



## Library Publishes Third Volume of *Dictionary of Virginia Biography*

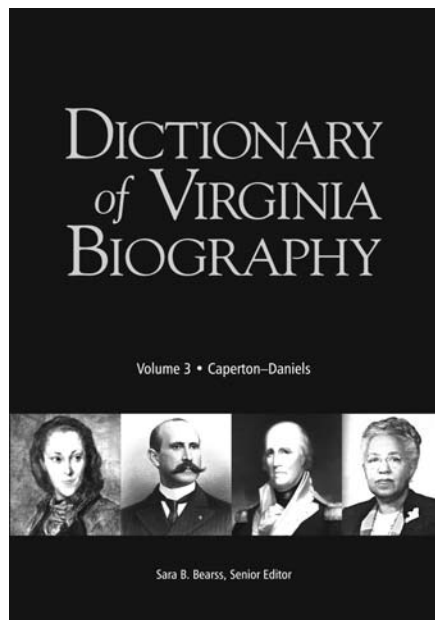
The Library of Virginia announces the publication of the third volume of the *Dictionary of Virginia Biography*, a multivolume reference work providing biographies of Virginians who, regardless of place of birth or death, made significant contributions to the history or culture of their locality, state, or nation. The third volume of the *DVB* presents biographies ranging alphabetically from Allen Taylor Caperton, a member of the Convention of 1850–1851, the Convention of 1861, and the Confederate States Senate, through Edward Dwight Daniels, a Fairfax County agrarian reformer. No one who died after December 31, 2000, appears in the third volume. The two previous volumes, published in 1998 and 2001, cover surnames Aaroe to Blanchfield and Bland to Cannon, respectively. A classified index to the first three volumes is posted on the Library of Virginia's Web site, at [www.lva.lib.va.us/whatwedo/pubs/dvb/index.htm](http://www.lva.lib.va.us/whatwedo/pubs/dvb/index.htm).

Many of the *DVB* entries offer the first reliable biography ever printed about their subjects, including scores of women, African Americans, Indians, and a cavalcade of artists, musicians, and writers whose lives have never before been studied. By broadening the definition of who, and what, is important, the compiled biographies expand and enrich the commonwealth's story and have begun to reshape the narrative of Virginia's history. Contributors' research also raises intriguing questions about more-familiar topics, including the business affairs of colonial planters,

partisan alignments in post–Civil War politics, and the multilayered influence of 20th-century civic leaders.

The 471 biographies in volume 3, researched and written by 294 contributors, range chronologically from Sir Thomas Dale (d. 1619), who twice served as acting governor of Virginia, to Richard Bernard Caspari (1942–2000), a pioneering arthroscopic surgeon. In between, readers will find biographies of the Carter family of colonial planters, including Robert “King” Carter (ca. 1664–1732), once one of the richest and most powerful men in Virginia, as well as his heirs Charles Carter (ca. 1707–1764) of Cleve, Charles Carter (1732–1806) of Corotoman, and Charles Carter (1732–1796) of Ludlow. Members of the Carter family of 20th-century Scott County musicians—Alvin Pleasant Delaney Carter, Sara Elizabeth Dougherty Carter, and Maybelle Addington Carter—have biographies in the *DVB* chronicling the family's contributions to music. Other artistic Virginians included are Richmond Dillard Crinkley, who produced the Tony Award-winning *Elephant Man* on Broadway, and Joseph Cheshire Cotten, a Hollywood star who appeared in such classic movies as *Citizen Kane* and *The Third Man*.

Hall of Famer Raymond Emmett Dandridge, an African American third baseman who never played major-league baseball, is also in this volume. Native American biographies include Cockacoeske, the queen of Pamunkey, and Chauco, whose warnings of an ...see **DVB**, pg. 7



## CAST YOUR VOTE FOR THE THIRD ANNUAL PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARDS

The James River Writers, in partnership with the Library of Virginia, are sponsoring the 3rd Annual People's Choice Awards. Finalists in fiction and nonfiction were selected by an independent panel of judges from the books nominated for the 9th Annual Library of

Virginia Literary Awards. The People's Choice Awards are given for the best fiction and nonfiction books by Virginia authors or, in the case of nonfiction, on a Virginia subject. The books must be published in the past year. Winners are decided by a vote of Virginia readers.

