



LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA

the magazine of the

broadSIDE

2020 | NO. 2



ECHOES OF SUMMER

PLAN YOUR VISIT

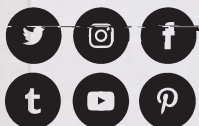


LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA

COVID-19 RESPONSE

The Library of Virginia is currently open to researchers by appointment only. To schedule an appointment, call 804.692.3800. For health and safety guidelines, visit link www.lva.virginia.gov/news/documents/COVIDBulletin.pdf.

FOLLOW US ON



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800 East Broad Street | Richmond, Virginia 23219-8000 | 804.692.3500 | www.lva.virginia.gov

Welcome to the Library of Virginia, the state's oldest institution dedicated to the preservation of Virginia's history and culture. Our resources, exhibitions, and events attract more than 100,000 visitors each year. Our collections, containing more than 129 million items, document and illustrate the lives of both famous Virginians and ordinary citizens.

INFORMATION

804.692.3500 | www.lva.virginia.gov

GENERAL HOURS

Tuesday–Friday, 10:00 AM–4:00 PM
For research appointments only.
Call 804.692.3800.

READING ROOM HOURS

Tuesday–Friday, 10:00 AM–4:00 PM

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

www.lva.virginia.gov/news/holiday.asp

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.

EXHIBITIONS

Our Exhibition Gallery is currently closed. Visit lva.virginia.gov/wedemand for online resources.

We Demand: Women's Suffrage in Virginia

Extended through March 31, 2021

Unfinished Business

Extended through March 31, 2021

LIBRARY REFERENCE DESK

804.692.3777
refdesk@lva.virginia.gov
Monday–Friday, 9:00 AM–5:00 PM

ARCHIVES REFERENCE DESK

804.692.3888
archdesk@lva.virginia.gov
Monday–Friday, 9:00 AM–5:00 PM

CALENDAR

lva.virginia.gov/news/calendar

THE VIRGINIA SHOP & THE VIRGINIA SHOP AT THE CAPITOL

804.692.3524
The stores are currently closed.
Shop online at thevirginiashop.org.

STATEWIDE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

804.692.3999
www.lva.virginia.gov/lib-edu/education
The Library provides relevant and useful educational material on Virginia's history, culture, and people to educators, students, and lifelong learners of any age.

SUPPORT THE LIBRARY: MEMBERSHIP & OTHER GROUPS

804.692.3813
dawn.greggs@lva.virginia.gov

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ECHOES OF SUMMER

Explore warm-weather recreation & attractions of the past in our digital collections

BY DANA PUGA

The summer of 2020 might look different for many of us. Changes brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic might be altering your travel plans and keeping you from enjoying favorite group activities. We invite you to take a virtual vacation by exploring Virginia summers of the past through the Library of Virginia's digital collections. Our Visual Studies Collection contains photographs and ephemera that showcase swimming, sports, concerts, and other summer pastimes in the commonwealth.



Adolph B. Rice Photograph Collection

The Adolph B. Rice Studio Collection constitutes a unique photographic record of life in Richmond from 1949 to 1961, with digital versions of more than 500 of the 16,000 images from Rice's commercial studio, covering studio portraits, aerial views, advertising shots for local department stores, and local religious and educational events. The photos featured here show recreation activities in the city of Richmond. This collection is available on the Library's Flickr page. Visit [flickr.com/photos/library_of_virginia/albums](https://www.flickr.com/photos/library_of_virginia/albums). If you're familiar with the people, places, or events covered in the Rice Collection, you can add comments and metadata that will help us identify the content.

Postcard Collection

The Library's postcard collection includes approximately 30,000 items with images and themes ranging from Virginia cities and counties, historic sites, and natural landscapes to holidays and humor. Although the collection has not been digitized yet, the selection of postcards featured here is available online on our Pinterest page in a board called "Virtual Meeting Backgrounds." Go to pinterest.com/libraryofva/virtual-meeting-backgrounds.

5

6

Good FOOD

Dinosaur Land

EDUCATIONAL
ENTERTAINING
and

GIFT
SHOP

FIREWORKS • ALL KIND • COLLECTORS
FILM • KNIVES
REAL COOL! YEH MAN

Photo: Larry Witt

SUMMER IN THE CITY

AT LEFT: Commercial photographer Adolph B. Rice captured many mid-20th century images of summer recreation in the Richmond area.

1. Children cool off in the pool at Richmond's Seabrook Playground on August 17, 1959. 2. Actors rehearse for a summer theater production on June 9, 1959—perhaps for the Dogwood Dell Amphitheater's Festival of the Arts. 3. Boys get tips from a baseball player at Parker Field in this undated photograph. 4. Richmond's recreation department offers tennis instruction on August 11, 1958.

