

THE VIRGINIA TEACHER

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MUSEUMS IN VIRGINIA

WITH the arrival of Spring, the urge to abandon classrooms and go on pilgrimages becomes strong in teachers and pupils alike. Since museums frequently make worthy and rewarding objects of pilgrimage, it is thought that a list of them will be timely.

The state museums may be grouped into four categories. In the first and largest of these—museums, houses, and parks that memorialize phases of state history—the state is especially rich. Any teacher with energy enough to conduct a class on a state-wide tour of places and institutions connected with the lives of state heroes, public events, and economic factors will find that method of teaching effective, though strenuous.

The second category—art museums and collections—has shown a decided growth in recent years. In 1935, the establishment of a State Museum of Fine Arts and a State Art Alliance gave to art interests a strong new impulse which they may be counted upon to foster and encourage. The Federal Art Project of the Works Progress Administration has also been an important factor in the encouragement of art museums, and of historical museums as well.

The science museums, for the most part, grow only under university patronage. Compared with other states, we are lamentably weak in this field.

There are only two general, of culture history museums, which try to present through exhibited objects a wide field of human endeavor.

HISTORICAL HOUSES, PARKS, AND MUSEUMS

A. COLONIAL AND REVOLUTIONARY PERIOD

Alexandria

Museum of the Alexandria Washington Lodge, No. 22 A. F. & A. M., Cameron Street. Founded 1812. Control: Alexandria Washington Lodge. Admission, 10 cents. Open weekdays, 9-5.

Material pertaining to Washington as a Mason. Carlyle House, 123 North Fairfax Street. Opened as a museum, 1914. Privately owned. Admission, 15 cents (reduced to 10c for parties.) Open weekdays, 9-5.

House built in 1752 by John Carlyle. Architecturally and by association, representative of the period just prior to the Revolution; furnished in the style of that time.

Gadsby's Tavern, 132 North Royal Street. Opened as a museum, 1929. Control: Gadsby's Tavern and City Hotel, Inc. Admission, 25 cents. Open weekdays, 1-4.

A building erected in 1752, and an addition built in 1792; furnishings characteristic of colonial period.

Charlottesville

Michie Tavern. Opened as a museum, 1928. Privately owned. Admission, 50 cents. Open daily, 8:30-5:30.

A house built in 1735, with which the names of many Virginians of the Revolutionary period are associated; furnished as a colonial tavern.

Service to schools: A reduction in admission fee is made for school and study groups; special guide is available on application in advance.

Monticello. Opened as a museum, 1923. Control: Thomas Jefferson Memorial Foundation. Admission, 50 cents. Open daily, 8-4:30.

An estate, with house and out-buildings, built by Thomas Jefferson. Personal possessions and furnishings associated with the versatile third President.

Service to schools: A fifty per cent reduction is made in admission fee for classes. Though no published material is furnished free, descriptive matter may be purchased for small sums.

Eastville

Old Court House Museum. Opened as a museum 1924. Control: Northampton Branch, Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities. Admission, free. Open weekdays.

19

2

Court House and Records, and associated Clerk's Office and Debtor's Prison.

Service to Schools: Special guide is furnished on application in advance of visit.

Fredericksburg

Rising Sun Tavern, 1306 Main Street. Opened as a museum, 1907. Control: Mary Washington Branch, Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities. Admission, 25 cents. Open weekdays, 9-6.

A tavern built in 1760 by Charles Washington; with it are associated the names of many famous Virginians of the Revolutionary period; furnished as a tavern of the colonial period.

Service to Schools: A reduction in admission fee to 15 cents is made for groups of more than fifteen.

Hugh Mercer Apothecary Shop, Main and Amelia Streets. Opened as a museum, 1928. Control: Citizens Guild of George Washington's Home Town, Inc. Admission, free. Open weekdays. Shop operated by Hugh Mercer from 1763 to the Revolution. Furnished as a shop of the period.

The Mary Washington House, Charles and Lewis Streets. Opened as a museum, 1892. Control: Mary Washington Branch, The Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities. Admission, 25 cents. Open weekdays, 9-6.

House bought by George Washington in 1772 for his mother. Furnished as a dwelling of the period.

Kenmore, Lewis Street and Washington Avenue. Opened as a museum, 1922. Control: The Kenmore Association. Admission, 25 cents. Open daily, 9-6.

