Dictionary of Virginia Biography Project Issues Volume 2

The newly published second volume of the Library of Virginia's *Dictionary of Virginia Biography* continues an ambitious project to document the contributions of Virginians to four centuries of local, state and national history. Biographies in this volume range alphabetically from Anna Bennett Bland (d. 1687), the principal in a transatlantic legal battle that caused Virginia's General Assembly to lose its last vestiges of judicial power, to Methodist bishop James Cannon (1864–1944), the militant proponent of Prohibition. In between readers will find the fascinating stories of 452 individuals, including members of the extended Bland, Bolling, Branch, Brent, Brockenbrough, Brooke, Bruce, Bryan, Burwell, Byrd, Cabell and Campbell families. Besides the expected governors, congressmen, judges, generals, diplomats, bishops, industrialists and college presidents, volume 2 also contains a fascinating array of more-unusual characters, including Civil War spies, fugitive slaves, four librarians, two journalists who ran afoul of the Alien and Sedition Acts of 1798, a Richmond novelist whose work the New York Society for the Suppression of Vice declared obscene, a polar explorer, the lyricist of "Little Things Mean a Lot," an equine portraitist, a blind law professor, one of the translators who produced the Revised Standard Version of the Bible, the developer of Endless Caverns and Natural Chimneys and the model for Walter C. Kelly's "Virginia Judge" vaudeville act. Together, their stories paint a rich and vibrant portrait of Virginia's past.

Planning for the *Dictionary of Virginia Biography* began 20 years ago and grew out of the need to fill a gap in the bookshelf. Teachers, students, librarians, historians, journalists, museum professionals and interested readers needed a reference work of short articles that would outline the careers of those who had made significant contributions to the history of the commonwealth. The only existing biographical dictionary devoted to Virginia was Lyon Gardiner Tyler's five-volume *Encyclopedia of Virginia Biography* (1915), which had long outlived its usefulness.

The first step was a massive survey of the extant primary and secondary literature to create a master list of candidates, from A to Z. The list, which currently includes more than 19,000 names, is constantly growing, through continued reading, the appearance of new scholarship and a morbid daily scanning of obituaries in major state newspapers. The names on the master list are subject to a rigorous selection process, volume by volume. As a historical reference work, no subjects are included who were alive at the time of publication.

Certain categories of people (such as governors, judges of the highest appellate court in Virginia, members of all Virginia constitutional conventions from 1776 through 1902, presidents of the major institutions of higher education in the state and winners of major national or international awards, such as Pulitzer Prize or the Medal of Honor) are included automatically because they are subjects of frequent requests for biographical information and therefore likely to be looked for in this kind of reference work, but only about 35 percent of those in the DVB are included automatically. Most of the people found in the work are Virginians whose lives and careers made them exceptional in their communities or professions, such as Rabbi Edward Nathan Calisch (1865–1946), of Richmond, or the economist Gladys Boone (1895–1982), who taught at Sweet Briar College. Some are associated with unusually important or notorious events, such as Giles Bland (d. 1677), a participant in Bacon's Rebellion, or Harman Blennerhassett (1764–1831), an entrepreneur caught up in Aaron Burr's military schemes. Others are included because they became legendary figures and require a reliable biographical entry that separates fact from fiction, such as Samuel Brady (1756–1796), a frontiersman who may have been a model for Hawkeye in James Fenimore Cooper's *Leatherstocking Tales*, or Mary Elizabeth Bowser (fl. 1860s), who spied for the Union during the Civil War.

The editorial team for the second volume comprised editors Sara B. Bearss, John T. Kneebone, J. Jefferson Looney, Brent Tarter and Sandra Gioia Treadway and assistant editors John G. Deal, Daphne Gentry, Donald W. Gunter, Mary Carroll Johansen and Marianne E. Julienne.

