



# Droad SIDE

**SPRING 2011** and Access, page 2

Civil War 150 **Legacy Project** Document Digitization

# broadside

the magazine of the

## LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA SPRING 2011

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## **Treasures from the Attic**

Civil War 150 Legacy Project uncovers wealth of materials in private hands

One hundred fifty years ago this spring, Virginians made the fateful decision to secede from the Union and join the Confederacy, thereby casting their lot on the Southern side of the American Civil War. Virginians at the time may have differed on the wisdom of the conflict, but once it began they all were acutely aware that they were living through one of the most significant periods of our nation's history. Accordingly they saved things that documented their wartime experiences—diaries, letters, military service records, photographs, artifacts, and newspapers—and they passed these precious mementos on to their descendants.

During the last century, a large amount of this material found its way into the collections of libraries and historical societies across the country, but much still remains in private hands. To ensure that the content of these fast-fading documents is



preserved and made accessible to researchers and students of the Civil War, the Library of Virginia partnered with the Virginia Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War Commission to launch the Civil War 150 Legacy Project. The archivists responsible for this innovative project are traveling to communities across Virginia, setting up digital scanning equipment in libraries, museums, and community centers, and encouraging citizens to bring their family collections forward to be scanned. Once the images are captured and processed, they are entered into a searchable database that may be viewed on the Library's Virginia Memory Web site (www.virginiamemory.com/collections/cw150).

When the project began, no one knew for certain just how much material might still be stored in family attics, closets, and cedar chests—but our archivists' hunch that a treasure trove of information still remained in private hands has proved correct. Every scanning event to date—from Galax to Fauquier County to Richmond—has been a huge success, with the database growing steadily each month. Local sesquicentennial committees, historical societies, and community media outlets have signed on to spread the word and extend their hospitality when CW 150 Legacy Project representatives arrive in town. While waiting to have their heirloom pieces scanned, donors to the project have enthusiastically shared family stories with the Library's staff and each other, eager to make certain that the sacrifices and accomplishments of their Civil War ancestors are not forgotten.

If you would like to attend one of the Civil War 150 Legacy Project scanning events, either to contribute images of your family's memorabilia or just to listen to the stories your neighbors have to share, check the schedule of document digitization events on the Sesquicentennial Commission's Web site (www.virginiacivilwar.org/committeeevents.php). If you enjoy watching history come alive, this is definitely the place to be when the Legacy Project team visits your community.

Sincerely,

Sandra G. Treadway, Librarian of Virgin

#### ON THE COVER

This small trunk containing documents, bullet shells, military buttons, and other small items (ca. 1861–1869) once belonged to John Chinn, a Confederate soldier from Aldie, Virginia. The items were brought to a scanning event held at the Library in February for the Civil War 150 Legacy Project: Document Digitization and Access. Read about the project and see additional items on pages 2–5.

# NEW &

## Dispatches from NOTEWORTHY Young Voices

High school newspapers enrich the Virginia Newspaper **Project's collection** 

The Library of Virginia has recently received past issues I from two Virginia high school newspapers. Though published in two very different regions, in different decades, the newspapers voice similar concerns. The students report achievements in academics, services, and sports, yet also tackle news from the world outside their schools' grounds.

The Cougar Din was a publication of Pulaski County High School. Located in the heart of the New River Valley in southwestern Virginia, the school opened its doors in 1974. The Library has several issues from late in the 1970s.

The Panthianette is published by Hermitage High School in Henrico County, near the capital of the commonwealth. The school dates back to 1952. The Library holds issues from 1962.

The young reporters are eager to praise, yet unafraid to question as they embark on adulthood. These additions to the Library's collection are intriguing because they reflect voices from the past that became our present and future. For more information, search the Virginia Newspaper Project on the Library's Web site (www.lva.virginia.gov/public/vnp).

> -Rachel Hilton, Volunteer, Virginia Newspaper Project



# broad SIDE contents

**SPRING 2011** 

# LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA

800 East Broad Street I Richmond, Virginia 23219-8000 804.692.3500 | www.lva.virginia.gov Open Monday-Saturday, 9 AM-5 PM Underground parking available for visitors

Welcome to the Library of Virginia, the state's oldest institution dedicated to the preservation of Virginia's history and culture. Our resources, exhibitions, and events attract more than 250,000 visitors each year. Our collections, containing nearly 113 million items, document and illustrate the lives of both famous Virginians and ordinary citizens.

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#### **GET INVOLVED**

#### ALL IN THE FAMILY

This photograph was lent for scanning by Mary E. P. "Betty" Pilcher Brown at an event in Fauquier County. The French-Weedon family of Washington, D.C., was photographed in June 1917 prior to a reunion in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. The image includes Charles James French (MIDDLE ROW, FAR RIGHT) and Richard Montgomery Jones (MIDDLE ROW, FAR LEFT), both veterans of Company A, 9th Virginia Cavalry. It also includes members of the Jones and Tebbs families.



# **CIVIL WAR 150 LEGACY PROJECT**

## Library of Virginia archivists hit the road in search of Civil War-era materials

by Laura Drake Davis and Renee M. Savits

he 150th anniversary of the American Civil War provides an unparalleled opportunity to examine the conflict that defined our nation like no other. In 2010, the Virginia Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War Commission and the Library of Virginia

partnered to establish the Civil War 150 Legacy Project: Document Digitization and Access, a statewide online collection of original Civil War manuscripts that remain in private and individually held collections.

A multiyear digital project, the Civil War 150 Legacy Project focuses on manuscript materials created during the period that reflect social, political, military, business, and religious life in Virginia during the Civil War period and the early years of Reconstruction. The Library's experience and recent acquisitions show that many original manuscripts concerning the Civil War are held and maintained in private hands. These items range from single letters and diaries to substantial collections of correspondence between soldiers and their families at home. These firsthand accounts,

The CW 150 Legacy Project: **Document Digitization and Access** LIBRARY .

#### THE PROJECT BY REGION

Renee Savits coordinates the CW 150 Legacy Project efforts in the Eastern Region (shown in red on the map) while Laura Drake Davis coordinates efforts in the Western Region (in blue).

The CW 150 Legacy Project provides individuals with an opportunity to have their historic letters, diaries, photographs, and other collections scanned to preserve their valuable intellectual content.

often in fragile or deteriorating condition, are carefully guarded treasures that many families are reluctant to relinquish. By scanning these items and providing online access, the CW 150 Legacy Project allows individuals to retain their original items, yet preserve the historical content of their documents.

