

# broadSIDE

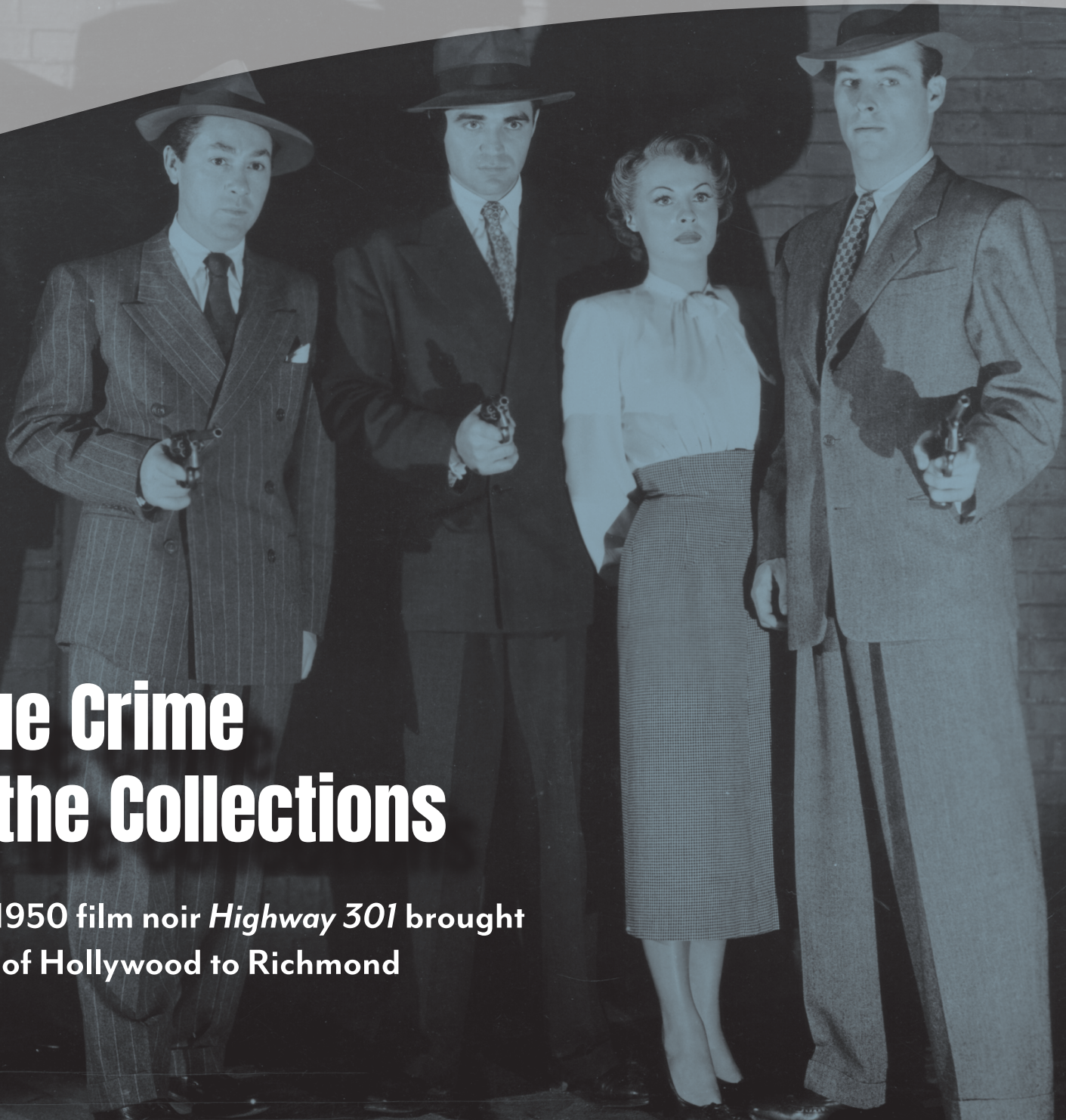


the magazine of the **LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA**

2023 | NO. 3

## True Crime in the Collections

The 1950 film noir *Highway 301* brought  
a bit of Hollywood to Richmond



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LIBRARIAN OF VIRGINIA

Sandra G. Treadway

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**broadSIDE** is funded by the Library of Virginia Foundation and other special funds.

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## THE INSIDE STORY

# 15 Years of Publishing

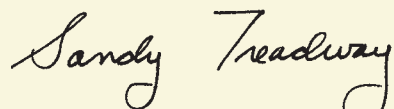
**Broadside magazine debuted in the summer of 2008**

**F**ifteen years ago this summer, the Library of Virginia published the inaugural issue of *Broadside* magazine. Our hope at the time was that it would offer a new and engaging way for us to connect with our users, donors and the public and allow us to share timely information about upcoming activities, events and educational programs. We also wanted to use *Broadside* to draw back the curtain a bit and give readers a behind-the-scenes view of what we do. We announced that *Broadside* would showcase special items from our collections, highlight new acquisitions, provide new insights into our understanding of Virginia history, and recount some of the poignant personal stories that researchers uncovered when they delved into historical records in the state archives. Finally, we wanted the magazine to convey information about how one might get more involved in the Library's work and support our mission.

The Summer 2008 issue of *Broadside* also introduced our colorful new logo, one that we designed to capture and convey the vibrancy of the Library. Like most academic, research and public libraries at the time, we were experimenting with new ways to offer resources and staff expertise to a public that was increasingly interested in engaging with others in a lifelong learning environment. We offered a robust menu of book talks, evening lectures, programs for families and children, and more—activities that were aimed at drawing new audiences into the Library and strengthening our ability to carry out our mission. And it worked, as the *Richmond Times-Dispatch* noted that our building literally throbbed with activity that year.

A lot has changed in the past 15 years. Technology has continued to explode and to transform how we provide access to our collections, and our programming is virtual with a global reach in addition to being in person. Spaces in libraries such as ours that were designed many years ago are being reimaged and transformed to accommodate continually evolving needs. What hasn't changed is the importance of connecting directly with you through these pages. *Broadside* has evolved since its inception, but it remains eagerly anticipated and widely read. I know this because you reach out to tell us so. Every issue contains something that resonates with readers, brings back a treasured memory or results in a request for more information or a donation to help us conserve a special item. I hope you will continue to let us know what you like, what you find missing and how we can be more effective in connecting and communicating with you. It will be exciting to see what the next 15 years hold!

Sincerely,



Sandra G. Treadway, Librarian of Virginia



**What hasn't changed is the importance of connecting directly with you through these pages.**

### ON THE COVER

In this publicity still for the 1950 film *Highway 301*, actors portray members of the real-life Tri-State Gang, a group of criminals that carried out a series of East Coast robberies and murders in the 1930s. Visual Studies Collection.



# PLAN YOUR VISIT

**START  
HERE**

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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Through Oct. 28, 2023

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## FOLLOW US ON



Photograph © Ansel Olsen

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# True Crime in the Collections

The 1950 film noir *Highway 301* brought  
a bit of Hollywood to Richmond

BY DALE NEIGHBORS

A small slice of Hollywood was re-created in Richmond on Dec. 7, 1950, when the Colonial Theater, located one block west of the Library of Virginia's current site on East Broad Street, held a gala featuring all the bright lights, media and hoopla associated with a red-carpet premiere. "It Happened in Richmond and Richmond Sees it First!," proclaimed a poster displayed in the theater's lobby. The grand occasion was the opening of the much-anticipated Warner Bros. movie *Highway 301*. Tapping into local lore and history, the film was loosely based on the deadly East Coast crime spree committed by the notorious Tri-State Gang of the 1930s, and Richmonders lined up around the block to see the story played out on the big screen.

The Library's Visual Studies Collection holds a selection of materials used for the film's promotion, including posters, publicity stills and lobby cards, while our WRVA Radio Collection, a part of the Private Papers Collection, includes a group of photographs from the film's Richmond premiere. Our government records holdings contain items related to the crimes, such as a "Wanted" poster for the real Tri-State Gang and death certificates for the gang members. Research in the Library's newspaper collections reveals articles about the original crimes as well as coverage of the 1950 film.

