



# HISTORYCONNECTS

## LIFELONG LEARNING CATALOG

### **Pocahontas: Her Life and Legend**

The study of Pocahontas is an excellent exercise testing the strength of primary versus secondary sources. This program examines historical evidence of six episodes of her life that are recorded by English settlers and compares those accounts to the mythology created after her death, when artists manipulated her story to support causes that they wanted to advance.

### **From Jamestown to Revolution: Virginia in the Colonial Era**

What happened between 1607 and 1763 in Virginia? Using replica artifacts, pictures, maps, and other primary sources, this program will study how and why Jamestown was the first permanent settlement in Virginia, how Williamsburg was chosen as the first capital city, the beginnings of government, slavery versus indentured servitude, and how colonial Virginians lived in their day-to-day lives.

### **The Pursuit of Liberty: The Revolutionary War and the Founding of America**

Virginians played an essential role in the creation of the new American nation. From actions during and following the American Revolution to ideas and documents that established the new country, Virginians were involved at every point. During this program participants will learn more about the lives of Virginia's founding fathers, such as George Washington, Patrick Henry, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, and George Mason, while also examining some of the most important documents in American history: The Declaration of Independence, the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom, the Virginia Declaration of Rights, and the United States Constitution.

### **Letters from a '49er: A Virginian's Journey to find California Gold**

In 1849, John Robertson Maben traveled to California in search of gold. In this program, participants will join Maben on his journey. In a series of thirteen letters, Maben describes his travels to his wife, Sarah. These letters are especially vivid as Maben was witness to events both momentous and mundane. He wrote of the cholera epidemic of 1849, the great St. Louis fire that same year, and the excitement and brutality of the California gold fields.

### **The Civil War: An American Turning Point**

From 1861 to 1865 the country was in a military and social revolution. How we define freedom, liberty, patriotism, and nation today is directly related to the diverse experiences of the individuals who participated in the Civil War. This program will discuss various aspects of the Civil War, including life on the battlefield, life on the home front, the roles of medicine and technology in the Civil War, and the parts that African Americans, American Indians, women, and children played in the war.

### **Picture This: Virginia in the Twentieth Century**

New and rapidly developing technologies allowed the twentieth century to be the more visually documented than any previous era. Movies, photography, and new printing methods recorded the sweeping changes that occurred as people moved from the countryside to cities and as the Industrial Revolution came to dominate the new rhythms of life. Join us as we explore themes of urbanization, social change, and politics represented by the photograph, manuscript, and museum collections of the Virginia Museum of History & Culture. (\$125)

## **Tobacco: The Crop that Created the Commonwealth**

First grown by Virginia Indians, tobacco was already a part of the Commonwealth's history before the arrival of the English. In search of new sources of revenue, colonists eventually found one through the cultivation of a plant that came to dominate the economy and determine new settlement patterns. The labor-intensive crop also led to a society based on slavery and the destruction of Virginia's once fertile soil by the mid-19th Century. This program will tell the complicated story of tobacco from the colonial era to the present through the manuscript and artifact collections of the Virginia Museum of History & Culture.

## **Commonwealth and the Great War**

In 1917, Virginia-born President Woodrow Wilson brought the nation into war against the German, Austrian, and Ottoman empires. The Commonwealth and the Great War tells the stories of individual Virginians who carried the state's proud military tradition to the battlefield during World War I. 100,000 of them served; 3,700 died. Many more were injured. Thirty-nine percent of the draftees in 1918 were African Americans. Hundreds of Virginia nurses and doctors followed soldiers to Europe. Military facilities established in Virginia became essential centers for the war effort. Thousands labored at home to produce vital war supplies, and families tended "Victory Gardens" and rationed food to "make the world safe for democracy."

## **Humor with Edge: Exploring Political Cartoons**

For more than two centuries, whenever there has been a debate in the United States, political cartoons have taken part, and in some cases, pushed the debate to its limits. Political cartoons began as a street-level phenomenon. In the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, they were often posted on walls or passed from person to person, as well as being published in newspapers. By the end of the nineteenth century, they were an important part of the growing popularity of newspapers and magazines, and the intense competition for readership made provocative cartoons a valuable selling point. At the beginning of the twenty-first century, political cartoons appear in a wide range of online publications and can still stir up controversy.

## **Civil War to Civil Rights**

Emancipation and the end of the Civil War brought promises of equality for African Americans in Virginia and throughout the South. It took the better part of a century for those promises to begin to be realized. This program will identify and examine the effects of segregation and "Jim Crow" on life in Virginia for whites, African Americans, and American Indians. Participants will also discuss the social and political events in Virginia linked to desegregation and Massive Resistance and their relationship to national history.

## **Death & Memory and the Civil War**

The goal of this program is to better understand how the country dealt with the deaths of over 620,000 people during the Civil War. Participants will use primary sources such as photographs and letters to analyze how the fatalities were felt on the home front. They will leave with a more comprehensive knowledge of how the Civil War changed America's mourning customs and perspectives of war and death.

***DISCLAIMER: This program uses several images of dead bodies, both in battlefields and in staged pictures. Please be advised that this may be upsetting to some viewers.***

## **What's Your Sign? Ephemera & Women's Activism**

This program uses ephemera to examine women's rights movements in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. From protest signs to political buttons, participants will analyze how demonstrations evolve over time. Participants will engage in a discussion about what defines a progressive movement and how women shape the country's political, social, and economic environment/state.