



# VIRGINIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

*The Story of Virginia*

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## **Virginia Historical Society Collections Offer Surprising Research Gems 33 Scholars Spent the Summer Studying Kidnapped Free Blacks, Pocahontas as a Folk Heroine, Revolutionary War Veteran Masculinity, Maritime Trade, and Literary Illustration**

Richmond, VA—A woman who kidnapped free black people and sold them into slavery in Mississippi in the 1810s and 1820s, the importance of political friendships in the outcome of the Civil War, disability and masculinity among Virginia's Revolutionary War veterans, the development of grassroots conservatism in the 1970s and 1980s, the portrayal of Pocahontas as a folk heroine, gender and labor in the 1850s plantation culinary sphere, faith in public education, pilots in the Southern maritime trade, literary illustration in nineteenth-century America, Reynolds Metals Company and the global aluminum industry, and how physicians treated African Americans in the antebellum U.S.—these are just some of the topics that the 2013 Virginia Historical Society (VHS) fellowship recipients have explored this year.

Thirty-three researchers were awarded a stipend to conduct research at the VHS using the 8.5 million items in the society's collection. Of the thirty-three fellowship winners, two reside in Virginia, twenty-seven come from across the United States, and four from countries abroad: Australia, Scotland, England, and France. The Virginia residents are Adrian Brettle of the University of Virginia in Charlottesville and Christopher Jones of the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg.

These scholars benefited from access to the society's extensive holdings for up to two weeks. Most conducted their research from June to August, making the VHS library a busy and active area during the summer months.

The Mellon Fellowship program promotes the interpretation of Virginia and American history, supporting research on political, constitutional, religious, African American, military, and social issues. Mellon Fellows are chosen based on their scholarly qualifications, the merits of their proposals, and the appropriateness of their topics to the society's collections. The Mellon Fellowship program is funded in part by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

The VHS offers two additional fellowships: the Frances Lewis Fellowship in Gender and Women's Studies and the Betty Sams Christian Fellowship in Business History. Of the thirty-three fellowships granted by the VHS in 2013, nineteen were Mellon Fellowships, seven were Frances Lewis Fellowships, and three were Betty Sams Christian Fellowships.

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In addition to the fellowships, the VHS offers two research awards: The Guy Kinman Award and The Reese Award in American Bibliography and the History of the Book in the Americas. The Kinman award, made possible by the Gay Community Center of Richmond, supports work on such topics as lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender studies; civil rights; and First Amendment issues. The Reese award covers literary studies, the evolution of book publication, and bibliography.

Three of the thirty-three recipients were Reese Awards, and one was a Kinman Award. The VHS has bestowed more than 800 awards since the first fellowship program began in 1988.

“For twenty-five years, researchers have taken advantage of the Virginia Historical Society’s strong and varied collections to explore areas of Virginia history as well as topics that illuminate the history of America as a whole,” said Frances Pollard, VHS Chief Librarian and Chair of the Research Fellowship Committee. “The research conducted by fellowship winners has resulted in a great number of academic and popular publications. This year’s group of talented fellows helps us continue to fulfill our mission of interpreting Virginia and American history.”

## 2013 Virginia Historical Society Fellowship Recipients

**Thomas J. Balcerski** of Cornell University for research on political culture of the antebellum period with an emphasis on the importance of political friendships and alliances in the outcome of disunion and the Civil War.

**Richard Bell, Ph.D.** of the University of Maryland for research on Patty Cannon who kidnapped free black people and sold them into slavery in Mississippi in the 1810s and 1820s.

**Mark Boonshoft** of Ohio State University for research on the role of education in the construction of a regional social order in the Upper South and mid-Atlantic from 1740 to 1820.

**Adrian Brettle** of the University of Virginia, Charlottesville for research on Confederate expansionist ambitions during the Civil War, 1861–1865.

**Kristina Downs** of Indiana University for research on representations of Native American women, including the portrayal of Pocahontas who has taken on the characteristics of a folk heroine.

**Christopher Farrish** of Claremont Graduate University for research on race, gender, and labor in the plantation culinary sphere, 1850–1880.

**Kathleen Hilliard, Ph.D.** of Iowa State University for research on the transformation of the slaves’ internal economy during the Civil War and emancipation.

