

# broadSIDE



the magazine of the **LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA**

2026 | NO. 1



## BROAD STREET CIRCA 1919

Exploring Richmond's architectural heritage  
through photographs

BROAD ST. - SOUTH - 2ND TO 3RD.



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**LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA**

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

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## THE INSIDE STORY

# From the Librarian of Virginia

**T**he Library of Virginia has never lacked stories worth telling, and this edition of Broadside is a perfect example of why.

Inside, you'll find a new exhibition on Broad Street that literally brings the past to life. These historical photographs capture a Richmond that has been transformed over decades, yet the "bones" of the city we know today remain visible beneath the surface. There is something uniquely powerful about seeing a familiar street corner rendered unfamiliar by time. I hope these images spark the same sense of wonder in you that they did in me when I first saw them.

We are also diving into one of the most pressing strategic shifts in the library world: the wave of AI-generated research questions hitting our reference desks. While technology is changing the landscape, our team is meeting the challenge head-on. They are bridging the gap between what AI can surface and the deep, human expertise that librarians and archivists — and a world-class collection — can provide. AI can find tons of information, but context, truth, and history require nuance.

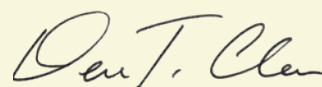
I am also incredibly energized to announce some key additions to our leadership team, including a new Deputy State Librarian. This group brings a level of talent and strategic energy that is exactly what we need as we look toward the future. I couldn't be more confident in the direction they are helping us set.

Reflecting on where we stand today, I'm struck by the sheer momentum we're carrying into the months ahead. Between the new faces, new digital tools, and the old stories waiting to be uncovered, the Library is in a season of growth. Our collections represent the full breadth of Virginia's history, and it remains our primary purpose to make sure they belong to everyone.

Thank you for being part of the community that sustains this work. We are doing this for you, and there is so much more to discover.

Please, read on.

Sincerely,



Dennis T. Clark



**Between the new faces, new digital tools, and the old stories waiting to be uncovered, the Library is in a season of growth.**

## ON THE COVER

A detailed view of Broad Street between Third and Second streets highlights the G.L. Hall Optical Company's storefront at 211 E. Broad St.



# LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA

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# PLAN YOUR VISIT

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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**Broad Street Circa 1919:  
A Photographic Exhibition**

Through May 30, 2026

**Her Prospects of Election:  
Virginia Women in Politics**

Through Dec. 18, 2026

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Photograph © Ansel Olson



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# BROAD STREET

## Exploring Richmond's

### MEMORIAL HOSPITAL ON BROAD STREET

Memorial Hospital (FAR RIGHT) dominates the corner of 12th Street. In subsequent decades, the surrounding historic residences and lumber yard were replaced by the Virginia Department of Highways Building, completed in 1939.

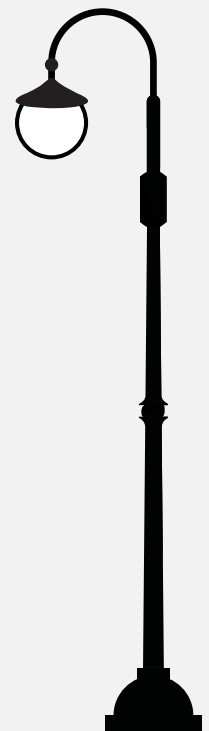


Photographs act as a powerful link between eras, quietly revealing nuanced changes in transportation, style, entertainment and the ever-shifting urban landscape. A new exhibition, “Broad Street Circa 1919,” presents a rare collection of panoramic photographs that document a transitional period in Richmond’s history. Captured by G.L. Hall Optical Company, these images trace Broad Street from 13th Street to Monroe Street, illustrating a city balancing the tensions between tradition and progress.

**EXHIBITION ON VIEW**  
**Through May 30, 2026**  
Exhibition Gallery

Broad Street has long been Richmond’s main thoroughfare, its character shaped by centuries of growth and social transformation. Initially established as the northern boundary of Colonel William Mayo’s plan for Richmond, it was known as “H Street” when Thomas Jefferson revised the city grid in the 1780s. Later, it was significantly widened to a 115-foot boulevard — an unusually broad expanse that prompted its renaming to Broad Street in 1845. Trains of the Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac Railroad ran down the center of Broad from a station at Eighth Street until 1875, when public outcry successfully led to their removal. It was the introduction of the nation’s first unified electric streetcar system in 1888 that marked a turning point. Broad Street then quickly transformed from a district of public buildings, churches and older residences into a bustling commercial corridor.

By 1919, when G.L. Hall captured sweeping panoramas of the corridor, Broad Street had become Richmond’s premier retail and entertainment district, featuring department stores, theaters,



# CIRCA 1919

architectural heritage through photographs BY DALE NEIGHBORS



restaurants, jewelry shops, dry goods merchants, photography studios and automobile dealerships. Hall's optical company, located at 211 East Broad and adorned with large KODAK advertisements in the upper windows, appears in one of the panoramas. A native of Danville, Hall founded the G.L. Hall Optical Company in Norfolk in 1901. A decade later, he expanded the business to include shops in Richmond and Lynchburg. An early photography enthusiast himself, Hall quickly recognized a growing demand among amateur photographers for films and equipment. In December 1911, Hall Optical informed readers of the Richmond Times-Dispatch, "It is with pleasure that we announce that we have added a complete line of Eastman Kodaks and supplies and shall have at all times a fully equipped developing and printing plant for amateurs." *continues on page 5*



## CONTRASTING SIDES OF BROAD

The south side of Broad Street was known for its larger stores and architecturally refined buildings, often outshining the more modest north side.



BROAD ST. - SOUTH - 10th TO 11th

No. 220. Photo C.L. Hall Oct. 22, 1919

**HUB OF THE CITY**

ABOVE: Designed by architect Elijah E. Myers, Old City Hall has stood as a commanding fixture in downtown Richmond since its completion in 1894.

AT RIGHT: The silent film drama "When Bearcat Went Dry," portraying a pledge to abstain from alcohol, debuted at the Isis Theatre on Oct. 27, 1919. Image courtesy of the Valentine.



NO. 42

Photo C.L. Hall Oct. 22, 1919



**THE AUTO DISTRICT**

ABOVE: Following World War I, Richmond experienced a surge in automobile sales and ownership, and Broad Street quickly became the city's main corridor for auto-related businesses.



The original purpose of Hall's photographs of Broad Street is unknown, although written notations on some prints suggest the project may have been commissioned for real estate purposes. Hall was widely known for maritime panoramas documenting Norfolk naval vessels, so his expertise may have been sought by realtors who wanted to showcase entire city blocks, something that could not be satisfactorily captured in a single view with a normal camera.

**“Broad Street Circa 1919” offers a richly detailed portrait of a city in transition, inviting modern audiences to contemplate Richmond’s layered architectural history and the complex social dynamics embedded into one of its most iconic streets.**

The exhibition presents a cityscape both familiar and lost. Landmarks such as Old City Hall—then still “new”—and Memorial Hospital, now the Virginia Department of Transportation, endure, while venues like the Isis and Bijou Theatres (current site of the Library of Virginia), once bustling with silent film premieres, have vanished.

