Honoring Excellence

The Library reflects on 15 years of Literary Awards Celebrations, p. 2
Information Literacy

Libraries foster this vital skill in numerous ways

You may have seen the term information literacy and wondered what it meant. Basically, it refers to the skills one needs to find, retrieve, analyze, and use information. Most of us learn basic information skills in middle school or high school and then refine them for our first research paper in college. Both the information landscape and the technology used to navigate it, however, change quickly. Even the most information-literate among us must regularly refresh our skills. Data abounds in today’s world, but finding trustworthy, reliable information has actually become harder, rather than easier, as the volume increases.

Information literacy is critically important to success in any field. In fact, it may be the most important 21st-century skill. An ability to separate reliable information from information that is false or outdated is not only crucial to job performance, but it also guides many aspects of our personal lives. The decisions we make as consumers—which car to buy, what to eat, where to invest our money, or which health care plan to join—require reliable information about the options. As citizens in a democratic society, we also depend on access to accurate information about public policy issues and the candidates seeking our votes.

School and academic librarians work closely with teachers and faculty to nurture core information-literacy skills in students. Beyond the classroom, public libraries are the “go-to” resource for assistance. As centers for lifelong learning, public libraries provide free access to computers and the Internet as well as classes about using this technology effectively. Librarians are trained to understand how information is organized. They have mastered search techniques and are eager to share their expertise. They can point you to the best tools for workforce development, health and wellness, genealogy, government information, and a host of other timely topics. They can also show you how to navigate a wide array of electronic resources with vetted content available only by subscription, and not just randomly placed on the Web. Find It Virginia, which the Library of Virginia manages, is one of those resources. If you haven’t yet explored its riches, please visit www.finditva.com or stop by your local public library to find out what you are missing.

Librarians can point you to the best tools for workforce development, health and wellness, genealogy, government information, and a host of other timely topics. When we think about it, process the information we have gathered, and learn from it.

Although modern libraries bustle with activity, every library has some space set aside for quiet thought and contemplation. Librarians understand that true information literacy is only achieved when we process facts and data and transform them into knowledge.

Sincerely,

Sandra G. Treadway, Librarian of Virginia
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 175,000 visitors each year. Our collections, containing nearly 115 million items, document and illustrate the lives of both famous Virginians and ordinary citizens.

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SUMMER 2012

contents
honoring excellence

THE LIBRARY REFLECTS ON 15 YEARS OF LITERARY AWARDS CELEBRATIONS

Each autumn since 1998, the Library has hosted the Virginia Literary Awards. Attracting authors and book lovers, this gala event provides an opportunity for the public to mingle with both promising new writers and established literary legends. Eight different awards are presented to outstanding Virginia authors in the areas of fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and lifetime achievement. The awards recognize the best books published during the previous year by a Virginia author or on a Virginia theme. Winners receive monetary awards and an engraved crystal replica of a book.

A Signature Event Evolves
Why create a literary awards program? The management team at the Library of Virginia thought the time was perfect late in the 1990s for a Virginia literary event, and at that time there was no signature event for the Library. “The Library’s Virginia Author’s Room gave us an opportunity to focus on those authors,” said Sandra G. Treadway, Librarian of Virginia. “And, then, no one was specifically highlighting the number of gifted and talented authors in the state.”

The event started with two main awards, for fiction and nonfiction, as well as a Literary Lifetime Achievement Award. The poetry category was added for the second awards celebration, in 1999, after Charles Wright won the first fiction award for a book of poetry, Black Zodiac, the previous year. In 2004 the Library added the annual People’s Choice Awards for the best works of fiction and nonfiction by a Virginia author. These awards engage the public throughout Virginia with online and on-site voting at public libraries. The Carole Weinstein Prize in Poetry, added in 2006, awards a $10,000 prize to a poet with strong connections to central Virginia and recognizes significant recent contributions to the art of poetry. The Whitney and Scott Cardozo

2007
Clockwise from far left: 1. Event host Lee Smith models a “Banned in Abingdon” sign while her husband, Hal Crowther, grins behind her. 2. Former governor Tim Kaine, Lifetime Achievement honoree Tom Wolfe, and the late Andrew McCutcheon enjoy the festivities. 3. A humorous comment from the podium shifts attention to actor Wallace Shawn (center), who attended with fiction award winner Deborah Eisenberg, to his right.

poses with philanthropic award winner Clinton Webb (left), nonfiction award winner James L. “Bud” Robertson Jr. (center), and fiction award winner Charles Wright (right) at the first Literary Awards Celebration in 1998. 2. Donald McCaig accepts the fiction award for Jacob’s Ladder in 1999. 3. Nonfiction award finalists Edward L. Ayers, Margaret Edds, and Suzanne Lebsock await the announcement of the winner at the 2004 awards. 4. Mary Lee Settle celebrates with a dance after accepting her Literary Lifetime Achievement Award in 2002.
FABULOUS FINALISTS
The list of authors below includes finalists for the Fiction, Nonfiction, and Poetry Awards; the People’s Choice Awards (fiction and nonfiction); and the Cardozo Award for Children’s Literature. Award winners and other honor- ees are listed on the front and back covers of this issue. See the caption on the inside cover for details.