House built in 1752 by Fielding Lewis, for his wife, Betty, George Washington's only sister. Furnishings of the period.

Service to Schools: Fee is reduced to 10 cents for students.

Masonic Museum, Washington's Mother Lodge; Hanover and Princess Anne Streets. Opened as a museum, 1927. Control: Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4, A. F. and A. M. Admission, 35 cents. Open weekdays, 8:30-5; Sundays, 1-5. A building erected 1814; records and Masonic memorabilia of George Washington.

Jamestown Island

Jamestown, First Permanent English Settlement in America. Opened as a museum, 1907. Control: Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities. Admission, 25 cents. Open daily 9-5 winter; 9-6 summer.

An enclosed park, containing the ruins of a colonial church tower, and the restored church;

foundations of colonial houses, memorials to Pocahontas, Capt. John Smith, Robert Hunt, and others, and a museum of material found in excavations.

Service to Schools: Classes below the eighth grade are admitted free on Fridays, if appointments are made in advance

Colonial National Monument. Established as a museum, 1930. Control: National Park Service, U. S. Department of the Interior. Admission free. Open daily.

A museum located at the Ranger Station, which contains the more interesting finds of extensive archaeological work which is being conducted.

Mt. Vernon

Mt. Vernon, P. O. Mt. Vernon-on-the-Potomac. Opened as a museum, 1860. Control: Mt. Vernon Ladies Association. Admission, 25 cents. Open weekdays, 10-4:30.

House built in 1743 by Lawrence Washington, and inherited by George Washington in 1752. With servant's quarters, outbuildings, stable, and gardens, it presents a comprehensive picture of plantation life in Colonial Virginia.

Service to Schools: Admission fee is waived for elementary schools upon advance application to the superintendent.

Stratford

Stratford Hall, Westmoreland County. Opened as a museum, 1929. Control: Robert E. Lee Memorial Foundation, Inc., Admission, 50 cents. Open daily, 10-6.

The house built between 1730-35. by Thomas Lee; the birthplace of Gen. Robert E. Lee. The house, with outbuildings, servant's quarters, kitchens, gardens, etc., presents a comprehensive picture of plantation life in Colonial Virginia.

Service to Schools: Special guide is available to schools and groups upon application to the Superintendent in advance; and a reduction to 25 cents is made in admission price.

Wakefield

Wakefield, George Washington's Birthplace; P. O. Oak Grove. Opened as a museum, 1931. Control: National Park Service, U. S. Department of the Interior. Admission, free. Open daily, 8:30-5:30.

The house in which Washington was born, built in 1715, burned in 1780, and rebuilt on original foundations, 1928-30. Furnishings appropriate to the period.

Williamsburg

College of William and Mary; Library Collection. Established, 1705. Control: College of William and Mary. Admission, free. Open daily.

Portraits of historical interest; incunabula; colonial and revolutionary memorabilia exhibited in the Library and in the Wren Building.

Colonial Williamsburg, Inc. Opened as a series of museums, 1932. Control: Colonial Williamsburg, Inc. Open weekly, 9-6.

In this case the entire town is the museum. The Court House Museum (free) in which are housed the results of extensive excavations is a splendid preparation for a visit to the town. There a brief introductory talk will be given by a staff member upon request. The other exhibition buildings (to which there are charges ranging from 50 to 25 cents) are: The Capitol, The Governor's Palace and Garden, the Ludwell-Paradise House; the Raleigh Tavern; and the Gaol.

Yorktown

Colonial National Monument. Established as a museum, 1930. Control: National Park Service, U. S. Department of the Interior. Admission, free. Open weekdays.

Restored colonial buildings, and the restored Yorktown Battlefield. The buildings of the Swan Tavern house archaeological material. The Moore House, where the terms of the Cornwallis Surrender were arranged, has been restored to colonial appearance.

Services to Schools: Illustrated lectures and special guide service are offered to schools and groups.

B. EARLY FEDERAL PERIOD

Arlington

Arlington, Lee Mansion. Opened as a museum, 1930. Control: United States War Department. Admission, free. Open daily, 9-4; summer, 9-6. A house commenced in 1802, and completed prior to 1825. Contains furnishings of its period.

Charlottesville

Ashlawn. Opened as a museum, 1930. Control: privately owned. Admission, 50 cents. Open daily, 7-7.

