



Jeffrey S. Evans & Associates

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2012: Counterpanes and White Work of the Shenandoah Valley

Guest Curators: Jeffrey & Beverley Evans

Exhibit Dates: February 1 through May 12, 2012

Buy the Book Catalogue Price: \$8.95 (+ tax and/or shipping as applicable)

The accompanying, fully illustrated 24-page exhibit catalogue is available for purchase through the VQM and through our online store.

Virginia Quilt Museum
301 South Main Street
Harrisonburg, VA 22801
www.vaquiltmuseum.org
540-433-3818



Press Release

Virginia Quilt Museum Exhibit

Counterpanes and White Work of the Shenandoah Valley - 1800-1850

Beverley A. and Jeffrey S. Evans guest curators

February 1 – May 12, 2012

In this groundbreaking exhibition, guest curators Beverley and Jeff Evans will examine white-work bedcovers produced in the Shenandoah Valley during the first half of the 19th century. Embellished with a variety of stitched and woven ornamentations ranging from formal and structured to naïve and whimsical, the examples included in the exhibit represent the diverse cultural tendencies of the region. By their very nature, these domiciliary works of art have been underappreciated in the larger discipline of textile collecting and study. This exhibition will endeavor to remedy those prior failings by bringing to light a variety of well documented examples drawn from private and institutional collections, most of which have not been previously displayed in a public venue.

The Evanses will define and compare the terms counterpane, coverlet (coverlid) and white-work quilt (wedding quilt) by delineating the characteristics of each style including construction aspects, decorative techniques, and original usage. They will also explore the cultural background of the three styles including the overall and specific symbolism seen in each. By surveying original source materials like court records, estate inventories, diaries, ledgers and daybooks, the curators desire to present a compelling context for white work within the material culture of bed coverings in the Shenandoah Valley.



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Plans are to produce an accompanying catalogue documenting the exhibit. An opening reception will be held at the museum on Saturday, February 11, 2012 from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.

Curator Bios

Jeffrey S. Evans

Jeff Evans' expertise in early American glass and 18th and 19th century Shenandoah Valley furniture and decorative arts is recognized throughout Virginia and across the United States. He has worked as an appraiser and consultant for Virginia collections at the:

- [Woodrow Wilson Presidential Library and Museum](#) (Staunton, VA)
- [Stonewall Jackson House](#) (Lexington, VA)
- [Frontier Culture Museum](#) (Staunton, VA)
- [Shenandoah Valley Folk Art and Heritage Center](#) (Dayton, VA)
- [Museum of the Shenandoah Valley](#) (Winchester, VA)
- [The Virginia Quilt Museum](#) (Harrisonburg, VA)

Some of the numerous national institutions with which Evans has worked closely include:

- [Corning Museum of Glass](#) (Corning, NY)
- [Sandwich Glass Museum](#) (Sandwich, MA)
- [Museum of American Glass](#) (Weston, WV)
- [Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts \(MESDA\)](#) (Winston Salem, NC)

Jeff currently serves on the MESDA Advisory Board. He was a member of the Board of Directors at the Museum of American Glass in WV from 2006 to 2016, and for more than fifteen years Jeff served on the board at the [Harrisonburg-Rockingham Historical Society](#) where he was also the head of the Shenandoah Valley Folk Art & Heritage Center's Museum Committee.

Jeff has lectured widely and conducted classes on antiques including American glass and Shenandoah Valley pottery, and in 2004, his extensive knowledge of Valley pottery was showcased when Jeff served as guest curator and co-authored the accompanying catalogue for the exhibit, "A Great Deal of Stone & Earthen Ware" (The Rockingham County, Virginia School of Folk Pottery).

As a guest speaker at the 2009 MESDA furniture seminar, Jeff lectured on Shenandoah Valley of Virginia Seating Forms of the late 18th to early 20th centuries, a subject he has been documenting and researching since the early 1970s. Jeff served as guest curator for the related exhibit at the Museum of the Shenandoah Valley in Winchester, VA, titled "Come In and Have a Seat: Vernacular Chairs of the Shenandoah Valley". On display from December 19, 2009 through June 20, 2010, the exhibit also yielded the exceptional Evans-authored exhibit catalogue/reference volume of the same name, the first catalogue ever published in conjunction with an MSV-organized changing exhibition.

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In 2012 Jeff and his wife Beverley served as co-curators for an exhibition at the Virginia Quilt Museum titled "*Counterpanes and White Work of the Shenandoah Valley*" (on display from February 1 through May 12, 2012). The Evanses contributed several textiles from their personal collection and Jeff authored the accompanying catalogue complete with an authoritative essay on the subject.

Since August 2010 Jeff has been partnered with Kurt C. Russ on The Virginia Safe Project, a multi-year research project focused on Shenandoah Valley punched-tin-paneled furniture, aka pie safes. Their findings culminated in an exhibition at the Museum of the Shenandoah Valley called *Safes of the Valley* (on display from May 11, 2014 through March 29, 2015) and a companion publication that will be released in spring 2017. Jeff is currently researching and producing a treatise "Artisans of New Market, Virginia, 1780-1930".

Beverley A. Evans

Beverley Evans served on the Board of Directors at the Virginia Quilt Museum in Harrisonburg for 10 years and at Fort Harrison, Inc., an 18th century stone house museum in nearby Dayton, for more than 20 years (1990-2013).

In 1992, Beverley completed five years of overseeing the restoration of the Sites House in Broadway, Virginia, a circa 1800s stone home that is on the Virginia and National Historic Registers.

In 1997 Beverley won two awards for the Sites House - the Frederick Doveton Nichols Award, presented by the Preservation Alliance of Virginia, and the Great American Home Award, presented by the National Trust for Preservation.



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Over the years, Jeff and Beverley have performed countless hours of antiques research with special interest in material made in the Shenandoah Valley, and they have graciously contributed pieces from their private collection to various museum exhibits. Most recently, the Evanses shared textiles from their personal collection when they guest curated an exhibit for the Virginia Quilt Museum titled "Counterpanes and White Work of the Shenandoah Valley". The Counterpane exhibit ran from February 1 to May 12, 2012.