

2018 Program

Provisional Program

The Virginia Forum: March 15-17, 2018

at Emory & Henry College

Local History and Regional Identity

The 2018 Virginia Forum is being hosted by the Emory & Henry College on their campus in Washington County, Virginia. As this meeting is the first Forum held in southwestern Virginia, the organizers saw this gathering as an opportunity to explore the regional differences long seen in the Old Dominion, as well as the roots of each region's social and cultural distinctiveness. Hence, papers and panels that emphasize the relationship between local history and regional identity in Virginia are a highlight of the conference, though not this Forum's exclusive focus.

All Forum events will take place on the Emory & Henry campus. Our hosts will provide participants with food and refreshments throughout the conference, given the distance – about 10 miles – of the campus from the restaurants of Abingdon, where the conference hotels are located. The traditional Thursday evening “Dutch Treat” dinner/social will be catered by their food service, with a cash bar provided, for those so inclined. Our customary Friday evening reception has been expanded into a dinner event, with a keynote speaker, whose cost is included in your registration fee. And, as many participants are expected to stay on in Abingdon on Saturday night, arrangements have been made for a social gathering at a craft-brewery there, after the last panel session, complete with a conference-themed beer. To facilitate transportation between the campus and Abingdon, the organizers will help to arrange ride-sharing at the Forum's registration desk.

Advance registration for the Forum is being handled through the online ticketing system for the McGlothlin Center for the Arts at Emory & Henry (www.ehc.edu/mca). Links to the conference hotels in Abingdon will be available shortly on the Virginia Forum website.

Specific room assignments for the panel-sessions listed below will be published in the finalized conference program.

Thursday 15 March

3:00 – 4:30 pm “Virginia History Forum” Board of Directors Meeting

Inaugural meeting of the directors of the new non-profit corporation that will conduct the activities of the Virginia Forum for the foreseeable future. Meeting agenda will be focused on adopting bylaws and designating officers.

4:00 pm Registration Opens (Lobby, McGlothlin Center for the Arts)

5:00 – 6:30 pm Opening Plenary Session (McGlothlin Center for the Arts)

**“The Music and Culture of Appalachia: A Dialogue
and Performance”**

Moderator: Gregg Kimball, Library of Virginia.

Performers: Eddie Bond and Friends.

7:00 pm Dutch Treat Dinner (catered buffet on campus, with cash bar)

Friday 16 March

8:00 am Registration Opens

8:30 – 9:00 am Welcome Session

Michael J. Puglisi, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, Emory & Henry College

Warren R. Hofstra, President, Virginia History Forum

David A. Rawson, Program Committee Chair, “An Index of Virginia Printing”

9:00 – 9:15 am Refreshment Break

9:15 – 10:45 am Concurrent Sessions: Block I

1. Civil Rights and Moral Leadership in Prince Edward County, 1951 -1969

Moderator: Larissa Ferguson, Longwood University

“Program of Action: L. Francis Griffin and the 1963 Demonstrations in Farmville, Virginia,”
Brian J. Daugherty, Virginia Commonwealth University.

“Land Use Research, National Registration of Farmville First Baptist Church, and Rev. L.
Francis Griffin’s Campaign for Racial Equality in Prince Edward County, 1951-1967,” John
Kern, Independent Scholar.

“Men of Unquestioned Ability: JFK’s Judicial Appointments to Virginia,” Brian Lee, Winthrop University.

2. Stories of Southwest Virginia Found in Local Court Records and Newspapers

Moderator: John Deal, Dictionary of Virginia Biography, Library of Virginia.

“Preserving Court Records in Southwest Virginia,” Eddie Woodward, Senior Local Records Archivist, Library of Virginia.

“A Newspaper Re-Discovered,” Errol Somay, Director, Virginia Newspaper Project, Library of Virginia.

“Stories of Southwestern Virginia as Told by the Augusta County Chancery Causes,” Greg Crawford, Local Records Program Manager, Library of Virginia.

3. The Material World of Thomas Jefferson

Moderator: J. Jefferson Looney, The Papers of Thomas Jefferson.

“Archaeology of South Pavilion Kitchen at Thomas Jefferson’s Monticello,” Beatrix Arendt, Monticello.

“Writing with Objects: Thomas Jefferson’s System of Correspondence,” Diane Ehrenpreis, Monticello.