Jennifer Ackerman
Lisa Atther
Donna Andrews
Jennifer Atkinson
Edward Ayers
David Baldacci
Richard Bausch
Robert Bausch
Nancy Wright Beasley
William A. Blair
Renee Boggs
Patricia Brady
Geraldine Brooks
Laura Browder
Carrie Brown
Peter Brown
Rita Mae Brown
Charles F. Bryan Jr.
Ellen Bryant Voigt
Jen Bryant
Ian Caldwell
John Casey
Bruce Chadwick
Avery Chenoweth
Kelly Cherry
Cynthia Cotten
Ellen Crosby
Joanne Crutchfield
Ramola D
Fred D’Aguilar
Bob Deans
Peter de Sève
Randall de Sève
Rita Dove
Camille Dungy
Margaret Edds
A. Roger Ekirch
Joseph Ellis
Claudia Emerson
James Fox
Margaret Gibson
William Gibson
Drew Gilpin Faust
Annette Gordon-Reed
Valeri Gorbatchev
Kathleen Graber
John Grimshaw
Helen Habila
Allyson Hagy
Cathryn Hankla
Stacy Hawkins Adams
Amy Hest
Elizabeth Hodges
Gary Holoday
Sheri Holman
David L. Holmes
Michael F. Holt
Woody Holton
Steven L. Hopf
James Horn
Tony Horwitz
James Howe
David Huddle
Joe Jackson
Emily Jenkins
Emyi Jenkins
Jan Karan
Roger Kennedy
Sarah Kennedy
Alex Kershaw
Elliot Khallil Wilson
Barbara Kingsolver
Jeff Kirwan
Jon Kukla
Nelson Lankford
Janet Lembke
Loren Long
Donna M. Lucey
Donald McCaig
Peter McCarty
Sharyn McCrumb
Patrick McDonnell
Charles F. McGovern
Constance Merritt
Margaret Ward Moreland
Elizabeth Seydel Morgan
James W. Morrison
John K. Nelson
Katherine Neville
Gregory Orr
Howard Owen
Eric Pankey
T. R. Pearson
Mark Perry
Leslie Pietrzyk
Joshua Poteat
Jayne Popek
Caroline Preston
Calvin Alexander Ramsey
Scott Reynolds Nelson
Kurt Rheinheimer
Nancy Ross Hugo
Helen C. Rountree
Cynthia Rylant
Wolfgang W. E. Samuel
Tim Seiblides
Mary Lee Settle
Kevin Sherry
Marilyn Singer
Rebecca Skloot
R. T. Smith
Suzanne E. Smith
Katharine Soniat
René Steinke
Dabney Stuart
Kristin Swenson
David A. Taylor
Dustin Thomason
Bill Thomson
Camilla Townsend
Adriana Trigiani
Melvin L. Urofsky
Roni Schotter
Joan Vannordwall Schroeder
Uli Schleivitz
Elizabeth Varon
Peter Wallenstein
Lorena Walsh
Lorenza Ward
Caroline Weber
Donovan Webster
Josh Weil
James L. West III
Lesley Wheeler
Lisa Wheeler
Mo Wiliams
Tom Wolfe
Charles Wright

Award for Children’s Literature, added in 2007, also includes a public voting component, this time engaging the commonwealth’s youngest readers. That same year, a companion event, the Literary Luncheon, was launched to make the best-selling authors attending the awards available to a larger audience. In 2010, the awards became part of a week-long literary festival in which Richmond plays host to many literary events that appeal to a diverse array of audiences. This year the luncheon will move to a new venue and offer a new program element that gives special recognition to each finalist.

Despite its growth, the event has remained true to its roots. “Because the Library of Virginia’s venue is both elegant and intimate, the awards have stayed a manageable size. Anyone who attends has the ability to rub shoulders with the finalists and winners,” said Treadway.

An Independent Panel of Judges
The Library’s literary honors are juried awards. An independent panel of judges meets each summer to select three finalists in each category. In selecting judges, the Library assembles diverse and highly qualified groups. “From late winter through midsummer, these behind-the-scenes workers read and evaluate all nominated titles, discuss the contenders, and finally agree upon a winner and two finalists,” said author and tireless Library of Virginia volunteer Jon Kukla, who serves as chair of the judging panel. “Ninety-five individual judges have served to date, including avid readers of all sorts—writers, teachers, prize-winning authors, poets, librarians, journalists, historians, educators, editors, and artists—from all corners of the Old Dominion.”

 Literary Glitz & Glam
No matter the mix of finalists and attendees, this gala is always entertaining. Ladies wear their most glamorous cocktail attire, while many of the gentlemen don a tuxedo or sport colorful ties. A popular feature throughout the years has been the reception, with its array of beautifully prepared Virginia-based foods and, in more recent years, a “signature cocktail.” One of the most memorable, served in 2011, was simply called “The Recipe”—a drink in honor of Earl Hamner’s Lifetime Achievement Award and fashioned after the Promotion-era beverage immortalized in The Waltons television show.

The event’s hosts have included David Baldacci, Lee Smith, and Daphne Maxwell Reed. In 2008, when author Adriana Trigiani agreed to host the awards, she captivated the audience with her trademark humor, warmth, and style. Her connection with the audience resonated, and she has hosted the awards each year since.

Sponsors Make it Happen
The event produces critical funds for the Library of Virginia Foundation’s efforts to support the Library as it acquires, preserves, and promotes access to unique collections of Virginia’s history and culture. “The corporate community has been so supportive of the awards. It demonstrates the value that our sponsors place on the literary heritage of Virginia,” said Mary Beth McIntire, executive director of the foundation. Sponsors have played an integral part in making the event a success and providing the important funds necessary to produce it. Dominion, the event’s current signature sponsor, has supported the awards from the very beginning.

In recent years, promotional opportunities have also increased through a partnership with the Richmond Times-Dispatch, as the newspaper became the event’s media sponsor. “The Literary Awards program is more than just a celebration of Virginia literature,” said Terri Edwards, director of marketing and communications for the Richmond Times-Dispatch. “It’s a celebration of reading and the power of the written word to inform, enrich, and enlighten. Not only is the Times-Dispatch proud to be a sponsor of the awards, we truly enjoy working with the Library to bring this exceptional event to the people of Virginia.”

Weinstein Properties continues to play an important role as an awards sponsor, providing generous monetary prizes for the winners. Many other...
sponsors have also lent critical support, including Media General, Bank of America, and Verizon. “I can’t say enough about the support from Dominion, the Richmond Times-Dispatch, and Weinstein Properties, as well as our many other valued sponsors,” said McIntire. “Dominion and Weinstein Properties have allowed us to increase the scope of the awards, both in size and influence—and the Times-Dispatch has helped us publicize the event to a new audience that wasn’t previously aware of these awards.”

A Sellout Becomes an Opportunity
As the awards celebration continued to grow, it soon became an event not to be missed, with tickets sales increasing each year. In 2007, a new dilemma presented itself when Tom Wolfe, a native Richmonder, was to return home to receive the Lifetime Achievement Award. “We found that we had an instant sellout once our audience learned through the grapevine that Mr. Wolfe would be that year’s recipient,” said Joseph Papa, then a special events manager for the Library of Virginia Foundation. “It was difficult to tell people that we could not accommodate them. So we looked for other ways to capitalize on the star-studded array of authors involved in the awards that year.”

