



THE LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA

Issue 166 • November/December 2004

Official Newsletter

Library To Offer “Virginia Women Through Four Centuries”

— A WOMEN’S HISTORY SYMPOSIUM ON MARCH 18–19, 2005 —

Please join us on March 18–19, 2005, at the Library of Virginia for an exciting look at the newest research on women’s history in Virginia.

Twenty years ago the Virginia Women’s Cultural History Project created a pioneering exhibition and a landmark publication—*A Share of Honour: Virginia Women, 1600–1945*, by Suzanne Lebsock. Like all seminal books, *A Share of Honour* asked as many important questions as it answered. Researchers responded with a new scholarship that continues to add to our knowledge of women’s history in Virginia, the South and United States. This symposium, held in conjunction with the Library’s exhibition *Working Out Her Destiny: Women’s History in Virginia*, will examine what we have learned about Virginia women through this recent research and will explore what questions still remain for future study.

Participants will attend a full slate of presentations, including a “History Makers” panel presenting path-breaking Virginia women, research workshops on the Library’s holdings related to women’s history and thematic sessions featuring some of the field’s most innovative and important scholars. Among the topics addressed by the symposium will be women’s involvement during the past in Virginia’s economy, public life, private life, religious and intellectual life, race relations, and with issues of gender and sexuality.

Symposium registration is \$35, which includes the “History Makers” panel, all sessions and a box lunch.

For further information and a schedule of panels and speakers, please see <<http://www.lva.lib.va.us/whoweare/exhibits/destiny/symposium.htm>>.

LIBRARY SEEKS WAR-RELATED MATERIALS FROM VETERANS AND FAMILIES

The Library of Virginia is seeking your help in telling the stories of Virginians who served their country at home and abroad during America’s modern wars and military actions. The Library will preserve these stories for future generations.

Records already housed at the Library of Virginia chronicle war efforts at home and abroad from Dunmore’s War in 1774 through World War II. For Dunmore’s War, a conflict between the Colony of Virginia and the Native Americans of the Ohio Valley, the Library holds musters, payrolls and public service claims. Bounty warrants, state pension files and rejected claims of applicants are among the papers revealing the role of Virginians in the American Revolution. Other records document the War of 1812

and the Mexican War. The Library of Virginia holds numerous records relating to the Civil War from disability applications and pension rolls to applications to the Robert E. Lee Camp Confederate Soldiers’ Home. The papers of Virginia’s three Civil War governors also are housed at the Library.

The Library’s collections from modern wars include organization records describing women’s wartime work selling stamps and bonds, sewing bandages and visiting hospitals. The records of the Virginia War History Commission, which existed from 1917 to 1928, contain lists of Virginians honored for distinguished service and guides to newspaper clippings, wartime diaries and letters. The Commission also conducted a survey of World War I veterans in Virginia through the use of a printed questionnaire. The World War I History Commission



Nurse Victoria Ruth Good died of influenza at the Brooklyn Naval Hospital in New York during World War I. Her family completed a War Commission Questionnaire, which is part of the Library’s collections.

Questionnaires Database, available through the Library’s web site, is a fully-searchable database of more than 14,900 records, one for each questionnaire respondent, and is accessible by name, city/county, and race. Records are also linked to digitized images of each page of the questionnaires, as well as any accompanying material such as photographs and additional pages submitted by the respondents.

More than 3,500 photographs from World War II in the U.S. Army Signal Corps collection, Hampton Roads Embarkation Series, capture moments in the lives of military personnel, civilian employees, Red Cross workers and prisoners of war. The Virginia Military Dead Database, available on the Library’s web site (www.lva.lib.va.us), is an ongoing project listing more than 18,000 Virginians who died in ...see **Veterans**, pg. 2



THE LIBRARY
OF VIRGINIA

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ARCHIVES RECEIVES TWO IMPORTANT ARCHITECTURAL COLLECTIONS

The archives at the Library of Virginia recently accepted two significant collections created by area architects, both mavericks in their own right. These materials augment the already impressive collection of architectural records available to researchers in the Library.