Working with local sesquicentennial committees established by the commission and through a partnership with the Library and a network of statewide connections, the CW 150 Legacy Project provides individuals with an opportunity to have their

historic letters, diaries, photographs, and other collections scanned to preserve their valuable intellectual content. The goals of the CW 150 Legacy Project are to provide a central

digital repository for newly discovered original materials; to seek a broad-based collection, both geographically and topically; to foster cooperation through partnerships with local commissions, heritage organizations, and libraries; and to enhance the Sesquicentennial Commission and the Library's Web sites using selected materials gathered during the

These firsthand accounts, often in fragile or deteriorating condition, are carefully guarded treasures that many families are rejuctant to relinquish.

project. The digital images collected at scanning events are stored by the Library and made available through our Web site. All digital images are scanned at a high resolution and cataloged using current archival cataloging standards.

In the pilot phase of the project, archivists from the Library traveled to Danville and

Winchester, Virginia, to gauge interest in the process. Individuals contributing materials for scanning, our "digital donors," made appointments with their local sesquicentennial committees to minimize wait times and ensure that donors could be accommodated during their scheduled times. Information about the scanned materials was collected from each digital donor on-site and used to augment the Library catalog records that

accompany the scans. The scanned images were loaded onto the Library's Virginia Memory Web site (www. virginiamemory.com). During this pilot phase, 909 images were created during the visits to Danville and Winchester, as well as from materials from other private collectors.

Following the success of the pilot project, the Library and the commission decided to proceed with the CW 150 Legacy Project in earnest. In June 2010, two staff members at the Library, Renee Savits and Laura Drake Davis, were assigned to coordinate the project, with each covering a specific region of Virginia. The coordinators have established formal policies and procedures for the project and are working with local sesquicentennial committees to schedule scanning events.

At the end of 2010, a total of thirteen scanning events had been held—from Tazewell County to Virginia Beach and from Shenandoah County to Mecklenburg County—which yielded 2,419 scans from a total of 61 donors. More than 50 additional events have been scheduled through June 2012, with many more events yet to be scheduled. The CW 150 Legacy Project

staff plans to visit each county and independent city within Virginia, and hopes to make two visits to each locality before June 2012. More information about the project and the schedule of upcoming events may be found at the Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission Web site, www.virginiacivilwar.org/legacy.

The CW 150 Legacy Project: Document Digitization and Access has the potential to become a premier resource for Civil War-era materials in Virginia and to help make the Civil War relevant today. By unearthing the numerous manuscripts and collections in private hands across Virginia, the commission and the Library aim to provide access to the personal stories of those who lived in the 1860s, giving today's society a better sense of the challenges they faced, the hardships they endured, and the difficult decisions they made that led to our nation's greatest conflict. This material will strengthen our knowledge of this pivotal event by confirming or repudiating current scholarly opinions and long-held beliefs—either of which can only enhance our understanding of this era in history.

CW 150 Legacy Project archivists Laura Drake Davis and Renee M. Savits may be contacted by e-mail at: cw150@lva.virginia.gov.

In Witness Whercof.



#### SHARING HISTORY

Librarian of Virginia Sandy Treadway (UPPER LEFT) and Trenton Hizer, senior finding-aids archivist (LOWER LEFT), assist donors to the CW 150 Legacy Project during a scanning event held at the Library on February 12, 2011.

PER CENT



Theodore R. Davis, an illustrator for *Harper's Weekly*, was assigned to cover the Chattanooga, Tennessee, area in 1863 and 1864. His drawing of the headquarters of Union lieutenant general Ulysses S. Grant in Chattanooga includes the camp area around the headquarters and troops performing everyday routines such as gathering around a fire, transporting items by covered wagon, and tending to livestock.

# TREASURES REVEALED

The CW 150 Legacy Project has already unearthed these interesting materials and more

#### This excerpt of a letter from David P. Allen

to Elizabeth Ashton details the damages to Maycox, the home of Dr. William Cole, in Prince George County, Virginia, during Union major general George McClellan's campaign of 1862. Of particular interest are the detailed descriptions and monetary assessments of the main house, outbuildings, crops, and landscaping—all destroyed by fire.

Mary Alice Mitchell was an enslaved person in the Fore household in the Hixburg area of Appomattox County, Virginia. Following the end of the Civil War, she and her husband eventually acquired more than 100 acres of land in Appomattox County. An independent woman, she was often seen in the county traveling in her horse and buggy visiting family and friends. Mitchell's descendant brought the image to a CW 150 Legacy Project event to share this incredible story of success following enslavement.





## An Enduring Legacy

The Civil War 150 Legacy Project will undoubtedly make an impact on historical scholarship in the near future, but historians and citizens may only realize and appreciate the magnitude of its contribution with the perspective of time. Historians today silently thank government agencies and commissions that played a vital role in preserving the past. Projects such as the Virginia World War I History Commission's questionnaires of soldiers, and the Virginia Life Histories, federally and state supported during the New Deal, are invaluable sources that have taken on added significance over time. The Life Histories provide a window into the everyday lives of Virginians during the Great Depression, and also give a rare glimpse into the experiences of former slaves, yet they were not fully mined until the 1970s with the rise of interest in social history. Who knows what insights and stories future researchers will mine from the CW 150 Legacy Project?

The diaries of John H. Diltz of the 66th Ohio Infantry cover the years 1862 through 1864. The 66th Ohio Infantry was engaged in the campaigns of Antietam, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, and Atlanta, including Union major general William T. Sherman's March to the Sea. In addition, the 66th Ohio Infantry was ordered to help control the 1863 New York City Draft Riots. The examples shown here detail Diltz's time in Atlanta. The entry for July 31, 1864, mentions the quiet surroundings, despite the proximity of the Confederate lines. On October 30, 1864, he describes Atlanta women waiting to board northbound trains. These two entries illustrate the variety of content within his diaries—descriptions of war written by a soldier and the timeless depictions of life as viewed by a young man in his twenties.

-Laura Drake Davis and Renee Savits

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# Callie Anthony's Mailbag

Companion Web site tells stories of Virginians as the Civil War approached

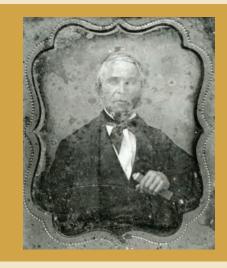
Inion or Secession: Virginians Decide, an educational Web site found at the Library's Online Classroom at VirginiaMemory.com, offers students, teachers, and history lovers a look at how this extraordinary event affected ordinary people. Not an online version of the Library's exhibition, but a separate digital resource, the site presents more than 200 private letters, public statements, newspaper articles, maps, texts, biographies, and other documents that illustrate how the secession crisis of 1860–1861 affected Virginians.