The outcome was Literary Luncheon, a forum-style panel that is now a companion event to the awards. The first year’s luncheon featured Lee Smith, Adriana Trigiani, and David Baldacci, and was moderated by veteran Richmond journalist Lisa LaFata Powell. “The luncheon allowed us to utilize the talents of authors attending the awards—and to a great extent it helped us branch out to find a new audience who had never attended the awards,” said McIntire. Since then, the luncheon has been a hit, featuring literary themes or genres and lively author-audience interaction. This year the Literary Luncheon will move to a new home at the Greater Richmond Convention Center, in order to accommodate demand, and will also become an official event of the 2012 James River Writers Conference and the Virginia Literary Festival.

Increasing Importance in the Literary Community
Fifteen years later, the growth of the awards program can be measured in areas such as entries, attendance, and media coverage. But its presence can also be felt in the literary community. Winning authors confirm this view. The awards have brought deserved attention to the state’s rich community of writers. Earl Hamner wrote about his experience being recognized as last year’s Lifetime Achievement recipient: “They say you should never let a Virginian start talking about his family or he’ll never shut up. I started writing about my Virginia family in 1947 and I’m still at it. The Waltons was a celebration of the daily lives of a close-knit Nelson County family and their strength that enabled them to survive a daunting period in our history. As a television show, it was an unlikely candidate to be honored by the Library of Virginia, but the folks there demonstrated insight and courage, made an exception, and recognized that notable writing can exist in an electronic medium as well as on the printed page.”

Adriana Trigiani sums it up this way, “The Literary Awards are a celebration of Virginia’s talent, determination, and vision. Virginia authors are a special breed of talent. We are inspired by the most beautiful landscapes, intriguing stories, and sharply drawn characters that could only thrive in the place we call home.”

“We found that we had an instant sellout once our audience learned through the grapevine that Tom Wolfe would be that year’s recipient.”
Wednesday, October 17 / Noon–1:00 PM
Book Launch—First House: Two Centuries with Virginia’s First Families
Place: Library of Virginia Conference Rooms
Cost: Free
Author Mary Miley Theobald will present a book talk at the Library of Virginia to launch the release of First House. A book signing will followed the talk. Tours of Virginia’s Executive Mansion will be available every half hour throughout the day by pre-registration. To pre-register for a tour, please contact Audrey Trussell at 804.371.2642 or by e-mail at Audrey.Trussell@governor.virginia.gov.

Thursday, October 18 / 11:00 AM–3:00 PM
The Poe Boys Present: Poe in Fact and Fiction
Place: Library of Virginia Conference Rooms
Cost: $20 for program and lunch ($7 additional for Poe Museum visit and performance)
Daniel Stashower (The Beautiful Cigar Girl) and Louis Bayard (The Pale Blue Eye) present a fun- and fact-filled program that explores the mysteries of Poe’s biography and the challenges of writing about his life. The program will include a one-day mini-exhibition of Poe ephemera from the Library of Virginia’s collections and from the special collections of the Poe Museum, presented by Tom Camden (Library of Virginia’s director of Special Collections) and Chris Semtner (Poe Museum curator). The program will conclude with an optional visit to the Poe Museum for a tour and performance. To register, please visit www.literaryva.com or call/text Kat Spears at 804.356.1928.

2012 Schedule of Events

Thursday, October 18 / 7:15 PM
F I L M S C R E E N I N G : E v e n C o w g i r l s G e t t h e B l u e s
Place: The Byrd Theatre | Cost: Free
In honor of 2012’s Literary Lifetime Achievement Award recipient, Tom Robbins, the Byrd Theatre will screen Even Cowgirls Get the Blues, based on the novel of the same name and narrated by the author. Come out to celebrate Robbins’s contribution to American literature and enjoy an evening at this historic theater. Though the event is free, donations will be gratefully accepted to support the ongoing operations and preservation of the Byrd Theatre.

Friday, October 19 / 9:00 AM–4:00 PM
J a m e s R i v e r W r i t e r s W o r k s h o p s
Place: Virginia State Capitol, House and Senate Rooms 3
Cost: Visit www.jamesriverwriters.org
Half-day workshops will explore techniques in writing and strategies for seeking publication. Visit James River Writers (www.jamesriverwriters.org) for more information or e-mail fallconference@jamesriverwriters.org.

Friday, October 19 / 3:30–8:00 PM
C S I f o r Y o u n g M y s t e r y W r i t e r s w i t h A w a r d-Winning Author Marcia Talley
Place: Virginia Commonwealth University, Dept. of Forensic Science Lab
Cost: $40 (includes all materials and dinner)
This engaging hands-on workshop in the VCU Forensics lab will explore investigative techniques used by crime-solving professionals. Mystery writers ages 12 to 15 will learn writing techniques from award-winning mystery novelist Marcia Talley and investigative techniques from VCU Department of Forensic Science faculty members. Space is limited. To register, visit www.literaryva.com or call/text Kat Spears at 804.356.1928.

Friday, October 19 / 6:00–9:00 PM
A r t M e e t s L i t e r a t u r e : A n U n d y i n g L o v e A f f a i r
Place: Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Pauley Center | Cost: $5
To explore the relationship between poetry and the visual arts, the Library of Virginia and the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts welcome the Smithsonian Institution’s ever-popular presenter Dr. Aneta Georgievska-Shine. Join us for a magical evening as we delve into the “undying love affair” between poetry and master works of art. The program will include a presentation copy of a new work: The Muses, a limited-edition booklet created exclusively for the event. The Muses features a selection of nine works of art from the VMFA’s collections—chosen by the nine museum curators—each accompanied by an original poem written by one of nine award-winning poets. A wine-and-cheese reception will immediately follow the program. For more information, call/text Kat Spears at 804.356.1928.

Saturday, October 20 / 10:00–11:30 AM
C r e a t e Y o u r O w n B o o k : A W o r k s h o p f o r K i d s
Place: Henrico Public Library, Tuckahoe Branch | Cost: Free
Richmond author and educator Kathryn Starke will lead a workshop for aspiring authors ages six to nine at Tuckahoe Area Library. Participants will turn their story ideas into an illustrated, bound book. All materials will be provided. continued on next page

The Virginia Literary Festival promotes a lifelong love of the literary arts through an annual series of educational programs and awards honoring Virginia literary achievements. For more information and to register for programs, visit the Virginia Literary Festival website (www.literaryva.com) or call Kat Spears at 804.356.1928.
Each year the Library grants a Literary Lifetime Achievement Award to recognize outstanding and long-lasting contributions to literature.