Beyond architecture, Hall’s panoramic lens also captured candid glimpses of daily life: firefighters resting outside Engine Company No. 3, shoppers examining store windows, and delivery boys weaving through traffic on bicycles.

“Broad Street Circa 1919” offers a richly detailed portrait of a city in transition, inviting modern audiences to contemplate Richmond’s layered architectural history and the complex social dynamics embedded into one of its most iconic streets. ■



**A THEATRE TURNED GROCERY STORE**

Originally constructed as the “New Theatre” for M.L. Hofheimer, 206 E. Broad St. was repurposed in fall 1919 into Richmond’s fifth Piggly Wiggly supermarket.

# Virginia Exposition Revisited

## EXPOSITION POSTER

This rare and beautifully designed poster promoting the 1888 Virginia Exposition was recently acquired for the Visual Studies collection. The primary illustration depicts crowds gathering at the exposition's main building, accompanied by smaller views of the Virginia seal and the George Washington equestrian statue at Capitol Square. While the poster's intricate illustrations and bold typography remain intact, its extremely fragile condition calls for careful conservation. The poster is currently available for adoption through the Library of Virginia Foundation's *Adopt Virginia History* program. See page 21 for details.

The 1880s marked a high point in the South's enthusiasm for extravagant fairs and expositions. Such spectacles did more than entertain; they helped define the emerging identity of the New South and spurred economic development. Cities like Atlanta, Louisville, New Orleans, Raleigh, and Jacksonville all hosted such expositions. From Oct. 3 to Nov. 21, 1888, Richmond hosted the Virginia Agricultural, Mechanical and Tobacco Exposition, showcasing itself as a confident city eager to present a wide range of economic opportunities.

Set against the State Fair Grounds park (West Broad Street near the current Science Museum), the exposition opened to



## A CLOSER LOOK

### VISUAL STUDIES COLLECTION

considerable fanfare. A parade wound its way through Richmond, followed by speeches from prominent leaders, including Gov. Fitzhugh Lee and Richmond Mayor J. Taylor Ellyson. Although none of the exposition's buildings have survived, contemporary accounts praised the main structure — a striking 650-foot-long building facing Broad Street — as one of the grandest exposition buildings known. Notably, it featured a steam railway running directly through the building.

Like earlier state fairs but on a larger scale, the event highlighted agricultural prod-

ucts from across the Commonwealth. A newly constructed music hall offered an elegant setting for concerts, while an art hall displayed paintings and sculptures. Popular attractions such as Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show and a theatrical spectacle "The Last Days of Pompeii" drew enthusiastic crowds.

Weather, however, posed a persistent challenge. One observer noted that rain fell at least nine days, often making conditions inclement. On such soggy days, organizers encouraged visitors to explore the Relics and Antiquities exhibit indoors. The collection was

eclectic, ranging from manuscripts by the Founding Fathers to a "case of moths, prepared, which were found beneath an electric light in Lynchburg."

When the exposition wrapped up in November 1888, it was widely hailed as a triumph. Officials applauded the influx of thousands of visitors from across the nation and anticipated a surge of investors attracted to Virginia's bright future.

—Dale Neighbors, interim director of Manuscripts & Special Collections

## Jeff Dreyfus & Bob Headrick

When Jeff Dreyfus was first introduced to the Library of Virginia, he was struck by the breadth and significance of its mission. What he expected to be a traditional research library revealed itself as a vast, dynamic institution preserving the Commonwealth's history and supporting communities statewide.

"It was amazing to see the depth and sheer size of the Library's collections," he recalls. "From Thomas Jefferson's Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom to a legislative petition signed by 10,000 dissenting Virginians seeking the separation of church and state, these are first-hand accounts of our past."

That initial surprise quickly grew into a deep appreciation. As Dreyfus grew to understand the potential impact of the Library's educational programs, digital resources and support for the literary arts, he and his husband, Bob Headrick, became committed advocates and generous supporters.

"We believe the Library's strength lies in its ability to positively impact every community across the Commonwealth," they explain. "Through digital collections, traveling exhibitions and community outreach, the Library is an essential partner in sharing and preserving Virginia's history."

Dreyfus's engagement extends beyond the collections and programs. As a member of the Library of Virginia Foundation Board, he brings his architectural expertise to the Library's future planning. "I'm excited for the upcoming renovations. The Richmond facility is a beautiful building, but it no longer meets the needs of today's users. Dennis Clark's vision of the Library as a public square resonates with us because it moves beyond bricks

**"We hope others will find their way to the Library to explore all that it has to offer and support its work."**



### LEADERSHIP AND VISION

Bob Headrick (LEFT) and Jeff Dreyfus (RIGHT) give their time and expertise to the Library of Virginia to amplify its impact across the Commonwealth.

and mortar. It is about connecting people and finding common ground in the stories of Virginia. We hope others will find their way to the Library to explore all that it has to offer and support its work. It has changed our lives and given us a richer perspective about both Virginia's and our nation's history."

The Library of Virginia Foundation is profoundly grateful for the leadership and vision that Dreyfus and Headrick bring to this work. At a time when trusted educational institutions are more important than ever, supporters like them are helping ensure that the Library continues to thrive. To learn how you can strengthen the Library's work in conservation, education and community outreach, please contact Elaine McFadden at 804.692.3592 or [elaine.mcfadden@lva.virginia.gov](mailto:elaine.mcfadden@lva.virginia.gov). ■

## HELP US SHARE VIRGINIA STORIES!

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. Please consider making a fully tax-deductible gift by June 30.**

Make your gift today and help us share Virginia stories!

- Donate online at [www.lva.virginia.gov/donate](http://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)



# LEADERSHIP SPOTLIGHT

## Our Newest Team Members

### Meghan Ryan Guthorn Named Deputy State Librarian

Meghan Ryan Guthorn has been appointed deputy state librarian and chief of collections and archives, bringing more than 15 years of experience in federal archives administration, digital preservation and organizational leadership. Her start date at the Library is April 10.

In her new role on the senior leadership team, Guthorn will oversee the Library's vast collections and archives, including their acquisition, access, preservation, stewardship and exhibition. She joins the Library from the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), where she has served as deputy chief operating officer, overseeing daily operations across several of NARA's service delivery programs nationwide, including Catalog and Web Programs, Digital Preservation, the Electronic Records Archives system, the Holdings Management System, Digitization Partnerships and other offices and functions.

"Meg brings deep operational experience, a strong record of managing complex archival programs, and a clear commitment to public service," said Librarian of Virginia Dennis T. Clark. "Her expertise in digital preservation, records management and organizational leadership will enhance the Library's ability to serve Virginians and safeguard the documentary heritage of the Commonwealth. We are delighted to welcome her to the Library."

During her tenure at NARA, Guthorn led the implementation of the Civil Rights Cold Case Records Collection Act, served as the transition director between presidential administrations at the National Archives, and spearheaded initiatives to drive the agency's modernization efforts, among other key accomplishments. Her previous roles included serving as NARA's Still Picture Branch chief, where she led a diverse team through the full archival lifecycle and guided the branch's transition to fully virtual operations during the COVID-19 pandemic. She also served as supervisory archivist for the Textual Accessioning Branch after holding earlier archival roles at NARA.

