OrogSIDE



the magazine of the **LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA**

2025 NO.1



Culinary ephemera & cookbooks in the collections

broadside

the magazine of the

LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA

2025 NO.1

LIBRARIAN OF VIRGINIA

Dennis T. Clark

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LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA 804.692.3500

From the Librarian of Virginia

y now, you've likely seen the Library of Virginia's 2024 Impact Report, where we celebrated a great year serving the people of Virginia. Sharing those stories was a time to reflect on where we've been as well as an opportunity to ask, "What's next?"

Since that report was published, the Library has seen two of our long-term colleagues pass away. Audrey McElhinney, our senior manuscript, map and rare book librarian, died in March, while John Metz, our Deputy State Librarian and chief of collections and archives, passed away in May. Those who knew Audrey and John knew well of their dedication to the Library, its collections and those who use them. Read more about both of them on page 15. They will be deeply



missed by their colleagues here, and their work helped contribute to the successes described in our Impact Report.

What's next is exciting, and a bit daunting. On the exciting front, we have an amazing summer ahead of us. Through our partnership with The JXN project, an exhibition on Richmond's Jackson Ward neighborhood titled "House to Highway:

Reclaiming a Community
History" opens on July 14,
with an opening reception
for the public on July 17.
That exhibition will run at
the Library through Feb.
28, 2026, after which it
will be installed at the
Skipwith–Roper Cottage in

After a comprehensive proposal and selection process, we will select an architecture firm by mid-summer as partners in planning for a renovation of the public and staff spaces.

Jackson Ward permanently. Please make plans to visit the exhibition.

Equally exciting is the planning around the renovation of the Library of Virginia building. After a comprehensive proposal and selection process, we, along with our colleagues in the Commonwealth's Department of General Services, will select an architecture firm by mid-summer as partners in planning for a renovation of the public and staff spaces. This will begin a two-year period of design work that will ensure that the Library evolves its spaces to meet the current and future demand of researchers and visitors as well as provide modern workspaces for staff.

We'll have another round of exciting news to share in the next Broadside. In the meantime, please read on — we have a profile about Anne Taylor Brown, a dedicated genealogist who is a regular at the Library, information about our VA250 offerings, as well as a delicious cover story on culinary collections. I hope your appetite is whetted!

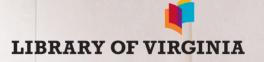
Sincerely,

Dennis T. Clark

Ven T. Clen

ON THE COVER

This crab-shaped business trade card was produced in the 1880s for McMenamin & Company's Famous Deviled Crabs of Hampton, Virginia.



PLAN YOUR VISIT

START

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FOLLOW US ON

The Library of Virginia is the leading source of information on Virginia's history, government and people. Our resources, exhibitions and events attract thousands of visitors each year. Our collections, containing more than 134 million items, document and illustrate the lives of both famous Virginians and ordinary citizens.

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ADMISSION IS FREE

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

PARKING

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

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Homefront to Frontline: Virginia's WWII Story Through October 2025

House to Highway: **Reclaiming a Community History** July 14, 2025-Feb. 28, 2026

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APPETIZING ARCHIVES

Culinary ephemera illustrates the history of Virginia business & culture

Today, food advertising is nearly inescapable on television and social media. Images of decadent food and drinks entice us to purchase the latest culinary innovations. Restaurants use images of people consuming juicy burgers and tempting desserts to convince us to visit their establishments or order delivery. The history of food advertising didn't start with the McDonald's Big Mac jingle or Coca-Cola teaching the world to sing, however. The commercials and pop-up ads we see today follow more than a century of creative advertising for food products and restaurants that began with items such as labels for cans and crates, menus, matchbooks, business trade cards and other printed materials.

Early in the 20th century, industrial innovations enabled mass production and distribution of food items. Clever imagery, mascots and slogans made these products into brands that became household names.

"At the Library of Virginia, we collect culinary ephemera related to Virginia because it pieces together social history and shows how people shopped, celebrated and consumed food over time," said Dana Angell, the Library's prints and photographs collection specialist.

Food labels were introduced in the 1850s as safety measures in response to food-related illnesses. In 1862, the U.S. Department of Agriculture was established to address the need for nationwide food regulation. These two developments caused an explosion of culinary advertising. Job printers, called jobbers, developed original designs for products or companies that salesmen could

Fancy Crackers

CUP+CAKES



LOVELY LABELS

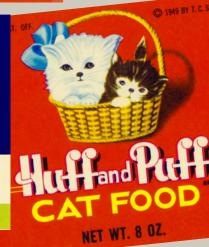
Virginia food producers created colorful artwork for the labels that promoted their wares. Clockwise From Far Left: Algoma Virginia Apples fruit crate label, ca. 1950s; King-Cola bottle label, ca. 1930s; Verifine Soft Drink Flavor label, ca. 1950s; Huff & Puff Cat Food can label, 1949; and Woodside Manor Sweet Potatoes crate label, ca. 1950s.



Several years ago, I was processing a collection of matchbooks and came across a matchbook from the New Way Lunch in Quantico, Virginia. I immediately recognized the name as my paternal grandfather's first restaurant. I then searched eBay to see if there

were any matchbooks for his second restaurant, The Dixie Grill. I was pleasantly surprised to not only find the matchbook, but to discover that his name, Mitchel Angell, was on it. My grandfather died before I was born, but I heard many stories about the restaurant, and The Dixie Grill is where my parents met.

—Dana Angell
Prints & Photographs Collection Specialist



VOODSIDE MANOR P weet Potatoes

ACKED BY D. P. CUSTIS, NASSAWADOX, VIRGINIA

arty day after logs will like it HUFF & PUFF PET FOODS, INC. DIVISION OF T. C. SLAUGHTER CO. DEEDVILLE, VA. 22539

present to business owners for use on business cards, can labels, menus and matchbooks. The jobber would print the design without identifying information and the business owner

"We collect culinary ephemera related to Virginia because it pieces together social history and shows how people shopped, celebrated and consumed food over time."

could then have a local printer put in the name of the items being sold or the business to frequent. Examples of these can be seen in the children's menu shown on page 6 for Norfolk's Burroughs Drive-In Restaurant and in many of the restaurant matchbooks in our collection.