Richmond architect Haigh Jamgochian, designer of the Markel Building near Willow Lawn and Mad Man Dapper Dan's "Moon House" on Cherokee Road, graciously agreed to donate to the archives his entire collection of drawings, photographs, models, correspondence, and ephemera. Famous for his unique and controversial ideas, Jamgochian has garnered significant media attention for his proposed designs as much as for his executed ones. The collection includes documentation for his "Tree House" and "Amoeba House" designs, as well as evidence of his roles as a teacher, sculptor, artist, and illustrator.

A self-proclaimed "gimmick architect," Jamgochian's designs often take their cues from Nature in both their orientation and form. His two executed commissions in Richmond were named to the list of the seventy-five most significant buildings in the city by *Richmond Magazine*. Always outspoken in his opposition to "The Box" in architectural design, Jamgochian continues to advocate new ideas and forward-thinking.

Also a trailblazer in his own time and historical place, Harvey Nathaniel Johnson (1892–1973) achieved success in his architectural, ministerial, and philanthropic pursuits. Born in Richmond into a family of successful African-American builders and carpenters, Johnson's first career continued in that tradition. In 1919, he enrolled in architectural program at Pittsburgh's Carnegie Institute of Technology. After returning to Virginia, he opened his own practice and undertook a number of

commissions, several in conjunction with his mentor and former professor at Wayland Academy (now Virginia Union University) Charles Thaddeus Russell.

The drawings for Johnson and Russell's most famous commission, the Attucks Theater and Office Building in Norfolk, now reside in the Library of Virginia archives thanks to a generous donation by the Crispus Attucks Cultural Center, Inc. and Harvey N. Johnson, Jr. The Center recently completed an eight-million-dollar renovation of



Haigh Jamgochian poses with models of his designs.

the Attucks Theater, and, after utilizing the original construction drawings in the outstanding restoration, the group decided to preserve the fragile records at the Library of Virginia.

The Attucks drawings will undergo complex conservation treatment to repair and clean the damaged sheets. The drawings will then be digitally photographed so that high-quality inkjet reproductions can be created for public use.

Both of these collections will contribute to research of the Commonwealth's built environment. Through such generous donations, the Library of Virginia is able to expand its holdings and offer to Virginia's citizens diverse and important collections from which to study and learn. We encourage others with similar materials to contact

the Library regarding donation. The Library of Virginia sincerely appreciates the generosity of Mr. Jamgochian, The Crispus Attucks Cultural Center, Inc., and Mr. Harvey N. Johnson, Jr.

—submitted by Vincent Brooks,
Collection Management Services

Veterans... service. Records collected by the Virginia World War II History Commission, audio recordings from radio station WRVA, letters to the governor and newspapers from across the commonwealth are among the many other materials that tell the stories of Virginia's men and women in wartime.

Help the Library of Virginia preserve *your story* for future generations and honor those Virginians who have served our nation by donating materials to the Library concerning their service. We ask for your help in preserving and making available the permanent

records of those who fought and both those who supported the war effort or protested these wars. Your records will join the extensive records already available at the Library documenting the lives of Virginians across four centuries. These items will be made available to visitors, students, scholars and researchers.

"Veterans have an important story to tell. Now, as many veterans and their families age, their stories and the stories of those who stayed behind to work at home or in wartime industry, are in danger of being lost. It's not

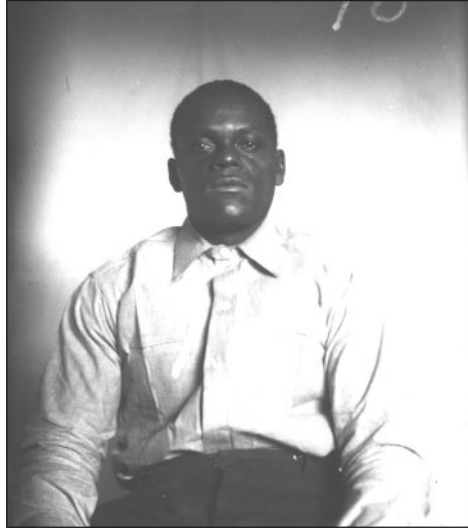
unusual for us to hear from Library patrons that letters and memorabilia were discarded upon the death of family members," said State Archivist Conley L. Edwards III. "We want Virginians to know that those family letters, diaries, scrapbooks, ration books, discharges and photographs would all have a welcome and honored place at the Library of Virginia."