"I'm excited to return to Virginia and join the impressive team at the Library," Guthorn said. "From celebrating the 250th to exploring innovative approaches to accessing information, the Library is at the center of so many important activities for the Commonwealth. I'm honored to be a part of it."

Guthorn earned a B.A. in history and English from Boston College, and both an M.A. in American history and an M.L.S. (archival science) from the University of Maryland. A member of the Society of American Archivists, she is a Certified Archivist and Certified Digital Archives Specialist. She also holds a Certificate of Federal Records Management Training.



MEGHAN RYAN GUTHORN

**“Her expertise in digital preservation, records management and organizational leadership will enhance the Library’s ability to serve Virginians and safeguard the documentary heritage of the Commonwealth.”**

## Diana Price Joins Library as Chief of Library Development

Diana Price, who has extensive experience in library management and programming collaborations, has joined the Library as chief of library development — a vital role on the Senior and Management Leadership Teams. She leads programs and services for Virginia’s public libraries, including oversight of state and federal library funding.

“Diana brings exceptional expertise and fresh vision to her role, and we are eager to see the transformative impact she will have on our libraries,” said Librarian of Virginia Dennis T. Clark.

Price most recently worked at Alexandria Public Library, where she served for six years as central library youth services manager and then progressed to central library manager in 2020. During her tenure, she founded Sister Libraries programming partnerships with the Dundee Public Library in Dundee, Scotland, and Bibliotek Familjen Helsingborg in Helsingborg, Sweden — two of Alexandria’s Sister Cities; co-presented virtual programs with Scottish partners quarterly and Swedish partners bi-monthly; and worked with the Alexandria Library Sustainability Committee and Library Administration on a successful proposal for the Alexandria Library to join the Sustainable Libraries Initiative. Price also served in various librarian roles

at the Bucks County Free Library in Bucks County, Pennsylvania. She earned a B.A. degree in English from William & Mary and an M.L.I.S. from the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee.

“I am honored to join this amazing team and am looking forward to working with my new colleagues at the Library of Virginia, as well as with Virginia’s 95 public library systems,” said Price. “Born and raised in Virginia, I have experienced firsthand the tremendous positive

impact of the Commonwealth’s libraries, which inspired me to pursue a career in this field. Having worked at the Alexandria Library for the past 11 years, I have experienced how the incredible work of the Library Development Division supports public libraries and library staff throughout the Commonwealth.”



DIANA PRICE

## Aubrey Hobby Joins Library as Director of Governmental and External Affairs

Aubrey Hobby has joined the Library as director of governmental and external affairs. In this leadership role, Hobby will serve as a key adviser to the Librarian of Virginia and will build and sustain partnerships with the General Assembly, the Commonwealth’s executive offices, state agencies and other cultural institutions.

She most recently served as legislative assistant to Majority Leader Charniele Herring, where she provided policy research, communications support and coordinated meetings with constituents, advocacy groups and lobbyists. She also contributed to the successful advancement of several pieces of legislation and supported fundraising and community engagement efforts.

“Aubrey brings a deep understanding of Virginia’s legislative process and a strong commitment to public service,” said Librarian of Virginia Dennis T. Clark. “Her experience working with policy-makers, constituent and community partners will strengthen the Library’s ability to advance its mission and engage effectively across the Commonwealth.”

Previously, Hobby served as chief of staff to Delegate Amy Laufer, managing office operations, constituent services, legislative research and stakeholder communications. She has also held legislative roles with Delegates Marcia Price and Dawn Adams. Her earlier experience includes campaign organizing roles and policy research at the University of Virginia.

Hobby holds a B.A. degree with majors in both English and political science from Hollins University, and a Master of Public Policy degree from the University of Virginia’s Frank Batten School of Leadership and Public Policy. She also earned a certificate in leadership studies from Hollins University’s Batten Leadership Institute.



AUBREY HOBBY

# AI at the Reference Desk



## REFERENCING THE FUTURE

Mary Clark (LEFT) and Sarah Huggins (RIGHT), both now retired, staff the Reference Desk in 1988.

## *A New Era for Research Questions*

BY SARAH FALLS

It seems that Artificial Intelligence (AI) is everywhere these days. I was recently at a store and heard two people talking about their children's use of ChatGPT to do research. These parents were somewhat astonished by the technology but were accepting that this was the next new thing. This everyday conversation is not surprising, given that ChatGPT and other products like it, including Gemini and Claude, are now being commonly used as life and research tools. In the past, these young researchers might have gone straight to Wikipedia and Google, but today they look to these new generative AI chatbots to help them find the answers, and the experience is very different. One of these, ChatGPT, has had a meteoric rise and is now the fifth most visited website, behind standards like Google, YouTube, Facebook and Instagram, according to the analytics site Exploding Topics.

How is all of this impacting researchers at the Library of Virginia? In spring 2025, reference librarians and archivists saw an uptick in requests for documents that didn't exist. At the same time, many of them started getting requests directly to their individual work emails rather than through the standard reference email or online form. The questions all had a similar look and feel, with lots of bullets, boldface and citations for historical documents about people. The staff began to wonder if these questions were created by chatbots and directly lifted from a product like ChatGPT's response. That hunch was correct, and what we did not realize was that ChatGPT had doubled its weekly users between February and April of that year, from 400 million per week to 800 million, as reported by Exploding Topics. Reference librarian Becky Schneider surveyed questions received over the first two weeks of October 2025 and found that 15 percent had been generated by the results summary of an AI chatbot.



## EVERYDAY TOOLS

Chatbots can help us do everyday things like create grocery lists, think of creative places to go on an upcoming vacation, summarize the main ideas of articles and even transcribe a historical document, but they can also assist with genealogical and historical research. However, one of the great challenges here is that these tools often hallucinate citations — often producing citations that are personally meaningful and related to people’s families. The personal part of this interaction can have an emotional impact. Unlike Google, chatbots are programmed to give a likely answer, and will create a citation that seems like it *might* exist rather than providing verified sources.

**Unlike Google, chatbots are programmed to give a likely answer, and will create a citation that seems like it *might* exist rather than providing verified sources.**

## INFORMATION LITERACY

What guidance are libraries and archives getting to help with the influx of questions created by AI? “Generative AI and Libraries: Claiming Our Place in the Center of a Shared Future” is an insightful publication that provides a framework for thinking about how generative AI (Gen AI) impacts libraries. The author refers to Gen AI as an “arrival technology [that] fundamentally reshaped society regardless of individual choice or adoption.” When thinking about another arrival technology, consider how cellphones vastly changed daily life, and with it, how people look for and access information. In both of these cases, research is no longer an isolated activity but happens in the same spaces where you look for the answers to questions of daily life.

Academic libraries have been grappling with AI in many ways over the past several years. What began with concerns about students using chatbots to write term papers has gained a great deal of nuance and is now a part of information literacy education on campuses and in research support. But campus librarians and archivists have very specific frameworks and curricula for working with students to use generative AI chatbots more productively. Our researchers are the public at large, and we don’t always know what background or knowledge a researcher has about technology or how they have obtained their information.

