn Rankin,
Carryduff, County Down
James McElheran,
Cushendun, County Antrim
Dominic McNabb,
Ballycastle, County Antrim
Patsy Downey,
Belfast, County Antrim

Dance instructors Lucy Mulholland and Lyn Rankin are respected teachers of local Ulster-Scots community dance styles, which are still enjoyed in areas like the Ards Peninsula. They will lead Ulster-Scots dance workshops and dance parties throughout the Festival and will be accompanied by the Cuckoo’s Nest, a trio of experienced instrumentalists led by fiddler Dominic McNabb, an expert on the traditional tunes and fiddle styles of the Glens of Antrim.

Patricia Flynn, Mullaghbawn,
Newry, County Armagh

A respected singer of traditional songs and ballads, Flynn was born in Drumintee in South Armagh and now lives nearby in Mullaghbawn. While rearing her family, she developed a strong interest in local songs. She recorded some outstanding examples on her album Stray Leaves. She actively promotes local music and is one of the founders of the Slieve Gullion Festival of Traditional Singing.

Four Men and a Dog
Kevin Doherty,
Armagh, County Armagh
Cathal Hayden,
Pomeroy, County Tyrone
Gino Lupari,
Magherafelt, County Londonderry
Donal Murphy,
Armagh, County Armagh
Gerry O’Connor,
Armagh, County Armagh

This virtuoso ensemble blends traditional Irish music with American bluegrass, country, rap, swing, polka, and international influences to create a unique high-energy sound. One of Northern Ireland’s most prominent ensembles, Four Men has enlivened the international festival and concert scenes since 1990. Their albums Barking Mad and Shifting Gravel are considered classics. In addition to playing with the group, each of the members has a prominent solo career. www.fourmenandadog.com

Len Graham, Mullaghbawn,
Newry, County Armagh

Born into an Antrim family steeped in traditional music, song, and dance, Graham is one of the foremost performers and collectors of Ulster music. A recipient of numerous awards and accolades, he uses traditional songs to pass down
Ulster’s history to contemporary audiences. A professional singer since 1982, he has been the source of traditional songs for many of Ireland’s leading performers, including Altan, The Chieftains, De Danann, and Dolores Keane. Graham toured many years with the brilliant storyteller John Campbell, who died in 2006. At the Festival, Graham is performing with his new partner, the respected storyteller Jack Lynch.

www.storyandsong.com/len.htm

Hidden Fermanagh
Gabriel McArdle, Enniskillen, County Fermanagh
Cathal McConnell, County Fermanagh/Edinburgh, Scotland
Jim McGrath, Monea, County Fermanagh
Pat McManus, Teemore, County Fermanagh

Hidden Fermanagh is a loose confederation of more than twenty of County Fermanagh’s best traditional musicians. It takes its name from a recently completed book and CD project that documented local Fermanagh music through performances, interviews, tunes, and songs. Organized by Cyrille Maguire, the group’s Festival membership includes singer Gabriel McArdle; accordionist Jim McGrath; fiddler Pat McManus; and flutist, singer, and Boys of the Lough band member Cathal McConnell.

www.fermanaghmusic.com

Jarlath Henderson,
Dungannon, County Tyrone

Raised in a musical family, uilleann piper Jarlath joined the Armagh Pipers Club at the age of ten. He won the first of three All-Ireland Fleadh competitions at age twelve, and in 2003, just after his eighteenth birthday, he became the first Irish person to win the BBC Radio 2 Young Folk Awards. Currently a medical student at the University of Aberdeen in Scotland, Jarlath also maintains a busy schedule as an international touring artist and member of several ensembles, including the Jarlath Henderson/Ross Aislie Band and Glasgow’s Salsa Celtica.

George Holmes,
Donaghadee, County Down

Steeped in the music and history of his community, Holmes has been a folk musician since the 1970s and is the former director of culture at the Ulster-Scots Agency. He has appeared in folk clubs and festivals throughout Britain, Ireland, and North America. The County Down native plays numerous instruments, including banjo, dulcimer, flute, and Lambeg and bodhran drums. He is also an active member of the Belfast Harp Orchestra.

John Kennedy,
Cullybackey, County Antrim

One of the great voices of Irish traditional song, Kennedy is also a renowned fife and whistle player, storyteller, and entertainer. His repertoire includes many rare ballads and unusual tunes from his Ulster-Scots community near Lough Neagh. He recently received an MBE from Queen Elizabeth for his contributions to culture in Northern Ireland.

The Low Country Boys
Ivan McFerran, Glastry,
Ballyhalbert, County Down
Mark Thompson, County Down
Graeme Thompson,
Newtownards, County Down
Gibson Young,
Greyabbey, County Down

Drawing upon the music of the “mission halls and farms” of the Ards Peninsula on Northern Ireland’s east coast, this quartet plays a combination of old Scots, Ulster-Scots, and “Hillbilly” gospel music. Singing in Ulster-Scots with an infusion of American gospel and bluegrass, their repertoire reflects an important facet of Northern Ireland’s musical heritage—one that is rarely heard by American audiences.

www.lowcountryboys.com

Jack Lynch, County Armagh

Storyteller Lynch is firmly rooted in the Irish seanchaí tradition, as presented in modern times by such great storytellers as Eamon Kelly and John Campbell. He tells a wide range of tales that draw on Ireland’s rich oral tradition, combining folkloric elements with ancient Irish myths and wonder tales. He appears regularly at local and international arts and storytelling festivals and is a founding member of Storytellers of Ireland/Aos Scéal Éireann and the Dublin Yarnspinners.
Mick Quinn,
Newry, County Down
Born in Carricknagavna in South Armagh and now retired to Mullaghbawn, Mick learned many of his stories and songs from his father and neighborhood barn and “flax” dances in the 1940s. A noted author of comic songs and a great raconteur, he is a highly respected Northern Irish storyteller and source of traditional songs.

Colum Sands,
Rostrevor, County Down
A member of the famous musical Sands family, Colum is respected for his talents as a performer, songwriter, and CD producer. His BBC Radio Ulster’s Folk Club program and other radio work earned him a Living Tradition Award for services to Folk and Traditional Music. His recent book, Between Earth and the Sky, contains songs, stories, and experiences that reflect his far-flung travels and his hopes for the future. www.columsands.net

Tommy Sands,
Rostrevor, County Down
An internationally celebrated singer, songwriter, and social activist, Sands is a member of the influential musical family that helped create a worldwide following for Irish music during the 1960s. Author of such classic songs as “There Were Roses,” “Daughters and Sons,” and “Come on Home to the County Down,” his works have been translated into many languages and have been recorded by such artists as Joan Baez, Kathy Mattea, Dolores Keane, Sean Keane, Frank Patterson, Dick Gaughan, and The Dubliners. The Lilliput Press recently published his autobiography, The Songman: A Journey in Music. www.tommysands.com

Session Band
Maurice Bradley, Draperstown, County Londonderry
Catherine McLean Sands, Ballycastle, County Antrim
Michael Sands, Ballycastle, County Antrim

Sessions—informal gatherings of musicians, singers, and storytellers—are the heart of Irish traditional music. Today, sessions usually take place in pubs and public spaces rather than in private houses. They are essential to preserving and transmitting Irish songs, tunes, and music. Although performers of all levels are welcomed to “sit in,” session leaders maintain proper etiquette and customs. We are honored to have several of Northern Ireland’s most prominent session musicians lead an on-going session on the Lough Erne Inn stage.