Die-cut business trade cards became popular, because the unusual shapes added whimsey not seen in a standard card, as seen at left in the

tea-cup-and-saucer-shaped card for George R. Hill & Co. Fancy Crackers and Cupcakes of Alexandria, Virginia. Food cans and crates were typically discarded after use, so finding a historic can or crate label in like-new or unused condition is somewhat rare. "It's

also possible that the can and crate labels found in pristine condition were for products that were never used or were unpopular," said Angell. "This can give us a skewed view of what people were eating and drinking in the past."

continues on page 6

BUSINESS TRADE CARDS & MATCHBOOKS

Printed materials for food companies and restaurants included die-cut business trade cards and customized matchbooks. Left: Trade card for George R. Hill & Co. Fancy Crackers and Cupcakes, ca. 1880s. Right: Matchbooks from two Quantico restaurants, New Way Lunch and Dixie Grill, ca. 1950s and 1960s.



Library staff member Dana Angell (TOP RIGHT) poses with matchbooks from our Visual Studies Collection that include those from restaurants owned by her grandfather Mitchel Angell (ABOVE), pictured in Quantico, Virginia, ca. 1950s.

Cookbooks & Food-Related Volumes **Hold Virginia Stories**

The Library of Virginia's cookbook and food-related book collection numbers more than 2,500 volumes, which were produced primarily by Virginians or Virginia organizations. Acquired largely through donations, the collection documents the foodways of the state throughout history. They offer primary and secondary sources on the preparation of food, as well as the economic, social and cultural relationship to food production, procurement and consumption. Many also serve as handbooks for housekeeping, revealing the social structure of domestic life in addition to food history. Some works include information on cleaning, entertaining, managing household staff, and even treating illnesses through advice on nursing and recipes for home remedies.

In historical cookbooks, readers can trace how access to ingredients dictated regional taste, the way technological developments in food preservation and shipping expanded ingredient availability, how people adapted to shortages during wartime and economic

depressions, and how immigration and migration infused new flavors and techniques into local fare. Modern authors curated historical recipes in specific contexts and placed them alongside contemporary commentaries. "The American History Cookbook" offers a comprehensive analysis of food over time, while books like "Food in Colonial and Federal America" and the "Colonial Williamsburg Tavern Cookbook" examine recipes from a specific era.

Compiled cookbooks make up most of the collection. Composed of recipes submitted by members of communities such as churches, schools, cultural institutions, firemen,

In historical cookbooks, readers can trace how access to ingredients dictated regional taste.

nurses, families, women's clubs, and more, these recipe books in some cases are the sole source of information on an organization. They often record contributor names, relationships

and community involvement, providing a unique

source for local history and genealogical research. Typically produced by communities in a specific geographic area, these books are often prime examples of regional recipes.

The collection also includes topical cookbooks that focus on a specific ingredient or cooking style, particularly those produced in Virginia, from apples to crabs to ham and peanuts. Some cookbooks were published by Virginia corporations such as Reynolds Metals, C.F. Sauer and the Virginia Egg Council to promote their products.

To explore the Library's cookbook and food-related book collection, search our catalog using the keyword "cooking." You can find regional cuisines by including terms like "French," "Japanese" or "Appalachian" or find cookbooks from a specific area by including the name of a town, city, county or state. Cookbooks on specific ingredients can be found by including the ingredient, like "eggs" or "crabs." To view covers of recipe books from our collections, visit pinterest.com/libraryofva/recipe-book-covers.

—Annie Hatton, Reference Services Librarian

Pictured here is a small sample of cookbook covers from the Library's collection. "The Colonial Williamsburg Tavern Cookbook," 2001. "The Stuffed Cougar," The Patron's Association of The Collegiate Schools, Richmond, 1973. "Cook Book, U.S. Naval Proving Ground, Dahlgren, Virginia," 1949. "Outdoor Cooking With Reynolds Wrap," Reynolds Metals Company, Richmond, ca. 1950.



The Grande Dame of Southern Cooking

The cookbooks of Virginia native Edna Lewis reveal her influence on American cuisine

he Library of Virginia's cookbook collection includes works from prominent Virginia chefs who published collections of their own recipes, including Patrick O'Connell of the Inn at Little Washington and Paul Elbing, who ran Chef Paul's La Petite France in Richmond. Perhaps most significant to Virginia's food history, however, is the complete collection of cookbooks from culinary icon Edna Lewis, whose contributions to cookery helped define Southern cooking.

Lewis was born in 1916 in the Freetown community of Orange County, Virginia. Her grandfather, with whom her family lived during her childhood, was born enslaved and became one of the original founders of that community. "The spirit of pride in community and of cooperation in the work of farming is what made Freetown a very wonderful place to grow up in," Lewis writes in her book "The Taste of Country Cooking."

Lewis left home as a teenager and later moved to New York City in the mid-1930s, pursuing opportunities promised by the Great Migration. In New York, Lewis became involved with the Communist

Lewis played a transformative activism. In the 1940s she role in modern food history and culture as a pioneer of the farm-to-table movement and in her elevation of Southern food.

Party and civil rights found success as a designer and became friends with window dressers Johnny Nicholson and Karl Bissinger, who asked her to open a restaurant with them. Café Nicholson opened in 1948 and quickly became a fixture among the New York artistic and

literary set — including Tennessee Williams, Truman Capote and Gore Vidal — thanks to Lewis' cooking, a combination of American Southern and French cuisine featuring dishes like chocolate soufflé and roasted chicken.

"To my surprise, many people were insisting that Café Nicholson was a French restaurant! Wondering about this, I began to think that perhaps the people of Orange County and the people of France unknowingly shared something in common," she wrote in "The Edna Lewis Cookbook." "Perhaps an abundance and variety of food explains this common interest in fine cooking. Perhaps, too, we had been influenced when Thomas Jefferson returned to Orange County after he had been minister of France."

Lewis' success in New York only strengthened her connection to her Virginia roots. Following the publication of "The Edna Lewis Cookbook" in 1972, she published "The Taste of Country Cooking" in 1976, working with editor Judith continues on page 7

THE TASTE OF COUNTRY COOKING The 30th Anniversary Edition of a Great Southern Classic WITH A FOREWORD BY ALICE WATERS

CULINARY ICON

Orange County native Edna Lewis was a pioneer of the farm-to-table movement and the elevation of Southern food. All her cookbooks are available in the Library of Virginia's collections. Shown here is "The Taste of Country Cooking: The 30th Anniversary Edition of a Great Southern Classic Cookbook," by Edna Lewis, 2006.

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Some products relied on playful imagery or regional celebrities to appeal to customers. Examples include the labels shown on page 3 for Huff and Puff Cat Food of Reedville, and at right for Virginia-based Nolde Brothers' Sliced/Enriched Schooner Rolls endorsed by "Sailor Bob," the host of a children's program on the Richmond television station WRVA-Channel 12 (now WWBT 12) between 1959 and 1969.

