



VIRGINIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Story of Virginia

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Virginia Historical Society's Mead Recipe To Be Recreated by Black Heath Meadery

213-Year-Old Recipe Tasting at the Virginia Historical Society

Richmond, VA—A mead recipe from 1802 found within the collections of the Virginia Historical Society (VHS) has inspired Black Heath, Richmond's first meadery, to make thirty gallons. "The VHS hopes that this experimental recipe of the world's oldest fermented beverage will intrigue local mead enthusiasts and generate further interest in our 'History on Tap' program. Recipes in the VHS's collections are accessible to anyone who wishes to do research on the topic," said Dr. Paul Levensgood, President and CEO of the VHS.

Mead, an alcoholic drink produced by fermenting honey and water with yeast, is known from many sources of ancient history from all over the world and is often considered to be the ancestor of all fermented beverages. Black Heath Meadery chose a recipe from *The Frugal Housewife: Or, Complete Woman Cook* by Susannah Carter. Printed in Philadelphia in 1802, the cookbook includes 500 recipes for a variety of food and beverages. Black Heath chose a mead recipe that uses various spices representing different areas ruled by the British Empire.

"History On Tap: The Queen Bee," a ticketed tasting event, will be held at the VHS on Tuesday, September 8, at 6:00 p.m. The evening will include an informal discussion about mead-making in Virginia, and the making of Queen Bee, featuring Bill Cavender, owner of Black Heath Meadery. Keith Tignor, State Apiarist, will speak about beekeeping and honey. Dr. Levensgood will speak about the importance of the VHS's collections. Tickets cost \$18 for VHS members and \$20 for nonmembers. Registration is required as the quantity of Queen Bee is limited. The ticket price includes a glass of Queen Bee, an additional pour of Black Heath's Muse mead, and light *hors d'oeuvres*. Visit the VHS or vahistorical.org/mead to purchase tickets.

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. Hours are Monday – Sunday 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. for the galleries and museum shop, Monday – Saturday 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. for the library. For more information about the VHS call (804) 358-4901, visit vahistorical.org, or connect with the VHS on Facebook and Twitter.

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