Through extensive research and weighing of evidence the authors and editorial staff have pinned down many previously obscure dates and details, but one such contribution in volume 2 is particularly noteworthy. This volume restores a name to the list of African Americans who served in the General Assembly after Reconstruction. While verifying the accuracy of the entry on Samuel P. Bolling (1819–1900), one of the assistant editors discovered that his name appeared in some places as P. S. Bolling. Careful checking of tax records and election documents revealed that the discrepancy was not simply carelessness on the part of a typesetter. Instead, these primary sources disclosed that S. P. Bolling, a former slave
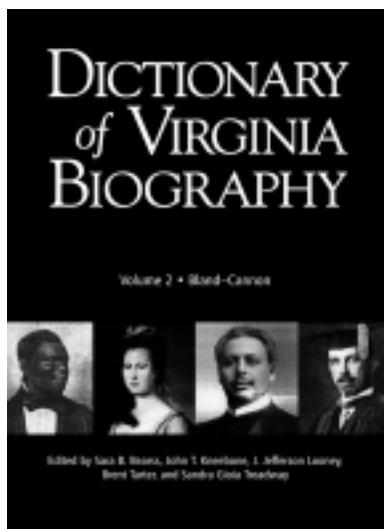
New Online Resources Available

The Digital Library Program (DLP) has completed work on several new resources that are now available through the Library of Virginia's web site at www.lva.lib.va.us..

The index to the Confederate Rosters collection contains approximately 183,000 entries. In 1884, the General Assembly passed an act requiring the compilation of a roster of Virginians in the Confederate armed forces. Very little progress was made until 1904, when the General Assembly passed an act creating a Secretary of Virginia Military Records. This office was charged with gathering material for the federal project authorized by Congress for the assembling of muster rolls for all the Confederate states. The entries contain information about the name of the soldier, his rank, branch of service, company, battalion, troop or battery.

The index to the Land Office Military Certificates collection contains approximately 8,314 entries. The Certificates record the information about land issued to Revolutionary War officers, soldiers and sailors by the Land Office. In order to receive bounty lands for Revolutionary War service, a soldier or sailor must have served continuously for at least three years in a Virginia or Continental unit. The warrant specified the amount of land to be received and directed the surveyor of lands to set aside that quantity of land in the western reserves of Kentucky and Ohio. Certificates verify Revolutionary War service but not necessarily land ownership since many soldiers or their families sold the warrants to investors or speculators. Information concerning the disposition of the warrants is located in the state records of Kentucky and Ohio. The Kentucky Secretary of State maintains a database of Revolutionary land grants that correlates to the Library of Virginia database, and scanned images of the certificates are available on the Kentucky site at (www.sos.state.ky.us/intranet/revwarwar.asp).

More than 14,000 index entries to death registers for Bath, Botetourt and Bedford counties have been added to the Death Records Indexing Project (DRIP) database, a joint project sponsored by the Virginia Genealogical Society and the Library of Virginia. More than 60 volunteers, working in 15 states, are indexing the microfilmed versions of the local death registers as part of a long-term, statewide project to provide better access to local death records. Each index entry provides the name of the deceased, date of death, information about slaves and slave owners if present, and the year and page number of the register where the death is recorded. The online database is fully keyword searchable and eventually will grow to more than 150,000 records.

The Portsmouth Public Library Photograph collections, consisting of more than 15,000 photographic prints as well as a large number of negatives and slides, are now

available at the Library of Virginia's Web site. The photographs date to the late 1800s and cover a myriad of subjects including historic buildings, homes, churches, schools, businesses, social and civic events, military life, local citizens and civic leaders, and a significant collection of images depicting the life and history of Portsmouth's black community dating back to the 1930s. Newspaper photographers such as Lee F. Rodgers of the *Portsmouth Star* and amateur historians such as John Cloyd Emmerson and James Arthur Murdaugh took many of the photographs including block-by-block photographs of the city between the 1920s and the 1950s. The collection of photographs of the downtown historic district known as "Olde Towne" consists of approximately 800 photographs of homes, churches, streets, commercial structures, and other historic sites. The cataloging and digitization of this collection was funded by a grant from the Olde Towne Civic League Foundation.

