

The New Deal in Virginia

A GLANCE AT SOME SOURCES AT THE LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA

Immediately after his inauguration in 1933, Franklin Delano Roosevelt made addressing and relieving the Depression that was gripping the nation a top priority of his administration. To combat the banking crisis, the rampant unemployment, the destitution of the farmers, and the existing inadequate regulations in industry and labor, he pushed through Congress a new program known as the "New Deal." Through a remarkable series of legislative initiatives, many social and economic reforms were introduced and programs were established that rescued the hungry and gave work to thousands of unemployed people. The New Deal programs achieved with remarkable speed the implementation of measures to fight poverty, to counter unemployment with work, and to provide a social safety net for the old and disabled. Best known among these are the Works Projects Administration (WPA) and the Social Security Act. This was the first time that the federal government assumed some obligations for the destitute, a responsibility which before was left on local governments and charities. At the same time, the New Deal programs offered an unprecedented opportunity for rebuilding and modernizing the country and renewing the infrastructure of America. These programs restored confidence to Americans and established the foundations of the modern welfare state in the United States.

SELECTED BOOKS

Allen, Frederick Lewis. *Since Yesterday: The Nineteen-Thirties in America*. New York: Harper and Brothers, 1940. E741 A66

Beckham, Sue Bridwell. *Depression Post Office Murals and Southern Culture: A Gentle Reconstruction*. Baton Rouge, La.: Louisiana State University Press, 1989. ND2611 B4 1989

Brogan, Denis W. *The Era of Franklin D. Roosevelt: A Chronicle of the New Deal and Global War*. The Chronicles of America Series, vol. 52. New Haven, Conn.: Yale University Press, 1950. E173 C55 v.52

Ciment, James. *Encyclopedia of the Great Depression and the New Deal*. Armonk, N.Y.: Sharpe Reference, 2001. E806 .C543 2001

Gunther, John. *Roosevelt in Retrospect: A Profile in History*. New York: Harper and Brothers, 1950. E807 G85

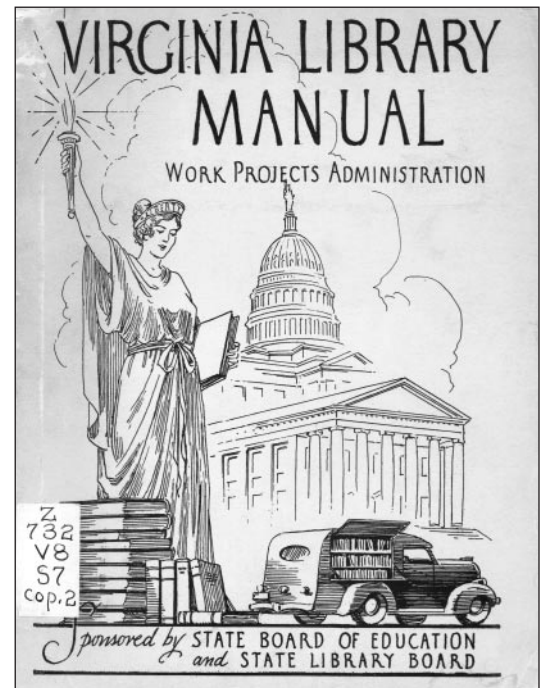
Heineman, Ronald L. *Depression and New Deal in Virginia: The Enduring Dominion*. Charlottesville, Va.: University Press of Virginia, 1983. F231 H43 1983

Leuchtenburg William E. *Franklin D. Roosevelt and the New Deal, 1932–1940*. New York: Harper and Row, 1963. E806 L475

Perkins, Dexter. *The New Age of Franklin Roosevelt, 1932–1945*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1957. E806 P465

Rollins, Alfred B. *Depression, Recovery and War, 1929–1945*. New York: McGraw-Hill, 1966. E173 D58 v.7

Wecter, Dixon. *The Age of the Great Depression, 1929–1941*. New York: Macmillan, 1948. E806 W43



SELECTED ARTICLES

Barden, Thomas E. "A Race with a Panther: The WPA Collection of Virginia Folk Legends." *Virginia Cavalcade* 41 (Winter 1992): 100–111. F221 V73