This year's fiction finalists for the People's Choice Awards are *March* by Geraldine Brooks, *The Hunt Ball* by Rita Mae Brown, *Stealing with Style* by Emyl Jenkins, *St. Dale* by Sharyn McCrumb, and *Glad News of the Natural World* by T. R. Pearson.

The nonfiction finalists are *Izzy's Fire: Finding Humanity in the Holocaust* by Nancy Wright Beasley, *Martha Washington: An American Life* by Patricia Brady, *A Land As God Made It: Jamestown and the Birth of America* by

James Horn, *Pocahontas, Powhatan, Opechancanough: Three Indian Lives Changed by Jamestown* by Helen C. Rountree, and *Clapton's Guitar: Watching Wayne Henderson Build the Perfect Instrument* by Allen St. John.

The winners of the People's Choice Awards for nonfiction and fiction will be chosen from these finalists by readers voting at libraries, bookstores, and online at the Library of Virginia's Web site, <http://www.lva.lib.va.us/whatwedo/awards/voting/index.asp>, and the James River Writers Web site, [www.jamesriverwriters.org](http://www.jamesriverwriters.org). Voting for the People's Choice Awards runs from June 21 through July 14. Winners will be announced at the Library of Virginia Literary Awards Celebration on October 21, 2006.



THE LIBRARY  
OF VIRGINIA

800 East Broad Street  
Richmond, VA 23219-8000  
(804) 692-3592 • [www.lva.lib.va.us](http://www.lva.lib.va.us)

Janice M. Hathcock, *Editor*  
Ann Henderson, *Copy Editor*  
Amy C. Winegardner, *Graphic Designer*  
Christopher M. Marston, *Board Chair*  
Nolan T. Yelich, *Librarian of Virginia*

# IMLS Partners with NEA to Create Largest Book Club Ever



Dr. Anne-Imelda M. Radice, the director of the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services, announced on May 6, 2006, that the agency will partner with the National Endowment for the Arts on The Big Read, a national initiative

to encourage literary reading by asking communities to come together to read and discuss one book.

"Reading at Risk: A Survey of Literary Reading in America," a 2004 National Arts Endowment report, documented a dramatic decline in literary reading—among all age groups, ethnic groups, and education levels. The Big Read was developed to help reverse this trend by giving citizens in more than 100 communities in all 50 states an opportunity to read and discuss great books. Each city or town that participates will host a community-wide read that involves collaborations with libraries, schools, local government, and the private sector.

The Institute will contribute \$1 million in the first year of the national program and cast America's libraries and librarians in a central role to encourage community participation. "We are delighted to be a partner in The Big Read," noted Dr. Radice. "Libraries are 'information central' in communities everywhere. Encouraging library participation will

assure that The Big Read has a big impact in cities and towns across the United States."

The books chosen for The Big Read, all modern American classics, have all been used successfully in city reads programs and book clubs across the country. Communities will choose one novel from an ever-expanding list of books as the foundation of their programming, with support materials developed by the NEA.

The initial books available for The Big Read are: *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury, *My Antonia* by Willa Cather, *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald, *A Farewell to Arms* by Ernest Hemingway, *Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston, *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee, *The Grapes of Wrath* by John Steinbeck, and *The Joy Luck Club* by Amy Tan. A distinguished group of artists, authors, critics, educators, and librarians have formed a Readers Circle to develop a more comprehensive list of books for The Big Read. Charter members of the Readers Circle include Librarian of Congress Dr. James Billington, writer Pico Iyer, journalist Jim Lehrer, author Azar Nafisi, Connecticut state poet laureate Marilyn Nelson, songwriter Aimee Mann, and retired Seattle librarian Nancy Pearl.

In 2007 NEA will award grants ranging from \$10,000–\$20,000 to 100 communities to conduct month-long community-based programs that encourage citizens to read for pleasure and enlightenment. Each selected city or town is required to produce a comprehensive community-wide read that involves collaborations with libraries, schools, local

government, and the private sector. Each community will develop a program of activities related to its chosen novel, such as a keynote session, special events, and book discussions aimed at a diverse range of audiences.

In addition to direct grants, the NEA offers each community a library of resources. These materials include reader's and teacher's guides for each novel, CDs for each book with commentary from renowned literary figures and educators, an online organizer's guide for running a successful Big Read program, and a comprehensive Web site. In addition, the NEA has produced promotional materials to encourage broad participation, including television public service announcements and radio programming.