The Fairfax County Public Library online photographic collection contains approximately 190 photographs that are part of the Henry H. Douglas Collection of Washington & Old Dominion Railroad (W. & O. D.) photographs and approximately 300 photographs from the Fairfax County Extension Service Annual Reports issued between 1922 and 1948. The W. & O. D. railroad began operation in the 1850s carrying passengers and freight between Alexandria and Bluemont and ceased operation in 1968. While the collection has many images from the 1930s–1950s, it is particularly strong in documenting the last two years of the railroad's existence and its final disassembly. This emphasis is due in large part to the contributions of photographer Henry H. Douglas (1903-1987). Douglas edited and published the second edition of H. H. Harwood's *Rails to the Blue Ridge*. His photographs document the rolling stock, railroad employees, and scenes along the W. & O. D. line. Earlier images depict stations and substations; rolling stock, including locomotives, mail and passenger cars; railroad crossings, bridges, and tracks; and an 1863 train wreck.

The Annual Reports of the Fairfax County Extension Service cover the tenures of Extension agents Harry B. Derr and Joseph Beard. By the 1920s Fairfax County had become one of the top dairy producing areas of Virginia. The introduction of scientific growing methods and new strains of wheat, as well as other crops, by the Extension Service served to foster continued agricultural growth until World War II when Fairfax developed into a suburban community. The photographs depict farms and agricultural activities as well as model farms and farm management demonstrations and the activities of Home Demonstration and 4-H clubs.

The photographic collection of the Roanoke County Public Library contains close to 300 photographs spanning a broad range of years, from the late 19th century to the latter . . .

Mayor H.H. Dowdy receiving the first dial telephone call in Vinton on August 18, 1934. Looking on are (left) Barbour N. Thornton, general sales manager, and M. Carl Richard, Roanoke-Vinton manager, with the C & P Telephone Company. (Roanoke County Public Library Photograph Collection.)

Library of Virginia Receives 2001 Information Management Award

The Library of Virginia was awarded the prestigious Iron Mountain/ARMA International Award for Excellence in Records and Information Management at the 46th ARMA International Conference held in Montréal, Quebec, on October 2, 2001. The award honors the best program of information management for the year by a government organization.

The Library of Virginia took top honors in the government category and Ford Motor Company won in the corporate category. The Library of Virginia's records and information management department's submission was chosen from a diverse field of entries as an outstanding example of systematic analysis and planning, of the consciousness-building and networking that are essential to effect major change, and of carrying out change both effectively and efficiently. Judges felt that the submission was an excellent example of how to re-orient a traditional program toward the future in a way that is responsive to the needs of the institution, in this case the state government of Virginia.

The Iron Mountain/ARMA International Award for Excellence recognizes the accomplishments of information management departments and encourages continuing innovation and improvement in records and

Librarian of Virginia Nolan T. Yelich, State Records Administrator Preston Huff and Deputy Librarian Sandra G. Treadway with the ARMA award.

information management programs.

To learn more about the Iron Mountain/ARMA International Award, visit their Web site at www.arma.org.

Virginia Public Libraries Receive Universal Service Funding

Now in its 4th year, the Universal Service Fund, also known as the "E-Rate," continues to assist libraries and schools in offering better information services by providing funding for increased access to high speed telecommunications and Internet access. In Virginia public libraries, these funds are directed toward public access computing, a much-needed resource in all Virginia communities.

As of October 30, 2001, 54 Virginia public libraries have received a combined $1,163,795.60 for the 2001–2002 program year. The Schools and Libraries Division, the private non-profit organization that administers the Federal E-rate program, has committed $1,634,923,286.69 nationwide. Up to $2.25 billion is available for each program year to provide discounted services to eligible schools and libraries.

E-rate funding reflects community need. The discount level is based on the percentage of students eligible for the National School Lunch Program. Libraries work closely with their local schools to establish the discount percentage for eligible library services. Virginia libraries' discount percentages range from 34% to 83%. Libraries use their E-rate funding to pay a part of their phone bills, Internet access bills and other eligible telecommunications services bills.