This year’s Lifetime Achievement recipient, Tom Robbins—best known for works such as Another Roadside Attraction (1971), Even Cowgirls Get the Blues (1976), and Jitterbug Perfume (1984)—has so far produced only nine novels during his long career. When asked to comment on his relative “scarcity” of output in a 1993 New York Times interview, the author replied that it is based on the fact that “I try never to leave a sentence until it’s as perfect as I can make it. So there isn’t a word in any of my books that hasn’t been gone over 40 times.”

His followers appreciate that streak of perfectionism in Robbins, who has received numerous awards, including being named one of the “100 Best Writers of the 20th Century” by Writer’s Digest magazine in 2000.

Robbins was born in 1936 in Blowing Rock, North Carolina, a grandson of Southern Baptist preachers on both sides of his family. He and his family moved to Warsaw, Virginia, in 1942. Robbins graduated in 1950 from Hargrave Military Academy in Chatham, where he won the senior essay medal. He enrolled at Washington and Lee University to major in journalism, but left in 1953 and enlisted in the Air Force. After his discharge in 1957 he settled in Richmond, where he was a fixture on the local bohemian scene, reading poetry at the Rhinoceros Coffee House.

Later that year, Robbins enrolled at Richmond Professional Institute (now Virginia Commonwealth University), where he edited the college newspaper and worked nights on the sports desk of the daily Richmond Times-Dispatch. After graduating with honors from RPI in 1959 and indulging in some hitchhiking, Robbins joined the staff of the Times-Dispatch as a copy editor.

In 1962, Robbins moved to Seattle to seek a master’s degree at the Far East Institute of the University of Washington. During the next five years in Seattle (minus a year spent in New York City researching a book on the painter Jackson Pollock), he worked for the Seattle Times as an art critic. During that era, he wrote a column on the arts for Seattle Magazine and hosted a weekly radio show at noncommercial station KRAB-FM.

While writing a review of the rock band the Doors in 1967, Robbins found his literary voice. Soon after, he moved to South Bend, Washington, where he wrote his first novel. In 1970, he moved to a little house on Second Street in La Conner, Washington, where he would write his subsequent nine books.

Robbins and his wife Alexa D’Avalon live in La Conner with their beloved dog, Blini Tomato Titanium. Robbins has three sons (from previous marriages): Rip, Kirk, and Fleetwood.

Trailblazers
Event celebrates African American contributions to history

The Library of Virginia’s African American Trailblazers in Virginia History program highlights the accomplishments of African Americans who have made significant contributions to Virginia and the nation. The 2012 Trailblazers ceremony and reception was hosted by WWBT NBC12’s Gray Hall on February 23 and sponsored by Dominion and the Richmond Times-Dispatch.

GROUNDBREAKERS
Clockwise from top left: 1. Librarian of Virginia Dr. Sandra Treadway and honoree Dr. Michael Blakey pose for the camera. 2. Honorees Virginia State Senator Yvonne Miller and Willie Lanier meet at the ceremony. 3. Maureen Elgersman Lee, executive director of the Black History Museum, and Roland Moore, a member of the Historical Archives Committee of Shiloh Baptist Church (Old Site), display the award for honoree Noah Davis. 4. Rita McClenney of the Virginia Film Office and WWBT NBC12’s Gray Hall display the award for honoree Oscar Micheaux. 5. Students from the fourth-grade classes at Richmond’s John B. Cary Elementary School celebrate their nomination of honoree Irene Morgan. 6. Leah K. Cox, director of the James Farmer Scholars Program at the University of Mary Washington, presents Farmer’s award to Layton Fairchild Jr., a longtime family friend of the honoree.

Setting History Straight
Virginia Women in History event celebrates honorees

The Library’s Virginia Women in History program honors women who have made significant contributions to society that have often been overlooked in the history books. The March 29 awards ceremony and reception, hosted by May-Lily Lee, marked the 13th year of this signature event, which celebrates National Women’s History Month. The program was sponsored by Dominion and the Richmond Times-Dispatch.

HISTORYMAKERS
Clockwise from top: 1. (left to right) Delegate Jennifer McClellan, Library of Virginia Foundation board member Carmen Foster, former Library board member Hilda Warden, and Librarian of Virginia Dr. Sandra Treadway display honoree Alice Jackson Stuart’s award. 2. Sarah Gould (left) of Colonial Williamsburg accepts the award for honoree Christiana Campbell from Terri Edwards (right) of the Richmond Times-Dispatch. 3. Foy Owen Hawks, the nephew of honoree Orleana Hawks Puckett, was one of the last babies that the Southwest Virginia midwife delivered. He passed away on June 9, 2012. 4. Virginia Secretary of Education Laura Fornash (left) and Jenny Barker (right), executive director of the Eastern Shore Historical Society, accept the award for Susie May Ames. 5. Langdon Taylor Christian IV, son of honoree Betty Sams Christian, accepts his mother’s award from Vincette Goerl of the Virginia Business and Professional Women’s Foundation. 6. Honoree Sgt. Monica Beltran of the Virginia Army National Guard accepts her award from Shannon Venable of Dominion.
Nearly 36 years of the life of Siram Henkel (1809–1879), who operated a farm and mill at Plains Mill in Rockingham County, are contained in nine "memorandum books," or journals, now available at the Library of Virginia. The daily notations, covering the years 1842–1878, give a detailed account of agricultural, social, religious, and political life in the Valley of Virginia.

A commercial milling operation, Plains Mill was situated on land patented by James Wood in 1746. On January 12, 1846, Henkel noted the 100th anniversary in his journal. He took the occasion to write a letter to the editor of the Cultivator, giving an account of his farming operations and discussing how he had brought the property from a state of disrepair to a fully functioning farm.

Daily tasks are the predominate subject of the journals. Farmhands were employed in manual labor—depending on the season and work to be performed—to harrow (pulverize and smooth the soil), furrow (break the soil), plant, fertilize, mow, cradle, rake, bind, husk, and clean the Henkel crop of corn, wheat, hay, and rye. In addition, heavy chores like hauling rocks and digging stumps were required.

Henkel noted new techniques and machinery used to make jobs easier. In 1842, a "horse rake" was used on the hay crop. In 1854, guano (seabird or bat excrement) was tried as fertilizer, and his crew also commenced mowing with their new McCormick reaper. In 1866, the wheat crop was "drilled" (planted by machine) for the first time. Henkel paid great attention to maintaining his horsepower and machinery, regularly having horses shod and farm implements repaired. Livestock inventories are noted, and fence building and repair to keep the animals in check were frequent chores.