## WHAT WILL WE DO?

To meet the needs of our researchers at the Library of Virginia, we are considering several means for reaching them where they are. First, we’ll be asking researchers who submit questions through email or web forms to let us know that they used a generative AI product. In our response to researchers, we’ll ask them to verify citations. We will create online tutorials about using AI effectively when looking at Library of Virginia resources and will include third-party products like FamilySearch Labs, which uses AI to help researchers build family trees, and JSTOR which can summarize scholarly articles with its AI tools.

I’d like to conclude with four helpful points that the search bot Claude assembled for me in deciphering about whether or not citations are hallucinated:

- Ask me to search when you need current or verified information.
- Push back if something sounds off — I can reconsider or search again.
- For critical decisions, verify important claims independently.
- Use the thumbs-down button if I get something wrong (it helps Anthropic improve).

---

Sarah Falls is chief of Researcher Engagement at the Library.

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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](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).



**SHARON Y. BOWEN**  
1956– | Chesapeake  
**CORPORATE ATTORNEY**

As chair of the New York Stock Exchange, Sharon Bowen has blazed a path in corporate America for women and African Americans.

# 2026 Strong Men & Women in Virginia History

PRESENTED BY



## 2026 Strong Men & Women Student Creative Expressions Contest Winner & Finalists

**VRINDA SHAH, Winner**  
Maggie Walker Governor's School  
Richmond, VA

**TRIS MEAGHER, Finalist**  
Appomattox Regional  
Governor's School  
Petersburg, VA

**SIHYUN KAN, Finalist**  
Westfield High School  
Fairfax County, VA

**VANSH GOEL, Finalist**  
Tucker High School  
Henrico County, VA

In honor of her efforts, winner Vrinda Shah received \$2,000 for her school. Each finalist 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 [lva.virginia.gov/services/education/smw](http://lva.virginia.gov/services/education/smw).



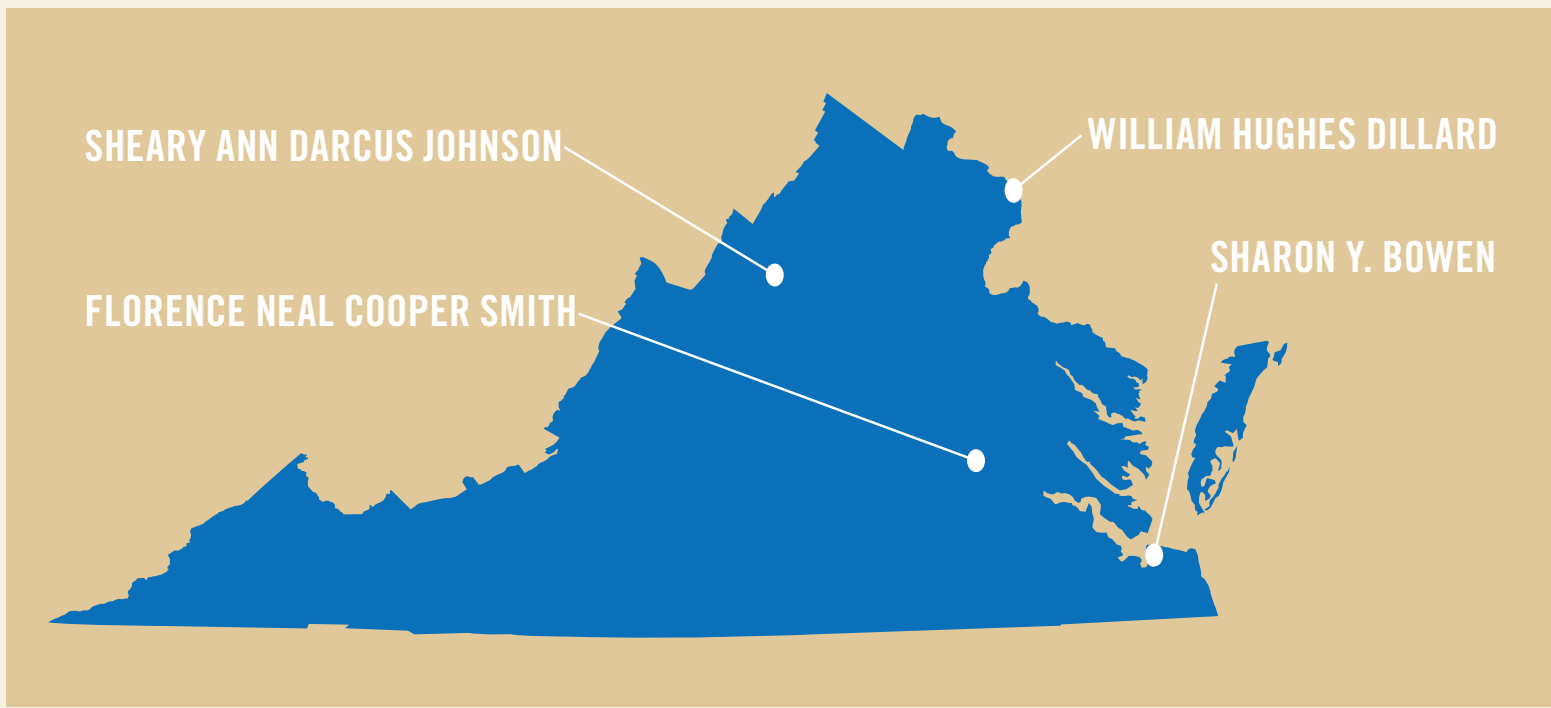
Photo Credits: Bowen, courtesy of NYSE Group; Dillard, courtesy of Peter Dillard; Johnson, courtesy of Bobby Russell; Smith, courtesy of Florence Neal Cooper Smith.

**WILLIAM HUGHES DILLARD**  
1932–2024 | **Arlington County**  
**UNITED STATES ARMY OFFICER**  
In a long and distinguished career in the United States Army, Colonel William Hughes Dillard honorably served his country at home and abroad.

**SHEARY ANN DARCUS JOHNSON**  
1947– | **Harrisonburg**  
**CIVIL RIGHTS PIONEER**  
The first Black student to earn an undergraduate degree at James Madison University, Sheary D. Johnson seeks to help those in her community reach their full potential.

**FLORENCE NEAL COOPER SMITH**  
1931– | **Richmond**  
**PUBLIC HEALTH ADVOCATE**  
Florence Neal Cooper Smith has been a tireless advocate for the public awareness and treatment of sickle cell disease at the local, state and national levels.

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



**ILLUMINATING HIDDEN STORIES**

Michelle Oliver, financial genealogist and Virginia Humanities HBCU Fellow, photographed in the Library's Archives Research Room.

# TRACING HIDDEN ECONOMIES

## A Conversation with Financial Genealogist Michelle Oliver

Michelle Oliver, a financial genealogist, public historian and preservationist, brings a unique perspective to the Library of Virginia as our newest Virginia Humanities HBCU Fellow. After more than two decades in the financial advisory industry, she has turned her expertise toward uncovering the economic systems that shaped African American lives in the nineteenth century. During her residency, Michelle will explore how financial instruments — such as life insurance policies — were used to manage risk tied to enslaved labor in hazardous industries. Her work blends archival research, genealogy and financial analysis to illuminate stories long hidden within institutional records. We sat down with Michelle to learn more about her research focus, the questions driving her work, and how she plans to use the Library's collections to bring these histories to light.

