Joyous Homecoming

Eighteenth-century Stafford County records discovered in New Jersey are returned to Virginia

Early this year the Library will open an exhibition entitled Lost and Found. The exhibition features items from the past that have disappeared from the historical record as well as documents and artifacts, missing and presumed gone forever, that have resurfaced after many years. Suddenly, while the curators were making their final choices about exhibition items from our collections, the Library was surprised to receive word of a very special “find” that has now made its way back home to Virginia.

During the winter of 1862–1863, more than 100,000 Union soldiers with the Army of the Potomac tramped through and camped in Stafford County, Virginia. By early in December 1862, the New York Times reported that military activity had left the town of Stafford Court House “a scene of utter ruin.” One casualty of the Union occupation was the “house of records” located behind the courthouse. Here, the Times recounted, “were deposited all the important deeds and papers pertaining to this section for a generation past.” Documents “were found lying about the floor to the depth of fifteen inches or more around the door-steps and in the door-yard.” Anyone who has ever tried to research Stafford County’s early history can attest to the accuracy of the newspaper’s prediction that “it is impossible to estimate the inconvenience and losses which will be incurred by this wholesale destruction.”

Imagine our delight, then, when the Library received a call last July from the Jersey City (New Jersey) Free Public Library telling us they had found in their collections a Stafford County court order book containing entries for the period 1749 through 1755.

According to notations on the cover, the volume had been taken from the Stafford courthouse on March 30, 1862, by Captain William A. Tredwell of the 4th New York Regiment. Tredwell shipped the book to his home in Boston, where he retrieved it on his return. After passing through various hands during the ensuing years, the colonial order book ended up in a box tucked away in the New Jersey Room of Jersey City’s public library. There it was discovered last fall by a staff member who recognized the court book as a public document rightfully belonging to the people of Virginia.

In November, Carl Childs, head of the Library of Virginia’s Local Records Services, traveled to New Jersey to retrieve the volume and express our thanks for its safe return to library officials and to the mayor and citizens of Jersey City. On December 1, Childs and I were pleased to participate in a joyous homecoming event held at Stafford Court House. Watching the delight and awe on the faces of local citizens and courthouse personnel as they saw this treasured volume for the first time was an experience we won’t soon forget. To learn more about this wonderful discovery, please go to www.virginiamemory.com/blogs/out_of_the_box/tag/stafford-court-house. Our new exhibition testifies to the likelihood that more lost items are out there. Here’s hoping for a few more stories about joyous homecomings, past and future.

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.

INFORMATION
804.692.3500 | www.lva.virginia.gov

LIBRARY HOURS
Monday–Saturday, 9:00 AM–5:00 PM

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

ADMISSION IS FREE
Some special programs may have fees. Check calendar listings for details.

PARKING
Parking for Library visitors is available in the underground parking deck, accessible from either Eighth or Ninth streets.

THE VIRGINIA SHOP
804.692.3524
Monday–Friday, 10:00 AM–4:00 PM
Saturday, 10:00 AM–2:00 PM

THE VIRGINIA SHOP
AT THE CAPITOL
804.698.7661
Monday–Friday, 10 AM–4:30 PM
Saturday, 9:00 AM–5:00 PM

CURRENT EXHIBITIONS
The Forgotten War: The War of 1812
Through Saturday, September 15, 2012
Lost & Found
February 27–August 25, 2012

Lost & Found: The Constantly Changing Fabric of Our World 2
Groundbreakers: African American Trailblazers 6
Outstanding Virginians: Virginia Women in History 8
Americans Abroad: WWI-Era Student Newspaper 10
New & Noteworthy: Portrait of Colin Dunlop 11
Calendar: Winter Events & Exhibitions 12
In Circulation: Virginia Literary Festival 14
Jefferson Papers: Recognized Top 10 Endangered Artifacts 15
The Virginia Shop: Books on Richmond Institutions 16

WINTER 2012
The fabric of our world is constantly changing. 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 intentionally destroyed, sometimes dramatically. All of us take part in this collecting, fashioning, and erasing of our personal and communal landscape and memory. The Library’s upcoming exhibition will explore the various layers of the world of “Lost and Found,” from the spectacular destruction of archives by chance and nature to the intentional destruction of personal papers, from the deliberate preservation of family treasures to the careful assemblage of materials in a bank safe deposit box. Visitors will be asked: “What do I collect and value?” and to consider what is ephemeral. We hope that your personal story connects to the story of Virginia’s “Lost and Found.”

The exhibition’s co-curators—Gregg Kimball, director of Public Services and Outreach, and Dale Neighbors, Prints and Photographs Collection coordinator—answered some questions about it.

How did the idea for Lost and Found come about?

Dale Neighbors: Someone clever once said that we are defined not by what we have, but by what we have lost along the way. It was that idea that helped shape many of the early discussions about the exhibition: What important documents have been lost over the centuries? Why were they lost? How does the loss affect our understanding of Virginia history? What is the role of the Library of Virginia in finding and protecting those documents that do survive?

Gregg Kimball: I knew about the unclaimed property materials—the safe deposit box collection—through Lisa Goff, a former Library intern from the University of Virginia, who used selected items from it for our exhibition on immigration, The Land We Live In, The Land We Left. We discussed how these small remnants of people’s lives...
were like little time capsules, but also incredibly private. Curating manuscripts is like looking into another person’s world—a bit voyeuristic. She also introduced me to the magazine and Web site Found, which features the same kind of random stuff found by people all over the country. Found and the contents of these deposit boxes seemed like a fascinating analogy to our holdings. The items that the Library holds provide a tiny window into a bigger and largely lost world of history and memory, notwithstanding the tremendous volume of our collections.

