broadSIDE

the magazine of the **LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA**

2023 | NO. 2

HITTING THE ROAD

LVA On the Go tour brings staff expertise, resources and programming across the commonwealth

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LIBRARIAN OF VIRGINIA
Sandra G. Treadway

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THE INSIDE STORY

Amazing Acquisition

Portrait donation helps tell the story of Virginia's first African American legislators

Most of the books, public records, manuscripts, maps, photographs and other items in the Library of Virginia's collection come to us intentionally. Our new book acquisitions are guided by professional reviews and the Library's collection development policy. Many state records and publications are deposited with the Library by law. Our Special Collections librarians routinely search through rare book, map and manuscript dealers' catalogs looking for out-of-print materials of historical significance to fill gaps in our holdings. Yet, every now and then, serendipity rather than forethought sends a special treasure our way.

Such an item recently found its way into our Visual Studies Collection. It is a simple photographic portrait of a distinguished-looking African American gentleman, dressed in a suit and looking directly at the artist with a serene and steady gaze. The subject of the portrait is Henry D. Smith, born enslaved in the 1830s in Greensville County, Virginia. A carpenter and farmer by trade, Smith became involved in local politics following the American Civil War. After serving several terms as a justice of the peace, he was elected in 1879 to a two-year term representing Greensville and Sussex counties in the Virginia House of Delegates. Smith was one of 92 African American men who served in the House of Delegates between 1870 and 1890. For more than a century their stories were forgotten, but they are now finally being told.

Every now and then, serendipity rather than forethought sends a special treasure our way.

We have official photographs of about half of the early African American delegates, but images of the others have been difficult to find. Imagine our astonishment when our Visual Studies coordinator, Dale Neighbors, received an email out of the blue from Col. (Ret.) James A. Manning in Seattle asking if the Library would be interested in a portrait of Henry Smith. Manning's family was from Greensville County, and his grandfather George Washington Irving Robinson had been a close friend of Smith. Manning recalled this portrait hanging in his grandfather's home in Emporia all his life, and he rescued the portrait for safekeeping after his grandfather's death. Now in frail health, Manning wanted to find a permanent home for the portrait and reached out to the Library. "On behalf of my ancestors, thank you for making this available to generations yet to be born," he said.

This important piece of Virginia history could easily have been lost forever. The Library is proud of the work we have done to recover the stories of Virginia's first African American legislators, and to have Smith's portrait find its way to us means a great deal.

Sincerely,

Sandy Treadway

Sandra G. Treadway, Librarian of Virginia

ON THE COVER
Photograph of the Library's LVA On the Go vehicle by Jay Paul. Virginia Department of Transportation map of Virginia, 2000–2001, from the Library's Ephemera Collection, Visual Studies Collection.

START HERE

LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA

800 E. Broad St. | Richmond, VA 23219-8000
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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 nearly 100,000 visitors each year. Our collections, containing more than 130 million items, document and illustrate the lives of both famous Virginians and ordinary citizens.

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

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EXHIBITIONS
200 Years, 200 Stories
Through Oct. 28, 2023

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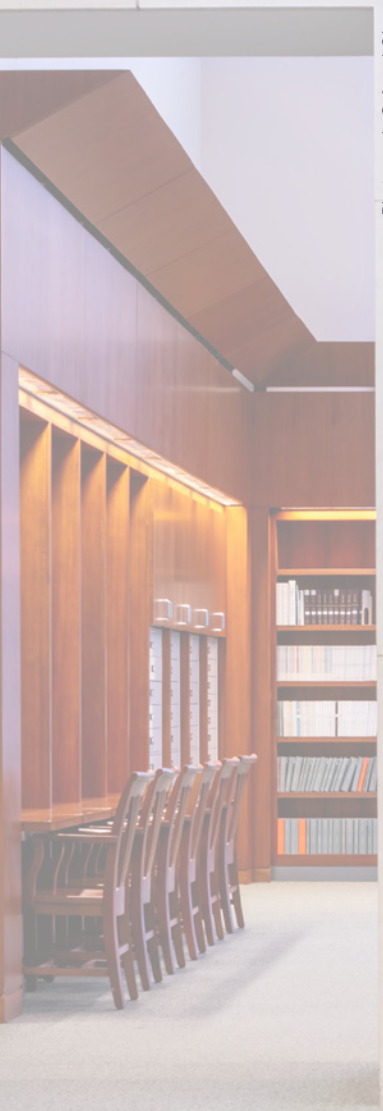

Photograph © Ansel Olsen

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HITTING THE ROAD

LVA On the Go tour brings staff expertise, resources and programming across the commonwealth

Suffolk resident Robert Lowe had never been to the Library of Virginia, but while attending a Black History Month event at his local public library, he saw an advertisement for an upcoming LVA On the Go visit at his branch. "I was fascinated, because I always wanted to do family history and genealogy," he said.

Lowe was among the participants at the first stop of the Library's statewide tour that kicked off at Suffolk Public Library this March. As part of the Library of Virginia's yearlong 200th-anniversary celebration, a custom-built LVA On the Go vehicle is bringing some of the Library's vast resources, staff expertise and programming to every corner of the commonwealth.

"Genealogy 101 was amazing," said Lowe. "The efforts of your staff to digitize records was phenomenal and I'm sure I'll be accessing them. The training for the beginner, for me, is a really good start and I'm looking forward to working more with you all."

Virginia is deceptively larger than it looks on a map. Residents of far southwestern Virginia, for example, can drive to at least four other state capitals in less time than it would take them to reach Richmond. And the state is diverse as well as expansive. The Northern Neck, Southside and D.C.'s suburbs all have unique cultures and histories. "We're excited to make new connections by bringing a customized vehicle full of resources, expertise, information and fun to citizens across the commonwealth," said Catherine Fitzgerald Wyatt, the Library of Virginia's education and outreach manager. "This anniversary initiative will show that we take our name seriously as the library for all Virginians."

The Library's LVA On the Go vehicle will visit each regional event, bringing five to seven staff members who will reveal the riches of our collections and services and help the public engage with local history, family history, educational materials and more. Participants will also learn to navigate the many resources that the Library offers remotely such as "Virginia Untold: The African American Narrative," a digital treasure house of African American sources, and Virginia Chronicle, a newspaper database of 2.5 million images.

"I had never been there, so I thought this would be a good chance to see what it's all about. It's amazing, the amount of information you have."

Alice Glasco of Chesapeake, who attended the LVA On the Go event at Suffolk Public Library in March, said she likes to do research on her family tree and was interested in learning about the Library of Virginia and finding all the different accessibility on the websites. "I had never been there, so I thought this would be a good chance to see what it's all about," she said. "It's amazing, the amount of information you have, especially on enslaved people across Virginia, the 'Virginia Untold' database—sites that I'd never explored before, that I didn't know existed."