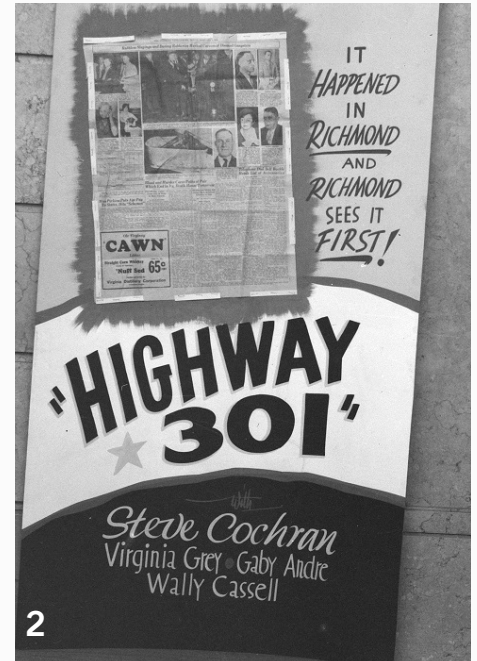
"Virginians in 1950 would either have remembered or have heard about the exploits of the Tri-State Gang, because the crimes had been widely covered in the 1930s," said Errol Somay, director of the Library's Virginia Newspaper Project. "And the movie's Richmond premiere made a big splash in the local news. Papers around the state provided extra space for the movie's ad—

**Tapping into local lore and history, the film was loosely based on the deadly East Coast crime spree committed by the notorious Tri-State Gang of the 1930s.**

## CRIME STORY

ABOVE: This poster for a movie based on the crime spree of the Tri-State Gang is part of a group of promotional materials for the film in the Library's Visual Studies Collection. Although the film's title and the highway markers feature prominently in the posters, "Highway 301" is never actually mentioned in the film.





more than they gave to ads for films with big-name actors like Errol Flynn and Humphrey Bogart. The *Richmond News Leader* helped create buzz the day before the premiere by writing about the film's opening and touting its action. But the reviews were not very favorable. The *News Leader* called it a "Routine Gangster Film."

Written and directed by Andrew L. Stone, *Highway 301* opens with an awkward prelude filmed in the offices of the actual governors of Maryland (William P. Lane Jr.), Virginia (John S. Battle) and North Carolina (W. Kerr Scott). Richmond newspapers had reported the summer before that a film crew was in town to gather material and record Governor Battle for this rare cameo appearance. Each of the governors stiffly read prepared statements, explaining to the audience that the film they are about to see was inspired by true crimes committed in their respective states. They then conjecture that the movie deserves audience attention because it might prevent a potential criminal from a life of crime once they see the film and realize that "crime does not pay—nor will it ever pay!"

What follows on the screen, however, is not the morality play the politicians seemed to promise, but is instead a violent noir thriller. *New York Times* critic Bosley Crowther pointed out the incongruity of the opening sequence: "The most disturbing and depressing of the many depressing things about the current Warner Bros.' shocker, *Highway 301*, is the fact that governors in Maryland, Virginia and North Carolina endorse this cheap gangster melodrama as an effective deterrent to crime. . . . And the reactions yesterday among the early audience, made up mainly of muscular youth, might have shocked and considerably embarrassed the governors mentioned above."

*continues next page*



#### OPENING NIGHT ON BROAD STREET

1. Crowds lined up at the Colonial Theater on East Broad Street in Richmond for *Highway 301*'s world premiere on Dec. 7, 1950. 2. A poster included newspaper coverage of the actual crimes from the 1930s to illustrate that "It Happened in Richmond." 3. Virginia Governor John S. Battle (LEFT) and an unidentified man posed in front of publicity materials in the theater's lobby. Photographs from the WRVA Radio Collection, Private Papers Collection.

**"The reviews were not very favorable. The *News Leader* called it a 'Routine Gangster Film.'"**



The plot follows a standard gangster movie formula, with an early bank robbery success followed by multiple setbacks as the law gradually closes in around the criminals. The voiceover narration of the lead investigator (actor Edmon Ryan) informs the audience of the details of the Tri-State Gang's deadly crimes.

Gang members include the psychotic leader, George Legenza (Steve Cochran), a role described by the *Richmond Times-Dispatch* as “so trigger-happy that he makes the actual Legenza look like a deacon”; Herbie Brooks (Richard Egan); Bobby Mais (Wally Cassell); Bill Phillips (Robert Webber); getaway driver Noyes Hinton (Edward Norris); and “gangster molls” Mary Simms (Virginia Grey), Lee Fontaine (Gaby André) and Madeline Welton (Aline Towne). By the end of the film, all five of the gang members and two of the three molls are dead, with the third arrested for attempted murder.

The movie is set in Maryland, Virginia and North Carolina, but only the governors’ remarks and the opening bank robbery scene in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, were shot on location. A local

newspaper review pointed out peculiarities caused by filming in California: “Here in Richmond it is possible that there will be equal interest in the local color that is not there. Such items as palm trees near ‘Broad Street Station,’ night spots complete with bars, and hideout apartment houses with elevator service, will bring forth many a chuckle.”

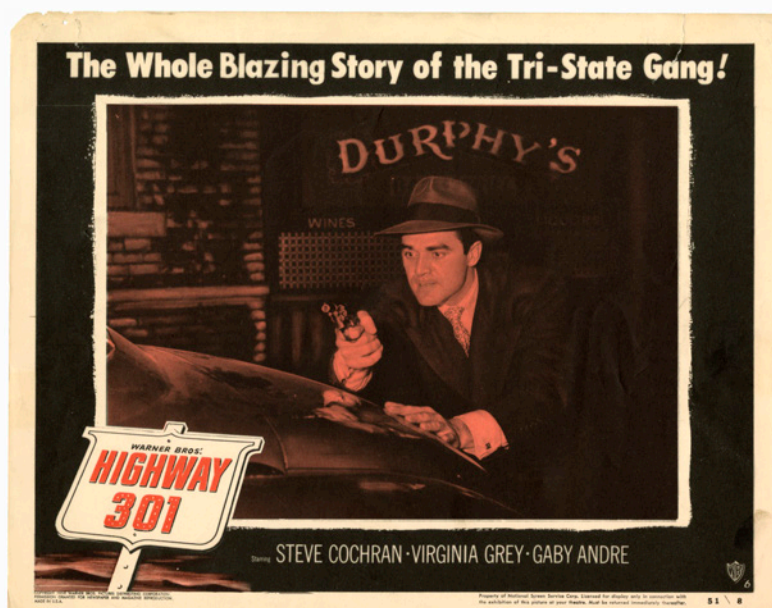
## Highway 301 opens with an awkward prelude filmed in the offices of the actual governors of Maryland, Virginia and North Carolina.

Despite aiming for a sense of documentary realism, the script is only loosely based on truth. Author Selden Richardson notes in his book *The Tri-State Gang in Richmond: Murder and Robbery in the Great Depression* (2012) that the film “wanders far from the facts.” He points out that in real life George Legenza was apprehended and died in the electric chair, while “the movie ends with the death of Legenza, not only riddled with machine gun bullets in a train station shootout but also simultaneously run over by a locomotive for good measure.”

While it’s true in this case that “crime did not pay” for the Tri-State Gang, in 1950 this true-crime story paid off at the box office. Despite receiving negative reviews, the film earned \$1.6 million at the box office according to Warner Bros. ■

### MOVIE MARKETING

Lobby cards and publicity stills were part of the promotional package used to market movies. A complete set of lobby cards was designed to convey the film’s subject matter, key scenes and stars. Actor Steve Cochran, who portrays lead gang member George Legenza in the film, figures prominently in the lobby cards shown here at top and bottom and in the publicity still at the center. Warner Bros. rushed *Highway 301* into production to capitalize on the success of the 1949 gangster film *White Heat*, in which Cochran had co-starred with James Cagney. Cochran had played the part of a gangster who acted with chilling brutality in *White Heat* as well.







JAS. R. SHEPPARD, JR.  
Director

# Department of Public Safety

HEADQUARTERS POLICE DEPARTMENT

RICHMOND, VA.



R. B. JORDAN  
Chief of Police

A. S. WRIGHT  
Capt. of Detectives

CAPTIVATING COLLECTIONS

CIRCULAR No. 2

PLEASE POST

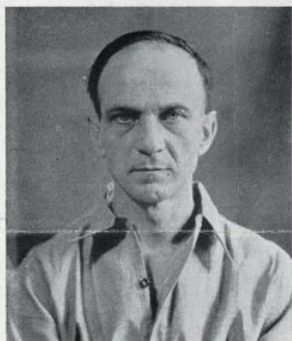
October 15, 1934

## WANTED!

Reward \$2,500.00

Escaped Murderers

NO REWARD



WALTER LEGENZA, ALIAS  
WILLIAM DAVIS, ALIAS  
POLOCK JOE

DESCRIPTION: White, 41 years old, 5 ft. 4½ in. tall, 130 lbs., small build, light brown hair, blue eyes, dark complexion; faint scar above right eyebrow, scar center of forehead, large flower in blue and red tattoo on right forearm.