What’s unique about the content?

GK: There’s some “big picture” stuff in the show, but we tried to also think about what the things that people preserved and collected meant to them—rather than purely their historical value. My favorite piece is the registration document for a free person of color. That document for her was literally the difference between freedom and slavery—if she lost it or didn’t have it on her person, she could be detained and potentially re-enslaved. And it’s just one of hundreds of government documents related to free people of color in our collections.

Was it difficult to select or narrow down what you included in the exhibition?

DN: Being given the “keys to the kingdom,” which in this case consists of over a hundred million documents, can make exhibition selection a daunting task. But as we culled through the wealth of possibilities, an undercurrent started to emerge: that everyday things vanish from our cultural landscape and that institutional collecting functions in a way that is similar to the way the mind works—simultaneously collecting memories while having to let others go.

Is there anything that might surprise people about this subject?

DN: That such an academic concept as collection development and selection can be a very emotional process. Years ago I saw an interactive art installation by the Canadian artist Max Dean in which a robot offered the viewer the opportunity to determine the fate of found family photographs. The robot was programmed to pick up a photograph, present it to the viewer, and wait briefly for a response. With a simple hand movement, the viewer could instruct the robot to carefully deposit the photograph into an archival box. If no one responded, the robotic arm lowered the photograph into a paper shredder at the base of the robot, directly in front of the viewer. The robot was programmed to run continuously. In the absence of viewers, all the photographs would be fed into the shredder. Although not nearly as confrontational, ideally Lost and Found would cause some of the same discussions about questions of selection and perhaps incite a lively debate about which pieces of the past are worth preserving.

GK: I think that most people believe that the “facts” about the past are unchanging, so they often don’t understand why the interpretation of events can change over time. But gaining understanding of the past is really more like understanding a jigsaw puzzle that’s missing most of its pieces. When new pieces are found, the picture can look different. It’s like trying to reconstruct a flesh-and-blood human being from a few documents found in a safe deposit box.

These small remnants of people’s lives were like little time capsules, but also incredibly private. Curating manuscripts is like looking into another person’s world—a bit voyeuristic.

LOST & FOUND EXHIBITION EVENT

PechaKucha: 20 Images x 20 Seconds on “Found Things”

Tuesday, March 27, 2012 | Noon–1:00 PM | Place: Lecture Hall

Drawing its name from the Japanese term for the sound of “chit chat,” PechaKucha is a presentation methodology based on a simple idea: 20 images discussed for 20 seconds (or less) each—a format that keeps things moving at a rapid pace. Devised in Tokyo in 2003 as an event for designers to network and show their work in public, PechaKucha has gone global, with events happening in cities around the world. Lost & Found exhibition team members will participate in this phenomenon by sharing their own personal collections. Come see what it’s all about!
Weapons of Destruction

HISTORIC ITEMS FACE MULTIPLE FOES

How do pieces of the past disappear? We lose them to fire and other disasters; to the whims of those who want to leave no paper trail; and to the ravages of mold, insects, and digital-file corruption.

Disasters can be natural or man-made. The Virginia Statehouse at Jamestown burned twice before 1700, destroying most colonial records. Fires also struck courthouses across the colony and state, giving rise to the term “burnt county records.” Flood and warfare have also added to the destructive toll.

Martha Washington burned her correspondence with her husband Revolutionary War general and U.S. president George Washington, viewing these materials as too private to be seen by others. Likewise, the famed Richmond sculptor Edward V. Valentine stipulated in his will that his diaries be destroyed; after a lawsuit they were mutilated and rendered useless to biographers and historians.

Even when materials survive, archivists and historians must battle moldy documents, decaying photographic negatives, insect-infested bundles of papers, and unreadable hard drives—among other obstacles—in their efforts to document the past.

Safe Deposit Boxes Reveal What Owners Valued

Rows of safe deposit boxes line the walls of thousands of banks across Virginia. Each is a window into a person’s life, the “ephemera” of a single existence. Everything in them reflects values, beliefs, and cultures. Most contain legal items related to family and property—wills, deeds, financial documents. Along with these “public” documents are the most personal items one can imagine—love letters, diaries, and photographs—all invested with deep meaning by the depositor.

The Library’s collection consists of unclaimed personal property delivered to the Virginia Department of the Treasury from banks and other safekeeping repositories that have come into the possession of the State Treasurer’s unclaimed property office. That office retains the property after it is declared unclaimed and then attempts to identify those who might have an interest in it. After 20 years, unclaimed archival records are transferred to the Library of Virginia. Typically the records include correspondence, banking documents, and legal and business papers from estates with unknown heirs.