Local history and genealogy resources also drew Virginia Beach resident Joycelyn Hamilton to the March event. "I have family that originated in the Suffolk and Deep Creek areas, so I decided to come," she said. "I thought it was very insightful and

continues next page

LVA ON THE GO ACTIVITIES

LVA On the Go events will be personalized to address the interests of each location, but may include:

- An oral history station to capture personal and family stories for the Library's collection
- Presentations on resources like "Virginia Untold: The African American Narrative" database and VirginiaChronicle.com, which provides access to over a million newspaper pages
- A Library staff member available to discuss the significance and context of historical items and documents community members bring to events
- A genealogy workshop focused on Library collections and a consultation with a local genealogist or historian
- A display of reproductions of items in the Library's collections tailored to the history of the region
- Regionally specific children's activities

VISITING VIRGINIA

1. Library staff members prepare the LVA On the Go vehicle for a visit to Abingdon Public Library in April. Shown are (LEFT TO RIGHT) **Gregg Kimball**, director of public services and outreach; **Reagen Thalacker**, public library consultant; **Kristen Allen**, circulation and archival assistant; **Elizabeth Klaczynski**, education and programs specialist; and **Ginny Dunn**, archives and library reference services manager. **2**. Archives and library reference services manager **Ginny Dunn** (RIGHT) helps an Abingdon-area resident find research resources. **3**. Education and outreach manager **Catherine Fitzgerald Wyatt** (LEFT) talks with visitors during an LVA On the Go stop at the Halifax Farmers Market and Halifax Public Library in April.

continued from page 3

I got a lot of great information. I didn't know there were so many exciting documents that you can view on the website."

Planning for LVA On the Go began in 2021 when staff members put out a call to Virginia's public libraries asking them to consider cohosting regional events. The response exceeded expectations. Fifteen libraries from Abingdon to Prince William to Halifax quickly signed up to host LVA On the Go visits, which include workshops on collections, children's activities and more. "Our community partners have been invaluable in helping us design programming and recruit local organizations as cohosts," said Fitzgerald Wyatt.

"Public libraries are the heart of Virginia communities, especially in underserved places," said Gregg Kimball, the Library of Virginia's director of public services and outreach. "We couldn't have picked better partners for this effort."

"Public libraries are the heart of Virginia communities, especially in underserved places."

"We are so happy to partner with the Library of Virginia and excited to see the support from the community and the love for all things genealogy," said Minerva Hernandez Garcia, community learning manager at Suffolk Public Library. "The children's area was also a hit. It's great way to introduce LVA to families visiting our library."

In addition to sharing information and resources, the Library of Virginia will collect it as well. Feedback received from citizens across Virginia will help the Library understand what communities need and inform the services that it offers. "There's nothing like visiting a place to truly experience its local lore and culture," said Fitzgerald Wyatt. "We want to strengthen ties to local organizations, facilitate conversations with community members whose stories and histories we would like to capture, and provide a memorable and fun experience."

The LVA On the Go tour will continue beyond the Library's bicentennial year. The Library is scheduling additional events and visiting community celebrations in 2024 and beyond. For more information or to request a visit, contact Elizabeth Klaczynski at elizabeth.klaczynski@lva.virginia.gov or 804.692.3536 or go to **lva.virginia.gov/200**. ■

HELP US SHARE VIRGINIA'S HISTORY & CULTURE

Your support helps the Library provide programs and resources to meet the evolving needs of local communities. Please consider making a gift at **www.lva.virginia.gov/donate**.

LVA ON TOUR

Above: A mother and son check out the LVA On the Go vehicle at the Halifax Farmers Market. At left: **Rebecca Schneider**, senior reference librarian (left), and **Catherine Fitzgerald Wyatt**, education and outreach manager (center), share resources with a visitor at the Halifax Public Library.

The Library of Virginia is heading your way with LVA On the Go! A vehicle equipped with state-of-the-art technology will bring the vast resources and staff expertise of the Library across the commonwealth. Partnering with public libraries and other organizations, our Library ambassadors will help you engage with local history, family history, educational materials and more.

LVA ON THE GO
2023 SCHEDULE

Saturday, May 20, 2023
9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.
Northumberland Public Library at the Heathsville Farmers Market
73 Monument Place
Heathsville, VA 22473

Saturday, June 10, 2023
10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.
Botetourt County Libraries, Fincastle Library
11 Academy St., Fincastle, VA 24090

Saturday, June 24, 2023
10:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.
Prince William Public Libraries, Chinn Park Library
13065 Chinn Park Dr.
Prince William, VA 22192

Saturday, July 22, 2023
10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.
Lynchburg Public Library
2315 Memorial Ave.
Lynchburg, VA 24501

Saturday, Aug. 12, 2023
10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.
Jefferson Madison Regional Library, Nelson Memorial Library
8521 Thomas Nelson Highway
Lovingston, VA 22949

Saturday, Sept. 16, 2023
12:00–4:00 p.m.
Massanutten Regional Library
174 S. Main St., Harrisonburg, VA 22801

Saturday, Sept. 23, 2023
10:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.
Blue Ridge Regional Library, Martinsville Branch Library
310 East Church St.
Martinsville, VA 24112

Saturday, Sept. 30, 2023
10:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.
Chesterfield County Public Library at ChesterFest
11801 Centre St., Chester, VA 23831

Saturday, Oct. 7, 2023
10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.
Central Rappahannock Regional Library, Fredericksburg Branch
1201 Caroline St.
Fredericksburg, VA 22401

Saturday, Oct. 21, 2023
10:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.
Russell County Public Library, Lebanon Library
248 W. Main St., Lebanon, VA 24266

LVA On the Go
CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMING

LVA on the Go visits will offer youth programming at its stops around the commonwealth. To celebrate Virginia authors, a preschool story time will feature a book written by a local children's author or illustrator, with accompanying activities. Older children can engage in a collage art project or a map activity using images from the Library of Virginia's collections. Coloring pages, word searches and a crossword puzzle that highlight Library resources will also be available to complete on-site or to take home.

ART & STORY TIME
A Halifax-area family enjoys LVA On the Go children's activities at the Halifax Public Library.

CAR & DRIVER
Shown at the wheel, Dennis Pender "D.P." Weeks, the Ford "T" winning driver of an unknown racing competition, spent his late 20s in central Virginia. Gravely Family Papers, Personal Papers Collection.

D.P. Weeks & the Early Days of Virginia's Car Culture

A family's papers and digitized newspapers reveal a colorful character and the automobile's transformative effect on the commonwealth

BY KEVIN SHUPE

Behind the wheel of a stripped-down Ford Model T sits a daring race driver with wind-tousled hair, posed in front of a crowd of young spectators, eager to be captured by the photographer. Handwriting on the photograph identifies the winning driver as D.P. Weeks. This engaging image from the early years of car racing is part of a large group of unidentified photographs within the Gravely Family Papers (1753–1988). The family resided primarily in Henry County, Virginia, and were early tobacconists and industrialists whose interests expanded to include furniture manufacturing. Although the papers show no direct connection between the Gravelys and Weeks, photographs in the collection suggest that someone in the family was likely a car and racing enthusiast.

Efforts to find out more about this photograph uncovered the early history of automobiles, racing and road development in Virginia. Research into Weeks's life revealed how much the automobile transformed the state and the nation within a few years. New economic opportunities opened up, as well as new roads and new entertainments. Most significant, cars offered people the possibility of far greater mobility, and that brought with it new opportunities to remake themselves as they moved from place to place. Few people represented this early automobile era better than Weeks, who, as an entrepreneur, entertainer and traveler, embraced all it had to offer.

A quick search of newspapers on VirginiaChronicle.com placed the driver, Dennis Pender "D.P." Weeks, in Petersburg, Virginia, about 1911. That year he became the manager and vice president of a newly incorporated car dealership, the Overland Sales Company. Automobile production and sales were booming at that time, with

American car ownership growing exponentially every year. There were 468,497 vehicles registered in the country in 1910; by 1915, that number would climb to 2,445,666. In Petersburg, there had been no car dealerships in 1909; by 1911, there were five.

Overland was the second-most popular carmaker in the United States in the 1910s, after the Ford Motor Company. In establishing this business, Weeks followed the lead of his father, George C. Weeks, who had recently opened an Overland dealership in Scotland Neck, North Carolina. For D.P. Weeks, like many other entrepreneurs, the automobile business in those early years proved volatile. His Overland dealership lasted less than two years, and by 1913, he had moved to Richmond and filed for personal bankruptcy in federal court.

Car racing followed the advent of automobiles in the 1890s, but the sport took off as cars became more affordable and popular. In August 1909, the first race was held at the Indianapolis Speedway, inaugurating what would become the nation's most famous racecourse. The following month, racers from around the country came to Richmond to compete in several races sanctioned by the American Automobile Association that took place on the horse track at the state fairgrounds (now site of The Diamond baseball park). In 1912, the AAA again sanctioned races at that venue.

"Nothing has approached in vileness the condition of roads in Virginia."
—*New York Times*, 1911

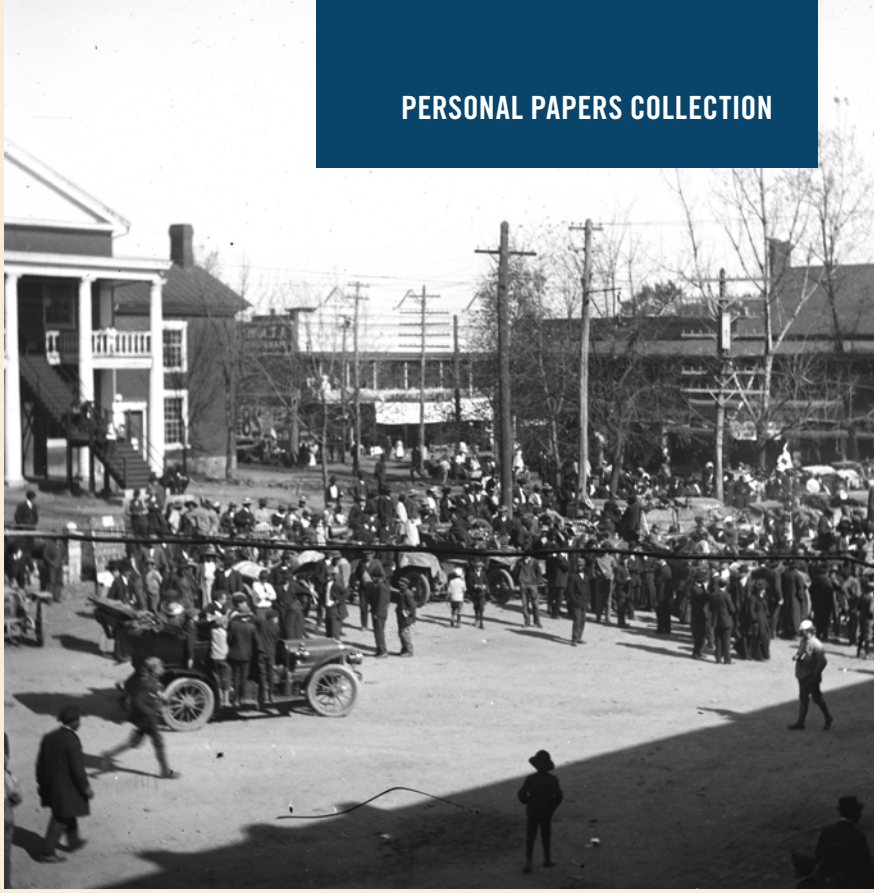
By hosting automobile races in Richmond, local leaders hoped to bring attention to the city, highlighting the city's and the state's modern business potential. Another type of automobile competition brought far more national attention to the state, although it was not entirely flattering. The AAA and other organizations began sponsoring long-distance and cross-country competitions in 1904. In these "tours," the cars and drivers were judged not on their speed, but on their ability to complete the course in a set time without major repairs. While these races tested a driver's skill and a car's reliability, one underlying purpose was to highlight the need for road improvements.

The first such competition to come through Virginia was the Good Roads Tour in October 1909. The 61 competing cars traveled from New York City to Atlanta, following a route near what is now Interstate 81 in Virginia. Crowds gathered all along the course to watch the parade of cars go by.

In 1910, the Good Roads Tour came through Virginia again, reversing the route taken the year before. This trip did not go as smoothly. "Automobile history will long record the experience of the good roads tour between Roanoke and Staunton," reported the *Roanoke Evening News*. "To those who took part in it the memory of the drive will be like a fearful dream in which mountains of mud, torrents of rains and skidding wheels will stand forth in terrible vividness."

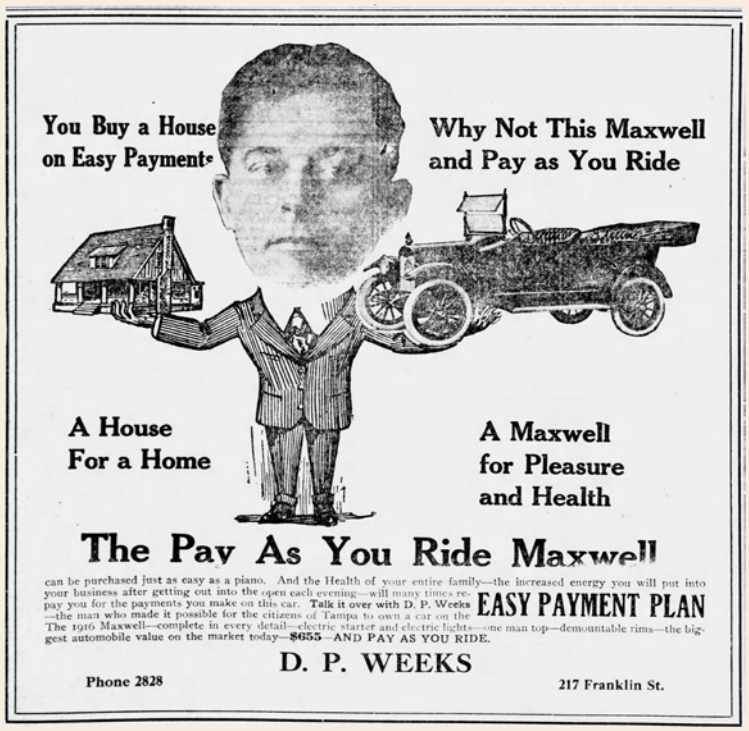
Traveling the same stretch of road a year later, the prestigious AAA Glidden Tour met the same fate, leading the *New York Times* to advise "automobilists contemplating a tour south … to get an aeroplane at Natural Bridge and stay in the air until the North Carolina line is reached…. Nothing has approached in vileness the condition of roads in Virginia."

The state of Virginia had long left road construction and repair to the local authorities and a few turnpike companies. The 1910 ***continues next page***



AUTOMOBILE FANS ASSEMBLE
Above: The "Good Roads Tour," a long-distance competition, took a lunch stop at the Henry County Courthouse square in Martinsville on Oct. 29, 1909. This photograph was likely taken from the roof of the T.E. Gravely & Co. hardware store. Gravely Family Papers, Personal Papers Collection.

NOT A SAVVY SALESMAN
Below: D.P. Weeks managed a Petersburg car dealership from 1911 to 1913. This advertisement for a dealership he later owned in Florida appeared in the Dec. 19, 1915, edition of the *Tampa Tribune*.



Kevin Shupe is a senior reference archivist at the Library. A version of this article appeared in the Library's blog, The UncommonWealth.

PROMOTING THE "GOOD ROADS MOVEMENT"
This image illustrated a Jan. 27, 1929, *Richmond Times-Dispatch* article that looked back at the newspaper's early 1900s participation in the "good roads movement." The paper's "scout car" had traveled 25,000 miles on Good Roads Tours that highlighted the need for road improvements.