16 U 10 10  
20 — MI



MARIE McKEEVER,

accessory before and after fact murder

DESCRIPTION: White, 34 years old, 5 ft. tall, 118 lbs., medium build, brown hair, brown eyes, dark complexion.

1 R 8  
1 A



ROBERT MAIS

DESCRIPTION: White, 29 years old, 5 ft. 8 in. tall, 150 lbs., medium build, light hair, grey eyes, dark complexion; pierced heart with the word Mother in blue and red tattoo on left forearm.

1 R 00 11  
17 U 10

These men were convicted of murder in the first degree and sentenced to be electrocuted in the City of Richmond, Virginia. Escaped from Richmond City Jail September 29, 1934, about 10:30 A. M., by shooting two Police Officers and a Deputy Sergeant. These men are part of a mob that operated in Philadelphia, Baltimore, Washington and Richmond, known as Tri-State Gang. See circular from United States Post Office authorities dated May 25, 1934. Both subjects are dangerous and will shoot on slightest provocation.

The Director of Public Safety of the City of Richmond, Virginia, will pay \$1,000.00 each, dead or alive, for the arrest or information leading to the arrest of the above bandits.

His Excellency, Governor of Virginia, has offered a reward by proclamation of \$250.00 each for the arrest of the above bandits.

The \$2,500.00 reward is for information leading to the arrest of the above bandits.

Wire information to authorities.  
A. S. WRIGHT,  
Captain of Detectives

### THE END OF THE TRI-STATE GANG

Real-life Tri-State Gang leaders Walter Legenza and Robert Mais had been convicted of murder and sentenced to death when they escaped from prison in Richmond on Sept. 29, 1934. They were recaptured in January 1935 in New York, returned to Richmond and executed at the Virginia Penitentiary on Feb. 2, 1935. LEFT: Wanted poster for Walter Legenza, Marie McKeever and Robert Mais, Oct. 15, 1934, Records of Governor George Peery, State Records Collection. BELOW: Death Certificate of Walter Legenza, Feb. 2, 1935, Virginia Bureau of Vital Statistics, State Records Collection.

1 PLACE OF DEATH  
COUNTY OF \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY OF \_\_\_\_\_  
INC. TOWN OF \_\_\_\_\_  
OR \_\_\_\_\_  
Richmond, Va.

2 FULL NAME (If death occurred in a hospital or other institution, give its NAME instead of street and number)  
Philadelphia, Pa. Walter Legenza.

3 SEX Male  
4 COLOR OR RACE White.  
5 SINGLE, MARRIED, WIDOWED, OR DIVORCED (write the word) Single.

6 DATE OF BIRTH (MONTH, DAY, AND YEAR, WRITE NAME OF MONTH)  
June 27, 1894

7 AGE YEARS 40 MONTHS 7 DAYS 5 IF LESS THAN 1 DAY, — HRS. OR — MIN.

8 OCCUPATION OF DECEASED  
(a) TRADE, PROFESSION, OR PARTICULAR KIND OF WORK Labor.  
(b) GENERAL NATURE OF INDUSTRY, BUSINESS, OR ESTABLISHMENT IN WHICH EMPLOYED (OR EMPLOYER)  
(c) NAME OF EMPLOYER None.

9 BIRTHPLACE (CITY OR TOWN)  
Poland.

10 NAME OF FATHER John Legenza.  
11 BIRTHPLACE OF FATHER (CITY OR TOWN)  
Poland.

12 MAIDEN NAME OF MOTHER Not known.  
13 BIRTHPLACE OF MOTHER (CITY OR TOWN)  
Poland.

CERTIFICATE OF DEATH  
COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA  
BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS  
STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

REGISTRATION DISTRICT NO. 500 Spring  
(TO BE INSERTED BY REGISTRAR)  
REGISTERED NO. 305  
(FOR USE OF LOCAL REGISTRAR)

16 DATE OF DEATH (MONTH, DAY, AND YEAR, WRITE NAME OF MONTH)  
February 2, 1935

17 I HEREBY CERTIFY, THAT I ATTENDED DECEASED FROM 19 TO 19  
THAT I LAST SAW HIM ALIVE ON Feb. 2, 1935  
AND THAT DEATH OCCURRED, ON DATE STATED ABOVE, AT 8:06 A.M.  
ELECTROCUTED BY ORDER OF  
Hustings Court of Richmond, Va.

18 WHERE WAS DISEASE CONTRACTED? PLACE of death  
IF NOT AT PLACE OF DEATH

DID AN OPERATION PRECEDE DEATH? No. DATE OF

WAS THERE AN AUTOPSY? No.

WHAT TEST CONFIRMED DIAGNOSIS? Usual.  
(SIGNED) Herbert Mann,  
2-2-35



## Groundbreaking African Americans Honored

Each year the Library of Virginia and Dominion Energy honor a group of distinguished Virginians as the Strong Men & 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 featured here offer powerful examples of individuals who refused to be defined by their circumstances. Through education and advocacy, they demonstrate how African Americans have actively campaigned for better lives for themselves and their people. Biographies of honorees are displayed in an exhibition at the Library; featured on materials sent to schools, libraries and museums across Virginia; and included on an educational website for teachers and students ([edu.lva.virginia.gov/strong-men-women-in-virginia-history](http://edu.lva.virginia.gov/strong-men-women-in-virginia-history)). Further information about distinguished African Americans from Virginia can be found in the *Dictionary of Virginia Biography* (Library of Virginia, 1998–2006).

### Congratulations to the 2023 Strong Men & Women Student Creative Expressions Contest Winners

#### CENTRAL REGION

**JONAH BURTON**  
Henrico High School  
Henrico County

#### EASTERN REGION

**ALEXA KOECKRITZ**  
Grafton High School  
Yorktown

#### NORTHERN REGION

**LILY VIETMEYER**  
Washington Liberty  
High School  
Arlington County

#### WESTERN REGION

**MARIA TURNER**  
Patrick County  
High School  
Patrick County

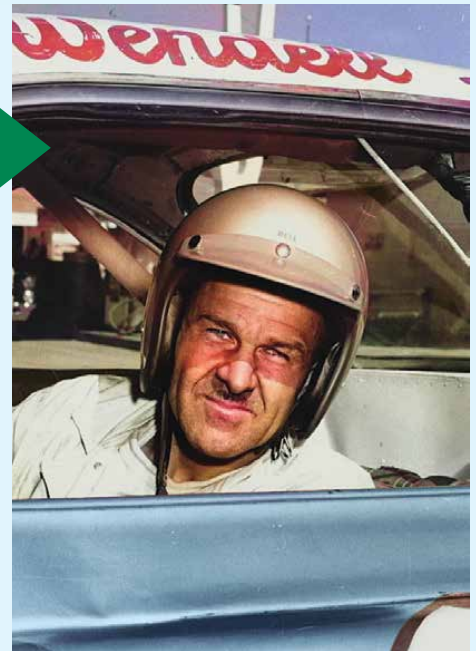
Winners receive an Apple iPad and \$1,000 for their schools. Each year, high school students throughout Virginia are eligible to participate in a contest sponsored by Dominion Energy and the Library of Virginia as part of the program recognizing the achievements of African Americans in the commonwealth. Entrants submitted a creative writing, performance or digital project on the subject of local history or stories that have been hidden in their communities. One winner was selected from each of Dominion's Energy's four regions. To learn more, go to [edu.lva.virginia.gov/strong-men-women-in-virginia-history](http://edu.lva.virginia.gov/strong-men-women-in-virginia-history).

### Wendell Oliver Scott

1921–1990  
Danville

#### STOCK CAR DRIVER

Wendell Scott endured racism on and off the track to become the first African American to win at the highest level of stock car racing.



### Colonel Quentin Joseph Smith Jr., USAF, Retired

1945–  
Hampton

#### AIR FORCE PILOT & MENTOR

Former Air Force pilot Quentin J. Smith Jr. is dedicated to sharing the inspirational legacy of the Tusgee Airmen with young people.

2023

## Strong Men & Women in Virginia History

PRESENTED BY



[WWW.LVA.VIRGINIA.GOV/SMW](http://WWW.LVA.VIRGINIA.GOV/SMW)





## Reverend Raymond Rogers “R.R.” Wilkinson

**1923–1993**  
**Roanoke**

**BAPTIST MINISTER &  
CIVIL RIGHTS LEADER**

A civil rights pioneer, Raymond “R.R.” Wilkinson courageously led the fight against racial injustice in his community.

## Ora Scruggs McCoy

**1942–**  
**Appomattox County**

**FARMER &  
COMMUNITY ACTIVIST**

Ora Scruggs McCoy is committed to preserving her family’s farm and her community’s rich African American history.



