

March 28, 2008

Press Release

**For Immediate Release
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**Historical Society Sponsors Virginia State
Folklorist, Jon Lohman, Speaking
On “Exploring Virginia’s Folklife”**

The Fluvanna County Historical Society is continuing its highly successful lecture series with an evening presentation to the public by Virginia State Folklorist, Jon Lohman, entitled: “A Commonwealth of Traditions: Exploring Virginia’s Folklife.” The Historical Society has sponsored several lectures each year on a broad range of subjects of interest to the citizens of Fluvanna County and the region. This lecture is scheduled for Thursday, April 10, 2008 at 7pm in Fluvanna’s historic courthouse in Palmyra. The public is invited to attend. A reception will be held at Maggie’s House after the presentation.

Jon Lohman, a Palmyra resident, is Program Director of the Virginia Folklife Program and is a Virginia State Folklorist at The Virginia Foundation for the Humanities. A graduate of the University of North Carolina, he holds a PhD in folklore from the University of Pennsylvania. Jon has taught courses on folklife and oral history. In the *Teach for America* program he taught fifth grade classes at the Harriett Tubman School in New Orleans. Since coming to the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities in 2001 he has revived the dormant Virginia Folklife Program.

His responsibilities include the documentation and support of Virginia’s rich cultural folkways. He has produced music albums including the Paschall Brothers’ first release, “Songs of Our Father.” Other recordings have included bluegrass, old time and gospel releases under the auspices of the Foundation’s well known Crooked Road Series. He is the author of “In Good Keeping,” a book celebrating and exploring the folklife traditions of Virginia. He has also been actively involved in fostering a program of apprenticeships ensuring that many of Virginia’s most important folklife traditions will live on. He will be available to sign copies of the book at the reception following the lecture. Mr. Lohman’s books will be provided for sale by the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities.