



LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA

Sandra Gioia Treadway
Librarian of Virginia

BLACK HISTORY MONTH NEWS

Library of Virginia Receives National Archives Grant for African American Digital Resources “Virginia Untold: The African American Narrative” project provides digital access to pre-1865 records

News Release | February 1, 2020

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(Richmond, Virginia) – The Library of Virginia has been honored with a “major initiatives” grant from the National Archives for its “Virginia Untold: The African American Narrative” project (virginiamemory.com/collections/aan). Major initiatives grants are reserved for projects that significantly improve public discovery and use of major historical records collections. Virginia Untold was one of just three major initiatives grants awarded this cycle.

The Library will receive \$175,392 this year to enhance the online Virginia Untold project by adding digitized Registers of Free Blacks (1793–1865) from 19 localities in the commonwealth, along with three additional registers held by Arlington County. In addition, the project will arrange, describe, and digitize records relating to free people of color from the City of Richmond. Once completed, the records and data will join the 15,000 records and 200,000 names of enslaved people and free people of color currently found in the database.

Documents recording the pre–Civil War experiences of African Americans, enslaved or free, either do not exist or have been mostly inaccessible. The Virginia Untold project, created in 2013, provides greater accessibility to pre-1865 African American history and genealogy found in the rich primary sources stored at the Library of Virginia, helping the public break through the roadblock that has long impeded African American history research.

In some instances, these materials contain the only written account of a narrative told from the point of view of the free or enslaved person mentioned in the document. The Virginia Untold project reveals stories such as that of Rachel Findley, who won freedom for herself and more than 35 of her descendants in a Powhatan County court in 1820, and Hester Jane Carr, a free African American woman who was tricked into leaving her home in New York City in 1836 and sold as an enslaved person in Petersburg.

The National Historical Publications and Records Commission provides advice and recommendations for the National Archives grants program. A complete list of the grants awarded is at archives.gov/nhprc/awards/awards-11-19.

Related images available here: www.dropbox.com/sh/khm4s6ki7uhrpam/AADOrEzjAF8vJbtWMRHO0pywa?dl=0

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BLACK HISTORY MONTH AT THE LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA

Free Events & Programs

EXHIBITION

2020 Strong Men & Women in Virginia History

February 3–29, 2020 | 2nd Floor | Free

In observance of Black History Month, the Library of Virginia and Dominion Energy honor five distinguished Virginians as the 2020 Strong Men and Women in Virginia History for their contributions to the commonwealth and the nation. Each generation of African Americans has built on the achievements of those who came before to lead the way to the future. The men and women selected offer powerful examples of individuals who refused to be defined by their circumstances. This year's honorees are government official Kaci M. Easley, community activist Penny J. Franklin, chemical engineer and inventor Joycelyn S. Harrison, football player and philanthropist Torrey Smith, and judge and musician Marcus D. Williams. To find a downloadable poster or learn more, visit edu.lva.virginia.gov/strong-men-women-in-virginia-history.

BOOK CLUB

Literary Virginia Book Group | *We Face the Dawn* by Margaret Edds

Wednesday, February 12, 2020 | 6:00–7:30 PM | Orientation Room | Free

Read and discuss the best of today's Virginia literature—books by Library of Virginia Literary Award winners and finalists in fiction and nonfiction. On the second Wednesday evening of each month, join us for a book discussion with light refreshments, additional historical context, and even occasional author visits. This month, discuss *We Face the Dawn* by Margaret Edds (a 2019 Nonfiction Award finalist) and pick up March's book, *Vox* by Christina Dalcher (a 2019 People's Choice Award for Fiction finalist). Loaner books available. For more information, contact Nan Carmack at nan.carmack@lva.virginia.gov or 804.692.3792.

CIVIC CONVERSATIONS: A SMALL-GROUP DISCUSSION SERIES

A Conversation about Freedom Riders and Nonviolent Activism

Wednesday, February 12, 2020 | 6:00–8:00 PM | Conference Rooms | Free

This small-group discussion series encourages informed conversations around complex topics affecting Virginia. On the second Wednesday of each month, the Library will screen a segment from a documentary film, followed by a round-table conversation with input from a moderator and historical expert from the Library. Attendees are encouraged to share their perspectives with the group. February 12's event features a screening from the movie *Freedom Riders* and conversations around nonviolent activism during the struggle for racial justice. For more information, contact Emma Ito at emma.ito@lva.virginia.gov or 804.692.3726.

Online History Resources

Virginia Untold: The African American Narrative

virginiamemory.com/collections/aan/

Virginia African American Newspapers

lva.virginia.gov/public/guides/AA_newspaper_holdings.pdf

Virginia Changemakers – African Americans

edu.lva.virginia.gov/changemakers/strong-mw

African American Research to 1870

lva.virginia.gov/public/guides/AA_Genealogical_Research.pdf

African American Virginia State Legislators, 1871–1872

edu.lva.virginia.gov/online_classroom/shaping_the_constitution/doc/state_legislators

African American Church Histories

lva.virginia.gov/public/guides/African_American_Churches.pdf

African American History Sites

lva.virginia.gov/public/guides/vhr/afam.htm

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