



Jeffrey S. Evans & Associates

2177 Green Valley Lane • Mt. Crawford, VA 22841 • USA

TEL: 540.434.3939 FAX: 540.434.3399 EMAIL: info@jeffreysesevans.com

2018: The Jeffrey S. Evans & Associates Eighth Annual Virginia Decorative Arts Seminar: Shenandoah Valley Pottery- New Discoveries and Demonstrations

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

Join us for a dynamic one-day seminar spotlighting new research on Shenandoah Valley Virginia pottery and conversations with contemporary potters/scholars who will demonstrate making earthenware and stoneware and talk about historic production of these wares.

Topics will include the following:

- [Kurt Russ](#): *Staunton, Virginia Stoneware*
- [Brenda Hornsby Heindl](#): *Abraham Spencer and Free Potters of Color in the Valley*
- [Jeff Evans](#): *New Research from New Market to Timberville*
- Pottery making demonstrations and discussions by Greg Shooner and Brenda Hornsby Heindl

An informal tailgate sale will take place in the JSE & Associates parking lot the morning of the seminar from 8:00 am to 9:00 am. Bring your own tables. Seminar registration deadline is June 6, 2018. Cost: \$95.00 (lunch provided). For registration form click [here](#).

Photo information: Pitcher: Shenandoah Valley of Virginia stoneware pitcher attributed to the John Zigler Pottery, Timberville, Rockingham Co., VA (private collection). Bowl: Shenandoah Valley of Virginia earthenware bowl attributed to Andrew or John Coffman, New Market, Shenandoah Co., VA (private collection).



Speaker Bios



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Kurt Russ:

Kurt C. Russ is currently the Executive Director of the Mountain Valley Preservation Alliance, Inc. having formerly served as director of Washington and Lee University's Laboratory of Anthropology. After graduation from Washington and Lee University, Russ was awarded the year-long Liberty Hall Scholar fellowship. He subsequently completed his graduate work at the University of Tennessee where he received the prestigious Hilton A. Smith University fellowship. Russ, a historical archaeologist, has more than 30 years of experience in archeology, material culture/decorative arts research and historic preservation. He has directed excavations of historical potteries in Virginia as well as investigations of domestic farmsteads, early educational institutions, and iron mining and manufacturing sites. Under the auspices of his consulting firm, Virginia Heritage Resources Group, he has completed research and investigations for a variety of local, state and federal agencies. Bringing an anthropological perspective to his collecting interests in 19th-century Virginia decorative arts, Russ has served as guest curator for exhibits at the Virginia Historical Society, Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts and the Museum of the Shenandoah Valley. In addition to a prolific list of archaeologically-related publications, two of his most recent publications focus on Virginia ceramics and furniture. Published in **Ceramics in America**, "The Remarkable 19th-Century Stoneware of Virginia's Lower James River Valley," and coauthored with several colleagues, takes his research interest in Shenandoah Valley pottery to the James River Valley; while, an article in **American Furniture** with Jeffrey S. Evans details the identification of one of the earliest and most significant schools of safe furniture production in the Shenandoah Valley entitled, "The Kahle-Henson School of Punched-Tin Paneled Furniture from Lexington, Virginia, ca. 1819-1831." Finally a book co-authored with Jeffrey S. Evans (Russ's partner in The Virginia Safe Project), **Opening the Door Safes of the Shenandoah Valley**.

Brenda Hornsby Heindl:

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



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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 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:

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.



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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.

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”.



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Shenandoah Valley Pottery: New Discoveries and Demonstrations
Saturday, June 16, 2018
Program Agenda

9:00 AM	Greetings / Introductions
9:15 AM	<i>Kurt Russ:</i> <i>Staunton's Stoneware</i>
10:00 AM	~~~ BREAK ~~~
10:15 AM	<i>Brenda Hornsby Heindl:</i> <i>Abraham Spencer and Free Potters of Color in the Valley</i>
11:00 AM	~~~ BREAK ~~~
11:30 AM	<i>Jeffrey S. Evans:</i> <i>New Research from New Market to Timberville</i>
12:15 PM	~~~ LUNCH ~~~
1:15 PM	<i>Greg Shooner:</i> <i>Lead-Glazed Earthenware Production and Kilns</i>
1:45 PM	<i>Brenda Hornsby Heindl:</i> <i>Salt-Glazed Stoneware Production and Kilns</i>
2:15 PM	~~~ BREAK ~~~
2:30 PM	POTTERY DEMONSTRATIONS BY GREG SHOONER AND BRENDA HORNSBY HEINDL
4:00 PM	Closing Comments / Questions / End of Program