Nisha Tandon, Belfast, County Antrim
Indian dancer and community-arts organizer Nisha Tandon arrived in Belfast from India in the late 1970s. For many years, she worked in arts development and community relations at Belfast’s Indian Community Centre and was the driving force behind the Belfast Mela celebrations in 2004 and 2005. She left recently to direct ArtsEkta, a new organization dedicated to bringing “more awareness of the different ethnic minorities living within Northern Ireland.” www.artsekta.org.uk/contact.html

Robert Watt,
Maghera, County Londonderry
Watt has won the All Ireland Championship as well as every other major solo competition for Highland Bagpipes on the island of Ireland. He began playing at age seven, and as a child, joined the local Tamlaght O’Crilly Pipe Band. In 1998, he was accepted into Belfast’s renowned Field Marshall Montgomery Pipe Band. After several years, he left to pursue a career as a soloist. He has recorded five solo albums and is a sought-after performer and session musician. He is particularly interested in the traditions of Highland pipe bands in Northern Ireland. www.robertwatt.co.uk

Roisin White,
Cavanacaw, County Armagh
Born in Kilkeel, County Down, White is one of the foremost exponents of Ulster song traditions. She studied Irish Gaelic and traditional singing in the Aran Islands with respected source singers, who inherited and maintained their local community and family musical traditions. She is renowned for her own earthy, warm singing style and wide repertoire of songs in both English and Irish. Her cassette, First of My Rambles, has been re-released as a CD.
Snare drumming is an integral part of Northern Ireland pipe band traditions. Award-winning percussionist Mark Wilson and his cousin and student, Lee Lawson, are leading performers and teachers of the intricate drumming styles associated with Scottish and Irish pipe bands. Lawson is also a classically trained percussionist and one of a growing number of women involved in pipe bands.

HISTORY AND HERITAGE

Archaeology/Built Heritage and Archaeology
Mabeline Gormley, Belfast
Declan Hurl, Belfast,
Kenneth Shilliday, Craigavon, County Armagh
The built heritage and archaeology staff of Northern Ireland’s Department of Environment and Heritage Service is responsible for identifying, documenting, and protecting the “built, buried, and underwater remains of human activity from prehistoric times to the present.” In addition to approximately 18,000 known pre-eighteenth-century sites, archaeologists Hurl and Gormley, mason/restorer Shilliday, and their colleagues manage sites such as prehistoric megaliths, humble dwellings, large industrial sites, historic gardens, and designed landscapes. www.ehsni.gov.uk

Genealogy and Oral History
Valerie Adams, Public Records Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI), Belfast
Philip McDermott, University of Ulster/Magee Campus, Londonderry
Christine McIvor, Centre for Migration Studies/Ulster American Folk Park, Omagh, County Tyrone
Fintan Mullan, Ulster Historical Foundation, Belfast
Several of Northern Ireland’s most prominent historical organizations have joined forces and databases to introduce visitors to Irish genealogy and family history at the 2007 Folklife Festival:

The Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI), a division of the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure, collects and preserves records of historical interest to Northern Ireland and makes them available to the public for consultation and research. www.proni.gov.uk

The Ulster American Folk Park is dedicated to the study of immigration from Ulster to America in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Located on the grounds of the Folk Park in County Tyrone, the Center for Migration Studies (CMS) was established in 1988 to examine Irish immigration and assist scholars and researchers. www.qub.ac.uk/cms

The Ulster Historical Foundation, a nonprofit organization established in 1956, preserves Irish history and genealogy with particular emphasis on the province of Ulster. Through online databases, a membership association, and publications, it provides information to people throughout the world who wish to explore their Irish ancestry. www.ancestryireland.com

Oral historian Philip McDermott is a graduate student at the University of Ulster’s Magee Campus in Londonderry.
**The National Trust/ Bridge at Carrick-a-Rede**

Billy Stirling, Ballybogey, County Antrim

The North Antrim coast features some of the world’s most spectacular scenery, including the Giant’s Causeway. Established in 1936, The National Trust protects sixty-three important sites and 200 kilometers of Northern Ireland’s coastline. National Trust warden Stirling grew up in this beautiful area. He is familiar with the history and culture of North Antrim and responsible for the famous rope bridge at Carrick-a-Rede.

www.nationaltrust.org.uk

**Ulster-Scots Culture/ Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland**

David Hume, Larne, County Antrim
Jonathan Mattison, Hillsborough, County Down

The Grand Orange Lodge, a Protestant fraternal organization, was founded in Loughgall in 1795. The group grew rapidly as autonomous Grand Lodges were established in Scotland, England, North America, and Australia. Strong supporters of their faith and Northern Ireland’s United Kingdom membership, the group’s politics and parade traditions have often been seen as controversial, overshadowing its charitable and educational work. Historians Hume and Mattison discuss Ulster-Scots culture, as well as the organization’s history and its future in a changing Northern Ireland.

**Bushmills Irish Whiskey**

Michael John Dalzell, Customer Services
Gordon Donoghue, Management
Henry Johnston Elliott, Maturation
Kenneth Garvin, Distilling
David Alexander Gault, Transport
Elaine Harrison, Laboratory
William McKeown, Maturation
Shirley Elizabeth McMullan, Bottling

Bushmills traces its heritage to 1608, when King James I granted the County Antrim town a license to distill whiskey. It has been an officially registered company since 1784, and many Bushmills families have worked for the company for generations. www.bushmills.com

**Call Centres/Northbrook Technology**

Andrew Galvin, Strabane, County Tyrone
Joanne Haire, Strabane, County Tyrone

Once a major linen manufacturing center, Strabane was hard hit by the collapse of Northern Ireland’s textile industry. To address local unemployment, Northbrook Technology established a call center in 1999, in the wake of the Good Friday Agreement. Ironically, Strabane is famous for its heavy regional accents. Trainers Galvin and Haire will discuss their jobs, as well as the challenges of communicating with Americans.

**Harland and Wolff Heavy Industries**

David McVeigh, Belfast, County Antrim
Ian Ritchie, Newtownabbey, County Antrim
John Robinson, Belfast, County Antrim

Founded in 1861, Belfast’s Harland and Wolff became one of the world’s largest shipyards and a mainstay of the local economy. Many families worked for the firm for generations. Famous for its ships, including the ill-fated Titanic, the firm still does ship repair and work for the offshore oil industry, but it is increasingly involved in the design and construction of innovative sustainable energy projects, such as offshore wind farms and tide- and wave-powered generators. David McVeigh has worked for Harland and Wolff since he was sixteen. Ian Ritchie works as a mechanical fitter, and John Robinson is a draftsman. www.harland-wolff.com
**Agriculture and Fishing**

**Eel Fishing in Lough Neagh**

*John Quinn,*
Coalisland, County Tyrone
*Tommy John Quinn,*
Coalisland, County Tyrone
*Danny Donnelly,*
Dungannon, County Tyrone

Located in the center of Northern Ireland, Lough Neagh is one of the world’s largest sources of eels. Families of fishermen like Tommy John Quinn and his son John Quinn have fished Lough Neagh for generations and are steeped in the traditional knowledge and skills associated with eeling, as well as in the rich local culture of their area. A teacher by profession, Danny Donnelly is a respected local historian and has researched and published on Lough Neagh and County Tyrone.

**Family Farming**

*Louise Lilburn,*
Dromore, County Down
*Mary McCormack,*
Creggan, Omagh, County Tyrone
*Joe McDonald,*
Belfast
*John Rankin,*
Newtownards, County Down

Family farming has been the touchstone of Irish culture for thousands of years. Today, it continues to play an important role, but like so much else, it is changing. Farmer Joe McDonald from the Ulster Farmers’ Union is joined by dairy farmer John Rankin, award-winning cattle breeder Louise Lilburn, and “mixed” farmer Mary McCormack from the Sperrin Mountains.