One such Virginian is highlighted in a section called Callie's Mailbag, which features a selection of about two dozen letters from the Library's collection of Anthony Family Papers (1785–1952). Susan Austin "Callie" Jane Anthony, or Callie Anthony, was born on March 16, 1839, and lived in Campbell County, Virginia, near Evington at her father's house, Walnut Hill, southwest of Lynchburg. She loved to read books and write. In the years before the war, Anthony attended Hollins Institute, where her favorite subject was English. In 1860 she hoped to go back to finish her last year of school, but as the war approached, that was not feasible

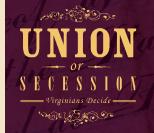
Callie's Mailbag presents a series of letters to Anthony and imagines this well-informed young woman, who was in frequent correspondence with family and friends, commenting on current events and sharing information through a social-networking site between December 1859 and July 1861. Explore the letters as well as images from a Web page called Callie's Scrapbook at Virginia Memory/Online Classroom (http://tinyurl.com/callies-mailbag).

#### CALLIE'S WORLD

ABOVE: Callie Anthony, shown here in a photograph from the Anthony Family Papers (1785-1952), loved to read and write, but the Civil War interrupted her education at Hollins Institute. RIGHT: Anthony lived with her father, Charles Anthony, and her family at their home, Walnut Hill, near Lynchburg. FAR RIGHT: The East Building at what is now Hollins College is one of the oldest buildings on the campus, built in 1856. (Photograph from the Virginia New York World's Fair Commission.)







Through October 29, 2011 | Exhibition Gallery & Lobby

**Union or Secession: Virginians Decide** explores what Virginians thought and debated as the crisis unfolded. Explore the choices Virginians faced as they decided their fate and the lasting consequences of their decisions for Virginia and the nation. See pages 12–13 for more information and related events.



# WHAT'S NEW

# ON THE WEB Northern Virginia Life

#### Fairfax County Public Library Historical Photographs AVAILABLE ON VIRGINIAMEMORY.COM

The Library of Virginia is pleased to host a new sampling of photographs from the Virginia Room at the Fairfax County Public Library. This collection includes digitized images depicting everyday life in the county in the late 19th and much of the 20th centuries. The photographs and postcard images depict people, places, and events from all across the county, including farms, businesses, schools, churches, and much more. Browse through the entire collection or search to refine your results. To view the images, go to www.virginiamemory.com/collections/whats\_new and scroll down to Fairfax County Public Library Historical Photographs.

—Kathy Jordan, Digital Initiatives and Web Resources Manager







#### **COUNTY CHRONICLE**

Above: WFAX Radio Station with Paul Malik at the turntable, September 25, 1948, Falls Church. Quentin Porter Collection. FAR LEFT: Do-Nut Dinette Restaurant, April 22, 1954, Alexandria. Quentin Porter Collection. LEFT: Clifton High School senior class photo, June 1931, Clifton, Virginia. Mayo S. Stuntz Collection. All images courtesy of the Fairfax COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY PHOTOGRAPHIC ARCHIVE.

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# The Bibliophile

Library acquires title from the Byrd library at Westover Plantation

by Tom Camden

n important early-18th-century folio of **1** British views from the personal library of William Byrd of Westover was added to the rare book holdings of the Library of Virginia's Special Collections late last year. Britannia Illustra: Or, Views in Prospective of the Seats of the Nobility and Gentry of Great-Britain (AT LEFT), was printed for Joseph Smith in London in 1716. Still in its original leather-covered boards, the work contains not only a fine printed bookplate for William Byrd of Westover inside the front cover but also below that

bookplate an inscribed provenance

or history of descent through the

Page family of Virginia as well.

In diversity, size, and quality, Byrd's book collection rivaled those compiled by such eminent cultural figures as John Harvard, Benjamin Franklin, and Thomas Jefferson.

William Byrd (also referred to as William Byrd II of Westover), an early and successful Virginia planter, is best known today as a writer and bibliophile. Born in Henrico County on March 28, 1674, Byrd was the son of William Byrd I, who had come to Virginia before 1670, and Mary

Horsmanden, the daughter of a royalist émigré. At the age of seven Byrd was sent to England for

his education and did not return for fifteen years. After returning to Virginia,

Byrd was elected to the House of
Burgesses at the early age of 22,

and in 1709 he was appointed to the Virginia governor's
Council of State, on which he remained for the rest of his life. He commanded the militias of Charles City and Henrico counties and led surveying expeditions of the boundary between Carolina and Virginia and of the Northern Neck. Byrd married twice. His first marriage (1706–1716), to Lucy Parke, with whom he

had two sons who died in infancy and two daughters, ended when she died of smallpox. His second marriage, to Maria Taylor, which began in 1724 and lasted until his death in 1744, produced three daughters and a son, all of whom survived and had children. His landholdings included estates throughout southern Virginia amounting to nearly 180,000 acres, the most famous of which was Westover Plantation, one of the James River plantations, whose classic Georgian house still stands.

As a colonial merchant and politician, William Byrd was a leading intellectual of his era. Following the lead of his father, Byrd collected a handsome library of more than 3,000 separate titles. In the





summer of 1709, he designed and built a separate structure at Westover to house his book collection. He inherited many volumes from his father, but he also collected books while in London because he knew they might be hard to acquire in Virginia. The library that Byrd built was one long spacious gallery, which would eventually house twenty-three walnut bookcases with up to seven shelves per case. Of the handful of early American libraries of great significance, few rivaled the depth and breadth of William Byrd's collection. Byrd's organization of the books in his library reflected broad subject areas such as law, science and medicine, the classics, literature, art, theology, natural philosophy, history, and travels, and he read many of the works in their original languages. In diversity, size, and quality, Byrd's book collection rivaled those compiled by such eminent cultural figures as John Harvard, Benjamin Franklin, and Thomas Jefferson. Where their collections were kept intact and used to found major research and learning institutions, however, Byrd's collection was sold by his son's heirs to pay William Byrd III's gambling debts. The will of William Byrd III, drawn up in 1774 and made effective when he took his life on New Year's Day 1777, stipulated that the library "be immediately sold to pay my just debts." Mary Willing Byrd, the widow of William Byrd III, recataloged the collection to be seen as a whole, as she made apparent in her advertisement in the December 19, 1777, Virginia Gazette:

This Day Is Published A CATALOGUE of the valuable Library, the Property of the Estate of the late Hon William Byrd, Esq; consisting of near 4000 Volumes, in all Languages and Faculties, contained in twenty three double Presses of black Walnut, and also a valuable Assortment of philosophical Instruments, and capital Engravings, the Whole in excellent Order. Great Part of the Books in elegant Bindings, and of the best Editions, and a considerable Number of them very scarce.