### **What inspired your interest in the connection between financial systems and African American history in the 19th century?**

**Michelle Oliver:** For me, this work grew out of experience. I spent more than 20 years in finance helping families think about risk, security and legacy. At the same time, I was building my life around genealogy and preservation within African American communities. Over time, I began to see that economic systems were shaping the records we rely on to tell history. That realization shifted my perspective. I started asking how financial structures influenced Black life in the nineteenth century and how those systems appear, often quietly, in archival collections.

### **How did your experience in the financial advisory industry shape your approach to historical research?**

**MO:** Finance teaches you to read carefully and to think structurally. You examine contracts, look at how obligations are defined, and consider who is protected and who bears exposure.

When I sit in the archives, I bring that same discipline. I pay attention to language, design and pattern. I am interested in how systems operate beneath the surface of individual documents. That training allows me to see economic records as part of a larger framework rather than isolated artifacts.

### Why is your fellowship topic important to understanding history?

**MO:** Public memory often treats slavery as a social or agricultural institution. What is less discussed is how it intersected with broader economic and industrial development.

By examining how labor, capital and enterprise interacted during this period, we gain a more complete understanding of how economic growth was structured. This approach situates slavery within the wider financial and corporate environment of the time. It expands the narrative without reducing it to a single dimension.

### What questions are you hoping to answer during your time at the Library of Virginia?

**MO:** I am exploring how economic institutions and legal frameworks operated together in antebellum Virginia. How were financial responsibilities documented? How were labor relationships formalized within corporate and legal systems?

The Library of Virginia holds materials that allow for cross reading across corporate, governmental and judicial records. I am particularly interested in what becomes visible when those collections are examined together.

### How do financial records reveal hidden aspects of enslaved life and labor?

**MO:** Financial records often preserve details that do not appear in more traditional narratives. Even when created for administrative purposes, they can illuminate working environments, economic priorities and institutional relationships. When read carefully and in context, these records reveal how systems of valuation shaped lived experience. They provide indirect but meaningful insight into how labor was positioned within expanding economic structures.

### What challenges do you anticipate in uncovering these histories, and how will you address them?

**MO:** One challenge is that the records were not created to tell a human centered story. They were designed to document transactions and obligations. That requires careful interpretation and contextualization.

Another challenge is navigating fragmented evidence. Reconstructing broader meaning often requires moving between different types of records and disciplines. My approach combines financial analysis with genealogical sensitivity, allowing me to hold both the structural and human dimensions together.

**Financial records often preserve details that do not appear in more traditional narratives.**

### How do you hope your research will change the way we understand economic systems and their impact on African American lives?

**MO:** I hope this work encourages a more layered understanding of economic systems in American history. Financial tools are often presented as technical or neutral, yet they operate within social realities. By examining how economic structures functioned in this period, we gain insight into how wealth, risk and power were organized. That broader lens invites deeper reflection on how institutional design shapes lived experience, both historically and today. ■



#### UNCOVERING THE STORIES IN THE RECORDS

Reference archivist Courtney Thompson assists Oliver as she explores archival documents for her research.



## Help Preserve & Share Virginia's Stories!

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

# BANDITTI OF BROTHERS

## Irregulars and Plunderers During the Revolution

BY VINCE BROOKS

**D**uring armed conflicts, some participants recognize the opportunities for ill-gotten gains. In the upheaval of the American Revolution, combatants on both sides seized chances to plunder in the hazy middle ground between the front lines. Some were light on ideals and just looking to make money from stolen goods sold to the highest bidder, while others — ardent supporters of one side or the other — eschewed acceptable rules of engagement and treatment of non-combatants to enrich themselves and sow terror. One name encapsulated both: banditti.

“Banditti” is a robber or gang of robbers operating in a lawless place. The turmoil that resulted from America declaring independence from Great Britain made for lots of gray areas in which opportunists could operate.

This article cannot address all the nuances and intricacies of the various banditti groups operating around the country, and there were several. Dr. Harry M. Ward’s “Between the Lines: Banditti of the American Revolution” covers that ground in detail. My goal is to highlight some interesting documents from the archives that illustrate that not everyone who lived in the North American colonies was either a brave Patriot fighting for his liberty or a gallant Tory fighting for his King.

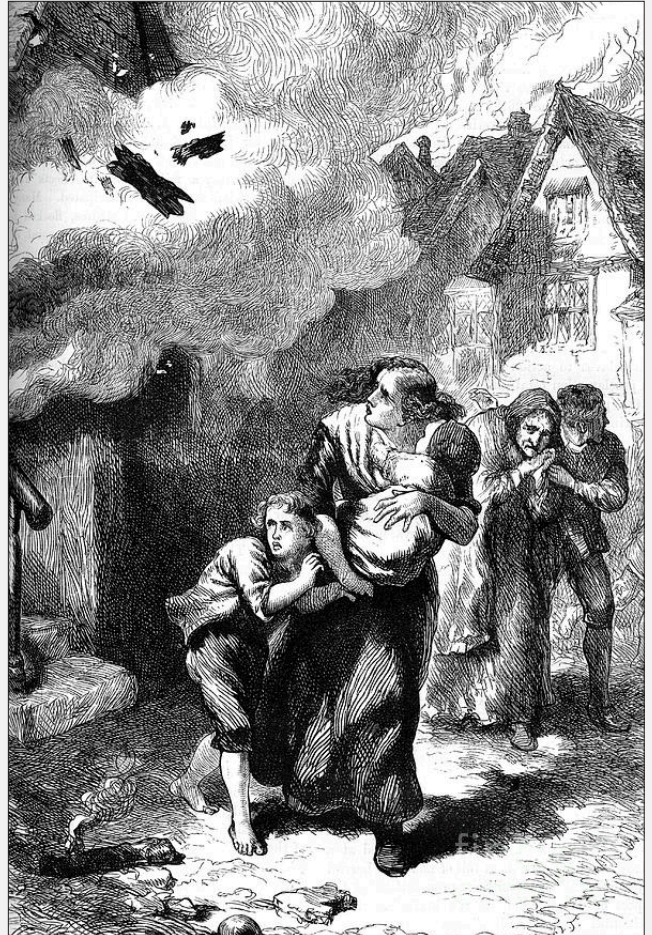
In the early days of the American rebellion, one banditti’s name was already on the minds of Virginia’s leaders appointed to steer the nascent revolt against King George III: Josiah Philips (or Phillips). The volunteer companies’ officers at Williamsburg wrote to Virginia’s Third Revolutionary Convention, in August 1775, that they were particularly vexed by “one Phillips” who “commanded an ignorant disorderly mob in direct opposition to the measures of this Country” and that they “wished to crush such attempts in Embryo[.]”

The counties of Norfolk and Princess Anne were prizes to be traded back and forth between the Rebel and the Loyalist armies. The inhabitants were already pleading to Virginia’s Fourth Revolutionary Convention for relief from “cruelties” and “indignity” at the hands of “plundering soldiery” in January 1776. Norfolk burned at the hands of Rebel militia in February 1776.