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and 1911 auto tours brought the state's notoriously poor road infrastructure to the forefront as the dreadful publicity put Virginia's readiness for modernity into question.

The situation had begun to change in 1906 when the General Assembly approved the appointment of a highway commission with a civil engineer as the commissioner. The commissioner had responsibility for overseeing the construction and repair of main roads and could guide the roadwork done by local authorities.

The state eventually started budgeting funds for roads, but still expected the localities to pay most of the costs. Because of the lack of state support, local associations sometimes raised the funds needed for road improvements. In 1911, for example, a Richmond group attempted to raise $10,000 for the construction of a better road between Gordonsville and Newport News. The Overland Sales Company contributed $50 toward the fund

After his bankruptcy filing, Weeks disappeared from Virginia directories and newspapers. Research within digitized newspapers from outside Virginia, however, provided evidence of what turned out to be an intriguing, itinerant career.

Weeks was born in 1884 in Scotland Neck, North Carolina. By 1907, he had settled in Plant City, Florida, where he married. In 1908 he was charged with issuing a bad check for the purchase of an automobile. By 1910, he had moved to Fayetteville, North Carolina, where he worked as an automobile salesman. This seems to be when he started racing cars. For the Fourth of July celebrations that year, the city held a two-mile car race. Weeks drove an unidentified car to victory.

After his stay in Virginia, he moved back to Florida in 1914 and again turned to car sales. He also continued to race cars. In January 1915, driving a Ford, he won two races held at Plant Field on the grounds of the Tampa Bay Hotel. Weeks's second automobile sales venture went as poorly as his first. Only months after incorporating and building a grand showroom, his company was taken over by its vice president. While the newspaper announcement made this transfer seem amicable, lawsuits later ensued between the former partners.

Weeks then moved to Kentucky where he got into another booming industry driven by the rise of the automobile—the oil drilling business. He became president of the Florida Kentucky Oil Company and then the Trico Oil Company. Within a few years, those operations had also failed, and he returned to Florida in 1921.

By the mid-1920s, Weeks can be found less frequently in digitized newspapers, apparently having abandoned his grand financial schemes. He briefly appears in the 1930s in an ad for a traveling show of performing animals that features Major, a "Wonder Dog" who "performs mathematical problems and answers many questions."

When Weeks died in Pasco, Florida, in 1975, at the age of 91, his obituary described his occupation simply as "showman." ■

His dealership lasted less than two years, and by 1913, he had moved to Richmond and filed for personal bankruptcy in federal court.

Southside Speedway Poster

STOCK CAR STORY

Right: This broadside promoting races at Southside Speedway appears in the Library's "200 Years, 200 Stories" exhibition to illustrate the story of racing pioneer Wendall Scott (above), the first Black driver to win NASCAR's Grand National race.

a closer look

BROADSIDE COLLECTION

This 1960s-era poster advertised Friday night stock car racing at Richmond's Southside Speedway. The Hull Street Road venue presented "the best in sportsman and modified races" and "amateur and hobby cars."

The 22-x-14-inch poster is part of the Library's collection of broadsides. Posters, flyers and advertisements printed on one side of a sheet of paper are examples of broadsides.

On display in the Library's "200 Years, 200 Stories" exhibition, this poster introduces the story of Wendell Oliver Scott (August 28, 1921–December 23, 1990), a stock car racer from Danville, Virginia, who began his career in the sportsman and modified races. After working as a taxi driver and a moonshine runner, Scott began racing professionally late in the 1940s. Owners of the Danville raceway approached Scott about racing, with hopes of increasing African American attendance at their events. The officials had consulted with local authorities, who reported that Scott had several speeding offenses and that he was the one moonshine runner that they could not catch.

After nearly 200 wins, Scott left the sportsman and modified leagues and went on to race in almost 500 NASCAR Grand National events. He ended his career with 147 top ten finishes in 495 Grand National starts and was named to the National Sports Hall of Fame, the International Motorsports Hall of Fame, the National Motorsports Press Association Hall of Fame and the Virginia Sports Hall of Fame. Scott was honored as one of the Library's 2011 African American Trailblazers.

—Cindy Marks,
Marketing & Communications Specialist

MIDCENTURY SHOPPING IN PICTURES

MODERN RETAIL DOWNTOWN
Advertisements in the *Richmond Times-Dispatch* proclaimed, "In Richmond, capital of the cavaliers, a beautiful new Woolworth's makes its bow on the site of our famous old store on Wednesday, Sept. 15th at Broad and Fifth." At top: This elevated exterior view shows the then-new F.W. Woolworth Company store at 501 East Broad Street in Richmond in 1954. Above: Shoppers crowd the store's sales floor on opening day, Sept. 15, 1954.

Images of Woolworth's Richmond department stores are now online

A group of images now available online illustrates a past era of the retail experience in downtown Richmond. Visit bit.ly/woolworth-foster-studio to view newly digitized photographs of Woolworth's stores from the Library of Virginia's Foster Studio Collection.

Walter Washington Foster opened Foster's Photographic Gallery in Richmond in 1890, and the business grew to become the go-to photography studio for Richmond families, retaining popularity well into the 1960s. The majority of Foster Studio's work consisted of portraiture and event photography, such as weddings and graduations. This small subset of images from the Library's collection is an intriguing outlier, however, focusing on F.W. Woolworth Company stores in Richmond.

Frank Winfield Woolworth, originator of the "five-and-dime" variety store, opened his first store in 1879 and within 50 years the company had thousands of locations. Most of the images in this digital collection depict the store's Broad Street location, focusing on the newly renovated International Style building that opened to the public in 1954. Exterior views highlight the architecture, while interior views feature opening-day crowds and the sales floor, retail displays and lunch counters.

While these images will spark nostalgia for some, memories of the segregated dining experience may be unpleasant for others. The lunch counters at the Broad Street locations of both Woolworth's and Thalhimers department store were the site of peaceful protests against segregation in 1960 when Virginia Union University students staged sit-ins there.

The Library's Foster Studio Collection holds all surviving film negatives from the business, which totals more than 200,000 images from the 1920s to the 1960s. The Virginia Museum of History and Culture holds the studio's earlier glass plate negatives. Find more digital photograph collections at our Digital Collections Discovery page: bit.ly/LVA-digital-collections-discovery.

—Kimberly Wolfe, Visual Studies Metadata Specialist

SHOPPING & LUNCH

Clockwise from upper left: Images from 1954 and 1955 show interiors of the Broad Street Woolworth's store such as sales floor displays of outdoor furniture, Primrose nylon hosiery and "Home Style Candies," as well as one view of the lunch counter.

The lunch counter was the site of peaceful protests against segregation in 1960 when Virginia Union University students staged sit-ins there.

CREATE YOUR LEGACY WITH THE LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA

What are your dreams for the future?

Do you want access to Virginia's history and literature to be a part of your legacy? The Library of Virginia offers you a unique opportunity to create your legacy through estate planning. You can preserve historic collections and amplify Virginia voices so that future generations can be informed, inspired and empowered.

Four Easy Ways to Leave a Lasting Legacy

GIFTS THAT COST YOU NOTHING NOW

1 **Bequests and Wills**: A bequest is one of the most popular ways to ensure that the Library of Virginia can continue its mission for years to come. With a bequest, you retain control of your assets during your lifetime.

