



THE LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA

Issue 178 • November/December 2006

Official Newsletter

LIBRARY EXHIBITION TO EXPLORE **MYTH** and **MEMORY**

UNDERSTANDING 400 YEARS OF VIRGINIA HISTORY

On January 8, 2007, the Library of Virginia will open *Myth & Memory: Understanding 400 Years of Virginia History*, an exhibition exploring how and why Virginians have remembered their collective past through commemorations, celebrations, and other public events. *Myth & Memory* will use a rich variety of artifacts, images, and media from the Library's holdings and from other institutions to explain how historical memory is created and shaped through public events such as commemorations, pageants, and parades, giving meaning to historic events and teaching lessons to the community about those events. Just as communities develop a corporate memory, individuals also develop a personal understanding of their place in community and history. Paraphrasing the historian Carl Becker, they become their own historians, absorbing communal values and lessons through individual experience.

Myth and Memory will explain these ideas using important examples from Virginia's past and present. The exhibition will explore how the commemorations of the founding of Jamestown as well as commemorations of other events, such as Cornwallis's surrender at Yorktown and the bicentennial of George Washington's birth (1932), reflect Virginians' perceptions of the commonwealth's history. Concepts that fall within the context of public memory include how the meaning of the yearly tribute of Virginia Indians to the state government has changed over time, how Emancipation Day celebrations developed after the Civil War and why they continued in some regions and ended in others, what lessons were taught through the reunions of Confederate veterans and the Civil War Centennial, and how the development and interpretation of historic sites and heritage trails in Virginia can be interpreted.

Three interactive components will allow visitors to experience Virginia history—by hearing it, creating their own version of it, and seeing it displayed geographically. "Voices of Virginians" allows visi-

tors to listen to audio selections of the words of Virginians from the 17th century to the present day gathered from the archives of the Library, including letters, petitions, diaries, court records, official papers, and recordings. "Shaping History through Documents" offers visitors the opportunity to create their own virtual collection of definitive "Virginiana" through a simple poll or survey, selecting Virginia documents from a menu containing items sent by the Library to the 1907 Jamestown Ter-Centennial Exposition or documents selected for the 1998 publication *The Common Wealth: Treasures from the Collections of the Library of Virginia*. "Landscape of Memory" encourages visitors to think about their own community's past by examining how history is commemorated on Virginia's landscape, specifically focusing on the Historical Highway Marker program. Using an interactive map that indicates the location of markers across the commonwealth, visitors will explore the history, geography, themes, and issues presented by marker content.

Myth and Memory continues through December 15, 2007, and will be complemented by a series of free programs open to the public. On Thursday, January 25, 2007, at 5:30 PM, **Commemorating Jamestown: A Clash of Race and Memory** will feature W. Fitzhugh Brundage, the William B. Umstead Professor of History and director of Graduate Studies at University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He will discuss white and black historical memory in the South since the Civil War. The history of the commemoration of the founding of Jamestown, Virginia, reveals much about the evolution of ideas about Virginia's past and its meaning for black and white Americans. Few historic sites had a more paradoxical meaning; Jamestown was venerated by many whites as the birthplace of Anglo-Saxon civilization and democracy in America while simultaneously remembered by blacks as the cradle of American slavery. ...see **Myth & Memory**, pg. 3



THE LIBRARY
OF VIRGINIA

800 East Broad Street
Richmond, VA 23219-8000
804-692-3592 • www.lva.lib.va.us

Janice M. Hathcock, *Editor*
Ann Henderson, *Copy Editor*
Amy C. Winegardner, *Graphic Designer*
Charles W. Sydnor, Jr., *Board Chair*
Nolan T. Yelich, *Librarian of Virginia*

LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA TO OFFER SPANISH LANGUAGE OUTREACH PROGRAMS

Workshops designed to assist Virginia libraries in reaching out to Spanish-speaking patrons across the state began on December 14, 2006, at the Culpeper County Library and will continue through March 30, 2007.