## Sheila Bowen Taylor

**1949–**  
**Norfolk**

**NUCLEAR ENGINEER  
& MENTOR**

One of the first women to work as a nuclear engineer at Norfolk Naval Shipyard, Sheila Bowen Taylor is passionate about increasing diversity in STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) professions.

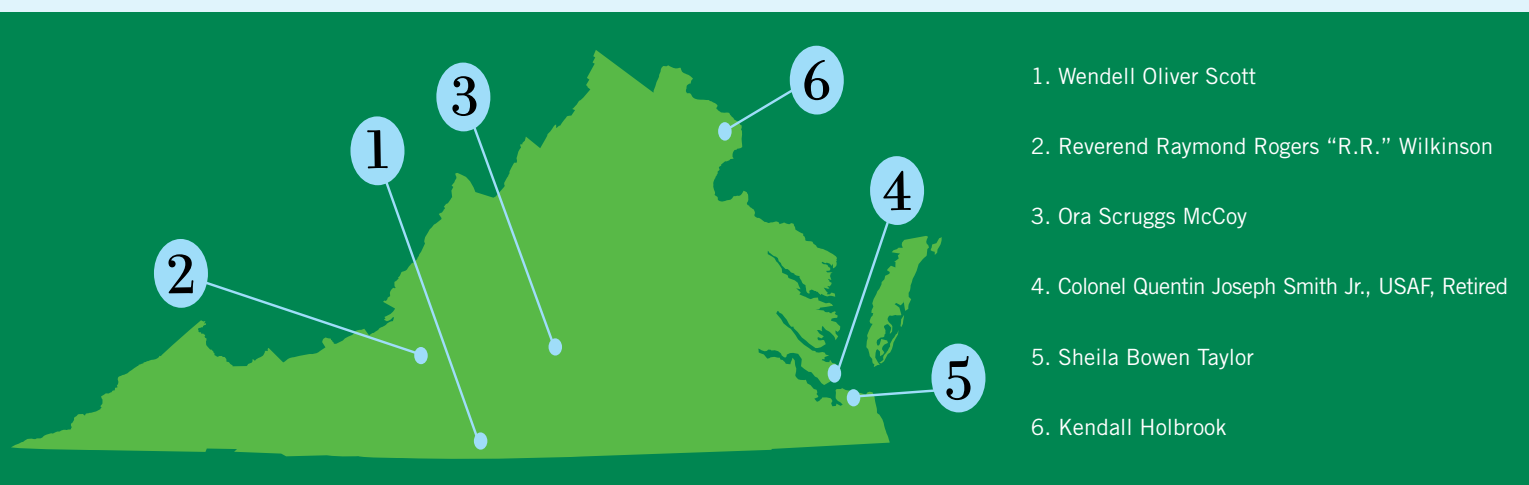


## Kendall Holbrook

**1974–**  
**Fairfax County**

**CEO & MENTOR**

As the CEO of an information technology company, Kendall Holbrook cultivates a culture of inclusion and serves as a mentor to women in STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) professions.



1. Wendell Oliver Scott
2. Reverend Raymond Rogers “R.R.” Wilkinson
3. Ora Scruggs McCoy
4. Colonel Quentin Joseph Smith Jr., USAF, Retired
5. Sheila Bowen Taylor
6. Kendall Holbrook

**Photo Credits:** Scott, courtesy of the Wendell Scott Foundation. Wilkinson, courtesy of the R.R. Wilkinson Foundation. McCoy, courtesy of Ora Scruggs McCoy. Smith, courtesy of Quentin J. Smith Jr. Taylor, courtesy of Sheila Bowen Taylor. Holbrook, courtesy of Kendall Holbrook.



# CELEBRATE VIRGINIA LITERATURE

Make plans now to attend the Virginia Literary Awards on October 14, 2023

## Virginia Literary Awards

Saturday, Oct. 14

Purchase your tickets today at  
[lvafoundation.org/literaryawards](http://lvafoundation.org/literaryawards).

Join us for Virginia's biggest night honoring its authors and their stories! Hosted by award-winning author Adriana Trigiani, the 26th Annual Virginia Literary Awards Celebration will be held on Saturday, Oct. 14, 2023, at the Library of Virginia, with nominated authors, presenters and special guests. Dominion Energy and Carole and Marcus Weinstein are the presenting sponsors for this year's event, which attracts all who enjoy the written word and support literature.

The Virginia Literary Awards—our way of thanking the Virginia authors whose works have enriched our lives and filled our libraries—are presented to outstanding Virginia authors in the areas of poetry, fiction and nonfiction. (The nonfiction category includes any author whose book is on a Virginia subject.) Also presented are the People's Choice Awards for fiction and nonfiction and Art in Literature: The Mary Lynn Kotz Award. Additionally, the Library will award four distinguished Virginians with the honorary Patron of Letters degree, the Library of Virginia's highest honor.

Don't miss your chance to attend the awards ceremony and dinner and bid on exciting silent auction packages to raise support for the Library's preservation, education and research initiatives. To purchase your individual tickets, please visit [lvafoundation.org/literaryawards](http://lvafoundation.org/literaryawards). Interested in hosting a table for your family, friends or business? Call 804.692.3592.



Host Adriana Trigiani.

## David and Michelle Baldacci, Nikki Giovanni and Meg Medina to Receive Honorary Patron of Letters Degrees

Best-selling author David Baldacci and his wife, Michelle, a passionate literacy advocate; renowned poet and educator Nikki Giovanni; and award-winning children's author Meg Medina will be honored at the 26th Annual Virginia Literary Awards Celebration with the Library's honorary Patron of Letters degree.

Granted by the Library Board, the honorary Patron of Letters degree recognizes individuals who have made significant contributions to the fields of history, library science, the literary arts or archival science. This year's honorees have distinguished themselves through their efforts to promote libraries through literature, literacy advocacy and poetry.

David and Michelle Baldacci's Wish You Well Foundation supports family and adult literacy programs and has partnered with Feeding America to launch Feeding Body & Mind, a program to address the connection between literacy, poverty and hunger. Nikki Giovanni uses bold language to address social issues, and her recent children's book, *A Library*, is an ode to the magic of a library as a place not only for knowledge but also for imagination, exploration and escape. In her role as the 2023–2024 National Ambassador of Young People's Literature, Meg Medina raises awareness of the importance of young people's literature as it relates to lifelong literacy, education and the development and betterment of the lives of young people.

"The Library Board is thrilled to honor these four outstanding individuals for their important work in Virginia and across the country on behalf of libraries, readers, literacy and the community," said C. Paul Brockwell Jr., Library Board chair. "We are excited to recognize these accomplished honorees during the Library's 200th anniversary year."



CLOCKWISE FROM UPPER LEFT: David and Michelle Baldacci, Nikki Giovanni and Meg Medina.



## FINALISTS FOR THE LITERARY AWARDS & PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARDS

The Virginia Literary Awards finalists were chosen by an independent panel of judges from books nominated. The People's Choice Award winners will be selected by votes that were submitted by the public this summer. The winners in all categories will be announced at the Virginia Literary Awards Celebration on Saturday, October 14, 2023.

### 2023 LITERARY AWARDS

#### FICTION

**BILL GLOSE** | All the Ruined Men: Stories

**BRUCE HOLSINGER** | The Displacements

**BARBARA KINGSOLVER** | Demon Copperhead

#### NONFICTION

**MARGARET EDDS** | What the Eyes Can't See: Ralph Northam, Black Resolve, and a Racial Reckoning in Virginia

**JONATHAN M. KATZ** | Gangsters of Capitalism: Smedley Butler, the Marines, and the Making and Breaking of America's Empire

**BETH MACY** | Raising Lazarus: Hope, Justice, and the Future of America's Overdose Crisis

#### POETRY

**LAURA BYLENOK** | Living Room

**MELANIE MCCABE** | The Night Divers

**GREGORY ORR** | Selected Books of the Beloved

### PRESENTING SPONSORS



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### 2023 PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARDS

#### FICTION

**YASMIN ANGEO** | They Come at Knight

**JACK DU BRUL** | Clive Cussler: The Sea Wolves

**BRUCE HOLSINGER** | The Displacements

**BARBARA KINGSOLVER** | Demon Copperhead

**SHAUNA ROBINSON** | Must Love Books

#### NONFICTION

**TAYLOR HARRIS** | This Boy We Made: A Memoir of Motherhood, Genetics, and Facing the Unknown

**JONATHAN M. KATZ** | Gangsters of Capitalism: Smedley Butler, the Marines, and the Making and Breaking of America's Empire

**DAHLIA LITHWICK** | Lady Justice: Women, the Law, and the Battle to Save America

**BETH MACY** | Raising Lazarus: Hope, Justice, and the Future of America's Overdose Crisis

**KATHRYN MILES** | Trailed: One Woman's Quest to Solve the Shenandoah Murders

## Save the Date



**Friday, Oct. 13** | 6:00–8:00 p.m.

**ART IN LITERATURE: THE MARY LYNN KOTZ AWARD**

Place: Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Marble Hall

Cost: \$8 (\$5 for Library of Virginia & VMFA members)

Registration required: [lvafoundation.org/kotztickets](https://lvafoundation.org/kotztickets)

The Library of Virginia and the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts present Art in Literature: The Mary Lynn Kotz Award. Join us for a presentation exploring the relationship between literature and the visual arts. A book signing and reception will follow the program.