A house built in 1798, and for twenty-six years the home of James Monroe. Contains furnishings and personal belongings of Monroe.

Service to Schools: Admission price is reduced to 25 cents for students, and special guide is furnished upon application in advance.

Fredericksburg

Law Office of James Monroe, Charles Street. Opened as a museum, 1928. Control: Privately owned. Admission, 25 cents. Open daily, 8-6. The house built in 1758; now furnished with

memorabilia of Mr. and Mrs. James Monroe, and the furniture which was first used in the present White House.

Service to Schools: Special rates are made to classes and special guide may be had upon application in advance.

Richmond

John Marshall House, Ninth and Marshall Streets. Opened as a museum, 1913. Control: Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities. Admission, 25 cents. Open weekdays, 9-5. House and appropriate furnishings which belonged to the Marshall family.

Service to schools: Free admission is granted to classes accompanied by a teacher.

Poe Foundation, Old Stone House, 1916 East Main Street. Established as a museum, 1921. Control: The Poe Foundation controls the Collection; the house is owned by the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities. Admission, 25 cents. Open weekdays, 9:30-5:30.

The house (the oldest in Richmond) contains personal possessions of Edgar Allan Poe, original manuscripts, and a library.

Service to Schools: The admission is reduced to 10 cents for groups of ten or more; a flat rate may be arranged for very large groups. Two rooms are at the disposal of teachers who wish to hold classes or discussions while visiting the Foundation.

The Wickham-Valentine House, 1015 East Clay Street. Opened as a museum, 1898. Control: The Valentine Museum. Admission, free. Open weekdays, 10-5.

A house built in 1812 by Robert Mills, for John Wickham. It contains furnishings of the period from 1800 to 1825, and two rooms of the 1850's. *Service to Schools:* Special guide is available upon application in advance.

C. CONFEDERATE PERIOD

Fredericksburg

National Battlefield Museum, George and Prince Edward Streets. Opened as a museum, 1929. Control: Privately owned. Admission, 25 cents. Open weekdays, 9-6.

Material from all battlefields of the Confederate War.

Lexington

Lee Museum, Lee Chapel. Opened as a museum, 1928. Control: Washington and Lee University. Admission, 25 cents. Open daily.

The room General Lee used as an office when President of the University, and a collection of documents and other materials relating to the Lee and Washington families.

Richmond

Battle Abbey, Boulevard and Kensington Avenue. Opened as a museum, 1921. Control: Confederate Memorial Institute. Admission, 25 cents. Open weekdays, 10-5; Sundays, 1:30-5:30. Mural paintings by Charles Hoffbauer, and a collection of portraits owned by R. E. Lee Camp, No. 1, Confederate Veterans. *Services to Schools*: classes and student groups are admitted free.

Richmond

Confederate Museum, 12th and Clay Streets. Opened as a museum, 1896. Control: Confederate Memorial and Literary Society. Admission, 25 cents. Open weekdays, 9-5; Saturdays, 9-2. The building is the "White House of the Confederacy," and contains portraits, furniture, costumes, uniforms, military records, etc., relating to the Confederate War. *Service to Schools*: Student groups are admitted free.

D. GENERAL COLLECTIONS, COVERING MORE THAN
ONE PERIOD

Lexington

Museum of Virginia Military Institute, Nichols Memorial Hall. Opened as a museum, 1909. Control: Library, V. M. I. Admission free. Open weekdays, 9-4; Saturdays 9-12. Material relating to the history of the Institute and to distinguished alumni.

Newport News

The Mariners' Museum. Founded, 1930. Control: The Board of Trustees, of The Mariners' Museum. Admission free. Open weekdays, 9-5, Sundays 2-5. A lake, park, library and a museum with collections pertaining to nautical interests and history. *Service to Schools*: Special guides are furnished to show school groups through buildings and grounds; any available information is furnished on request.

Richmond

Dooley Museum, Maymont Park. Opened as a museum, 1926. Control: Richmond Department of Parks and Playgrounds. Admission free. Open, April to October, Tuesday to Saturday 11-5; Sunday 2:30-5. A dwelling of the early IXth Century with furnishings representative of the taste of that period. Virginia Historical Society, 707 East Franklin Street. Opened as a museum, 1893. Control:

Virginia Historical Society. Admission free. Open weekdays 10-5, Saturday 10-12.