Other products appealed to the ease of use for the consumer, like Lynchburg's Verifine soft drink flavoring, which instructed consumers to "add only sugar and water." After Prohibition, the production of nonalcoholic drinks boomed, and sugary drinks became widely available. In addition to Verifine, Virginia produced soft drinks such as Salem's King-Cola and Richmond's Beaufont Dry Ginger Ale.

Restaurant menus and matchbooks are common in culinary ephemera collections because they were often saved as mementos of a specific dining experience. Many of these establishments no longer exist, so they offer a record of a location at a particular time. Matchbooks played a role in tourism by serving as souvenirs, were an inexpensive way for businesses to advertise, and, in the heyday of smoking, were desired items for customers to grab on the way out the door. Menus reflect tastes in food and drink over time, as well as showing the shifting costs of dining. Many menus used colorful graphics or pictures of meals.

"These tangible reminders of products and places connect researchers to the Virginia of the past," said Angell.

View select ephemera items and photographs from the Library's Visual Studies Collection at libraryofva.tumblr.com. To do research in the collections, contact Manuscripts & Special Collections at specialcoll@lva.virginia.gov or 804.692.3703. ■



2 : Children's Menu

> SERVED TO CHILDREN TEN YEARS OF AGE OR UNDER



BURROUGHS DRIVE IN REST 4119 GRANBY NORFOLK, VIRGINIA



Home Made Vegetable S

Sweetbread Croquettes with Peas

Young Chicken, fill Fresh Crob Solad

Apple Tapioca Pudding, Wine San

Distilled Water Used Exclu

DINNER

MENUS & MORE

Menus, matchbooks and labels reveal past trends in advertising design and dining preferences as well as food prices. 1. Livestock-shaped menu from the Carriage Inn Restaurant, Williamsburg, ca. 1950s. 2. Children's menu, Burroughs Drive-In Restaurant, Norfolk, 1950. 3. Beaufont Dry Ginger Ale bottle label, 1935. 4. Nolde Brothers Schooner Rolls label, 1965. **5.** Dinner menu from the Hotel Chamberlin, Hampton, 1914. 6. Matchbook from Sam's Lunch, Fredericksburg, ca. 1950s.

5

et 3





ktail
Little Neck Clams
Consomme, Celestine
Sliced Cucumbers
Radishes

rsley Sauce Maitre d'Hotel

Macaroni a la Napolitaine eef ou Jus

Cauliflower, saute Pan Gravy Brussels Sprouts Boiled Samp

Endive, French Dressing

Italian Cream Custard Pie orted Cake

rican Cheese ent's Water Crackers

sively

February 16, 1914



continued from page 5

Jones, who also served as Julia Child's editor. The book, which became a bestseller and made her widely known, tells of her upbringing in Freetown through the food her family ate across the seasons. In the book's introduction, Lewis writes: "Over the years since I left home

and lived in different cities, I have kept thinking about the people I grew up with and about our way of life. Whenever I go back to visit my sisters and brothers, we relive old times, remembering the past. And when we share again in gathering wild strawberries, canning, rendering lard, finding walnuts, picking persimmons, making fruitcake, I realize how much the bond that held us had to do with food."

Lewis played a transformative role in modern food history and culture as a pioneer of the farm-to-table movement and in her elevation of Southern food to a world-

renowned and quintessentially American cuisine. Her work broadened what Americans think of as Black cooking — and what that means for Black history. This advocacy resonated with the cultural shifts happening in the 1970s but was also deeply rooted in Virginia's past, with Lewis drawing inspiration from her enslaved ancestors.

"She spoke of the creativity of Black women in the kitchen, how that represented some measure of freedom when they otherwise had none," writes food journalist Francis Lam in an essay in the book "Edna Lewis: At the Table with an American Original."

"Gathering wild strawberries, canning, rendering lard, finding walnuts, picking persimmons, making fruitcake, I realize how much the bond that held us had to do with food."

These roots can be found in Lewis' recipes, many of which echo those found in "The Virginia House-Wife," Mary Randolph's 1824 work known as the first American regional cookbook, including French-influenced dishes like beef à la mode and blancmange. Although enslaved people would have been essential to the development and cooking of these recipes, Randolph, who was white, only mentions enslaved people once in the book.

Despite Lewis' enduring influence, many feel that she has not received the recognition she deserves. To remedy that, restaurants from Virginia to New York and beyond have highlighted and celebrated Lewis' legacy. In Richmond, The Roosevelt hosted an Edna Lewis dinner, and the Floris tearoom at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts hosted an Edna Lewis—inspired Southern Harvest tea, both in 2024. Restaurants across Orange County participated in an Edna Lewis food trail in recent years. Brooklyn restaurant Gage & Tollner, where Lewis cooked in the 1980s and 1990s, reopened in 2021 after closing in 2004. Its menu pays homage to Lewis through dishes such as she-crab soup, which was one of her specialties during her time there.

In addition, a new VPM (Virginia Public Media) documentary series, "Finding Edna Lewis," follows host Deb Freeman — creator of "Setting the Table," an award-winning podcast exploring Black foodways and culinary history — on a journey to uncover the life of this American original. The Library hosted a screening of the documentary followed by a discussion with Freeman and chef and culinary historian Leni Sorensen in April. "Finding Edna Lewis" is available for streaming at pbs.org/show/finding-edna-lewis.

—Anne McCrery, Programs Specialist

A version of this article previously appeared on the Library's blog, "The UncommonWealth."

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Groundbreaking African Americans Honored

Each year the Library of Virginia and Dominion Energy recognize a group of distinguished Virginians as the Strong Men & Women in Virginia History honorees 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). Further information about distinguished African Americans from Virginia can be found in the Dictionary of Virginia Biography (Library of Virginia, 1998–2006).

Winsome Earle-Sears

1964-

LIEUTENANT Governor

Winchester

Inspired by her service in the Marine Corps, Lt. Gov. Winsome Earle-Sears became the first Black woman to hold state office in Virginia.



2025 Strong Men & Women in

Virginia History

PRESENTED BY





2025 Strong Men & Women Student Creative Expressions Contest Winner & Finalists

MATTHEW PENG, Winner Meridian High School Falls Church **ALVARO LOBO ARISPE, Finalist**Washington Liberty High School
Arlington County

ALLISON ARNETTE, Finalist Grafton High School York County NIKHITA SARAVANAN, Finalist
Maggie L. Walker Governor's School
for Government & International
Studies, Richmond

In honor of his efforts, winner Matthew Peng received \$2,000 for his school. Each student received an Apple MacBook Air laptop and money for their school. Each year, high school students throughout Virginia are eligible to participate in the 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 in response to a prompt related to the efforts of past Strong Men & Women honorees. To learn more, go to edu.lva.virginia.gov/strong-men-women-in-virginia-history.

