



**Jeffrey S. Evans** & Associates

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## Virginia Decorative Arts Seminars

### 2014: *Textiles in 18th & 19th c. Virginia*

Our fourth annual one-day colloquium *Textiles in 18th & 19th century Virginia* was held in our facility on Saturday, June 14, 2014.

Our expert guest speakers lectured on a wide variety of Virginia textiles (quilts, samplers, woven fabrics, etc.) were:

Mary Robare, independent scholar, author, lecturer, curator and consultant  
Kim Ivey, author and Curator of Textiles of Historic Interiors, *Colonial Williamsburg Foundation*

Kathleen Staples, author and owner of *Kathleen Staples & Associates, LLC* (provides research, curatorial, lecture, and conservation services for historic textiles)

Jeffrey S. Evans, author and president of *Jeffrey S. Evans & Associates*



### Program Agenda

9:30 AM	Greetings / Introductions
9:45 AM	<b>JEFF EVANS:</b> "An Introduction to the Shenandoah Valley"
10:00 AM	<b>KIM IVEY:</b> "In Pursuit of Lady-Like Arts" (From the Chesapeake to Apple Pie Ridge)
11:00 AM	~::~::~::~~ B R E A K ~::~::~::~~
11:30 AM	<b>MARY ROBARE:</b> "Historical Quaker Quilts: Some Styles, Stories and Motifs"
12:30 PM	~::~::~::~~ L U N C H ~::~::~::~~
1:30 PM	<b>KATHY STAPLES:</b> "Weaving in the Shenandoah"
2:30 PM	Show & Tell / Open Floor Discussions
3:45 PM	Announcements / Closing Comments
4:00 PM	End of Program



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### **Speaker Bios**

#### **Jeffrey S. Evans**

*President of Jeffrey S. Evans & Associates, Inc. (2009 to present) and former president of Green Valley Auctions, Inc. (1979-2008)*

Jeff Evans is a respected expert and collector of early American glass and Shenandoah Valley decorative arts who has lectured and written extensively within the fields. He has acted as appraiser and consultant for multiple institutions and museums including the Corning Museum of Glass and MESDA and has served as guest curator on several museum exhibits. In November 2004 Jeff had the unique privilege of selling the now famous Johannes Spitler decorated hanging cupboard at public auction. An extraordinary example of Shenandoah Valley of Virginia folk art, the piece achieved \$962,500, still the world record auction price for a piece of American folk art painted furniture.

Museum exhibits for which Jeff has served as guest curator include a collaboration with Dr. Scott Suter on Rockingham County, Virginia folk pottery (2004; HRHS), a display of 18th to 20th century Shenandoah Valley vernacular chairs that was the culmination of thirty years of personal research (2010; Museum of the Shenandoah Valley/MSV) and a partnership with wife Beverley on Shenandoah Valley counterpanes and white work textiles (2012; Virginia Quilt Museum/VQM). The related catalogues that Jeff authored (Valley chairs, textiles) and co-wrote (folk pottery) include analytic essays and are considered authoritative references on the respective subjects. For Jeff's most recent multi-year research project (2010-2014) he teamed with Kurt C. Russ to document Shenandoah Valley punched tin pie/food safes and their findings have culminated in an MSV exhibition that opened May 11, 2014 and runs through March 29, 2015. A fully-illustrated, comprehensive companion publication is currently in the works and will be released later this year.

#### **Kimberly Smith Ivey**

*Curator, Textiles and Historic Interiors, Colonial Williamsburg Foundation*

Kim Ivey began her museum career as a Historical Interpreter at Colonial Williamsburg in 1976. In 1980, after graduating from the College of William and Mary with a major in Anthropology, she joined the Department of Collections where she has held numerous positions over the years from Curatorial Textile Fellow, Associate Registrar, and Associate Curator of Textiles and Exhibition Buildings, to her current position as Curator of Textiles and Historic Interiors. A graduate of the Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts Summer Institute, in 1990 she published in their journal a groundbreaking article on Virginia needlework entitled "*First Effort of an Infant Hand*": *An Introduction to Virginia Schoolgirl Embroideries, 1742-1850*. In 1997-8, her twelve years of investigative work on Virginia embroideries resulted in the exhibit *Virginia Samplers: Young Ladies and Their Needle Wisdom* (October 31, 1997 – September 8, 1998) and the catalog, *In The Neatest Manner: The Making of the Virginia Sampler Tradition*.

Over the years Kim has played a major role in the refurnishing of a number of buildings in Williamsburg's Historic Area, including Wetherburn's Tavern, Raleigh Tavern, George Wythe House, Peyton Randolph House, Bassett Hall, and the Governor's Palace. In addition to her work in the Historic Area, Kim lectures on the textile and needlework collections, organizes exhibitions (such as *A Celebration of American Quilts* presently on view in the Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Folk Art Museum), and writes on the collections. Currently she is co-authoring with Linda Baumgarten a catalogue of Colonial Williamsburg's quilt collection, which is scheduled to be out by August of this year.

Kim's most recent energies have been dedicated to the interiors of the Historic Area where she oversees each installation and every minute detail from bed hangings and placement of carpets to candles and garnishes for the dining table. A native of Virginia, Kim's documentation of Virginia and southern needlework and textiles



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continues as she endeavors to piece together the stories of the girls and women who produced them and also recreate the historic interiors they would have known.

### **Mary Holton Robare**

*Independent researcher, author, and lecturer*

Mary Robare has a special interest in historical textiles made by members of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) and in 2008 she was the guest curator for the Virginia Quilt Museum's exhibit, "Quilts and Quaker Heritage". She later teamed with co-curators David and Jenny Powers on the 2010 exhibit, "When This You See Remember Me: Schoolgirl Samplers of Winchester and Frederick County, Virginia," at the Winchester-Frederick County Historical Society.

The author of accompanying publications for both exhibits, Mary's published research about historical needlework and its makers includes papers and articles for the American Quilt Study Group, the Textile History Forum 2007, the Winchester-Frederick County Historical Society, and co-authored articles for the magazines *Needlework Arts* and *Sampler & Antique Needlework*. She is also a regular contributor to a blog she co-hosts with Lynda Salter Chenoweth. (See [www.quakerquilthistory.com](http://www.quakerquilthistory.com).)

Mary has presented lectures for numerous organizations including The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, the Baltimore Appliqué Society, and the 2012 Textile Seminar of The Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts hosted by Jeffrey S. Evans & Associates. Her current activities with the Winchester-Frederick County Historical Society include a special three day exhibit of "Quaker Quilts," which is on display June 13-15, 2014 and a lecture at their symposium, "A Focus on Quilts of the Lower Shenandoah Valley," scheduled for September 19-20, 2014.

### **Kathleen Staples**

*Kathleen Staples & Assoc., LLC (research, curatorial, and conservation services for historic textiles)*

Kathleen Staples, an independent scholar living in Greenville, South Carolina, is well-known to students and enthusiasts of historic European and American needlework. Ms. Staples's curatorial work includes exhibitions at The Textile Museum, Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, The Charleston Museum, the New Bedford Whaling Museum, and upcoming at the Georgia Museum of Art. She has authored articles for numerous magazines including the *Journal of Early Southern Decorative Arts*, *ANTIQUES*, and *Early American Life* and contributed essays to publications by Yale University Press. The most recent of her three books, co-authored with Madelyn Shaw, examines clothing in colonial America.