**Sustainable Agriculture and Renewable Resources**

*John Gilliland,*
Rural Generation Ltd./Brook Hall Estate, Londonderry, County Londonderry
*Alasdair McCracken,* Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute, Belfast
*Mark McGuigan,* Omagh College of Further Education, Omagh, County Tyrone
*Tim Volk,* State University of New York/Syracuse, New York

Concerns about the environment and the future of agriculture in Northern Ireland led partners from very different backgrounds to develop an innovative initiative based on the unusual properties of willow. Londonderry farmer and entrepreneur Gilliland joined forces with scientist/mycologist McCracken, project manager/technical supervisor McGuigan, and forester Volk to explore raising willow as an environmentally friendly “biomass crop” for an alternative to imported fossil fuel.
SPORTS AND GAMES

Children’s Sports/PlayBoard
Margaret Deevy,
Belfast, County Antrim
Marie-Louise Tohill,
Belfast, County Antrim

In 2005, PlayBoard, a Belfast-based children’s advocacy agency, launched its “Reclaiming Playspace” initiative, which seeks to provide positive, outdoor play experiences and foster inter-community relations throughout Northern Ireland. Using traditional street games, co-operative group games, and innovative fun activities, playleaders Deevy and Tohill encourage young people from all backgrounds to take ownership and share community spaces. www.playboard.org

Gaelic Games
Gaelic Athletic Association/Comhairle Uladh Cumann Lúthchleas Gael
Jimmy Darragh,
Belfast, County Antrim
Stephen McGeehan,
Armagh, County Armagh
Una McKay,
Cookstown, County Tyrone
Terence McWilliams,
Kilrea, County Londonderry
Aileen Tohill,
Maghera, County Londonderry

Founded in 1884, the Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA) promotes indigenous Irish sports, such as hurling (Irish iománaíocht), camogie, Gaelic football, rounders, and handball, as well as Irish music, dance, and language. The association has more than 2,500 clubs throughout Ireland (500 of which are in Northern Ireland) and many more around the world. Coaches, like those participating in the Festival, assist players at all levels to improve their skills and compete in local, Club, and All Ireland County Championships. www.ulster.gaa.ie

Hurling Stick Maker
Gavan Duffy, Belfast, County Antrim
Hurling sticks (also called “hurls,” “hurleys,” or camán) are used in the ancient Irish game of hurling and the women’s version, camogie. Gavan began as a player and realized that despite the popularity of the sport, there was a decreasing number of stick makers. After college, he set out to learn the trade from traditional craftspeople and establish a viable business. His initial workshop on The Falls Road did so well that he recently relocated his expanding business, Camán, to an industrial park just outside Belfast. www.camanireland.com

Irish Football Association
Trevor Erskine, County Tyrone
David McVeigh, Belfast

Founded in 1880, the Irish Football Association (IFA) is the world’s fourth oldest football-governing body and an important member of the International Football Association Board, the sport’s international rule-making body. Since 1998, the IFA has worked with the Northern Ireland Community Relations Council, Sports Council Northern Ireland, and the Amalgamation of Official Northern Ireland Supporters Clubs to broaden the game’s popularity by promoting “Football for All.” www.irishfa.com

Motorsports
Brian Gardiner,
Ballyclare, County Antrim
Niall McShea,
Markethill, County Fermanagh

Motorcycle, or “bike,” racing, rally car racing, and carting seem to combine an ancient Irish love of horse racing with the region’s long-standing aptitude for heavy engineering. Motorsports are extremely popular: every May, the North West 200 bike race draws more than 100,000 spectators to County Antrim’s beautiful north coast. Motorcycle racer Brian Gardiner and rally driver Niall McShea explain how they modify vehicles for competitions and train themselves and others for their sports. www.2and4wheels.com

Ulster Rugby
Michael Black,
Kilfennan, County Londonderry
Barry Willis,
Larne, County Antrim

The Irish Rugby Football Union Ulster Branch (Ulster Rugby) was founded in 1879. It oversees the sport throughout Ulster—the six counties that make up Northern Ireland, as well as three counties that are part of the Republic of Ireland. In recent years, Ulster Rugby and its coaches have worked hard to broaden the sport’s popularity and its cross-community appeal. www.ulsterrugby.ie
American-owned family farms, it has survived by diversifying and becoming highly mechanized.

**Saunders Brothers, Piney River, Nelson County, Virginia**
Nested in the foothills of Virginia’s Blue Ridge Mountains, Saunders Brothers began as a partnership of five brothers in 1915. Today, third-generation brothers Tom, Bennett, Jim, and Robert operate the wholesale nursery with their father, Paul. www.saundersbrothers.com

**Greening Virginia Apples, Charlottesville, Albemarle County, Virginia**
Bud Shelton started Vintage Virginia Apples and the Rural Ridge Orchard after his retirement from the Virginia Forest Service. His daughter, Charlotte Shelton, is one of the owners. They produce several kinds of cider, in addition to a variety of apples, peaches, plums, and quinces. www.vintagevirginiaapples.com

**Virginia Wineries Association, Alexandria, Virginia**
Established in 1983, the Virginia Wineries Association is a dynamic nonprofit trade organization that represents some 110 wineries in the Commonwealth of Virginia. The association fosters appreciation of wine, researches its health benefits, promotes quality wine production, develops market share, and expands the Virginia wine industry. www.virginiawines.org

**Ham, Peanuts, and Cattle**
**Ciré and Babacar Bâ, Ndjilasséme, Senegal, West Africa**
Ciré Bâ and his son, Babacar, are experts in traditional agriculture. Ciré was born in 1929 in Ndjilasséme and began farming his own field at fifteen. In addition to peanuts, he grows three varieties of millet, string beans, black-eyed peas, and sorrel.

**Tommy and Dee Dee Darden, Smithfield, Isle of Wight County, Virginia**
In 1952, Tommy’s father founded Darden’s Farm and Darden’s Country Store, which Tommy and Dee Dee now own and operate. In addition to growing peanuts, soybeans, and corn, the Dardens slow-age (the old-fashioned way) long-cut country hams every year.

**Edwards and Sons, Surry, Surry County, Virginia**
The Edwards family has been curing their own country ham for nearly eighty years, ever since S. Wallace Edwards, a ferryboat captain, served ham sandwiches to his passengers. Today, his grandson, Sam, produces a limited number of hams each year. www.edwardsvaham.com
**Stuart Gibbons, Canterbury, Kent, England**  
Stuart Gibbons is Head of Rural Regeneration for the Kent County Council. His team supports the innovation and regeneration of businesses and communities in rural Kent. Stuart lives in deepest rural Kent in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

**Henry Goodrich, Wakefield, Suffolk County, Virginia**  
Henry Goodrich, a peanut farmer for the Wakefield Peanut Company, is also the president of the Virginia Peanut Growers’ Association. His family created the first peanut digger, which could only process one row at a time. Modern peanut diggers can process two or four rows at once.

**Virginia-Carolina Peanut Promotions, Nashville, Nash County, North Carolina**  
Virginia-Carolina Peanut Promotions provides the public with information on peanuts and peanut production. The organization seeks to increase the use and consumption of peanuts grown in Virginia, North Carolina, and South Carolina. [www.aboutpeanuts.com](http://www.aboutpeanuts.com)

**Tony and Marc Stevenson, Bethersden, Kent, England**  
The Stevenson brothers specialize in making and restoring rocking horses. To date, they have made over 6,500 rocking horses, which collectors worldwide prize. The brothers have made rocking horses for Queen Elizabeth, modeled on her favorite horses. They also operate a “rocking-horse hospital.” [www.rockinghorses.uk.net](http://www.rockinghorses.uk.net)

**Theresa Trussell, Kent, England**  
Theresa Trussell comes from a Kentish rural background and has been involved in horse breeding, training, and competition all her life. As Kent’s lead equestrian officer, she tries to boost local economic progress by developing the equine industry.

**Danny Wingate, Elk Creek, Grayson County, Virginia**  
For over twenty-five years, Danny Wingate has made saddles and harnesses. He began working with leather when he was fourteen. He is also an experienced woodworker.

**Outdoor Crafts**

**Norman Amos, Callands, Pittsylvania County, Virginia**  
Artists throughout the world carve snake canes, which have a particularly rich history in southern Appalachia. Retired tobacco farmer and mail carrier Norman Amos is considered the greatest living master of the craft. He recently achieved his lifelong goal of carving one cane for every species of snake indigenous to Virginia.