# Summer Reading Gets Results

SUMMER READING PROGRAMS

## *Library of Virginia sponsors programs for children, teens and adults at public libraries*

**S**ummer reading programs offer children, teens and adults opportunities to retain and enhance their reading skills, explore topics of interest through fiction and nonfiction, and participate in informational and entertaining programming. They also serve as valuable outreach tools for libraries, as they expand their community of readers. Children and teens who participate in summer library programs benefit from activities that promote literacy development and help to counter summer reading loss.

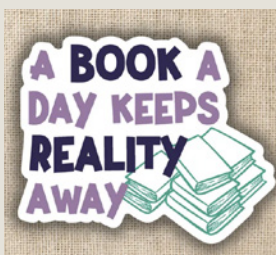
The Library of Virginia supports libraries in these endeavors by encouraging people of all ages to read and use their public libraries. Virginia is a member of the Collaborative Summer Learning Program, which offers print materials for summer reading programs and access to a comprehensive programming manual. The Library also offers support for Beanstack, an online tracking program. Through Find it Virginia, the NovelList database offers recommendations to help users find books that match their reading level and interests.

With the slogan “All Together Now,” this summer’s theme focuses on kindness, friendship and unity and features artwork by award-winning illustrator Frank Morrison. The Library of Virginia supports public libraries’ summer learning and reading programs with federal funds provided by the Institute of Museum and Library Services through the Library Services and Technology Act. A list of public libraries in Virginia is available at [www.lva.virginia.gov/public/libraries.asp](http://www.lva.virginia.gov/public/libraries.asp).

—Susan La Paro, Children’s and Youth Services Consultant



## LOCAL & LITERARY GIFTS



Whether you’re looking for a gift with a Richmond or Virginia theme, a literary-inspired item or a great book, the Virginia Shop has you covered.

Visit in person Tuesday–Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Or shop online anytime at [THEVIRGINIASHOP.ORG](http://THEVIRGINIASHOP.ORG).

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**virginia**  
SHOP

800 East Broad Street | Richmond, VA 23219  
[www.thevirginiashop.org](http://www.thevirginiashop.org) | 804.692.3524  
email: [shop@thevirginiashop.org](mailto:shop@thevirginiashop.org)



# Virginia Genealogical Society Supports World War II Separation Notices Digitization Project

The Virginia Genealogical Society has been a generous longtime supporter of the Library of Virginia's preservation and access efforts. VGS has helped the Library conserve important collections like George Mason's private papers, the Independent Order of St. Luke records and select maps from the Board of Public Works.

Most recently, VGS awarded the Library with a \$10,000 donation to support the Virginia World War II Separation Notices digitization project. VGS president Nicki Burch said, "I am very pleased that VGS is able to make this donation to the Library of Virginia for the purpose of digitizing the Virginia World War II Separation Notices. This is money that our members and other individuals have donated to the Virginia Records Fund, whose purpose is to promote the physical preservation of and the dissemination of the intellectual content of the historical records of the Commonwealth of Virginia. The Virginia World War II Separation Notices will definitely be useful to researchers, since they include personal identifying information as well as military information. I am looking forward to using them myself!"

Thanks to the generosity of donors like you, the Library of Virginia has become a world-class destination for the exploration of Virginia's people, history and culture. Your annual support helps sustain the Library's commitment to inspire learning, ignite imagination, create possibilities, encourage understanding and engage Virginia's past to empower its future.

We hope you will join steadfast donors like the Virginia Genealogical Society in their support of the Library of Virginia. It's easier than ever to make an annual gift or commit to monthly installments. Make your contribution online at [www.lva.virginia.gov/donate](http://www.lva.virginia.gov/donate). If you would like to learn how to support conservation projects, please call 804.692.3592.

Your support makes the Library of Virginia's work possible!



## LONGTIME SUPPORTERS

ABOVE: Library of Virginia Foundation executive director **Scott Dodson** accepts a donation from Virginia Genealogical Society president **Nicki Burch** at a VGS member luncheon on June 1, 2023, during the National Genealogical Society's Family History Conference.

LEFT: The Virginia Genealogical Society's latest donation to the Library will support the digitization of Virginia World War II Separation Notices, such as this one for Fred A. Walker. Virginia World War II History Commission, Separation Notices and Reports, 1942–1950.

## ENLISTED RECORD AND REPORT OF SEPARATION HONORABLE DISCHARGE

1. LAST NAME - FIRST NAME - MIDDLE INITIAL <b>WALKER FRED A</b>		2. ARMY SERIAL NO. <b>35 934 777</b>		3. GRADE <b>T-5</b>		4. ARM OR SERVICE <b>QMC</b>		5. COMPONENT <b>AUS</b>	
6. ORGANIZATION <b>3254TH QM SV CO</b>		7. DATE OF SEPARATION <b>6 NOV 46</b>		8. PLACE OF SEPARATION <b>CENTER FT BRAGG NC</b>		9. PLACE OF SEPARATION <b>SEPARATION</b>			
9. PERMANENT ADDRESS FOR MAILING PURPOSES <b>W LESLIE GREENBRIER CO VA</b>		10. DATE OF BIRTH <b>13 NOV 23</b>		11. PLACE OF BIRTH <b>LIGHT VA</b>		12. ADDRESS FROM WHICH EMPLOYMENT WILL BE SOUGHT <b>SEE 9</b>			
13. COLOR EYES <b>BROWN</b>		14. COLOR HAIR <b>BLACK</b>		15. HEIGHT <b>5-9 1/2</b>		16. WEIGHT <b>150</b>		17. NO. DEPEND. <b>3</b>	
18. RACE <b>WHITE</b>		19. MARITAL STATUS <b>SINGLE</b>		20. U.S. CITIZEN <b>YES</b>		21. CIVILIAN OCCUPATION AND NO. <b>MINER 1 5-21-020</b>			
MILITARY HISTORY									
22. DATE OF INDUCTION <b>31 JAN 46</b>		23. DATE OF ENLISTMENT <b>31 JAN 46</b>		24. DATE OF ENTRY INTO ACTIVE SERVICE <b>31 JAN 46</b>		25. PLACE OF ENTRY INTO SERVICE <b>CP ATTENBURY IND</b>			
26. REGISTERED <b>YES</b>		27. LOCAL S.S. BOARD NO. <b>1</b>		28. COUNTY AND STATE <b>W VA GREENBRIER CO VA</b>		29. HOME ADDRESS AT TIME OF ENTRY INTO SERVICE <b>SEE 9</b>			
30. MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTY AND NO. <b>TRUCK DRIVER LIGHT 345</b>		31. MILITARY QUALIFICATION AND DATE (i.e., infantry, aviation and marksmanship badges, etc.) <b>MM 30 CAL RIF M-1</b>		32. BATTLES AND CAMPAIGNS <b>NONE</b>		33. DECORATIONS AND CITATIONS <b>ASIATIC PACIFIC SERVICE MEDAL; GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL; WORLD WAR II VICTORY MEDAL;</b>			
34. WOUNDS RECEIVED IN ACTION <b>NONE</b>		35. LATEST IMMUNIZATION DATES <b>SMALLPOX 20 FEB 45 17 MAR 45 TYP 26 JUL 45</b>		36. SERVICE OUTSIDE CONTINENTAL U.S. AND RETURN <b>DATE OF DEPARTURE 28 JUL 45 DESTINATION APT USA DATE OF ARRIVAL 4 AUG 45 15 SEP 46</b>		37. TOTAL LENGTH OF SERVICE <b>CONTINENTAL SERVICE 0 6 6 1 1 18 FOREIGN SERVICE TEC 5</b>			
38. PRIOR SERVICE <b>NONE</b>		39. REASON AND AUTHORITY FOR SEPARATION <b>CONV OF GOV REG-1 DEMOBILIZATION AR 615-365 15 DEC 44</b>		40. SERVICE SCHOOLS ATTENDED <b>42. EDUCATION (Years) Grammar   High School   College</b>					

## 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. If you are interested, please contact Annie Rae Carlton at [annierae.carlton@lva.virginia.gov](mailto:annierae.carlton@lva.virginia.gov) or 804.692.3813—or visit [www.lvafoundation.org/volunteer](http://www.lvafoundation.org/volunteer).