WISH YOU WERE HERE

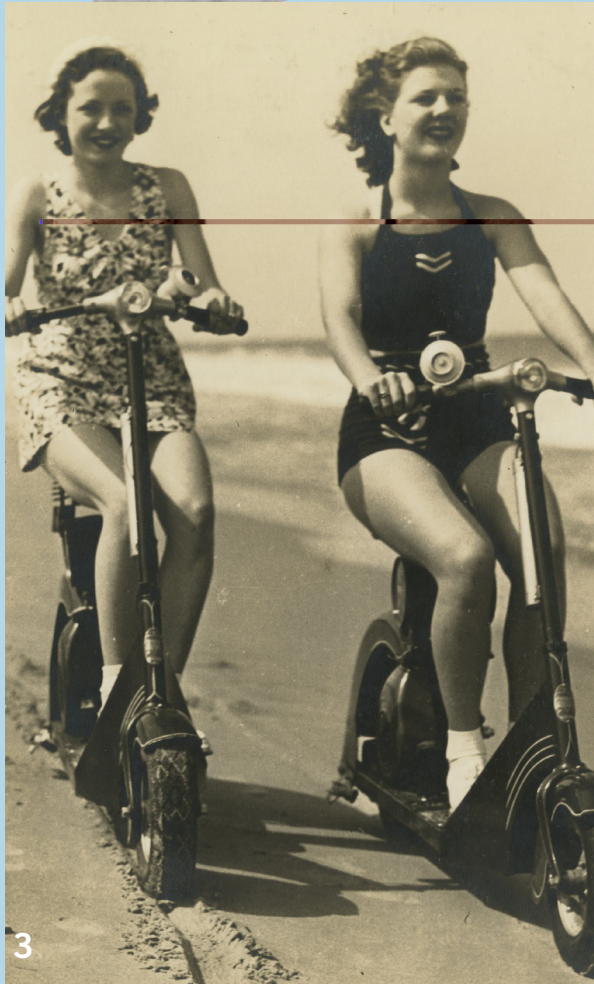
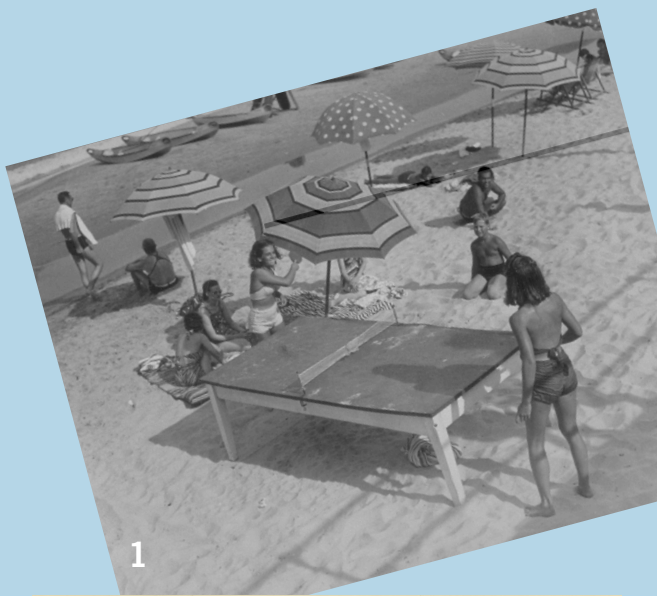
THIS PAGE: Twentieth-century postcards promote Virginia's summertime tourist attractions. 5. Dinosaur Land, Brontosaurus, White Post, Virginia. 1969. 6. The Tides Inn, Irvington, Virginia. 7. Buckroe Beach, Hampton. 8. The Marshalls, Virginia Beach, 1963.

continued on page 4

Dana Puga is the Library's Prints and Photographs Collection specialist.

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7



BY THE SEA

These beach scenes were among the photographs selected by the Virginia State Chamber of Commerce to be displayed at the 1939 World's Fair. **1.** *Table tennis at the beach is another popular sport.* **2.** *Casting for the sturdy drum in the rolling breakers of the Atlantic.* **3.** *Motorized scooters on the hard sand beach add to the diversified recreational activities.* **4.** *Having a rollicking good time with a volleyball.*


1939 World's Fair Photograph Collection

The 1939 World's Fair Photograph Collection contains more than 3,000 photographs prepared by the Virginia State Chamber of Commerce to be displayed in the Virginia Room in the Court of States at the World's Fair in New York City. In addition to recreation, the images selected promoted aspects of life in the commonwealth such as scenery and natural wonders, history and culture, agriculture and industry, and commerce and transportation. To view the collection, go to www.virginiamemory.com/collections/online_photo_collections.

AT TANTILLA SATURDAY **27**
JULY 9:00 to 12:30

SUMMER SOUL CLEANSING DANCE PART II
FEATURING

★★★★★



SPYDER TURNER

"Stand By Me"

Backed By

THE DISCIPLES OF SOUL

FEATURING "The Exciters" "That's The Way"

\$4.50 per couple in advance
Gary's (Willow Lawn) Tickets Available at:
Thalhimer's and Music City

★★★★★

Tantilla Gardens Poster Collection

Known as "the grandest ballroom in the South," Tantilla Gardens, located at 3817 W. Broad Street in Richmond, opened during the height of the Great Depression in 1933 and was a huge draw for big-name performers. Thanks to the ballroom's retractable roof, visitors were able to see their favorite acts perform under the stars on a beautiful summer night. To view the collection, go to www.virginiamemory.com/collections/collections_a_to_z and select "T."

