



HISTORYCONNECTS

LIFELONG LEARNING CATALOG

HistoryConnects Lifelong Learning Programs are \$125 for a single site connection. These hour-long programs can be delivered to single site or multiple sites at once. There is a \$75 fee for each additional site connecting during a single program appointment.*

**We recognize that many participants are joining remotely due to COVID-19 – the additional site fee is only to add additional resident centers, offices, etc. Employees/participants joining individually will not result in an additional charge. If you have questions, please reach out to Hailey Fenner (hfenner@virginiahistory.org) to discuss pricing.*

Determined: The 400-Year Struggle for Black Equality

Determined: The 400-Year Struggle for Black Equality examines the long history of black Americans as they have fought for freedom, equal justice, and access to opportunities. Through profiles of individuals and evocative objects, Determined explores the black experience in Virginia from 1619 to the present day, the pivotal role black Americans have played in shaping America's national identity and culture, and the key Virginians and Virginia events that have defined the meaning of American democracy, equality, and justice.

Romantic Virginians: Love and Loss in the Old Dominion

"How do I love thee? Let me count the ways." Discover the many ways Virginians have experienced love and loss over nearly four centuries through letters, diaries, and other intimate expressions culled from VMHC's extensive manuscript collections. Through the private writings of Virginians known and unknown, explore arranged marriages in the Colonial era, soldiers pitching woo in wartime, a 20th-century courtship nearly derailed by conflicting religious beliefs, the turmoil of coming out as a gay man in 1970s Richmond, and much more.

Agents of Change: Female Activism from Women's Suffrage to Today

Organized in conjunction with the statewide Women's Suffrage Centennial in 2020, this program celebrates a century of women's social and political activism in the Commonwealth. Agents of Change highlights the efforts and impact of a selection of female change-makers who created positive change in their communities, the Commonwealth, and the nation. These change-makers created new models of female empowerment and new opportunities for women—ultimately fostering a more inclusive and equal society.

Fresh Paint: Murals Inspired by the Story of Virginia

Fresh Paint features murals inspired by Virginia's history. Ten of Virginia's most talented mural artists were provided unrestricted access to the museum's vast collection of books, letters, maps, artwork, photographs, and objects. Each artist chose objects that interested them and used those stories as inspiration for an original painting reflecting the Commonwealth's diverse history. Throughout the program, participants will explore the role of history in art, engage in a discussion about artistic process and influence, analyze artist statements & artwork, and develop an appreciation for artistic interpretation & historic events.



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Food for Thought—Tidbits from Virginia’s Culinary History

From Berkeley Plantation’s claim to have held the true First Thanksgiving, to Richmond’s modern allure as one of the best food cities in the country, Virginia’s culinary history spans more than 400 years of European, African American, and Virginia Indian influences. We will explore items from our collection that speak to the way food has played an active role in our history, as a community anchor and economic driver.

Cheers, Virginia!

Celebrate the work of craft brewing, distilling, and fermenting and the makers whose art fill your glass. From homebrewers to local distillers and wineries, alcohol makers have captured the soul and identity of Virginia with their intoxicating offerings. Explore how craft makers have used their talent and enthusiasm to connect with and represent the people, places, and history of the Commonwealth

Virginia’s Brewed Past: Beer Stories from the VMHC Collections

In recent years, Virginia’s craft beer scene has exploded with IPAs, Sours, Sessions, and whatever your homebrewer friend concocted in their garage. In the early 20th century, Richmond made history as the first testing ground for canned beer—just one part of a brewing tradition in the Commonwealth that reaches back 300 years.

18th Century Chocolate Making

Join us on a journey through history and discover the ways in which chocolate was prepared and enjoyed in 18th-century Virginia. In addition to tracing the history of early chocolate consumption by Virginians, participants will see a live chocolate making demonstration using reproduction cooking tools and equipment. *(Participating centers can purchase chocolate samples, hot chocolate mix, or baking squares that follow the 18th century recipe to sample before, during, or after the program. Contact Hailey Fenner at hfenner@VirginiaHistory.org for more information on purchasing these materials.)*

Photography in Virginia

Photography has documented and interpreted life in Virginia for more than 150 years. This program will survey this visual record, using only work made in Virginia. Included will be daguerreotypes, panoramas, amusement-park tintypes, lantern slides, photogravure, early experiments in color, and aerial photography.

Virginia on Film

The film industry has been telling stories about Virginia since 1897 and the Commonwealth has been the home of award-winning actors, the setting of powerful stories, and the backdrop for some of our most iconic films and television shows. Sit back, grab some popcorn, and join us as we share some of our favorite films associated with Virginia—minus the sticky floors.