- Approximately 50 organizations will be selected for programming occurring between January and June 2007. The deadline for these applications is September 12, 2006.
- Approximately 50 organizations will be selected for programming occurring between September and December 2007. The deadline for these applications will be in April 2007. Guidelines will be available in February 2007.

To find out how your organization can submit a proposal to join The Big Read, please visit: [www.neabigread.org](http://www.neabigread.org).

—submitted by Eileen Maxwell, Institute of Museum and Library Services, and Sally Gifford, National Endowment for the Arts

## LIBRARIES RECEIVE GREAT STORIES CLUB GRANTS

Several Virginia libraries and institutions have received American Library Association Great Stories CLUB grants. These grants will provide young adults with the opportunity to discuss books relevant to the challenges in their lives.

The following list of grant recipients is arranged by the name of the library receiving the grant, coupled with its partnering facility, where applicable: Chesterfield County Public Library and the Chesterfield County Juvenile Detention Home; Douglass School Library, the Loudoun County Public Library, and the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation, and Substance Abuse in Leesburg; Richmond Public Library and the Adult Career Development Center; Roanoke City Public Libraries; River Bend Middle School Library in

Sterling; and Virginia Beach Central Academy Library.

These Virginia libraries are among 181 selected by the American Library Association's Public Programs Office and the Young Adult Library Services Association—the fastest-growing division of ALA—to host the Great Stories CLUB (Connecting Libraries, Underserved Teens, and Books), a book discussion program targeting troubled teens. In October 2005, ALA received an Oprah's Angel Network Book Club Award for \$50,000 to provide funding for this program.

Participating libraries receive 11 sets of three theme-related books to provide to members of the book club. They will also have access to a variety of online resources designed to help plan and implement pro-

gramming. All types of libraries (public, school, academic, and special), in partnership with facilities serving troubled teens (such as juvenile detention centers or alternative high schools) in the United States and its territories were eligible to apply.

YALSA's Outreach to Young Adults with Special Needs Committee developed the book selections, theme, and program support materials. The theme for the Great Stories CLUB will be teens facing challenges, and the following titles will be included:

*Born Blue* by Han Nolan  
*The First Part Last* by Angela Johnson  
*Stuck in Neutral* by Terry Trueman

For more information about YALSA, go to [www.ala.org/yalsa](http://www.ala.org/yalsa).

# New Continuing Education Consultant to Develop Programs

Cindy S. Church has joined the staff of the Library of Virginia as continuing education consultant. Church is charged with developing and implementing programs and services for public library staff in Virginia. Her duties include creating and conducting training sessions, procuring outside training, and marketing and promoting continuing education opportunities to appropriate audiences.

Church earned her bachelor's degree in library science from Radford College (now Radford University) in 1984 and her master's degree in library science from North Carolina Central University in 1987. She has worked for almost 20 years in library settings. From 1990 to 1997 she was a technical librarian at NASA. From 1997 to 2001 she served as sen-

ior associate scientist and librarian and from 2001 to 2003 as a records management supervisor at Philip Morris USA. She comes to the Library from the Virginia Department of Correctional Education where she was library coordinator for the state's correctional institutions. She is an adjunct faculty member at Bryant Stratton College where she currently teaches a class on information literacy.

Church is a former chair of the State Networking Users Advisory Board, which advised the Library Board and the Librarian of Virginia on matters related to library and information networking. She previously served as a member of the Library Services and Technology Act Advisory Council and is a member of the American Library Association,

the Virginia Association of Adult and Continuing Education, and the Correctional Education Association.

"For some time the Library has wanted to reinstate a continuing education position. The improved economy, the support of the library community, and the recommendation of the consultants studying Virginia's public libraries helped make this desire a reality," said Elizabeth M. Lewis, director of the Library Development and Networking Services Division. "We are pleased to have Cindy Church on our staff and look forward to developing an outstanding continuing education program."

## PUBLICATION AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

### NEH Names *Dictionary of Virginia Biography* a We the People Project

The Library of Virginia's *Dictionary of Virginia Biography* has received a Preservation and Access Reference Materials Grant of \$264,953 from the National Endowment for the Humanities for the 2006–2008 grant cycle. The grant will support researching and writing the fourth and fifth volumes of this ambitious project to document the contributions of four centuries of Virginians to local, state, and national history. An earlier NEH grant for 2004–2006 supported completion of the recently published volume 3 (surnames Caperton through Daniels).