The Story Inside Lot 445

The Department of the Treasury’s Unclaimed Property Lot 445 contains the personal papers of L. D. Kitchens. On May 19, 1943, Audrey and Lathia Kitchens, of Pembroke, Georgia, wrote letters to their father, Linton D. Kitchens, who was living in Richmond. They thanked him for recent gifts and described themselves. Clearly, Kitchens had not seen his daughters in several years. What happened to Kitchens’s marriage? Why was he in Virginia and his family in Georgia? Research in census records, obituaries, and other genealogical resources reveals that Linton Dean Kitchens was born in 1908 in Soperton, Georgia, and was married to Vivian Stewart on December 1, 1928. After they divorced, he moved to Virginia. Kitchens died in Washington, D.C., on January 2, 1959, and was survived by his daughters and one son, Bernard Kitchens. Vivian Stewart Kitchens remarried and died on November 25, 2007. Daughter Audrey Kitchens married Billy Gene Marshall and died on November 9, 2007, while daughter Lathia Dolores Kitchen married Herbert R. Owens and died October 3, 2010.

UP IN SMOKE

Fire has claimed many of Virginia’s official documents over the years. Governor E. Lee Trinkle (holding hat) and his sons Lee and Billy inspect fire damage in the ballroom of Virginia’s Executive Mansion in 1926. Photograph courtesy of the Valentine Museum.
Instant Archaeology

TIME CAPSULES OFFER MESSAGES TO THE FUTURE

Although the practice of leaving messages for future generations has existed in some sense for thousands of years, the term “time capsule” wasn’t introduced until the 1930s. In 2000, with the beginning of the new millennium, an estimated ten thousand time capsules were sealed and countless others secretly buried in backyards by private individuals. As interest fades and exact locations are forgotten, the majority of those time capsules will be lost. A tip for people wanting to bury artifacts for posterity—mark the spot!

On an overcast June morning in 1913, several hundred Italian citizens gathered in Richmond to witness the laying of the cornerstone for the new home of the Italian Beneficial and Social Society. After an elaborate ceremony describing the founding of the society in 1871, Louis Corrierri, president of the club, carefully spread mortar over a copper box that contained an assortment of items including three Richmond newspapers, a 1913 membership list, and a colorful silk badge. Thirty years later the Italian Beneficial and Social Society dissolved and the copper box was forgotten.

In the summer of 2010, while the building at 2049 West Broad Street was undergoing an extensive renovation, Oak Grove Consultants discovered the hidden box and opened a tiny window into Richmond’s past.

Scrap of War

SCRAPBOOK CAPTURES A MOMENT IN TIME

Annabel Long’s scrapbook provides a snapshot of her life and service during World War II through objects such as clippings, artifacts, and other ephemera. Visitors to the exhibition will be able to browse the rest of her scrapbook on a screen.

COLLECTED MEMORIES

Created in 1941 by Lt. Annabel Long at Fort Belvoir, Virginia, this scrapbook is now part of a digital interactive display that lets exhibition visitors scroll through its pages.
FEBRUARY IS AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH

2012 HONOREES

NOAH DAVIS | 1804–1867
Fredericksburg
Author of an Emancipation Narrative
Born into slavery, Noah Davis raised more than $4,000 to free himself and his family members during the 1840s and 1850s.

JOHN JASPER | 1812–1901
Richmond, Baptist Minister
An extraordinary orator who preached throughout the eastern United States, John Jasper in 1867 established the Sixth Mount Zion Baptist Church, in Richmond.

OSCAR MICHEAUX | 1884–1951
Roanoke, Filmmaker
Often recognized as the country’s first African American filmmaker, Oscar Micheaux established a film office in Roanoke.

IRENE MORGAN | 1917–2007
Gloucester County, Principal in a Civil Rights Case
Irene Morgan’s challenge to the Virginia law requiring segregated seating on interstate buses resulted in a landmark ruling by the Supreme Court of the United States.

JAMES FARMER | 1920–1999
Spotsylvania County, Civil Rights Leader
As director of the Congress of Racial Equality and as initiator of the Freedom Rides, James Farmer played a critical role in the national civil rights movement.

YVONNE B. MILLER
Norfolk, Political Leader
The first African American woman elected to the House of Delegates and to the Senate of Virginia, Yvonne B. Miller works tirelessly as a politician, educator, and advocate for underrepresented Virginians.

WILLIE LANIER
Richmond, Athlete and Entrepreneur
Willie Lanier broke through racial barriers in professional football by becoming the first African American to play middle linebacker, the position that directs the defense on the field.

MICHAEL L. BLAKEY
Williamsburg, Anthropologist
Physical anthropologist Michael L. Blakey helped analyze and interpret the important evidence uncovered at the African Burial Ground in Manhattan.

GROUNDBREAKERS
African American Trailblazers in Virginia History honored with poster, exhibition, and ceremony

Each year in observance of African American History Month, the Library of Virginia honors eight distinguished Virginians, past and present, as African American Trailblazers for their important contributions to the state, the nation, or their professions. This year’s honorees, whose accomplishments will be celebrated in a program and reception on Thursday, February 23, range from a renowned Baptist minister celebrating his bicentennial to two civil rights pioneers and a trailblazer in professional football.

The men and women recognized as Trailblazers offer powerful examples of individuals who refused to be defined by their circumstances. Their biographies are a testament to the determination and perseverance displayed by extraordinary people during challenging times.

This year’s honorees join a select company that includes the athlete and humanitarian Arthur Ashe, educator Janie Porter Barrett, musician John Cephas, civil rights leader Oliver W. Hill, astronaut Leland Melvin, poet Anne Spencer, and historian Carter G. Woodson.

As part of the program, the Library creates a poster that is sent to schools, libraries, and museums throughout Virginia. Teachers and students will find associated educational materials and suggested classroom activities online at www.lva.virginia.gov/trailblazers. A panel exhibition honoring the 2012 Trailblazers will be on display at the Library during February and will then travel to libraries and museums throughout the state.