GIFTS THAT REDUCE YOUR TAXES

2 **Retirement Plan**: Retirement assets are among the most heavily taxed, making them an ideal resource for charitable giving once you no longer need the assets yourself. Consider making the Library of Virginia Foundation a beneficiary of your retirement assets and leaving other less heavily taxed assets to loved ones.

Do you have an IRA? If you are 70-½ years old or older, you can give any amount (up to a maximum of $100,000) per year from your IRA directly to a qualified charity such as the Library of Virginia without having to pay income taxes on your gift. If you are at least 59-½ years old, you can take a distribution and then make a gift from your IRA without penalty.

GIFTS THAT PAY YOU INCOME

3 **Charitable Gift Annuities**: This is a simple contract between you and the Library of Virginia Foundation. You make a gift to the Foundation, and in return, you will receive a fixed amount of income for life.

GIFTS THAT MAKE AN IMPACT NOW

4 **Donor Advised Funds**: We hope you will consider naming the Library of Virginia Foundation as a beneficiary of your account. Or you can name us the beneficiary of a portion of the account value, leaving the remaining portion for your heirs to continue your legacy of philanthropy.

Legal Name: The Library of Virginia Foundation
Legal Address: 800 East Broad Street, Richmond, VA 23219-8000
Federal Tax ID Number: 54-1298764.

If you would like to have a confidential conversation, please contact Elaine McFadden, director of development, at 804.692.3592 or elaine.mcfadden@lva.virginia.gov.

Please consult your financial planner or legal counsel as you proceed with your estate planning.

Volunteer with the Library of Virginia!

The Library is looking for volunteers to help staff our information desk and conduct tours of our exhibitions. Volunteers are essential to the enhancement of day-to-day operations and enrichment of Library services and programs.

- Information desk volunteers will provide crucial information to patrons visiting the library.
- Tour guide volunteers will lead in-depth tours of our exhibitions.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Annie Rae Carlton at annierae.carlton@lva.virginia.gov or 804.692.3813—or visit www.lva.virginia.gov/about/support/volunteer-application.htm.

Enjoy a taste of Richmond's favorite Parisian-style bistro and bakery with

CAN CAN CAFÉ

AT THE LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA

HOURS

Monday–Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

MENU

Enjoy fresh-baked pastries, soup, salad, sandwiches, desserts and other items. Can Can's signature coffee service is available throughout the day. Order online and skip the line when you pick up! Go to **bit.ly/CanCanCafe-Ordering**.

PARKING

Limited free parking is available in the Library's parking garage accessed from 8th or 9th streets.

WWW.CANCANRVA.COM/CAFE

BOOK CLUBBING ONLINE

TWO LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA BOOK GROUPS MEET MONTHLY

Book clubs are thriving during today's online literary boom. If you're looking for an online option, the Library of Virginia has resources for fiction and nonfiction readers alike with two monthly virtual book groups. Both groups meet on weekday evenings through Zoom with an average of 10 participants per event. Authors of the books discussed occasionally make virtual visits during the second half of the events. Find schedules and upcoming books at the sites listed here or visit our Calendar of Events: www.lva.virginia.gov/lvaevents

COMMON GROUND VIRGINIA HISTORY BOOK GROUP

lva.virginia.gov/public/virginia_history_book_group

Discuss compelling nonfiction books handpicked by Library staff members on the third Tuesday of the month with the Common Ground Virginia History Book Group. Organizers publish a monthly post on the Library's blog, The UncommonWealth, with resources on the upcoming book's topic. Reading the book ahead of time is not required—some attendees join because of interest in the subject. Group moderators Jessi Bennett, digital collections specialist, and Rebecca Schneider, senior reference librarian, started the events during the COVID-19 shutdown and noted that virtual was a strength. "We were thrilled to have people from all over the commonwealth and sometimes from out of state," said Bennett. "Virtual allows us to really connect beyond the Richmond area. It also allows people to get comfortable while they participate from where they are. We can often have the authors lined up for short Q&As for our scheduled books."

LITERARY VIRGINIA BOOK GROUP

lva.virginia.gov/public/literary_virginia_book_group

Read and discuss the best of today's Virginia literature—books written by finalists and winners of the Virginia Literary Awards. The Literary Virginia Book Group meets on the second Wednesday evening of each month and members receive a monthly email with book reviews and links. The group's focus "gives us an opportunity to highlight the Library's awards program and also have well-vetted books that are relevant to Virginia," said group moderator Nan Carmack, director of library development and networking. "Our group members appreciate the mix of fiction and nonfiction, which forces them outside their reading comfort zones."

The group began in 2018 as an in-person event. Changing to online meetings because of COVID-19 was considered a temporary transition, but Carmack discovered that virtual book groups had some advantages. "We have attendees from Farmville, Covington and even Oklahoma," she said. "It enables us all to attend and participate regardless of location. Authors are more likely able to attend as well."

LET'S TALK ABOUT BOOKS
Above: The Common Ground Virginia History Book Group discusses these titles in 2023. At Left: Author Joanna Pearson (lower left) joins a virtual meeting of the Literary Virginia Book Group in March 2023 as they discuss her book *Now You Know It All.*

WHAT ARE YOU READING?

DR. ROCÍO GOMEZ

Assistant Professor,
Virginia Commonwealth University Department of History

How Beautiful We Were by Imbolo Mbue

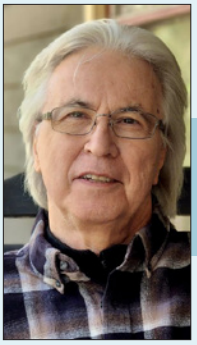
Because my research explores the history of environmental health, a colleague recommended this book to me when it first came out, but I didn't get around to reading it until recently. This book details how life and the environment change for the fictional African village of Kosawa with the presence of a U.S. oil company, Pexton, drilling on their land. A catastrophe happens and the village is faced with social, cultural and environmental challenges and tragedies. A protest soon grows to become a revolution with a young woman named Thula at the center. It's one thing to see pictures of environmental catastrophe, but this book's narration felt deeply personal, which gave the story a lot of depth. Also, the writing captivated me—it was melodic yet heartbreaking while centering the ecological relationship between the villagers and their environment.

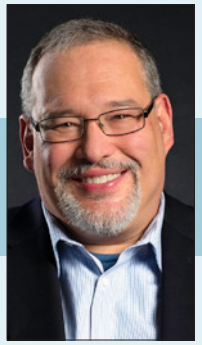
carole WEINSTEIN author series

June 8 | SADEQA JOHNSON
The House of Eve

July 27 | ERICA ABRAMS LOCKLEAR
Appalachia on the Table: Representing Mountain Food and People

Aug. 2 | KIDADA WILLIAMS
I Saw Death Coming: A History of Terror and Survival in the War Against Reconstruction





Sept. 14 | RUSS FORD WITH TODD PEPPERS
Crossing the River Styx:
The Memoir of a Death Row Chaplain

Nov. 2 | SUZANNE STRYK
The Middle of Somewhere:
An Artist Explores the Nature of Virginia

All events are free and in person in the Library's Lecture Hall from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.

The Carole Weinstein Author Series supports the literary arts by bringing both new and well-known authors to the Library of Virginia and focuses on Virginia authors and Virginia subjects across all genres.

LEARN MORE HERE!

www.lva.virginia.gov/public/weinstein

INSIDE THE ARCHITECTURAL COLLECTIONS

Questions for Dale Neighbors, Visual Studies Collection Coordinator

The Visual Studies Collection serves as the public access point for original design and architectural record collections at the Library of Virginia. Acquired through all three major record divisions—state, local and private papers—the collections include the papers of architectural firms, individual architects and thousands of sets of architectural drawings documenting residential, commercial, industrial and institutional structures throughout the commonwealth. Together these collections illustrate Virginia's rich architectural history and provide insight into the design and development processes of its architects, landscape designers and urban planners.