# Revealing History's Layers Through Maps

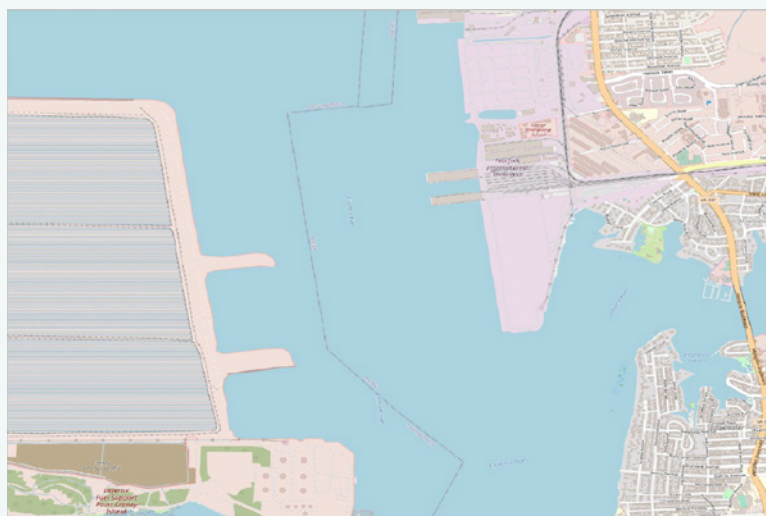
**Georectification process matches historical maps to real-world locations**

**BY CASSANDRA FARRELL**

Digital tools can help historians and archivists present historical narratives visually through georectification. The georectification process involves adding geographic information to a digital image—such as a map or an aerial photo—so that GIS or mapping software can match the image to its appropriate real-world location. Once a historical map has been georeferenced, researchers can view the map's layers, such as shown in this 19th-century map layered over a current map from a geographic database.

In the image above, a map called *Plan of Operations at Crane Island, June 22, 1813*, by George Francis de la Roche is layered over a current image from OpenStreetMap.org. A landmark of the War of 1812, Crane Island is a point of land in Portsmouth near the mouth of the Elizabeth River. It lost its island status in 1938 after being connected to the mainland.

The *Journal of the House of Delegates of Virginia, 1848–1849*, mentions a “rough drawing, sketched and coloured by George F. de la Roche, on the 23d of June, 1813, in the marquee of Major



#### EVOLVING LANDSCAPE

The image on the opposite page combines an 1813 map called *Plan of Operations at Craney Island* with a current image of the same location from OpenStreetMap.org. The two individual maps are shown above.

Faulkner, the commanding officer of artillery, the day after the action, exhibiting a general view of the topography of the country, and of the position of the American and British forces and shipping, which . . . was kindly presented to the state librarian, to be preserved in the public library of the commonwealth.”

Although this sketch is not listed in the Library's catalog for 1849, and it appears that the title and de la Roche's name were penciled on the Craney Island map at a later date, this map might be the one referenced in the *Journal*.

Today, Craney Island is the site of a naval supply center and the area's topography has changed. This georeferenced map provides viewers a peek into what the island looked like before the Hampton Roads area's massive population growth and development during the 20th century.

The Library of Virginia plans to georeference additional historical maps to document the commonwealth's changing landscape with the goal of making them available for researchers. ■

Cassandra Farrell is the Library of Virginia's senior map archivist. A version of this article appeared in the Library's blog, *The UncommonWealth*.



#### CORRECTION | FLIPPED PHOTO FUMBLE

Thank you to reader Andrew Doss who noticed a reversed photograph in the article titled “D.P. Weeks & the Early Days of Virginia's Car Culture” in our previous issue (2023, No. 2). Discerning front from back was difficult because of the photograph's glass plate format and the fact that no easily identified writing appears in the image. The correct orientation shown here depicts the “Good Roads Tour,” a long-distance auto competition, during a lunch stop at the Henry County Courthouse square in Martinsville on Oct. 29, 1909. Gravely Family Papers, Personal Papers Collection.





# BECOMING VIRGINIANS

## NATURALIZATION RECORDS ARE NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE

A collection of naturalization records now available online can help tell the story of an individual's journey from immigrant to Virginia citizen. Visit [bit.ly/LVA-naturalization-records](https://bit.ly/LVA-naturalization-records) to view these recently digitized county and city records. Many immigrants to Virginia choose to become United States citizens. The naturalization process changed over time, from being overseen by Virginia's colonial government under the direction of Great Britain to a federal system administered by local courts. The Library of Virginia has citizenship records prior to 1900 and a growing number of 20th-century records.

Naturalization records typically include affidavits, reports for naturalization, declarations of intent to become United States citizens and notices of application for admission of citizenship. The reports are narrative accounts made by applicants summarizing their journey to the United States. The declarations of intent record the person's name, place of birth, age, country of previous citizenship, renunciation of allegiance and fidelity to the nation of which the person was currently a citizen, and the date the intention was sworn. The collection includes affidavits given by individuals who knew the applicants and could vouch for their loyalty to the United States.

In 2019, the Library of Virginia organized the transcription of numerous naturalization records through our Making History program, in which volunteer transcribers read the original texts and type the information into digital form to make it more accessible. After careful review by Library staff members, the transcriptions are added to digital record collections.

Naturalization Records for Virginians ([lva-virginia.libguides.com/naturalization](https://lva-virginia.libguides.com/naturalization)), an online research guide, can offer assistance for researchers using the collection. Find more digital collections at our Digital Collections Discovery page: [bit.ly/LVA-digital-collections-discovery](https://bit.ly/LVA-digital-collections-discovery). ■



Virginia: In the County Court of the County of Powhatan,  
1912.  
B. Coppeng, an alien, a native of Great Britain,  
this day applied to the court to be admitted a citizen of the United States of America; whereupon the said B. Coppeng proved that he has resided in the United States more than five years, that he came to the United States before he was sixteen years old, that more than two years ago, he declared on oath in open court, that it was bona fide his intention to become a citizen of the United States, and to renounce forever all allegiance and fidelity to every foreign prince, potentate, state or sovereignty whatsoever, and particularly to Edward the VII King of Great Britain and it being proven to the satisfaction of the court that the said B. Coppeng has resided in the said United States for the continued term of five years last past at least, and within the State of Virginia for one year last past at least, and during that time he has behaved as a man of good moral character, attached to the principles of the Constitution of the United States, and well disposed to the good order and happiness of the same; he, the said B. Coppeng declared on oath in open court, that he will support the Constitution of the United States, and that he doth absolutely and entirely renounce and abjure all allegiance and fidelity to every foreign prince, potentate, state or sovereignty whatever, and particularly to Edward VII King of Great Britain of whom he is a subject; and thereupon the said B. Coppeng is admitted a citizen of the United States.

A copy—Teste:

Clerk. 2

## DIGITAL COLLECTIONS

The report of Simon Ghio to the Court of Norfolk County in order to become a citizen of the United States. — Simon Ghio reports that he was born at sea in the Gulf of Sardinia under the flag of Sardinia on the 4th of July 1799 & that he is now in the 36th year of his age — That he is a cooper by trade — that he owes allegiance to the Sovereign of Sardinia — That he left the Port of Genova in the American Brig Betsey on the day of June 1825 and reached the Cape of Henry 4 days afterwards, when the Brig was lost on Cape Henry — that he came thence to Portsmouth where he has resided ever since — that it is his intention to reside in Portsmouth Virginia — April 21st 1835 — Simon Ghio 3

### JOURNEYS TO CITIZENSHIP

1. In April 1866, Patrick Kealty, formerly of Ireland, submitted his declaration of intention in Norfolk County, renouncing his allegiance to Queen Victoria and announcing his plan to become a citizen of Portsmouth, Virginia. 2. A 1902 naturalization record from Powhatan County states that B. Coppeng, a native of Great Britain, had “behaved as a man of good moral character, attached to the principles of the Constitution of the United States, and well disposed to the good order and happiness of the same” in his application for citizenship after residing at least five years in the United States and one year in Virginia. 3. In his report to the Norfolk County Court filed in 1835, Simon Ghio of Sardinia explains that he came to Virginia in 1825 after his ship, the brig *Betsey*, sank near Cape Henry.

