



LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA

The 1st Annual Anne and Ryland Brown Teacher Institute

**Presented by the Library of Virginia
Co-Sponsored by the American Civil War Center**

**Union or Secession: Virginians Decide
July 13–14, 2010**

Open to Virginia History and Social Science Educators for Grades 6–12

The Library of Virginia is pleased to announce the first annual Anne and Ryland Brown Teacher Institute. The goal of the institute is to enhance knowledge of and training in history and social science instruction in the commonwealth of Virginia by providing educators with opportunities for in-depth study and as well as teaching resources. The theme of this year's conference coincides with the content of the Library's next major exhibition of the same title, opening in December 2010.

The "Union or Secession: Virginians Decide" Institute, as well as the forthcoming exhibition, seek to explain what Virginians from different portions of the state and different backgrounds thought about secession or union during the winter of 1860–1861, with a particular emphasis on the secession convention and debates. Institute sessions, conducted by leading scholars, will focus on events and themes between John Brown's Raid on Harpers Ferry in October 1859 and the First Battle of Manassas in July 1861.

Eligible candidates for the Brown Teacher Institute must be residents of Virginia, and currently working as an educator in Virginia instructing students in grade levels 6 through 12. Space is limited to 20 educators. There is no fee for selected participants. Registrants will receive a certificate of completion for 16 hours at the end of the institute, which can be used towards recertification points.

REGISTRATION: *Open until July 2, 2010.*

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Program and Education Manager

Library of Virginia

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PRESENTERS:

William W. Freehling is one of the most distinguished American historians of the Civil War era. He is the author of *Prelude to Civil War*, which won a Bancroft Prize, *The Road to Disunion, Volume I: Secessionists at Bay*, and *The Road to Disunion, Volume II: Secessionists Triumphant, 1854–1861*. Freehling's most recent publication is *Showdown in Virginia: The 1861 Convention and the Fate of the Union*, a documentary distillation of the Virginia Secession Convention's debates, from the University of Virginia Press.

Gregg D. Kimball is director of Education and Outreach Services at the Library of Virginia. Previously Kimball was curator and historian at the Richmond History Center (Valentine Museum) where his work included restoration and interpretation of the Tredegar Iron Works, a National Historic Landmark, which is now the headquarters of the American Civil War Center at Historic Tredegar and site of a Richmond National Battlefield Park Visitor Center. He is coauthor of *In Bondage and Freedom: Antebellum Black Life in Richmond, Virginia, 1790–1860*, with Marie Tyler-McGraw (1988), and has published numerous articles, reviews, and essays on material culture, African American history, and the American South. His most recent book is *American City, Southern Place: A Cultural History of Antebellum Richmond* published by the University of Georgia Press (2000).

Lauranett Lee is curator of African American history at the Virginia Historical Society in Richmond. Her recent exhibition topics include the civil rights movement in Virginia, focusing on enslaved people at Virginia's presidential plantations, and the role of black soldiers during World War II. She is author of *Making the American Dream Work: African American History in Hopewell, Virginia* (2009). Lee is assistant chair of the State Review Board for nominations to the National Register of Historic Places.

Philip J. Schwarz is emeritus professor of history at Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, Virginia. He is the author of numerous books including *Migrants against Slavery: Virginians and the Nation* (2008) and *Twice Condemned: Slaves and the Criminal Laws of Virginia, 1705–1865* (1998). Schwartz's forthcoming book with the University of Virginia Press is a documentary history on Gabriel's Conspiracy.

Brent Tarter, senior editor at the Library of Virginia, completed his graduate work in American history at the University of Virginia. From 1974 to 1982 he was one of the editors of the Virginia Independence Bicentennial Commission's seven-volume *Revolutionary Virginia, the Road to Independence: A Documentary Record* (Charlottesville, Va., 1973–1983). He is a founding editor of the Library of Virginia's *Dictionary of Virginia Biography* and has published articles on aspects of Virginia history in the *Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*, *Virginia Cavalcade*, the *South Atlantic Quarterly*, the *Magazine of Virginia Genealogy*, the *Journal of Southern Legal History*, and the *American Journal of Legal History*.

Elizabeth R. Varon is professor, Department of History, and associate director, Center for the Humanities, Temple University. She is author of the award-winning *Southern Lady, Yankee Spy: The True Story of Elizabeth Van Lew, a Union Agent in the Heart of the Confederacy* (2003) and *We Mean to Be Counted: White Women and Politics in Antebellum Virginia* (1998). Varon has received numerous academic awards and honors including appointment to the Organization of American Historians Distinguished Lectureship Program, January 2006. Her most recent book, *Disunion!: The Coming of the American Civil War, 1789–1859*, was published by the University of North Carolina Press in 2008. Varon is currently working on a new book project, for Oxford University Press, on Lee's surrender to Grant at Appomattox.