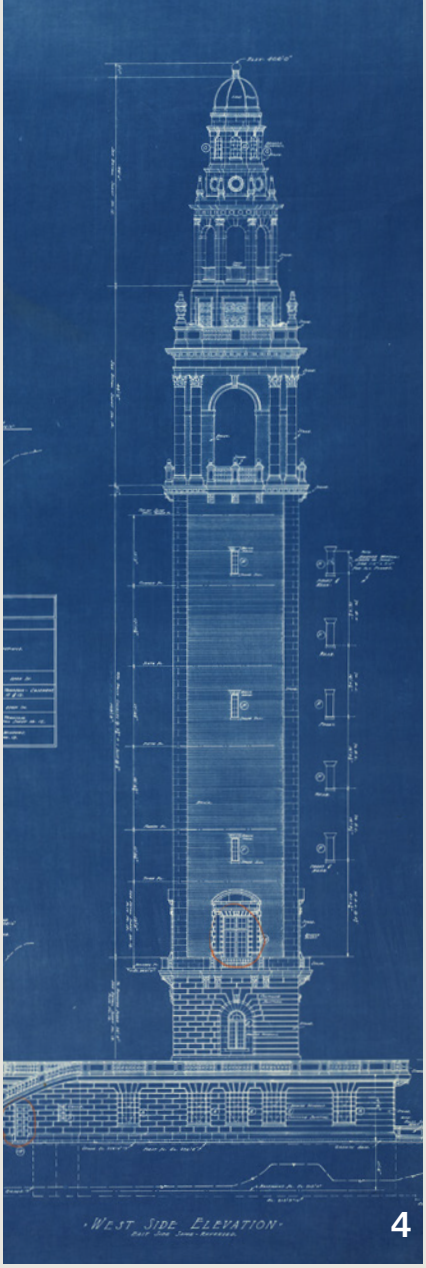
Among the many noteworthy architecture collections at the Library are the papers and drawings of landscape designer Charles F. Gillette, visionary Richmond architect Haigh Jamgochian and Norfolk architect and structural engineer Sheldon J. Leavitt; collections from the Building Inspections Offices of both Richmond and Norfolk; and the drawings and plans of the School Building Service of the State Department of Education. Visual Studies Collection coordinator Dale Neighbors answers some questions below.

How did you get into this line of work? What is your background?

Dale Neighbors: I joined the Library of Virginia in 2005 and was particularly drawn to the diversity of job responsibilities within Special Collections. The Visual Studies Collection, for which I'm responsible, includes prints, photographs, ephemera, paintings and sculpture (the Virginia State Art Collection) and original architectural drawings and plans. Previously, I had worked in a variety of museums and research libraries, including as a specialist in the U.S. History, Local History and Genealogy Division of the New York Public Library, curator of photographs at the New-York Historical Society, executive director of the Murfreesboro (North Carolina) Historical Association and founding staff member and chief archivist at the Museum of Sex. I gained firsthand experience working with historic architectural drawings at the New-York Historical Society, which holds the archives of such distinguished architectural firms as George B. Post, Cass Gilbert, and McKim, Mead and White.

RECORDS OF VIRGINIA'S BUILT & UNBUILT ENVIRONMENT

1. Visual Studies Collection coordinator **Dale Neighbors**, shown here in the architectural collection storage area in the Library's stacks, has helped visitors use these materials for efforts such as historic renovation projects. Models for structures by the late Richmond architect Haigh Jamgochian are some of the more unusual items in the Library's architectural collections. **2**. Neighbors displays a model for Jamgochian's "Tree House," a 15-story apartment building proposed for a location at East Franklin and Foushee streets in Richmond in 1962. The building could fit on a small city lot because the central column balanced cantilevered floors that branched out like tree limbs. The building plans were not approved by the Richmond City Council. **3**. Jamgochian created this model for a design commissioned by the Markel Insurance Company in 1962. To meet budget restraints, the plans were reworked numerous times before the distinctive hammered aluminum–clad structure that exists today was completed. It's located near Richmond's Willow Lawn shopping center.



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What do you like about working with these collections?

DN: I like a challenge and architectural collections are the most challenging of all the collections in Visual Studies. Almost everything about them works against their own survival—the materials used, large size of the drawings, difficulty in access and handling, and storage requirements. Nevertheless, the beauty and usefulness of the records to researchers provide infinite rewards and satisfaction.

What are the most interesting or unusual parts of the architectural collections?

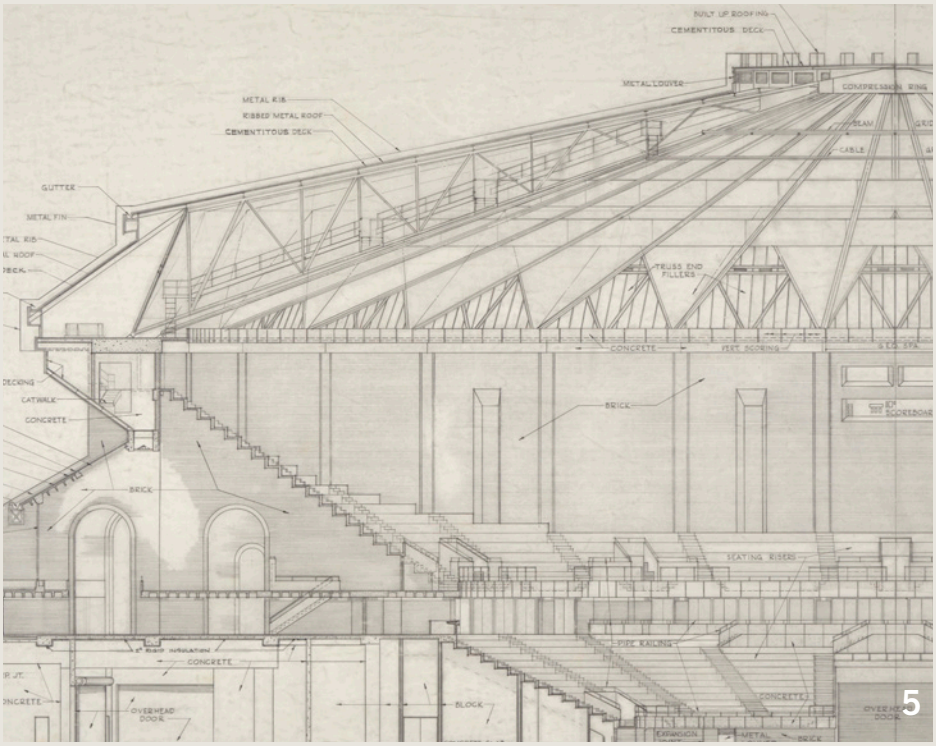
DN: I find the designs and architectural models of Richmond architect Haigh Jamgochian awe-inspiring. Although only two of his designs were ever constructed (and only the Markel Building near Richmond's Willow Lawn shopping center survives), Jamgochian's bold, forward-thinking designs are pure delight! The collection, which includes everything from concept sketches to finished presentation drawings, photographs, notes and 3-D models, offers a unique view into Jamgochian's design process.

What are some recent acquisitions to the collections?