Although 250 catalogs were printed, no copy has yet been discovered. With the recent acquisition at auction of Britannia Illustra, the Library of Virginia now holds four titles from the Byrd library at Westover.

Tom Camden is Special Collections director at the Library.

#### BYRD'S WORLD

Opposite Page: 1. Printed bookplate for William Byrd of Westover mounted inside the front cover of Britannia Illustra, 1716 (UPPER LEFT). 2. Signature and wax seal from a letter from William Byrd of Westover (UPPER RIGHT). 3. Undated oil-on-canvas portrait of William Byrd II of Westover by George Vaughan Curtis, a copy of an original portrait by Godfrey Kneller ca. 1702. Gift of William Byrd, 1934 (CENTER). THIS PAGE: Detail from a drawing of Westover Plantation by New York artist Henry Alexander Ogden (1856–1936).



#### **EVELYN BYRD ELIOT**

Painted about 1910, this childhood portrait might have been displayed at the Byrd family plantation in Prince George County, Upper Brandon.

# Painted Byrd

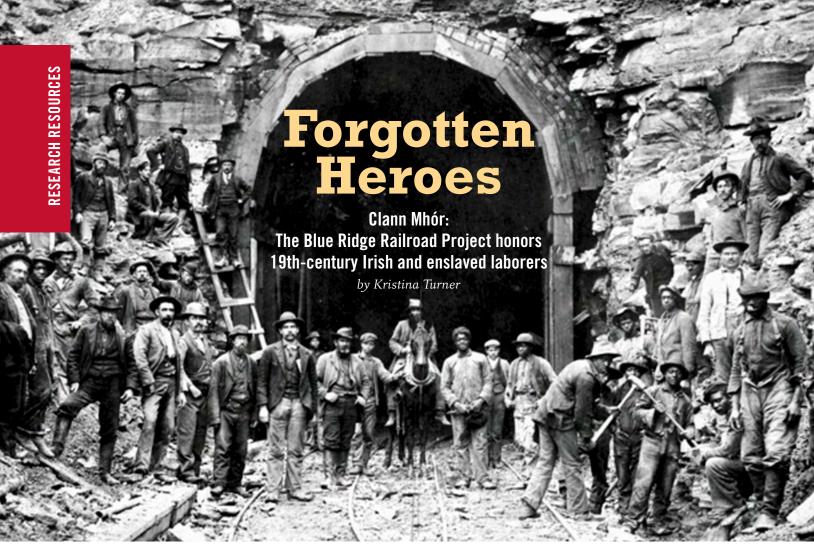
Childhood portrait needs conservation

his full-length, formal portrait of L Evelyn Byrd Eliot (1906-2001) was deeded to the State Art Collection in December 2009 by Eliot Armistead, of Blacksburg, who spent a portion of her childhood at Upper Brandon Plantation in Prince George County, Virginia. The work was painted about 1910 when Evelyn was approximately four years old. The sitter's mother, Lucy Carter Byrd Eliot (1873-1975), was the older sister of Francis Otway Byrd (1878–1956), the last Byrd descendant to own Upper Brandon. The unsigned portrait might have been displayed among other Byrd portraits at Upper Brandon.

Conservation required for the painting's canvas includes surface cleaning, relining, and some in-painting (filling in gaps). The period frame also requires restoration, although it is remarkably stable. An estimate for canvas and frame restoration is approximately \$4,000. For more information, contact Dan Stackhouse at the Library of Virginia Foundation at 804.692.3813.

—Tom Camden

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History can wield an ungracious hand when society chooses not to remember the painful parts. Some of our country's early engineering feats were built by limb and loss rather than by machine. The Blue Ridge Railroad is one such structure. Comprised of four tunnels, the railroad was most famous for the longest one, the 4,263-foot Blue Ridge Tunnel, located under the junction of the Blue Ridge Parkway and Skyline Drive at Rockfish Gap, Virginia. Irish immigrants and enslaved workers labored for a decade (1850–1860) to hand-drill and hand-blast their way through the granite in the days before dynamite, but their suffering, disease, and deaths have been all but forgotten.

"They gave their lives so that the commonwealth could establish a trade route through the Valley of Virginia to the Ohio River and beyond," according to Mary E. Lyons of Clann Mhór: The Blue Ridge Railroad Project, whose members intend to set the record straight by honoring the memory of the laborers. Lyons and her Clann Mhór cohorts—Kevin Donleavy, Dan Burke, Tyler Burke, Rhonda Roebuck, and Michael Brittingham—are working to find the names

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of these heroic workers and to learn more about their way of life, their relationships with one another, and the large family they formed while

#### **BIG DIG**

Railroad workers pose at an unknown tunnel location about 1880. Photograph courtesy of the Chesapeake & Ohio Historical Society.

they hacked away on this arduous and sometimes deadly task.

"In parts of Ireland you would pronounce it 'Clann Vhor,' in other parts 'Clann War,' like class warfare," said Donleavy about the project's name. "It translates to 'large family,' and for our project it refers to all the people who labored one way or another on construction of the Blue Ridge Railroad and its four tunnels."

The Clann Mhór project, based in Charlottesville and documented in a fascinating blog (http://clanmhor.blogspot.com), has been helped by the rich resources of the Library of Virginia. The group has a master list of 2,100 names of mostly Irish and some enslaved African American workers—names of men, women, and children who may have worked on the railroad—found largely within

#### **BOOKKEEPING**

The Blue Ridge Railroad payroll records, housed at the Library, were helpful to Clann Mhór researchers, listing names, job titles, days worked, daily pay, and monthly earnings for thousands of Irish workers.

the Library's resources in the form of Blue Ridge Railroad payroll records. "They're from month to month and they're done by the same clerk, who has a great handwriting style," joked Donleavy about the payroll records. "Just astonishing. No trouble with any spelling. There are no blots. It's almost like somebody gussied it up for the Richmond authorities." Also found at the Library were letters from Claudius Crozet, the engineer who oversaw the planning and construction of the Blue Ridge Railroad, and accounts from the 1850s revealing that the workers lived in shanties along either side of the tracks. The laborers faced work stoppages and strikes, an 1854 cholera epidemic that killed at least 33 Irish workers (whose burial places are unknown), and death by tunnel explosions, runaway train cars, and other violent incidents.