The house occupied by the family of General Robt. E. Lee during the Confederate War. Contains historical exhibitions, portraits, manuscripts, and a library.

Virginia State Library Collection. Opened as a museum, 1907. Control: Virginia State Library. Admission free. Open weekdays, 8-30-5:30; Saturdays 8:30-12:30.

Portraits, maps, and historical objects relating to state history.

Saluda

Middlesex County Museum. Opened as a museum, 1935. Control: WPA and Middlesex County Woman's Club. Admission free. Open weekdays 8:30-5:30, winter; 8:30-6, summer.

Housed in an old Clerk's Office; collections relating to county history and changing exhibitions.

Service to schools: Special guides are furnished to visiting classes, and an effort is made to fit the collections to the school curriculum.

West Point

King William County Museum. Opened as a museum, 1936. Control: WPA and West Point Town Council. Admission free. Open, Monday through Friday, 9-4:30.

A collection of material relating to county history.

II. ART MUSEUMS, COLLECTIONS, AND
ASSOCIATIONS

Big Stone Gap

Federal Demonstration Gallery. Opened as a museum, 1936. Control: WPA and Sponsors Group. Admission free. Open weekdays, 9-6. Holds changing exhibitions, and exhibits work done on the Big Stone Gap WPA Federal Art Project.

Service to Schools: Lectures and classes in drawing and painting.

Danville

Danville Art Club, 129 Robertson Street. Opened as a museum, 1929. Control: Danville Art Club. Holds changing exhibitions.

Lexington

Bradford Art Gallery, University Library. Opened as a museum, 1908. Control: Washington and Lee University. Admission free. Open weekdays.

An exhibition of sculpture and sixty paintings.

Lynchburg

Gallery of Randolph-Macon Woman's College

Art Department. Control: Randolph-Macon Woman's College. Admission free.

Has a permanent collection of American paintings, and an art library; holds changing exhibitions.

Federal Art Gallery. Opened as a museum, 1936. Control: WPA and Sponsors Group. Admission free. Open weekdays 10-6; Tuesday and Thursday evenings, 7:30-9:30; Sunday 3-6. Holds changing exhibitions and exhibits work done on the Lynchburg WPA Federal Art Project.

Service to Schools: Lectures, guides for classes visiting exhibitions, and instruction in drawing and painting.

Richmond

A. A. Anderson Art Gallery, 901 West Franklin Street. Opened as a museum, 1930. Control: Richmond Branch, College of William and Mary. Admission, free. Open weekdays 9-5; Sunday afternoons during special exhibitions. Permanent collection of American paintings and an art reference library; holds temporary exhibitions.

Academy of Sciences and Fine Arts, 1112 Capitol Street. Opened as a museum, 1931. Control: Board of Trustees, assisted by the WPA. Admission, free. Open weekdays 10-5; Sundays 2:30-5.

Permanent collection of paintings, prints and sculpture. Holds special temporary exhibitions. *Services to Schools:* Guides are furnished for visiting classes.

Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Boulevard and Grove Avenues. Opened as a museum, 1936. Control: Board of Directors, Virginia Museum of Fine Arts. Admission, free to members, 25 cents for public, except on Saturdays and Sundays. Open weekdays, 9-5; Sundays, 2-5.

The John Barton Payne Collection of Paintings, and the Strauss collections of tapestries, clocks, furniture, textiles, glass, ceramics, etc.

Services to Schools: Classes making application in advance are admitted free, and a lecturer's services are available. Collections not on exhibition are available to study groups. Courses of lectures are given from time to time, and students are admitted for half-price. Student memberships are available. An art reference library is in preparation.

University

Museum of Fine Arts, Thomas H. Bayley Memorial Building. Opened as a museum, 1935. Control: University of Virginia. Admission, free. Open daily.

Temporary exhibitions.

III. SCIENCE AND NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUMS AND COLLECTIONS

Lexington

Geology Museum, Washington and Lee University. Opened as a museum, 1886. Control: Science Department, Washington and Lee University. Admission, free.

Geological material, an herbarium, and a collection of skeletons.

Richmond

Virginia State Museum, State Library Building. Opened as a museum, 1928. Control: Commission on Conservation and Development. Admission, free. Open weekdays 8:30-5; Saturdays and holidays, 8:30-5:30.