Please contact the Library of Virginia at 804-692-3648 if you would like to discuss donating any war-related materials.

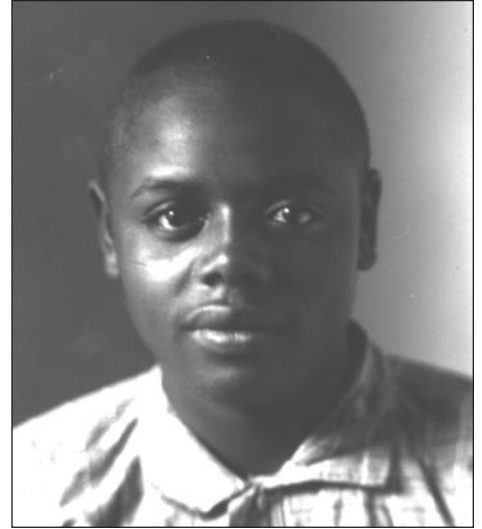
Early Penitentiary Photographs Put A Face On Crime



Virginia Christian



William Brown



Henry Smith

In August 1979, five archivists from the Virginia State Library traveled to the aging Virginia State Penitentiary located at 500 Spring Street in Richmond. The Richmond Fire Marshall had ordered the prison to find other storage space for its records, and the Library had agreed to box and transfer the records stored in the prison's attic. Conditions in the attic where the records were stored were the worst any of the archivists had ever encountered; the attic had neither electricity nor climate control. Records were piled in complete disarray in cartons and on the floor and were covered with decades' worth of dust. After two days of working in high temperatures, the archivists transferred 50 bound volumes and 80 record center cartons of records dating from the 1860s to the 1960s. Recently, as part of the Library's ongoing mission to reduce the backlog of unprocessed records, the staff of the Description Services Branch began to process the vast volume of materials that comprise the Virginia Penitentiary collection. The types of material include prisoner registers, superintendent's correspondence, board of visitors' reports, board of directors' minutes, state convict road force records, photographs, architectural drawings and financial records.

The most significant and endangered records in this collection are the approximately 6,000 glass plate negatives of prisoners photographed from about 1906 to March 4, 1914. Each 4"x 6" glass plate was kept in an acidic brown envelope and stacked on top of one another in 19 record center boxes. They were

in no order and covered with dirt and dust and thus unusable. To preserve this unique collection, the staff removed each negative from its sleeve, copied the prisoner number and name on an acid-free four-flap folder, placed them in order by prison number and stored them vertically in acid-free boxes to prevent breakage. For additional protection, each folder was placed in an acid-free sleeve.

A project to produce prints from the negatives for use by researchers is currently underway and should be concluded within the next few years. The prints are made in the Library's darkroom by a Description Services Branch archivist. The glass plate negative is placed emulsion side down on a piece of 5" x 7" poly contrast paper, placed on a multigrade enlarger set at the appropriate levels and exposed. The paper is then inserted, glossy side down, in the black-and-white dry-to-dry processor and the print is finished within two minutes. Since each negative is different, selecting the appropriate lens and time exposure can be a time-consuming trial-and-error process.

In addition to photographs of the general prison population, the glass plate collection includes images of 60 men and women executed in Virginia's electric chair between 1908 and 1914. The pictures contain a variety of infamous firsts in Virginia criminal history: first executed in electric chair, first multiple execution and first women to die in the electric chair. On October 13, 1908, Henry Smith, age 22, of Portsmouth was the first person in Virginia to die in the electric chair. Smith was convicted in September 1908 in the Circuit Court of Norfolk County of twice