It was easy for these workers to fall off the world's radar. Their lives and their losses were of little interest to the newspapers. The articles that do mention them reflect the prevalent anti-Irish and anti-Catholic sentiment that greeted the heavy influx of immigrants at the time.

The existence of this discrimination poses a question about the state of race relations between the Irish and enslaved workers. Ironically, the construction of the Blue Ridge Railroad fell more heavily on the Irish than the enslaved African Americans. Because they were considered property, the enslaved workers were more valuable than the Irish workers, and as such they were kept away from the most dangerous work. Through research done by Mary £. Lyons, the Clann Mhór project has tentatively concluded that there were no *major* conflicts between the black and white workers, although that may be attributed to the largely segregated labor conditions, the more arduous of which rested on the Irish.

Clann Mhór has uncovered much information on these workers, and the group is eager for more. "What we're really missing is the anecdotal stuff," said Donleavy. "We have no letters from workers on the line, no photographs, and no

"What we're really missing is the anecdotal stuff. We have no letters from workers on the line, no photographs, and no daguerreotypes."

daguerreotypes. We know that a fair amount of money was sent back by some lawyers in Staunton to families in Ireland, but we haven't started tracking that yet."

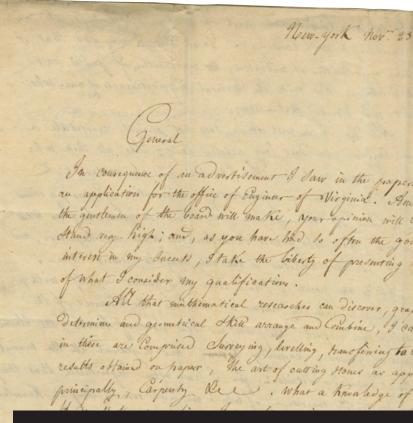
The group has invited a historical archaeologist to conduct a dig along

both sides of the tracks in order to uncover the stone foundations of the shanty housing. After uncovering so many names and facts, Clann Mhór hopes that finding material culture, or artifacts, will help us understand more about the way these people lived in order to remember and honor them.

Kristina Turner in an intern in the Library's Public Services and Outreach Division.

#### THE BOSS

Clann Mhór researchers learned more about Claudius Crozet, the engineer who oversaw the Blue Ridge Railroad's construction, from his 1822 application letter for the position of principal engineer for the Virginia Board of Public Works.



#### **CAN YOU HELP?**

Clann Mhór seeks your help in reconstructing the lives of the Irish workers and their families, as well as information about the enslaved workers and the slaveholders who pocketed their salaries. Surviving material culture, or artifacts, will help project members learn more about the everyday lives of these heroic and forgotten workers. For more information, visit http://clanmhor.blogspot.com or contact them at clannmhor@gmail.com.

Thursday, May 12 | Noon-1:00 PM

MINING THE TREASURE HOUSE TALK

The Irish Builders of Virginia's Railroads

Place: Conference Rooms

In the 1650s, hundreds of Irish people first came to Virginia's shores. In the 1850s, several thousand Irish arrived to build railroad tracks and blast mountain tunnels from Richmond to Covington and beyond. The Charlottesville research group Clann Mhór (which means "big family" in the Irish language) is documenting the Irish and more than one hundred African Americans who labored at this mammoth public-works project. The group has examined such materials as census documents, marriage records, and applications for U.S. citizenship. Much of the research centered on the invaluable Library of Virginia archives, particularly the railroad payrolls, which provided hundreds of Irish and enslaved African American names. Clann Mhór is providing answers to the critical question: *Ca bhfuil siad imithe?* Pronounced *kah weel sheed imuhee*, the words mean: "Where have they all gone?"

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# Spring 2011 Events

All events are free unless otherwise noted.

Thursday, May 5 | Noon-1:00 PM UNION OR SECESSION LECTURE

#### "Let us show our loyalty to Virginia and the Union": The Secession Crisis and the Birth of West Virginia, 1860-1863

Place: Conference Rooms From the polarizing sectional debates in Richmond to President Abraham Lincoln's signing of the statehood bill, this talk by Kevin Barksdale will explore the events surrounding the secession crisis in Virginia and how this tumultuous period led to the creation of the state of West Virginia. Barksdale is an assistant professor of history at Marshall University in Huntington, West Virginia, whose areas of expertise include Appalachian, Native American, early American, and West Virginia history. His first book, The Lost State of Franklin: America's First Secession, was published in 2009.

#### Wednesday, May 11 | 5:30-7:30 PM "BOOKS ON BROAD" FEATURING JOSEPH PAPA

#### Elizabeth Taylor, a Passion for Life: The Wit and Wisdom of a Legend

Place: The Virginia Shop Joseph Papa will join us to discuss and sign his anthology that reveals the candor and honesty with which Elizabeth Taylor led her extraordinary life. Papa is a publicist and writer living in New York City. A native of Richmond, he has worked for the Library of



Virginia and extensively as a stage manager and actor. Light refreshments (wine and cheese) will be served (5:30-6:15 PM), followed by author talk (6:15-7:15 PM), and book signing (7:15–7:30 PM).

#### Thursday, May 12 | Noon-1:00 PM MINING THE TREASURE HOUSE TALK The Irish Builders of Virginia's Railroads Place: Conference Rooms

In the 1650s, hundreds of Irish people first came to Virginia's shores. In the 1850s, several thousand Irish arrived to build railroad tracks and blast mountain tunnels from Richmond to Covington and beyond. The Charlottesville research group Clann Mhór (which means "big family" in the Irish language) is documenting the Irish and more than one hundred African Americans who labored at this mammoth public-works project. The group has examined such materials as census documents, marriage records, and applications for U.S. citizenship. Much of the

research centered on the invaluable Library of Virginia archives, particularly the railroad payrolls, which provided hundreds of Irish and enslaved African American names. Clann Mhór is providing answers to the critical question: Ca bhfuil siad imithe? Pronounced kah weel sheed imuhee, the words mean: "Where have they all gone?"

#### Thursday, May 12 | 5:30-7:30 PM

#### "BOOKS ON BROAD" FEATURING VALERIE O. PATTERSON

#### The Other Side of Blue

Place: The Virginia Shop

Valerie Patterson, who holds an MFA in creative writing from Hollins University, will read from and discuss her debut novel, The Other Side of Blue—the Virginia Shop's pick for a perfect summer read. Light refreshments (wine and



cheese) will be served (5:30-6:15 PM). followed by author talk (6:15-7:15 PM), and book signing (7:15-7:30 PM).