SUMMER CONCERTS

These Tantilla Gardens posters from the Visual Studies Collection promote summer concerts held in Richmond from the 1930s to the 1960s.

1. Saturday, July 27, 1963. Summer Soul Cleansing Dance Part II, featuring Spyder Turner backed by the Disciples of Soul.
2. Starting June 6th: The Auburn Cavaliers. The Finest Collegiate "Swing" Orchestra in the Nation!
3. Rock, Rock, Rock. Friday, August 23, 1968. Featuring Three Big Bands: The Big Shevells, The Dynamic Blazers, The Pandoras Box.
4. 1 Night Only, Wed., Aug. 17, 1938. MCA Swing and Sway with Sammy Kaye and His Orchestra.

TANTILLA
RICHMOND, VA.

1 Night Only **WED., AUG. 17**

ADVANCE SALE 99c Per Person
NIGHT OF DANCE \$1.25 per person

MCA
SWING And SWAY
WITH



Sammy KAYE
and his ORCHESTRA

2

I WOULDN'T MISS the CAVALIERS FOR the WORLD

I WOULDN'T EITHER the MUSIC IS Grand

Starting JUNE 6th

The Auburn CAVALIERS

The Finest Collegiate "Swing" Orchestra In the Nation!



ROCK ——— ROCK ——— ROCK
★★★★★

TANTILLA * FRIDAY 23
GARDENS * AUGUST

8:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m.

★★ FEATURING THREE BIG BANDS ★★

THE BIG SHEVELLS
8 Piece

The DYNAMIC BLAZERS
7 Piece

THE PANDORAS BOX
4 Piece

3 **19 Performers To Entertain You**

Advance - \$5.00 per couple
Advance Tickets Now On Sale At Gary's, Willow Lawn & Music City, Southside Plaza

At Door - \$6.00 per couple

find your history

Ancestry Uncovered

Library records reveal the impressive history of football star Torrey Smith's family in Virginia's Northern Neck

BY ASHLEY RAMEY

It all began with a tweet in 2019 from a former professional football player and philanthropist wondering aloud about his African American ancestry in Virginia's Northern Neck and the life his ancestors experienced. The tweet was spotted by a Library of Virginia staff member, which set into motion a months-long genealogical search for the ancestors of Torrey Smith. Although the Library is not staffed to carry out detailed family history research for the public, this seemed like the perfect project to showcase our African American history resources.

A team of five staff members from the Library began the process of exploring the records in Westmoreland and Albemarle Counties to see whether any of Smith's ancestors could be found. The team searched through census records; the Library's "Virginia Untold: The African American Narrative" database; deed and order books; and birth, marriage, and death certificates. Through these records, the team discovered that a branch of Smith's family was freed in one of the largest manumissions in Virginia's history.

Robert Carter III, grandson of Robert "King" Carter (one of the richest and most powerful Virginians of his day), inherited 65,000 acres of land in the Northern Neck region, several hundred enslaved Africans, and multiple plantations throughout Virginia. Antislavery sentiments arose in his mind after he converted to a new faith, however. On August 1, 1791, Carter began the process of setting provisions for the freedom of over 500 enslaved men, women, and children. Through the deeds of emancipation located in the Westmoreland and Frederick County records created by Carter's actions, the team was able to find three of Smith's ancestors: Molly, Peter, and Thomas Gaskins. In 1793, Molly Gaskins was manumitted first, followed by Peter Gaskins. The couple's son, Thomas Gaskins, gained his freedom in 1799. These deeds of emancipation revealed



FINDING FAMILY

The Library's "Virginia Untold: The African American Narrative" database was useful in researching the family history of former professional football player and philanthropist Torrey Smith, shown here with the Library's community outreach specialist, Ashley Ramey (right), and his family members reviewing items from our collections.

that Smith's family was part of the free African population living and working in Westmoreland County.

After unearthing this significant story about Smith's family, the team did not expect to find anything as remarkable. Another surprising discovery came to light, however. After the Civil War and the passage of the 15th Amendment (1869), African American men were granted the right to vote. The team found evidence of one of Smith's ancestors registering to vote during this period. In the Westmoreland County records, a document entitled "List of Registered Colored Voters ... dated October 22, 1867" notes men of color registering to vote. In the second column of names, entry number 22 lists Smith's ancestor John R. Ball. It is unknown

FAMILY & COMMUNITY HISTORY RESEARCH

whether Ball participated in any of the elections in Virginia, yet it is noteworthy that shortly after the Civil War, Ball decided to become an active citizen.