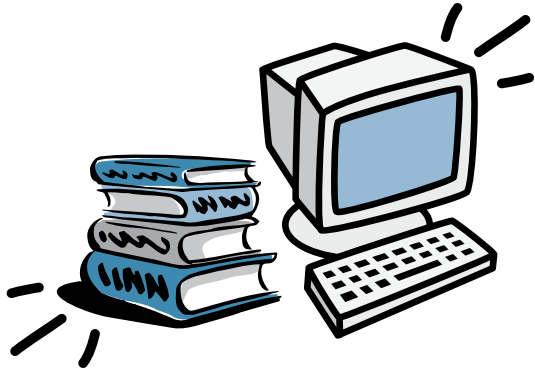
raping a white woman, 78-year-old Catherine Powell, in August 1908. *The Richmond News Leader* reported that "there was not a hitch in the execution." *The Richmond Times-Dispatch* added in an editorial that "it is a melancholy satisfaction to know ...see **Crime**, pg. 6

CERTIFICATION CHANGES PUT ON HOLD

Last year the Library Board at its November meeting voted to begin a program of recertifying professional public librarians based upon continuing education credits. The Board has since been advised that such regulations may exceed its legislative mandate.

At the November 15, 2004, meeting the Library Board adopted and approved a motion that all further development and enactment of said regulations be tabled and that the question of proposed legislation to confirm the Board's powers and duties regarding the oversight of professional librarian qualifications be included on the agenda of the forthcoming study commissioned by the Library of Virginia regarding public library programs, funding, laws, standards and operations for the future.

The existing certification process calling for an MLS from an American Library Association-accredited university remains in effect. Proposed continuing education requirements are on hold until the completion of a broader study of library issues. (See story on page 6.)



Did you know...?

Reference Services is happy to announce that an additional newspaper, the *Free Lance-Star*, Fredericksburg, Va. is available online, full text from the public terminals in the reading rooms of the Library of Virginia. The other newspapers available online at the Library are: the *Daily News Leader* (Staunton, Va.), the *Daily Press* (Newport News, Va.), the *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, the *Roanoke Times*, the *Virginian-Pilot* (Norfolk, Va.), and the *Washington Post*.

Thanks to the Government Documents Department you also may access from the terminals of the Library's reading rooms the Digital Serial Set, a full-text database of congressional reports and documents which, when completed in 2005, will cover congressional publications from 1789–1969. Covering nearly every aspect of American life in the 19th and 20th centuries, the Serial Set documents American expansion, scientific discovery, law and legislation as well as the political, social and economic changes experienced by the American people. The Digital Serial Set, produced by Lexis-Nexis, complements the Library's subscription to Lexis-Nexis' Congressional Indexes, which picks up where the Serial Set leaves off, covering congressional publications, legislative history and bill texts from 1970 to the present. As of today, Lexis-Nexis, has scanned 179,000 congressional documents, 4.5 million pages of text and 21,000 maps from the Serial Set covering 1817–1910. In addition, the staff at Lexis-Nexis has identified more than 700,000 individual tables that will be full-text searchable in the final release. Full coverage, due to be completed in December 2005, will include the American State Papers and all congressional reports and documents through 1969. This resource can be accessed from the reading rooms terminals menu by clicking Databases>Congressional Indexes. For further information or assistance using this research tool, contact the Documents Room Staff, Monday through Saturday, 9 AM to 5 PM, 804-692-3562.

FIND IT VIRGINIA EXPANDED

Library of Virginia patrons are familiar with the Find It Virginia program available through our web site and those of public libraries around the state. Using these databases researchers both young and old can find magazine and newspaper articles, encyclopedias and other reference works, TV and radio transcripts, company information and investment reports, health and wellness information, literary criticism and homework help, plus photos, charts, maps, diagrams and illustrations. Six new databases from the Thomas Gale Group are available through Find It Virginia. Four provide focus for searching for articles about technical subjects including computer news and reviews, legal topics, military and intelligence subjects, and religion and philosophy. The remaining two expand the periodical index/full-text database format to include biographies from the many Gale group sources and a readers' advisory service. Visit Find It Virginia, www.finditva.com, to explore these interesting new resources.

BIOGRAPHY RESOURCE CENTER combines award-winning biographies from respected Gale Group sources with full-text articles from hundreds of periodicals. You can search for

people based on one or more personal facts such as birth and death year, nationality, ethnicity, occupation or gender, or combine criteria to create a highly targeted custom search.