By leveraging E-Rate funding, libraries have successfully increased the availability of high-speed Internet access for Virginia citizens. Federal support of networking and connectivity assists libraries by permitting them to focus other resources on acquiring and providing information for their patrons. Libraries across the commonwealth have used their savings to purchase library materials, including full-text online databases, books and audiotapes.

If you would like more information about the E-Rate program please go to the Schools and Libraries Division Web site at http://www.sl.universalservice.org/.

—submitted by Audrey Kelly,
Library Development and Networking Services

Online Resources. . .

half of the 20th century. Approximately 100 photographs were taken at the time of the county's sesquicentennial celebration in 1988 and are a unique record of that milestone in the county's history. The images depict people, structures, educational institutions, religious facilities, commercial buildings and activities, civic life, geographical features and community events.

The Waynesboro Public Library photograph collection consists of 1,500 photographic images and 380 postcards. All images are of Virginia subjects, mainly from the cities of Waynesboro, Staunton, and Harrisonburg and the surrounding counties of Augusta, Rockingham, and Rockbridge. In addition to general views, there are images of: businesses, manufacturing concerns, government facilities, schools, churches, cemeteries, streets and residences; individuals, groups, family documents, events, geographical features and natural disasters.

—submitted by Elizabeth Roderick,
Collection Management Services Division

Library of Virginia Holiday Schedule

The Library of Virginia is open from 9:00 AM until 5:00 PM Monday through Saturday, except holidays and holiday weekends as listed to the right. For the latest information on closings please call 804/692-3777 or 804/692-3888.

Tuesday, January 1, 2002 — closed

Saturday, January 12, 2002—closed

Friday, January 18, 2002—OPEN (Administrative offices closed)

Saturday, January 19, 2002—closed

Monday, January 21, 2002—OPEN (Administrative offices closed)

Saturday, February 16, 2002—closed

Monday, February 18, 2002—OPEN (Administrative offices closed)

Two Win Virginia Library History Awards

The Friends of the Staunton Public Library and Professor Emily B. Todd, of Westfield State College, in Massachusetts, are the winners of the second Virginia Library History Awards for two outstanding and very different examples of Virginia library history. The Friends of the Staunton Public Library are recognized for *Books Bring Adventure: The History of the Staunton Public Library*, by Katherine L. Brown, published in 2000, to mark the 125th anniversary of that library's founding. Emily Todd's innovative scholarly essay, "Walter Scott and the Nineteenth-Century Literary Marketplace: Antebellum Richmond Readers and the Collected Editions of the Waverley Novels," appeared in *Papers of the Bibliographical Society of America*, 93 (December 1999).

Books Bring Adventure: The History of the Staunton Public Library recounts that community's civic and cultural life since 1874 through the story of its public library. Historian Katherine L. Brown's narrative concisely shows how community leaders and organizations worked together in support of the Staunton Public Library in order to fulfill its founders' hope that the library would be "a lasting benefit to our city." Librarian Ruth Arnold encouraged the project and library staff members assisted with research, design and proofreading. The Friends of the Staunton Public Library backed the book's publication, and a special memorial gift by a library supporter made publication possible. This readable book is an example of how the history of library can illuminate a community's history as well.

Emily B. Todd uses the records of the Richmond Library Company, a private subscription library in existence from 1839 to 1860, to explore several important aspects of book history. Her particular focus is on the novels of Sir Walter Scott, which were published in numerous editions by British and American publishers. The records of the Richmond library, today held at the Virginia Historical Society, reveal a pattern of what Todd calls "binge reading," as borrowers devoured several of Scott's novels in succession. Her essay illustrates how collected editions of the works of Scott and other authors influenced both readers and librarians to treat the novels as a body of entertainment and knowledge to be consumed as a whole. Todd's essay demonstrates that library-borrowing records can provide important insights into readers' engagement with books.

The Virginia Center for the Book at the Library of Virginia gives the Virginia Library History Awards to honor exemplary contributions to the preservation, interpretation and/or study of the history of libraries in Virginia.