**Susan Bridges, Meadows of Dan, Patrick County, Virginia**  
Older family members and friends taught Susan Bridges which greens and other wild plants to pick, mix, and eat. She practices natural foraging and is developing a business around dried and canned food products, such as wild strawberry jam and blue violet jelly.

**Grayson Chesser, Sanford, Accomack County, Virginia**  
Grayson Chesser is one of the most respected decoy carvers of his generation. He learned how to carve from old-time masters like Chincoteague carving legends Cigar Daisy and Miles Hancock. He spent much of his childhood collecting hand-carved decoys and hunting ducks in the marshes around the Chesapeake Bay. [www.chesserdecoys.com](http://www.chesserdecoys.com)

**Salla Diagne and Diama Thiendou, Senegal, West Africa**  
The baskets crafted by Salla Diagne and her family are recognized for their quality and are sold in Senegal and internationally. The coiling techniques that she uses date back to the seventeenth century and are among the craft traditions that Africans brought to Virginia and the Carolinas.

**Pat Harrison, Covington, Alleghany County, Virginia**  
Pat Harrison grew up hunting with his father and uncle. By the time he was twelve, he had taken a particular interest in turkey hunting, so he started listening to the sounds of gobblers and hens calling to each other in the wild. Harrison has created over 685 calls and has perfected the sound an older hen makes when calling young toms.

**John Arthur Leonard, Chincoteague, Accomack County, Virginia**  
John Arthur Leonard’s family has lived on Chincoteague Island since the 1670s. When he was thirteen, he bought the first of 150 decoys in his collection. At seventeen, he began carving with advice from most of the masters on the island.

**Metal Crafts**

**Mbaye Fall, Ndjalassième, Senegal, West Africa**  
Enslaved Africans brought to Virginia centuries of experience melting, twisting, and shaping metals. Blacksmiths like Fall still play an important role in Senegal’s farming communities by making...
agricultural tools, plows, cooking utensils, charcoal cooking stoves, horseshoes, stirrups, and bits. Generally, two blacksmiths from the same family work together—one master and one apprentice.

Billy Phelps, Woodlawn, Carroll County, Virginia
Billy Phelps grew up in a family of blacksmiths. He spent much of his youth with his uncle, a country blacksmith, who did everything from shoeing horses to repairing farm equipment. Phelps began as a farrier (someone who shoes horses) in 1972, but by the early 1980s, he was doing only repair and ornamental work.

Kelly Smyth, Chadds Ford, Delaware County, Pennsylvania
Kelly Smyth has been a blacksmith for nearly twenty years. The magazine Early American Life named her one of the top 200 traditional craftspeople in the country. Smyth is adept in all facets of the blacksmith’s trade but has a special talent and love for maritime blacksmithing.

Godfrey South, Eynsford, Kent, England
Godfrey South is an award-winning master blacksmith and a fellow of the Worshipful Company of Blacksmiths. His Darenth Valley Forge is based at Lower Austin Lodge Farm on the outskirts of Eynsford.

Rural Crafts
Clyde Jenkins, Stanley, Page County, Virginia
Master artist, Clyde Jenkins grew up in the Shenandoah Mountains, where community members taught him how to make baskets from white oak. This skill is hundreds of years old and requires an in-depth study of the oak’s grain. Jenkins is one of the most respected teachers of the craft.

Yoro Kebé, Ndjilasséme, Senegal, West Africa
Yoro Kebé is a resident wood-carver in the agricultural village of Ndjilasséme in Senegal. He makes and repairs wooden implements used in farming and food preparation, and he makes furniture and musical instruments. Kebé belongs to an ethnic- and family-based occupational group called Laobé, which has carved wood for more than 500 years.

John Waller, Blackham, Kent, England
Underwoodsman (a woodworker who champions sustainable production) John Waller has carved wood for fifteen years. He weaves baskets and builds household and garden furniture, using his own and pre-made designs.

Robert M. Watson, Jr., Williamsburg, Virginia
Robert M. Watson, Jr. is a historical interpreter for the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. A highly skilled wood craftsman, he demonstrates historical woodworking trades at living history museums and fairs. His specialties include baskets, walking canes, and brooms.

Bob Cage, South Boston, Halifax County, Virginia
Bob Cage has been enthralled with the tobacco auctioneer’s chant since he first visited his stepfather’s tobacco warehouse as a young man. He began auctioning tobacco in 1950 and since then has sold tobacco all over the world. In 1984, Cage won the World Tobacco Auctioneering Championship, the highest honor awarded to a tobacco auctioneer.

Jim Crawford, Roanoke, Virginia
Jim Crawford is a filmmaker who researched and produced Down in the Old Belt: Voices from the Tobacco South, which traces the history and culture of tobacco in the Old Belt of Virginia, from Jamestown to the Buyout. Crawford is currently apprenticing under tobacco auctioneer Bob Cage.

Colin Felton, Kent, England
As a child, Colin Felton worked as a hop picker. He currently works at the Hop Farm Country Park, one of the biggest hop farms in Kent, where he has witnessed firsthand the successful diversification of the farm after changes in the market.

Derek Hitcham, Kent, England
In 1698, the mayor of Faversham founded Shepherd Neame, the oldest brewery in England. Three centuries later, it remains an independent family company, which brews traditional Kentish ales and internationally renowned lagers. The company retains strong local ties; 85 percent of the beer sold in its many pubs is produced in Kent. Derek Hitcham is a Shepherd Neame employee who gives guided tours of the brewery.
Kevin Owen, Chatham, Pittsylvania County, Virginia
A fifth-generation tobacco farmer, Kevin Owen farms eighty-five acres of flue-cured, or “bright-leaf,” tobacco, a sweet, thin tobacco used almost exclusively in cigarettes. When tobacco prices dropped, he and his brother started to grow corn and soybeans, as well as tobacco.

Bobby Wilkerson, Ringgold, Pittsylvania County, Virginia
Bobby Wilkerson is a fifth-generation tobacco farmer. He has worked in tobacco fields all his life. He was instrumental in developing the Tobacco Transition Payment Program, which was signed into law in October 2004.

Working Dogs
Roy and Debbie Johnson, Gladys, Campbell County, Virginia
Roy Johnson’s interest in training dogs started when he saw his father and uncle train hunting dogs. After a farm accident in 1985, Johnson began dog-training full-time. He wanted to train dogs to do “farm chores,” not to compete. Johnson feels that he is helping to keep part of Virginia’s rural heritage alive by training over 130 dogs for farmwork.

BUILDING ARTS

Historic Building Restoration
Jimmy Price, Monroe, Amherst County, Virginia
Jimmy Price is a world-renowned mason whose family business, Virginia Lime Works, has been in operation for over thirty years. He is helping to restore Poplar Forest, an estate that once belonged to Thomas Jefferson. www.virginialimeworks.com

Historic Building Techniques
Peter Massey, Ashford, Kent, England
Peter Massey, a master carpenter with Dolmen Building Conservation, has moved many historic buildings around Kent, including stone, brick, timber-frame constructions, and clay-peg tile roofs. His skill is unique and requires detective work to accomplish successfully. www.dolmen-conservation.co.uk

Colin McGhee, Staunton, Virginia
Master thatcher Colin McGhee started thatching when he was sixteen in Essex, England. At twenty-five, he became the youngest thatcher ever to win the Master Thatcher’s Cup. Since he moved his award-winning business, McGhee & Co., to the United States in 1991, he and his crew have been in great demand. www.thatching.com

Charles and Linda McRaven, Charlottesville, Virginia
Charles “Mac” McRaven has been building with stone, log, and post and beam since he was eleven. Since that time, he has built and restored hundreds of log, stone, and post-and-beam structures all over the United States. www.charlesmcraven.com

Stained Glass
Judy and Keith Hill, Kent, England
Established in 1977 by Keith and Judy Hill, The Stained Glass Workshop specializes in restoring and conserving stained glass and in designing, constructing, and installing new windows. Judy specializes in glass painting. Keith’s specialty is conservation of historic stained glass. www.glassconservation.com

DECORATIVE CRAFTS

Car Culture
Larry Rathburn, Catawba, Roanoke County, Virginia
For over twenty years, designing and building hot rods was Rathburn’s hobby, but in the last ten years, he has built cars full-time. His son is following in his footsteps, extending the family car-building tradition into a third generation.