### “Incident in the Burning of Norfolk”

After repeated depredations in southern Tidewater using the Dismal Swamp as a hideout, Josiah Philips was arrested in December 1777 but quickly escaped and returned to marauding with his confederates. The gang included people who were self-liberated from enslavement, which further terrified the Tidewater gentry, who long feared an uprising by the people whom they enslaved. Harry M. Ward, Alan Taylor and Matthew Steilen all touch on aspects of race and class that factor into this history in greater detail, according to “Cassell’s History of the United States.”

Philips was officially outlawed by an executive proclamation from Gov. Patrick Henry in 1777, but that also proved no inducement to surrender. Philips’ seeming invincibility frustrated Virginia’s military and political leaders. After Philips allegedly murdered a militia captain, they resorted to an extreme measure in direct opposition to the stated goals of their concurrent revolution against the British crown.



“INCIDENT IN THE BURNING OF NORFOLK”

From “Cassell’s History of the United States.” London: Cassell, Petter & Galpin, 1874-1877.

On May 28, 1778, none other than Del. Thomas Jefferson of Albemarle County wrote and helped pass a “Bill to Attaint Josiah Philips and Others.” A bill of attainder is a legislative act that declares a person or group of people guilty of a crime and inflicts punishment without a trial. This legislative process was based in English law, but it completely ignored the right to due process outlined in the provisions of the Commonwealth’s own 1776 Constitution, according to legal historian Matthew Steilen. Eventually, this concept of due process became foundational to American law. The U.S. Constitution’s Article I, Section 9, Clause 3, specifically prohibits Congress from passing bills of attainder in deference to the right of all people in the United States to due process. Ward indicated that in later writings, Jefferson would downplay or ignore the hypocrisy inherent in his legislative legacy.

Other Tidewater locals suffered at the hands of roving banditti. A 1781 letter to Gov. Benjamin Harrison by William Rose, keeper of the public jail, included a confessional letter from a repentant banditti prisoner named Jackson. In it, Jackson describes a group of Carolina

unofficially in proximity to British troops. After raiding, the bandits would hold open air auctions in their camp to sell their spoils, often with the knowledge and participation of British officers.

Rose’s letter to Harrison also contains a petition from three men — James Robinson and John Chapman of Prince William County, and Reuben Griffith of Mecklenburg County — in the public jail and condemned to death for horse stealing and burglary. The men plead for clemency and offer to join the American army, promising to “become good and faithful soldiers.” This, perhaps, implies that they were also banditti, taking advantage of the chaos of war to rob and steal.

These and other documents in the state and local government collections show that the American Revolution is much more complicated and nuanced than we might like to think. They also illustrate that noncombatants in the Commonwealth had to fear not only food shortages, economic hardships and the opposition’s military, but also groups of pillaging men unbound by rules of military engagement or civility. ■

### Sources

Harry M. Ward, “Between the Lines: Banditti of the American Revolution,” Praeger, 2002.

Alan Taylor, “American Revolutions: A Continental History, 1750–1804,” W.W. Norton, 2016.

Matthew Steilen, “The Legislature at War: Bandits, Runaways and the Emergence of a Virginia Doctrine of Separation of Powers,” Law and History Review, 2019.

Vince Brooks is Local Records program manager at the Library. A version of this article previously appeared on the Library’s blog, “The UncommonWealth.” It has been adapted for this magazine.

WILLIAMSBURG, March 23.  
**W**E hear from North Carolina, that parties of men are dispersed all over the colony, apprehending suspected persons, and disarming all the Highlanders and regulators that were put to the route in the late battle. The conductors have already taken 350 guns and shot bags, about 150 swords and dirks, 1500 excellent rifles, two medicine chests from England, one of them valued at 500 l. sterling, a box containing half johanneffes and guineas, secreted in a stable at Gufs Creek, discovered by a Negro, and reported to be worth 15,000 l. sterling; also thirteen waggons, with complete sets of harness. Eight hundred and fifty common soldiers were made prisoners, disarmed, and discharged. Col. Long has also apprehended several of their officers, who are now in Halifax goal, viz. Col. John Piles, Major Thomas Collins, Captains David Jackson, Enoch Bradby, John Piles, and Thomas Bradford; Lieutenants Stephen Parker and Daniel M'Donald, the latter wounded through the thigh; Ensign Downing, and Doctor Robertson. There are in the same goal four persons of the name of Field, one Turner, and three Bells; a midshipman, and a quarter gunner of the Scorpion; likewise one Kingborough M'Donald, Colonels Hugh M'Donald, Thomas Rutherford, Hector M'Neil, and Alexander M'Donald; Captains Morrison, M'Kenzie, Thomas Weir, Eggate, Solomon Gools, Parsons, M'Coy, Mufe, John Michelson, N. H. M'Carter, and Adjutant Frazer; Lieutenants Colin M'Iver, Joshua Hews, — Cameron, Donald Hews, Donald Cameron, andundry other Lieutenants and Ensigns, whose names we have not an account of; Kenneth M'Donald, aid de camp, James Hepburn, secretary, Parion Beattie, Aaron Vardy, W. Muller, and Dr. Merrifon, commissary. General M'Donald and Brigadier General M'Leod (the latter of whom was killed, and the other taken prisoner) set out at the head of this banditti with the avowed intention of carrying Governor Martin to the interior parts of the province. These two officers passed through Newbern a few months ago, where they took a solemn oath, before the committee of that town, that their business in the province was only to see their friends and relations.

“Horse Thieves, Counterfeeters of Money and Persons guilty of other high Crimes and Misdemeanors” who escaped Gloucester disguised as soldiers after the British surrender at Yorktown. Jackson alleges that none of these men ever held a military commission (which would have seen them tried under military code for their plunder) but rather operated

**A WARNING FROM NORTH CAROLINA**  
 Virginia Gazette, March 23, 1776, p. 3.



ERIC JOHNSON

## Eric Johnson joins Library to coordinate Revolutionary-era documents project

Eric Johnson joined the Library as coordinator of “Ideas in Action: Virginians Petition Their Government, 1776–1786,” a collaborative project with the VA250 Commission. The project involves a participatory, crowd-sourced approach to engaging today’s Virginians with the ideals, issues and actions contained in more than 2,000 legislative petitions that Revolutionary-era Virginians submitted to their General Assembly during this time frame.

Johnson brings significant experience working in libraries and museums. He most recently served as associate professor and head of the Creative Technologies and Scholarship Department at Virginia Commonwealth University, where he managed the creation, launch and ongoing operation of The Workshop, VCU Libraries’ state-of-the-art multimedia studio and makerspace. He earned a B.A. in history from William & Mary, an M.A. in U.S. history from George Mason University, an M.S. in information studies from Florida State University, a graduate certificate in geographic information systems from VCU and an M.S. in cartography and geographic information systems from the University of Wisconsin–Madison.

Learn more about the Library’s resources and upcoming events highlighting Virginia’s role in the 250th anniversary of American independence at [lva.virginia.gov/events/va250](http://lva.virginia.gov/events/va250).

# calendar

## SPRING 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: April 8, May 6 & June 10**

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. Contact Jessi Bennett for more information at [makinghistory@virginiamemory.com](mailto:makinghistory@virginiamemory.com) or call the Community Foundation at 804.330.7400.