—submitted by John Kneebone,
Publications and Educational Affairs Division

NACO Gives LVA Independent Status

The Library of Virginia reached a milestone this fall when NACO, the Name Authority Cooperative, named the Library as a full-fledged participant. NACO independent status is a major achievement for library catalogers. NACO is part of the Program for Cooperative Cataloging coordinated by the Library of Congress. Through the NACO program participants contribute authority records for names, corporate bodies, uniform titles and series to the national authority file. The authority records created by the Library of Congress and NACO participants ensure consistency in the forms of names used by catalogers when processing library materials. Participants agree to follow a common set of standards and guidelines for creating or changing authority records in order to maintain the integrity of a large shared authority file. For instance "Library of Virginia" is the current heading for the Library. The authority record contains a cross reference to the previous form of the name "Virginia State Library and Archives." Without the cross references in the authority record, those two headings would not be together.

Authority records also are used to differentiate between people with the same name or very similar names. Birth and death dates, notes listing titles written by the person, citations giving details about where a person was born or lives can be included in the authority record. Creating an authority record may require a great deal of research by a cataloger. The heading must be searched in OCLC (Online Computer Library Center, Inc.) catalogs, our local catalog and printed and electronic reference sources, or it may be necessary to contact the author or agency in order to clarify the preferred and correct form of name.

To attain independent NACO status library staff first must undertake a full week of specialized training. That training is followed by intensive review of records by a reviewer assigned by the Library of Congress. It may take a year or more to achieve a level of proficiency that enables the library to become independent.

There are three other NACO libraries in Virginia—the University of Virginia, Virginia Tech and Virginia Union University but the Library of Virginia is likely to become the state's primary NACO contributor. There are two reasons for this. First, the Library catalogs more state documents than any other library in the state and therefore creates authority records for most of the state agencies and programs. Second, the Library's emphasis on collecting works by Virginia authors requires the establishment of authority records of those personal names that enable easy access for patrons and staff.

As of January 2001 there were only 330 participants in NACO, a somewhat exclusive group of primarily research and academic libraries. The authority records that Library of Virginia catalogers contribute to OCLC will be the records used by catalogers nationwide.

Achieving independent status is a major accomplishment for the Library of Virginia that validates the quality of the cataloging department.

—submitted by Tom Ray, Collection Management
Services Division

Congressman Owen Pickett Donates His Papers to the Library of Virginia

In June 2000, the Library of Virginia acquired the papers of Owen Bradford Pickett, member of the House of Delegates (1972–1986), chairman of the Virginia Democratic Party (1980–1982) and Congressman (1987–2001).

Owen Bradford Pickett was born in Richmond, Virginia, on August 31, 1930. He was educated in the public schools of Richmond and Hanover County and graduated from Virginia Polytechnic Institute with a degree in Business Administration and Accounting in June 1952. In June 1955, he received his law degree from the University of Richmond's T. C. Williams Law School and passed both the Virginia Certified Public Accountants and Virginia Bar examinations the same year. He practiced law in Richmond until moving to Virginia Beach in July 1965.

In Virginia Beach, Pickett became active in politics and was a political ally and protégé of Sidney S. Kellam, a top lieutenant to Harry F. Byrd, Sr., and who dominated politics in Princess Anne County and Virginia Beach from the 1920s to the 1960s. In November 1971, Pickett was elected to represent Virginia Beach in the House of Delegates, beginning a legislative career that would span four decades. During his 14 years in the House of Delegates, Pickett was considered one of its most influential and effective members.

From 1980 to 1982, Pickett served as Chairman of the Virginia Democratic Party, laying the groundwork for a Democratic resurgence after a decade of Republican gains during the 1970s. In 1982, Pickett announced his intention to seek the Democratic nomination for the United States Senate to replace the retiring Harry F. Byrd, Jr. The party leadership lined up behind Pickett, but during his announcement speech he praised Senator Byrd arousing the ire of Douglas Wilder, then a state senator from Richmond. Wilder announced his intention to run as a third-party candidate if Pickett received the nomination. The threat derailed Pickett's campaign, and he withdrew. Richard J. Davis,

of Portsmouth, was chosen as a compromise candidate to oppose the Republican candidate, Paul S. Trible, who won the election.