The Library invites educators to partner in nominating outstanding African Americans from Virginia for recognition as Trailblazers. This year, winning nominations came from Peggy DeHart on behalf of the 2010–2011 first-graders at Belview Elementary School, Radford; Gwendolyn Harvey, Petersburg; Alyssa Murray’s fourth-grade class (2010–2011), John B. Cary Elementary School, Richmond; Benjamin Ross, church historian, Sixth Mount Zion Baptist Church, Richmond; and Janet M. Stephens’s sixth-grade honors U.S. history class (2010–2011), Albert Hill Middle School, Richmond.

—Sara B. Bearss, Senior Editor, Dictionary of Virginia Biography
Rewarding Research

John B. Cary Elementary School fourth graders’ nominee selected as an African American Trailblazer

The Library of Virginia encourages teachers to work with their classes in researching and nominating candidates for the African American Trailblazers and Virginia Women in History programs. Fourth-grade students from Alyssa Murray’s and Kerri Black’s classes (2010–2011) at John B. Cary Elementary School in Richmond submitted one of this year’s winning nominations for the African American Trailblazers program. Their entry for Irene Morgan—who challenged the Virginia law requiring segregated seating on interstate buses—earned the school a three-volume set of the Dictionary of Virginia Biography and a prize of $250 toward school supplies.

In the group’s nomination submission, Murray described how the students selected their Trailblazer candidate. “A group of fourth graders wanted to learn more about people who challenged segregation,” she wrote. “Since the PBS documentary Freedom Riders mentioned Irene Morgan, we decided we would find out more about her. The students conducted research by using online sources and reading articles from the Richmond Times-Dispatch, the New York Times, and the Washington Post.”

The submission also contained materials related to Morgan created by the students including posters, a poem, a letter thanking Morgan, and even a short play entitled Irene Morgan’s Story. The students involved were Dejayne Cockrell, Andrew Davis, Mya Fife, John Fitzgerald, Jacob Johnson, Anaya Jones-Ball, Gracelyn Hamlet, Jayda Harris, and Tyreke Smith.

“I am truly impressed with all the work the Library of Virginia does to promote history in schools,” wrote Murray. “Your posters, hung up in our school, have sparked numerous conversations with my students. I look forward to learning about the honorees for 2012.”
MARCH IS WOMEN’S HISTORY MONTH

2012 HONOREES

CHRISTIANA BURDETT CAMPBELL | ca. 1723–1792
Williamsburg, Innkeeper
Christiana Campbell became one of Williamsburg’s most prominent and successful tavern keepers during the Revolutionary era.

ORLEANA HAWKS PUCKETT | d. 1939
Patrick and Carroll Counties, Midwife
Orleana Hawks Puckett became a midwife and successfully delivered more than 1,000 babies in her community.

SUSIE MAY AMES | 1888–1969
Accomack County, Historian
Susie M. Ames’s writings made major contributions to our understanding of the social and cultural life of seventeenth-century Virginia.

ALICE JACKSON STUART | 1913–2001
Richmond, Principal in a 1935 Civil Rights Turning Point
By applying to the University of Virginia to pursue graduate studies, Alice Jackson challenged Virginia’s laws of segregation.

BETTY SAMS CHRISTIAN | 1922–2006
Richmond, Business Executive and Philanthropist
A president of Central Coca-Cola Bottling Company for more than twenty years, Betty Sams Christian enriched her community through philanthropy.

ELIZABETH P. MCINTOSH
Woodbridge, Intelligence Agent
As an intelligence agent with the Office of Strategic Services, Elizabeth P. McIntosh worked in the Burmese, Chinese, and Indian theaters during World War II.

JUDITH SHATIN
Charlottesville, Composer
Judith Shatin champions music that blurs the line between acoustic and digital.

MONICA BELTRAN
Prince William County, Bronze Star Medal Recipient
As a result of her heroic actions while under attack in Iraq, Monica Beltran became the first woman in the Virginia National Guard to receive a Bronze Star Medal for Valor.

Outstanding Virginians
Poster, exhibition, and ceremony celebrate 2012’s Virginia Women in History honorees

At an awards presentation and reception on March 29, the Library of Virginia will celebrate the lives and contributions of eight extraordinary women—an eighteenth-century tavern keeper, a rural midwife, an Eastern Shore historian, a Richmonder who challenged racial segregation by applying to graduate school, a World War II intelligence agent, a business executive and philanthropist, a composer, and the first Virginia woman to receive the Bronze Star Medal for Valor.

The annual Virginia Women in History program recognizes eight women, past and present, who have developed new approaches to old problems, served their communities, striven for excellence based on the courage of their convictions, and initiated changes that continue to affect our lives today. Previous honorees, ranging across four centuries of Virginia history and all fields of endeavor, have included Pocahontas, Ellen Glasgow, Grace Hopper, Barbara Johns, Sheila Crump Johnson, Dolley Madison, and Mary-Cooke Branch Munford.

As part of the program, now in its thirteenth year, the Library designs a poster that is sent to schools, museums, libraries, and other Virginia educational institutions. A panel exhibition featuring the 2012 Virginia Women in History will be on display at the Library during the month of March and will then travel around the state for the next twelve months.