In 2020, Torrey Smith was selected as an honoree in the Strong Men and Women in Virginia History program presented by Dominion Energy and the Library of Virginia each February as part of Black History Month. The program honors distinguished Virginians past and present for their important contributions to the state, nation, or their professions. Following the program ceremony, Smith and his family visited the Library to learn what our team had discovered about his inspiring ancestors. During the presentation, the team showed the family historic documents that detailed the lives of Smith's ancestors in Westmoreland and Albemarle Counties, as well as giving him several copies of his family tree. "I was amazed at what I saw," Smith remarked about the presentation.

To learn more about researching your own family history, sign up for one of our genealogy workshops (www.lva.virginia.gov/public/genealogy_workshops/) or explore our free webinar series while our on-site events are on hold. Go to www.youtube.com/user/LibraryofVa and select "Family History." ■

Ashley Ramey is the Library's community outreach specialist.

African American Family History Resources at the Library of Virginia

Virginia Untold: The African American Narrative database
virginiamemory.com/collections/aan

African American Research to 1870
lva.virginia.gov/public/guides/AA_Genealogical_Research.pdf

African American Newspapers
lva.virginia.gov/public/guides/AA_newspaper_holdings.pdf

African American Church Histories
lva.virginia.gov/public/guides/African_American_Churches.pdf

Whereas the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Virginia did in the Year Seventeen Hundred and eighty Two enact a Law entitled "An Act to authorize the Manumission of Slaves

Know all Men by these Presents that I Robert Carter of Nomony-Hull in the County of Westmoreland do under the said Act for my self my heirs Executors and Administrators emancipate and for ever set free from Slavery the following Slaves viz: Willoby Gumby— Jesse Richardson—, Daniel Conway—, Thomas Henry—, Thomas Cary—, Thomas Dailly—, James Thomas—, Samuel Hackney—, William Griggs—, Lucy Henry—, Brue Dickson—, Henry Dickson—, Letitia Coper—, Minna Wilson—, Sarah Johnson—, Kelly Richardson—, Bridget Newman—, Sally Bruce—, Mary Thornton—, Sarah Gumby—, Lucy Dickson—, Eve Henry—, Betty Hubbard—, Molly Calkins—, Betty Hol—, Sarah Johnson of Nomony-Hull Henry—

I have hereunto set my Hand and

17th Day of January in the Year of

ndred and Ninety Three

Robt Carter

FREEDOM GRANTED

ABOVE: A branch of Torrey Smith's family was freed in one of the largest manumissions in Virginia's history, which is documented in this 1791 deed of emancipation prepared by Robert Carter III.

ENGAGED CITIZEN

LEFT: This Westmoreland County record entitled "List of Registered Colored Voters ... dated October 22, 1867" includes the name of Torrey Smith's ancestor John R. Ball shown in entry number 22.

List of Colored Registered Voters who cast their votes in the 4th Magisterial District Westmoreland County State of Virginia at the election held on the 22th Day of October 1867

Names	No	Names
A	21	Albert Ball
George Alexander	22	John R. Ball
Andrew Johnson	23	John Ball
Lascar Ashton	24	David Bient
Philip Anderson	25	William Burkner
Arwstin Ashton	26	Miriam Ball
Arwstin Ashton	27	Edwin P
James A...		

entirely Sessions continued and held for Westmoreland of February 1793

union was proved by the oaths of Benjamin (Dawson)

TOUGH TOPICS

Civic Conversations discussion series adds historical context to today's issues



A new small-group discussion series that kicked off at the Library of Virginia in January offers content for at-home or virtual conversations with your friends and family members. Called Civic Conversations, the original on-site series engaged with the public on complex topics that affect Virginians, such as nonviolent activism and the meaning of monuments in society. With a more intimate setting than the lectures and author talks usually held at the Library, the series encouraged audience interaction and gave staff members the opportunity to add historical context to what can be thorny issues facing today's citizens. While the on-site discussions are on hold for now, a related web page provides topics and resources for further exploration.

The series grew out of the success of past programming connected with *New Virginians: 1619–2019 & Beyond*, last year's main exhibition at the Library. *Becoming American: A Documentary Film and Discussion Series on Our Immigration Experience*—a project of City Lore, the Immigration and Ethnic History Society, and the International Coalition of the Sites of Conscience—was hosted in Richmond at the Library with conversations led by staff members from VCU Globe (a part of Virginia Commonwealth University's Global Education Office). The Library continued this film-and-discussion format, which was not only popular but also built bridges between diverse audiences. The new

series aims to bring both existing and new audiences to the Library once in-person events can resume.

Discussions are initiated with a film clip on the topic that gives attendees a common basis from which to begin sharing. A small-group size allows people to feel more comfortable talking directly to each other. A professional moderator keeps the conversation flowing and civil. A careful choice of films provides an empathetic view of a

“In an age of fake news and increasingly polarized debate, libraries are seen as trustworthy and reliable. I think this is a major reason that the public is comfortable having difficult conversations in our space—and I look forward to welcoming people back when we return to hosting on-site events.”

topic, while having a historical expert on hand instills confidence in the information the Library adds to the discussion. The Library staff's historical knowledge, ability to guide but not dictate discussions, and expertise in finding the best sources all contribute to the experience.