"According to the Census Bureau, in 2004 more than 18 percent of the U.S. population spoke a language other than English at home and more than 60 percent of this group spoke Spanish. Hispanics/Latinos now represent the largest minority population in the U.S.," explained Cynthia Church, continuing education consultant for the ...see **Spanish**, pg. 5

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON SCHOOL OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION STUDIES ALUMNI ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCES EIGHT CENTENNIAL AWARD WINNERS

In honor of the University of Wisconsin-Madison's School of Library and Information Studies Centennial Celebration, the SLIS Alumni Association recently awarded eight Centennial Awards to distinguished alumni. These awards were conferred on Saturday, September 30, 2006.

Librarian of Virginia Nolan T. Yelich, who earned his master's of science degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Library and Information Studies, was among those honored as a Centennial Alumnus.

The Centennial Awards recognize both national and local leaders in eight key areas in the library and information profession: academic libraries, archives, association leadership, collections and services for children and young adults, library education, public libraries, school libraries, and special libraries. In reviewing the impressive nomination submissions, the SLIS

Alumni Association considered alumni activities and accomplishments such as significant contributions to library patrons and constituents, notable publications and productions, extensive participation in professional library associations, leadership in ongoing education for librarians, and development of and improvement in library management and facilities.

Other UW-Madison SLIS Alumni Association Centennial Award winners are: Lawrence J. Jacobsen, director emeritus, Jacobsen Primate Research Center Library, University of Wisconsin-Madison; Nancy C. Kranich, former president, American Library Association and retired associate dean of libraries, New York University Libraries; Kathleen T. Horning, director, University of Wisconsin-Madison Cooperative Children's Book Center; Dr. Lorene Byron Brown, dean emeritus, School of Library and Information

Studies, Clark Atlanta University; Mary Knapp, reference librarian, Madison Public Library (Madison, Wis.); Madge Hildebrandt Klais, assistant professor and coordinator of the School Library Media Program, University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Library and Information Studies; Roy M. Mersky, Harry M. Reasoner Regents Chair in Law and director of research, University of Texas School of Law (Austin, Tex.).

The Wisconsin Library School was founded in 1906, as part of the Free Library Commission, and became the Library School of the University of Wisconsin shortly thereafter (now the School of Library and Information Studies). The school that was born of a mission to educate librarians to work in the state of Wisconsin now boasts about 4,000 living graduates who are employed around the world in libraries and archives of all sizes.

2007 Symposium Explores the Decisions that Confronted Lee and Others in 1861

On April 20, 1861, shortly after resigning his long-sought commission as colonel in the U.S. Army, Robert E. Lee wrote his old friend and commander, Gen. Winfield Scott, to explain the reasons for his decision. "Save in the defense of my native state I never desire again to raise my sword," he assured Scott. The following day, Lee formally accepted a commission as commander of Virginia's military forces.

Difficult as it was, Lee's decision was, according to his Pulitzer Prize-winning biographer Douglas Southall Freeman, "the answer he was born to make." Lee was a Virginian and believed that his primary loyalty was to the state of his birth and home of his family for generations.

But the decision to cast one's lot with state over nation was not inevitable for all of the military and political officers who faced it.

The man to whom Lee wrote his famous letter, for example, decided to remain commanding general of the U.S. Army. Winfield Scott was one of at least 18 Virginia-born generals—most notably George H. Thomas—who decided to keep his sword unsheathed in defense of the United States of America.

The decision about loyalty that faced prominent Southern American military and political leaders in 1861 is the topic of the Museum of the Confederacy's 2007 Symposium, "The Answers They Were Born to Make: Choosing Sides in the Civil War." Cosponsored and hosted by the Library of Virginia, the February 24, 2007, symposium will feature presentations by Emory M. Thomas on Robert E. Lee, William C. "Jack" Davis on U.S. Vice-President and Confederate Gen. John C. Breckinridge,

Craig L. Symonds on naval officers Franklin Buchanan and David G. Farragut, and Brian Steel Wills on George Thomas.

In observation of the bicentennial of Lee's birthday, these scholars will also lead the audience in a closing session that discusses the importance of Robert E. Lee's 1861 decision to resign his U.S. Army commission.

The symposium will be held on Saturday, February 24, 2007, at the Library of Virginia, 800 E. Broad Street, Richmond, from 9:30 AM to 4 PM. The cost is \$35 for members of the Museum of the Confederacy and Library of Virginia donors, and \$45 for others. The fee includes a box lunch. Reservations and advanced payment are required (see the form below).

