

PRESS RELEASE  
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## **New Book Features Highlights from the Virginia Museum of History & Culture's 9 Million Artifacts 400 Remarkable Objects Brought Together in 200-Page Volume**

Richmond, VA — To mark the opening of a new exhibit, and to celebrate a new chapter in the 187-year history of the Virginia Museum of History & Culture (VMHC), the museum has published a new 200-page volume featuring highlights from a collection of more than nine million artifacts representing Virginia's history. *The Story of Virginia: Highlights from the Virginia Museum of History & Culture*, is co-authored by Jamie O. Bosket, President and CEO, and Dr. William M. S. Rasmussen, Senior Curator of Exhibitions and Lora M. Robins Curator of Art, both of the VMHC. The new book examines hundreds of evocative objects from the museum's collections. Rare letters, remarkable documents, fine paintings, furniture, silver, maps, prints, firearms, uniforms, photographs, and unexpected items are featured. The book is available for pre-order at [shopvirginiahistory.org/storyofvirginia](http://shopvirginiahistory.org/storyofvirginia) and will ship mid-October.

"The story of Virginia matters," said VMHC president and CEO Jamie O. Bosket. "It has helped define our national path. This new book is meant to capture that important contribution, and there is no better collection to draw from in illustrating this history than that of the Virginia Museum of History & Culture."

"The museum was founded in 1831 to preserve invaluable documents and objects that record important American history. Over the long span of almost 200 years, highly significant materials inevitably accumulated. Only a portion of that collection, however, can ever be displayed at one time. This book provides the public an opportunity to grasp the breadth and quality of one of the premier American collections," said Senior Curator Rasmussen.

Virginia is often referred to as the "mother of states" because many American states formed from its early boarders. It has similarly been called the "mother of presidents" as it was the birthplace of more presidents than any other, including six of the first ten. The world-changing events of our nation have most often taken place in Virginia or have been meaningfully shaped by Virginians. Therefore, the history of the Commonwealth is not simply one chapter in U.S. history. Instead, it is the epicenter of its most pivotal moments. Virginia served as the stage, the place where ideas we cherish as Americans were inspired, contested, and enacted with lasting consequences.

To create a narrative of American history, the *Highlights* book weaves together real objects that are tangible reminders from the past. This new 200-page hardcover book introduces more than 400 significant items. The entries in this volume are beautifully illustrated in color. The importance of each is succinctly explained. From a slave whipping post erected in Portsmouth to the bell that once rang at St. John's Church high atop Richmond's Church Hill, these objects are iconic. From the annotated farming guide of George Washington, to beer taps representing one of today's burgeoning agricultural industries, from a Conestoga wagon, to an electric streetcar, from a pen used to sign Virginia's secession declaration, to a treasured U.S. flag that flew over Richmond when it was reclaimed in 1865—the objects in this book tell important stories along the remarkable Virginia journey that we still tread.

Artifacts featured in the new book also provided inspiration for a new exhibit opening on October 27. *Fresh Paint: Murals Inspired by The Story of Virginia* features large-scale art by ten Virginia artists. The chosen artifacts will be displayed along with the art in the exhibition. Featured artists include: Mickael Broth; Nico Cathcart; Hamilton Glass; Chris Milk Hulburt; Amelia Black Langford; Austin Miles; Toobz Muir; Noah Scalin; Ed Trask; and Wing Chow. Artist commissions and exhibit support is generously provided by Pam and Bill Royall. A special exhibition preview with the artists, lecture and official book launch will take place on Friday, October 26. For more information visit [VirginiaHistory.org/VirginiaBook](http://VirginiaHistory.org/VirginiaBook).

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 North Boulevard in Richmond's Museum District. Hours are Monday – Sunday 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. for the galleries and museum shop, Monday – Saturday 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. for the research library. For more information call (804) 358-4901, visit [VirginiaHistory.org](http://VirginiaHistory.org), or connect with the Virginia Museum of History & Culture on Facebook and Twitter.

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