WHAT DO I READ NEXT? provides a readers' advisory service, drawing from 100,000 recommended titles, more than 60,000 plot summaries and awards, information from 562 awards, all to help users uncover new reading adventures, find long-remembered favorites, and discover award-winning titles. Search by genre, subject, author, title, series and more. A monthly highlights page allows the user to see selections of award winners, upcoming titles and titles that revolve around different subjects each month.

COMPUTER DATABASE can be used to find computer-related product introductions and news and reviews in areas such as hardware, software, electronics, engineering, communications and the application of technology.

LEGALTRAC provides articles from all major law reviews, law journals, specialty law and bar association journals and legal newspapers. Included are articles on Federal and State Cases, Laws and Regulations, Legal Practice

and Taxation. Also included are British Commonwealth, European Union and International Law publications.

MILITARY & INTELLIGENCE DATABASE is designed to meet the needs of government and military personnel and their families. Although it includes some general-interest periodicals, the emphasis is on military and intelligence periodicals often not found in general library collections.

INFOTRAC RELIGION & PHILOSOPHY features a selection of magazines and academic journals covering religion and related areas of philosophy, archaeology and anthropology. The researcher can use this database to focus on theological approaches to social issues as well as the impact of religion on literature, arts and language.

RECENT ACQUISITIONS

Are Carroll County, Virginia, and Carroll County, Tennessee, named for the same person? What about Cumberland County, Virginia, and Cumberland County, Kentucky?

A new reference book, *United States Counties*, by Mark and Mary Dunn (Jefferson,

N.C.: McFarland, 2003) can provide answers for these and other questions about the counties around the country.

The authors have compiled a one-volume encyclopedia of United States counties. Although similar works exist, localities have a way of evolving that often renders reference books obsolete. This new title includes the 2000 Census population figures, and land areas from the 2002 *Rand McNally Commercial Atlas*. Each entry includes the county name, county seat, population, land area, location and geographical features, name derivation, date of establishment, history, famous residents, products and industries and interesting facts. These facts give an otherwise straightforwardly utilitarian work a charming spark of interest. In the Charles City entry, we learn that “the carved walnut staircase at Shirley ascends three stories with no visible means of support, the only one of its kind in the U.S.”

While we at the reference desk always consult our Bible, *The Hornbook of Virginia History**, for Virginia county information and antecedents, *United States Counties* provides a useful compilation of the type of county facts.

A researcher may find further amplification of the subject in two other county reference books: *County Name Origins of the United States* by Michael A. Beatty (Jefferson, N.C.: McFarland, 2001) and *Counties USA* (Detroit: Omnigraphics, 2003) for directory and statistical information.

As for the questions above, counties of the same name in different states are not necessarily named for the same person. Virginia, along with 11 other states, named a county for Charles Carroll, signer of the Declaration of Independence, U.S. senator from Maryland and founder of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. Tennessee named its Carroll County for General William Carroll, officer in the Battle of New Orleans and Tennessee governor. Other name origins are more ambiguous. Cumberland County, Va., was named for William Augustus, Duke of Cumberland, while Cumberland County, Ky., is named for the Cumberland River—but who is the river named for?

**The Hornbook of Virginia History* is available for \$29.95 from the Library of Virginia by calling (804) 293-3999.



Sam Witt, Richard Witt and Tom Camden, director of Special Collections, examine 17th century imprint

RICHMOND FAMILY DONATES RARE 17TH CENTURY LEGAL TEXT

The Library of Virginia recently acquired a rare 17th century London legal imprint through the generosity of three Richmond brothers; Samuel, Peter and Richard Witt. The single volume work *The Commentaries or Reports of Edmund Plowden...Containing Cases Upon Matters of Law* (London, 1681–1684), was originally acquired by the Witt Brothers' grandfather and came to them from their father's library. Educated at Cambridge and Oxford, Plowden was considered the most distinguished lawyer of the late Tudor Age. Plowden was a devout Catholic who according to family legend was offered the Lord Chancellorship by Queen Elizabeth on the condition that he become a Protestant, an offer he refused.