Tom Van Nortwick, Ferrum, Franklin County, Virginia
Tom started pinstriping in 1980 after watching a striper at a local car show. Today, he is a nationally known designer, pinstriper, and automobile artist. He has pinstriped many things besides cars, including a guitar and an antique coffee grinder.

Pottery
Fatou Wade, Ndjilasséme, Senegal, West Africa
Fatou Wade has worked with clay since childhood. She hand-builds, fires, and decorates large pots and other ceramics for households in her rural farming community. She uses techniques that were known by Africans who went from the Senegambian region to Virginia.
Quilting Stories
54-40 African American Quilters Guild, Hampton, Virginia
The 54-40 African American Quilters Guild began quilting in 1993. The group has grown from eight founding members to over twenty members who promote and preserve the art among African Americans in Virginia. www.5440quilters.com

Virginia Quilt Museum, Harrisonburg, Virginia
The Virginia Quilt Museum displays quilts by early and contemporary quilters. The museum’s collection consists of over 150 quilts that date from 1810 to the present. www.vaquiltmuseum.org

Virginia Tribal Crafts
Lee Lovelace, Mechanicsville, Hanover County, Virginia
Lee Lovelace is a young member of the Upper Mattaponi tribe, who incorporates Native American themes in his drawings. In 2006, he, along with other dignitaries from the Virginia tribes, traveled to Kent, England, where he showed his art to English admirers.

Mildred Gentle Rain Moore, Pamunkey Indian Reservation, King William County, Virginia
Born and raised on the Pamunkey Indian Reservation, Mildred Moore learned the art of traditional Powhatan Blackware as a child from the Elder Woman at the Pottery School. In 2004, she received the Governor’s Community Service Award.

Debora Littlewing Moore, West Point, King William County, Virginia
Debora Littlewing Moore, daughter and apprentice of Mildred Gentle Rain Moore, is the founding president of the Intertribal Women’s Circle, a nonprofit organization dedicated to the preservation of tribal traditions. Debora is also an accomplished Southern Traditional Dancer and a member of the Red Crooked Sky Dance Troupe.

Randy Robinson, Southampton County, Virginia
Randy Robinson is a member of the Upper Mattaponi Indian Tribe. His artwork primarily consists of scratchboard—drawings scratched into ink painted over a thin layer of white clay, which has been laid over poster board or another stiff paper.

George Whitewolf, Lynchburg, Virginia
George Whitewolf serves as Assistant Chief of the Monacan Indian Nation and is an accomplished craftsman and teacher. He watched his grandmother and grandfather create baskets and chairs from materials they gathered themselves. He has shown his own work at powwows and museums across the United States.

Karenne Wood, Charles City, Charles City County, Virginia
Karenne Wood is a Ford Fellow in linguistic anthropology at the University of Virginia. She is a former researcher at the National Museum of the American Indian and was chairwoman of the Virginia Council on Indians for four years. She is also a beader, award-winning poet, and dancer.

FOODWAYS AND GARDENS

Cooking
Janice Canaday, Williamsburg, Virginia
Janice Canaday is an experienced cook and caterer, who follows her own and traditional African American recipes. When she was younger, Canaday assisted her mother in cooking and catering. She still prepares her mother’s favorite dishes.

Dawn Chesser, Saxis, Accomack County, Virginia
Dawn Chesser runs the Holden Creek Gun Club with her husband, Grayson Chesser. Dawn is well known on the Eastern Shore for her down-home cooking. She participated in the 2004 Mid-Atlantic Maritime Communities program of the Smithsonian Folklife Festival.

Amanda Cottrell, Ashford, Kent, England
Amanda Cottrell is Chair of the Kent Tourism Alliance and Patron of Produced in Kent. As the High Sheriff of Kent from 2006 to 2007, she promoted Kentish food and wine. Cottrell is also an accomplished cook, who has roots in England and Virginia.
Frances Davis, Rocky Mount, Franklin County, Virginia
Frances Davis was the oldest girl in a large family of tobacco sharecroppers. When she was twelve, she took charge of the cooking. Her family tended large gardens, canned their own vegetables, and cured their own meats.

Marième Diène, Ndjilasémé, Senegal, West Africa
Marième Diène is an experienced cook from a peanut-growing community. She prepares peanut dishes, such as tigadege (peanut mash), dahine (millet mixed with peanut butter and chicken), baiey (couscous with ground roasted peanuts), and mafe (peanut butter stew).

Mo Joslin, Tilmanstone, Kent, England
Mo Joslin has researched recipes that use local produce, such as hop shoots, fruit, and honey. She is the author of the cookbook Kentish Fare (2000) and has been featured on the BBC’s Web site. She has also developed her own line of jams, jellies, and chutneys under the Farmhouse Kitchen label. www.farmhousekitchen.net

Patrice Olivon, Arlington County, Virginia
Patrice Olivon was born in Morocco and was raised in southern France. He moved to Virginia in 1979 and, for twelve years, served as Executive Chef at the French Embassy in Washington. Chef Olivon is a strong proponent of Virginia culinary traditions and champions the role of Virginia in the transformation of American cooking over the past thirty years. www.tablefor8online.com

Clevie H. Wingate, Elk Creek, Grayson County, Virginia
With her grandmother’s help, Clevie Wingate baked her first cake when she was six and has been cooking ever since. An accomplished “country cook,” her specialties include pound cake and prune cake. She likes to cook with fresh vegetables from her garden and is an expert at canning and freezing.

Brunswick Stew
John D. Clary and The Proclamation Stew Crew, Lawrenceville, Brunswick County, Virginia
Stew chefs apprentice with a “stewmaster,” a position that takes years to attain. After joining the Lawrenceville Volunteer Fire Department in 1973, John D. Clary learned to cook Brunswick stew under Stewmaster Thomas McGuire. In 1988, Clary became Stewmaster.

Gardening
Formal Garden
George Carter, North Elmham, Norfolk, England
George Carter, one of Britain’s most eminent designers, creates garden designs and exhibitions. In his early career, he was a museum and exhibition designer at the Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts. He has published six books and numerous articles.

Sophia Sidney, Tonbridge, Kent, England
Set in the rural Weald of Kent, surrounded by picturesque countryside and ancient parkland, Penshurst Place and Gardens has changed little over the centuries. This medieval masterpiece has been the seat of the Sidney family since 1552. www.penshurstplace.com

School Garden
Tyrone Mangum, Hampton, Virginia
Tyrone Mangum, a graduate student at Hampton University, grew up around Fayetteville, North Carolina, and attended North Carolina Central University. At Hampton, under the supervision of Professor Anne Pierce, he studied the history and development of a 1925–1932 series of Virginia children’s songs about the lives of garden creatures.

MARITIME TRADITIONS

Boatbuilding
Delaville Boat Builders, Deltaville, Middlesex County, Virginia
The Deltaville Maritime Museum has a superb collection of ship models, art, and photography. It also has an active boatbuilding shop, which crafted the tender to the schooner Virginia and a thirty-one-foot reproduction of John Smith’s barge, the Explorer. museumpark.deltavilleva.com

Smith’s Marine Railway, Dare, York County, Virginia
Smith’s Marine Railway has been operating on the same site since 1842, when the family settled on the banks of Chisman Creek in Dare, Virginia. “K.T.” Smith is the patriarch who oversees the family business, while his three sons, Nathan, Tim, and Jamie, run the boatyard with help from several other family members.
Alan Staley, Faversham, Kent, England
Alan Staley makes and repairs wooden boats, and he advocates the preservation of historic boats and boatbuilding methods. He is an active member of the Wooden Boatbuilders Trade Association, which encourages public knowledge and use of wooden boats.