Teachers will find educational materials and suggested classroom activities related to this year’s honorees at www.lva.virginia.gov/vawomen. The Library encourages teachers to work with their classes in researching and nominating candidates for next year’s Virginia Women in History. Teachers submitting winning nominations receive for their schools $250 to be used for instructional materials or classroom supplies and also a set of reference books published by the Library. This year, winning nominations came from Larnette Snow, librarian of Blue Ridge and Meadows of Dan Elementary Schools, on behalf of Tammy Harrison’s and Mary Slate’s fifth-grade students at Blue Ridge Elementary School, Ararat, Virginia; Linda McCarthy, Markham, Virginia; and John W. Listman, Jr., Virginia National Guard Historical Collection, Fort Pickett, Blackstone, Virginia.

An endowment from the Virginia Business and Professional Women’s Foundation supports the Virginia Women in History program.

—Sara B. Bearss, Senior Editor, Dictionary of Virginia Biography
Singing Her Praises

VABPW Foundation creates fund to support women's history programming

The Library of Virginia Foundation is pleased to announce a $250,000 gift from the Virginia Business and Professional Women’s Foundation that will provide transformative support for the Library’s programming and collections relating to the role women have played and continue to play in our shared history and culture. “For 27 years the VABPW Foundation has worked to empower women of all ages in Virginia, providing resources to help women achieve their full potential and recognizing their accomplishments,” said Librarian of Virginia Sandra G. Treadway. “We are tremendously grateful that they have chosen to lend their support to the work that we do, and we will do our best to continue their fine tradition.”

The gift will be used to create the Virginia Business and Professional Women’s Fund, the proceeds of which will support these vital Library programs:

- **Virginia Women in History.** As a part of this signature Library of Virginia program, this gift will endow the creation of an award to honor the achievements of a Virginia woman who has excelled in business or as an entrepreneur. In addition, the gift will allow the Library to increase the number of educational posters sent to Virginia’s schools (currently more than 15,000) and improve online educational resources made available to educators throughout the commonwealth.

- **Virginia Women Through Four Centuries.** This book, scheduled to be published in 2013, will be an updated edition of the acclaimed work *A Share of Honor: Virginia Women, 1600–1945*, originally published by the Library in 1987 and a sellout hit. In the years since its publication, additional scholarship (much of it inspired by the book itself) has improved our knowledge of Virginia women during this period. The book has been revised by three accomplished historians, incorporating the most-recent work on Virginia women and carrying the story into the 21st century.

- **The VABPW Lecture Series.** This biannual public program will feature the VABPW award recipient (if living) and other notable Virginia women. The lectures will coincide each year with the Virginia Women in History program in March and the Virginia Literary Festival in October.

- **The VABPW Acquisition & Conservation Fund.** This fund will provide annual support to purchase and restore books and archival materials relating to the achievements of women in Virginia.

- **Women of Virginia Historic Trail.** All materials relating to this sightseeing trail created by the VABPW, including the map and biographical information about the women, will be given a home on the Library of Virginia’s Web site and linked to the Virginia Women in History site.

“We saw an opportunity to continue the foundation’s interest in promoting extraordinary women in Virginia’s history with the Library of Virginia,” said Vincette Goerl, chair of the Virginia Business and Professional Women’s Foundation. “Expanding these programs will ensure that remarkable women in Virginia will be recognized and remembered for the long-term.”

—Dan Stackhouse, Director of Development

**GENEROUS WOMEN**

A gift from the Virginia Business and Professional Women’s Foundation will help ensure that women’s contributions to Virginia’s history are not forgotten. **Seated from left:** Patricia Martin, treasurer; Vincette Goerl, chair; Julia Kroos, trustee. **Standing from left:** Gretchen Janasak, secretary; Carolyn Boxley, trustee; Barbara Strother, vice chair; and Diane Trobaugh, trustee.

**2012 Virginia Women in History Program**

**Awards Ceremony & Reception**

March 29, 2012, 6:00–8:00 PM at the Library of Virginia. Seating is limited. Please call 804.692.3535 for reservations.

www.lva.virginia.gov/vawomen

Poster, exhibition, instructional materials, classroom activities, nomination forms
World War I–era student newspapers donated to the Library

The Library of Virginia recently received a fascinating collection of World War I–era student newspapers that sheds light on the activities of American soldiers in France immediately following the war. Author and historian Jon Kukla, who purchased the papers at a Virginia auction a few years ago, donated the collection to the Library for historic preservation and research.

Kukla, author of Mr. Jefferson’s Women and A Wilderness So Immense, has served as director of historical research and publishing at the Library of Virginia, curator of collections and director of the Historic New Orleans Collection, and executive director of the Patrick Henry Memorial Foundation.

The Soldier-Student, a weekly newspaper produced in Montpelier, France, by the group known as the “American Students at the University of Montpelier,” was the first periodical published by American students abroad in France. Students attended a program sponsored by the American Expeditionary Forces (AEF) and the YMCA designed to enroll soldiers at British and French universities following the end of hostilities in Europe. Nearly 600 enlisted men were stationed under the American Schools Detachment (ASD) at universities in Bordeaux, Toulouse, and Poitiers.

Published with the cooperation of the French newspaper Le Petit Méridional, the Soldier-Student appeared on two pages of that newspaper for the duration of its publication, from March 22 through June 30, 1919. It reported on a variety of topics of concern to the American student population such as information on local sights and cultural events as well as on the students’ local activities—a priority because most AEF papers were sent home to families, American universities, and other stateside papers. The last issues focused extensively on a show called the American Revue, organized and performed by the soldier-students within Montpelier to raise funds for a charity benefiting wounded French veterans. The show received rave reviews and successfully raised a substantial sum for the charity.

