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ISLE OF WIGHT COUNTY MUSEUM, BANK OF SOUTHSIDE VIRGINIA TO BRING VIRGINIA250 MOBILE MUSEUM TO SMITHFIELD

Exhibition includes prominent painting from local artist

SMITHFIELD, Virginia: As the nation nears the 250th anniversary of its founding, the [Isle of Wight County Museum](#) and the [Bank of Southside Virginia](#), in conjunction with the Isle of Wight County VA250 Committee, are partnering to bring a state-sponsored mobile museum to Smithfield. The hands-on, interactive and immersive [VA250 Mobile Museum Experience](#) offers the “Out of Many, One” exhibition.

The mobile museum will be available free for visitors from May 15-18, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., in the BSV Smithfield Branch parking lot, 115 Main St. The Isle of Wight County Museum coordinated the mobile museum’s stop with the annual [Smithfield Arts Festival](#) on Saturday, May 17, when three blocks of downtown are closed to vehicle traffic and filled with artists, craftspeople, authors and performers.

“Across the state, so many Virginians were involved in what led up to the American Revolution and our founding,” said Jennifer England, director of the Isle of Wight County Museum and the county’s historic resources manager. “There is rich Colonial history right in our backyard, and we’re fortunate to bring this mobile museum to Smithfield for residents to rediscover those events.”

The exhibition also features a reproduction of [“Elizabeth Bennett Young, 1781.”](#) a painting by Smithfield artist [Stephanie Faleski](#), who depicts how Young hid the county’s courthouse records as British Lt. Col. Banaster Tarleton was nearing Smithfield. Commissioned by the local Daughters of the American Revolution chapter and dedicated in 2013, the painting documents how the wife of Deputy Clerk Lt. Francis Young protected what are now some of the oldest and most complete U.S. court records, usually among the first materials destroyed during war. She hid them in a trunk she buried off what is now known as Route 10.

Hosting the mobile museum at the Smithfield Branch continues BSV’s commitment to maintaining a vibrant downtown throughout the week.

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VA250 Mobile Museum

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“As a community partner, we are honored to provide complementary use of our grounds and parking lot for events that enrich local programs and activities,” said Will Clements, BSV chairman. “We’re honored to be able to host this important mobile museum, as we celebrate our nation’s history and, more specifically, how Southside Virginia and our ancestors played a role in the fight for independence.”

For 25 years, BSV has provided free use of the parking lot for the [Smithfield Farmers Market](#), which operates from 9 a.m.-noon every Saturday from April to October, except when the downtown streets are closed for other special events. The 2025 market opened on April 5.

In related activities, The Isle of Wight County Museum has partnered with the *Smithfield Times* for a three-year series of monthly articles that celebrate 250 years of American history. Additionally, at 2 p.m. on May 17, the museum will feature “Stamps Heard ‘Round the World,” a presentation featuring U.S. postage stamps commemorating the fight for independence and the county’s connection to the war’s opening Battles of Lexington and Concord on April 19, 1775.

Isle of Wight County Museum

Founded in 1976, the Isle of Wight County Museum tells the story of the county through its interactive exhibits including a turn-of-the-century country store as well as displays interpreting colonial history, the Smithfield ham industry, the Blackwater River, the Civil War and the Cold War.

Bank of Southside Virginia

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