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Mrs. John Rolfe – Better Known as Pocahontas *Scholar to present the story of Pocahontas and John Rolfe*

MARTINSVILLE, Va. (October 17, 2006) – The true story of John Rolfe and Pocahontas will unfold when John Haden, chair of the East Lindsey District, Lincolnshire, England 2007 Community Program presents “Mrs. John Rolfe of Heacham – better known as Pocahontas” on Sunday, October 22 from 7 to 7:45 p.m. at the Carol Hooker Exhibit Hall, located in the J. Burness Frith Economic Development Center, at Patrick Henry Community College. The program will be an early kickoff to the Jamestown 2007 commemorations, and is the next event in the Virginia Museum of Natural History Lecture Series.

Many people know the tales of Captain John Smith and Pocahontas, but few know the true story of John Rolfe of Heacham, the man that Pocahontas married, and of their early lives before they met at Jamestown, married and traveled together to England. John Haden will present the true account of the life and times of this remarkable couple who brought peace to early Jamestown.

Lincolnshire, England is the birthplace of Captain John Smith and is the area from which both the Pilgrim Fathers and the New England settlers came. Not far from Lincolnshire in the County of Norfolk was the birthplace and home of John Rolfe. Since 2002, John Haden has been working with others in the Lincolnshire community on the American Roots in English Soil (ARIES) Project, a legacy project in support of America’s 400th Anniversary and Virginia 2007. This program provides a unique

perspective to the Jamestown 2007 commemoration by looking at it from England's perspective.

John Haden has a Masters Degree from Oxford University and a research degree from York. He has served as a UK High School Principal, including 10 years at the school in Louth, Lincolnshire, to which John Smith went as a boy, and 8 years at Wymondham College in Norfolk.

ABOUT THE VIRGINIA MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

The Virginia Museum of Natural History in Martinsville seeks to increase understanding of and appreciation for the natural history of the Commonwealth through education, research, collections, publications and exhibits. The museum – an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution – is accredited by the American Association of Museums, a distinction earned by fewer than 10 percent of museums in the United States. A new, \$28 million museum currently is being built in Martinsville. When fully completed in early 2007, the new museum will offer five times the exhibit and public space of the current facility.

The museum is a member of the Association of Science-Technology Centers, Virginia Association of Museums, Heritage Preservation, and an agency of the Secretary of Natural Resources for the Commonwealth of Virginia. With over 22 million objects in its collection, the museum reaches nearly 1 million people annually through on-site and traveling exhibitions, classroom outreach programs, the museum's Web site, public events and publications.

The museum is currently closed, as we transition to a new world-class facility opening soon. The current museum facility is now the Virginia Museum of Natural History Research and Collections Center. The new museum will be open Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Sundays from Noon to 5:30 p.m. Members are always admitted free. Admission is \$7 for adults; \$6 for senior citizens and youth 12-18; \$5 for children 3 to 11; and free for children 2 and under. For more information about membership or volunteer opportunities, please call 276-666-8600 or visit the museum's Web site at www.vmnh.net.

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