Damien Geter

COMPOSER, CONDUCTOR & BASS-BARITONE Chesterfield County

Composer Damien Geter writes music centered around social justice and civil rights.





Kelly L. Knight

PROFESSOR & FORENSIC SCIENTIST Fairfax County

Kelly L. Knight uses her expertise in forensic science and her passion for mentoring to inspire the pursuit of STEM careers in underrepresented Photo Credits: Earle-Sears, courtesy of the Office of the Lieutenant Governor, Geter, courtesy of Damien Geter, photography by Rachel Hadaishar, Knight, courtesy of Kelly Knight; Lee, courtesy of the Roanoke Public Library, Gainsboro Branch; Scott, courtesy of the Commonwealth of Virginia

Virginia Young Lee

LIBRARIAN Roanoke

Virginia Young Lee created the largest collection of Black history and literature in southwest Virginia.



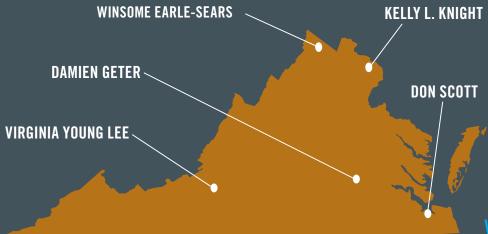


Don Scott

1965-

LEGISLATOR & SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES Portsmouth

The first Black Speaker of the House of Delegates, Don Scott advocates for increased opportunities for all Virginians.



WWW.LVA.VIRGINIA.GOV/SMW



GENEALOGIST ANNE TAYLOR BROWN

An interest in her own family history and her husband's connection to the Library led to a career in genealogy

f you have spent any time in the Library of Virginia's reading rooms, it's likely that you've seen Anne Taylor Brown, one of the Library's most frequent visitors, who has been using our resources for more than 50 years. Brown, a certified genealogist who specializes in Virginia research, is also a board member and the membership chairman of the Friends of the Virginia State Archives, a group that holds genealogical training conferences twice a year and provides funds for the preservation of historic records.

Brown has been doing genealogical research for clients since 1985. Her path toward genealogy began years earlier, however, at East Carolina College in Greenville, North Carolina, where Brown and her husband, Connis Ostin Brown Jr., both attended social studies classes. She earned a bachelor's degree in mathematics with a minor in social studies, while her husband received a bachelor's degree in social studies with a minor in English.

"After graduation, he got a job at the North Carolina Department of Archives and History in the county and local records program, spending much of his time out in the counties microfilming old records," said Brown. "While we were in North Carolina, I started searching census records whenever I had the time. I also tried to collect pictures of my grandparents and inquire about any family Bibles that might

exist. An old Taylor family cemetery did exist in Como, the village in Hertford County, North Carolina, where I was born, so I took pictures and recorded all the information from those gravestones. By that time I knew that some of my ancestors were from Virginia."

Her husband's career took them to Annapolis in 1963 when he became a public records examiner in the Maryland

Hall of Records. He had earned a master's degree in public administration from American University in Washington, D.C., before they moved to Richmond in 1971 when he joined the Virginia State Library (now the Library of Virginia) and eventually was named assistant state archivist for records.

"I like to search records from the Civil War period back to the Colonial Records, but will search most anything. I especially enjoy working in the chancery records."

"The Virginia General Assembly had just appropriated funds to set up a county and local records program under the direction of Dr. Louis H. Manarin, who was the State Archivist at that time," said Brown. "Now I was in an ideal location to begin some very serious research in the old county courthouse records, which were available mostly on microfilm. I would go

in to work along with my husband whenever our young son was visiting with his grandparents in the summers and at any other time when possible. I continued to spend time for the next 13 years at the Library just trying to learn all I possibility could about records."

After her husband passed away in 1984, Brown decided to become a certified genealogist. "I applied to the Board for Certification of Genealogists and was sent a packet of papers," said Brown. "I had to show that I could read old handwriting and that I knew how to do an abstract of a deed or will, which means you include all the information of genealogical importance in that given record. I had to send samples of jobs that I had done for a client or research done on my own family. You must prove that you understand the importance of documentation in all the work that you do. A genealogist has to be recertified every five years."

Brown's work for clients includes research in all areas of Virginia except Northern Virginia, the Northern Neck and the Eastern Shore. She also examined lineage applications for the National Society of Colonial Dames in America for many years and appreciates the access that the Library provided for the sources sometimes needed to verify those papers.

"I like to search records from the Civil War period back to the Colonial Records, but will search most anything," she said when asked if she has any favorite time periods or aspects of Virginia history. "I especially enjoy working in the chancery records, which are available to us today. This was not the case in my earlier days. Many of those records are now digitized and the work will continue until all counties have been processed."

Additional favorite resources for Brown are personal property and land tax records. "They're particularly useful when working on a research project in a 'burned record county,' when perhaps nearly all the records were lost, especially deeds and wills," said Brown. "There are times when I've solved a research problem using these records when I wouldn't otherwise have been able to do so."

Brown's advice for people who are new to family history research is to begin with census records and vital records such as births, deaths and marriages — and to seek help from a Library of Virginia staff member. "The Library is a wonderful place to do research work," said Brown. "The staff members are all very pleasant and stand ready to help when needed."