Many of the papers are signed with the name Sgt. G. W. Martin, Hotel du Palais, who attended the University of Montpelier under the ASD plan, though he was not involved in the publication of the newspaper. Following his service in World War I and time at the University of Montpelier, George Williams Martin returned to live in Lynchburg, Virginia.
NEW & NOTEWORTHY

Portrait of Colin Dunlop and His Dog
Beloved Executive Mansion painting confirmed as work of George Caleb Bingham

The George Caleb Bingham Catalogue Raisonné Supplement of Paintings and Drawings has confirmed the authentication and addition of a previously unknown and unattributed portrait by Missouri’s first artist, George Caleb Bingham (1811–1879), an “old master” of American art whose birth bicentennial was celebrated in 2011. The painting, commonly referred to as “Portrait of a Boy and His Dog,” has been owned by Virginia’s Executive Mansion since it was deeded to the Commonwealth in 1977 by the estate of Martha Spottswood (a descendant of Alexander Spottswood) of Petersburg, Virginia.

The charming portrait that we now know as Colin Dunlop (born in Petersburg in 1836 and killed in battle during the Civil War in 1864), had long been a favorite in the Executive Mansion, but recently a highly respected Richmond art and antiques dealer, Alexander Reeves, suggested during a private tour that the portrait resembled other works that he had seen by George Caleb Bingham. In March 2011, this attribution was confirmed by Fred R. Kline, director and editor of the George Caleb Bingham Catalogue Raisonné Supplement, Ltd., in Santa Fe, New Mexico. “There is no doubt in my mind that Portrait of Colin Dunlop and His Dog was clearly painted by George Caleb Bingham, in all likelihood during six months of 1841 when he was in Petersburg, Virginia, and notably engaged in painting portraits,” wrote Kline in a letter to the Library. “This is a delightful, memorable, and endearing portrait of a boy and his dog, Bingham’s first in this rare genre for him. Colin with his red-striped blouse and his striking, seemingly protective dog on a chain are doubtless made from life. The portrait has become one of my personal favorites. As it was previously unrecorded, we would classify it as a new discovery— and one worth celebrating at that, and most auspiciously during the Bingham Bicentennial.”

George Caleb Bingham has a Virginia birthright; he was born in Augusta County, Virginia, in 1811 and was eight years old when he moved with his family to Franklin, Missouri, in 1819. The vast majority of Bingham’s more than 500 recorded paintings are not signed, including famous works like “Fur Traders Descending the Missouri.” Unfortunately, Bingham also neglected record keeping, allowing many paintings to remain unidentified, probably more than did any other American master.

The new Catalogue Raisonné project began in 2005 as a scholarly enterprise directed and edited by art historian and Bingham specialist Fred R. Kline, with an advisory board consisting of renowned Bingham biographer and Missourian Dr. Paul Nagel and noted Washington, D.C., art historian, lecturer, and author William Kloss.

—Tom Camden, Director, Special Collections

“OLD MASTER” OF AMERICAN ART
This circa 1841 portrait of Petersburg-born Colin Dunlop has been officially attributed to Missouri’s first artist, George Caleb Bingham. The portrait was a gift to the Commonwealth of Virginia from the estate of Martha Spottswood, who was Dunlop’s niece.

The Soldier-Student’s articles describe the daily life of the soldiers stationed at Montpelier and illuminate the unique circumstances faced by “students in arms pursuing the studies of peace,” as one contributor eloquently described it. Yet academic achievement was not the sole focus of their attention, as evidenced by the caption occupying a large portion of the final issue’s front page. An American soldier poses between two women with a caption stating “Adieu Chéri, Hello Dear!”

This title is currently known to be on file at only two other locations: the Hoover Institution Library at Stanford University and in the Special Collections of the University of South Carolina, as part of the Samuel Bloom papers. This gift to the Library of Virginia is the most comprehensive collection of the Soldier-Student known to date and has been conserved by the Etherington Conservation Lab and preserved on microfilm.

—Brian Gilbert, Virginia Newspaper Project Intern
Wednesday, February 15 | Noon–1:00 PM
BOOK TALK WITH JILL TITUS
Brown’s Battleground: Students, Segregationists, and the Struggle for Justice in Prince Edward County, Virginia
When the U.S. Supreme Court handed down its decision in Brown v. Board of Education in 1954, Prince Edward County, Virginia, abolished its public school system rather than integrate. When the public schools finally reopened after five years of struggle—under direct order of the U.S. Supreme Court—county authorities employed every weapon in their arsenal to ensure that the newly reopened system remained segregated, impoverished, and academically substandard. Intertwining educational and children’s history with the history of the black freedom struggle, Titus draws on little-known archival sources and new interviews to reveal the ways that ordinary people, black and white, battled over the role of public education in the United States.

Wednesday, February 29 | 5:30–7:30 PM
“BOOKS ON BROAD”
FEATURING MOLLIE BRYAN
Scrapbook of Secrets
Virginia author Mollie Cox Bryan, best known for her Mrs. Rowe’s Restaurant cookbooks, will discuss and read a selection from her debut novel, Scrapbook of Secrets, the story of an investigative scrapbooker in Cumberland County, Virginia. 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).