It wasn’t all work, however, as the family found time for social activities. Weddings and church services were common. Henkel also noted his participation at political events, voting for the Tilden-Hendricks ticket in the 1876 presidential election, attending a rally of the Democrats of the Tenth Legion, and hearing speeches lasting up to four hours. In addition, excitement was provided for the children when Barnum’s, Robinson’s, and Rothschild & Co.’s “big shows” visited New Market.

Religious holidays—another opportunity for relaxation—were strictly observed by the family. Henkel listed Whit Monday, First and Second Christmas Days, Good Friday, and Easter Monday as days when no work was done.

Jim Greve is a senior collection development archivist at the Library. For more information about the Henkel journals, contact him at 804.692.3752 or James.Greve@lva.virginia.gov.

THE DOCUMENTARIAN
Farmer and miller Siram Henkel kept detailed memorandum books with daily entries about activities at Plains Mill in Rockingham County. Portrait courtesy of Elsie Renalds Newcomer.

STILL STANDING
A commercial milling operation established in 1835 in Rockingham County, Plains Mill is pictured at left as it appears today. Photograph by Jim Greve.
Henkel employed a miller, who ground wheat into flour that was packaged into barrels produced on site.

Workers, including Henkel’s sons, would make frequent three-mile deliveries to New Market and as far as Winchester, a five-day round-trip. Similarly, wood plank was delivered by horse and wagon from the Henkel sawmill. On October 24, 1855, tragedy struck Henkel’s 15-year-old son Samuel on his way home from delivering plank. One of the two horses pulling his wagon ran off, dragging him behind the lines. He was brought to the residence of his uncle, Dr. Samuel G. Henkel, for medical attention and survived his injuries.

Four years later, Henkel began to make note in his journals of Samuel’s “epileptic fits.” These spells would soon prevent Samuel from working on the farm. The episodes were attributed to his wagon accident, and increased in frequency and severity over time. In 1868, Samuel Henkel was admitted to the “Lunatic Hospital” in Staunton for a three-month stay. His episodes resumed after his return home, but, despite plans to re-admit him, he never went back to Staunton. Samuel Henkel died in 1885 at the age of 45.

The family lost two daughters in the 1860s. On June 5, 1860, 11-year-old Martha Jane Henkel died. Her death, but not the cause, was noted by Henkel. Her sister, Mary Lee Henkel, died on March 12, 1867, at the age of three. That afternoon, the family had noticed her missing. They searched the property and found her drowned in the watercourse between the milk house and the smokehouse.

Between the two deaths in the family, war raged in the Valley between the Union and Confederate armies. Henkel had three sons who fought for the Confederacy, all serving with the 10th Virginia Cavalry. The volume covering the war notes the mustering of the “Plains Mill Militia Company”, Henkel transporting troops between New Market, Mount Jackson, and Staunton; and women coming to the family’s home to make tents for the soldiers.

During the course of the war, the Confederate army used some of Henkel’s horses and wagons, and he sold bacon, wheat, and flour to the troops. In July 1864, his mill was impressed into service by the Confederate army. Henkel notes days of fasting and humiliation “set apart” by President Jefferson Davis, and prayer services attended at nearby Rader’s

Want to know more?

1861: Life in the Shenandoah Valley
Siram Henkel’s great-granddaughters compile family history in a new book

Sisters Elsie Renalds Newcomer and Janet Renalds Ramsey relate the day-to-day events of life during the Civil War as described by the journals of their great-grandfather, Siram Henkel, and the letter collection of his nephew Dr. Caspar Henkel—along with related news articles—in 1861: Life in the Shenandoah Valley. The book is available in the Virginia Shop (www.theyIRSTAtIshop.org, 804.692.3524). The sisters have also completed an 1862 sequel.
Launched late in the 1930s, the Virginia Historical Inventory was designed to document Virginia’s quickly vanishing past, particularly everyday buildings constructed before 1860. Funded by the Works Progress Administration and created under the umbrella of the Virginia Writers’ Project, VHI field-workers across Virginia conducted interviews, photographed a wide variety of structures, and wrote statistical reports. Today, the resultant collection is housed at the Library of Virginia and consists of more than 19,300 survey reports (approximately 70,000 pages), more than 6,200 photographs, and 103 annotated county and city maps. This remarkable effort, made by historically minded Virginians, remains one of the many significant legacies of the Great Depression’s New Deal.

The Ladies of the WPA
Chronicling Buckingham County’s Vanishing Past

by Joanne L. Yeck
In Buckingham County, the VHI employed two residents to collect data for the county—Rosa Garnett (Agee) Williams, of Dillwyn, and Elizabeth McCraw, of Andersonville. Together they wrote approximately 450 reports about a variety of people, places, and things. Eighty years after the dedicated work of these two local women, the surveys stand as one of the largest single collections of information about Buckingham’s elusive past.

In addition to the documentation of dozens of old homesteads, the women gathered pension declarations and family lineages from Bibles. They transcribed wills, grants, deeds, and old letters. They interviewed lifelong residents of the county about mills and schools no longer standing. Today, in many cases, their accompanying photographs are the only known visual record of structures long since destroyed.

They also recorded approximately 70 cemeteries. One, at Paradise Hill, is a rarity. McCraw commented that the property included a cemetery containing 200 African American graves. “The Stanleys were never slave owners,” she wrote, “but the place seems to have been a free burying ground for negroes just after the war,” a time when recently emancipated families had little money and certainly no “cemeteries of their own.”

“When I first knew Tom he was a glorious liar, a competent chicken thief, and a seducer of innocent black maidens.”

These women preserved many oral traditions. McCraw’s description of the deserted village of Curdsville, three miles northeast of Shepards, included a popular tale still enjoyed by the area’s “oldest inhabitants.” She wrote, “On one occasion . . . a circus came to town” and “among the animals was an elephant.” As the pachyderm paraded by the tailor shop, the elephant, being “of an inquisitive nature, then walked to the window and thrust in his trunk, bearly [sic] touching the tailor’s face; whereby, the tailor in a spirit of fun, stuck the trunk of the elephant with his needle.” Not to be outdone, “the elephant, in the same spirit of fun, or perhaps retaliation, filled his trunk with water and deliberately walked back and baptized the tailor.”

