

THE CONRAD M. HALL

# Symposium

FOR VIRGINIA HISTORY

September 7, 2024



**VIRGINIA MUSEUM OF  
HISTORY & CULTURE**





# THE CONRAD M. HALL Symposium FOR VIRGINIA HISTORY

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

This year, the Virginia Museum of History & Culture (VMHC) has recognized a far-reaching culture of creativity in Virginia and beyond. Recent exhibitions have revolved around this theme, as we celebrate and explore innovators and visionaries in the realms of foodways, education, and artistic practice and crafting. Indeed, Virginia has always been a home to makers, and our 2024 Conrad M. Hall Symposium for Virginia History will spotlight the Commonwealth's creative spirits.

Today, we welcome scholars and historians from Virginia's leading colleges, historic sites, and educational institutions to share their research on this important aspect of our collective history. Discussions will explore Virginians who crafted with music, wood, stone, and clay, and subjects as varied as the creation of Virginia's Tuskegee-Rosenwald Schools, innovation in the First World War, and mediums made for telling Virginia history, like the long-familiar highway marker program and pioneering new podcasts. Kicking off the day will be a special keynote presentation by award-winning historian Professor Elizabeth R. Varon, exploring how three fascinating Southerners remade regional identity in Reconstruction Era-Virginia.

As the oldest cultural organization in Virginia, the VMHC offers an exceptional space for scholarly inquiry and knowledge exchange that is meaningful for all Virginians. The VMHC Symposium gives attendees the opportunity to learn and draw inspiration from new and diverse perspectives in Virginia's unparalleled history.

Thank you for joining us.

  
Jamie O. Bosket  
President & CEO

# Symposium Schedule

9:30–10:30     **Registration**  
**Commonwealth Hall**

10:30–11:30     **Keynote Lecture**  
**Robins Family Forum**

*Remaking Southern Identity in Reconstruction-Era Virginia: The Strange Careers of Elizabeth Van Lew, Joseph T. Wilson, and James Longstreet*

Dr. Elizabeth R. Varon (Langbourne M. Williams Professor of American History and Associate Director, John L. Nau III Center for Civil War History, University of Virginia)

11:30–11:45     **Break**

11:45–12:45     **Session I**

**Remembering the Great War: Diaries, Photographs, and Monuments**

**Reynolds Leadership Center**

*Creating a Presidential Friendship: Exploring the Writings of Dr. Cary Grayson, Woodrow Wilson's Physician*

Emily Kilgore (Director of Education and Engagement, Woodrow Wilson Presidential Library) & Linda Petzke (Education Liaison, Woodrow Wilson Presidential Library)

*Doing Their Bit: The Surprising Role of Virginians in the Great War*

Dr. Lynn Rainville (Executive Director, Hidden History Group)

**Building an Oral History of the East Marshall Street Well Project**

**Lacy Meeting Room**

I-Kamilah Hiwott (Virginia Commonwealth University) & Sunday Wright (Virginia Commonwealth University)

**Cataloguing Americana: Virginian Artists in The Index of American Design Collection at the National Gallery of Art**  
**Cullen Meeting Room**

Abby Whitlock (Digital Initiatives Coordinator, Digital Content Strategy and Experience Division, National Gallery of Art)

**"Equal to any Band in this Country": The Story of Virginia's First Military Band**

**Byrd Meeting Room**

Dominic Giardino (Independent Researcher)

12:45–2:00     **Lunch Break**

2:00 – 3:15     **Session II**

**Tuskegee-Rosenwald Schools: Vibrant Legacies of Creativity and Resiliency**

**Reynolds Leadership Center**

Deborah Billups (Lead, Descendants Community Committee, Woodville Rosenwald Foundation), Muriel Branch (President Emeritus, AMMD Pine Grove Project), Stephanie Deutsch (Author and Board Member, Campaign to Create a Julius Rosenwald & Schools National Historic Park), Calvin Hopkins (President, Second Union Rosenwald School Museum), Elizabeth Klaczynski (Associate Curator, Virginia Museum of History & Culture), & Millicent Nash (Chairperson, Campbell County Training School Complex)

