

HISTORY WORKSHOP

The Department of History

Tuesdays ~ 12:30-1:30 pm ~ 203 Munroe Hall

Craftsmen in the Bluegrass: "Discovering" African American Cabinetmakers in the Colonial Revival, 1900-1950

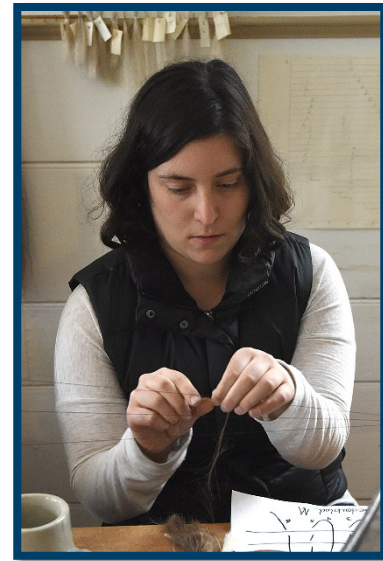
Erica Lome

University of Delaware

Oct 29, 2019

12:30-1:30 pm

203 Munroe Hall



While researching for her dissertation on the reproduction furniture trade in America from 1890-1945, Erica Lome discovered a short article in *Kentucky Home and Gardens* about an African American cabinetmaker named Milton Paul (1922-1988) who became a local celebrity in Lexington for making copies of eighteenth-century Chippendale-style mirrors. Intrigued, Erica traveled to Lexington to learn more about Paul and track down some of his mirrors to study. Faced with unreliable narrators and a patchwork archive, her investigation yielded a more nuanced exploration about race, skill, and labor in the early twentieth century. "Craftsmen in the Bluegrass" examines Milton Paul's legacy in the public sphere while contextualizing his training, professional relationships, and body of work within the complex histories of vocational education and the Colonial Revival movement in America.