The collection includes affidavits given by individuals who knew the applicants and could vouch for their loyalty to the United States.

## Help Preserve & Share Virginia's Stories!

Your support helps the Library preserve and provide access to amazing collections that contain the stories of Virginians. Please consider making a gift at [lva.virginia.gov/donate](http://lva.virginia.gov/donate).

# Take One Small Step, Richmond!

#LETSTALKRICHMOND



ONE SMALL STEP

powered by StoryCorps

## StoryCorp's One Small Step Visits the Library This Fall

One Small Step brings strangers with different political views together to record a 50-minute facilitated conversation—not to debate politics, but to learn more about who we are as people. It's an effort to remind the country of the humanity in all of us—even those with whom we disagree. One Small Step is currently focused in Richmond and will record conversations at the Library of Virginia Oct. 2–6, 2023. If you're interested in participating, apply to be matched at [onesmallstep.storycorps.org/library-of-virginia](http://onesmallstep.storycorps.org/library-of-virginia).



# behind the scenes

## INSIDE THE PRIVATE PAPERS COLLECTION

*Questions for Trenton Hizer,  
Senior Manuscripts Acquisition &  
Digital Archivist*

**T**he Private Papers Collection consists of unpublished documents created by individuals, families, businesses, organizations and institutions—in other words, items that are not records created by state or local government entities. The materials fall into three major categories: personal papers, business records and organization records. These are augmented by Bible records, cemetery records, church records and genealogical notes and charts. The documents include accounts, bonds, charts, deeds, diaries, invoices, letters, memorandums, notes, receipts, wills and other papers that span 400 years of Virginia history. Library staff members work to expand the scope and range of these collections to provide historians and genealogists with sources that provide detail, context and nuance to their research on Virginia and family histories. Senior manuscripts acquisition and digital archivist Trenton Hizer answers some questions below.

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

**Trenton Hizer:** History has been my greatest interest from a young age. My parents bought me “How and Why Wonder Books” on the American Revolution and the Civil War when I was a kid and I was hooked. I majored in history at Old Dominion University, and received my master’s and Ph.D. degrees from the University of South Carolina. At the time I received my doctorate, teaching jobs were scarce and far afield. I preferred returning to Virginia, where I grew up, rather than relocating farther away from family. This led to a brief stint doing tours at Colonial Williamsburg before I came to the Library of Virginia to work part-time on Local Records in 1997. I became full time in 1998, and then moved into Private Papers in 1999. The rest, as they say, is history!



### HANDLING HISTORY

AT TOP: Senior manuscripts acquisition and digital archivist **Trenton Hizer**, shown here in the Private Papers Collection storage area in the Library’s stacks, helps to provide a safe and secure home for valuable private manuscripts. ABOVE AND AT RIGHT: This scrapbook highlighting the 1963 football season of the Churchland High School Truckers, which belonged to Gary Estes of Portsmouth, is just one of many scrapbooks in the personal papers section of the collection.

**TH:** What's not to like? I'm looking at 400 years of people's thoughts and actions, some good, some bad, all interesting and informative. Sometimes what looks to be an innocuous little letter opens up a whole new perspective and causes me to rethink what I thought I knew about Virginia history. Working in Private Papers expands my scope of understanding of the commonwealth's past. It's fascinating to discover two diametrically opposed documents on the same event and learn why there are two (or more) perspectives. I also enjoy traveling across Virginia to meet the people who donate these collections. They are often as interesting, if not more so, than the collections they own. Sometimes those visits have taken me to wonderful old homes and buildings that I might not otherwise have a chance to see.

**TH:** A recent item that I found interesting is a document titled “The Hermit of Watt’s Island” by Charles Hardenberg (1875–1937). Hardenberg had lived as the sole inhabitant on the little island located halfway between Tangier Island and the Eastern Shore for 12 years when he wrote his account. He chronicled his day-to-day activities, visits by local watermen and interested sightseers, and his own excursions to the small bay towns of Virginia and Maryland. Hardenberg left Watt’s Island in 1920, not intending to return, but the pull of his isolated haven brought him back there within the year.

I have been requested by several friends and acquaintances to write of my experiences while living the life of a hermit, as they called it, on Watt's Island and whether the story is interesting enough for those who start reading it to finish, time alone can tell. It is my first attempt at writing a book and probably the last and I trust that those who read it will be generous and not criticise it too severely.

The collection includes manuscripts such as Charles Hardenberg's account of his 12 years as "The Hermit of Watt's Island" in the Chesapeake Bay.

**What would surprise people about the collection or the work that you do?**

**TH:** Many people may be surprised to learn that the state archives collects private—nongovernment—papers at all. The Library has done so for well over 100 years! The *Code of Virginia* states that the Library of Virginia “shall cause to be procured from time to time, as opportunity may offer, a copy of any book, pamphlet, manuscript, or other library materials relating to the history of Virginia.” H.J. Eckenrode, in his first report as chief of the Department of Archives and History in 1906, declared that “a determined effort is being made to gain for the Library a number of important collections of manuscripts now in the hands of private persons. . . . [I]t is hoped that a number of valuable collections may be secured.” The Library still pursues Eckenrode’s goal of providing a safe and secure home for valuable private manuscripts that broaden and deepen our understanding of Virginia and its past.

**“Sometimes what looks to be an innocuous little letter opens up a whole new perspective and causes me to rethink what I thought I knew about Virginia history.”**

## Help Preserve Virginia's History!

Your support helps the Library care for its valuable Private Papers Collection, which includes family papers, cemetery records and genealogical notes and charts. Please consider making a gift at [www.lva.virginia.gov/donate](http://www.lva.virginia.gov/donate).





# calendar

## SUMMER/FALL EVENTS

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

ALL EVENTS ARE FREE UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.



**Wednesdays: Aug. 9, Sept. 13, Oct. 11 & Nov. 8**  
5:30–7:30 p.m.

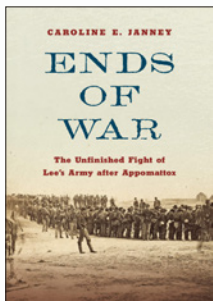
### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

#### Making History with LVA

Place: Online

Registration required; [bit.ly/LVAvirtualvolunteer](http://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](mailto:makinghistory@virginiamemory.com) or call HandsOn Greater Richmond at 804.330.7400.



**Wednesdays: Aug. 9 & Sept. 13** | 6:00–7:30 p.m.

### BOOK CLUB

#### Literary Virginia Book Group

Place: Online

Registration required: [lva.virginia.gov/public/literary\\_virginia\\_book\\_group](http://lva.virginia.gov/public/literary_virginia_book_group)

Read and discuss the best of today's Virginia literature. On

the second Wednesday of each month, join a virtual book group discussion. August's book is *Ends of War: The Unfinished Fight of Lee's Army after Appomattox* by Caroline E. Janney, a 2022 Virginia Literary Awards finalist for Nonfiction. September's book is *The Tender Grave* by Sheri Reynolds, a 2022 Virginia Literary Awards finalist for Fiction. For more information, contact Nan Carmack at [nan.carmack@lva.virginia.gov](mailto:nan.carmack@lva.virginia.gov) or 804.692.3792.



**Saturdays: Aug. 19 & Oct. 21** | 12:00–2:00 p.m.

### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

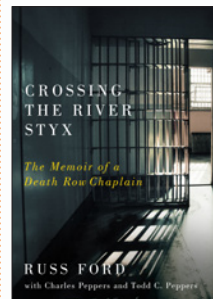
#### Making History with LVA

Place: Computer Classroom

Registration required:

[bit.ly/makinghistory-inperson](http://bit.ly/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](mailto:makinghistory@virginiamemory.com) or call HandsOn Greater Richmond at 804.330.7400.



**Thursday, Sept. 14**  
6:00–7:30 p.m.

### WEINSTEIN AUTHOR

#### SERIES: RUSS FORD

#### WITH TODD C. PEPPERS

#### Crossing the River Styx

Place: Lecture Hall

Registration required:

[lva.virginia.gov/public/weinstein](http://lva.virginia.gov/public/weinstein)

Join us for a talk on the book *Crossing the River Styx: The Memoir of a Death Row Chaplain* with authors Russ Ford, a retired chaplain, and Todd C. Peppers, a professor of law and public affairs. As the head chaplain on Virginia's death row for 18 years, Ford spent years forging close bonds with the condemned and developing a nuanced understanding of their crimes, their early struggles and their challenges behind bars. His unusual ministry makes this memoir a unique and compelling read. For more information, contact Catherine Fitzgerald Wyatt at [catherine.fitzgeraldwyatt@lva.virginia.gov](mailto:catherine.fitzgeraldwyatt@lva.virginia.gov) or 804.692.3999.