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Day 1	
8:00–8:30	Welcome
8:30–10:00	<p>Secession 1: Southern State, American Place: Antebellum Virginia and the Nation</p> <p>Gregg D. Kimball, Library of Virginia</p> <p><i>What made Virginia both distinctively southern and an important symbol of American history and achievement? How did these identities—one looking North and the other looking South—have [or make] an impact on [or determine?] Virginia’s choice to withdraw from the United States? Kimball will outline Virginia’s unique position in 1860, exploring the state’s economy, culture, and society.</i></p>
10:00–10:15	Break
10:15–11:45	<p>Secession 2: Did Enslaved People Have Anything to do with the Union or Secession Decisions?</p> <p>Philip J. Schwarz, Virginia Commonwealth University, Emeritus</p> <p><i>Did John Brown cause the Civil War? Or, did slavery start the war? Or, did states’ rights begin the war? Or, did unionism make the war inevitable? Did one person, one institution, or one ideology start a devastating war? Schwarz will explore these questions through the lens of one family’s experience and examine how their—as well as many other families’—experiences, choices, and actions made the war possible.</i></p>
11:45–12:45	<p>Session 3 (Lunch Workshop): Review of Educational Content and Resources, Part 1</p> <p>Tameka B. Hobbs, Library of Virginia</p> <p>Celia Polin and Nathaniel Morrison, 2009 Brown Teacher Research Fellows</p> <p><i>Educators will explore the primary resources from the Library of Virginia and lesson plans created by the 2009 Brown Teacher Research Fellows to support the themes of the exhibition, along with tips on utilizing them with students.</i></p>
1:00–2:15	<p>Session 4: The Ties that Bind: Plantation Women on the Eve of the Civil War</p> <p>Lauranett Lee, Virginia Historical Society</p> <p><i>This session will examine the unique tensions of antebellum plantation culture through the experiences of black and white women. Between 1831 and 1860 a</i></p>

	<i>rising tide of violence and racism swept the United States. Within the enclosed space of the plantation women were not immune from the spirit of the times. Their relationships, forged in slavery, intersect the gendered roles of family, religion, education, and power.</i>
	(Transition to American Civil War Center, 490 Tredegar Street)
2:35–5:00	<p>Session 5: Afternoon at the American Civil War Center (Presentation and Tour)</p> <p>Mark Howell, Director of Education</p> <p><i>During their visit to the American Civil War Center, teachers will explore the ruins of the Tredegar Iron Works and the exhibition “In the Cause of Liberty.” Tredegar owner Joseph Reid Anderson will be analyzed as a case study of the implications of secession on industry in the commonwealth. Unionist or Secessionist? You be the judge.</i></p>
Day 2	
8:30–10:00	<p>Session 6: The Slaveholders' Dilemma: Disunion Rhetoric and the Coming of the Civil War</p> <p>Elizabeth Varon, Temple University</p> <p><i>As tensions increased between the North and South over the issue of slavery, how did slaveholders defend their position within the Union? Varon will trace these debates back to their roots in the Founding Era through 1861, and describe the slaveholders' struggle over whether to cast disunion as a terrible cataclysm or a "positive good."</i></p>
10:00–10:15	Break
10:15–11:45	<p>Session 7: Showdown in Virginia: The 1861 Convention and the Fate of the Union</p> <p>William Freehling, Senior Fellow with the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities</p> <p><i>In February 1861, with seven lower South states having seceded from United States, the Virginia Convention met to debate whether Virginia's best interests could be maintained within or outside of the Union. Freehling recently co-edited the 3,000-page record of the Virginia State Convention, and will explore the facets of the arguments—pro-Union, pro-secession, and otherwise—made during those debates.</i></p>
11:50–12:30	<p>Session 8: Review of Educational Content and Resources, Part 2</p> <p>Tameka B. Hobbs, Library of Virginia</p> <p>Celia Polin and Nathaniel Morrison, 2009 Brown Teacher Research Fellows</p> <p><i>Educators will explore the primary resources from the Library of Virginia and lesson plans created by the 2009 Brown Teacher Research Fellows to support the themes of the exhibition, along with tips on utilizing them with students.</i></p>

12:40–1:30	<p>Session 9 (Lunch Workshop): Review of Exhibition Features and Web Site</p>
1:40–3:00	<p>Session 10: Richmond on the Brink: Secession in Capitol Square (Tour)</p> <p>Mark Greenough, Historian, Virginia State Capitol</p> <p><i>Educators will walk through time and occupy the spaces and places on Virginia's Capitol Square that were a part of Virginia's secession crisis. It was the place where Virginians rallied on the grounds, members of the convention voted to leave the Union, and Robert E. Lee came to offer his allegiance to the Confederate cause. This will be an opportunity to preview the tour that school groups will receive in coordination with the Library's "Union or Secession" exhibition.</i></p>
3:15–4:45	<p>Session 11: "Behind the Scenes" Tour of Special Collections</p> <p>Tom Camden, Director of Special Collections</p> <p><i>Participants will be treated to a special, "behind-the-scenes" tour of the Library's Special Collections division, which houses the rarest and most valuable of the Commonwealth's historical treasures. They will have an opportunity to view Virginia's Ordinance of Secession, one of the cornerstone documents of the institute's discussion.</i></p>