“A Subject of Uncertain Conjecture: Thomas Jefferson’s Measurement of the Peaks of Otter,” Jack Gary, Poplar Forest.

10:45–11:00 am Refreshment Break

11:00 am–12:30 pm Concurrent Sessions: Block II

4. Aspects of Virginia’s Early Legal History

Moderator: Warren Billings, University of New Orleans

“Virginia as the Beginning of American Legal History: 1618 as the Fountainhead,” Itai Sneh, John Jay College.

“Personal Honor, Family Honor, and the Money: Contesting Colonel Carrington’s Will,” David Kiracofe, Tidewater Community College.

5. The Union Forever: The Virginia Union Movement beyond the Secession Winter

Moderator: Brent Tarter, Library of Virginia.

“‘They were honored with the smiles of the ladies’: Gender and the Origins of the Union Movement in the Election of 1860,” Jesse George-Nichol, University of Virginia.

“Yankees of Virginia: Waitman T. Willey and the West Virginia Statehood Movement,” Daniel Sunshine, University of Virginia.

6. New Considerations on Virginia Women’s History

Moderator: Elizabeth Kostelny, Preservation Virginia.

“A Tale of Three Cities: The Impact of Place on Women’s Employment in Martinsburg, Wheeling, and Parkersburg in 1860,” Barbara J. Howe, West Virginia University.

“The Girl on the Land: Identifying the Women of the Women’s Land Army of America in Virginia and Washington, DC, 1917-1920,” Anna Gruber Kiefer, Lord Fairfax Community College.

12:30 – 1:45 pm Unstructured Lunch Period

No presentations scheduled in order to promote networking among Forum participants.

1:45 – 3:15 pm Concurrent Sessions: Block III

7. Biographical Studies from the Jim Crow Era

Moderator: TBA

“‘Noted Educators, All Virginians’: How One Family Changed the Shape of African American Education,” Jessica J. Bennett, Virginia Union University.

“J.R. Clifford and the Pioneer Press,” Stewart Plein, West Virginia University.

“The Courtroom, the Ballfield, and a Confederate Monument: How a Judge Helped Build Jim Crow in Appalachia,” Joshua M. Howard, Passel Historical Consulting.

8. Exploring the Demography of Antebellum Virginia

Moderator: Phillip F. Hamilton, Christopher Newport University.

“‘The nearest approximation to the actual condition:’ The AMA census of physicians in Virginia, 1847-48. Case study of Rockingham County,” Christopher Eads, Independent Scholar.

“‘at home in the muddy water’: Immigrants in antebellum York County,” Drew A. Gruber, Civil War Trails.

“Region, Slavery, and Occupation: Plain Folk Livelihoods in the Antebellum Valley, Piedmont, and Tidewater,” John J. Zaborney, University of Maine at Presque Isle.

9. The Struggles of the Great Liberation in Hampton Roads

Moderator: James Hershman, Georgetown University.

“The Taxi Zum Klo Controversy in Norfolk, Virginia (1982-83),” Charles H. Ford, Norfolk State University.

“Southern Discomfort: The Rise and Fall of Civil Rights Attorney James F. Gay, 1942-2008,” Jeffrey Littlejohn, Sam Houston State University.

3:15 – 3:30 pm Refreshment Break

3:30 – 5:00 pm Concurrent Sessions: Block IV

10. Literary Landmarks on Virginia’s Historical Landscape

Moderator: Brendan Wolfe, Encyclopedia Virginia

“Mystery Solved: The Proper Attribution of the Lines on Blandford Church,” R. Neil Hening, Independent Scholar.

“Virginia and the Cotton Kingdom: Local and Regional Identity in the Writings of Frederick Law Olmsted,” Kathy O. McGill, George Mason University.

“You Will Find It Handy: Traveling Safely in the Old Dominion with the Green Book,” Susan Hellman, Carlyle House, Alexandria.

11. The Slavery Question in Virginia between the Revolution and Secession

Moderator: A. Glenn Crothers, University of Louisville.

“‘We should have thought more about their deliverance’: Relationships between Revolutionary War combatants and enslaved Virginians in the Yorktown campaign,” John A. Ruddiman, Wake Forest University.

“Loudoun County’s ‘Nest of Abolitionists’: Free Black and Quaker Collaboration in Antislavery and the Underground Railroad,” Deborah A. Lee, Virginia Foundation for the Humanities.