**Creating the Past: Podcasting as Public History**

**Lacy Meeting Room**

Jim Ambuske (Co-Head of R2 Studios, Roy Rosenzweig Center for History and New Media, George Mason University), Kathryn Gehred (Media Editor, Virginia Humanities), Mills Kelly (Professor of History and Senior Scholar, Roy Rosenzweig Center for History and New Media, George Mason University), & Jeanette Patrick (Head of R2 Studios, Roy Rosenzweig Center for History and New Media, George Mason University)

***Stitching it All Together: A Collaboration between the Milliners and Mantua-makers at Colonial Williamsburg and William & Mary's National Institute of American History & Democracy***

**Cullen Meeting Room**

Clarissa Cantacuzene (History Major, College of William & Mary), Rebecca Godzik (Journeywoman, Milliner's and Mantua-Maker's Shop, Colonial Williamsburg Foundation), Kate Hargrove (Apprentice, Milliner's and Mantua-Maker's Shop, Colonial Williamsburg Foundation), Sarah McCartney (Assistant Teaching Professor, College of William & Mary), Ishbel Newton (Intern, Milliner's and Mantua-Maker's Shop, Colonial Williamsburg Foundation), Julie Richter (Director, National Institute of American History & Democracy, College of William & Mary), & Janea Whitacre (Mistress, Milliner's and Mantua-Maker's Shop, Colonial Williamsburg Foundation)

***Sculpting History at the Valentine Studio: Art, Power, and the "Lost Cause" American Myth***

**Byrd Meeting Room**

Josh Epperson (Sculpting History Co-Curator, Independent Writer), Dr. Kate Sunderlin (Sculpting History Co-Curator, Independent Scholar), & Christina Vida (Elise H. Wright Curator of General Collections, Valentine Museum)

***Highlight tour of the E. Claiborne Robins, Jr. Research Library and Rare Book and Manuscript Vault***

**Lettie Pate Evans Mezzanine**

**Note:** This tour is limited to the first 15 attendees

3:15 – 3:30      **Break**

3:30 – 4:30      **Session III**

***From the Academy to the Community: A New Beginning for the Pamunkey Indian Museum & Cultural Center***  
**Reynolds Leadership Center**

Andrew Foster (Director, Pamunkey Indian Museum & Cultural Center) & Shaleigh Howells (Independent Consultant)

***Crafting Clay and Carving Stone in Virginia***

**Lacy Meeting Room**

*J. Henry Brown: Stone Carver for the New South*  
Dr. Ryan Smith (Professor of History, Virginia Commonwealth University)

*Crafting Clay Histories: Virginia Ceramics Then and Now*  
Madeleine Dugan (Art Historian & Mlitt candidate at the University of Glasgow, Scotland)

***Increasing Access to Virginia History: Digital Humanities at Virginia Commonwealth University***

**Cullen Meeting Room**

*A 1723 Letter Written by an Enslaved Virginian: Creating a Digital Edition*

Dr. Mary Caton Lingold (Associate Professor of English, Director of MATX PhD, Virginia Commonwealth University) & Skylar Middleton (Senior English Major, Virginia Commonwealth University)

*British Virginia Edition of the 1755 Mitchell Map*  
Dr. Joshua Eckhardt (Professor of English, Virginia Commonwealth University) & Jamie Mahoney (Assistant Professor of Graphic Design, Virginia Commonwealth University)

***Heroes of Color in RVA***

**Byrd Meeting Room**

Dr. Anita Nadal (Assistant Professor of Spanish, Virginia Commonwealth University)

4:30 – 4:45      **Break**





4:45 – 5:45     **Session IV**

***Creating & Cultivating Lexington's Black Schools:  
1865–1965***

**Reynolds Leadership Center**

Marylin Alexander (Vice Mayor, Lexington, VA) & Eric Wilson  
(Executive Director, Rockbridge Historical Society)