Harbor Crafts and Activities
Ted Boscana, Williamsburg, Virginia
Carpenter Ted Boscana has worked for the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation for seventeen years. He apprenticed under Master Carpenter Garland Wood for six years. www.history.org

Brenda O’Donovan and Linda Benson, Chatham Historic Dockyard, Chatham, Kent, England
Chatham Dockyard supported the British Royal Navy for over 400 years. Its ropeyard was established in 1618 and is the only one still in operation. O’Donovan and Benson offer ropemaking demonstrations and hands-on experience to visitors. www.chdt.org.uk

Marshall Scheetz, Williamsburg, Virginia
Master Cooper Marshall Scheetz apprenticed as a cooper under James Pettengell, who learned his trade at London’s Whitbread Brewery in the 1960s. Scheetz demonstrates his craft at Colonial Williamsburg. www.history.org

Historic Maritime Projects
Alexandria Seaport/ Thomas Jefferson High School Project, Alexandria, Virginia

Reedville Fishermen’s Museum/ John Smith Boat Project, Reedville, Northumberland County, Virginia
Museum volunteers researched and built the Spirit of 1608, a recreation of the barge used by Captain John Smith and his Jamestown crew to explore and chart the Chesapeake Bay in 1608. Reedville is home to the only remaining menhaden-fishing operation in the Mid-Atlantic. www.rfmuseum.org

Sultana Shipyard/John Smith Boat Project, Chestertown, Kent County, Maryland
Master Shipwright John E. Swain, Shipwright Nicholas Biles, and a group of volunteers recreated John Smith’s shallop. The new shallop is home to a crew of explorers, historians, naturalists, and educators, who are retraacing Captain John Smith’s 1608 expedition to explore the Chesapeake Bay. www.sultanaprojects.org

Working the Water
Danny K. Bowden, Chincoteague, Accomack County, Virginia
Danny Bowden can trace his family back to the 1600s on Chincoteague and Assateague islands. Today, like many of his ancestors, he follows the seasons, gill-netting for rockfish in the spring and fall, crabbing in the spring and summer, and guiding waterfowl hunters in the fall and winter. He participated in the 2004 Mid-Atlantic Maritime Festival program.

Virginia Institute for Marine Science (VIMS), Gloucester Point, Gloucester County, Virginia
VIMS plays an important role in marine science education by working closely with schools, businesses, government agencies, and individuals. www.vims.edu

Mary and Marie Hill, Hobson Village, Suffolk County, Virginia
Freed African American slaves founded Hobson Village, located west of Portsmouth, Virginia. It lies between the James River and the Chuckatuck Creek, where the villagers made their living by oystering. Marie and Mary Hill, mother and daughter, have traced their ancestors back to the mid-1800s through land deeds and land grants.

Andy Riches, Whitstable, Kent, England
Andy Riches is an oysterman well acquainted with historical and present-day methods of oyster extraction and the important role of oysters in the Kentish diet and economy. He is also expert at repairing oyster-dredging equipment. Riches has played a major role in reseeding many of the oyster beds around Whitstable.

Ken Thomas, Dungeness, Kent, England
Ken Thomas, a fisherman who has lived in Dungeness for much of his life, is interested in preserving the history of this unique area of Kent. He fishes the English Channel using a gill net and is also quite familiar with other fishing techniques, such as trawling, drifting, and potting.
Anansegromma, Burke, Virginia, and Laurel, Maryland

Native Ghanaians Kofi Denis and Kwame Ansah-Brew, collectively known as Anansegromma, are instructors at Goucher College and the University of Maryland, where they have organized numerous workshops and seminars for the university’s dance department. With “call-and-response” songs, games, rhythms, and authentic instruments, the two performers explore the rich heritage of West Africa. www.afrojazzanddance.com

Gerald Anderson, Troutdale, Grayson County, Virginia

Gerald Anderson was born and raised near Troutdale, Virginia, where he still lives. He learned how to build guitars and mandolins from Wayne Henderson (another Festival participant). He has crafted over 100 instruments over the last forty years.

Dave Arthur, Towbridge Wells, Kent, England

Dave Arthur is a musician, music historian, and researcher. He was born in Kent and has returned to live and work there. He conducts workshops for children, and his repertoire includes Kentish hopping songs, as well as songs for seasonal celebrations. He has also worked with Travellers and knows many of their songs.

Husnu Aydogdu, Arlington County, Virginia

Husnu Aydogdu moved to Arlington five years ago from his native Turkey. A former staff musician for the Turkish Radio Television Corporation, Aydogdu plays a variety of stringed instruments. He is also an instrument builder, singer, and teacher of traditional and popular music.

“Big Day Out” Powwow

Representatives from the eight state-recognized tribes of Virginia (Chickahominy, Chickahominy Eastern Division, Mattaponi, Monacan, Nansemond, Pamunkey, Rappahannock, and Upper Mattaponi) drum and dance as they did at the Big Day Out in Gravesend, Kent, in July 2006.

Gretchen Bulova and dancers, Gadsby’s Tavern Museum, Alexandria, Virginia

Dancing made Gadsby’s Tavern, now a museum, the center of Alexandria’s social scene in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Dancers in eighteenth-century clothing demonstrate and teach period dances. oha.alexandriava.gov/gadsby/

Cheikh Hamala Diabaté and Ensemble, Bambare, Mali, West Africa

Cheikh Hamala Diabaté is a steward of the 800-year-old tradition of the griot, the storytellers of West Africa. He plays the ngoni, a Malian traditional instrument and shares the oral history, music, and song of his Manding culture. www.malimusic.net

John Cephas, Bowling Green, Caroline County, Virginia

Although he was born in Washington, D.C., John Cephas’s family hails from the Piedmont region, where he now lives. He has been one of the major proponents of the Piedmont-style blues guitar, and he was awarded a National Heritage Fellowship in 1989.

La Chanchona de los Hermanos Lobo, Northern Virginia

A spin-off of an award-winning group in their home country, El Salvador, Los Hermanos Lobo perform at family events and restaurants in the area. The seven-piece ensemble, with its two violins, two guitars, percussion, and bass, takes its name from its large bass, which resembles a chanchona, or sow.

The Church of God and Saints of Christ, Alexandria, Virginia

Organized in 1896, the Church of God and Saints of Christ is the oldest Black Hebrew Israelite congregation in the United States. Church services are lively, filled with symbolism, ceremony, and a cappella music. Musical selections include spirituals and newly composed songs.

Cheikh Hamala Diabaté and Ensemble, Bambare, Mali, West Africa

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Rex M. Ellis, Williamsburg, Virginia

Rex Ellis, historian, storyteller, and scholar, is the Vice President of the Historic Area of Colonial Williamsburg. Ellis was chairman of the division of cultural history and curator of African American history at the Smithsonian’s National Museum of American History.
Brien Fain, Stuart, Patrick County, Virginia
Brien Fain is a talented singer, storyteller, banjo player, and keeper of old mountain ballads, hymns, and history from Patrick County, Virginia, where his family has deep roots. Fain’s father taught him to play the banjo claw hammer-style. He learned many of his songs and ballads from family members.

Scott Fore, Radford, Virginia
Scott Fore is a self-taught, flat-picking guitarist with numerous titles to his credit, including the 2002 National Flat-picking Championship, the 2002 Doc Watson Guitar Championship, and the guitar contest at the Old Fiddler’s Convention in Galax. In 2004, he won the All-Star Competition at the Wayne C. Henderson Festival.