In 1986, Pickett ran for the Second Congressional District seat being vacated by retiring Republican Congressman G. William Whitehurst. In a bitter campaign, Pickett defeated Republican State Senator A. Joe Canada, Jr. He was re-elected to the six succeeding Congresses before retiring in January 2001. During his tenure in the House of Representatives, he was a member of the Armed Services Committee and Resources Committee.

The papers span the years from 1955 to 2000; however, only the papers relating to Pickett's pre-congressional career are available for research at present. The papers concerning his service in the United States House of Representatives from 1987 to 2000 are restricted until December 31, 2010. The pre-congressional papers are rich in materials and will prove an excellent resource for students of recent Virginia politics.

Pickett's correspondence with constituents, Virginia senators and members of Congress, Democratic party officials and General Assembly colleagues, concerns legislation, General Assembly business, legal work, Democratic Party business and campaigns and elections. Much of the correspondence relates to issues concerning Virginia Beach and Hampton Roads. The campaign files contain material relating to local, state and national elections, including files from Pickett's campaigns, including his first congressional campaign, and others in which he was actively involved. There are also files from his service as chairman of the Virginia Beach Democratic Committee, Second District Democratic Committee and Democratic State Central Committee. Students of Virginia Beach will be interested in the material from the 1967 Virginia Beach Democratic Primary between Sidney S. Kellam's Administration Team and the United Candidates.

The legislative files include both correspondence and subject files. The correspondence to and from constituents and General Assembly colleagues concerns legislative proposals, issues and bills. Interspersed among this correspondence are letters relating to campaigns, elections, and Democratic Party business. The subject files, containing material relating to legislation introduced in the General Assembly and constituent mail supporting or opposing the legislation, cover such topics as abortion, Camp Pendleton, education, Equal Rights Amendment, False Cape State Park, social services, Virginia Beach and the Virginia Supplemental Retirement System, among others.

In addition to correspondence and campaign and legislative files, the collection includes billing records from Pickett's law firm for legal work performed, newspaper clippings and scrapbooks relating to his legislative and political career, 15 bound notebooks containing notes from various law classes taken at the University of Richmond's T. C. Williams School of Law and schedule books documenting his daily activities from 1955 to 1987.

For more information on this collection, search the Archives and Manuscripts database under "Pickett, Owen" to access the electronic finding aid to this collection.

—submitted by Jay Gaidmore,
Collection Management Services Division

Left: Owen Pickett, June 2001; Above: Pickett on the campaign trail in 1973

Historic Queen Elizabeth Portrait Returns To Executive Mansion

After a two-and-a-half year absence and extensive restoration, Virginia's priceless portrait of Queen Elizabeth I is back on display at the Executive Mansion. This remarkable, 44" x 34," oil on wood panel painting was created by an unknown artist in the late 16th century, during the queen's lifetime.

"The return of this invaluable work of art marks the culmination of our work to restore the Executive Mansion and hails the upcoming Jamestown 2007 anniversary," said First Lady Roxane Gilmore. "I applaud the Library of Virginia's excellent restoration work and encourage all Virginians to visit the mansion and see this extraordinary painting."

"This is one of the most fascinating restoration projects we have ever done," said Dr. Edward D. C. "Kip" Campbell Jr., collection management services director at the Library of Virginia. "The project evolved from a simple cleaning to a remarkable uncovering of a significant and very fine period portrait."

The portrait was given to the commonwealth in 1926 by Viscount and Viscountess Astor (the former Nancy Langhorne of Virginia). The restoration was made possible through a public-private partnership between the Library of Virginia and the Library of Virginia Foundation and the Foundation for the Preservation of Virginia's Executive Mansion. The Library of Virginia Foundation raised money for the restoration through its Adopt-A-Book, Etc. program.

