

News Release**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****DATE: March, 2023**

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mmcgrann@hampton.gov**Hampton History Museum hosts Women's History Month, St. Patrick's Day concert during March**

Hampton, VA –The Hampton History Museum will host several events this month in honor of Women's History Month and St. Patrick's Day. The changing role of the Virginia Midwife, from staple of the community to outlaw, is the subject of a talk by historian and women's advocate D'Anne Graham for the museum's Port Hampton Culture Series on March 6. The Celtic band Poisoned Dwarf returns for their annual presentation of traditional Irish tunes for an early St. Patrick's Day celebration as part of the Front Porch Music Series on March 15.

Port Hampton Culture Series**The Witching of the Virginia Midwife****Monday, March 6, 7-8 p.m.****Museum members free, non-members \$5**

Historian D'Anne Graham is an independent scholar of women's health and medicine history. She's also an early leader in decriminalizing midwives in Virginia.

Graham explores the tale of Virginia midwife, Joan Wright who was accused of witchcraft in 1626. Wright's case is one of the first known cases of Witchcraft in English America. It was a conflicting trial as she was called a witch, pillar of the community, agent of the state, wise woman or uneducated killer of mothers and babies. This trial has paved the way for Graham's research and activism for midwives nationwide.

We invite the community to join the conversation as we educate ourselves in the intersections between witchcraft, midwives and the construct of women's health and safety.

Front Porch Music Series**Poisoned Dwarf****Wednesday, March 15, 6-8 p.m.****Museum members free, non-members \$5**

Celebrate St. Patrick's Day a bit early with a lively concert of Celtic music with Poisoned Dwarf! This rollicking quintet plays innovative and passionate renditions of traditional Irish and Scottish tunes on acoustic instruments. These talented musicians create a driving sonic energy with whistles, flutes, violin, guitar, percussion, and Uilleann pipes and lyrical vocals.

Based out of Williamsburg, the members of Poisoned Dwarf are Thomas DeRose, Stewart Pittman, Lance Pedigo, Mei-Li Garcia and Patrick Rooney.

Doors open at 5:30 pm and seating is first come, first served. Beer and wine will be available for purchase. Proceeds benefit the Museum.

Hampton History Museum

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

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Images:

HHM March 1: A woman being helped to give birth on a birth chair, by two midwives. Original publication: *Der Rosengarten'* (The Rose Garden) by German physician Eucharius Rosslin, Pub 1513. Courtesy of D'anne Graham.

HHM March 2: Poisoned Dwarf, courtesy of Poisoned Dwarf

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