The Chancery Records Index

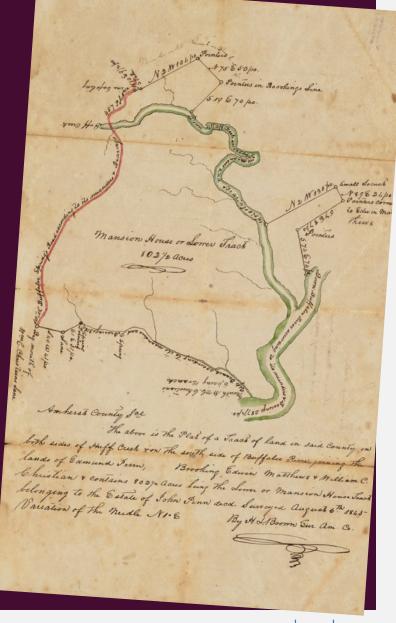
Anne Taylor Brown's favorite Library of Virginia resource

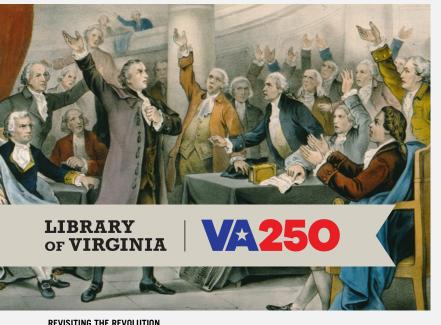
chancery record is composed of court documents from a chancery cause, a case of equity that could not be readily decided by existing written laws. A judge, not a jury, determined the outcome of the case. The earliest extant Virginia court records are those of the county courts. All of Virginia's county and city courts created chancery records that contain considerable historical and genealogical information. Chancery cases address disputes related to estates, landownership, business, debt and divorce, and may contain correspondence, contracts, wills, lists of heirs, or vital statistics, among other items. Because the records rely so heavily on testimony from witnesses, they offer a unique glimpse into the lives of Virginians from the early 18th century through World War I.

The Chancery Records Index was created by archival processing and indexing projects overseen by the Library of Virginia and funded by the Virginia Circuit Court Records Preservation Program. The original court papers are flat-filed, indexed and conserved using a set of standards developed by the Library. The digital images are freely accessible at circuit court clerks' offices or from any internet-connected device. There are more than 282,391 cases indexed in the database and over 13.5 million images of chancery causes available online. Learn more at Iva.virginia.gov/collections/cri.

RESEARCH RESOURCE

This 1845 plat is part of an 1853 Amherst County chancery cause titled Administrator of John Penn vs. John C. Harrison.



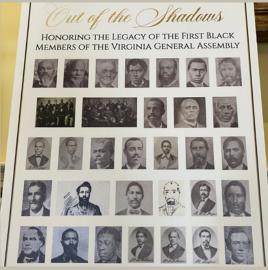


This 1876 Currier & Ives lithograph depicts Patrick Henry delivering his "Give Me Liberty or Give Me Death!" speech, Visual Studies Collection.

Library Resources & Events Celebrate the American Revolution's 250th Anniversary in Virginia

As America approaches the 250th anniversary of its founding, the Library of Virginia invites you to explore the significant role that Virginia played in shaping our nation's beginnings. A new webpage, Iva.virginia.gov/events/va250, features our Colonial, Revolutionary War and Early American resources, as well as related events and ways to engage with upcoming projects. Browse our list of early documents such as the Virginia State Constitution of 1776, find educator resources and other records that offer a journey through history, and learn about upcoming events that focus on Virginia's role in the Revolutionary War. Watch for more information about VA250 resources and events in future issues of Broadside.





HISTORIC COLLECTION DONATED

AT LEFT (FROM LEFT TO RIGHT): Librarian of Virginia Dennis T. Clark and Speaker of the House Don Scott signed a joint deed of gift for the donation of Scott's papers, while Del. C.E. "Cliff" Hayes Jr. looked on. Above: An exhibition on display in the Capitol included photographs of early Black legislators from the Library

Event Honoring the First Black Members of the Virginia General Assembly Includes a Donation of Papers by Speaker of the House Don Scott

Librarian of Virginia Dennis T. Clark signed a joint deed of gift document for the donation of papers from the first Black Speaker of the Virginia House of Delegates, Don Scott of Portsmouth, during a breakfast reception at the Virginia State Capitol in January. The event, titled Out of the Shadows: Honoring the Legacy of the First Black Members of the Virginia General Assembly, featured a related exhibition on display in the Capitol that included photographs of early Black legislators from the Library of Virginia's collections.

Scott's donation to the Library will include his personal papers and other artifacts from his time as Speaker. During the event, Clark presented Scott with a copy of "Justice for Ourselves: Black Virginians Claim Their Freedom After Slavery," a book by Library of Virginia historians and editors John G. Deal, Marianne E. Julienne and Brent Tarter with a foreword by Congresswoman Jennifer McClellan.

Steve & Brenda Craig

ncouraged by his grandmothers, both of whom have deep Virginia roots, Steve Craig began researching his family history in 1975 at the age of 11. Five decades later, after retiring from the insurance business, Craig is a full-time family historian, genealogist, storyteller and superuser of the Library of Virginia. He and his wife, Brenda, are longtime supporters of the Library.

"We love Virginia history and in particular learning about ordinary people who did extraordinary things," said Craig, who also writes about his ancestors on his blog "A Son of Virginia"

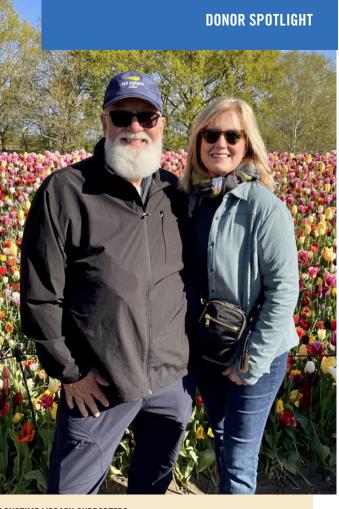
(https://asonofvirginia.blog).
"The Library's collection
contains so many incredible
stories just waiting to be
discovered and shared."

"We have a great library in Virginia," he continued. "I have

done research in Pennsylvania, Kentucky, Michigan, Alabama and other states on occasion. None remotely compare to the Library of Virginia, especially for digital offerings and the outreach effort to local Virginia communities. Staff is always so welcoming, and the manuscripts room is a gold mine."

The couple also enjoys attending the exhibitions and public programs hosted here. We hope you will join them 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 Iva.virginia.gov/donate or by calling 804.692.3592.

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



LONGTIME LIBRARY SUPPORTERS

Steve & Brenda Craig support the Library's mission to engage with Virginia communities and share the stories waiting to be discovered in our rich resources.

HELP US SHARE VIRGINIA STORIES!

"We love Virginia history

and in particular learning

about ordinary people who

did extraordinary things."

We need your help to ensure that the Library remains a place that promotes Virginia stories and builds an empathetic community that can be a source of hope for a better future. Your support this fiscal year has been greatly appreciated. We hope you will consider making a special second gift before June 30.

Make your gift today and help us share Virginia stories!