The NEH also designated the *Dictionary* a We the People project. The We the People program seeks to encourage and

strengthen the teaching, study, and understanding of American history and culture by supporting projects that explore significant events and themes in the nation's history and culture and that advance knowledge of the principles that define America.

The *Dictionary of Virginia Biography* is the first scholarly, comprehensive biographical reference work on Virginia. It is intended to meet the needs of historians, archivists, reference librarians, museum professionals, educators, students, genealogists, journalists, and local history specialists, among others, who require information on people of significance in order to understand local, regional, state, and national events and to place them accu-

rately in their political, social, and economic contexts. The project's national significance has been recognized by *Choice*, a publication of the Association of College and Research Libraries, which selected the first volume of the *Dictionary of Virginia Biography* as one of the Outstanding Academic Titles of 1999.

—submitted by Sara B. Bearss,  
Publications and Educational Services

### GODORT Honors Library Publication

*A Capital Collection: Virginia's Artistic Inheritance* by Barbara C. Batson, exhibitions coordinator, and Tracy L. Kameron, curator of the state art collection, was one of ten state publications singled out as a 2005 notable document by the American Library Association's Government Documents Round Table. *A Capital Collection* was published by the Library in conjunction with its exhibition *Virginia Collects: Art from Capitol Square*. The judges cited *A Capital Collection* as "a significant compilation of color illustrations and descriptive text" on 29 pieces of artwork in the state of Virginia's significant collections.

*A Capital Collection* is available for \$25 from the Virginia Shop, [lvashop@lva.lib.va.us](mailto:lvashop@lva.lib.va.us) or 804-692-3524.

### Guide to Mutual Assurance Society Records Wins Prize

*The Guide to the Mutual Assurance Society of Virginia, Business Records, 1795–1965* by Renee Savits received third place honors in the Mid-Atlantic Archives Conference 2005 Finding Aids Awards. The awards recognize outstanding achievement in the preparation of finding aids, paper or electronic, by institutions within the MARAC region (NY, NJ, PA, MD, DE, DC, VA, and WV).

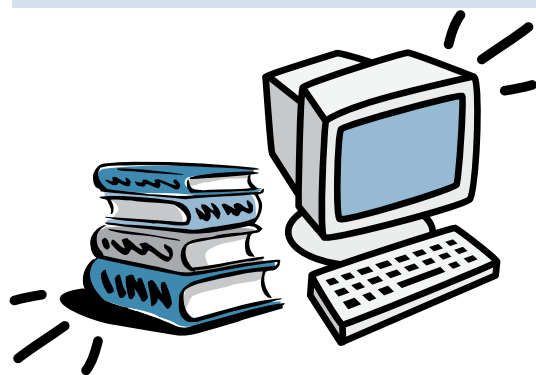
The Mutual Assurance collection at the Library of Virginia includes 257 volumes of individual applications dating from 1796 through 1966. These records are invaluable to researchers as they include the name of the

insured, the place of residence, the location of the particular property to the insured, the name of the occupant, and a description and estimated value of each structure listed in the policy. A sketch of the specific property is shown at the bottom of each policy.

*The Mutual Assurance Society, against Fire on Buildings, of the State of Virginia* was incorporated by the Virginia General Assembly in 1794, and insured private homes, churches, schools, and businesses throughout the commonwealth from fire. It is still in business today.



# FROM THE REFERENCE DESK OF THE LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA



## Did you know...?

Virginian St. George Tucker Mason was perhaps the first American to die in Vietnam. Private Mason served in Company H of the 13th Virginia Cavalry during the Civil War. Having survived, Mason left the country, joined the French Foreign Legion, served with distinction in the Franco-Prussian War, and eventually died somewhere in Vietnam on July 23, 1884. This is one of the many tantalizing stories represented in the latest update of the Virginia Military Dead database.

The eighth semiannual update adds 2,866 records and brings the total to approximately 29,275 entries. Two-thirds of the conflicts represented in the database show additional entries with most going to the Civil and Revolutionary Wars. The Virginia Military Dead database can be found at [www.lva.lib.va.us/whatwehave/mil/vmd/index.asp](http://www.lva.lib.va.us/whatwehave/mil/vmd/index.asp).

