

Galleries & Collections



CHANGING EXHIBITION GALLERY

Winchester, VA 12/18/09...The newest exhibition at the MSV is now open! *Come In and Have a Seat: Vernacular Chairs of the Shenandoah Valley* tells the story of chairmaking in the Shenandoah Valley. Early Shenandoah Valley woodworkers drew on European craft traditions and new American influences to fashion chairs that are distinctive to the region. We call these chairs "vernacular." Now, for the first time, an exhibition explores this fascinating topic. Serving as guest curator for this MSV-organized exhibition, noted scholar and collector Jeffrey S. Evans has assembled chairs from nine different private collections. Most of these 43 chairs have never before been on public display. Learn about Shenandoah Valley ladder-back, Windsor, and fancy chairs made in the late 1700s and 1800s and see the visual variety they present. The exhibition includes the most exuberantly decorated early Valley chair that is known to exist. Other highlights include a re-creation of an 1850s

chair shop, large "puzzles" that challenge you to construct a chair, and a series of reproduction chairs where you may literally "have a seat" to compare their comfort! On view in the Museum's Changing Exhibition Gallery until June 20, 2010, this exhibition has been funded in part by a grant from the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities. Pictured in text: *Youth's Rocking Armchair*, attr. to the Fulk's Run area (Rockingham County), Virginia, 1880-1920, courtesy of Beverly A. and Jeffrey S. Evans. Photo: Ron Blunt.



Above, left to right: Fancy Side Chair, New Market, Shenandoah County, Virginia, ca. 1830-1845; Ladder-back Side Chair, Shenandoah County, Virginia, ca. 1820-1850. Both from private collections. Photos: Ron Blunt.

DISCOVER SHENANDOAH VALLEY CHAIRS



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While at the MSV, don’t miss the Museum’s other [galleries](#), the [Glen Burnie Historic House](#) and surrounding [gardens](#), the Museum Store, and the Tea Room. The Museum is open year-round, the house and gardens, March through November. All are open from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday.

Free to MSV Members. Museum admission: \$8 adults. Gallery admission is free every Wednesday morning from 10 a.m. until noon.