“Virginia and the Search for Compromise over Secession Winter,” Dwight T. Pitcaithley, New Mexico State University.

12. Studies of the Ever-Changing Postbellum Virginia Culture

Moderator: Steve Longenecker, Bridgewater College.

“‘The Destitute & forlorn, the Widow & the Orphan’: Poor Relief in Virginia,” Lynn Rainville, Sweet Briar College.

“Managing the Commonwealth’s Colored Insane: Race, Gender and Confinement in Virginia, 1868-1885,” Shelby Pumphrey, Michigan State University.

“‘Don’t Forget about Daddy and Me’: Asserting Community through Recent Cemetery Practice in the Valley of Virginia,” Alison Bell, Washington and Lee University.

5:00 pm

Registration Closes

5:30–8:00 pm Keynote Speech & Conference Dinner

Speaker: Talmage Stanley, Director, Appalachian Center for Civic Life at Emory & Henry College.

“Crossing the New: Shaping a Citizenship of Place in An Other Virginia.”

Dr. Stanley recently completed an Appalachian Colleges Association post-doctoral fellowship devoted to laying the foundation for a book tentatively titled *American Road: Place, Racism, Resistance, and Civic Memory*. He focuses on community studies, drawing particularly on the importance of place and collective memory, in this case, two small communities in nearby Pulaski County.

Saturday 17 March

8:00 am

Registration Opens

8:30–10:00 am Concurrent Sessions: Block V

13. Patterns of Community among Enslaved Virginians

Moderator: Angelita Reyes, Arizona State University.

“Creating an Identity within an Enslaved Community: The Bee Family of Williamsburg,” Julie Richter, The College of William & Mary.

“Networking in the Quarters: Mapping the Pattern of Connections among the Enslaved of Montgomery County, Virginia,” Daniel Thorp, Virginia Tech.

“The Cultural Heritage of an African American Family Warm Springs, Bath County, Virginia,” Kathleen C. Wilson, Fellow, Virginia Foundation for the Humanities.

14. Aspects of Virginia’s Agricultural History

Moderator: Peter Bergstrom, Independent Scholar

“Agriculture in Black and White: Small Farmers in Central Virginia, 1865 to 1910” John Schlotterbeck, DePauw University.

“Degermed Corn, Sterilized People: The Role of Pellagra in the Blue Ridge Displacements,” Glenn D. Stone, Washington University, and Richard K. Robinson, Robinson Films.

~~“Brewing Related Agriculture in Virginia, 1607 to Today,” Andrew R. Rowand, Henricus Historical Park.~~

10:00–10:15 am Refreshment Break

10:15–11:45 am Concurrent Sessions: Block VI

15. Digital Virginia: Race, Space, and Identity

Moderator: Nicole Maurantonio, University of Richmond

“Redlining and Renewal in Virginia,” Justin Madron, Digital Scholarship Lab, University of Richmond.

“Untold RVA,” Free Egunfemi, Founder of Untold RVA.

“Race & Racism at the University of Richmond,” Irina Rogova, Project Archivist, University of Richmond.

“Freedom Now,” Erin White, Virginia Commonwealth University Libraries.

16. New Examinations of Virginia in the Seventeenth-Century

Moderator: Steven Harris-Scott, George Mason University.

“The Neglected American Indians of Southwest Virginia” Jim Glanville, Independent Scholar.

“‘they supposed I spake only for my owne ends’: Captain John Smith’s *The Generall Historie of Virginia, New-England, and the Summer Isles* and the Virginia Company of London’s corporate poetics,” Nicholas Mohlmann, University of West Florida.

“The Transatlantic Nature of Early Modern Virginia and William Byrd II,” Harry Brennan, Cardiff University.

17. Historical Contexts of Contemporary Social Issues in Virginia

Moderator: Joan C. Browning, *The Last Freedom Rider*.

“The Historical Importance of Free Health and Dental Care Events in Southwest Virginia,” Kenneth J. Bernstein, Prince George’s County (MD) Public Schools.

“Culture and Birth: Illegal Midwifery and the State,” D’Anne Graham, Independent Scholar.

“Higher Aim: Guns, Safety and Healing in the Era of Mass Shootings,” Thomas P. Kapsidelis, Fellow, Virginia Foundation for the Humanities.