### Colonial Williamsburg History Research Reports

As the celebration of Virginia's 400th anniversary draws near, Reference Services is in the process of reviewing resources and preparing bibliographic guides relating to colonial Virginia. Our research has reminded us of the series *Early American History Research Reports from the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation Libraries*. The introduction to the series guide states:

For over sixty years, scholars at the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation have compiled detailed reports on every aspect of life in early America. Each report is a thorough study of its subject with extensive citations of manuscript and printed sources, usually excerpted and illustrated. Most have bibliographies, maps, and drawings.

The more than 650 reports are divided into five categories: Archaeology, Architecture, Decorative Arts, History, and Trades. All may be invaluable for research, teaching, or general interest. Browsing through the guide, readers may be captivated by topics never before considered.

First, there are excavation and architectural reports on many of the colonial Williamsburg buildings. For those inspired to add some colonial flair to their homes in honor of the anniversary, truly authentic touches may be gleaned from "Paint Color

and Whitewash in Williamsburg and Colonial Virginia," "Partitioning the Landscape: The Fence in Eighteenth Century Virginia," "Garden Calendar," or perhaps, for the more industrious, "Report on Tarring and Repairing Roofs."

Interior decorators and antique aficionados will appreciate "The Beaufet (Buffet) in Eighteenth Century Williamsburg," as well as "Chinoiserie and Its Influence in Williamsburg." Military re-enactors cannot afford to miss the 362-page "Clothing and Accoutrements of the Officers and Soldiers of the Virginia Forces." Finally, those of us who entertain (or who plan to someday) are likely to be intrigued by the real life anecdotes written by colonists and gathered in "Foods, Entertainment and Decoration for the Table" or "Christmas Season Foods in Eighteenth Century Virginia."

This expansive collection is available on microfiche (fiche 84) in the Library's East Reading Room. Each report is separately cataloged so that a keyword search will lead directly to a relevant report. For those who love to browse but find "flipping through the fiches" less than satisfying, the print guide is available in the reference section in the same area. In addition to alphabetical title lists for each category, the guide provides helpful title keyword and author indexes. Although not the beautiful, color-illustrated volumes we tend to associate with topics like Williamsburg, decorating, and cookery (the Library of Virginia has these, too), these reports give an insight into the meticulous work performed by outstanding historical researchers. They are worth revisiting.

### RECENT ACQUISITION

*The Encyclopedia of Appalachia*, University of Tennessee Press, 2006. This reference work reflects the labor of more than 1,500 individuals over a ten-year period. It is the work of the Center for Appalachian Studies and Services at East Tennessee State University and is the first general reference title that focuses on the Appalachian region. Many staff and faculty members from the Center, as well as independent scholars, writers, photographers, and editors, have collaborated to create a detailed, informative encyclopedia, with entries that are both accessible and in-depth.

In geographic terms, Appalachia is described as extending from New York to Mississippi, and encompassing 410 counties in portions of 13 states. Culturally speaking, the area is continually evolving, and thus not easily defined. Even so, the authors have succeeded in painting a vivid portrait of the region and its residents, with well-organized text found under five main headings: "The Landscape," "The People," "Work and the Economy," "Cultural Traditions," and "Institutions." These are further divided into a total of 30 sections, each preceded by an overview essay of the main topic.

The largest section, "Cultural Traditions," begins with "Architecture." The overview essay for this topic notes that the prevailing stereotype of Appalachian architecture is the log building or cabin with a cedar-shake gable roof. The authors stress that, while this style was popular prior to the 20th century due to a lack of commercial saw mills, it is not the sum total of architectural styles for

# First Virginia Forum Garner Enthusiastic Support

The first Virginia Forum, held in Winchester on April 7 and 8, 2006, brought together more than 230 historians, teachers, librarians, archivists, and museum specialists for wide-ranging discussions of many aspects of Virginia's long and important history. It was the first time in a decade that students of Virginia's history had convened to share insights and discuss how interpretations of the past have changed. Hosts Warren R. Hofstra, of Shenandoah University, and Brent Tarter, of the Library of Virginia, were pleased that so many people attended, some from as far away as California and Maine.

At 22 separate sessions, 75 participants discussed such varied topics as how religious beliefs governed white people's attitudes about slavery and racial segregation; how soldiers' families coped with the aftermath of the Civil War; how, from the seventeenth century to the twenty-first, immigration continually changed Virginia's culture; how the status of both white and black women changed during Virginia's long history; and

the area. The article details various factors that have influenced architecture in Appalachia over time, with a discussion of the numerous landmarks that reflect the true diversity of regional structures. In this section, as well as throughout the text, the authors strive to achieve balance in the information presented, resulting in a more complex and multifaceted view of Appalachia than that commonly portrayed in the popular media.