Before Treatment

After Treatment

Burned Record Counties Database Offers Help To Researchers

The Burned Record Counties Database is now available to the public through the Library of Virginia Web site. Several Virginia counties, largely in the eastern part of the state, suffered tremendous loss of their early records during the Civil War, and other counties lost records in courthouse fires. This database is a collection of local court records for Burned Record Counties.

These documents were found while processing chancery cases and other locality materials. The database can be accessed by its title from the index of the Web site; from the Burned Record Counties—VA Notes; from the WHAT'S NEW page; from Local Records, Archives and Manuscripts, under Use and Access of local records; and Local Court Records on Microfilm.

This database contains a growing collection of local court records, principally deeds and probate records, found while processing chancery cases and other locality materials. The database contains records from collections housed and processed at the Library of Virginia as well as those processed in localities. These records were generally used as exhibits in a court case. The originals remain with the court materials being processed, but photocopies are made and are indexed in this database. The copies are filed together in the Burned Record Counties Collection - and are accessible through the manuscript room at the Library of Virginia. Please check periodically for additions to the collection, as this is an ongoing project.

The significance of these items is that the recorded original record is generally from a locality other than that in which the case occurred. Additionally, the original is usually from a locality for which there has been a substantial records loss. In most cases, the item may be the only extant copy of the document. In addition to records from burned counties, there are also documents for counties with extant records, but the document was recorded in a higher [District or General] court, the originals for which no longer survive. For more information and a listing of burned counties see VA NOTES Burned Record Counties.

—submitted by Lyn Hart,
Collection Management Services

DVB. . .

who represented Buckingham and Cumberland counties in the House of Delegates from 1885 to 1887, had succeeded his son, Phillip S. Bolling (ca. 1849–1892), who had represented the same counties in the assembly from 1883 to 1884. The DVB thus straightens out errors in local accounts produced by the similarity of names and features in volume 2 the biography of an important political leader whom no one had known existed.

Drawing on the expertise of 247 contributors (including 29 Library staff members and interns), volume 2 is an indispensable reference tool and a work chock full of compelling stories for the interested browser. Volumes 1 (Aaroe–Blanchfield) and 2 (Bland–Cannon) are available from the Library Shop for $49.95 each.

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

THE LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA

Taking Office To Run Through June 22, 2002

Taking Office: Inaugurations of Virginia's Governors, a new exhibition in the lobby cases at the Library of Virginia, documents how the gubernatorial inauguration has evolved from a quiet ceremony to a public event. On Saturday, January 12, 2002, Virginia will mark the inauguration of its three highest elected officials-the governor, the lieutenant governor and the attorney general. Witnessing the event will be members of the General Assembly, a large company of invited guests and members of the media. In a ceremony that has not changed significantly in almost a century, the new governor and his colleagues will take an oath of office to support and defend the state's constitution and to execute the laws of the commonwealth. But Virginia's governors have not always staged a public inauguration and the celebrations that now are familiar.

Using manuscripts, proclamations, photographs and memorabilia *Taking Office* traces the progression of governors from those appointed by the British Crown to popularly elected governors. The exhibition provides a lively look at the inauguration of the state's highest elected officials.

Between 1624 and 1776 Virginia's governors received their appointments from the British Crown. The king or queen appointed and authorized the governor to administer the colony according to the instructions sent by the Crown and its ministers. The new governor or his deputy, the lieutenant governor, took the oaths of office in solemn ceremonies before members of the governor's Council, most often in the Council Chamber in the colony's Capitol.

Under the Virginia Constitution of 1776, the General Assembly elected a governor each year. No person could be elected governor for more than three successive terms. The inauguration ceremony consisted of a justice of the peace administering the oath of office.