**Tuesdays: Sept. 19, Oct. 17 & Nov. 14** | 6:00–7:30 p.m.

### BOOK CLUB

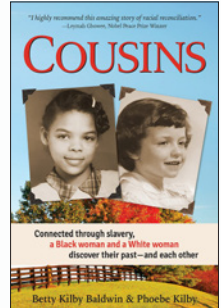
#### Common Ground Virginia History Book Group

Place: Online

Registration required:

[lva.virginia.gov/public/virginia\\_history\\_book\\_group](http://lva.virginia.gov/public/virginia_history_book_group)

Join a virtual book group discussion on compelling nonfiction books handpicked by Library staff members. September's book is *Cousins: Connected Through Slavery, a Black Woman and a White Woman Discover Their Past—and Each Other* by Betty Kilby Baldwin and Phoebe Kilby. October's book is *Burn the Page: A True Story of Torching Doubts, Blazing Trails, and Igniting Change* by Danica Roem. November's book is *Nickelodeons and Black Vaudeville: The Forgotten Story of Amanda Thorp* by Kathi Clark Wong. For more information, contact Rebecca Schneider at [rebecca.schneider@lva.virginia.gov](mailto:rebecca.schneider@lva.virginia.gov) or 804.692.3550.



**Saturday, Sept. 23** | 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.

### VOLUNTEER CELEBRATION

#### Transcribe-a-versary Celebration

Place: Conference Rooms

Registration required:

[bit.ly/makinghistory-inperson](http://bit.ly/makinghistory-inperson)

Join us for the yearly celebration of our crowdsourcing programs, featuring guest speakers, archivists and newly digitized records for transcription. Guided by Library staff members, volunteers will transcribe handwritten pages from cemetery records and other collections by reading the text and typing it into digital form. Boxed lunches will be provided. For more information, contact Sonya Coleman at [makinghistory@virginiamemory.com](mailto:makinghistory@virginiamemory.com) or call HandsOn Greater Richmond at 804.330.7400.

Friday, Oct. 6 | 9:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

### GENEALOGY WORKSHOP

#### Finding Your African American Female Ancestors



Place: Conference Rooms

\$25 (\$20 for Library of Virginia Foundation members)

Registration required:

[bit.ly/LVA-AfAm-female-ancestor](http://bit.ly/LVA-AfAm-female-ancestor)

Library of Virginia reference archivist Cara Griggs provides an overview of researching African American women in Virginia from 1619 to 1920. This workshop covers records that are commonly used for African American genealogical research—free registers, cohabitation registers, local court records, federal census records, petitions to remain in the commonwealth and Freedmen's Bureau records—as well as the unique challenges of finding information about women in records that often focus on men, such as business, tax and military records. Contact Ashley Ramey Craig at [ashley.ramey@lva.virginia.gov](mailto:ashley.ramey@lva.virginia.gov) or 804.692.3001 for more information.

Friday, Oct. 13 | 6:00–8:00 p.m.

### VIRGINIA LITERARY AWARDS

#### Art In Literature:

##### The Mary Lynn Kotz Award

Place: Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Marble Hall

The Library of Virginia and the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts present Art in Literature: The Mary Lynn Kotz Award. Join us for a presentation exploring the relationship between literature and the visual arts. See [more details on page 9](#).

Saturday, Oct. 14 | 6:00–9:00 p.m.

### VIRGINIA LITERARY AWARDS

#### 26th Annual Virginia Literary Awards Celebration

Place: Lobby

Award-winning author Adriana Trigiani hosts the Virginia Literary Awards Celebration, featuring an awards ceremony, dinner and a silent auction to raise support for the Library's preservation, education and research initiatives. See [more details on page 8](#).

Thursday, Nov. 2 | 6:00–7:30 p.m.

### WEINSTEIN AUTHOR SERIES: SUZANNE STRYK

#### The Middle of Somewhere

Place: Lecture Hall

Registration required:

[lva.virginia.gov/public/weinstein](http://lva.virginia.gov/public/weinstein)

Join us for a talk by artist and author Suzanne Stryk on her first book, *The Middle of Somewhere: An Artist Explores the Nature of Virginia*. Stryk journeyed through her

home state on a mission inspired by the reflective, encyclopedic sensibility of Thomas Jefferson's book *Notes on the State of Virginia*. The creatures in their habitats and the people she meets are characters in the book, a tapestry of essays, lush sketches and ephemera. For more information, contact Catherine Fitzgerald Wyatt at [catherine.fitzgeraldwyatt@lva.virginia.gov](mailto:catherine.fitzgeraldwyatt@lva.virginia.gov) or 804.692.3999.

## LVA ON THE GO

### The Library of Virginia is heading your way with LVA On the Go!

Our mobile programming vehicle is bringing some of the Library's resources and staff expertise across the commonwealth. For more information, contact Catherine Fitzgerald Wyatt at [catherine.fitzgeraldwyatt@lva.virginia.gov](mailto:catherine.fitzgeraldwyatt@lva.virginia.gov) or 804.692.3999.



### 2023 SCHEDULE

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

EXHIBITION AT  
**800 EAST BROAD**

**TWO HUNDRED YEARS  
TWO HUNDRED STORIES**

Through Oct. 28, 2023 | Monday–Saturday, 8:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m.  
Exhibition Gallery & Lobby | Free

This exhibition and multimedia experience celebrate 200 Virginians whose fascinating narratives are housed in the Library's collections and together reflect the stories of Virginia.



# in circulation

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING AT THE LIBRARY



1. **Kadencia**, a Richmond-based Bomba and Plena band, performed at the Library's Celebration of Virginia Folklife in July. The two-day event was presented by the Library and the Virginia Folklife Program of Virginia Humanities. Photograph courtesy of Virginia Humanities.

2. Best-selling author **Sadeqa Johnson** signed copies of her most recent book, *The House of Eve*, after her Weinstein Author Series talk at the Library in June.

3. The National Genealogical Society's annual Family History Conference, held in Richmond May 31–June 3, brought hundreds of extra visitors to the Library's reading rooms.

4. At the Library's quarterly "First Fridays at LVA" event in June, visitors chatted, viewed art from Virginia artists, saw our current exhibition and took part in creative activities.

5. Journalist and author **Kathryn Miles** discussed her book *Trailed: One Woman's Quest to Solve the Shenandoah Murders* during a Carole Weinstein Author Series talk at the Library in May.





# SUPPORT YOUR LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA

Help the Library of Virginia preserve and share Virginia's important history, spark curiosity with intriguing exhibitions and programming, and encourage meaningful understanding of the individuals who shaped the commonwealth.

To make a gift online, please visit [lva.virginia.gov/donate](http://lva.virginia.gov/donate).

Every \$100+ donor receives a one-year print subscription to *Broadside* magazine. For additional benefits and giving levels, please visit [lvafoundation.org/waystogive](http://lvafoundation.org/waystogive).

## OTHER WAYS TO GIVE

### LEGACY GIVING

#### The William Waller Hening Society

Planned gifts provide meaningful charitable support to the Library of Virginia and may offer donors valuable tax benefits, potential lifetime income and the ability to transfer assets at a reduced tax cost. If you would like to have a confidential conversation, please call 804.692.3592.

### SPECIAL PROJECTS

The Library's conservation, education, public programming and research initiatives are made possible by support from donors like you. Call 804.692.3592 to learn more about the Library's special projects and programs.

### VOLUNTEER

Volunteers are essential to the enhancement of day-to-day operations and enrichment of Library services and programs. We welcome your support. If you would like to inquire about volunteer opportunities, please call 804.692.3813.

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

## Discover More with Library of Virginia Affinity Groups

Are you interested in taking a deeper dive into Virginia's history and culture? Join one of the Library's affinity groups to receive invitations to special events and curated communications. With your \$100+ donation, you can choose from:

### COMMONWEALTH COLLECTIONS CIRCLE

For individuals interested in acquisition, conservation and digitization of the Library's more than 130 million items in its world-class collection.

### FAMILY & COMMUNITY HISTORY CIRCLE

For individuals interested in genealogy, family history and the people that make up the commonwealth.

### FRY-JEFFERSON MAP SOCIETY

For individuals interested in developing, building and promoting the cartographic collections of the Library of Virginia.

### VIRGINIA AUTHORS CIRCLE

For individuals interested in understanding and highlighting the amazing authors who are from and/or write about Virginia.







800 E. Broad St. | Richmond, VA 23219  
[www.lva.virginia.gov](http://www.lva.virginia.gov)

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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](https://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](http://WWW.CANCANRVA.COM/CAFE)