"The series expands opportunities for shared understanding through informed conversations—which are open to different perspectives, backgrounds, and ages—at a time when these conversations are greatly needed," wrote participant Molly McSweeney. "I look forward to attending more of these events and seeing this series continue to grow!"

Libraries enjoy a high degree of trust among citizens, according to Dr. Gregg Kimball, the Library's director of Public Services and Outreach. "In an age of fake news and increasingly polarized debate, libraries are seen as trustworthy and reliable," he said. "I think that this is a major reason that the public is comfortable having difficult conversations in our space—and I look forward to welcoming people back when we return to hosting on-site events."

The Library has created an online component to share discussion topics with an at-home audience (edu.lva.virginia.gov/civic-conversation-series). Each topic's web page includes a series of questions on the subject and a list of resources from the Library's collections and other trusted sites. The additional content enables a deeper dive into the issue, and may inspire others to join in the discourse, such as discussion groups at educational institutions and public libraries.

"We had impressive attendance and received great feedback from our initial conversation about monuments in January," said Cindy Marks, the Library's communications and marketing specialist. "Several participants came up at the end of the program to share resources they found insightful that we then added to that topic's web page. It's exactly this level of participation that we encourage as the Library creates a trusted neutral space for hosting future conversations around topics that could be considered difficult."

See the article at right for details on suggested topics. For more information, contact Emma Ito, the Library's education and programs specialist, at emma.ito@lva.virginia.gov or 804.692.3726. ■

RESPECTFUL DIALOGUE

LEFT: Attendees of the Library of Virginia's Civic Conversations series discuss their views on February 12, 2020, after watching a segment from the film *Freedom Riders*, a documentary about American civil rights activists' peaceful fight against racial segregation on buses and trains in the 1960s.

Civic Conversations at Home

Explore our online resources to inspire discussions with family and friends

With resources and topics updated frequently, the Library's Civic Conversations web page offers a series of small-group discussion prompts that encourage informed conversations about complex topics affecting Virginians. Documentary films and discussion questions are suggested as starting points to spark at-home conversations—virtual or physical—and each topic includes links for additional information. Visit edu.lva.virginia.gov/civic-conversation-series. For more information, contact Emma Ito at emma.ito@lva.virginia.gov or 804.692.3726.

SUGGESTED TOPICS

A CONVERSATION ABOUT INCARCERATION

View a segment from the Netflix documentary film *13th* to inform a conversation about mass incarceration and the racial and ethnic disparities in the U.S. prison system.



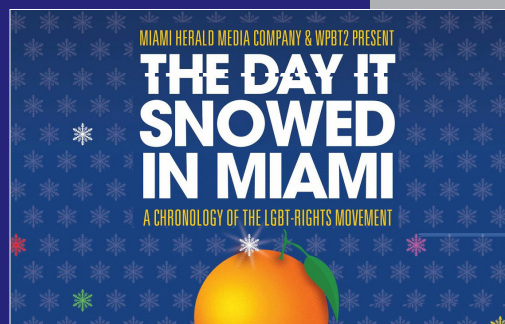
A CONVERSATION ABOUT XENOPHOBIA

View a segment from the documentary film *The Orange Story* to inform a conversation about xenophobia and who has the power to define what it means to be American.



A CONVERSATION ABOUT LGBTQ+ HISTORY & EXPERIENCE

View a segment from the documentary film *The Day It Snowed in Miami* to inform a conversation about the current experience of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community in the United States.