WORKING OUT
Her DESTINY
1600—2004
WOMEN'S HISTORY
in VIRGINIA
EXHIBITION AT THE LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA
AUGUST 2, 2004—MARCH 26, 2005

The poster features three circular portraits of women in historical attire on the left side. The background has a decorative, light blue pattern.

LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA CALLS FOR STUDY OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES

The Library of Virginia has issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) for a comprehensive study of Virginia public libraries intended to assist the Library of Virginia in assuring that the Commonwealth's public libraries are prepared to meet the challenges of the 21st century as valued community resources responsive to the rapid change in technology and society.

The study will address the following concerns:

- Laws, regulations and legal authority directing the establishment, governance, funding, management and administration of Virginia's public libraries, and the certification of Virginia's public librarians,
- Funding, programs and services (including those covered by the Library Services and Technology Act) administered by the Library to support Virginia public libraries and their development,
- The direct state aid program including its purpose, formula and uses in conjunction with the recommendations of the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (JLARC) study, <<http://jlarc.state.va.us/Summary/Rpt268/library.HTM>>
- Standards for Virginia public libraries and certification of public librarians in Virginia,
- Role and responsibilities of local jurisdictions in the establishment, funding, programs and services of public libraries,
- Methods of fostering collaboration and resource sharing among public libraries and peer organizations,
- Societal, technological, and demographic factors that effect the continuing growth and development of public libraries in Virginia.

This study is part of a long history of similar studies undertaken on behalf of public library development. Since 1904, the Library of Virginia has assisted localities in the provision of public library services. In 1936 Assistant State Librarian Randolph Church published a regional library plan in which he made a strong plea for a state grant-in-aid program administered through 10 regions across the state. Although state funding was not allocated until 1942, the Virginia General Assembly enacted in 1936 the first comprehensive general library law and declared "it the policy of the Commonwealth, as a part of its provision for public education, to promote the establishment and development of public library service throughout its various political subdivisions." This important language remains in the *Code of Virginia*, §42.1-46.

In 1968, despite decades of growth, significant numbers of Virginia citizens still lacked access to public libraries. The Virginia State Library (now the Library of Virginia) commissioned the Arthur D. Little Company to design a master plan to develop a broad program of library service. The Little report concluded that the state-aid formula from 1942 was not satisfactory and the level of funding was too low. A vastly different program was recommended at a funding level of more than five-million dollars. Linwood Holton, campaigning for governor in 1969, took note of the financial plight of the public libraries and endorsed the state's plan. As governor he shared his concern with the General Assembly. In 1970, the library laws again were rewritten, adopting the format still used today.

By 2000, these library laws and regulations were in need of revision. The General Assembly directed the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (JLARC) to study the equity of the state-aid formula and the impact of technological changes of library services. The final report, released July 30, 2001, concluded that the formula has served the people well, but suggested several possible amendments to address newer concerns. The tragic events of September 11 plus the unstable economy precluded implementation of any of the recommendations.

The study now proposed by the Library of Virginia will use the JLARC recommendations, but will also address broader issues. Significant issues of equity, access to technology and collections remain. The proposed study will offer advice to guide the Library of Virginia's efforts in a new era.

Completion of the study, scheduled for December 2005, is only the first step in a lengthy process to review, amend and implement any changes. There will be many opportunities for library supporters to voice opinions.

Crime... that this gruesome punitive engine is in successful operation. Scientific opinion seems agreed that electricity offers the most humane form of execution yet devised."

The first multiple execution occurred on April 30, 1909, when John Brown, age 57, and his son, William Brown, age 33, both of Powhatan County, were executed for their role in a double murder the previous February. Three other men were also convicted and sentenced to die for the crime, originally all on the same day. However, the Penitentiary Superintendent urged the governor to delay the execution of three of the condemned because he was afraid to risk a possible breakdown of the electric chair. Father and son were executed in twelve minutes.

Virginia's first woman to die in the electric chair was 17-year-old Virginia Christian of Elizabeth City County. Christian's case attracted interest across the state and nation because of her age and gender. A Chicago newspaper publicized the case and hired an attorney to intercede on her behalf with the governor. She was executed on August 16, 1912, for the murder of 51-year-old Ida Belote.