**Wednesdays, April 8, May 13 & June 10 | 6:00–7:30 p.m.**

**BOOK CLUB**

**Literary Virginia Book Group**

Place: Online

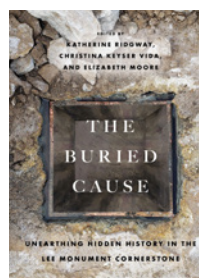
Registration required: [bit.ly/LVALitVABookGroup](http://bit.ly/LVALitVABookGroup)

Read and discuss the best of today's Virginia literature

— including books by Library of Virginia Literary Award winners and finalists in fiction and nonfiction. On the second Wednesday of each month, join a virtual book group discussion.

April's book is "Curvy Girl Summer" by Danielle Allen (People's Choice Award Fiction Finalist), May's book is "Hell Put to Shame" by Earl Swift (Virginia Literary Awards Fiction Finalist) and June's book is "Black Star" by Kwame Alexander (Virginia Literary Awards Children's Finalist). For more information,

contact Casey Clauberg at [casey.clauberg@lva.virginia.gov](mailto:casey.clauberg@lva.virginia.gov) or 804.692.3545.



**Wednesday, April 15**

12:00–1:00 p.m.

**BOOK TALK WITH KATHERINE RIDGWAY**

**The Buried Cause**

Place: Conference Rooms

Registration required:

[lva-virginia.libcal.com/event/16033480](http://lva-virginia.libcal.com/event/16033480)

Join us for a free book talk by Katherine Ridgway, co-author of "The Buried Cause: Unearthing Hidden History in the Lee Monument Cornerstone," which casts a modern light on memories and artifacts of the Civil War. The book's essays reveal to readers the lives of the people who donated the objects discovered beneath the statue of Robert E. Lee on Richmond's Monument Avenue, the ceremonies that enshrined them, and the communities disregarded and unaccounted for in this material snapshot of the past. For more information, contact [education@lva.virginia.gov](mailto:education@lva.virginia.gov).



**Thursday, April 23 | 6:00–7:30 p.m.**

**WEINSTEIN AUTHOR SERIES: BETH MACY Paper Girl**

Place: Lecture Hall

Registration required: [lva-virginia.libcal.com/event/16272591](http://lva-virginia.libcal.com/event/16272591)

Join us for a free talk by New York Times bestselling author Beth Macy on her new book, "Paper Girl: A Memoir of Home and Family in a Fractured America." Macy takes readers back to her hometown of Urbana, Ohio — a place that shaped her childhood and her dreams — while exploring what happened as economic decline and division transformed it over the decades. For more information, contact [education@lva.virginia.gov](mailto:education@lva.virginia.gov).



**Saturdays: April 25, May 30 & June 27**

12:00–2:00 p.m.

**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY**

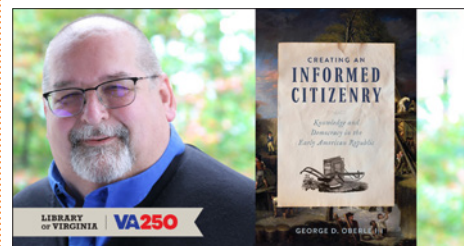
**Making History With LVA**

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.

Contact Jessi Bennett for more information at [makinghistory@virginiamemory.com](mailto:makinghistory@virginiamemory.com) or call the Community Foundation at 804.330.7400.



**Thursday, April 30 | 12:00–1:00 p.m.**

**VA250-RELATED BOOK TALK WITH GEORGE OBERLE**

**Creating an Informed Citizenry**

Place: Lecture Hall

Registration required: [lva-virginia.libcal.com/event/16212403](http://lva-virginia.libcal.com/event/16212403)

Join us for a free talk with historian George Oberle on his new book, "Creating an Informed Citizenry: Knowledge and Democracy in the Early American Republic," which examines the early debates in the United States over how best to educate the constituents of the new nation. By spotlighting various institutions of learning, Oberle provides a comprehensive look at how knowledge was created, circulated and consumed in the early American republic. For more information, contact [education@lva.virginia.gov](mailto:education@lva.virginia.gov).



**Friday, May 8 & May 15 | 10:00–11:30 a.m.**  
**VIRTUAL RESEARCH WORKSHOPS**  
**On the Move! American Migration Routes**  
**From the Colonial Period to the Early**  
**Republic, Part 1 & Part 2**

Place: Online  
 Registration required: [lva-virginia.libcal.com/event/16216564](http://lva-virginia.libcal.com/event/16216564) & [lva-virginia.libcal.com/event/16216673](http://lva-virginia.libcal.com/event/16216673)

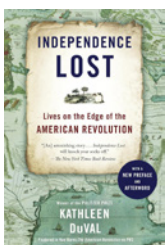
Join us for a virtual two-part workshop on May 8 and 15 with senior map archivist Cassandra Farrell, who will discuss routes traveled by early Americans during the colonial and early Republic eras. Register for each part separately. For more information, contact [education@lva.virginia.gov](mailto:education@lva.virginia.gov).



**Thursday, May 14 | 6:00–7:00 p.m.**  
**VA250 DISCUSSION**  
**Interpreting History | A Conversation with**  
**Christy S. Coleman and Librarian of Virginia**  
**Dennis T. Clark**

Place: Lecture Hall  
 Registration required: [lva-virginia.libcal.com/event/16515392](http://lva-virginia.libcal.com/event/16515392)

Join us for a conversation with Christy S. Coleman, executive director of the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, and Librarian of Virginia Dennis T. Clark as they explore how the ways historic sites, museums and archives interpret history shape our understanding of the past. For more information, contact [education@lva.virginia.gov](mailto:education@lva.virginia.gov).



**Wednesday, May 27 | 12–1 p.m.**  
**VA250-RELATED BOOK TALK**  
**WITH DR. KATHLEEN DUVAL**  
**Independence Lost**

Place: Lecture Hall  
 Registration required: [lva-virginia.libcal.com/event/16314349](http://lva-virginia.libcal.com/event/16314349)

Join us for a noon talk with historian Dr. Kathleen DuVal on her book, “Independence Lost: Lives on the Edge of the American Revolution.” In the Gulf of Mexico, Spanish forces clashed with Britain’s strained army to carve up the Gulf Coast, as both sides competed for allegiances with Chickasaw, Choctaw and Creek nations who inhabited the region. Meanwhile, African American slaves were finding opportunities to expand their freedoms. DuVal reveals that an individual’s motives were as important in their allegiance to the Revolution as the ideals of liberty and freedom the Founders espoused: independence held personal as well as national meaning. For more information, contact [education@lva.virginia.gov](mailto:education@lva.virginia.gov).