MUSEUM OF THE CONFEDERACY 2007 SYMPOSIUM REGISTRATION FORM

Number attending _____

Name(s)

Mailing address

Daytime phone # (____) _____

E-mail address _____

Museum member yes / no (*circle one*)

Library of Virginia donor yes / no (*circle one*)

Amount enclosed \$ _____
(members/donors: \$35; others: \$45)

Make checks payable to:
The Museum of the Confederacy

Mail form to: The Museum of the Confederacy, 1201 East Clay Street, Richmond, VA 23219, Attn: Linda Lipscomb

Lunch menu choices (included in admission fee):
Sandwich, chips, dessert, and 12-oz. drink

Sandwich choices (*check one*)

- Turkey and Havarti Cheese
- Caribbean Jerk Chicken Salad
- Chicken Salad
- Spicy Tuna Salad
- Ham and Swiss Cheese
- Roast Beef and Smoked Gouda Cheese
- Garlic and Chili Hummus

EARLY VIRGINIA LAW BOOK COMES FULL CIRCLE

The Library of Virginia had two special visitors in October. Deb and Joel Reisman of Waban, Massachusetts, stopped in at the end of their vacation trip to Colonial Williamsburg. The purpose of their visit was to make a gift of an early volume of Virginia's Acts of the Assembly to the Special Collections Department. The volume they brought, an 1803 *Collection of all such Acts of the General Assembly of Virginia*, printed in Richmond by Samuel Pleasants, was no ordinary donation, however. The work features a unique hand-lettered bookplate inside the front end-board noting that the book was from the library of Cornelius Dorman. Born sometime in the 1750s, Dorman was the jailer for Rockbridge County and built a handsome brick structure in Lexington early in 1801. That structure was later sold to Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson and is now the site of the totally restored Jackson House Museum. Dorman lived in the house himself until July 1843 when he sold the property to his son, Charles P. Dorman (1794–1849). Records indicate that Charles P. Dorman was "a prominent lawyer in Lexington, a member of the Virginia Legislature, instrumental in passage of the bill creating the Virginia Military Institute, and a member of the VMI Board of Visitors.

The Reismans had the book in their possession for nearly 25 years and very thoughtfully considered the Library of Virginia as the final resting place for the volume. In further research, Deb Reisman determined that Cornelius Dorman also had a daughter who married a minister and moved to Topsfield, Massachusetts. She speculates that since it was a Virginia law book, the volume was likely in Charles' library and, since he predeceased his sister, she inherited his library, which was then shipped to Massachusetts. That is likely how the book ended up in Massachusetts and in the hands of Deb Reisman, a lifelong Massachusetts resident.

The book is in remarkably good condition considering its age and will require little conservation work, according to Tom Camden, director of Special Collections. Although the Library already owned a copy of the book, the early association with a prominent Virginia family makes this volume even more special. "We are blessed to have such thoughtful supporters," notes Camden.

Myth & Memory... Inevitably, then, when Virginians and Americans commemorated the founding of Jamestown, they had to struggle with the vexing issues of race and American identity. Brundage's talk will describe the ways in which black and white Americans grappled with the dilemma of race in a century and a half of Jamestown commemorations, concluding with some observations about the meaning of Jamestown for contemporary Americans.

On Saturday, March 10, 2007, at 3:00 PM, the Library will present the **2007 Alan M. and Nathalie P. Voorhees Lecture on the History of Cartography**. Dr. John Hebert, chief of the Geography and Map Division at the Library of Congress, and Dr. Helen C. Rountree, Professor Emerita of Anthropology at Old Dominion University and the author and editor of numerous works on the Native Americans of the East Coast, will deliver the fourth annual Voorhees Lecture on the History of Cartography. Dr. Hebert will look at John Smith's map of Virginia as an active promotional device for acquiring territory and Dr. Rountree will discuss John Smith as a mapmaker who mapped what he saw, but selectively.

On Thursday, June 14, 2007, at 5:30 PM, John d'Entremont, the Theodore H. Jack Professor of History at Randolph Macon Woman's College, will explore the effort to define America at the Jamestown commemorations of 1807, 1857, 1907, 1957, and 2007 in a lecture titled "May We Be Worthy of Our Birthright": **Defining the Meaning of America at the Jamestown Commemorations, 1807–2007**. Because America has always been a set of hopes as well as a spot on a map, and because the founding of the United States was accompanied by a document proclaiming principles as the nation's reason for being, every generation of Americans has been consumed with interpreting those principles and arguing over their application. Americans, by definition, care—and often disagree—about what it means and what it requires to be American. Civic commemorations are one venue at which that concern becomes vivid.