DN: Two recent and notable architectural acquisitions are the Jefferson Hotel Drawings and the Sheldon J. Leavitt Papers, which are not yet cataloged or available for research. The Jefferson Hotel drawings were extremely fragile and unable to be viewed until the entire collection of over 300 drawings and blueprints was recently conserved. The collection represents the only surviving architectural drawings of the iconic Gilded Age hotel. The drawings document the hotel's evolution from the 1890s to the 1950s and showcase the work of several architectural firms, including the original Carrère and Hastings designs.

The Sheldon J. Leavitt Papers chart Leavitt's 60-year architectural career in Norfolk. With degrees in both engineering and architecture, Leavitt later became a noted forensic architect, investigating general building failures. Among the more than 1,500 projects represented in the collection are Leavitt's original designs for numerous midcentury synagogues, including Temple Oheb Shalom in Baltimore, which he designed with master of modernist architecture Walter Gropius. When the collection is processed and cataloged it will offer researchers a wealth of information about midcentury construction and design in Norfolk and Virginia Beach. ■

Some of the many practical uses include architects restoring a historic building, a family researching their house or garden, electricians checking the location of wiring in a wall or an attorney looking for design flaws.



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Help Preserve Virginia's History!

Your support helps the Library care for its world-class Special Collections, which include architectural drawings and models, maps, rare books and private papers. Please consider making a gift at **www.lva.virginia.gov/donate**.

LOCAL LANDMARKS

4. This blueprint from the Richmond Office of City Engineer Records, 1809–1975, shows the design for the Virginia War Memorial Carillon in Richmond's William Byrd Park by the Boston firm Ralph Adams Cram in association with Carneal, Johnston and Wright of Richmond. Dedicated in 1932, the 240-foot tower is a monument to Virginians who lost their lives during World War I and houses a musical instrument made up of 53 bronze bells. Virginia's General Assembly had originally commissioned a design for a classical temple, but a citizen's committee waged a successful campaign to build a carillon instead. **5**. The Library holds the original drawings (including this detail) and model for the Richmond Coliseum, designed by Ben R. Johns Jr. Architects. The model is currently being conserved. The structure, which opened in 1971, will soon be demolished.

SPRING/SUMMER EVENTS calendar

For the latest information, please follow us on social media and visit our Calendar of Events at www.lva.virginia.gov/lvaevents.

ALL EVENTS ARE FREE UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.

Saturday, May 20 | 9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.
LVA ON THE GO
Northumberland Public Library at Heathsville Farmers Market
See details on page 5.

Saturdays: May 20, June 24 & July 22
12:00–2:00 p.m.
VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY
Making History with LVA
Place: Computer Classroom
Registration required: makinghistory-inperson

Volunteers will transcribe handwritten pages and historical newspapers by reading text and typing it into digital form. Join us for an in-person session to learn how you can help make historical documents more searchable and usable for researchers now and in the future. Contact Sonya Coleman for more information at makinghistory@virginiamemory.com or call HandsOn Greater Richmond at 804.330.7400.

Thursday, May 25
6:00–7:30 p.m.
ONLINE PRESENTATION
Your Family History: What Comes After the Research

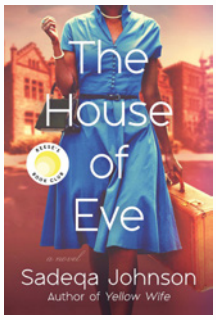
Place: Online
Registration required: lva-virginia.libcal.com/event/10567469

Join us online as a panel of guests describes how they have turned their family history research into unique projects for their families and the public. These authors and filmmakers will inspire attendees to create projects that express their family's legacies and motivate descendants to learn more about their background and take pride in their history. For more information, contact Ashley Ramey Craig at 804.692.3001 or ashley.ramey@lva.virginia.gov.

Friday, June 2 | 5:00–8:00 p.m.
FIRST FRIDAYS AT LVA
Maps: Your Place in Virginia
Place: Lobby & Conference Rooms

Join us for quarterly First Fridays at the Library! Enjoy refreshments and view exhibitions, listen to open mic entertainment and take part in a creative activity. June's theme is Maps: Your Place in Virginia. Make your own map listing places lived in Virginia, your path to the commonwealth or your favorite locale. Add your own creative touch to copies of maps from the Library's collections. Learn more here: lva.virginia.gov/public/first_fridays

Thursday, June 8 | 6:00–7:30 p.m.
WEINSTEIN AUTHOR SERIES: SADEQA JOHNSON
The House of Eve
Place: Lecture Hall
Registration required: lva.virginia.gov/public/weinstein



Join us for a talk by award-winning author Sadeqa Johnson on her latest book, *The House of Eve*. In this moving work of historical fiction set in 1950s Philadelphia and Washington, D.C., the stories of two women collide in unexpected ways. For more information, contact Elizabeth Klaczynski at 804.692.3536 or elizabeth.klaczynski@lva.virginia.gov.

Friday, June 9 | 9:30–11:30 a.m.
GENEALOGY WORKSHOP
Military Genealogy: Virginians in the First & Second World Wars
Place: Conference Rooms
$25 ($20 for Library of Virginia Foundation members)
Registration required: bit.ly/LVA-military-genealogy

Explore the methods and resources for finding ancestors that fought in World Wars I & II with reference archivists Bill Bynum and Kenneth Forest. This workshop explores Library of Virginia records in original, microfilm and digital formats related to the World Wars—as well as selected National Archives records—and offers advice on how to use them in your genealogical research. Contact Ashley Ramey Craig at ashley.ramey@lva.virginia.gov or 804.692.3001 for more information.

Saturday, June 10 | 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.
LVA ON THE GO
Botetourt Public Libraries, Fincastle Library
See details on page 5.

Wednesdays: June 14 & July 12 | 5:30–7:30 p.m.
VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY
Making History
Place: Online
Registration required: bit.ly/LVAvirtualvolunteer

Volunteers will transcribe handwritten pages and historical newspapers by reading text and typing it into digital form. Join us for a virtual session to learn how you can help make historical documents more searchable and usable for researchers now and in the future. Contact Sonya Coleman for more information at makinghistory@virginiamemory.com or call HandsOn Greater Richmond at 804.330.7400.

Wednesdays: June 14 & July 12 | 6:00–7:30 p.m.
BOOK CLUB
Literary Virginia Book Group
Place: Online
Registration required: lva.virginia.gov/public/literary_virginia_book_group

Read and discuss the best of today's Virginia literature in a monthly virtual book group discussion. June's book is *The Girls Who Stepped Out of Line: Stories of the Women Who Changed the Course of World War II* by Mari K. Eder, winner of the 2022 People's Choice Award for Nonfiction. July's book is *Between Tides* by Angel Khoury, which received a 2022 Virginia Literary Award for Fiction Honorable Mention. For more information, contact Nan Carmack at nan.carmack@lva.virginia.gov or 804.692.3792.

Tuesday, June 20 | 6:00–7:30 p.m.
BOOK CLUB
Common Ground Virginia History Book Group
Place: Online
Registration required: lva.virginia.gov/public/virginia_history_book_group

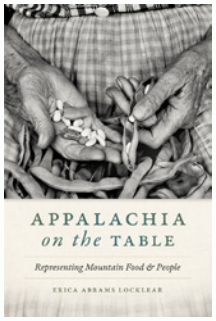
Join a virtual discussion on compelling nonfiction books handpicked by Library staff members. June's book is *Chesapeake Requiem: A Year with the Watermen of Vanishing Tangier Island* by Earl Swift. For more information, contact Rebecca Schneider at rebecca.schneider@lva.virginia.gov or 804.692.3550.

Saturday, June 24 | 10:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.
LVA ON THE GO
Prince William Public Libraries, Chinn Park Library

See details on page 5.

