



# VIRGINIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

*The Story of Virginia*

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Jennifer Guild, Senior Officer for Public Relations and Marketing  
(804) 342-9665, [jguild@vahistorical.org](mailto:jguild@vahistorical.org)

## **Calling All Quilt Owners: Virginia Consortium of Quilters Wants to See your Quilts Virginia Historical Society Hosting Quilt Documentation Event September 28**

Richmond, VA—On Saturday, September 28, 2013, the Virginia Historical Society (VHS)—located at 428 North Boulevard in Richmond—is hosting a Quilt Documentation & Discovery Day. This event, organized and run by volunteers from the Virginia Consortium of Quilters, is from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Owners are encouraged to bring up to three Virginia-made quilts crafted before the year 2000. Consortium volunteers will photograph and record information about the pieces and any information known about their maker(s). Questions about the quilt maker include birth and death dates, occupation, number of children, technique (frame hung from ceiling, no frame, hoop), and purpose (dowry, fundraiser, birth, marriage, anniversary).

The Virginia Quilt Museum in Harrisonburg will include the documentation in their statewide quilt database. The museum will make the information available to researchers studying Virginia's textile history, genealogy, and material culture.

“We are searching for clues in quilts that will tell us more about Virginians and their handwork,” said Neva Hart, Virginia Consortium of Quilters member and Quilt Documentation & Discovery Day organizer. “Documentation days discover as much about the quilters as the quilts they made. Quilts become our material tie to the quilt maker. Quilt owners look at the quilts and don't see fabric—they see grandma's dresses, uncle's neckties, or baby sister's hand outlined in embroidery on the fabric.”

The VHS is hosting the Quilt Documentation & Discovery Day in conjunction with *The Great Western Virginia Cover-Up: Historic Quilts & Bedcovers*. The exhibition presents more than thirty bedcovers—spreads, quilts, coverlets, blankets, and a rare bed rug—made in western Virginia between 1800 and 1950. Organized by the Blue Ridge Institute & Museum of Ferrum College, the show examines patterns, methods, and fabrics passed down through generations of Virginia families. Hart was a consultant on the exhibition.

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Post Office Box 7311  
Richmond, Virginia 23221  
[www.vahistorical.org](http://www.vahistorical.org)





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Hart is hoping to document more than 125 quilts during the VHS-hosted event. The consortium is especially interested in seeing quilts made in eastern Virginia and those crafted by African Americans.

There is no fee to participate in the Quilt Documentation & Discovery Day. No appointment is needed; quilt documentation is first come, first served. The event is open to the public.

“We get people who have a quilt and do not know anything about it—origin, date, makers, fabric, etc.,” Hart added. “I say ‘Bring it!’ We don’t turn people away. You don’t realize how valuable the information could be to researchers in the future. We have had some surprises and found some real gems at documentation events.”

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For more than 182 years, the **Virginia Historical Society** (VHS) has been connecting people to America’s past through the unparalleled story of Virginia. The VHS—a history museum and research library—features award-winning exhibitions that are entertaining and educational for visitors of all ages. The Society is the only museum with all of Virginia’s history under one roof—all centuries, all regions, and all topics are covered. 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’s Museum District. Admission 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 more information, call (804) 358-4901, visit [www.vahistorical.org](http://www.vahistorical.org), or find the VHS on Facebook and Twitter.

