

Media Alert  
April 30, 2020

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## **Virginia Museum of History & Culture Announces New Video Series *Curators At Home***

Richmond, VA — The Virginia Museum of History & Culture (VMHC) is pleased to announce a new video series *Curators At Home*, which will take viewers beyond the bare facts of Virginia history as VMHC curators uncover the real stories and real people behind the dates. Viewers are invited to access these free online premieres each Friday via the VMHC Facebook and YouTube channels. All are asked to leave questions for our curators in the comments section during these premieres.

### **From the Vault: Hidden Gems from the VMHC Collections**

**Friday, May 1 at 12:00pm**

**Presented by Dr. William M.S. Rasmussen, Lora M. Robins Sr. Curator of Museum Collections**

- The VMHC cares for a collection of nearly nine million items so only a small fraction is on display at one time. Dig deep into the vault and explore the stories behind a pair of rare life portraits of President James Madison and his wife Dolley, and an 1830s French wallpaper depicting one of Virginia's most iconic wonders.

### **Virginia on Film**

**Friday, May 8 at 12:00pm**

**Presented by Andrew Talkov, Sr. Director of Curatorial Affairs**

- 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 the VMHC as we share some of our favorite films associated with Virginia – minus the sticky floors.

### **Mortal, Maternal, Mannish & Monstrous: Suffragist Images, 1900-1920**

**Friday, May 15 at 12:00pm**

**Presented by Dr. Karen A. Sherry, Museum Collections Curator**

- As the fight for female suffrage in America intensified in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, pro- and anti-suffrage forces deployed propagandist imagery to convey their message. Images of suffragists appeared in a range of guises from nurturers fostering a more perfect union to shrews wreaking chaos on the establishment. Discover what period images of suffragists tell us about historical attitudes toward women and their role in American civic life.

### **A Letter is Worth A Thousand Words**

**Friday, May 22 at 12:00pm**

**Presented by L. Paige Newman, Manuscript Collections Curator, and Laura E.G. Stoner, Sallie and William B. Thalheimer III Senior Archivist**

- Processing manuscript collections that span nearly four centuries can present significant challenges as well as exciting opportunities for discovery. VMHC archivists must use their detective skills to uncover the real stories that lay beneath the written word and hone their organizational toolkit to make them discoverable for the public. Explore the journey manuscripts take as they make their way into the collection and the sleuthing techniques archivists use to reveal their substance.

#### **Virginia Museum of History & Culture**

Owned and operated by the Virginia Historical Society

428 N Arthur Ashe Boulevard  
Richmond, Virginia 23220

PO Box 7311  
Richmond, Virginia 23221

804.340.1800  
[VirginiaHistory.org](http://VirginiaHistory.org)

### **True Crime: Sex, Murder, and the Trial of Thomas Cluverius**

**Friday, May 29 at 12:00pm**

**Presented by Andrew Talkov, Sr. Director of Curatorial Affairs**

- In 1885 the lifeless body of 23-year-old Fanny Madison, an unwed teacher from Bath, Virginia, was found floating in Richmond's Old Reservoir. Although authorities believed she committed suicide, evidence at the scene suggested Madison had have been murdered. Police arrested Madison's cousin, attorney Thomas J. Cluverius, and the trial captured the nation's attention. Was Madison guilty or innocent?

### **Virginia Stories from the Underground Railroad**

**Friday, June 5 at 12:00pm**

**Presented by Dr. Karen A. Sherry, Museum Collections Curator**

- Mailing yourself in a crate, disguising yourself as the opposite gender, stowing away on a ship. These are some of the ingenious ploys enslaved Virginians used to escape a life of bondage. Running away was a very risky prospect and the chances of success were small. Learn how some black Virginians beat the odds through a combination of determination, luck and assistance from the clandestine networks of the Underground Railroad.

For more details on accessing these free video premieres on the VMHC's Facebook and YouTube channels, please visit [VirginiaHistory.org/AtHome](http://VirginiaHistory.org/AtHome).

The Virginia Museum of History & Culture is owned and operated by the Virginia Historical Society – a private, non-profit organization established in 1831. The historical society is the oldest cultural organization in Virginia, and one of the oldest and most distinguished history organizations in the nation. For use in its state history museum and its renowned research library, the historical society cares for a collection of nearly nine million items representing the ever-evolving story of Virginia.

The Virginia Museum of History & Culture is located at 428 N Arthur Ashe Boulevard in Richmond's Museum District. Hours are Monday – Sunday 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. for the galleries and museum shop, Monday – Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. for the research library. For more information call 804.340.1800, visit [VirginiaHistory.org](http://VirginiaHistory.org), or connect on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

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