***“...tell Johnny Hemmings to finish off immediately the  
frame for the round table”: A Case Study of Enslaved  
Cabinetmaker John Hemmings and the Output from the  
Monticello Joiner’s Shop***

**Lacy Meeting Room**

Molly Martien (University of Delaware)

***“We Cannot Hope, of Course, to Please Everybody”:  
Virginia’s Highway Marker Program Over Nearly a Century***

**Cullen Meeting Room**

Matthew Gottlieb (Highway Marker Program Researcher,  
Virginia Department of Historic Resources) & Jennifer Loux  
(Highway Marker Program Manager, Virginia Department of  
Historic Resources)

***The Impetus for Song: How Hope and Lament Created the  
African-American Spiritual***

**Byrd Meeting Room**

Horace Scruggs III (Musician, Composer, Documentarian,  
Fluvanna Historical Society)

**Highlight tour of the E. Claiborne Robins, Jr. Research  
Library and Rare Book and Manuscript Vault**

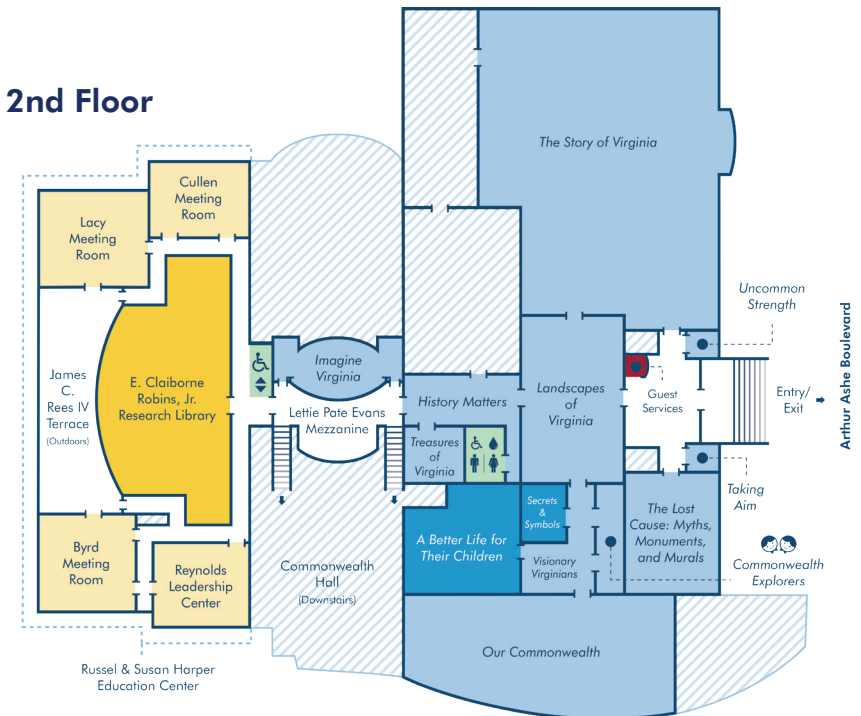
**Lettie Pate Evans Mezzanine**

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5:45 – 6:30     **Reception**

**Commonwealth Hall**

**2nd Floor**



**1st Floor**



## Symposium Notes

### VIRGINIA MUSEUM OF HISTORY & CULTURE

# THE EMILY WINFREE FELLOWSHIP

for African & African American History in Virginia

The Emily Winfree Fellowship for African and African American History in Virginia, made possible through a generous gift from Jan Meck, Ph.D., co-author of *The Life and Legacy of Enslaved Virginian Emily Winfree*, promotes the study and interpretation of Black history in Virginia and provides access to the VMHC's vast collection of nearly nine million items, many of which concentrate on the late eighteenth, nineteenth, and twentieth centuries and contain information about the lives and contributions of African Americans.

**Applications are due  
September 27, 2024.**

Learn more about  
our fellowships at  
**VirginiaHistory.org/  
Fellowships**