The prisoner photographs made from these negatives will be an invaluable addition to the Library's collections and will complement our court and clemency records. The glass plate negatives literally put a face to the name of Virginia's forgotten characters—criminals.

—submitted by Roger Christman,
Collection Management Services

Holiday Schedule

Friday, January 14, 2005–
Monday 17, 2005

Closed

Lee-Jackson-King Holidays

Saturday, February 19, 2005–
Monday, February 21, 2005

Closed

President's Day Holiday

Library of Virginia Partners With New State IT Agency

In 2003, Governor Mark Warner signed legislation creating a single state technology agency called the Virginia Information Technologies Agency. VITA consolidated several existing state agencies and boards that had overseen the Commonwealth's technology needs, including the Department of Information Technology, Department of Technology Planning, the Virginia Information Provider's Network Authority and its Board, as well as the Chief Information Officer Advisory Board. Like all state agencies the new agency needed to comply with Virginia's Public Records Act on records management issues, and the Library of Virginia was eager to work with VITA to help it to establish a successful records management program.

During the first half of 2004, representatives of the Library of Virginia's records management team and VITA staff met to formulate a plan for a records program for VITA. In September 2004, Lynne Wasz was named as VITA's records officer. Wasz serves as agency strategy and performance specialist, reporting to VITA's Chief Financial Officer. She is responsible for measuring agency productivity and creating an operating plan that ties these measurements to action plans and budgets.

According to Wasz, VITA's goal for records management is simple: "Working closely with the Library of Virginia, we want to create the model for Records Management programs in the state." In October 2004 the Library staff trained 43 VITA employees to be the records management "point of contact" for their areas within VITA's organizational structure. This training covered the fundamentals for running a records management program from conducting records inventories and surveys, to developing and implementing effective records retention schedules, to managing electronic records, and to formulating procedures for transferring permanent records to the state archives here at the Library. Other VITA personnel have been selected to assist with records management in every operational unit of VITA.

VITA currently has more than 1,000 employees and interacts almost continually with agencies around the commonwealth. VITA's records management program is complex because of the technical nature of the agency and the exponential growth of electronic records. A key element to the program's success will be staff knowledgeable about all aspects of records management. By training staff and placing points of contact in all operational units VITA is ensuring that it will manage its records efficiently and economically.

VITA's records management strategic plan includes updating all records management policies by January 2005 and, working with the Library, updating records retention and disposition schedules by March 2005. In addition, VITA will complete its records surveys and inventories by spring 2005, allowing it to identify records which are eligible for destruction at that time—a true spring cleaning. VITA is also developing an on-line records management training curriculum covering Virginia records management requirements and Freedom of Information Act training, which will be made available to all staff.

The Library also is working with VITA on the Joint Advisory Committee on Electronic Records (JACER). This group will be dedicated to finding solutions to records management issues raised by the increasing creation and use of electronic records within state government. The group will consider effective management of electronic mail, development of statewide specifications for records management and digital imaging software, research of digital authenticity issues (including the use of digital signatures), and effective management of digital GIS information. Input from state and local agencies on electronic records will be sought and vendors will be invited to address records management issues raised by the use of their products.

The collaboration between VITA, one of the newest state agencies, and the Library of Virginia, the agency responsible for records management in the state, on not only establishing a records management program at VITA but also on issues of mutual interest concerning electronic records is beneficial. VITA will have an up-to-date records management system and state and local government and citizens will benefit from the examination of issues related to records management.

—submitted by Chris Gorey,
Records Management and Information Services

Legislators To Use Library Deck During 2005 Session

Beginning on January 3, 2005, Library of Virginia employees who park in the Library's underground deck will relocate to the deck at 5th and Marshall streets. This action is necessary in order to accommodate the 140 members of the General Assembly who will use the Library deck for the 2005 session while Capitol Square undergoes major renovations. Legislators often attend subcommittee and committee meetings that are scheduled for the early morning or late evening and the proximity of the Library's deck was a major factor in the decision to relocate legislative parking to the Library's lot.