Saturday, July 22 | 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.
LVA ON THE GO
Lynchburg Public Library

See details on page 5.



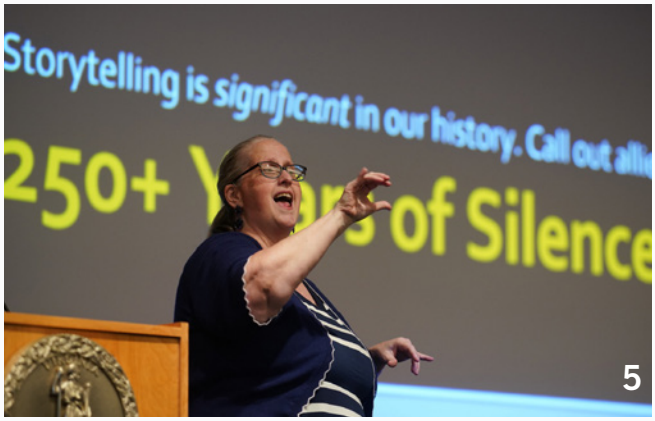
Thursday, July 27
6:00–7:30 p.m.
WEINSTEIN AUTHOR SERIES: ERICA ABRAMS LOCKLEAR
Appalachia on the Table: Representing Mountain Food and People
Place: Lecture Hall
Registration required: lva.virginia.gov/public/weinstein

Join us for a talk by author Erica Abrams Locklear on her latest book, *Appalachia on the Table: Representing Mountain Food and People*. The work explores how long-held preconceptions about Appalachian foodways color our perception of the region and its people. For more information, contact Elizabeth Klaczynski at 804.692.3536 or elizabeth.klaczynski@lva.virginia.gov.

Friday & Saturday, July 7 & 8, 2023
A Celebration of Virginia Folklife
Place: Lobby & Lecture Hall

The Library of Virginia and the Virginia Folklife Program of Virginia Humanities present a two-day celebration of Virginia's rich folklife heritage. On July 7, 5:30–7:30 p.m., join us for a reception, a screening of short documentary films and a stage program honoring four Richmond-area teams in the Virginia Folklife Program's apprenticeship program. The program supports artists in the continuation of living traditions. Featured artists include artisans, musicians and dancers. On July 8, 12:00–4:00 p.m., join us for performances, displays and activities highlighting old and new Virginia musical traditions including blues, fiddling, shape-note singing and more. These events are part of the Library's 200th anniversary celebration. Find more anniversary events at **lva.virginia.gov/200**.

in circulation WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING AT THE LIBRARY



1. The Library welcomed a group of legislative spouses for a visit in February. After hearing remarks from Librarian of Virginia Sandra G. Treadway about the history of women in the Virginia General Assembly, the group toured our anniversary exhibition, "200 Years, 200 Stories," and saw some treasures from our Special Collections.

2. Virginia Humanities executive director **Matthew Gibson** (FAR LEFT) moderated the Library's Black History Month event in February. "The First Civil Rights: Black Political Activism After Claiming Freedom" celebrated the completion of a signature project that documents the lives of Virginia's first Black legislators. The panelists were (LEFT TO RIGHT) **Lauranett Lee**, public historian and University of Richmond adjunct assistant professor; the Honorable **Viola Baskerville**, one of the founders of the project; **Ajena Rogers**, supervisory park ranger at the National Park Service's Maggie L. Walker Historic Site and a descendant of Black legislator James A. Fields; and (NOT PICTURED) historian and author Brent Tarter, a retired editor with the Library.

3. LEFT TO RIGHT: **Del. Carrie E. Coyner**; **Jennifer L. Lawless**, Commonwealth Professor of Politics at the University of Virginia; **Del. Vivian E. Watts**; and **Del. Charniele L. Herring** posed for a photo after the Library's Women's History Month event in March. Lawless moderated a panel discussion titled "A Woman's Place is in the House...of Delegates" with the three House members. The event celebrated a century of women in the Virginia House of Delegates.

4. At the first of the Library's quarterly "First Fridays at LVA" events in March, visitors viewed art from Virginia artists, saw our current exhibition, learned about archival preservation, took part in creative activities and more.

5. Deaf historian and advocate **Kathleen Brockway** presented a Deaf History Month talk at the Library in April on the Lantz Mills shared signing community in Shenandoah County, Virginia.

SUPPORT YOUR LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA

Though millions of people from across the country and around the world use the Library's collections for research, the Library is only partially funded by the Commonwealth of Virginia. The Library relies on individuals like you to help support its programs, collections, education activities and outreach initiatives. Give today to help us continue to share Virginia's history and culture with the world. Your gift is tax deductible, and in gratitude for your support, the Library of Virginia Foundation extends the following benefits to all donors of $100 or more:

- Priority seating at Library events
- One free Library workshop per year
- 10% discount at the Virginia Shop
- Discounted tickets to Library programs
- Invitations to members-only lectures and events
- One-year print subscription to *Broadside* magazine
- Recognition in the Library's annual list of donors on our lobby display

The best benefit of all? Ensuring the continued legacy of Virginia's history and culture.

Learn more about how your gift makes the Library's work possible by contacting Annie Rae Carlton at 804.692.3813.

SEMPER VIRGINIA SOCIETY

Make a significant investment to aid the Library in its mission to acquire, preserve and promote access to unique collections of Virginia's history and literature. Donors whose annual giving totals $1,000 or more become members of the Semper Virginia Society.

Join fellow donors at exclusive Semper Virginia programs, events and travel opportunities. To learn more, please contact Elaine McFadden at 804.692.3592 or elaine.mcfadden@lva.virginia.gov.

Library of Virginia Online Donation Page
www.lva.virginia.gov/donate

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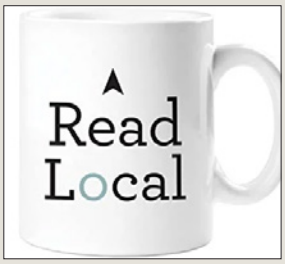

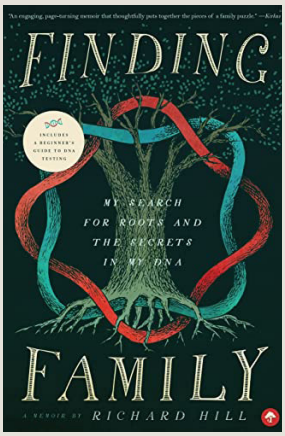

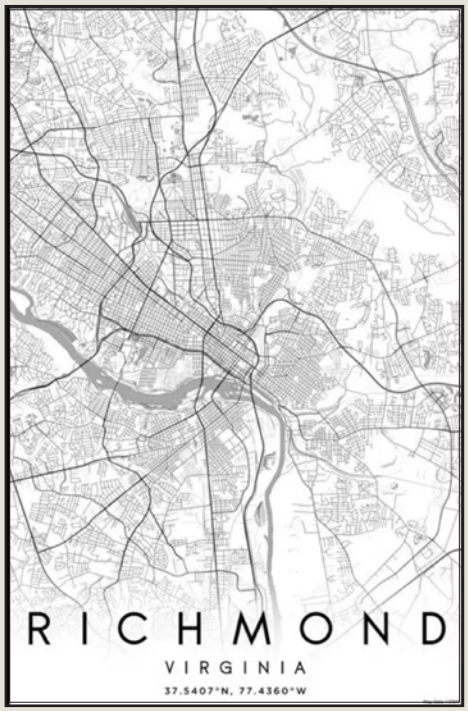

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