The articles include cross references to related articles in the text, and extensive indexes to text, illustrations, and contributors are also provided. The work offers ample coverage on topics for which the region is renowned (music, religion, cooking), while less-familiar subjects, such as visual and performing arts, also receive considerable space in the text. This is an excellent research tool for those who seek a more complete understanding of the Appalachian region and its influence on our nation's history and culture.



how students are reevaluating historical interpretations of Virginia's Indians.

One session was devoted entirely to reconsidering Patrick Henry's place in Virginia and American history. Two sessions considered how to employ familiar research resources to answer new questions. And at another session participants discussed challenges in the teaching of Virginia history when there is no good general history of the colony and the state that carries the narrative through the end of the twentieth century.

At a banquet Friday night, Ted Olson, of East Tennessee State University, discussed the 1927 recording session at Bristol that is often regarded as the birth of country music; and Gregg Kimball, of the Library of Virginia, discussed the 1936 recording session at the Virginia State Penitentiary, one of the landmark events in the Library of Congress' program to capture and preserve unique elements of American cultural history. Olson and Kimball both used original recordings from the sessions and also played several selections on guitar and banjo to illustrate their points.

Most of the conference sessions were held at the Knowledge Point, the Shenandoah University History and Tourism Center in Winchester. Shenandoah University, the city of Winchester, and the Winchester-Frederick County Convention and Visitors

Bureau made the local arrangements. The historic city provided a unique setting for the first Virginia Forum.

The conference opened Friday morning at the historic Rouse Fire Station in downtown Winchester and concluded at the Old Court House Civil War Museum on Saturday afternoon. At the opening session, Tarter gave the conference keynote address, "Making History in Virginia," a review of changing interpretations of Virginia's history from the writings of the very first settlers to the scholarship being discussed at the Forum. At the concluding session, the participants enthusiastically endorsed a suggestion to make the Forum an annual event held in a different part of Virginia each year.

The second Virginia Forum will convene at the Library of Virginia, in Richmond, on Friday and Saturday, April 13 and 14, 2007. Chair of the program committee for the 2007 Virginia Forum will be Professor Larissa M. Smith, of Longwood University. Persons interested in making presentations at the second Forum should contact Professor Smith at [smithlm@longwood.edu](mailto:smithlm@longwood.edu). Watch for announcements in this newsletter and on the calendar of events on the Library of Virginia's Web site at <http://www.lva.lib.va.us>, which will also contain registration and program information early in 2007.



Former Gov. Mark R. Warner poses next to his official portrait as his wife, Lisa Collis, looks on. Librarian of Virginia Nolan T. Yelich delivered the welcome at the portrait unveiling on May 16.

## COUNCIL OF STATE ARCHIVISTS ACTS TO ENHANCE EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Hurricanes Katrina and Rita took a toll on the archives and records of communities across the Gulf Coast and pointed to a larger problem looming on the horizon. In April the Council of State Archivists convened representatives of the nine southeastern states most prone to hurricanes to confront the challenges of emergency preparedness for archives. State Archivist Conley L. Edwards, records and information management analyst Thomas Wellman, and circuit court grants coordinator Glenn Smith represented Virginia at the conference.

The Council of State Archivists, in cooperation with the National Archives, has undertaken a broad scale disaster preparedness initiative with the following goals:

- Basic statewide emergency preparedness procedures for archives and records in nine states in the southeastern U.S. before the start of the 2006 hurricane season
- Basic statewide emergency preparedness procedures in all 50 states and the District of Columbia by the end of September 2006
- Enhanced emergency communication and coordination for archives and records among key agencies at the federal, state, and local levels, including state archives and records management programs, state emergency management agencies, the National Archives, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency

The National Archives expects to use the resources developed during this project for its own preparedness and response efforts, as part of its "First Preserver" program.

An immediate outcome from the meeting is the establishment of a toll-free conference line for records-related emergency planning and response by FEMA's Plans Division. The conference line can be used by any state archives and records management agency for immediate emergency assessment, coordinated responses, and planning and preparedness. Use of the conference line is coordinated by CoSA.