behind the scenes

INSIDE THE CONSERVATION LAB

Questions for Leslie Courtois, the Library's conservator

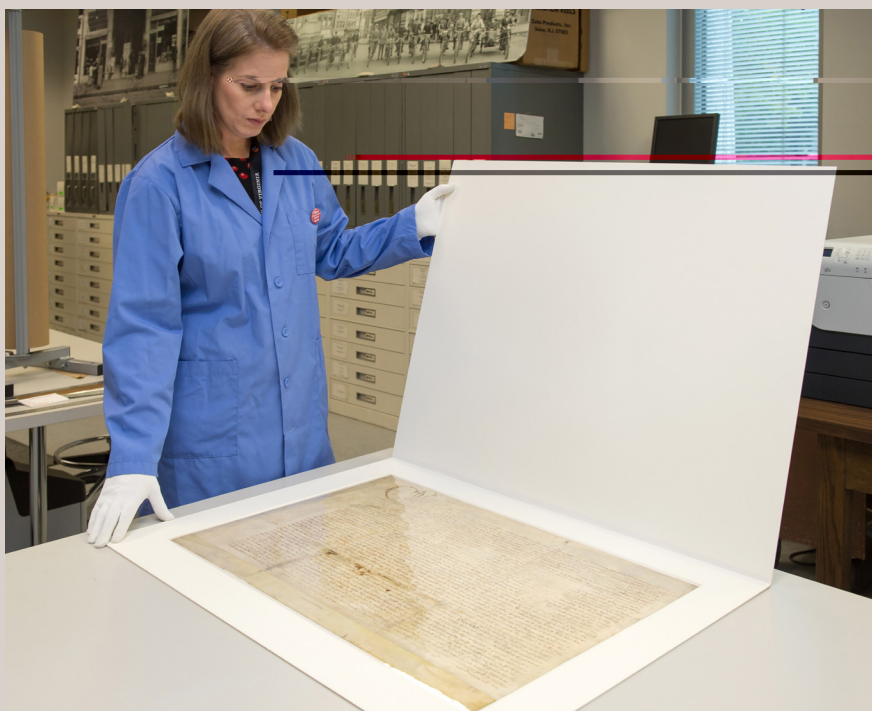
The Library of Virginia's conservation lab treats a wide variety of collection materials and provides services to all of its collections departments. These services support several major operations of the institution. Examples include anything from flattening brittle, folded, or rolled documents in order to facilitate digitization, to separating water-damaged manuscripts that have fused together to enable processing and arranging of the records. Conservation treatments also frequently include washing centuries-old documents in alkaline solutions to remove damaging acids, mending tears and losses, removing tape and adhesives used in past repairs, mounting large maps on linen backings, restretching parchment, repairing bound volumes, and matting and rehousing fragile materials. In addition to performing lab treatments, the Library's conservator, Leslie Courtois, provides conservation advice to the public, to other cultural institutions, and to city and county governments throughout the state.

What kind of skills are involved in conservation work and what attracted you to the profession?

LC: Conservation is a unique combination of art and science. A big part of the job is identification of both material composition and the physical condition problems of that material. Having a fine arts background has helped me a great deal in developing a keen eye for identifying the visual characteristics of different types of paper, inks, and adhesives, as well as determining what has happened to them in terms of damage or aging processes. The science aspect involves testing my observations using microscopy, alternative light source imagery, and solvent solubility analysis. I use both the art and the science skills to develop a treatment protocol that will stabilize the material structurally and chemically, while still producing an aesthetically pleasing result. It is challenging work, but always interesting.

Are there some typical conditions or types of damage that you see most frequently with the items needing conservation?

LC: I primarily work with archival documents from the 17th to the 19th centuries, which have manuscript text that is typically written in iron gall ink. This ink is very corrosive, to the extent that it sometimes eats all the way through a paper substrate, causing fracturing along the text lines. The degree of fracturing varies according to the thickness of the paper and its fiber composition, the heaviness of the ink application,



RESCUING HISTORY

Conservator Leslie Courtois displays a post-conservation colonial-era document in the Library's conservation lab.

and the exposure of the document to conditions of high heat and humidity levels over past centuries. This is a very difficult situation to treat and repair, because the fractures are in the text lines, which must not be obscured by the repairs. Another common issue is mold damage. Mold can also eat through cellulose fiber, leaving paper so weak and powdery that it can be beyond repair. Stains from the mold can also obscure the text, and cannot be removed without damaging the ink

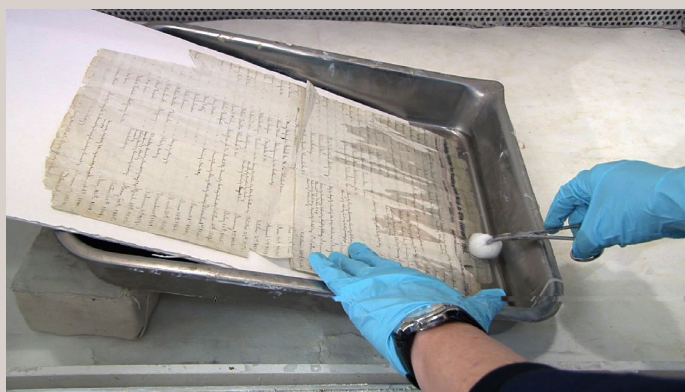
of the text. Finally, old documents often have scotch tape repairs, which are very challenging to remove from brittle paper. Frequently, I see collections with ink corrosion, mold, and tape all together on each document.

Are there any memorable or unusual items you have conserved?

LC: A few years ago, I worked on the Executive Papers of Thomas Jefferson. This is a collection of about 2,500 manuscript items that document Jefferson's tenure as governor of Virginia from 1779 to 1781. The papers had been laminated with cellulose acetate plastic many decades ago, when this process was thought to be a good preservation treatment. Unfortunately, this type of plastic is unstable and degrades over time, producing acidic byproducts that damage the paper. All of the lamination had to be removed by immersing the documents in solvent baths, and they then had to be washed to rehydrate the cellulose, deacidified, and repaired. The most interesting thing for me, besides the obvious thrill to be able to handle such important documents and be responsible for their care, was what was happening during this time period. The American Revolution was in full swing, and much of the correspondence in this collection related to urgent matters of supply and strategy with notable characters like the Baron von Steuben and the Marquis de Lafayette. It was really a great experience for me to immerse myself in the artifacts of such an exciting time in our history.