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**Brady L. Holley** of Mississippi State University for research on American junior officers in the Mexican War.

**Benjamin H. Irvin, Ph.D.** of the University of Arizona for research on disability, masculinity, and citizenship among Virginia's Revolutionary War veterans.

**Christopher C. Jones** of the College of William and Mary for research on the relationship between the American Revolution and evangelical religion.

**David Komline** of the University of Notre Dame for research on how Americans came to put faith in public education.

**Matthew Kruer** of the University of Pennsylvania for research on the connections between Indian nations, English traders, and the outbreak of both interethnic warfare and colonial rebellion during Bacon's Rebellion.

**Peter Libero** of the University of Maryland for research on the development of grassroots conservatism in Virginia during the 1970s and 1980s.

**Alan Libert, Ph.D.** of the University of Newcastle for research on culinary anthroponyms and toponyms as indicators of Virginian identity and historical consciousness.

**Christopher J. Lukasik, Ph.D.** of Purdue University for research on the rise of literary illustration in nineteenth-century America.

**Brian P. Luskey, Ph.D.** of West Virginia University for research on soldiers and the culture of capitalism during the Civil War.

**Maurice Melton, Ph.D.** of Albany State University for research on African American pilots in the Southern maritime trade, 1640–1875.

**Barton A. Myers, Ph.D.** of Texas Tech University for research on soldiers and atrocity in Civil War America.

**Jack Noe** of the University of Leeds for research on American nationalism in the post–Civil War American South with a particular focus on the Centennial of 1876.

**Nicholas Pellegrino** of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas for research on the trans-Atlantic Catholic influence on American ideas of religious freedom.

**Andrew Perchard, Ph.D.** of the University of Strathclyde for research on the Reynolds Metals Company and the global aluminum industry.

**Keith Pluymers** of the University of Southern California for research on how English people understood and used land in southwest Ireland, Virginia, and Bermuda, c. 1580–1640.

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**Anne C. Reilly** of the University of Delaware for research on public commemorations of historic anniversaries in the early twentieth century and the role of memorial landscapes in shaping American ideas of national identity.

**John P. Riley** of Binghamton University for research on fatherhood and the family in Victorian America.

**Evan C. Rothera** of Pennsylvania State University for research on the post–Civil War experience of Thomas Jefferson Page, a Confederate officer who left the United States and went to Argentina.

**Rachel A. Shelden, Ph.D.** of Georgia College and State University for research on judicial ethics and the U.S. Supreme Court in the long nineteenth-century.

**Sylvie Smoczek** of the Université Paris VIII Vincennes Saint-Denis for research on the emergence of a Southern sentiment, 1787–1820.

**Terri L. Snyder, Ph.D.** of California State University, Fullerton for research on free African American women and the law in eighteenth and nineteenth-century Virginia.

**Marie Stango** of the University of Michigan for research on the antislavery colonies, Sierra Leone and Liberia, from 1780–1860.

**Lauren K. Thompson** of Florida State University for research on fraternization between Union and Confederate soldiers throughout the Civil War.

**Jordan Watkins** of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas for research on the emergence of historical awareness in the antebellum period.

**Kelly B. Weber** of Rice University for research on the development of daughterhood as a political identity after the Civil War.

**Christopher Willoughby** of Tulane University for research on how physicians understood race and treated African Americans in the antebellum United States.

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For more than 182 years, the **Virginia Historical Society** (VHS) has been connecting people to America's past through the unparalleled story of Virginia. The VHS—a history museum and research library—features award-winning exhibitions that are entertaining and educational for visitors of all ages. The Society is the only museum with all of Virginia's history under one roof—all centuries, all regions, and all topics are covered. Although designated the Official State Historical Society, the VHS is a privately funded non-profit organization that relies on contributions from individuals, corporations, and foundations to sustain its operations. The VHS is located at 428 North Boulevard in Richmond's Museum District. Admission is free. Museum hours are Monday–Saturday 10 a.m.–5 p.m. and Sunday 1 p.m.–5 p.m. Library hours are Monday–Saturday 10 a.m.–5 p.m. For more information, call (804) 358-4901, visit [www.vahistorical.org](http://www.vahistorical.org), or find the VHS on Facebook and Twitter.

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