



**Jeffrey S. Evans** & Associates

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## **2014: MESDA Regional Seminar: *Safe at Home: The Southern Food Safe and its World***

This event, held May 16 and 17, 2014, was presented by MESDA (Museum of Southern Decorative Arts) of Winston-Salem, NC and the MSV (Museum of the Shenandoah Valley) in Winchester, VA.

The seminar was held at the MSV (901 Amherst Street, Winchester, VA 22601) and coincided with the museum's May 11, 2014 opening of its exhibition, *Safes of the Valley* for which Jeffrey Evans and Kurt Russ served as co-curators. The exhibit was on display through March 29, 2015.

Speakers and workshop leaders discussed the material culture surrounding the food safe form including foodways, methods of construction and tin punching, Evans and Russ led curators' tours of the exhibition where participants also viewed treasures from the MSV collection, and a sold-out pre-seminar day trip on Friday, May 16th allowed a limited number of participants to visit the private collections of the exhibit curators.



### **Program Agenda**

## **MESDA REGIONAL SEMINAR**

### ***SAFE AT HOME: THE SOUTHERN FOOD SAFE AND ITS WORLD***

**May 16-17, 2014**

**The Museum of the Shenandoah Valley, Winchester, Virginia**

Presented by the Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts (MESDA) of Winston-Salem, North Carolina, and the Museum of the Shenandoah Valley (MSV) in Winchester, Virginia, this seminar coincides with the special exhibition "**SAFES OF THE VALLEY**" at the Museum of the Shenandoah Valley. Speakers and workshop leaders will discuss furniture of the Shenandoah Valley, and the material culture surrounding the food safe form, including foodways, methods of construction and punched tin. Curators for the exhibition, Jeffrey S. Evans and Kurt C. Russ will lead curators' tours of the exhibition and participant will also view treasures from the Museum of the Shenandoah Valley collection.

A pre-seminar day trip on Friday, May 16 will take participants to visit the private collections of exhibit curators. Separate registration. Numbers limited.



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## SEMINAR SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, MAY 16

PRE-SEMINAR STUDY TRIP: Private Collections

*Register using the registration form. The day will include transportation by motor coach, collection studies, and lunch.*

8:00 a.m. Departure by motor coach

Museum of the Shenandoah Valley                      901 Amherst Street, Winchester, Virginia

10:15 Collection Study

Fruit Hill, Lexington, VA

11:45 Departure

1:15 Lunch and Collection Study

The Sites House, Broadway, VA

3:30 Departure

4:30 Return to the MSV

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## OPENING SEMINAR RECEPTION AND VIEWING OF THE EXHIBITION

6:00 p.m. Museum of the Shenandoah Valley                      901 Amherst Street, Winchester, Virginia

SATURDAY, MAY 17

9:00 **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

*Dana Hand Evans, Director, Museum of the Shenandoah Valley; Robert Leath, Chief Curator, Vice President for Collections & Research, Old Salem Museums & Gardens*

9:30 **POURED, PAINTED, AND PUNCHED: THE DECORATIVE VOCABULARY OF THE SHENANDOAH VALLEY**

*Daniel K. Ackermann, Associate Curator, MESDA*

10:00 **EXPLORING THE RANGE, VARIATION, AND MEANING OF VALLEY SAFE PUNCHED-TIN PANEL DECORATIVE MOTIFS**

*Kurt C. Russ, Co-Director, The Virginia Safe Project*

10:30 Break

11:00 **SAFE FORMS AND STYLES: FROM CLOSETS TO SIDEBOARDS.**

*Jeffrey S. Evans, Co-Director, The Virginia Safe Project*



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11:30 **HIDES, APPLES, AND CROCKS: THE SAFE IN THE CONTEXT OF NINETEENTH-CENTURY VALLEY FOODWAYS.**

*Scott H. Suter, Associate Professor of English & Department Chair, Bridgewater College*

Noon **Lunch**

1:00 **WORKSHOP DEMONSTRATION: CONSTRUCTING THE FOOD SAFE**

*Jeff Headley, Mack S. Headley & Sons, Berryville, Virginia*

2:00 Break

2:15 **WORKSHOP DEMONSTRATION: INTRODUCTION TO THE CRAFT OF PUNCHED TIN**

*Jim Sheppard, Tinsmith, Green Bank, WV*

2:45 **SAFES OF THE VALLEY AND BEYOND: NEW TRENDS IN SOUTHERN FURNITURE RESEARCH**

*Robert Leath, Chief Curator MESDA, Vice President for Collections & Research, Old Salem Museums & Gardens*

3:15 **CURATORS' TOURS OF THE EXHIBITION**

-5:00 **PUNCHED TIN DEMONSTRATION**

**BEHIND THE SCENES: SHENANDOAH VALLEY TREASURES FROM THE MUSEUM OF THE SHENANDOAH VALLEY**