#### Tuesday, May 17 | Noon−1:00 PM **BOOK TALK**

#### Lost Communities of Virginia

Place: Conference Rooms Authors Terri Fisher and Kirsten Sparenborg will discuss and sign their book, Lost Communities of Virginia, which documents 30 small communities from throughout Virginia that have lost their original industry, transportation mode, or way of life. Using contemporary photographs, historical information, maps, and excerpts of interviews with longtime residents of these communities, the book documents current conditions, recalls past boom times, and explains the role of each community in regional settlement.

Tuesday, May 24 | 11:00 AM-1:30 PM DONATION EVENT

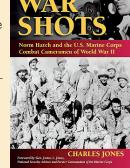
#### Stories of Virginia's "Greatest Generation" Open House

Place: Conference Rooms Archivists will be available to collect World War II items. The types of items that are appropriate for the Library's collection are: diaries, letters, photographs, posters and broadsides, and maps. Artifacts such as firearms and uniforms cannot be accepted. If you are interested in donating war-related materials but unable to attend the May 24 event, please contact the Library of Virginia at 804.692.3795.

Tuesday, May 24 | Noon-1:00 PM WORLD WAR II BOOK TALK

#### War Shots: Norm Hatch and the U.S. Marine **Corps Combat Cameramen of World War II**

Place: Conference Rooms Charles "Chip" Jones will discuss and sign his book that features some of the most iconic footage of World War II—taken while the photographers risked their lives. Yet the stories-and sheer gutsof the U.S. Marine Corps' combat cameramen have been overshadowed by the heroism of the men with the rifles. War Shots brings these photographers into sharp focus through the career



of Norm Hatch, a true American character whose skill with a camera and knack for being in the right place at the right time thrust him into the forefront of the effort to record the marines at war in the Pacific. Hatch will be a special guest at this event.

Wednesdays, June 8, 15, 22 & 29 3:00-5:00 PM

#### **OSHER INSTITUTE CLASS**

#### Virginia and the Secession Crisis

Place: Conference Rooms Fee: \$60 for Osher Silver members, free for Osher Gold/Gold Plus One members This class will explore the events leading up to and surrounding the Virginia convention of 1861, when Virginians struggled with the question of secession from the Union. The class will include tours of these extensive exhibitions: Union or Secession: Virginians Decide at the Library of Virginia and The Struggle to Decide: Virginia's Secession Crisis at the Virginia State Capitol. The class will meet at the Library of Virginia. Gregg Kimball, Edward Ayers, Mark Greenough, and William Freehling will lead the class. Format: lecture, discussion, and tours. For registration information, call 804.287.1264.

#### Tuesday-Thursday, June 28-30 | 3:00-5:00 PM 2ND ANNUAL ANNE AND RYLAND BROWN TEACHER INSTITUTE

#### Union or Secession: Virginians Decide

Place: Conference Rooms

Open to Virginia history and social science educators for grades 4-12. Space is limited to 20 educators.

The theme for the second annual Anne and Ryland Brown Teacher Institute coincides with the Library's exhibition Union or Secession:

Check our online calendar: www.lva.virginia.gov/news/calendar.asp

Sign up to receive our monthly E-newsletter: www.lva.virginia.gov/news/newsletter/default.asp

Virginians Decide, which explores what Virginians from different parts of the state and different backgrounds thought about secession or Union during the winter of 1860–1861. Institute sessions, conducted by leading scholars, will focus on events and themes between John Brown's Raid on Harpers Ferry in October 1859 and the First Battle of Manassas in July 1861. There is no fee for selected participants. For registration information and eligibility requirements, contact Tameka Hobbs at tameka.hobbs@lva.virginia.gov or 804.371.2126.

# exhibition at 800 east broad

Through October 29, 2011 Exhibition Gallery & Lobby

Union or Secession: Virginians Decide

What were Virginians thinking and discussing as the first Southern states withdrew from the United States following the election of Abraham Lincoln in November 1860? Why was Virginia's decision critical to America's fate in 1861 and a key to the ultimate course and outcome of the sectional crisis? Explore the choices Virginians faced as they decided their fate and the lasting consequences of their decisions for Virginia and the nation. Sponsored by Middleburg Trust Company and the Richard S. Reynolds Foundation.



Through October 29, 2011 Virginia State Capitol Visitor Center The Struggle to Decide:

Virginia's Secession Crisis
Presented by the Library of Virginia. In the aftermath of the election of Abraham Lincoln as U.S. president in November and the beginning of the secession crisis in December 1860, Virginia had a fateful choice to make: Would it remain in, or secede from, the United States of America? In January 1861 the Virginia General Assembly called for a state convention to act for Virginia during the crisis. The Struggle to Decide examines the actions taken by convention delegates and the governor that had a profound effect on Richmond and the Virginia State Capitol.

## *Meet the Authors* <sup>1</sup>



### Interact with Virginia writers at the Books on Broad book club

The Library of Virginia provides regular opportunities for visitors to experience world-class authors as speakers, educators, and panelists at a range of events. Noontime author talks and signings, the annual literary luncheon, evening book-launch events, and writing workshops all feature Virginia authors and topics related to Virginia history and culture. In 2010 the Virginia Shop added a new program to the roster, the monthly Books on Broad book club.

Books on Broad is a venue for book lovers to interact with Virginia authors in an informal setting. The first 30–45 minutes of each event is reserved for wine and cheese and a chance to mingle with the author and other attendees. Past featured authors have ranged from new voices like Michele Young-Stone (whose debut novel, *The Handbook for Lightning Strike Survivors*, was published in April 2010 to enthusiastic critical acclaim) to established writers like Ellen Crosby

(who recently published *The Viognier Vendetta*, the fifth in her series of Virginia wine-country mysteries). Authors are encouraged to read an excerpt from their book and carry on an open discussion with attendees rather than deliver a lecture.

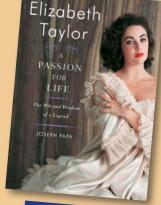
We began the 2011 season on March 10 with Lenore Hart's novel, *The Raven's Bride*, about the mysterious and confounding relationship between Edgar Allan Poe and Sissy Clemm, his great love and constant companion. In April we welcomed David Taylor, whose book, *Soul of a People: The WPA Writers' Project Uncovers Depression America*, was a finalist for the 2010 people's choice award for nonfiction in the Library of Virginia's annual literary awards. The evening featured a portion of the documentary based on *Soul of a People* produced by the Smithsonian.