**LESLIE GARLAND BOLLING** (1898–1955), a self-taught Virginia sculptor, created more than eighty wood sculptures in two decades and achieved national acclaim through exhibitions sponsored by the Harmon Foundation in the 1930s. In 1935 he became the first African American artist in Virginia to have a one-man exhibition. In the largest exhibition of his work since 1937, *Freeing Art from Wood* examines 30 works, including portraits and African American working people, carved by Bolling with pocketknives.

## FREEING ART FROM WOOD

THE SCULPTURE OF LESLIE GARLAND BOLLING

EXHIBITION OPEN TO THE PUBLIC  
AT THE LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA  
July 24–October 21, 2006  
MONDAY–SATURDAY 9:00AM–5:00PM

## Artist Fellowships Available Through the Virginia Commission for the Arts

The Virginia Commission for the Arts invites Virginia-based photographers and writers of fiction to apply for its 2006–2007 Artist Fellowships due August 1, 2006. Artist fellowships of \$5,000 are awarded annually by the Commission to recognize the creative excellence of individual Virginia artists and to support their pursuit of artistic excellence.

Artists in the disciplines of photography and fiction, who are legal residents of Virginia at the application deadline and who plan to remain in the state for the coming year, are eligible to apply. Interested artists may obtain an application by calling the Commission (804-225-3132) or by downloading forms from its Web site: [www.arts.state.va.us](http://www.arts.state.va.us).

The Commission offers artist fellowships on a rotating basis to Virginia artists in the following disciplines: crafts, photography, sculpture, fiction, music composition, choreography, painting, works on paper (prints and drawing), poetry, playwriting, and filmmaking; depending upon the amount of state and federal funding available to the Commission.

## Summer Talks 2006

Join us at noon in the conference rooms of the Library of Virginia for these free talks. Please see [www.lva.lib.va.us/whowere/events](http://www.lva.lib.va.us/whowere/events) for more details on these and other exciting events at the Library of Virginia.

Tuesday, July 18, 2006

### The Facts of Life: Creating a Biographical Reference Work of Notable Virginians

John G. Deal, Donald W. Gunter, and Marianne E. Julienne, editors of the *Dictionary of Virginia Biography*, will discuss the research strategies and creative use of sources required to create this multivolume reference work. The recently released third volume of the DVB presents biographies ranging alphabetically from Caperton through Daniels. A book signing will follow the talk.

Thursday, July 27, 2006

### Finding Leslie Garland Bolling

Barbara C. Batson, author of *Freeing Art from Wood: The Sculpture of Leslie Garland Bolling*, curator of *Freeing Art from Wood*, and the Library's exhibitions coordinator, will discuss her two decades of research on the artist and her search for examples of his work.





## Mount Vernon Genealogical Society Visits Library

Tom Camden welcomes members of the Mount Vernon Genealogical Society to Special Collections during the group's recent tour of the Library of Virginia. The Library is one of the Richmond area's most visited cultural attractions. In fiscal year 2005, more than 120,000 people visited the Library of Virginia.

**DVB...** Indian attack in 1622 became the legendary story of Chanco, the boy who saved Jamestown. The *DVB* also presents the intriguing stories of Philip St. George Cooke and his son, John Rogers Cooke, two Civil War generals who fought on opposite sides. Together, the biographies in volume 3 paint a vibrant portrait of Virginia's past.

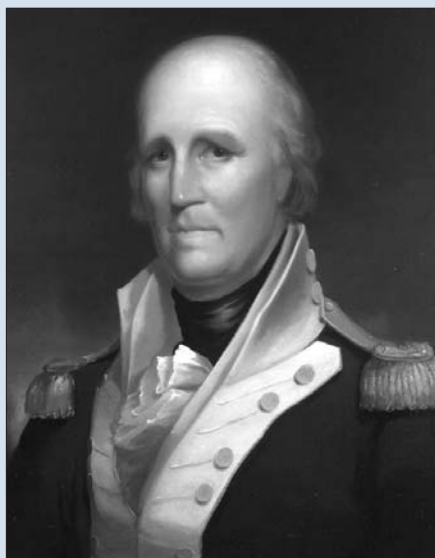
Exhaustive research in underused primary sources has corrected errors and uncovered new information about even the most well-known subjects. Previous biographies of John Snyder Carlile, a passionate proponent of the Union who was instrumental in the creation of West Virginia as a separate state, have failed to name his parents. His biography in this volume is the first to do so and to chronicle the volatile, nomadic nature of his formative years. The biography of the 19th-century black Baptist missionary Lott Cary uncovers for the first time his appearance in a 1797 estate inventory, identifies his second wife by name, and establishes a previously unknown fourth marriage. Also discovered through careful examination of election and archival records were two long-forgotten black members of the House of Delegates. George William Cole, of Essex County, and Johnson

Collins, of Brunswick County, appear in no reference book of 19th-century black officeholders. Researchers can use the bricks and mortar of the *DVB* biographies as the raw materials to construct new histories of Virginia and to provide a deeper, more thorough understanding of the lives of all Virginians.