**Thursday, June 25 | 6:00–7:30 p.m.**  
**WEINSTEIN AUTHOR SERIES:**  
**LATORIAL FAISON**

**Nursery Rhymes in Black: Poems**  
 Place: Lecture Hall  
 Registration required: [lva-virginia.libcal.com/event/16272602](http://lva-virginia.libcal.com/event/16272602)

Join us for a free talk by award-winning poet and author Dr. Latorial Faison on her most recent poetry collection, “Nursery Rhymes



in Black: Poems.” In the book, Faison reclaims the lyrical traditions of her upbringing to deliver a poetic collection that is both cultural archive and personal gospel. She examines race, gender, religion, grief, poverty, pride, and perseverance, anchoring each line in the cadence of a people who have always had to “sing louder than the laws that bound them.” For more information, contact [education@lva.virginia.gov](mailto:education@lva.virginia.gov).

**HOLIDAY CLOSINGS**  
**Monday, May 25, 2026**  
 Closed for Memorial Day  
**Friday, June 19, 2026**  
 Closed for Juneteenth

# EXHIBITIONS AT 800 EAST BROAD



## BROAD STREET CIRCA 1919

**Through May 30, 2026 | Monday–Saturday, 8:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m.**  
 Exhibition Gallery & Lobby | Free  
 Step back in time with a unique exhibition showcasing historic photographs of Broad Street, taken in 1919 by G.L. Hall, a local photographer who operated a modest studio on Broad Street itself. For more information, contact [education@lva.virginia.gov](mailto:education@lva.virginia.gov). Read more on page 2.

## Her Prospects of Election

Virginia Women in Politics

**Through Dec. 18, 2026**  
 Monday–Saturday, 8:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m. | Lobby | Free  
 “Her Prospects of Election: Virginia Women in Politics” is a lobby display commemorating the inauguration of Virginia’s first woman governor in 2026. Items from the Library’s collections highlight women who have served Virginia in state and national office. For more information, contact [education@lva.virginia.gov](mailto:education@lva.virginia.gov).

# in circulation

## WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING AT THE LIBRARY



1. Author **Libby Carty McNamee** and **Nathan Hall**, park ranger for the National Park Service, were part of a panel hosted by the Library and Virginia Opera to discuss the history behind the opera "Intelligence." Performing at the Library were mezzo-soprano **Ashley Dixon** and pianist **Jeremy Reger**.

2. Speakers and attendees of the Library's Legislative Reception "Celebrating Virginia's Cultural Institutions" pause for a group photo in the Library's lobby. FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: **Chief Stephen R. Adkins** of the Chickahominy Indian Tribe, **Matthew Gibson**, executive director, Virginia Humanities; **The Honorable Ghazala Hashmi**, Lieutenant Governor of Virginia; **Dennis Clark**, Librarian of Virginia; **Melissa Maxwell**, assistant director of Membership and Communications, Virginia Association of Museums (VAM); **Will Glasco**, chief executive officer, Preservation Virginia; **Casey P. Jenkins**, executive director, VAM; and **Congressman Robert C. "Bobby" Scott**, Virginia U.S. House of Representatives, 3rd District.

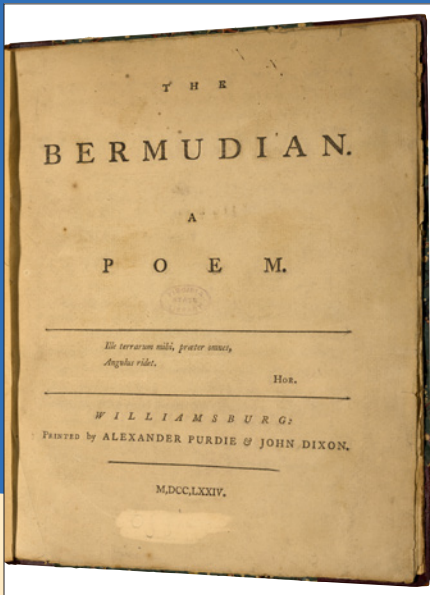
3. The Library of Virginia and Dominion Energy hosted their annual Strong Men & Women in Virginia History celebration Feb. 11, 2026, at the Richmond Marriott. SHOWN FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: president of Dominion Energy Services **Carlos M. Brown**; student contest finalist **Vansh Goel**; honoree **Sheary D. Johnson**; Virginia Secretary of Education **Jeffery O. Smith**; honoree **Florence C. Smith**; student finalist **Tris Meagher**; student finalist **Sihyun Kan**; honoree **Sharon Y. Bowen**; student contest winner **Vrinda Shah**; **Peter Dillard**, receiving the honorees award for his father, **William H. Dillard**; executive vice president of utility operations and president of Dominion Energy Virginia **Ed Baine**; and Librarian of Virginia **Dennis T. Clark**.

4. The Library held its first CultureScape Saturdays event on Feb. 21, celebrating Black artists and storytellers in honor of Black History Month. Members of the public enjoyed viewing a large exhibition of artwork from **Black Creatives RVA**, as well as browsing resources from the Library and community partners.

5. A free screening of the documentary film "Uprooted" included a panel discussion with the film's director, **Brandi Kellam**; **Dwayne Johnson**, a community member whose parents, James and Barbara Johnson, are featured in the film and were in attendance; **LaToya Gray-Sparks**, community outreach coordinator at the Virginia Department of Historic Resources; and **Robert K. Nelson**, director of the Digital Scholarship Lab at the University of Richmond.

# ADOPT VIRGINIA HISTORY

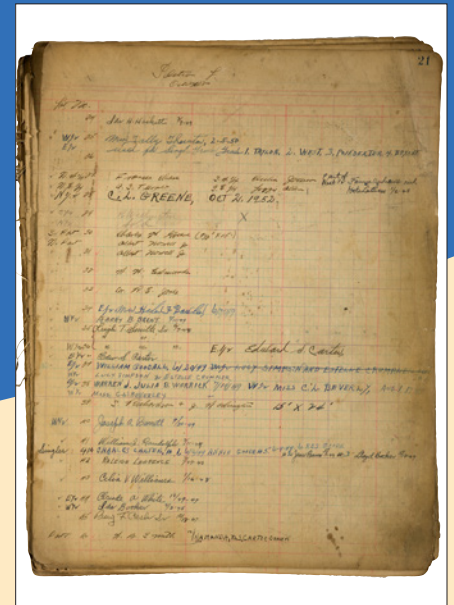
Help the Library of Virginia conserve the treasures of the Commonwealth. By adopting an item for conservation in your name, or as a gift to honor others, your fully tax-deductible donation will keep Virginia's history accessible and alive for generations to come!



1



2



3

These items are available for adoption at [www.lvafoundation.org/Adopt](http://www.lvafoundation.org/Adopt):

## RARE BOOKS

1. **“The Bermudian. A poem.”** By Tucker, Nathaniel, 1750–1807. Williamsburg, Virginia: Printed by Alexander Purdie & John Dixon. 1774 | \$1,506

## VISUAL STUDIES COLLECTION

2. **Virginia Exposition 1888. Opens Oct 3rd Closes Nov 21st, At the Historic City Richmond.** | \$1,000 (Item featured on page 6)

## PRIVATE PAPERS

3. **Woodland Interment Lot Ledger, 1924–1969 (and undated)** \$4,760

Adopt Virginia History items are updated regularly as items are identified for conservation. If you would like more information please call 804.692.3592 or email [elaine.mcfadden@lva.virginia.gov](mailto:elaine.mcfadden@lva.virginia.gov).



**LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA**  
 800 E. Broad St. | Richmond, VA 23219  
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