- Donate online at www.lva.virginia.gov/donate
- Scan this QR Code with your phone
- Call us at 804.692.3813
- Mail a check to the Library of Virginia Foundation, 800 E. Broad St., Richmond, VA 23219
- Make a gift through your Donor Advised Fund (EIN: 54-1298764)





Fugitive Data Portraits: Self-Emancipation in Virginia

Library hosts Research Fellow Tev'n Powers in partnership with Virginia Humanities

A partnership between the Library of Virginia and Virginia Humanities allows researchers to examine in-depth the Library's vast resources during their time as scholars in residence. Software engineer, computational linguist and independent researcher Tev'n Powers is building a website to uplift the names and stories of some of Virginia's earliest freedom fighters who escaped from slavery in the Commonwealth. His research at the Library supports his project Fugitive Data Portraits: Self-Emancipation in Virginia, which uncovers stories of self-emancipation from archives of personal diaries, interviews and state records to tell the history of this fugitive activity through data and narrative.



UNCOVERING THE STORIES IN THE RECORDS

Virginia Humanities Fellow **Tev'n Powers** (ABOVE) made use of materials such as a Prince George County runaway slave record listing people who had escaped during the Civil War, part of the Library's Virginia Untold: The African American Narrative digital collection (BOTTOM RIGHT).

"I've had the opportunity to see, touch and read documents from the 1800s, including slave patroller notes, jailer correspondences, runaway records and soldier diaries from the Civil War."

Learn More: Visit Tev'n Powers' website at fugitivedataportraits.com.

How has working with the Library's records affected your project? What are some notable things you've found in your research here?

Tev'n Powers: Working on this project has forced me to confront questions about how archives come to exist, whose narratives and perspectives are prioritized, and how these factors shape our understanding of the lives of people referenced within the archive. Thanks to the librarians and archivists here at the Library of Virginia, I've had the opportunity to see, touch and read documents from the 1800s, including slave patroller notes, jailer correspondences, runaway records and soldier diaries from the Civil War. Most of these records were not created out of an interest in documenting brave stories of fugitive activity, but rather because the institution of slavery was so complex and deeply ingrained in societal and economic relations that it required documentation through meeting minutes, tax records, contracts, bills of sale, deeds and inventory lists. My project includes a counternarrative to these records by contextualizing them with and juxtaposing them against slave narratives, interviews and testimonies of escape via the Underground Railroad.

Putting these archives in conversation with one another reveals that acts of resistance, including self-emancipation, forced proponents of slavery to continually refine their practices to prevent fugitive activity. Sharing of propaganda that encouraged rebellion sparked legislation that criminalized literacy among Black people. Networks of free Black people aiding fugitive escape led to laws requiring free Blacks to leave the state. The proliferation of the domestic slave trade made the thought of family separation and violence associated with being sold to the Deep South a threat to keep the enslaved population in line. My research highlights the stories of the individuals and collectives whose courage and dreams of freedom were stronger than these fears.

What will you remember about your time at the Library?

TP: I've had nothing but positive experiences with each staff member that I've met here. I owe a special shout-out to historian John Deal and Lydia Neuroth, project manager for the Library's Virginia Untold: The African American Narrative project, who both made sure I could make the most of my time here. They provided access to documents and manuscripts that have enhanced my project, introduced me to colleagues who have shared their wealth of knowledge, publicized my work through conference opportunities and Library publications, and acted as thought partners throughout this process. I look forward to sharing Fugitive Data Portraits when it is complete and maintaining relationships with the people here.

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IN MEMORIAM The Library Recently Lost Two Valued Colleagues

Audrey C. McElhinney

Senior Manuscript, Map & Rare Book Librarian



Audrey McElhinney retired this winter after battling a chronic illness and passed away on March 8, 2025. She served as senior manuscript, map & rare book librarian, overseeing much of our acquisition of Special Collections materials over the years. This was her fifth position within

Manuscripts & Special Collections since joining the Library in 1997. Her previous positions included work for the National Park Service and the Smithsonian's National Museum of African Art and National Museum of American History. Audrey earned a bachelor's degree in anthropology from Longwood College and a Master of Library Science degree with a concentration in special collections from The Catholic University of America.

We are mourning the recent loss of two long-serving colleagues who were passionate about the Library of Virginia, its collections and its mission to share Virginia's stories.

John D. Metz

Deputy State Librarian and Chief of Collections & Archives



John Metz, who died on May 12, 2025, after a hospital stay, was known to many throughout the Virginia library and archival communities and had overseen collections at the Library since 2008. He had many years of experience in historical research, education, collections management, and programming through his work for institutions including the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation,

Thomas Jefferson's Monticello, the Bermuda National Trust, and Pamplin Historical Park & The National Museum of the Civil War Soldier. John earned a bachelor's degree in American history and anthropology from Washington & Lee University, a master's degree in anthropology from the College of William & Mary, a Doctor of Philosophy degree in American studies from Boston University, and a Master of Library and Information Science degree from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

VERY VIRGINIA

Did You Know the State Seal Has Two Sides?



The Virginia Shop at the Library of Virginia | Tues.—Fri. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Virginia Shop at the Capitol | Mon.—Sat. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

www.thevirginiashop.org | 804.692.3524 email: shop@thevirginiashop.org

A Virginia Shop exclusive — introducing a beautiful commemorative coin featuring both sides of Virginia's state seal. The well-known obverse side features the goddess Virtus standing over the defeated form of Tyranny. The seldom-seen reverse side, however, includes the word "Perseverando" (Latin for "persevering") and features goddesses representing liberty, eternity and fruitfulness. This \$20 brass coin measures 1.75" in diameter and comes in a velvet pouch.

Get **free shipping** on any online order over \$50 with code **VA250**. Valid through July 31, 2025. Shop online anytime at **thevirginiashop.org**.



literaty Virginia LITERATURE & LITERACY



SUMMER READING PROGRAMS

Library of Virginia sponsors programming for children and teens at public libraries

Summer reading programs help children and teens retain and enhance their reading skills over the summer, provide a community for readers, and serve as a valuable outreach tool for libraries. Participants in summer library programs benefit from activities that promote literacy development and help to minimize summer reading loss.

The Library of Virginia supports libraries in these endeavors by encouraging children and teens to read and to use their public libraries. To that end, Virginia is a member of the Collaborative Summer Learning Program (CSLP), which offers print materials for summer reading programs and access to a comprehensive programming manual.

This summer's theme, "Color Our World," features artwork by illustrator Mike Mullan and offers graphics and programming ideas focusing on arts and creativity ranging from painting to photography to writing. The Library of Virginia supports public libraries' summer learning programs with federal funds provided by the Institute of Museum and Library Services through the Library Services and Technology Act.