During the session 65 spaces in the Library's deck will be allocated to Library patrons, agency vehicles and a few agency personnel who have valid handicapped parking tags. As in the past patron parking is available starting at 8:45 AM.

We apologize for any inconvenience this limited parking creates.

U P C O M I N G P R O G R A M S

Tuesday, January 18, 2005

Women and A Caring Community
and

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Women in Business: Leading and Inspiring
Time: 5:30 PM • Place: Lecture Hall
FREE EVENTS but reservations are required. For reservations call 804-692-3591.

The Library of Virginia Foundation presents roundtable discussions with women who are making their mark. A guided visit of *Working Out Her Destiny: Women's History in Virginia* the Library's current exhibition begins at 5:30 p.m., a reception at 6:00 p.m. with the discussion starting at 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, January 18, 2005

THIS OLD HOUSE: Researching Your Historic Property at the Library of Virginia

Time: Noon • Place: Conference Rooms
FREE EVENT

Patricia Ferguson Watkinson, Ph.D., research archivist, will demonstrate how to use items from the Library's collections to piece together the history of a property.

Saturday, January 29, 2005

Richmond's Disappearing History

Time: 9:00 AM–Noon • Place: Conference Rooms
Free for A.C.O.R.N. members and LVA Foundation donors; \$15 for others. For information or to make a reservation, call 804-422-2148.

Architectural historians and experts from state and city government will share information about the Richmond's historic architecture that has been lost over the years as well as landmark and other structures in danger of imminent collapse or demolition. This program is sponsored by the Alliance To Conserve Old Richmond Neighborhoods and the Library of Virginia Foundation.

FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES SPEAKERS

Novelist Alexander McCall Smith will be the speaker for the annual luncheon on March 17, 2005, of the Virginia Festival of the Book. McCall Smith, best known for his The No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency series, has recently completed the sixth book in that sequence, *In the Company of Cheerful Ladies*, along with *The Sunday Philosophy Club*, the first in a new mystery series.

The No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency series features Precious Ramotswe, a witty, independent Botswanan woman who becomes a private detective, frequently turning to Agatha Christie and her trusty copy of "Principles of Private Detection" for advice.

McCall Smith is the prolific author of more than 50 books ranging from collections of short stories to medical texts to children's books, including *The Perfect Hamburger*. He is a Professor of Medical Law at the University of Edinburgh, a member of numerous international and U.K. bioethics committees, a founder of the University of Botswana's Law School, an occasional visiting professor in the U.S. and Italy, and a bassoon player in "The Really Terrible Orchestra," which he co-founded.

VABook! is also pleased to announce that Linda Fairstein will be the speaker for this year's Crime Wave luncheon March 19. Her first novel, *Final Jeopardy*, introduced the tough but tender prosecutor Alexandra Cooper. Her seventh Alexandra Cooper story *Entombed* will be available in January 2005.

Fairstein, a graduate of Vassar College and the University of Virginia School of Law, earned a reputation as a formidable prosecutor when she was bureau chief of the Sex Crimes Prosecution Unit of the New York County District Attorney's Office. Fairstein's work earned her several "Woman of the Year" awards and inspired her Virginia Law classmates to establish a scholarship in her name to support students who wish to pursue legal careers in the public sector.

The VABook! luncheons are already sold out. The eleventh annual Virginia Festival of the Book, produced by the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities, is scheduled for March 16-20, 2005. For more information on VABook!, visit the festival web site www.vabook.org.

Telling The Story: Virginians in Wartime Exhibit On View

From December 6 through January 29, 2005, visitors to the Library of Virginia will be able to see some of the many moving items from the Library's collections related to Virginian involvement in modern wars. "Telling The Story: Virginians in Wartime" will offer dog tags, photographs, medals, training manuals, uniforms, ration books and more. Especially touching is a goodbye letter from Paul W. Derrickson, written on the condition that it be sent only in the case of his death. The letter tells his mother he loves her and how great a woman she was. Derrickson, of Norfolk, Virginia, died May 28, 1918, in Cantigny, France. These poignant reminders of service and sacrifice underscore the importance of preserving and sharing the personal stories of wartime service at home and abroad.



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