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Movie Mythbusting (*approximately 45-minute program*)

Join the Virginia Museum of History and Culture as members of our education team “mythbust” some fan-favorite historical films! Watch the film in advance, whenever or however works best for you, and then log into an interactive Zoom presentation where we will chat about what’s true, what’s not, and make some interesting connections to our collection.

Movies Offered:

- The Patriot, Disney’s Pocahontas, The New World, Cold Mountain, Big Stone Gap, Hidden Figures, Gods & Generals, Titanic, Felicity: An American Girl, National Treasure 1 & 2, Ruby Bridges, Indiana Jones & the Raiders of the Lost Ark, Remember the Titans, Loving, Hamilton, 1776, Harriet, Secretariat, Pirates of the Caribbean, Night at the Museum, Lawless, Lincoln, Glory, Walk the Line, Red Tails

Pocahontas: Her Life and Legend

The study of Pocahontas is an excellent exercise testing the strength of primary versus secondary sources. This program examines historical evidence of six episodes of her life that are recorded by English settlers and compares those accounts to the mythology created after her death, when artists manipulated her story to support causes that they wanted to advance.

The Pursuit of Liberty: The Revolutionary War and the Founding of America

Virginians played an essential role in the creation of the new American nation. From actions during and following the American Revolution to ideas and documents that established the new country, Virginians were involved at every point. During this program participants will learn more about the lives of Virginia’s founding fathers, while also examining some of the most important documents in American history.

Letters from a ‘49er: A Virginian’s Journey to find California Gold

In 1849, John Robertson Maben traveled to California in search of gold. In this program, participants will join Maben on his journey. In a series of thirteen letters, Maben describes his travels to his wife, Sarah. These letters are especially vivid as Maben was witness to events both momentous and mundane. He wrote of the cholera epidemic of 1849, the great St. Louis fire that same year, and the excitement and brutality of the California gold fields.

The Civil War: An American Turning Point

From 1861 to 1865 the country was in a military and social revolution. How we define freedom, liberty, patriotism, and nation today is directly related to the diverse experiences of the individuals who participated in the Civil War. This program will discuss various aspects of the Civil War, including life on the battlefield, life on the home front, the roles of medicine and technology in the Civil War, and the parts that African Americans, American Indians, women, and children played in the war.



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Eye of the Storm: A Civil War Odyssey

Eyewitness accounts and images from the Civil War memoir of Union soldier, cartographer, and Confederate prisoner of war Robert Knox Sneden are showcased during this program to provide a unique and mesmerizing perspective on the Civil War. His descriptions and depictions of combat, capture, imprisonment, and deliverance provide a pictorial record of the war that puts the viewer in the shoes of a Union soldier as nothing else can.

Death & Memory and the Civil War

The goal of this program is to better understand how the country dealt with the deaths of over 620,000 people during the Civil War. Participants will use primary sources such as photographs and letters to analyze how the fatalities were felt on the home front. They will leave with a more comprehensive knowledge of how the Civil War changed America's mourning customs and perspectives of war and death.

Picture This: Virginia in the Twentieth Century

New and rapidly developing technologies allowed the twentieth century to be the more visually documented than any previous era. Movies, photography, and new printing methods recorded the sweeping changes that occurred as people moved from the countryside to cities and as the Industrial Revolution came to dominate the new rhythms of life. Join us as we explore themes of urbanization, social change, and politics represented by the photograph, manuscript, and museum collections of the Virginia Museum of History & Culture.

V is for Virginia: The Commonwealth in WWI

As the largest war in modern history, World War II impacted the lives of all Virginians. From 1941-1945, hundreds of thousands of men and women joined the war effort as civilians at home adapted to life during wartime. Join us as we discuss the stories of the everyday men and women, black and white, famous and unknown, that lived through the war.

The Great War Songbook: Sheet Music & WWI

This program uses sheet music from the early 20th Century to examine the evolution of national sentiment during the Great War. From anti-war songs ("I Didn't Raise My Boy To Be A Soldier") to those bolstering support of the war effort ("Over There"), it is clear that songs are more than a form of entertainment; they are cultural touchstones used to convey ideas, inspire patriotism, reward sacrifice, and encourage loyalty.

Dream Deferred: African American Military Service in WWI & WWII

Historically, the African American struggle for equality has been fraught with irony. This has been especially evident in times of war, when African Americans have fought for freedom and democracy even as they endured violence and racism. *A Dream Deferred* details the contributions of African American men and women to the war effort during WWI & WWII. It also will consider the meaning and importance of the "Double V" campaign in Virginia, which sought victory abroad and at home for Black Americans and gave impetus to the postwar Civil Rights Movement.