Gospel Traveliers, Junior Traveliers, and Gospel Travelettes, Farmville, Prince Edward County, Virginia
Led by Reverend Wyatt Vaughn, the Gospel Traveliers are all members of his extended family. The women also sing as the Gospel Travelettes; the younger members perform as the Junior Traveliers. A Vaughn-family quartet, known as the Silvertones, performed in the 1940s.

Wayne Henderson and Friends, Mouth of Wilson, Grayson County, Virginia
Wayne Henderson is a well-known southwestern Virginia guitarist and guitar maker. His guitars are highly sought; there is a waiting list of many years. One of the finest guitarists in the United States, he was awarded a National Heritage Fellowship in 1995 from the National Endowment for the Arts. www.waynehenderson.org

Lined-out Hymn Singers, Dillwyn, Buckingham County, Virginia
All of the members of the Lined-out Hymn Singers attend one of nearly a dozen small, rural Baptist churches that dot the rolling hills north of Farmville, Virginia. Lined-out hymns are the oldest style of music in Virginia’s African American churches.

Madison Hummingbirds, Portsmouth, Virginia
Inspired by the words of Psalm 150, “Praise ye the Lord. Praise Him with the sound of the trumpet,” the United House of Prayer features brass instruments at church services, baptisms, funerals, and parades. The Madison Hummingbirds continue the great Virginia shout-band tradition.

Jim Marshall, Hillsville, Carroll County, Virginia
Musician and songwriter, Jim Marshall is an expert on Virginia ballads and the stories behind them. Marshall has also written a number of regional ballads on everything from tractor-trailer wrecks to preservation of the New River.

The Midnight Ramblers, Wise, Wise County, Virginia
The Midnight Ramblers combine youth with talent and a burning desire to play traditional bluegrass. Known for their strong, clear vocals and flawless instrument work, they have a stage presence that belies their youth. The band plays a mixture of traditional and original compositions. www.themidnightramblers.net
Bou Counta Ndiaye Ensemble, Senegal, West Africa
Bou Counta Ndiaye is one of the foremost practitioners of the Senegalese xalam (ancestor of the banjo) tradition. UNESCO named his uncle, Samba Diabaré Samb, a “living human treasure.” His great-nephew, Mamadou Ngoma Ndiaye, is one of few young people continuing the tradition. The ensemble includes Sidy Ndiaye, riti player, and Bassirou Seck, vocalist and historian.

New Ballard’s Branch Bogtrotters, Galax, Virginia
New Ballard’s Branch Bogtrotters are one of the hottest string bands in the area. They won the old-time band competition at the 1999 and 2000 Old Fiddler’s Convention in Galax. Their name comes from the original Bogtrotters, the famous Galax-area band of the 1930s.

Reverend Frank Newsome, Haysi, Dickenson County, Virginia
An Elder of the Old Regular Baptist Church, Reverend Frank Newsome was a 2006-2007 Master Artist of the Virginia Folklife Program. Elder Frank sings sixteenth-century religious songs of the Old Regular Baptist denomination.

No Speed Limit, Galax, Virginia
No Speed Limit has played with The Lonesome River Band and The Del McCoury Band and has plans to tour with Ralph Stanley. At his January 2007 inaugural concert, Virginia Governor Tim Kaine joined the band on harmonica for a rendition of “Will the Circle Be Unbroken.”

Vera Oye Yaa-Anna, Washington, D.C.
Vera Oye Yaa-Anna, affectionately known as “Auntie Oye,” is a traditional cook and storyteller born in Liberia whose Virginia family resettled on the African continent after the Civil War. Her great-grandmother, Charlotte Gibson, was born in Richmond, Virginia.

The Paschall Brothers, Chesapeake, Virginia
The Paschall Brothers stand firmly in the great tradition of religious a cappella groups in Tidewater, Virginia. Reverend Frank Paschall, Sr. and his five sons formed the group in 1981. The current members include Tarrence Sr., Tarrence Jr., Frank Jr., and William Paschall, as well as Renard Freeman Sr., Renard Freeman Jr., and Johnny Lewis.

Buddy Pendleton and Robin Kauffman, Basset, Henry County, Virginia
Buddy Pendleton is a retired rural mail carrier who once played with Ralph Rinzler and the Green Briar Boys. He has won countless firstplace awards at fiddle contests, and he plays regularly with friends and family, including his daughter, Robin Kauffman.

Powhatan Red Cloud-Owen, Charles City, Charles City County, Virginia
Powhatan Red Cloud-Owen serves on the Chickahominy Tribal Council and has produced public tribal events for more than twenty years. Currently, he is the Tribal Liaison for Jamestown 2007. His father taught him how to dance.

Sonia Ritter and Tim Laycock, Kent, England
Ritter and Laycock wrote a play about the Weald of Kent based on the work of Vita Sackville-West. Their acting troupe, The Lion’s Part, performs this play, as well as traditional English entertainments and seasonal festivities.

Kinney Rorrer and The New North Carolina Ramblers, Danville, Virginia
When you ask Kinney Rorrer about the name of his band, The New North Carolina Ramblers, you quickly learn that Charlie Poole and Posey Rorrer are great-uncles and that Charlie’s wife lived with them for a while when Kinney was growing up. Kinney keeps alive the old-time music of his family’s original North Carolina Ramblers.

The Sama Ensemble, Vienna, Fairfax County, Virginia
The traditions of the tombak (goblet drum) and the daf (frame drum) go back 1,500 years. After the Islamic Revolution in 1979, Iranian pop music was banned, and classical instruments, such as the tombak, grew in popularity. The Ensemble’s music represents breathing and brings about relaxation and concentration.
Uvaldo Sanchez Hernandez, Arlington, Virginia
Alfombría, made of sawdust and flower petals, are ceremonial carpets used in Lenten processions. Uvaldo Sanchez Hernandez and a small group of Guatemalan immigrants still create them.

Jeffrey Scott, Culpeper, Culpeper County, Virginia
Blues guitar player and singer, Jeffrey Scott, nephew of the late legendary Piedmont Blues musician John Jackson, has mastered guitar playing in the Piedmont style. Piedmont Blues, which has its origins in the music of the African American string bands of Colonial America, is the oldest form of the blues.

La Sensual, Northern Virginia
La Sensual is a popular Virginia dance band that specializes in salsa, one of the most popular, contemporary pan-Latino social dances. Like many salsa groups, they appeal to a wide range of Latino dance tastes by playing many types of Latino dance music.

Ron Short, Big Stone Gap, Wise County, Virginia
Ron Short is a native of the Appalachian Mountains in Dickenson County. His powerful vocals, proven songwriting skills, and accomplished musicianship on multiple instruments were nurtured by the central Appalachian Mountain culture and strengthened by collaborations with artists from other cultures.

Thongtanh Souvannaphanh, Lao Heritage Foundation, Springfield, Virginia
Souvannaphanh plays the saw in the tradition of Ban Phanom, Laos. The village was the source for performing arts for the Laotian royal court. Traditional Laotian orchestras include saws, wooden xylophone, kong vong, drum, mini cymbals, flute, kaen, kim, three-string guitar, and vourt. www.laoheritagefoundation.org

Spencer Strickland, Troutdale, Grayson County, Virginia
Spencer Strickland was twelve when his father took him to Gerald Anderson to have a mandolin made. He eventually became Gerald’s partner in building fine instruments. The two of them record and perform regularly.

Los Tecuanis, Manassas, Virginia
In Manassas, Mexican immigrants from Acatlán de Osorio, Puebla, dance in front of All Saints Church on December 12, the feast of the Virgin of Guadalupe. Tecuanis is Nahualt for tigers, characters often found in this Western Sierra Madre–region dance genre.

Speedy Tolliver, Arlington County, Virginia
Fiddler Speedy Tolliver moved from Green Cove in Virginia’s southwestern highlands to the Washington, D.C. area in 1939. Tolliver quickly mastered the violin after joining The Lee Highway Boys. A multi-instrumentalist, he has played regularly with a succession of professional “Hillbilly” bands.