11:45 am–1:45 pm Lunch Break

12:00–1:30 pm Virginia History Forum Annual Meeting and Planning Session

Initial meeting of members of Virginia History Forum (membership included in registration) to elect officers of the new non-profit corporation and consider business proposed by the Board of Directors.

1:45 – 3:15 pm Concurrent Sessions: Block VII

18. Considerations in the Preservation of Virginia’s Historic Landscape

Moderator: Warren Hofstra, Shenandoah University.

“To Repair or To Replace: A History of the Governor’s House in Richmond, Virginia,” Elizabeth Cook, College of William and Mary.

“A Fredericksburg Mystery: the Myth and the History of the George Street Tunnels,” Christine Rae Henry, University of Mary Washington.

“Virginia’s Historic Diamond: Elevating the Historic Triangle by Adding Fort Monroe,” Steven T. Corneliussen, Save Fort Monroe Network.

19. Virginians in the Time of World War

Moderator: Turk McCleskey, Virginia Military Institute.

“Virginia Sports and the Great War,” Peter C. Stewart, Old Dominion University.

“To Russia With Love: J. Rives Childs and the American Relief Administration,” Lynda W. Wright, Randolph-Macon College.

“A Virginian in Burma: Lewis A. Pick and the Ledo Road, 1944-45,” Christopher L. Kolakowski, MacArthur Memorial, Norfolk.

20. Roundtable: Virginia’s 2019 Commemoration: Opportunities for Local Participation

Conveners: Amy Ritchie, Associate Director of Programs and Partnerships for the 2019 Commemoration, and Lindsey Horner, Education Program Specialist, Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation.

This roundtable will include representatives from organizations that are already partnering with American Evolution™ or those that received a grant from the group to work on regional programming. Session will showcase what museums and organizations are doing to bring the 2019 Commemoration to their communities, and also provide information on how additional groups can get involved to do the same.

3:00 pm Registration Closes

3:15 – 3:30 pm Refreshment Break

3:30 – 5:00 pm Concurrent Sessions: Block VIII

21. Aspects of Virginians’ Identity in the Revolutionary Era

Moderator: Susan Kern, College of William and Mary.

“Virginia and Loyalists,” Barbara Hensley Newton, Longwood University.

“‘By Sundry goods bot’: Commerce and Identity in the Revolutionary-era Greenbrier Valley,” Sarah E. McCartney, Univ. of North Carolina at Greensboro.

“‘The Manners of the Good Republicans’: French Officers’ Changing Impressions of the United States After the Battle of Yorktown,” Cody Nager, Graduate Center, City University of New York.

22. Using Archives for Public Outreach Programs

Moderator: Katherine Egner Gruber, Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation

“Three Strikes, You’re Outreach! Using Games to Connect.” Jessica E. Johnson, Virginia Commonwealth University.

“Mixing it Up in the Archives,” Margaret Kidd, Virginia Commonwealth University.

“History on Tap,” L. Paige Newman, Virginia Historical Society.

23. New Work on the Civil Rights Struggle in Virginia

Moderator: Cassandra Newby-Alexander, Norfolk State University.

“Virginia Durr on Seminary Hill: Local Influence on an Emerging Civil Rights Activist,” Amy Bertsch, Northern Virginia Community College.

“Crossroads Lunenburg: The Virginia Students’ Civil Rights Committee in 1960s Southside,” Peter Wallenstein, Virginia Tech.

“Blue-Eyed Allies: White Heroes in Afro-Virginian History, 1680s-1990s,” Ervin L. Jordan Jr., University of Virginia.

5:00 pm Concurrent Sessions End

5:30 pm Final Clearance from Emory & Henry Campus

5:30-9:00 pm Informal Social Gathering

Wolf Hills Brewing Company, 350 Park Street SE, Abingdon.

Tucked in along the railroad tracks, one block off of US Route 11, Wolf Hills “is a craft brewery” that “takes its name from the original appellation that Daniel Boone gave to the wilderness that became Abingdon. Tradition holds that Boone and his hunting companion spent a sleepless night along a hill on the Great Road after their dogs encountered a pack of wolves, which had a den in a nearby cave. ... Wolf Hills brews in small batches that are only distributed locally.”

They have offered to brew a special batch in honor of the Virginia Forum, which will be named at this gathering.

Program Committee, 2018 Virginia Forum

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Turk McCleskey

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Jody L. Allen

Lynn Rainville

The College of William & Mary
Larissa Smith Fergeson

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