



VIRGINIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Story of Virginia

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Virginia Historical Society Library Buzzing with Researchers this Summer Scholars Studying Masculinity, Plantation Society, Slave Refugee Camps, the American Identity, and 18th Century Religion and Medicine

Richmond, VA—Neighbor conflicts during the American Civil War, women’s suffrage, church property rights, drinking and temperance in the 1860s, American slaveholding attitudes in the antebellum era, electricity’s impact on the urbanization of the South, clergymen during the Revolution, and the formation of the Haitian state—these are just some of the topics being explored this year at the Virginia Historical Society (VHS) by the 2012 fellowship recipients.

Twenty-five researchers from across the United States and three from France, Canada, and England were awarded a stipend to conduct research in the VHS library. Two fellowship winners reside in Virginia, both in Charlottesville. These scholars benefit from access to the society’s extensive collections for up to three weeks. Most conduct their research from June to August, making the VHS reading room a busy and active area in the society during the summer months.

The Mellon Fellowship promotes interpretation of Virginia and American history, supporting research on political, constitutional, religious, African American, military, and social issues. Mellon Fellows are chosen based on their scholarly qualifications, the merits of their proposals, and the appropriateness of their topics to the society’s collections. The Mellon Fellowship is funded in part by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

The VHS offers two additional fellowships: the Frances Lewis Fellowships in Gender and Women’s Studies and the Betty Sams Christian Fellowships in Business History. Of the 28 fellowships granted by the VHS in 2012, 24 were Mellon Fellowships, two were Frances Lewis Fellowships, and two were Betty Sams Christian Fellowships. More than 800 awards have been made by the VHS since the first fellowship program began in 1988.

“For more than twenty years, researchers have taken advantage of the Virginia Historical Society’s strong and varied collections to explore areas of Virginia history as well as topics that illuminate the history of America as a whole,” said Frances Pollard, VHS Chief Librarian and Chair of the Research Fellowship Committee. “The research conducted by fellowship winners has resulted in a great number of academic and popular publications. This year’s group of talented fellows will help us fulfill our mission of interpreting Virginia and American history.”

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2012 Virginia Historical Society Fellowship Recipients

Marise Bachand, Ph.D. of the Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières for research on plantation women and the urban South, 1790–1877.

Jill Baskin of the University of Virginia for research on the visual culture of African Americans in Liberia, 1821–1865.

Megan Bever of the University of Alabama for research on drinking and temperance in the American Civil War era.

Adrian Brettle of the University of Virginia for research on Confederate expansionist ambitions during the American Civil War, 1861–1865.

Josh Canale of Binghamton University for research on Virginia's revolutionary-era executive bodies.

Abigail Cooper of the University of Pennsylvania for research on Civil War slave refugee or contraband camps.

T. Clay Cooper of the University of Florida for research on masculinity in the nineteenth-century South.

Christopher Curtis, Ph.D. of Claflin University for research on the legal reconstruction of church property rights.

Adam Domby of the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill for research on neighbor conflicts in Loudoun County during the Civil War.

Shannon Eaves of the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill for research on the impact of sexual exploitation on enslaved women and the greater antebellum South.

Nicole Etcheson, Ph.D. of Ball State University for research on Confederate, African American, and women's suffrage.

Max Grivno, Ph.D. of the University of Southern Mississippi for research on plantation society in Virginia and Mississippi.

Matt Hall of the University of Florida for research on how southerners used electricity in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries to create the contemporary urban South.

Délide Joseph of the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales for research on the formation of the Haitian state and its migratory policy concerning African Americans from the United States, Caribbean blacks, and American Indians.

Matthew Karp, Ph.D. of Rowan University for research on American slaveholding attitudes about foreign affairs across the antebellum and Civil War eras.

Philippa Koch of the University of Chicago for research on religion and medicine in eighteenth-century America.

Alix Lerner of Princeton University for research on aging slaves in the Old South.

Joshua Lynn of the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill for research on the political ideology and culture of the Democratic party before the Civil War.

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Spencer McBride of Louisiana State University for research on clergymen during the Revolution and Early Republic.

Kent McConnell, Ph.D. of Phillips Exeter Academy for research on religious attitudes and practices during the Civil War.

D. Todd Miller of the University of North Carolina, Greensboro for research on the formation of British and American identity in the colonial Chesapeake region.

Elizabeth Brand Monroe, Ph.D. of Indiana University at Indianapolis for research on William Wirt, U.S. Attorney General, 1817–1829, and his early career as a lawyer.

Kenneth Morgan, Ph.D. of Brunel University for research on Hugh Perry Keane and Saint Vincent's Irish planters.

Jason Phillips, Ph.D. of Mississippi State University for research on how Americans anticipated the Civil War.

Shari Rabin of Yale University for research on Jewish life and community in America, 1820–1877.

Amber Surmiller of Texas Christian University for research on the planters in Virginia, focusing on the Roger Jones family.

Gregory Urwin, Ph.D. of Temple University for research on a social history of Lord Cornwallis's 1781 Virginia campaign.

John Zaborney, Ph.D. of the University of Maine at Presque Isle for research on non-elite white southerners.

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For more than 180 years, the **Virginia Historical Society** (VHS) has been the steward of our state—and often national—history. The VHS features award-winning exhibitions that are entertaining and educational for visitors of all ages. Although designated the Official State Historical Society, the VHS is a privately funded non-profit organization that relies on contributions from individuals, corporations, and foundations to sustain its operations. The VHS is located at 428 North Boulevard in Richmond. Admission to the research library and museum galleries is free. Museum hours are Monday–Saturday 10 a.m.–5 p.m. and Sunday 1 p.m.–5 p.m. Library hours are Monday–Saturday 10 a.m.–5 p.m. For group tour information, call (804) 342-9652. For more information, call (804) 358-4901, visit www.vahistorical.org, or find the VHS on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