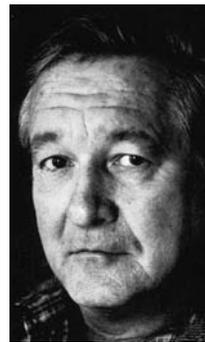
For more information on other Library of Virginia programs related to Jamestown, visit www.lva.lib.va.us/jamestownevents.asp.

—submitted by Barbara Batson and Gregg Kimball, Publications and Educational Services



Noted With Regret

William Styron, who was recognized in October as the recipient of the 2006 Library of Virginia Literary Lifetime Achievement Award, died November 1, 2006, on Martha's Vineyard, Mass. He was 81. He is survived by his wife, Rose, three daughters, a son, and eight grandchildren.

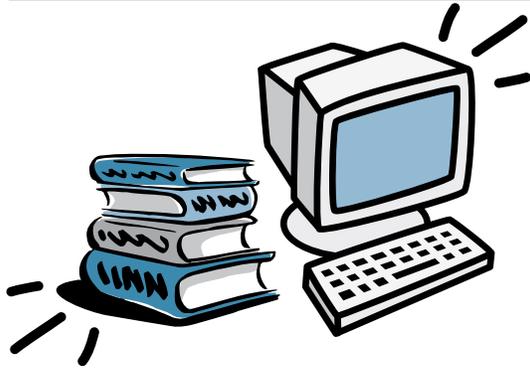


Born and raised in Newport News, Styron traced his roots in the Old Dominion back to forebears who established themselves in tidewater Virginia in the latter half of the 17th century. Styron began writing as a teenager and became serious about the craft during his undergraduate days, first at Davidson College and then later at Duke University. Styron interrupted his education to enlist in the Marine Corps during World War II. On his return home, he completed his studies at Duke and moved to New York to work as an editor with McGraw-Hill—and to write.

Styron published his first novel, *Lie Down in Darkness*, in 1951 at the age of 26. The novel launched his literary career. In 1967, Random House released *The Confessions of Nat Turner*, Styron's fictional account of a slave insurrection that took place in 1831 in Southampton County. Telling the story from the perspective of Nat Turner, the slave who sparked the rebellion, proved controversial, but it was also a brilliant and brave work that won Styron the prestigious Pulitzer Prize for fiction.

In 1979, Styron published *Sophie's Choice*, the poignant but tragic story of a Holocaust survivor who lost both her children in Auschwitz. *Sophie's Choice* made Styron's name a household word when the novel was made into an acclaimed motion picture. The Library of Virginia marked the 20th anniversary of the publication of *Sophie's Choice* with a yearlong series of literary events, a statewide reading program, and a black-tie gala in Styron's honor.

"Not only has the world lost an American literary giant, but Virginia has lost a distinguished native son who took pride in being called a Virginian," said Librarian of Virginia Nolan T. Yelich.



Did you know...?

Have you seen the Reading Rooms Menu that the Reference department has developed for your convenience? Try it next time you visit the Library!

READING ROOMS MENU

[Library of Virginia Website](#) or go directly to the [LVA Catalogs](#)

[WorldCat.org](#) (a catalog of libraries worldwide)

[Consumer Information](#)

[Government and Virginia Research](#)

[Topics](#)

[Databases](#) (in-library use only)

[Grants](#)

[Education](#)

[Legal Information](#) [Legal Forms](#)

[Employment](#)

[Maps and Geographic Resources](#)

[Genealogical and Historical Research](#)

[Telephone Directories, Area Codes, and Maps](#)

[Reference Collections](#)

LIBRARY REFERENCE QUESTIONS?

Call 804-692-3777

ARCHIVES REFERENCE QUESTIONS?

Call 804-692-3888

This menu is available from all the computers that provide access to the Library of Virginia's catalog and Web site. Each entry leads you to more choices, from databases, to consumer issues, to genealogical or historical research. From this menu you may access federal or Virginia government sites, legal information, forms, or telephone directories.