Wednesday, March 15 | Noon–1:00 PM
BOOK TALK WITH MEREDITH HENNE BAKER
The Richmond Theatre Fire: Early America’s First Great Disaster
Place: Conference Rooms
Meredith Henne Baker will talk about and sign The Richmond Theatre Fire: Early America’s First Great Disaster, her award-winning account of a devastating Virginia fire in 1811, which was the deadliest urban disaster in the early years of the United States. It stunned the nation and became an important catalyst for religious and cultural transformation in the early republic. The story of the transformation comes alive through the accounts of slaves, debutantes, ministers, and statesmen who were the fire’s victims and survivors.

Historic Richmond Foundation will offer special tours of Monumental Church—site of the fire—before and after the book talk, at 11:00 AM and 1:00 PM. Reservations are required for tours and space is limited (no reservations needed for the book talk at noon). Tours last approximately 45 minutes and attendees should park under the Library building and meet in the main lobby of the Library. The tours will explore the historic structure of Monumental Church as well as the crypt below, where the victims of the theater fire are buried. To reserve your space for the tour, call 804.692.3999.

Tuesday, March 27 | Noon–1:00 PM
LOST & FOUND EXHIBITION EVENT
PechaKucha: 20 Images x 20 Seconds on “Found Things”
Place: Lecture Hall
Drawing its name from the Japanese term for the sound of “chit chat,” PechaKucha is a presentation methodology based on a simple idea: 20 images discussed for 20 seconds (or less) each—a format that keeps things moving at a rapid pace. Devised in Tokyo in 2003 as an event for designers to network and show their work in public, PechaKucha has gone global, with events happening in cities around the world. Lost and Found exhibition team members will participate in this phenomenon by sharing their own personal collections. Come see what it’s all about!

Thursday, March 29 | 1:00–8:00 PM
WOMEN’S HISTORY MONTH
2012 Virginia Women in History Program and Reception
Place: Lecture Hall & Lobby
Free but reservations required. Seating is limited. Call 804.692.3535 by February 17 to RSVP. Eight honorees—from the past and present—who have had a significant impact on the history of Virginia will be honored at this celebration. A reception follows the program. Sponsored by Dominion.

Saturday, March 10 | 1:00–4:00 PM
COMMUNITY EVENT
Richmond Times-Dispatch Regional Spelling Bee
Thirty-five spellers from throughout central Virginia will compete for the chance to represent the region at the Scripps National Spelling Bee in May. The students are the top spellers from 32 county and city school systems, plus the home, Catholic, and private school divisions.
Saturday, March 31 | 1:00 PM
VOORHEES LECTURE ON THE HISTORY OF CARTOGRAPHY
The Chesapeake Bay
The 2012 Alan M. & Nathalie Voorhees Lecture on the History of Cartography features two lectures separated by a short intermission: “Chesapeake Change: Four Centuries of Shifting Venues” by estuarine ecologist and environmental historian Dr. Kent Mountford and “Impacts of Rapidly Rising Sea Levels on the Erosion of the Islands and Low-lying Areas of Mid-Chesapeake Bay” by environmental science professor Dr. John Court Stevenson. This event includes a special one-day exhibition of maps relating to the talk from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM and behind-the-scenes tours of the Library. Box lunches will be available for purchase at noon. For more information, please visit www.lva.virginia.gov/maps or call 804.692.3813.

2012 Program Features America’s “First Dog”
The 2012 Winter Reading Program, presented by the Library of Virginia, features the cover art of First Dog by J. Patrick Lewis and Beth Zappitello and illustrated by Tim Bowers, a wonderful picture book with adorable illustrations of a Portuguese water dog.

The Library of Virginia promotes this annual winter reading program that begins in February, “I Love to Read” Month, and concludes on March 2, Read Across America Day. The “Snuggle with a Book” winter reading program is designed to instill a love of reading in young children by having the child’s parent or other special adult read to them.

Libraries participating in the winter reading program will receive reading records, stickers, posters, and activities to help children develop reading skills. Winter reading materials will be available in Spanish.

The winter reading program builds on the special relationship public librarians have with children and the adults who bring them to the library. The desired outcome of the program is the creation of communities where children are ready to learn when they attend kindergarten.

In addition to the Library, program sponsors include the Institute of Museum and Library Services, Smart Beginnings, Central Rappahannock Regional Library, and Target. For more information, contact Enid Costley, children’s and youth services consultant for the Library, at enid.costley@lva.virginia.gov.
The Library of Virginia was proud to host the 14th Annual Library of Virginia Literary Awards Celebration on October 15, 2011. The end of a week of activities for the third annual Virginia Literary Festival, the event featured Adriana Trigiani again as host. Her lively commentary entertained another sellout crowd of authors, book lovers, and friends of the Library.

Generous sponsors make this event possible each year. For 2011 we thank Dominion (presenting sponsor); Weinstein Properties (awards sponsor); and Media General, Mercer Trigiani, Terra Nova Title, and Suntrust Bank (table sponsors).

The awards recognized Virginia authors or, in the case of nonfiction, works on a Virginia subject, with finalists chosen by an independent panel of judges from nominated books.

