



VIRGINIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Story of Virginia

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Beer Recipe from the Virginia Historical Society's Collections Brewed by Ardent Craft Ales

Three-Hundred Year-Old Recipe To Be Tested by Beer Enthusiasts

Richmond, VA – A recipe for home-brewed beer found within the collections of the Virginia Historical Society (VHS) has inspired Ardent Craft Ales to brew a test batch in Scott's Addition. The VHS hopes this experimental brew will create a thirst for history.

“The beer recipes in the VHS collection are accessible to anyone who wishes to do research on the topic,” said Paul Levengood, president and CEO of the VHS. “We look forward to tasting what Virginians in the eighteenth century were drinking, and sharing the history of beer-making in the Commonwealth.”

Ardent Craft Ales chose a persimmon beer recipe, “Jane’s Percimon Beer,” from a cookbook kept by Jane (Randolph) Walke (1729–1756), her mother, Jane (Bolling) Randolph (1703–1766), and others. The cookbook contains recipes for food preparation, medicinal remedies and beer, as well as business accounts for household items and clothing. The cookbook is a photocopy of the original owned by Mrs. Polk Laffoon of Cincinnati, Ohio. The photocopies were donated in 1960. The original book remains in private hands.

“History On Tap: Jane’s Percimon Beer,” a ticketed tasting event, will be held at Ardent Craft Ales on Tuesday, December 9, at 6:00 p.m. Registration is required. Paul Levengood will speak about the importance of the VHS’s collections and Tom Sullivan of Ardent will discuss the brewing process. Author Lee Graves will discuss the history of brewing and sign copies of his book, *Richmond Beer: A History of Brewing in the River City*. Ardent Craft Ales will sell a limited number of tickets to the event and donate a portion of the proceeds to the VHS. Visit their website, ArdentCraftAles.com, to purchase tickets. Tickets will not be sold by the VHS.

The **Virginia Historical Society** (VHS)—a privately funded nonprofit organization—collects, preserves, and interprets the Commonwealth’s history, linking past with present to inspire future generations. The VHS is located at 428 North Boulevard in Richmond’s Museum District. Admission is free. Hours are Monday–Saturday 10 a.m.–5 p.m. for the library, museum shop and a variety of programs. The VHS is closed on Sunday. For more information about the VHS call (804) 358-4901, visit www.vahistorical.org, or connect with the VHS on Facebook and Twitter.

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