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Paradoxical Progress: Virginia in the 1920s (Intern Made, HF Expanding/Teaching)

Following the Civil War, Virginia prided itself on its accomplishments as part of the “New South.” Although white politicians in the early 20th century saw a Commonwealth dedicated to “justice to all and with love for all,” Virginia was not fulfilling this promise in all areas. This program will uncover the winding road to “progress” in 1920s Virginia, one paved with many potholes and detours.

When the Cold War Turned Hot: Virginia's Vietnam Experience

Virginia society during the 1960s and 1970s, along with the rest of the United States, was dominated by the conflicts surrounding the Vietnam War. Thousands of Virginians from all walks of life were affected by the conflict. Join us to learn the stories of some of these remarkable Virginia soldiers, protestors, and diplomats who experienced the hottest moments of the Cold War.

Getting the Message Out: Ephemera of Presidential Campaigns

Buttons and banners, ribbons and posters, coffee mugs and whiskey flasks, match books and mouse pads; for almost 200 years, presidential candidates and their supporters have used almost every means available to attract votes. Though T.V. and the Internet may have replaced the torchlight parades and "whistle-stop" speeches of the past, getting the message out remains the primary objective of every presidential campaign. Join the VMHC Education team to explore a chronological and visual summary of presidential elections throughout U.S. history.

What's Your Sign? Ephemera & Women's Activism

This program uses ephemera to examine women’s rights movements in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. From protest signs to political buttons, participants will analyze how demonstrations evolve over time. Participants will engage in a discussion about what defines a progressive movement and how women shape the country’s political, social, and economic environment/state.

Horse Sense: The History of The Horse in Virginia

From Virginia’s earliest days, when horses sustained starving colonists, to the 2000 Olympics, when four members of the bronze medal three-day evening team hailed from Middleburg, Virginia (known as the country’s “Horse and Hunt Capitol), the commonwealth has nurtured a special relationship with the animal. In sport, horse racing can thank Virginians for the refinement of the Thoroughbred and the development of the Quarter Horse. In battle, horses like Traveller and Little Sorrel witnessed some of the most pivotal movements of Virginia’s involvement in the Civil War. And in popular culture, stories like Misty of Chincoteague, Lady Wonder, and Secretariat have all cemented Virginia’s status as a state with a unique equine history.



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Commonwealth Kids

While history is often told by the winners, it is also often told by adults. These adults, though, were not always the mature people we learn about in school— they were kids once, too! Commonwealth Kids examines how children throughout Virginia’s history have had different experiences based on individual circumstances. This program will use objects from the VMHC’s collection to look at how children worked, played, and learned from the 17th century up to modern day.

Hair Today, Gone Tomorrow

During the Victorian Era, public displays of love and loss reached new heights. Elaborately crafted pieces of jewelry that incorporated human hair became fashionable tokens of sentimental relationships as well as symbols of mourning and grief. In this program, participants will learn about the process of making hair jewelry, the social symbolism of the pieces, and view examples from the museum’s collections.

Triumphs and Tragedies: The Creation of Shenandoah National Park

Today, Shenandoah National Park stands out as one of Virginia's top tourist attractions. Awe inspiring vistas and abundant wildlife attract millions of people to explore the park's peaks and hollows. However, the park's modern beauty came at a heavy cost. Virginia evicted thousands of local residents to return the land to "wilderness." Join us as we explore the complicated origins of one of Virginia's most beautiful assets.

Clearing the Air: The History of Tobacco in Central Virginia

From the early day of colonial Virginia to today, the tobacco industry has played a major role in the development of Central Virginia's economy and culture. Join us to learn more about the long-lasting influence of the state's most infamous cash crop.

Collections Up Close: Dear Diary

Why do people feel compelled to write down their thoughts, hopes, and fears? A diary can be a space to share your true feelings, work through a problem, and record life experiences. The VMHC collection contains thousands of diaries written by Virginians which provide unique insight into their everyday lives and private thoughts. Join the VMHC team as we peek between the pages of some memorable diaries from the collection.

Collections Up Close: Finding 1 in 9 Million

With more than 9 million books, letters, maps, photographs, paintings, and objects, it is not surprising that more space in our 250,000 square-foot building is dedicated to safely housing our collections than to any other activity. Join the VMHC to learn about collections storage where the stories from more than four centuries of Virginia history live—and find out how each day we’re able to find one item among millions.



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History of Thanksgiving

Most agricultural societies developed prayers of thanks and ceremonies to celebrate harvests and other special occasions, so what do we mean when we ask, “who held the first Thanksgiving?” This program will examine the origin of the holiday, from Native American harvest ceremonies to the competing claims of who had “the first” ranging from the Spanish in Florida, to the English in Virginia, and of course, the Pilgrims at Plimoth (Plymouth) Plantation. From the proclamations of George Washington to Abraham Lincoln establishing it as a national holiday we will examine how various traditions that were often regional in nature coalesced to form the holiday now celebrated throughout the United States.