Campbell, Edward D. C., Jr., and Stacy Gibbons Moore "Foundations of the Past: The WPA Historical Inventory Project in Virginia" *Virginia Cavalcade* 43 (Spring 1994): 178–191. F221 V73

Heinemann, Ronald L. "Alphabet Soup: The New Deal Comes to the Relief of Virginia." *Virginia Cavalcade* 33 (Summer 1983): 4–19. F221 V73

———. "Blue Eagle or Black Buzzard? The National Recovery Administration in Virginia." *Virginia Magazine of History and Biography* 89 (January 1981): 90–100. F221 V9

———. "Workers on Welfare: The WPA in Virginia." *Virginia Social Science Journal* 8 (November 1973): 62–67. H1 V8

Hunter, Robert F. "Carter Glass, Harry Byrd and the New Deal, 1932–1936." *Virginia Social Science Journal* 4 (November 1969): 91–103. H1 V8

Koeniger, A. Cash. "The New Deal and the States: Roosevelt Versus the Byrd Organization in Virginia." *Journal of American History* 68 (March 1982): 876–896. E171 J87

Martin-Perdue, Nancy J. and Charles L. Perdue. "Talk About Trouble: The Virginia Writers' Project, 1938–1941." *Virginia Cavalcade* 46 (Summer 1997): 226–239. F221 V73

Clark, Anne Miren. "The Difficult Adventure of Our History": Murals and Memories in Richmond, 1939–1943. *Virginia Cavalcade* 46 (Summer 1997): 196–213. F221 V73

"Shadows of an Era: The WPA Collection of Virginia Photographs" and "Shadows of an Era: The FSA Collection of Virginia Photographs" *Virginia Cavalcade* 36 (Winter 1987): 128–143. F221 V73

COLLECTIONS

Life Histories, 1936–1941. Miscellaneous Reels 1846–1853 (Accession 36002); <<http://eagle.vsla.edu/wpa/virtua-basic.html>>. Approximately 1,350 life histories, social-ethnic studies, and youth studies, more than 50 interviews with former slaves, and a small number of folklore studies comprise the WPA Life Histories, available through the Library of Virginia's website. Designed by the Virginia Writers' Project to gather information about the experiences of individuals during the Depression, many interviews also captured recollections from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The life histories document family life, health conditions, employment and educational opportunities (or lack thereof), gender roles, and religious beliefs, as well as economic and social conditions in Virginia in the 1930s. The narratives provide a remarkable snapshot of the lives of ordinary people coping with extraordinary times.

Historic American Buildings Survey. *Virginia*. Cambridge, England: Chadwick-Healey; Teaneck, N.J.: Somerset House, 1980. Fiche 27; <<http://lcweb2.loc.gov/ammem/hhhtml/hhhome.html>>

In 1933, the National Park Service established the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) to provide work to architects, draftsmen and photographers left jobless by the Great Depression. The program is still active today and continues to collect drawings, photographs and descriptions of buildings, documenting the rich and diverse architectural heritage of the nation. The National Park Service administers this program, but the collection is housed at the Library of Congress. The microfiche collection at the Library of Virginia covers material received by the Library of Congress up to the end of 1979 for the state of Virginia.

Virginia WPA Historical Inventory Project. Film 509; <<http://eagle.vsla.edu/vhi/>>

The Virginia Historical Inventory, established by the Virginia Writers' Project of the Work Projects Administration (WPA), is a collection of photographs, maps, and detailed reports documenting many 18th- and 19th- century buildings in communities across Virginia. WPA workers in the 1930s described, assessed, and photographed early structures (many of which do not survive today), creating a unique record of Virginia's past. The collection consists of more than 19,300 survey reports, more than 6,200 photographs, and 103 annotated county and city maps. Field workers prepared survey reports on each structure, with details taken from onsite investigation, research in court records and other local resources, and interviews with county residents. There are also reports on cemeteries, antiques, historical events, and personages, as well as transcriptions of Bible records, land grants, wills, deeds, diaries, and correspondence. The Library of Virginia offers a searchable database of this project on its Web site that includes digital images of pictures, maps, and survey reports.