Minerals, forest material, and birds of Virginia; models of the inventions of Cyrus H. McCormick.

Service to Schools: Special guide is available. Museum of the University of Richmond. Opened as a museum, 1884. Control: University of Richmond. Admission, free. Open weekdays, 9-5, except Saturday, 9-12.

Synoptic series of Virginia mammals. Egyptian Greek, and Roman antiquities, and an Egyptian mummy.

Services to Schools: School visits are permitted, but appointments should be made in advance.

University

Lewis Brooks Museum. Opened as a museum, 1879. Control: Science Department, University of Virginia. Admission, free. Open: Monday-Thursday, 8:30-5:30; Friday, 8:30-4:30; Saturday 8:30-1:30.

Rocks, minerals, vertebrate and invertebrate fossils.

Services to Schools: Services of guide are provided if appointments are made in advance.

IV. GENERAL OR CULTURE HISTORY MUSEUMS

Norfolk

Norfolk Museum of Arts and Sciences, Lee Park. Opened as a museum, 1931. Control: Norfolk Society of Arts. Admission, free. Open daily. Sculpture reproductions, modern paintings and textiles. Holds temporary exhibitions.

Services to Schools: Special guide service is furnished for temporary exhibitions. Children's classes are held five days each week; and a special historical talk once a month; and children's art hour once a month.

Richmond

The Valentine Museum, 1015 East Clay Street.

Opened as a museum, 1898. Control: The Valentine Museum. Admission, free. Open weekdays, 10-5.

Culture history material exhibited to show chronological development and culture influences.

Services to Schools: Special guides are provided for classes when appointments are made in advance. Boxed exhibitions relating to history, geography and art studies are provided and are loaned to schools throughout the state. When material has to be sent by express or parcel post, the museum bears half of the expense.

In closing a few practical suggestions to teachers may not come amiss. Always write or telephone in advance of visits to make appointments and to insure adequate service for the classes. Few institutions are equipped to give special guidance to more than one class at a time, and some haven't the space to hold more than one at a time. Therefore conflicting visits should, as far as possible, be avoided. Whenever possible, prepare the classes for the visit by telling them what kind of a museum is to be seen and what to look for. It is inadvisable to see too many places in one trip; only blurred impressions of museums are received by tired minds. Museums welcome suggestions for improving their usefulness, when the suggestions are practical. Museums exist primarily to be useful to the public, and not for their own benefit. If perusal of this list indicates obvious deficiencies to you, remember that all the museums here were started by single enthusiastic individuals or small groups. The lack you notice may well be supplied by your own initiative.

HELEN G. MCCORMACK

THE HIGH SCHOOL AS A PEOPLE'S COLLEGE

PART FOUR—WHAT SUBJECT MATTER SHOULD
HIGH SCHOOLS TEACH?

IN THREE previous articles of this series we have considered adolescent children as high school pupils, the purposes which children and adults have in education, and what schools should teach to

meet the needs of children and accomplish the aims of society. In the third article distinction was made particularly between two types of learning activities: first, those activities which count toward growth and constructive development because they are closely related to the experiences and interests of pupils; second, studies in subject-matter fields which are largely fixed and teacher-assigned, with not much pupil-purposing to do anything but meet requirements. In the present article it is the purpose to indicate the place of subject matter in secondary education, principally by giving some illustrations and principles that govern in a single subject.

Questions as to the worth of any school subject have been raised previously and are here repeated in brief form:

1. Does it appeal to children?
2. Do interests of pupils help in learning it and do interests grow?
3. Do pupils learn it enthusiastically and apply it often?
4. Do pupils who take it succeed in meeting requirements?
5. Are the aims of education accomplished through it?

If a subject meets in fair measure these requirements, we can be certain that it so lies within the range of interest and of difficulty as to guarantee that children will work at it successfully. We may feel assured that the chief aims of education will be accomplished through subject matter which children work at with enthusiasm, which they succeed at doing, and which arouses more interests as they work. Any subject which appeals to children in these ways must deal with things that really matter in life. In order to meet all of these tests subject matter must clear itself of all deadwood, mere conventionalities, and rationally justified content.

English as a school subject, in its several phases of literature and reading, spoken and written language, and mother-tongue skills, involves all the points just stated. Practices