The festivities were at once glamorous and down-home, with actor Richard Thomas on hand to present the Literary Lifetime Achievement Award to Earl Hamner, creator of the television show *The Waltons*, and a special cocktail based on the moonshine drink called “the Recipe” from the show. Other honors included the Whitney and Scott Cardozo Award for Children’s Literature, the Carole Weinstein Poetry Prize, and the People’s Choice Awards for Fiction and Nonfiction. Mark your calendars for next year’s Library of Virginia Literary Awards Celebration on Saturday, October 20, 2012.
Jefferson Papers Recognized

Library of Virginia selected for Top Ten Endangered Artifacts program

The Library of Virginia was delighted to learn in October 2011 that its nomination to the “Virginia’s Top Ten Endangered Artifacts” program—the executive papers of Virginia governor Thomas Jefferson—was selected as a winner.

Virginia’s Top Ten Endangered Artifacts, a program sponsored by the Virginia Association of Museums, is designed to create awareness of the importance of preserving artifacts in the care of museums, libraries, and archives throughout the commonwealth.

The executive papers of Governor Thomas Jefferson offer a unique glimpse into the work of one of America’s Founding Fathers. As governor of Virginia, Jefferson negotiated the terms of the Articles of Confederation, confronted the challenges of governance during the Revolutionary War, managed operations in and addressed the dangers of the western frontier and relations with Native Americans, and negotiated the boundaries of Virginia and its neighbors, among much else.

The Library of Virginia received a “Save America’s Treasures” grant to begin preservation of this collection, and additional support will be provided by the Roller-Bottimore Foundation to complete the project. The collection of papers will be delaminated, deacidified, cleaned, mended, and digitized to be preserved and made accessible worldwide.

“It’s a wonderful honor to be included in this esteemed list of artifacts,” said Mary Beth McIntire, executive director of the Library of Virginia Foundation. “Both private and grant funding are important resources that help us continue to care for and preserve significant items that the Library holds for our citizens in the public trust. We hope that this program will help shine a spotlight on the need for funding to continue this important work for years to come.”

Organizations throughout Virginia nominated items for the list, which were then voted on by the public and subsequently reviewed by an independent panel of collections and conservation experts to create the final list. Response to the program was overwhelming, with nearly 100,000 public votes cast for 25 diverse nominated objects.

Virginia’s Top Ten Endangered Artifacts, a project of the Virginia Collections Initiative and the Virginia Association of Museums, is made possible by a grant from the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services. The IMLS is the primary source of federal support for the nation’s 123,000 libraries and 17,500 museums. The institute’s mission is to create strong libraries and museums that connect people to information and ideas. To read more about other nominees and top ten winners, visit www.vatopi0artifacts.org.

SIGNED, SEALED, DELIVERED

After nearly 100,000 votes were cast for 25 nominations for Virginia’s Top Ten Endangered Artifacts, the Library’s entry—the executive papers of Virginia governor Thomas Jefferson—made the top ten cut. Jefferson’s executive papers provide a “snapshot” of the working life of one of America’s Founding Fathers.
River City Reading

Three new books explore and support Richmond institutions

The Virginia Shop offers many books by Virginia authors or concerning Virginia art, history, or culture. Most of the books available in the shop relate to an author appearance, an exhibition, or another program at the Library of Virginia. Three new titles now available through the Virginia Shop were not only written by Virginia authors about topics in Virginia history, but were also published by Richmond cultural institutions. When you purchase one of these titles, the proceeds directly support a local museum or historic preservation efforts in the River City.

Church Hill Old & Historic Neighborhoods, published by Historic Richmond Foundation, is a beautiful book filled with full-color images exploring the historic architecture of Church Hill as well as the people who helped to build and shape the city of Richmond. Historic Richmond Foundation is a nonprofit organization that works with neighborhood associations, state and local government agencies, nonprofit partners, and businesses to promote the preservation of Richmond’s architectural legacy.

The Valentine Richmond History Center has also recently published a book celebrating another one of Richmond’s historic gems. Through full-color images and well-researched text, Richmond’s Hollywood Cemetery offers a comprehensive history of the famous southern shrine. The Valentine has preserved and promoted Richmond’s local history for more than a century and the purchase of this book supports the museum’s educational mission.

Last, but certainly not least, the Children’s Museum of Richmond has published a new title about the ever-popular Legendary Santa. Stories From the Chair celebrates 75 years of magic and memories, told by the legend himself. This book offers a sentimental journey for anyone who has fond memories of the Miller & Rhoads department store’s beloved Santa.

The Library of Virginia has its own publications about Virginia history and culture—many offered at special prices—available at both of our store locations and on our Web site, www.thevirginiashop.org. So when you’re shopping for a Richmond- or Virginia-themed gift, remember that your money can do more when you support a Virginia author and a Virginia cultural institution at the same time.
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.

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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:

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___ Clementina Rind Circle ($500–999)  ___ Douglas Southall Freeman Circle ($10,000+)

Volunteer with the Library of Virginia

Volunteers are a valuable part of the operation at the Library of Virginia. From July 1, 2010, through June 30, 2011, volunteers gave us 7,144 hours of their time, while docents gave us 473.75 hours. Based on the National Compensation Survey from October 2009, that’s $125,617 worth of donated labor! If you would like more information about volunteering for the Library of Virginia, go to www.lva.virginia.gov/volunteer.

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COMING SOON

The 2012 Alan M. & Nathalie Voorhees Lecture on the History of Cartography: 

The Chesapeake Bay

Saturday, March 31 | 1:00 PM

See page 13 for details