Is there anything that would surprise people about the work you do?

LC: A lot of people are surprised to see what can be done to repair and restore the original appearance of damaged paper materials. In my time at the Library, I have had archivists bring me materials that have been rescued from dumpsters, abandoned buildings, burned courthouses, barns, and even holes in the ground. Most of the time, these things can be washed, flattened, repaired, and really brought back to life when it may have looked like all was lost. This is the most satisfying part of the job, to rescue pieces of history from the brink of destruction.



FIXING PAST REPAIRS

Solvents are applied to a document to dissolve synthetic adhesives that remained on the paper after the removal of pressure-sensitive tape.

Tips for Preserving Family Papers & Photographs

HANDLING

- Don't eat or drink around originals.
- Wash hands before handling paper and don't apply lotion. If your hands are clean, you don't need gloves. Gloves can make it hard to handle delicate paper. Do not use hand sanitizer prior to handling paper as it can cause damage to colored paper items.
- Do wear gloves when handling photographs and negatives. Fingerprints can cause permanent damage to photo emulsions.

STORAGE

- Environmental conditions are the most important factor in preserving paper artifacts. High temperature and humidity hasten the rate of chemical decomposition, resulting in browning and embrittlement. It can also cause mold to grow very quickly.
- Large fluctuations in temperature and humidity are equally damaging as they cause swelling and shrinkage, resulting in warping and cracking.
- Always store papers and photographs in a climate-controlled area of your home, not in an attic or basement. Temperature should be kept at or below 72 degrees, and humidity below 55 percent.

LIGHT EXPOSURE

- Exposure to all light (visible and ultraviolet) can cause fading, darkening, and other changes. The best protection from light is to display copies of the originals and keep the originals in a box.
- If you display original items, keep them out of direct sunlight and use ultraviolet filtering glass or acrylic in the frame. Use mat board that is buffered or pH-neutral/acid-free.
- Don't use tape to attach original materials to matting. Use paper corners that hold items without adhering to them.

WHEN TO CALL A CONSERVATOR

- If you have wet or pest-infested materials, these may need quick action by a professional to prevent further damage. You should also not attempt any kind of cleaning or repair on your own.
- You can search for reputable conservators at www.culturalheritage.org.

A Broader Commonwealth

Historian Brent Tarter's new work finds the untold stories within Virginia's records

Virginians and Their Histories, a groundbreaking work of scholarship by the historian and author Brent Tarter, presents a fresh, new interpretive narrative that incorporates the experiences of all residents of Virginia from the earliest times to the first decades of the 21st century. Published in May by the University of Virginia Press in collaboration with the Library of Virginia, the work "is the single best narrative history of Virginia that we now have," according to James Madison University history professor Kevin Hardwick, co-editor of *Virginia Reconsidered: New Histories of the Old Dominion*.

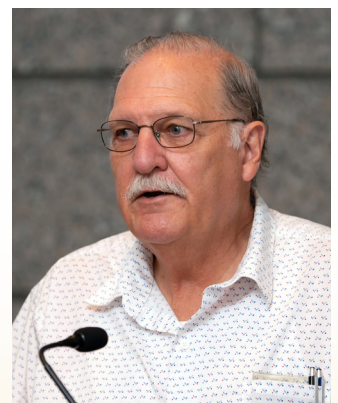
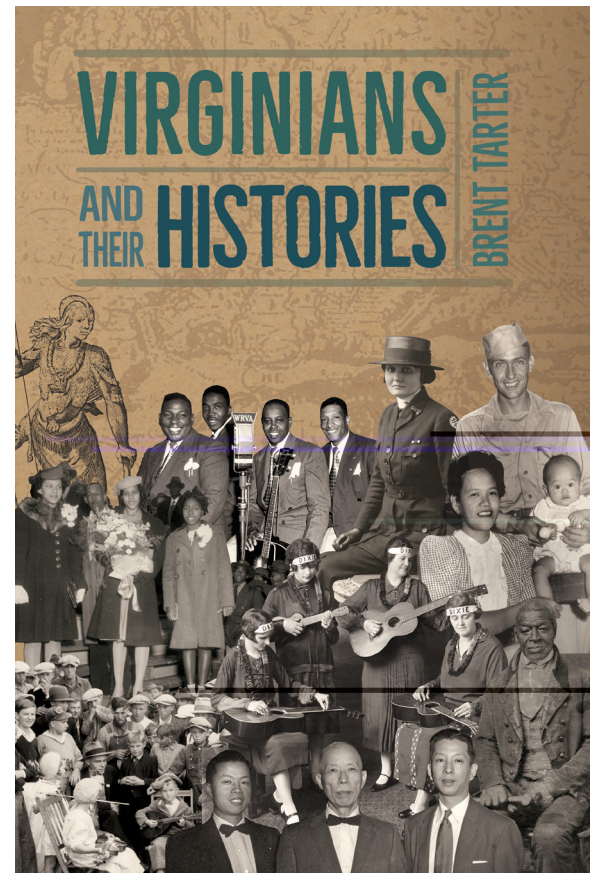
Since retiring from the Library of Virginia in 2010, Tarter has continued to work here part-time researching and writing about Virginia history. He joined the Library staff in 1974 to work on a project of the Virginia Independence Bicentennial Commission that compiled and published records of the conventions and committees that from 1774 to 1776 guided the transition from colony to commonwealth. With future Librarian of Virginia Sandra G. Treadway, Tarter was a founding editor of the Library's *Dictionary of Virginia Biography* project, which highlights significant Virginians, including women, African Americans, Native Americans, and others whose lives have rarely been studied. As a senior editor from 1982 to 2010, he worked on the *Dictionary* and other publications as well as on exhibitions and educational projects. *Broadside* recently asked Tarter some questions about his new book.