We have two Books on Broad events coming up in May. On May 11, we welcome former Library of Virginia Foundation staff member Joseph Papa back to Richmond to discuss and sign *Elizabeth Taylor*, a *Passion for Life: The Wit and Wisdom of a Legend.* His anthology reveals the candor and honesty with which Elizabeth Taylor led her extraordinary life. Papa is a publicist and writer living in New York City. A native of Richmond, he has worked extensively as a stage manager and actor in addition to his work at the Library.

At our May 12 event, Valerie Patterson, who holds an MFA in creative writing from Hollins University, will read from and discuss her debut novel, *The Other Side of Blue*—the Virginia Shop's pick for a perfect summer read. The novel was written for young adults, who will appreciate the authenticity of the characters, especially the protagonist's relationship with her mother. Patterson, whose

studies were specialized in children's literature, has written a beautiful novel that people of any age will enjoy.

Upcoming Books on Broad programs are always listed on the Library's Web site or at www.thevirginiashop.org under News and Reviews. Join us for an informal evening of food, wine, and good company this spring.





THE VIRGINIA SHOP

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# GIVING

#### AT THE FORUM

Above: Librarian of Virginia Sandra Treadway (LEFT) fields questions for former First Lady Laura Bush (RIGHT).

# First Lady of Literacy

Librarian of Virginia Sandra Treadway serves as moderator at Richmond Forum event featuring Laura Bush

The Library of Virginia was honored when Sandra Treadway, Librarian of Virginia, was asked to serve as moderator of the question-and-answer session with the guest speaker at the January 2011 Richmond Forum, former First Lady Laura Bush.

The two women share an essential trait—both are trained librarians. But during the delightful session that Treadway moderated, it became clear that they have more in common than just their professional backgrounds. They share

concerns for women's issues and the importance of reading as it affects our society.

The thoughtful questions from the audience at the Landmark Theater ranged from "What are you reading right now?" to more probing queries about Bush's role as First Lady and how the events of September 11 affected her life.

"Serving as moderator of the Richmond Forum's program featuring Mrs. Bush was a memorable experience," said Treadway. "It was a delight to meet and talk with the former First Lady and to have an opportunity to thank her, on behalf of Virginia's libraries, for her efforts to promote reading, literacy, and the importance of public libraries in American life."



Virginia

**Authors** 

Circle

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Bush poses with Betsy Moss, marketing communications consultant for the Library of Virginia Foundation; with William J. Howell, Speaker of the Virginia House of Delegates, and his wife, Cessie Howell; and with Cynthia Church, the Library's continuing education consultant. Librarian of Virginia Sandra Treadway (CENTER) and author Jon Kukla (LEFT) talk with Bush before the forum.









## HOMEGROWN

### New program keeps Library stocked with Virginia authors' works

ast year the Library of Virginia Foundation began a new initiative to help preserve and expand the Library's vital collection of works by Virginia authors. Created in response to budget cuts that left us unable to purchase new works by these valued authors, the Virginia

Authors Circle has so far raised more than \$10,000, breathing new life into this collection. Virginia authors such as David Baldacci, John Grisham, Jan Karon, Katherine Neville, Adriana Trigiani, and dozens of their fellow writers have given their support to the program.



Membership in the Virginia Authors Circle is open to Virginia authors and their families. All funds raised

by the program will go directly toward the purchase of titles by Virginia authors. A copy of each book purchased by the fund resides in the Library's Virginia Authors' Room. In each, a bookplate recognizes the support of the Virginia Authors Circle.

Signs in the room also recognize the support of circle members.

Membership in the Virginia Authors Circle begins at \$150. A Virginia author is defined as anyone who lives in Virginia or has written on a Virginia topic and whose work has been published (self-published titles included). If you or a member of your

family would like to become a part of this great initiative, please call the Foundation office at 804.692.3813.

# Helps Us Tell the Stories of Virginia's "Greatest Generation"



#### **MID-CENTURY MEMORIES**

Diaries, letters, photographs, and other materials from the World War II era are sought for the Library's collections. A poster promotes the use of V-Mail, or Victory Mail, to expedite mail service for armed forces overseas during World War II. V-Mail used standardized stationery and microfilm processing to produce lighter, smaller cargos. Space was made available for other war supplies and more letters could reach military personnel faster around the globe.

During the month of May, the Library of Virginia is proud to invite your family to help preserve the stories of Virginia's "Greatest Generation" for generations to come.

"May is a month of milestones in military history, so it seemed especially timely to put a call out to potential donors throughout the commonwealth for papers and documents associated with World War II," said Sandra Treadway, Librarian of Virginia. "With May 8, 1945, marking the end of World War II in Europe, and Memorial Day being commemorated at the end of May, we thought it was a good time to remind Virginians that by donating their papers to the Library, the stories of this generation will be preserved for future generations for many years to come."

A special event will take place on Tuesday, May 24 featuring a World War IIrelated book talk, as well as an open house in which our archivists will accept papers and other WWII documents.

#### **DONATION EVENT**

Tuesday, May 24 | 11:00 AM-1:30 PM Stories of Virginia's "Greatest Generation" Open House

Archivists will be available in the Library's conference rooms to collect World War II items. The types of items that are appropriate for the Library's collection are: diaries, letters, photographs, posters and broadsides, and maps. Artifacts such as firearms and uniforms cannot be accepted. If you are interested in donating war-related materials but unable to attend the May 24 event, please contact the Library of Virginia at 804.692.3795.

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### WILLIAM WALLER HENING SOCIETY

GIVING

### Support the Library of Virginia through your estate plans

The Library of Virginia Foundation was created in 1984 through a generous bequest from the estate of Edward and Annabelle Cox McAllister. Although the McAllisters were Texans, they had done a great deal of genealogical research at the Library and recognized the value of our mission of preserving the stories of Virginia's people. Today, the Library's ability to keep the commonwealth's treasures accessible to all continues thanks to the generosity of donors such as the McAllisters.

You can leave your own indelible mark on Virginia history and culture by including the Library of Virginia Foundation in your estate planning. In 2002 the Foundation established the William Waller Hening Society to recognize such thoughtful donors. William Waller Hening (ca.1767–1828) was a pioneer of Virginia historical research whose landmark work was instrumental in launching what is today the Library of Virginia. In 1823 the General

Assembly appropriated funds from the sale of Hening's *Statutes at Large* to provide financial support to establish a state library.

Members of the Hening Society enjoy exclusive benefits of membership and special opportunities throughout the Library. Your

estate and tax advisors can suggest language that allows you to remember the Library of Virginia Foundation in your estate planning. There are many options that can benefit you and your family while helping to preserve some of Virginia's most precious resources. If you have already included the Library in your will or living trust, we encourage you to let us know so that we may properly recognize you.