Other Virginia Writers' Project materials are available only in the Archives Research Room, where special rules governing use and reproduction apply. These include historical files, arranged by locality; radio plays; clippings files; and research for a planned—but unpublished—statewide biographical dictionary, including biographies of governors.

Survey of the Architecture of Completed Projects of the Public Works Administration. Alexandria, Va.: Chadwick-Healey, 1986. Fiche 70

A survey of architecture of projects constructed by federal and other governmental bodies between the years 1933 and 1939. These works were sponsored by the Public Works Administration, which was headed by Harold Ickes, Secretary of the Interior. The survey was compiled by C. W. Short and R. Stanley Brown and was deposited in the Library of Congress on March 1940, by John M. Carmody, Administrator of the Federal Works Agency.

ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEWS

The following titles reproduce the texts of oral history interviews and traditional Virginia folklore collected by WPA Virginia Writers Project staff members during the 1930s. They offer a unique opportunity to read the actual words of ordinary persons who lived in Virginia during that time. Many of them described their involvement in such New Deal projects as the Civilian Conservation Corps.

Barden, Thomas, ed. *Virginia Folk Legends*. Charlottesville, Va.: University Press of Virginia, 1991. GR110 V8 V57 1991

Perdue, Charles L. *Outwitting the Devil: Jack Tales from Wise County, Virginia*. Santa Fe, N.Mex.: Ancient City Press, 1987. GR110 V8 O97 1987

Perdue, Charles L. *Pigsfoot Jelly & Persimmon Beer: Foodways from the Virginia Writers' Project*. Santa Fe, N.Mex.: Ancient City Press, 1992. GT2853 U54 P54 1992

Perdue, Charles L., Thomas E. Barden and Robert K. Phillips, eds. *Weevils in the Wheat: Interviews with Virginia Ex-slaves*. Charlottesville, Va.: University Press of Virginia, 1976. E444 W4

Martin-Perdue, Nancy J., and Charles L. Perdue, eds. *Talk About Trouble: A New Deal Portrait of Virginians in the Great Depression*. Chapel Hill, N.C.: University of North Carolina Press, 1996. F231 T2 1996

WEBSITES

America from the Great Depression to World War II (Library of Congress)
<http://lcweb2.loc.gov/ammem/fsowhome.html>

American Life Histories: Manuscripts from the Federal Writers' Project, 1936–1940 (Library of Congress)
<http://lcweb2.loc.gov/ammem/wpaintro/wpahome.html>

American Studies @ UVA: 1930s Project (University of Virginia)

<http://xroads.virginia.edu/~1930s/front.html>

By the People for the People. Posters from the WPA 1936–1943 (Library of Congress)

<http://lcweb2.loc.gov/ammem/wpaposters/wpahome.html>

Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) 1933–1942

<http://fs.jorge.com/archives/ccc/US.htm>

Civilian Conservation Corps Alumni Web Site

<http://www.cccalumni.org/index.html>

Electrification (University of Virginia)

<http://jefferson.village.virginia.edu/vcdh/vahistory/electrification.html>

James F. Justin Civilian Conservation Corps Museum

<http://members.aol.com/famjustin/ccchis.html>

New Deal and the Arts: Oral History Interviews Conducted by the Archives of American Art, 1963–1965

(Smithsonian: Archives of American Art)

<http://artarchives.si.edu/oralhist/transnda.htm>

A New Deal for the Arts (National Archives)

http://www.archives.gov/exhibit_hall/new_deal_for_the_arts/index.html

New Deal Network (Columbia University)

<http://newdeal.feri.org/>

The Real Deal: The Battle to Define FDR's Social Programs (University of Virginia)

<http://xroads.virginia.edu/~MA02/volpe/newdeal/intro.html>

Shenandoah National Park (University of Virginia)

<http://jefferson.village.virginia.edu/vcdh/vahistory/electrification.html>

WPA Life Histories, Virginia Interviews (Library of Virginia)

<http://eagle.vsla.edu/wpa/>

WPA New Deal Art During the Depression

<http://www.wpamurals.com/>

Virginia State Parks. Civilian Conservation Corps Museum. Pocahontas State Park.

<http://www.dcr.state.va.us/parks/cccmus.htm>

Mary Dessypris
Jennifer Davis McDaid
Archival and Information Services Division
April 2003

