



VIRGINIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Story of Virginia

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Virginia Historical Society's Cider Recipe To Be Recreated by Blue Bee Cider

Three-Hundred Year-Old Recipe To Be Tasted by Cider Enthusiasts

Richmond, VA – A recipe for hard cider found within the collections of the Virginia Historical Society (VHS) has inspired Blue Bee Cider to make a fifty gallon barrel-full in Manchester. “The VHS hopes this experimental cider will create a thirst for history and stir up 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.

Blue Bee Cider chose a “cyder” recipe from a 1742 edition of *The Compleat Housewife* from the VHS’s rare book collection. This edition is known to be the first cookbook published in America. It contains recipes for preparing and preserving food, brewing, and medicine, along with housekeeping advice.

“History On Tap: The Compleat Cyder,” a ticketed tasting event, will be held at Blue Bee Cider on Tuesday, April 21, at 6:00 p.m. The evening will include an informal lecture and discussion about cider and cider-making in colonial Virginia, featuring Dr. Sarah Meacham, author of *Every Home A Distillery: Alcohol, Gender, and Technology in the Colonial Chesapeake*, and Courtney Mailey, owner of Blue Bee Cider. Dr. Levensgood will speak about the importance of the VHS’s collections. Dr. Meacham will sell and sign her book after the lecture. Tickets cost \$18 for VHS members and Blue Bee Cider Club members. Tickets cost \$20 for nonmembers. Registration is required. The ticket price includes a glass of “The Compleat Cyder,” a 32-ounce squeezer (empty for filling purposes), and light *hors d’oeuvres*. If you like “The Compleat Cyder,” you may purchase a squeezer-full to take home. Blue Bee Cider will sell a limited number of tickets to the event and donate a portion of the proceeds to the VHS. Visit their website, BlueBeeCider.com/storefront, 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. 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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