The inability to confirm Buckingham’s oral histories with deed searches is often keenly felt, and especially poignant are the descriptions of houses not likely to survive. Williams wrote of Ivy Hill, once the lovely home of the prominent Buckingham attorney Walter L. Fontaine, “This is a splendid James River farm, but the yard of this old home is in a bad condition . . . The rose bushes and shrubs have been allowed to ramble where they will, and one can hardly get to the house.” Coming upon another victim of neglect, the Dennis family home, she lamented that it was “in a deplorable state, and the long double porch, that was once pretty, has decayed and fallen, and is being propped from every angle, so that the occupant may enter.”

There are several 19th-century letters in the collection, including one recorded by McCraw from Samuel Shepard to “Brother Spencer.” Dated May 10, 1839, it now stands as Shepard’s very reluctant recommendation that his slave Tom be admitted to the Reverend Spencer’s church at Salem.

...I have known Tom since the termination of my service, while still a boy, in the continental Army. He and I are both men. We have sowed our oats and gathered our sheaves, soon both of us will be touched by the finger of sleep and the fatal fever will be ended. When I first knew Tom he was a glorious liar, a competent chicken thief, and a seducer of innocent black maidens. Age has drawn the fires in his blood, and to-day though he fervently prays in public and has fits of intense spiritual elevation, remains untruthful, malicious, revengeful. Only last week he stirred up strife among my negroes with a magnificent tale of what one had said to him about another. Tom stood by and watched with every appearance of delight the altercation he had engineered ... He is a disturber of the peace of his continued on page 14
**Summer 2012 Events**

All events are free unless otherwise noted.

**Tuesday–Thursday, August 14–16**
8:30 AM–3:30 PM
**THIRD ANNUAL ANNE & RYLAND BROWN TEACHER INSTITUTE**
**The Power of Primary Sources**
Place: Conference Rooms
The 2012 Anne and Ryland Brown Teacher Institute is a three-day event with something for all Virginia educators. The Library of Virginia and the Library of Congress have joined forces to help you harness the teaching power found in primary sources. Day 1 of the conference is open to all Virginia K–12 social science and history educators. Days 2 & 3 of the conference—open to those who teach civics and government in Virginia—will focus on the Library of Virginia’s upcoming exhibition *You Have No Right: Law & Justice in Virginia*. The full conference is limited to 25 educators. For registration and more information, visit www.lva.virginia.gov/lib-edu/education/brown/institute.htm or contact us by e-mail at education@lva.virginia.gov.

**Wednesday, August 15**
5:30–7:30 PM
**“BOOKS ON BROAD” FEATURING PAUL HERBERT**
The Jefferson Hotel: The History of a Richmond Landmark
Place: Orientation Room
Join local historian Paul Herbert as he recounts stories of heiresses, actors, musicians, and celebrities in this all-encompassing history of the Jefferson Hotel that is sure to delight anyone who has ever stayed within its treasured walls. Light refreshments (wine and cheese) will be served (5:30–6:00 PM), followed by author talk (6:00–7:15 PM), and book signing (7:15–7:30 PM).

**Friday, September 7**
5:30–8:30 PM
**FIRST FRIDAYS EAST**
The Spirit of Virginia: Photographs for the 1939 New York World’s Fair
Place: Library of Virginia Main Lobby and UR Downtown, 7th & Broad Streets
In partnership with University of Richmond’s Downtown Campus, this program features Depression-era music and light refreshments in the main lobby of the Library of Virginia (5:30–6:30 PM), followed by the opening of the exhibition *The Spirit of Virginia: Photographs for the 1939 New York World’s Fair* in the UR Downtown exhibition gallery with gallery talk by exhibition curator Hayley Harrington at 7:00 PM. Light refreshments will also be available at UR Downtown. Free parking is available in the Library of Virginia underground garage.

**Wednesday, September 12**
5:30–7:30 PM
**“BOOKS ON BROAD” FEATURING WENDY POWERS & ROBIN McLEOD**
The Testament of Judith Barton
Place: Orientation Room
Imagine the cinematic masterpiece Vértigo retold by its tragic heroine. As Wicked does for The Wizard of Oz, this novel reveals the secret history behind a classic story from a mysterious woman’s point of view. 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, September 13**
Noon–1:00 PM
**BOOK TALK WITH CHRISTOPHER TILGHMAN**
The Right-Hand Shore
Place: Conference Rooms
Fifteen years after the publication of his acclaimed book *Mason’s Retreat*, Christopher Tilghman returns to the Mason family and the Chesapeake Bay in *The Right-Hand Shore*, a masterful novel that confronts the dilemmas of race, family, and forbidden love in the wake of America’s Civil War. The drama proceeds through vivid set pieces: on rural 19th-century industry; on a boyhood on the Eastern Shore of Maryland; on the unbreakable divisions of race and class; and, finally, on two families attempting to save a son and a daughter from the dangers of their own innocent love. The result is a radiant work of deep insight and peerless imagination about the central dilemma of American history. A book signing follows the talk.

**Friday, September 21**
5:30–7:30 PM
**EXHIBITION-RELATED PANEL DISCUSSION**
“The Earth Belongs Always to the Living Generation”: The Constitution of Virginia—Past, Present, and Future
Place: Lecture Hall
The quotation in this program’s title was written by Thomas Jefferson to James Madison in 1789. It begins, “No society can make a perpetual constitution or even a perpetual law.” Jefferson staunchly believed that no government was set in stone, and the history of Virginia’s constitution amply demonstrates that maxim. It was enacted in 1776 and, since then, it has been revised five times. A. E. Dick Howard, professor of law and public affairs at the University of Virginia and an internationally recognized expert on constitutional law, will lead a spirited discussion that traces the document’s evolution up to the most recent revision (1971) and explores its applicability to its citizens’ needs in the present day. This program complements our exhibition *You Have No Right: Law and Justice in Virginia*.