If you need assistance, please do not hesitate to ask a librarian to show you how to use it. You will be amazed by how many sources you can access from this simple menu.

RECENT ACQUISITIONS

Historical Statistics of the United States: Earliest Times to the Present. Millennial Edition, by Susan B. Carter, Scott Sigmund Gartner, Michael R. Haines, Alan L. Olmstead, Richard Sutch, and Gavin Wright, editors in chief (Cambridge University Press, 2006).

"Like dreams, statistics are a form of wish fulfillment." —Jean Baudrillard

In 1990, the U.S. Census Bureau made a decision. They would not publish a fourth edition of the *Historical Statistics of the United States: Colonial Times to 1970, Pt. 1-2*. Last published in 1975, this two-volume work has long been a core part of most library reference collections, and can still be purchased from the Government Printing Office. Taking note of the growing need for a new and expanded edition, the representatives of three scholarly associations (the Economic History Association, the Cliometrics Society, and the Social Science History Association) voiced their concern to the Census Bureau in November 1993. Realizing that the Census Bureau did not plan

to create an enhanced version of *Historical Statistics of the United States*, a group of more than 80 scholars, all experts in their fields, worked privately on a new edition.

The Census Bureau authorized the group's endeavors, and the resulting product, a five-volume set titled *Historical Statistics of the United States: Earliest Times to the Present. Millennial Edition*, has been published by Cambridge University Press with a price tag of \$990. It has six editors-in-chief, 83 contributors, 303 consultants, and 65 research assistants. With five volumes totaling 39 chapters and 1,781 detailed tables of data, the work is a history of the United States seemingly distilled into numbers. Researchers should not be misled by the emphasis on data, however. This resource is more than numbers; the chapters begin with highly informative essays that explain the figures. Volume 1 focuses on population, Volume 2 on work and welfare, Volume 3 on economic structure and performance, Volume 4 on economic sectors, and Volume 5 on governance and international relations. Each volume has its own detailed table of contents, and conveniently indexes all five volumes. This essential

acquisition is now part of the Library of Virginia's reference collection.

The George Washington Collection: Fine and Decorative Arts at Mount Vernon by Carol Borchert Cadou. (Mount Vernon Ladies' Association/Hudson Hills Press, 2006).

On the occasion of the opening of the Donald W. Reynolds Museum and Education Center at Mount Vernon, the Mount Vernon Ladies Association and Carol Borchert Cadou, the Robert H. Smith Senior Curator at the estate, have produced a lovely, oversize volume filled with glossy color pictures of silver, ceramics, furniture, paintings, and more, presented "in the context of Washington's life as a Virginia planter, commander in chief, United States President, and retired public servant." The catalog entries incorporate family history and provenance along with physical information about the illustrated objects. On these merits alone, the book would be well worth perusing. Cadou provides more than the presentation of artifacts, however, offering that almost unattainable result—a readable, yet well-documented, historical narrative.

The study of material culture presumes that possessions may define a person by his tastes and economic status and reflect his values. In the case of George Washington, Mount Vernon must surely be the ultimate laboratory. George visited the house—originally the estate of his elder half-brother, Lawrence—frequently as a teenager and young man. In 1754, he leased the property from Lawrence's widow. It remained his home for more than 40 years. This longevity, along with Washington's meticulous attention to details and his penchant for record keeping, provides a picture of the Washington family and their household throughout his career.

We know that Washington was aware of the need to acquit himself properly for acceptance and advancement in the world to which he belonged. As a youth, he copied *Rules of Civility & Decent Behaviour In Company and Conversation*. Records exist showing that while in the military he ordered regimental accoutrements that set him apart from other military personnel. To outfit his home, as a young planter he ordered his London factor to fill his lists with goods that were "fashionable—neat—and good in their several kinds." In the book's preface we learn that Washington's personality is revealed across time through his preference for ". . . things that were stylish rather than old-fashioned, but never ostentatious. He appreciated fine craftsmanship, and his favorite pieces always were practical. He bought carefully, liked to find bargains, and, now and then, convinced himself that second-hand objects were perfectly fine."