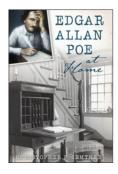
-Susan La Paro, Children's & Youth Services Consultant



Edgar Allan Poe at Home

By Christopher P. Semtner

Edgar Allan Poe's terror tales and melancholy poetry carved a bold new path across literary genres. Meet the man behind the madness, murder and mayhem on this road trip to Poe's homes in Richmond. Baltimore, Philadelphia,



the Bronx and more, and learn about the grave robbers, murderers and tooth thieves who inspired his greatest horror stories.

Arcadia Publishing, March 2024, \$24.99

the virginia shop

800 East Broad Street | Richmond, VA 23219 www.thevirginiashop.org 804.692.3524 | email: shop@thevirginiashop.org



READING?

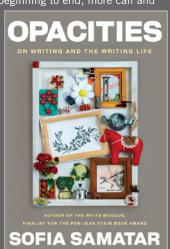
LAUREN K. ALLEYNE

Executive Director of the Furious Flower Poetry Center & Professor of English at James Madison University

Opacities: On Writing and the Writing Life By Sofia Samatar

am spending time again with Sofia Samatar's book "Opacities: On Writing and the Writing Life," which I was fortunate to be able to read in pre-production and to blurb, but which I'm coming to again differently — less beginning to end, more call and

response. "Opacities" is written in a form I love, the epistle — itself a call and response. It's a dialogue between friends who are writers, but it reads, too, like a dialogue between the writer and her own solitude. As a poet and lover of lyric, I find the book's attention to interiority, as well as its questions and laid-bare feelings about what it means to make the quietude of self public and known as a writer, to be fascinating and poignant. The narrative demands of embodiment anchor and tug at the ethereal interior, or as Samatar more strikingly writes: "I'm less interested in 'what happened to you' than the transmission of a feeling, something breathable and contagious, a vast, raw, yet untethered emotion, that's how I want to be seen and how I want the writers I love to be seen, not for the



self but for the ecstasy, the writerly ecstasy, caught and passed on like an electric charge." I dip again and again into this wonderful book for a bit of charge, a bit of writerly ecstasy!



ADRIANA TRIGIANI

The View From Lake Como and 25 Years of Big Stone Gap Thursday, July 24

This event is full, but a waitlist is available.

CRYSTAL WILKINSON

Praisesong for the Kitchen Ghosts
Thursday, August 14

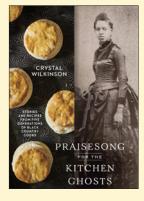
LAURA E. HELTON

Scattered and Fugitive Things: How Black Collectors Created Archives and Remade History Wednesday, Sept. 3

ALL EVENTS ARE FREE IN THE LIBRARY'S LECTURE HALL FROM 6:00 TO 7:30 P.M.









REGISTRATION REQUIRED: BIT.LY/WEINSTEIN2025

Save the Date for the 28th Annual

Virginia Literary Awards

Saturday, September 20, 2025

Virginia's biggest night honoring its authors and their stories

Hosted by Adriana Trigiani

PRESENTING SPONSOR

CELEBRATION SPONSOR





Save Your Seat Today!Scan the QR code or purchase your tickets at

www.lvafoundation.org/literaryawards



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summer Events Catendar

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.



Wednesday, June 18 | 12:00–1:00 p.m. VIRGINIA HUMANITIES FELLOW VIRTUAL TALK

Fugitive Data Portraits: Self-Emancipation in Virginia

Place: Online

Registration required: Iva-virginia.libcal.com/event/14631822

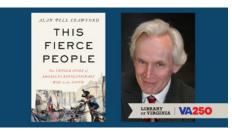
Join us for a virtual presentation from Virginia Humanities Fellow Tev'n Powers on his archival research project "Fugitive Data Portraits: Self-Emancipation in Virginia." Powers, a software engineer, independent researcher and community organizer, uses Library of Virginia records from counties across the Commonwealth to document people who self-emancipated during the Civil War and in some cases enslaved people who were captured during their escape. For more information, contact education@lva.virginia.gov.

Saturdays: June 28, July 26 & Aug. 23 12:00–2:00 p.m. VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Making History With LVA

Place: Computer Classroom Registration required: 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. Contact Sonya Coleman for more information at makinghistory@virginiamemory.com or call HandsOn Greater Richmond at 804.330.7400.



Wednesday, July 9 | 12:00–1:00 p.m. BOOK TALK WITH ALAN PELL CRAWFORD

This Fierce People: The Untold Story of America's Revolutionary War in the South

Place: Conference Rooms Registration required:

lva-virginia.libcal.com/event/14417676

Join us for a talk by author Alan Pell Crawford on his latest book, "This Fierce People," which explores the overlooked story of the critical aspect of America's Revolutionary War that was fought in the South. This event is part of the Library's programming commemorating Virginia's role in the 250th anniversary of American independence. For more information, contact education@lva.virginia.gov.



Wednesdays: July 9 & Aug. 6 | 5:30–7:30 p.m. **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY**

Making History With LVA

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. Contact Sonya Coleman for more information at makinghistory@ virginiamemory.com or call HandsOn Greater Richmond at 804.330.7400.

Wednesday, July 9 6:00–7:30 p.m. BOOK CLUB

Literary Virginia Book Group

Place: Online

Registration required:

lva.virginia.gov/public/literary_virginia_book_

group

On the second Wednesday of each month, join a virtual book group discussion. July's book is "Simply Lies" by David Baldacci (a 2024 People's Choice Award for Fiction finalist). For more information, contact Casey Clauberg at casey.clauberg@lva.virginia.gov or 804.692.3535.

Friday, July 11 | 10:00–11:00 a.m. INTERMEDIATE GENEALOGY WORKSHOP

African American Genealogy to 1870

Place: Online

Cost: \$15 (\$10 for Library members)

Registration required:

lva.virginia.gov/public/genealogy_workshops/

This virtual workshop explores the methods and resources for African American genealogy through the end of the Civil War. For more information, contact education@lva.virginia.gov.

Thursday, July 17 | 4:00–7:15 p.m. EXHIBITION OPENING & RECEPTION

House to Highway: Reclaiming a Community History

Place: Lobby, Exhibition Gallery & Lecture Hall Join us to celebrate the opening of the exhibition "House to Highway: Reclaiming a Community History" with a reception, guided tours and remarks from the exhibition's creators.

Thursday, July 24 | 6:00-7:30 p.m. WEINSTEIN AUTHOR SERIES: ADRIANA TRIGIANI

"The View From Lake Como" & 25 Years of "Big Stone Gap"

Place: Lecture Hall Registration required: Iva.virginia.gov/public/ weinstein

This event is full, but a waitlist is available.