The Spiritual Seven, Wirtz, Franklin County, Virginia
Larnell Starkey & The Spiritual Seven Gospel Singers have been singing together for thirty-nine years. The nine-person intergenerational group and large support crew are, for the most part, family members. This is an “anointed group” of official representatives from the Chestnut Grove Baptist Church in the south-central Virginia town of Wirtz.

Whitetop Mountain Band, Mouth of Wilson, Grayson County, Virginia
The Whitetop Mountain Band is firmly rooted in the heart of the Crooked Road, Virginia’s Heritage Music Trail. Whitetop is a family band comprised of Thornton Spencer, his wife Emily, and their daughter Martha. They play traditional music from southwestern Virginia. whitetopmountainband.tripod.com

Phil Wiggins, Takoma Park, Montgomery County, Maryland
John Cephas and Phil Wiggins met at the 1977 Smithsonian Folklife Festival and have been playing together ever since. Wiggins’s harmonica complements Cephas’ powerful guitar. Together, the duo has performed throughout Europe and the United States. They have released nine CDs.

Yarawi, Sterling, Fairfax County, Virginia
Yarawi combines Spanish and ancient Andean musical traditions. They use the Spanish guitar, charango, and fiddle, as well as traditional Andean wind instruments like the zampona, quena, and moeno. www.yarawi.com
RESEARCHING HISTORY

Community and Family History

The Alexandria Black History Museum, Alexandria, Virginia
In 1939, Alexandria built the Robert Robinson Library after a “sit-down strike” by five young African American men in the city’s Whites-only Queen Street Library. African Americans used the new, segregated library until desegregation in the early 1960s. After desegregation, the building was used for various community service programs. Today, the Robert Robinson Library forms an integral part of the Alexandria Black History Museum. oha.alexandriava.gov/bhrc/

Arlington African American Heritage Museum, Arlington County, Virginia
Director Craig Syphax, whose family has lived in Virginia since at least the Civil War, guides Arlington-area families as they stitch together the complex stories and traditions of the county.

Char McCargo Bah, Fredericksburg, Virginia
Char McCargo Bah, a native of Alexandria, Virginia, is a professional genealogist. She serves as historian at the Virginia Genealogical Society and is a longtime member of the Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society’s executive board.

Harvey Bakari, Williamsburg, Virginia
Harvey Bakari is Director of African American interpretation at Colonial Williamsburg. He is also a visual artist, musician, and an actor/interpreter. He presents often-forgotten stories of black Americans who contributed to the American Revolution.

Abdoulaye Camara, Senegal, West Africa
Abdoulaye Camara, historian and archeologist, is Curator-in-Charge of Senegal’s National Museum (Cheikh Anta Diop Institut de l’Afrique Noire.) For many years, Dr. Camara was the curator of the History Museum of Goree Island.

Colonial Williamsburg, Williamsburg, Virginia
In Colonial Williamsburg, the restored eighteenth-century capital of Britain’s American colony, the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation operates the world’s largest living history museum. Colonial Williamsburg’s Historic Area features hundreds of meticulously restored, reconstructed, and historically furnished buildings. Costumed interpreters tell the stories of the men and women who made up the city’s population. www.history.org

Historic Jamestowne, Jamestown, James City County, Virginia
Historic Jamestowne is owned and managed by a private-public partnership of the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities and the National Park Service. Historic Jamestowne plays a key role in the preservation, protection, and promotion of the site of the first permanent English settlement in North America. www.historicjamestowne.org

Jamestown Settlement, Jamestown, James City County, Virginia
The Jamestown Settlement tells the story of the first large-scale meeting of Europeans and Native Americans. Gallery exhibits and an introductory film highlight the Powhatan, European, and African cultures that came together in seventeenth-century Virginia. www.historyisfun.org/Jamestown-Settlement.htm

Pamplin Historical Park and The National Museum of the Civil War Soldier, Petersburg, Virginia
On 422 acres, the Pamplin Historical Park preserves four historic buildings, four museums, and the Petersburg Breakthrough Battlefield, a National Historic Landmark. The park interprets life in the antebellum South and the impact of the Civil War on civilians, the life of the common soldier in the Civil War, and the Petersburg Breakthrough on April 2, 1865. www.pamplinpark.org

Julius Fuller, Hampton, Virginia
In 1954, Julius Fuller graduated from Hampton University, where he was a member of Omega Psi Phi, Gamma Epsilon Chapter. He has since served as senior advisor to young men in the fraternity, passing on the values of brotherhood, ethics, and community service.

Liz Finn, Kent Archives, Canterbury, Kent, England
Liz Finn became an archivist in 1986 and worked in the Oxfordshire Archives, now the Oxfordshire Record Office, until 1999. For the past two years, she has coordinated local history talks for the Centre for Kentish Studies. www.kentarchives.org.uk

Participating Institutions

Historic Jamestowne, Jamestown, James City County, Virginia
www.historicjamestowne.org

Pamplin Historical Park and The National Museum of the Civil War Soldier, Petersburg, Virginia
www.pamplinpark.org

Historic Jamestowne, Jamestown, James City County, Virginia
www.historicjamestowne.org

Jamestown Settlement, Jamestown, James City County, Virginia
www.historyisfun.org/Jamestown-Settlement.htm

Pamplin Historical Park and The National Museum of the Civil War Soldier, Petersburg, Virginia
www.pamplinpark.org
Virginia Raye, Alexandria, Virginia
Virginia Raye graduated from Virginia State University in Petersburg, Virginia, where she was an active member of Delta Sigma Theta, an African American sorority founded at Howard University. In Northern Virginia, Raye shares stories of African American Greek-letter traditions at the historic Alfred Street Church.

Paula Royster, Fredericksburg, Virginia
Paula Royster is the founding President and Chief Executive Officer of the Center for African American Genealogical Research. The center is the only organization in the world that provides a physical location for African Americans to conduct and get help with genealogical research, learn valuable computer skills, and contribute to knowledge of American history. www.caagri.org

Smithsonian Anacostia Community Museum, Sperryville and Richmond Virginia Projects
The Smithsonian Anacostia Community Museum has long been involved in interpreting and documenting history and culture from the community perspective. Community historians James D. Russell of Sperryville and Benjamin Ross of Sixth Mount Zion Baptist Church in Richmond worked with museum staff to produce a video documentation project about family, community, and church history. www.anacostia.si.edu

Historic Archaeology

Enid Allison, Kent, England
Enid is the environmental archaeologist at the Canterbury Archaeological Trust. Her areas of expertise include identifying vertebrate (especially bird) and invertebrate animal remains from archaeological sites throughout Britain. She also works with the trust’s education department on public events. www.canterburytrust.co.uk

Amanda Danning, Bay City, Texas
Amanda Danning is a sculptor, painter, and woodworker whose pieces are on permanent display in more than a dozen museums. While at the Festival she will reconstruct the face of one of the original 1607 settlers.

Marion Green, Kent, England
Marion Green manages and participates in the Archaeology in Education Service of the Canterbury Archaeological Trust. Green’s duties include working with trainee teachers, school children, and students; in-service training; writing; and helping to produce resources for teachers. www.canterburytrust.co.uk

Jamestown 2007 Community Program, Jamestown, James City County, Virginia
As part of the 400th anniversary commemoration of Jamestown, communities that represent every region of Virginia are participating in the Virginia 2007 Community Program. Special programs and legacy projects range from creating new museums, heritage trails, visitor centers, and recreational areas to producing special exhibits, concerts, plays, and festivals that invite visitors to “Come Home to Virginia.” www.americas400thanniversary.com

Mariner’s Museum, Newport News, Virginia
The Mariner’s Museum is one of the largest maritime history museums in the world. Over 60,000 square feet of gallery space honor the pioneer spirit of those who took to sea. www.mariner.org