A Preservation and Access Reference Materials Grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities supported completion of the third volume. Editors Sara B. Bearss, John G. Deal, Donald W. Gunter, Marianne E. Julienne, John T. Kneebone, Brent Tarter, and Sandra Gioia Treadway and assistant editors Katharine E. Harbury, Jennifer R. Loux, G. W. Poindexter, and William Bland Whitley are the editorial team for the third volume. Volumes 1 (surnames Aaroe–Blanchfield), 2 (surnames Bland–Cannon), and 3 (surnames Caperton–Daniels) are available from the Virginia Shop, [lvashop@lva.lib.va.us](mailto:lvashop@lva.lib.va.us) or 804-692-3524.

—submitted by John G. Deal and G. W. Poindexter,  
Publications and Educational Services

## Featured in the *Dictionary of Virginia Biography*—Volume 3 • Caperton–Daniels



The military leadership of **George Rogers Clark** (1752–1818) helped open up what became Kentucky and the Northwest Territory.



**Edna Meade Colson** (1888–1985) trained generations of black teachers from 1919 to 1953 as education department director at what became Virginia State University.



As chief of the Pamunkey from 1902 to 1930, **George Major Cook** (1860–1930) worked tirelessly to shape the public perception of his tribe and maintain the heritage of Virginia Indians.

# PUBLIC ACCESS TO ONLINE COLLECTIONS IMPROVED

More than ten years ago, the Library of Virginia first digitized and provided public access via the Internet to many of the card files that indexed the collections in its care. It was an amazing leap in public access to research tools that formerly had been available only to patrons who visited the Library or requested assistance from a staff member in a letter or telephone call.

Eventually, however, the task of clicking through digital images in search of ancestors or research subjects became cumbersome, and the Library's Digital Library Program successfully converted many of those card files to MARC format records searchable through the Library's online catalog. Many of our researcher patrons are familiar with the more popular collections, such as the Land Office Patents and Grants and the Confederate Pension Application databases, both of which also provide access to images of the records indexed.

Since the state budget cuts in 2002, many digital card files remain unconverted. Over the past two years, however, technology and library and archival practices have merged to allow staff to create tools that greatly enhance patron access to these indexes and, ultimately, to the Library's collections.

Many of the original digital card file indexes are now available as searchable finding aids. Through the auspices of the Virginia Heritage Project, Encoded Archival Description finding aids have been created for hundreds of the Library's private papers collections, including three that formerly had digital card files. The VHP, a consolidated database of finding aids to manuscript and archival collections at 11 Virginia repositories, provides information about historical materials that document Virginia History and culture from 1607 to the present.

Researchers can now search online for individuals represented in the Campbell-Brown, Dabney-Jackson, and Tazewell family collections. Access to these three finding aids is available through the Library's Archives and Manuscripts database, or the "Private Papers and Biographical Resources" page under "What We Have" on the Library's Web site.

In addition, staff in the Information Technology Services Division, working with both description and public services archives staff, have converted four digital card files into searchable databases. Now, patrons at home, at work, or at the Library have quick and easy access to research tools that technology seemingly had surpassed.

The Mexican War Soldiers and the Confederate Navy Index databases are found at "What We Have / Military Records and Resources."

The searchable index to the J. Henry Brown Monuments, Inc., Order Books is available at "What We Have / Business Records / Historical Business Records."

The database indexing the papers of Baptist minister William Heth Whitsitt is available at "What We Have / Private Papers and Biographical Resources."

Staff members are currently working on converting the digital card files to the Bruce-Randolph Collection, as well as the digital card files that make up the massive Index to Marriage Records. Researchers will be alerted to the release of these and other improved access tools as they become available.

—submitted by Kathy Jordan, Information Technology Services



800 East Broad Street  
Richmond, VA 23219-8000

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
RICHMOND, VA  
PERMIT NO. 1088