**Wednesday, September 26**
6:00–8:00 PM
**EXHIBITION-RELATED PROGRAM**
Documentary Film Screening: Rothstein’s First Assignment
Place: Conference Rooms
In 1935, New Deal photographer Arthur Rothstein was sent to the mountains of Virginia to photograph the residents of the Appalachian backwoods and hollows before they were displaced to make room for Shennandoah National Park. Together with Walker Evans and Dorothea Lange, Rothstein produced some of the most important and moving images of America’s Great Depression. Director Richard Robinson retracts Rothstein’s steps by interviewing descendants of the mountain people, which he beautifully weaves together with a 1964 audio interview of Rothstein and archival newsreel and film footage. During the course of his research, however, Robinson discovered evidence that Rothstein’s images were not pure documentation, but often staged for the camera. Digging beneath the official story, the film unearths an unsettling link between propaganda and documentary, and raises troubling questions about the photographer’s complicity in the displacement of thousands of people for “progress.” Robinson’s most chilling discovery, though, is the forced institutionalization and
sterilization of mountain residents as part of Virginia’s eugenic program, which sterilized more than 8,000 individuals. This fascinating film challenges the viewer to consider the complexity behind images that are viewed as historical truth. A Q&A session with Robinson will follow the screening and the Library of Virginia’s exhibition You Have No Right: Law and Justice in Virginia will be open for viewing.

Monday, October 1 | 8:30 AM–5:00 PM
A WORKSHOP FOR VIRGINIA’S LOCAL HISTORICAL SOCIETIES
Where History Begins: Celebrating Our Successes
Place: Conference Rooms
This workshop for staff, volunteers, and active members of local historical societies offers strategies for planning and completing successful projects, evaluating and working effectively with collections and other organizations, identifying grant opportunities, and building support for organizations—as well as behind-the-scenes tours of the Library of Virginia. Sponsored by the Virginia State Historical Records Advisory Board. Program and registration information available in August. For more information, please call 804.692.3605.

Wednesday, October 3 | Noon–1:00 PM
EXHIBITION-RELATED EVENT
A Woman’s Place Is in . . . the Voting Booth!: A History of the Woman Suffrage Movement
Place: Lecture Hall
The Library of Virginia, Maymont Foundation, and the League of Women Voters team up for an event that’s sure to inspire everyone to cast their vote on Election Day! Costumed interpreters bring the struggle for woman suffrage to life as Dr. Sandra Treadway, Librarian of Virginia, describes the victories and setbacks of the determined female citizens who sought the right to vote during the 19th and early in the 20th centuries. In addition, documents and materials related to the League of Women Voters’ predecessor—the Equal Suffrage League—will be on display. This program complements our exhibition You Have No Right: Law and Justice in Virginia.

exhibitions at 800 east broad
Through September 15, 2012 | East Lobby
The Forgotten War: The War of 1812
Quick! Name two events that occurred during the War of 1812. The Forgotten War: The War of 1812 commemorates the bicentennial of the conflict. Caught in the continuing hostilities between Great Britain and France, the United States sought to remain neutral until Great Britain impressed American seamen into duty and blockaded American shipping. Virginia mobilized to meet the British forces that harassed Virginians who lived along the Chesapeake Bay. On June 22, 1813, British forces attempted an assault on Craney Island in a bid to take Norfolk, but American militiamen and personnel from the USS Constellation repulsed the attack. The British burned Washington, D.C., in 1814, and the British siege of Fort McHenry in Baltimore Harbor inspired Francis Scott Key to pen “The Star-Spangled Banner,” which became America’s national anthem. The Forgotten War highlights a forthcoming digital archive of materials in the collections of the Library of Virginia that relates to the War of 1812 and explores the issues and the impact of the conflict on Virginia and the United States.

Through August 25, 2012
Exhibition Gallery & West Lobby
Lost and Found
What do you collect and value? Lost and Found examines the constantly changing fabric of our world. Things disappear from our cultural landscape, sometimes almost without notice—signs, buildings, even towns—and others go into attics, basements, and landfills. Some are saved and carefully stored and preserved; others are intentionally destroyed, sometimes dramatically. Explore the spectacular destruction of archives by chance and nature, the intentional destruction of personal papers, the careful preservation of family treasures, and the assemblage of materials in a bank safe deposit box.

EXHIBITION COMING SOON
September 24, 2012–May 18, 2013
Exhibition Gallery
You Have No Right: Law and Justice in Virginia
Using Virginia cases—and the stories of the people behind them—You Have No Right: Law and Justice in Virginia will demonstrate how the law affects individuals directly and how people have used the law to achieve political and social goals. Using original records and electronic resources to convey the themes of human rights, citizenship, and the rule of law in a lively and engaging presentation, the exhibition will explore questions about citizenship, marriage rights, eminent domain, and why prosecutors have to prove guilt and defense lawyers don’t have to prove innocence.
As it has done for more than 30 years, the Library of Virginia is partnering with public libraries to support summer reading activities throughout Virginia. Thousands of children and teens will enjoy fun and educational literacy programs and activities this summer. This year’s themes are “Dream Big . . . Read!” (for children) and “Own the Night” (for teens).

Financial support from the Institute of Museum and Library Services and the Verizon Foundation enables the Library of Virginia to provide posters, bookmarks, reading records, and certificates to public libraries. As a member of the national Collaborative Summer Library Program, the Library also provides clip art based on the summer themes as well as a training and program manual.

During the summer months, Virginia’s public libraries offer their communities a smorgasbord of programs specifically designed for children and teens. These activities are not only fun, but also provide Virginia’s youth with safe places to spend their free time and learning opportunities that broaden their experiences—including positive social experiences. The result is healthier communities.

If you visit a public library this summer, you’ll discover a feeling of excitement. People are busy at computers. Children smile with pride for the work they’ve done. Laughter erupts as children see a puppet show, hear a silly song performed, or touch an animal. To capture these moments, the Library of Virginia Foundation and the Verizon Foundation have created a website, Read Virginia (http://readvirginia.org), and a Facebook page (www.facebook.com/VirginiaReads). Please visit them to share in this excitement.

—Enid Costley, Children’s and Youth Services Consultant

Ladies of the WPA, from page 11

of his own race and of my own. However, if you think membership in your church would chasten the spirit of Tom, I beg you to admit him, on probation. I shall do my best to mend his behavior here at Merry Oaks . . .

I hope I have not judged Tom harshly, for I feel some responsibility for him and much care. He is my slave, and I in my office as master may not have done all that I should do to make him a better specimen of humanity.

Other entries were comparatively brisk, encouraging further research, such as Williams’s description of one of Buckingham’s once-popular resorts. “Physic Springs was a well known health resort, people came for miles around that were afflicted with any form of skin diseases, they drank the water, and used it for bathing purposes. Dr. [Edward] Snead conducted an Academy for boys there for about ten years.”