Join us for a talk by bestselling author Adriana Trigiani, who will discuss



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her latest novel as well the one that started her Big Stone Gap series 25 years ago. "The View From Lake Como" presents the hilarious story of one woman's determination to live a creative life that matters. "Big Stone Gap" is the first novel in Trigiani's beloved series set in the Blue Ridge Mountains. For more information, contact education@lva.virginia.gov.

Friday, Aug. 8 | 10:00–11:00 a.m. GENEALOGY WORKSHOP

Newspaper Research

Place: Online

Cost: \$15 (\$10 for Library members)
Registration required: Iva.virginia.gov/public/
genealogy_workshops

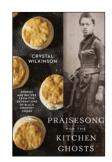
In this virtual workshop, discover how to access and use the Library of Virginia's broad array of digital newspaper resources, as well as collections from other large libraries throughout the Commonwealth. For more information, contact education@lva.virginia.gov.

Thursday, Aug. 14 | 6:00–7:30 p.m. WEINSTEIN AUTHOR SERIES: CRYSTAL WILKINSON

Praisesong for the Kitchen Ghosts: Stories and Recipes from Five Generations of Black Country Cooks

Place: Lecture Hall Registration required: lva.virginia.gov/public/ weinstein

Join us for a talk by award-winning poet,



author and professor Crystal Wilkinson on her latest book, "Praisesong for the Kitchen Ghosts," a lyrical culinary journey that explores the hidden legacy of Black Appalachians through powerful storytelling alongside nearly 40 comforting recipes. For more information, contact education@lva. virginia.gov.



Wednesday, Aug. 20 \mid 12:00–1:00 p.m. VA250 LECTURE

Dunmore's War of 1774

Place: Conference Rooms

Registration required: Iva-virginia.libcal.com/

event/14420350

Join us for a talk by historian and author Brent Tarter, who will discuss Dunmore's War of 1774. Consisting of one battle only, it was either the last of the colonial Virginia wars with members of First Nations tribes or the first battle of the American Revolution. This talk is part of the Library's programming commemorating Virginia's role in the 250th anniversary of American independence.



LVA ON THE GO

SUMMER 2025 SCHEDULE

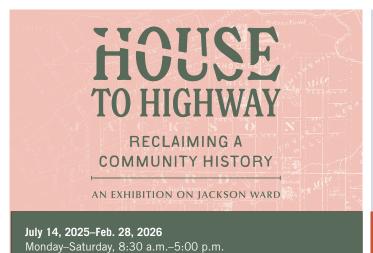
Our LVA On the Go van is touring the state to bring some of the Library's resources, staff expertise and programming to locations across the Commonwealth. For more information, contact Peter North at 804.692.3536 or peter.north@lva.virginia.gov.

Friday, June 27 **Poquoson's Picnic in the Park**830 Poquoson Ave.

Poquoson, VA 23662

Wednesday, Aug. 6 Wythe-Grayson Regional Library Wytheville Branch 300 East Monroe St. Wytheville, VA 24382

EXHIBITIONS AT 800 EAST BROAD



A new exhibition on the history of Richmond's Jackson Ward

neighborhood, "House to Highway," will explore the historic

neighborhood that was once the center of Richmond's Black

community through the lens of the Skipwith-Roper family.

Exhibition Gallery & Lobby | Free

HOMEFRONT TO FRONTLINE

VIRGINIA'S WWII STORY

Through October 2025

Monday-Saturday, 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Lobby & Online | Free

"Homefront to Frontline: Virginia's WWII Story," a lobby display, online exhibition and a collection of online resources commemorating the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II, brings to life the experiences of those who served in the military as well as those who supported the war effort at home.

IN CIRCUIATION WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING AT THE LIBRARY









- During an April event titled Let's Talk About Housing: A Conversation With Senator Tim Kaine, Senator Kaine and Thomas Okuda Fitzpatrick, executive director of Housing Opportunities Made Equal of Virginia, discussed work being done to support housing rights, as well as Kaine's early career as a fair housing attorney.
- 2. The Library continued its Black History Month celebration in March with a performance of "A Loving Community," an educational touring program commissioned by Virginia Opera featuring music and history relevant to the Civil Rights Movement. Excerpts from the world-premiere opera "Loving v. Virginia" were performed by Virginia Opera's four Emerging Artists with piano accompaniment.
- 3. Cultivating Perpetual Care Communities: A Richmond Cemetery Collaboratory Symposium held at the Library in March explored how long-term care of cemeteries is created, expressed and supported. Shown (LEFT TO RIGHT) are presenters

 Kenneth Forest, Library of Virginia reference archivist;

Elizabeth Baughan, associate professor of classics and archaeology at the University of Richmond; and **Marvin Hicks**, the Richmond Public Library's Community Memory Fellow.

- 4. The Library's exhibition coordinator, **Barbara Batson** (CENTER), led a tour of our exhibition "Mapping the Commonwealth, 1816–1826" during Map Day at the Library of Virginia in April. The event also offered a display of maps from our collection, map evaluations and conservation assessments, and presentations from cartographic history scholars.
- **5**. At the Library's quarterly First Friday event in April, which featured the theme "Flora & Fauna," a representative from Ikebana of Richmond demonstrated the art of Japanese flower arrangement.
- **6**. In April, author and professor **Katrina M. Powell** discussed her book "Beginning Again: Stories of Movement and Migration in Appalachia" during the first Carole Weinstein Author Series talk of the year.







ADOPT VIRGINIA HISTORY

Help the Library of Virginia conserve the treasures of the Commonwealth. By adopting an item for conservation in your name, or as a gift to honor others, your fully tax-deductible donation will keep Virginia's history accessible and alive for generations to come!

Below is a selection of what is available for adoption at www.lvafoundation.org/Adopt:

VISUAL STUDIES COLLECTION

1. Virginia Exposition 1888. Opens Oct 3rd
Closes Nov 21st, At the Historic City Richmond.
\$1,000

MAP COLLECTION

2. Gray's New Map of Liberty, Bedford County, Virginia, 1878
\$1,000

VISUAL STUDIES COLLECTION

3. View of the University of Virginia, 1856 \$500

Adopt Virginia History items are updated regularly as items are identified for conservation. If you would like more information, please contact Elaine McFadden, director of development, at elaine.mcfadden@lva.virginia.gov.



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HCUSE TO HIGHWAY

RECLAIMING A COMMUNITY HISTORY

AN EXHIBITION ON JACKSON WARD