Virginia's governors were elected by popular vote for the first time under the Virginia Constitution of 1851. Inaugurations remained quiet affairs, although William Smith delivered the first gubernatorial inauguration address in 1864. Custom held that parades, balls and other public events were unseemly to the dignity of the office. To celebrate the occasion new governors frequently received guests at the Executive Mansion or in the Capitol. Frederick W. M. Holliday had very different ideas about his inauguration on January 1,

1878. Newspaper accounts described the event as "an imposing pageant" with "interesting and unusual ceremonies." Under bright skies, the gubernatorial party was escorted from Main Street to Capitol Square in a circuitous route that snaked through downtown Richmond. Among those in the procession were the Richmond fire department, Richmond police and military units, including the Band and Drum Corps from Holliday's hometown of Winchester. Holliday and his colleagues entered the Senate chamber for the administration of the oaths of office before Governor Holliday delivered his inaugural speech from the south portico of the Capitol to a crowd estimated at 10,000 to 12,000. Holliday's successors reverted to quiet ceremonies without large public displays, although Fitzhugh Lee's inauguration set another precedent-the inaugural ball.

Beginning in the early years of the 20th century, gubernatorial inaugurations gradually developed into the now-familiar elaborate celebrations. Photographs of inaugurations appeared in the newspapers, radio carried inaugural addresses to larger audiences and parades became standard practice. Every governor since Andrew Jackson Montague in 1902 has taken office during a joint session of the General Assembly. Beginning in 1914 with Henry Carter Stuart, inaugurations

occurred outdoors, weather permitting. Each inauguration included a parade, except for the 1942 inauguration of Colgate W. Darden who, in deference to the United States' entry in World War II six weeks before, dispensed with most of the ceremony. Governor Darden did deliver his inaugural address from the south portico of the Capitol.

Two governors' inaugurations set patterns that remain unaltered in future ceremonies. Henry Carter Stuart was the first Virginia governor to ride in an automobile in his parade in 1914. Harry Flood Byrd was the first to use radio and an audio system to broadcast his inaugural address.

Today, events associated with gubernatorial inaugurations include a church service, a parade, the swearing-in, receptions and balls. As campaigns have increased in cost, inaugural committees have turned to marketing to use inaugural balls and receptions as a means to raise funds. The inaugural committee for James S. Gilmore III, in 1998, recognized the public's insatiable desire for memorabilia and offered a catalog of keepsakes in its invitation package.

—submitted by Barbara Batson,
Publications and Educational Services Division

Inauguration Parade for John Stewart Battle, 1950

Library of Virginia Develops *Find It Virginia*

The Library of Virginia, in cooperation with the Virginia Information Providers Network (VIPNet), is developing a new Web site, *Find It Virginia*, to deliver library information resources to Virginia citizens at home, at work or wherever they connect to the Internet. Full-text magazines, newspapers and reference books will be accessible via www.finditva.com on the site in January 2002. Specialized information also will be available in the areas of business, health and wellness, literary criticism and homework help. A Virginia public library card is the only requirement to use these resources. Virginians can connect to their local public library's Web site for quality information, or go directly to www.finditva.com.

Find It Virginia is part of the "Infopowering the Commonwealth" initiative, a cooperative project of the Library of Virginia and Virginia's public libraries, which is designed to promote and support public access computing, Internet connectivity and quality information resources in all Virginia public libraries. Through statewide funding, all citizens of the commonwealth can have equal access to essential resources for life-long learning.

This new site will provide quick and easy access to quality library information resources. A distance-education student in Clarke County can use *Find It Virginia* to research a term paper from home at night. A school child in Tidewater can log on to a database of magazines, reference books and newspaper articles, selected just for his or her age group, to complete a school project.

A daughter in Danville can locate current health information for her elderly mother—written in terms the layperson can understand. *Find It Virginia* allows library users to research information when and where they need it, but also provides a link to the professional reference services and other programs found in Virginia's public libraries.

In 2002, development of a search interface to Virginia public library catalogs will begin. Citizens will be able to locate library materials by searching catalogs of nearby libraries using the *Find It Virginia* Web site. Other information resources and services will be made available in the future, to ensure continuing access to knowledge for all Virginians.

For more information please visit your local public library or www.finditva.com.

—submitted by Carol Adams,
Library Development and Networking Division