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Pictures attached

Stratford Hall Awarded \$21,000 in Grants to Support New Exhibit, Storytelling and Colonial Foodways Programs and Conservation Efforts

STRATFORD, VA – Stratford Hall is pleased to announce that it has recently been awarded three grants to support education, preservation and research. The collective grants will enhance the development and implementation of a series of programs and conservation efforts at the 18th-century historic site in Westmoreland County.

Virginia Humanities is supporting a series of public programs at Stratford Hall in conjunction with a new exhibit opening this spring titled “Stratford Hall at the Crossroads: Atlantic Cultures and the Creation of America.” This exhibit will feature objects that represent the distinct cultural groups that lived at Stratford Hall and showcase some of the women of the Lee family who were prominent figures during the 18th- and 19th-centuries. Programming supported by this \$10,000 grant will feature a colonial foodways program which includes cooking demonstrations and lectures by historical interpreter Dontavius Williams, historian Dr. Nancy Siegel, and Top Chef contestant Christopher Scott, among others.

Mars Wrigley awarded Stratford Hall a Forrest E. Mars, Jr. Chocolate History Research Grant in the amount of \$10,000 to support Stratford Hall’s research and programs, as well as an exhibit, related to the production and consumption of chocolate at the historic plantation, including the role of Caesar, a cook who was enslaved at Stratford Hall in the 1770s.

The Virginia Association of Museums selected an 18th-century sewing purse in Stratford Hall’s collection as one of “Virginia’s Top 10 Endangered Artifacts” after a competitive review of 30 submissions from museums across Virginia. The sewing purse, dating from the 1700s, was made and used by Hannah Ludwell Lee, who, along with her husband Thomas Lee, was one of the original residents of Stratford Hall.

After a two-week online voting competition, Stratford Hall won second place and received a \$1,000 grant award to be used for the conservation of the purse.

“We are delighted to have the generous support of these organizations. The grants will allow us to build upon Stratford Hall’s rich history and present our visitors with engaging and important stories of our collective past,” said John Bacon, President of Stratford Hall.

Stratford Hall will be introducing new programs and events throughout 2020 as a result of these grants. Visit www.stratfordhall.org to learn more.

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About Stratford Hall

A National Historic Landmark, Stratford Hall preserves the legacy of the Lee family and its plantation community, inspires an appreciation of America’s past, and encourages commitment to the ideals of leadership, honor, independent thought and civic responsibility.

Established by Thomas Lee in the 1730s, Stratford Hall is one of the great houses of American history. Four generations of the Lee family passed through its stately doors including Richard Henry Lee and Francis Lightfoot Lee, the only two brothers to sign the Declaration of Independence, Revolutionary War hero “Light Horse Harry” Lee and his son, Civil War General Robert E. Lee, who was born at Stratford Hall in 1807. For more information, visit www.stratfordhall.org.