To learn about deferred or planned gifts, including bequests, life-income plans, and other options for your estate—and for information about increasing your income,

earning valuable income tax deductions, and reducing your estate taxes—please contact Mary Beth McIntire, executive director of the Library of Virginia Foundation, at 804.692.3590.

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# **Ever Wonder** What Your \$100 Donation Buys?



copies of our book To Collect, Protect, and Serve: Behind the Scenes at the Library of Virginia for Virginia 4th-grade students

## **MILEAGE**

costs to deliver our Virginia Women in **History** exhibition to a public library in Collinsville, Virginia



rolls of microfilm, ensuring permanent access to genealogical materials

subscriptions to Virginia Living, Virginia Gardener, and Virginia Tidewater Genealogy, which are made accessible to all Library of Virginia cardholders



interpretive panel for the exhibition Union or Secession: Virginians Decide



expenses for a Virginia author to visit the Library of Virginia for a free public book talk

## WHY MEMBERSHIP MATTERS:

DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT, LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA FOUNDATION

hen you serve as the director of development for a nonprofit organization, the daily mail delivery holds a special thrill.

On most days we can count on receiving at least one envelope with a generous gift from a donor like you. It's like Christmas morning every day!

But as times change and our society becomes more tech-savvy, the way people choose to give is changing as well.

The Library of Virginia Foundation now has a new, easier way for you to become a member of the Semper Virginia Society. Our online donation page, www.lva.virginia.gov/donate, is safe and secure and it ensures that your tax-deductible gift will go right to work. It also saves you a stamp!

Name (as it appears on card)

When you visit the online donation site, you can select the membership level of your choice and see the benefits your membership provides. If you would like to direct your gift to a specific area of the Library (e.g., maps, education programs, book acquisition, etc.), simply note it when you "check out" and we will ensure that your gift goes where

> intended. You will receive an immediate confirmation of your gift and, within a few days, a formal confirmation

in the mail.

If you ever have any questions about giving to the Library of Virginia—whether online or in a more traditional way—please call me at the Library of Virginia Foundation at 804.692.3813. I look forward to talking with you and, as always, thank you for your generosity.

-Dan Stackhouse

LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA ONLINE DONATION PAGE: www.lva.virginia.gov/donate

**GIVING** 

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## Enjoy the Benefits of Membership THE SEMPER VIRGINIA SOCIETY

AS A MEMBER OF THE SEMPER VIRGINIA SOCIETY, YOU HELP US-Acquire books, maps, and other artifacts for our collection • Conserve and restore rare treasures so they can be shared with the public • Inspire tens of thousands of your fellow patrons through exhibitions, Virginia author talks, and educational lectures • Create new Virginia history resources for teachers through the Brown Teaching Fellowship and Teacher Workshop programs • Share the life and legacy of extraordinary Virginians through the Virginia Women in History, African American Trailblazers, and Virginia Literary Festival programs • Train interns throughout the Library to create the next generation of historians and archivists. THERE ARE BENEFITS TO YOU AS WELL, INCLUDING DISCOUNTS OF UP TO 20 PERCENT IN THE VIRGINIA SHOP.

BECOMING A MEMBER IS EASY—Online: WWW.LVA.VIRGINIA.GOV/DONATE | Phone: 804.692.3900 | Mail: Return this form with payment to the Library of Virginia Foundation, 800 East Broad Street, Richmond, VA 23219-8000

Yes! I want to join the Semper Virginia Society. CHOOSE YOUR GIVING LEVEL:			
—— Captain John Smith Circle (\$50–99)		Anne Spencer Circle (\$1,000-2,499)	
Sir Francis Wyatt Circle (\$100–249)		Sherwood Anderson C	Circle (\$2,500-4,999)
Mary Johnston Circle (\$250-499)		Ellen Glasgow Circle (	\$5,000-9,999)
Clementina Rind Circle (\$500–999)		Douglas Southall Free	man Circle (\$10,000+)
Mr.   Ms.   Miss   Mrs.   Mr. & Mrs.   Other  Name (print name as it will appear in membership		E-mail Address	
Address	City	State	Zip
Office Phone	Home Phone		
Please include me in special interest mailings on: Map/Cartography Events Literary Events			
PAYMENT OPTIONS: Check (made navable to	the Library of Virginia Fo	undation) or Visa/Mastercard/A	American Eynress/Discover (please circle)

If you or your spouse work for a matching-gift company, please send your company's form with your contribution. For additional information, call 804.692.3900.

Credit Card Account Number

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# multiple exposure

#### New "Catablog" of the Prints and Photographs Collection brings images to researchers through Internet searches

With more than 500,000 items, the Prints and Photographs Collection at the Library of Virginia provides an astonishing visual account of the commonwealth—from its beginnings to the present—through single items, such as one-of-a-kind daguerreotypes, to sprawling collections with many thousands of photos and related documentation, and everything in between.

A new online resource—titled Multiple Exposure: Catablog of the Prints and Photographs Collection at the Library of Virginia—will bring greater visibility to our print and photograph holdings, by necessity protected from the literal light of day and, therefore, mistakenly considered inaccessible or sacrosanct by even the most experienced researchers. Each blog entry will describe one collection or file, giving a sense of how the items hold together as a collection, historically or aesthetically, and how the items relate to other collections. Each entry will include a small visual sampling, the collection's formal title (e.g., "O. L. Schwencke Cigar Box Label Collection"), catalog designation (e.g., C1:004), the inclusive dates covered or represented by the collection (ca. 1890–1895), and a brief physical description (74 chromolithographs in original bound volume, 6.5 x 10 inches), as well as notes on provenance, arrangement, and related Library resources.

The blog, appearing at www.virginiamemory.com/blogs/multiple\_exposure, will be updated at least twice a week until all collections are represented. The "catablog" will be sensitive to Internet keyword and phrase searches, putting the Library's Prints and Photographs Collection on the radar of researchers at all levels, both locally and nationally.

—Dale Neighbors, Prints and Photographs Collection Coordinator



#### VISUAL VIRGINIA

The O. L. Schwencke Cigar Box Label Collection (ca. 1890) is just one of the groups of images to be featured in the new "catablog" from the Library's Prints and Photographs Collection. The popularity of cigars in late-19-century America, and the consequent birth of the cigar-box-label salesman, produced colorful catalogs and sample books showcasing the variety of label designs (such as "Our Standard" shown here) available to cigar manufacturers and merchants.