Some spots transcended Buckingham history. Williams waxed eloquently over Rose Cottage, near Buckingham Court House, which belonged to William P. Sheppard. “This is one of the most historical places in the county, for it was on this farm that General Robert E. Lee camped with his men on his return to Richmond.” That night, so the story goes, Lee declined a bed in Sheppard’s home. “This will be my last night in camp with my men,” Lee said, “and I prefer to spend it with them, but I have several sick men I would like for you to care for.” And this, wrote Williams, “Mr. Sheppard did gladly.”

Each survey’s cover sheet comes with a warning: “Unless otherwise stated, this information has not been checked for accuracy by the sponsor.” Today’s readers should heed that warning, for some reports are rife with inevitable errors and misleading memories. In addition, something went wrong with the key to the Buckingham maps, throwing off the locations of the documented sites. Still, the surveys are rich, full of charm, and invaluable clues to the county’s history—all thanks to our local ladies of the WPA. Without them, Buckingham’s history would be all the poorer.
In Need of Conservation and Up for Adoption

Cumberland County Muster Rolls and Payrolls of Captain Allen Wilson’s Company of Cumberland County Militia, 1st and 17th Regiments

Genre: Manuscript volume  
Date: Aug. 9, 1814–May 24, 1815

Description: The record contains muster rolls, morning reports, provision returns, inspection returns, payrolls, duty rosters, and supply reports of militia activities during active War of 1812 service.

Restoration Needs: This volume’s hinge will be repaired and the loose leather spine fragments will be reattached. The conservator will consolidate and dress the leather boards and spine. This volume will also be microfilmed as part of the cost.

Restoration Cost: $300

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The Adopt Virginia’s History program supports our conservation efforts, helping the Library preserve our state’s collective memory. Conservation can involve a simple repair and cleaning to make an item more accessible to the general public, which can cost as little as $100. A larger, more complex work can cost as much as $5,000 for a complete restoration.

Seeing an item from our archives conserved and returned to public use is a special thrill for us here at the Library of Virginia. The generous donors to this program have ensured that we get to enjoy this thrill on a regular basis. Each piece that comes back from our lab tells a story, and together these stories tell us more about Virginia.

Any adoption gift of $100 or more will be recognized in the Library’s catalog record of the item in perpetuity. We welcome donations to our general conservation fund in any amount. You can be proud of your contribution to this important cause, which is tax deductible. For more information, please contact Dan Stackhouse at 804.692.3813 or dan.stackhouse@lva.virginia.gov. To see more adoptable items, visit www.lva.virginia.gov/adopt.

Beyond the Almanac, from page 9

Church and Emmanuel Church.

Henkel and his farmhands continued to go about their daily routine as best they could while Stonewall Jackson’s Valley Campaign continued all around them. Members of the family would make trips to New Market to watch the soldiers pass through town. Federal troops were quartered nearby, their campfires within sight. Several companies of the Northern army stopped at Plains Mill, destroying fences and burning barns.

In May 1864, the Battle of New Market was fought. Henkel notes the area of General John D. Imboden’s camp, the artillery duel west of town, and seeing the smoke from the cannons, bomb shells, and explosions. General John C. Breckenridge arrived from nearby Lacey Spring with 4,000 infantrymen to reinforce Imboden. After a three-hour battle, Henkel wrote, the “Yankees” were driven back to Mount Jackson.

On November 24, 1877, the Shenandoah River flooded and caused considerable damage to the Henkel farm, including the flour mill, sawmill, barrel shed, and the family’s home. People scrambled to remove furniture from the house. A crowd of 100 gathered to view the rising floodwaters.

The last entry is dated January 14, 1878, roughly eight weeks after the disastrous flood. Henkel had little time to rebuild what he had started in 1835. On October 17, 1879, he died at the age of 70, thus ending nearly four decades of note-taking. Interestingly, the nine journals represent only a portion of what Henkel documented. Eight volumes covering the years up to 1842 have not been found.
Walls do, indeed, talk in this compelling chronicle of Virginia’s 200-year-old Executive Mansion. Created to coincide with the mansion’s bicentennial in 2013, First House brings to life the private stories of the governors and first ladies who shaped the destiny of this unique home.

—Maureen McDonnell, First Lady of Virginia

In 2013 Virginia’s Executive Mansion will celebrate its bicentennial. The official book of this important anniversary, First House: Two Centuries with Virginia’s First Families, is scheduled for release in October 2012. Pre-orders for the book are now available at the Virginia Shop or online at www.thevirginiashop.org.

See the schedule of Virginia Literary Festival events on pages 5–6 of this issue to learn more about the public book launch event on October 17, 2012.

This handsome coffee-table book, written by historian Mary Miley Theobald with an introduction by novelist David Baldacci, chronicles the mansion’s important role as residence, office, and social setting for the past 54 Virginia governors. Conceived during the Revolutionary War, built during the War of 1812, and looted during the Civil War, the mansion has endured fires, threats, riots, and hurricanes. Research has unearthed a wealth of stories and illustrations never before published. Tales of pets, pranks, famous guests, and even ghosts weave through two centuries of additions, modernizations, and changing interior fashions. Interviews with all ten living First Ladies provide a peek into the upstairs lives of the commonwealth’s First Families.
The Power of “RE”

RE: A prefix meaning again or anew

Here at the Library of Virginia, we are driven by the power of “RE.” Whether it’s RE-kindling a love of Virginia history in a Library visitor, RE-juvenating a family tree for an amateur genealogist, RE-storing a historic book or document, RE-cording the workings of state government for future generations to study, or RE-revealing a hidden truth found in our collection, we dedicate ourselves every day to finding new things to celebrate about our shared history and culture. Every day, the donors to the Library of Virginia Foundation help make each of these things possible.

When you make a tax-deductible gift to the Library of Virginia Foundation, you make an immediate difference to our staff, collections, and programs. Your gift means more books on shelves, more field trips for Virginia students, more digitized resources on VirginiaMemory.com, and more stories of the people of Virginia preserved. The funds that we raise help to ensure that you get the most out of your Library of Virginia experience—and I hope it shows. So whether it’s new or RE-new, please consider making a gift today by visiting www.lva.virginia.gov/donate, filling out the form below, or calling 804.692.2813. Thank you!

—Dan Stackhouse

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