The introduction describes the formation of the Mount Vernon Ladies Association, the acquisition of the property from John Augustine Washington III in 1860, the furnishing of the rooms in the decades that followed, and the period room interpretations culminating in the current furnishing plan made possible by scientific paint analysis in 1979.

More than 250 years after his birth, historians continue to find new aspects of George Washington to discuss. *The George Washington Collection: Fine and Decorative Arts at Mount Vernon* presents a look at the man and his family through the window of his material possessions and provides a portrait with insight and subtlety.

—submitted by David Feinberg and Gail Tatum, Research and Information Services

Spanish... Library of Virginia. "Being able to introduce the basics about libraries to all customers, including those whose primary language is Spanish, can facilitate learning and enhance the quality of life for everyone."

Church is one of four trainers from Virginia who received a grant to travel to Seattle to participate in a series of extensive training sessions to become a master trainer for the nationwide program titled "Spanish Language Outreach Program: Empowering Library Staff to Reach Out to Spanish Speakers in Their Communities and Increase Their Access to Technology." In the coming months, she and the other trainers will conduct eight outreach workshops for the state's public library staff members. The program is funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, in partnership with WebJunction—an online community where library staff meet to share ideas, solve problems, take online courses, and have fun—and various state libraries, including the Library of Virginia.

Participants who attend one of the day-long outreach workshops will receive information and training about proven marketing techniques, understanding cultural differences, providing technology training, and partnering with local community organizations that serve Spanish speakers. As part of their training, participants will begin to develop an action plan of outreach activities to implement in their local libraries.

Future workshops will be offered on January 18 at the Fairfax County Public Library in Falls Church, January 19 at the Arlington County Public Library in Arlington, February 2 at the Massanutten

State Implements New Recruitment System

The Virginia Department of Human Resource Management has implemented a new recruitment system. The Recruitment Management System began operation on July 1, 2006. All state agencies are required to use RMS for any recruitment announcements. RMS has applicant-tracking capabilities as well as an online application form. State agencies were instructed in June that eventually all agencies would be required to go "paperless." The state now tracks Equal Employment Opportunity data through RMS and no longer allows the upload of the Library of Virginia's internal EEO data.

Effective December 1, 2006, the Library of Virginia no longer accepts paper applications, resumes, or cover letters for any advertised positions.

The new online form allows applicants to fill in required data, but also permits the attachment of cover letters and resumes. There is a tutorial on the "Virginia Jobs" Web site, <http://jobs.virginia.gov/emplHowToApply.html>.

Regional Library in Harrisonburg, February 15 at the Paul D. Camp Community College in Franklin, February 16 on the Eastern Shore (location TBD), March 2 at the Henrico County Public Library in Henrico County, March 15 at the Lynchburg Public Library, and March 30 at the New River Community College in Dublin.

Attendance at these free workshops is limited to librarians, educators, and English for Speakers of Other Languages specialists. To register for the Spanish Language Outreach Programs, please contact Cynthia Church at 804-692-3773, or cchurch@lva.lib.va.us.



Spanish Language Outreach Program in Culpeper

THE TIES THAT BIND: COUNTY COHABITATION REGISTERS PROVIDE A WEALTH OF INFORMATION

During a recent records pick-up in Lunenburg County, staff of the Library of Virginia's Local Records Branch acquired a document of great importance and interest—that county's cohabitation register. This 25-page cohabitation register, or, as it is properly titled, *Register of Colored Persons of Lunenburg County, Virginia, cohabiting together as Husband and Wife on 27TH February 1866*, was the legal vehicle by which former slaves legitimized both their marriages and their children. The information about an individual contained in the cohabitation register is literally priceless, as it is often the first time that a former slave appeared officially in the public record and because of the extensive kinds of information that the register recorded.

Prior to the close of the Civil War, Virginia law provided no legal recognition for slave marriages. What documents like the cohabitation registers reveal is that slaves certainly did marry and consider themselves to be married in spite of the lack of legal protection and recognition. On February 27, 1866, the General Assembly passed "An Act to amend and re-enact the 14th section of chapter 108 of the Code of Virginia for 1860 in regard to Registers of Marriage; and to legalize the Marriages of Colored Persons now cohabiting as Husband and Wife" (see Acts of Assembly, 1866–1867, Chapter 18). Section 2 of the act states:

That where colored persons, before the passage of this act, shall have undertaken and agreed to occupy the relation to each other of husband and wife, and shall be cohabiting together as such at the time of its passage, whether the rites of marriage shall have been celebrated between them or not, they shall be deemed husband and wife, and be entitled to the rights and privileges, and subject to the duties and obligations of that relation in like manner as if they had been duly married by law; and all their children shall be deemed legitimate, whether born before or after the passage of this act.

