



**Jeffrey S. Evans** & Associates

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## **2017: The Jeffrey S. Evans & Associates Seventh Annual Virginia Decorative Arts and Material Culture Seminar: *The African-American Experience in the Shenandoah Valley***

JSE&A Gallery, Mt. Crawford, VA, June 10, 2017, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Featuring scholars and historians discussing the lives of African Americans in the Valley before and after the Civil War including a survey of slave dwellings.

Topics will include the following:

- Nancy Stewart, Independent Scholar  
*Survey of Slave and Post-Emancipation Dwellings*
- Neal Hurst, Associate Curator of Costume and Textiles, The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation  
*Welch Cotton to County Made Cloth: Clothing the Enslaved on the Great Wagon Road*
- Dale MacAllister, Independent Scholar  
*Long's Chapel in the African American Community Called Athens, Better Known as Zenda*
- Nick Powers, Curator of Collections, Museum of the Shenandoah Valley  
*Expanding the Narrative: African American Objects at the Museum of the Shenandoah Valley*
- Jeff Evans, President and Principal Auctioneer, Jeffrey S. Evans & Associates  
*Slavery in the Shenandoah Valley*
- Brenda Hornsby Heindl, Ceramics Department Head, Jeffrey S. Evans & Associates  
*Abraham Spencer: Free Potter of Color in the Valley*



Lewis Miller, "Sketchbook of Virginia Landscapes", courtesy, Colonial Williamsburg Foundation.

See below for more detailed speaker biographies.

### **Speaker Bios**

#### **Dale MacAllister, Independent Scholar**

Dale MacAllister is a past president of the Harrisonburg-Rockingham Historical Society. He has also been the newsletter writer and editor for the Shenandoah Valley Folklife Society for over two decades. In these roles, he has been involved in many projects to help preserve the religious, cultural, and historical heritage of Harrisonburg, Rockingham County, and the Shenandoah Valley. He provides many programs about such topics to numerous groups and organizations.

Dale has both his bachelors and Master's degrees in physics. With this educational background, he taught eighth-grade physical science in Broadway, Virginia, for 33 years, retiring in 2004. Since then he has worked part time supervising student teachers for James Madison University. Dale conducts periodic walking tours in



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Harrisonburg and Singers Glen, his home community, covering several topics from famous people to little-known facts about Harrisonburg. He has also helped with bus tours sponsored by the Valley Brethren-Mennonite Heritage Center.

**Neal Hurst, Associate Curator of Costume and Textiles, The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation**

Neal Hurst received his B.A. in history from the College of William and Mary and his M.A. from the Winterthur Program in American Material Culture at the University of Delaware. He served as assistant curator on the inaugural exhibition for the Museum of the American Revolution in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. In August of 2016, Neal joined the curatorial team at The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation as the Associate Curator of Costume and Textiles.

**A. Nicholas Powers, Curator of Collections, Museum of the Shenandoah Valley**

Nick Powers is a native of Virginia's Shenandoah Valley and became interested in the history and material culture of the region at a young age. Nick completed his undergraduate work at James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Virginia, where he majored in History and minored in Historical Archaeology. In 2014, Nick graduated from the Winterthur Program in American Material Culture at the University of Delaware. Nick is currently the Curator of Collections at the Museum of the Shenandoah Valley in Winchester, Virginia. There he oversees, researches, and exhibits the museum's collection of Valley fine and decorative art, as well as the comprehensive collection of museum benefactor Julian Wood Glass Jr. (1910-1992). Nick is a three-time graduate of the Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts Summer Institute and was a participant in the Classical Institute of the South Field Research Fellowship.

**Nancy Stewart, Independent Scholar**

Nancy Stewart was born in New Market and grew up in Shenandoah County. Following graduation from New Market High School and the birth of four wonderful children, she got a degree in English from Madison College and a Masters in English from James Madison University. She taught English at Harrisonburg High School for twenty-one years, is a past board member of the Shenandoah Historical Society, and over the course of her life had been plagued by being told that there were never slaves in Shenandoah County. Nancy felt this wasn't true and worked to learn more about the history of enslaved and free people of color in Virginia. This inspired her to record surviving associated architecture in Shenandoah County.

**Brenda Hornsby Heindl, Head of the Ceramics Department at Jeffrey S. Evans & Associates Auctions.**

Brenda is a graduate of the Winterthur Program in American Material Culture and an alumna of Berea College in Kentucky. Her prior work includes the research and education staff at the Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, and the Ceramics and Glass Department at Colonial Williamsburg under the guidance of Janine E. Skerry and Suzanne Findlen Hood. Brenda has written for publications such as *Ceramics in America* and the *American Ceramic Circle Journal*. She has also lectured and presented workshops on American historic ceramics and pottery production at various seminars and conferences. In 2012, she attended the Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts' Summer Institute where she began her ongoing research on Maysville, Kentucky pottery. Primary research from archival material in



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Maysville, prompted Brenda to research free potters of color working in the Southern Backcountry and a recent presentation at the Birmingham Museum of Art on the topic. As a production potter, she built a wood-firing, salt-glaze kiln in 2012, and uses her studio, Liberty Stoneware, as an outlet for research in historic ceramics.

**Jeff Evans, President and Principal Auctioneer 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 Spittler 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 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> 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; their findings culminated in the 2014/2015 exhibition at the MSV. A fully-illustrated, comprehensive companion publication will be released later this year. Evans is currently researching and writing on paint-decorated furniture and related folk art of the Shenandoah Valley, primarily in the counties of Augusta, Page, Rockingham, and Shenandoah, and is in the process of authoring a volume on the artisans of New Market, Virginia from 1780 to 1930.