Additionally, the federal Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands (commonly called the Freedmen's Bureau) directed the assistant superintendents of the states to order the county clerks to make a registry of such cohabiting couples (see Circular No. 11, dated March 19, 1866, in

Orders, Circular Letters, and Letters of Instruction, vol. 2 [1866], Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, Records of the Assistant Commissioner for the State of Virginia, 1865–1869. Miscellaneous reel 3880, Library of Virginia, National Archives microfilm M1048 [reel 41], Record Group 105). The General Assembly passed an additional act on April 29, 1867, authorizing the commonwealth's government to acquire from the United States government any marriage or cohabitation registers that had been compiled by federal officers for deposit with local clerks of court in order to assist with documenting the legitimization of former slave marriages (see Acts of Assembly, 1866–1867, Chapter 127).

Beyond accomplishing the original goal of the cohabitation registration, which was the formalizing of slave marriages, the kind of information recorded in the registers is invaluable today to genealogists and historians alike. The Lunenburg County cohabitation register and all other surviving Virginia cohabitation registers recorded the name of the husband, his age, place of birth, residence, occupation, last owner, and last owner's city or county of residence; the name of the wife, her age, place of birth, residence, last owner, and last owner's city or county of residence; name of children with the ages of each; and the date of commencement of cohabitation. The Lunenburg County cohabitation register is particularly impor-

tant because it is the most extensive register housed at the Library of Virginia.

A glance down the pages of the Lunenburg County cohabitation register shows that husbands and wives registered there had been born in many Virginia localities and even out of state, that their most recent former owners were often from separate counties, and that many of the marriages were of a long duration. For the genealogist and historian of African American families, this is a goldmine of information, providing snapshots of particular people and families in February 1866, but also revealing slave attitudes about marriage and family in general. The cohabitation registers offer clues about the history of individuals that may have remained hidden even from the 1870 federal census takers four years later. The documents reveal that, in spite of Virginia's refusal to legally recognize slave marriages, many slaves considered themselves married and proceeded to live as husband and wife and raise a family as best as they could given the particular challenges of slavery. Social historians and historians of Southern, American, and African American families would be wise to give the cohabitation registers a look. Who knows what other ways the registers could be valuable to the study of history?

A second type of register is often grouped together with the cohabitation registers, but provides solely for the legitimization of children ...see **Registers**, back page

JAMESTOWN 2007 ANNOUNCES HAMPTON UNIVERSITY AS SITE OF TAVIS SMILEY'S 2007 STATE OF THE BLACK UNION

Television and radio personality Tavis Smiley will bring his "State of the Black Union 2007" symposium to Hampton University on February 10, 2007, as part of the 400th anniversary of Jamestown.

The symposium is free to the public, and will be broadcast live via C-SPAN. Anyone interested in attending can register online at www.tavistalks.com or by calling 213-694-1883. More information about America's 400th Anniversary can be found at www.Americas400thAnniversary.com.

Originating in 1999 and hosted by Tavis Smiley, "The State of the Black Union" brings together America's black thought leaders, educators, public policy makers, religious leaders, and community organizers to examine the

"African American Imprint on America." The symposium takes on added poignancy in 2007 during the international commemoration marking the 400th anniversary of Jamestown, and the arrival of the first Africans in America.

Thirty-six of America's thought leaders, including Angela Glover Blackwell, Cornel West, the Rev. Dr. Otis Moss Sr., Cathy Hughes, Bruce Gordon, Michel Martin, Tim Reid, and the Rev. Jesse L. Jackson, will join Tavis Smiley and co-host Tom Joyner to examine the impact of African Americans on western culture as well as current issues of importance to the African American community.

—submitted by Kevin Cossett, Jamestown 2007, and Vanesse Lloyd-Sgambati, The Literary

2007 Library of Virginia Literary Awards Entry Form

Category of Entry (please check one) Fiction Nonfiction Poetry

Title of Entry _____

Author's full name, mailing address, and contact
information, including phone # and e-mail, if known

Publisher's full name, address, and publicist's contact
information, including phone # and e-mail, if known

Book publication and distribution date _____

(MUST BE PUBLISHED IN 2006 TO QUALIFY FOR THE 2007 AWARDS)

This entry qualifies under eligibility guidelines by virtue of the following connection to Virginia:

Submitted by _____

Address _____ Daytime Phone # _____

_____ E-mail _____

Guidelines for Competition

Eligibility: Books eligible for the Library of Virginia Literary Awards must have been written by a Virginia author or, for nonfiction books, have a Virginia-related theme. A Virginia author is defined as a writer meeting one or more of the following qualifications: a native-born Virginian, an author living in Virginia, an author whose permanent home address is Virginia.

The following types of books are not eligible for the awards: reference works, edited works, children's and juvenile literature, photographic books, self-help books, and "how to" books.

Any individual, organization, or company may nominate books to be considered for these awards. Each year's awards honor books written in the previous calendar year. Thus entries for the 2007 awards must have been published and distributed between January 1 and December 31, 2006.

Procedure: Entry forms can be submitted online or completed as a interactive PDF and mailed to:

The Library of Virginia Literary Awards
800 East Broad Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219-8000

The deadline for entries is February 12, 2007. The completed entry form and three copies of the book (non-returnable) must be on hand prior to that date. Entries will be forwarded to judges on receipt, so please enter as soon as possible.

The Library of Virginia, as part of its management of the adjudication process, will request adjudication copies of eligible books nominated by interested readers.



HOLIDAY & EVENT CLOSINGS 2007

Saturday, January 13, 2007—Closed for Lee-Jackson-King holiday weekend (Open Friday, January 12 and Monday, January 15. This is a change from previous years.)

Saturday, February 17, 2007—Closed for George Washington Day holiday weekend (Open Monday, February 19)

Saturday, May 12, 2007—Closed for America's 400th Anniversary weekend at Jamestown

Saturday, May 26, 2007 through Monday, May 28, 2007—Closed for Memorial Day holiday weekend

Wednesday, July 4, 2007—Closed for Independence Day

Saturday, September 1, 2007 through Monday, September 3, 2007—Closed for Labor Day holiday weekend

Saturday, October 6, 2007 through Monday, October 8, 2007—Closed for Columbus Day and Yorktown Victory Day holiday weekend

Saturday, October 20, 2007—Closed for Literary Awards event

Saturday, November 10, 2007—The 2007 SunTrust Richmond Marathon will be held Saturday, November 10. The marathon route has not been published yet, so please check the Library's Web site periodically for the possibility of a late opening for the Library of Virginia.

Monday, November 12, 2007—Closed for Veterans Day

Wednesday, November 21, 2007—Closing at noon for Thanksgiving holiday weekend

Thursday, November 22, 2007 through Sunday, November 25, 2007—Closed for Thanksgiving holiday weekend

Saturday, December 22, 2007 through Tuesday, December 25, 2007—Closed for Christmas holiday weekend

Saturday, December 29, 2007 through Tuesday, January 1, 2008—Closed for New Year's holiday weekend

Please check the Library's Web site, www.lva.lib.va.us/whoweare/events/holiday_cal.asp, for the most current information on our holiday closings.

Registers... whose parents are no longer living together. The official title of this document is *Register of Children of Colored Persons...whose Parents had ceased to cohabit on 27th February 1866*. These registers were maintained separately from those for still-married couples and far fewer of them are known to have survived. The information recorded is nearly identical to that of the cohabitation registers, with the exception of the notation whether the child's mother was at that time living or deceased. No such register has yet come to light for Lunenburg County.

Both types of registers survive for many Virginia localities, though their physical locations remain scattered between the Library of Virginia, county and city courthouses, and the records of the Freedmen's Bureau at the National Archives. Please consult the online Virginia Heritage Project for Encoded Archival Description records for individual registers held by the Library of Virginia. Archives Research Services maintains a list of all known surviving registers, regardless of location.

—submitted by Sarah Nerney, Archival and Records Management Services
Originally published in *The Delimiter*



800 East Broad Street
Richmond, VA 23219-8000

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