What makes your history of Virginia different from similar works?

BT: I and my colleagues here at the Library of Virginia have had a unique opportunity to research in the original primary source records of every decade of Virginia's English-language history. Our work on the Library's *Dictionary of Virginia Biography*, exhibitions and educational programs, and other projects has required us to dig deeply into more sources and subjects than most people have occasion to do. That, in turn, allows us to see details other people have not seen and leads us to ask questions that other people may not. As a consequence, this interpretive narrative takes its shape from that documentary research as well as from insights of specialists who have published important scholarship on particular episodes, people, or subjects.

Even small things can change how you interpret history. Think about the language we use to explain Virginia's past. For instance, it is customary to describe areas of Virginia where the U.S. Army was in control during the Civil War as "occupied"; but some of those areas can also be described as "liberated" and some as "loyal." Calling them "occupied" is to fall into a Confederate interpretation, perhaps without thinking about the implications for accurately describing or analyzing what took place there. Calling them "liberated" or "loyal" imposes a Union interpretation. All three may in some respects be accurate, but if you don't think about the language, you may miss some vital aspects of the event that require analysis or inadvertently come to a wrong or misleading interpretation.

Every record contains one or more real-life human dramas, not merely evidence for drawing impersonal generalizations.

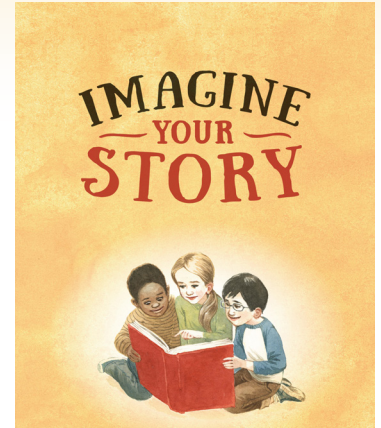


continues page 15

Summer Reading & Meals Programs Respond to the Times

Like other organizations, Virginia's public libraries are adapting to new conditions under which to serve their communities and ensure that children keep reading and learning all summer long. Many libraries are shifting programs such as story times, crafting activities, and performances online, as well as executing their reading challenges within digital applications or through paper packets distributed curbside. This year's summer reading program theme, "Imagine Your Story," engages with children by asking them to think about how their own stories would be written, through either imagination or lived experience. Check with your local public library for details about specific program plans, and visit www.lva.virginia.gov/lib-edu/ldnd/summer-learning.htm for additional learning ideas. This program is funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

Virginia's public libraries also help provide summertime food security through collaboration with the Virginia Department of Education. This year, meal programs funded by No Kid Hungry will vary from site drive-by distribution to supporting school bus route delivery of food and books. Text "food" to 877-877 to find a meal program near you.



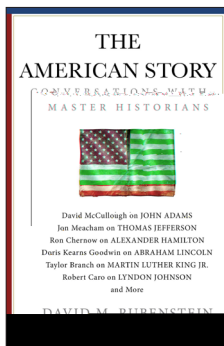
THE virginia SHOP *featured book*

The American Story Conversations with Master Historians

By David M. Rubenstein

David M. Rubenstein takes readers on a sweeping journey across the grand arc of the American story through revealing conversations with our greatest historians, including Jon Meacham on Thomas Jefferson, Doris Kearns Goodwin on Abraham Lincoln, Taylor Branch on Martin Luther King, and Bob Woodward on Richard Nixon. Through captivating exchanges, these best-selling and Pulitzer Prize-winning authors offer fresh insight on pivotal moments from the Founding Era to the late 20th century.

Simon & Schuster, October 2019, \$30.00



the virginia shop

800 East Broad Street | Richmond, VA 23219

www.thevirginiashop.org

804.692.3524 | email: shop@thevirginiashop.org



WHAT ARE YOU READING?

DANIELLE RIPPERTON

President & CEO,
Children's Museum of Richmond

The Other Wes Moore

By Wes Moore

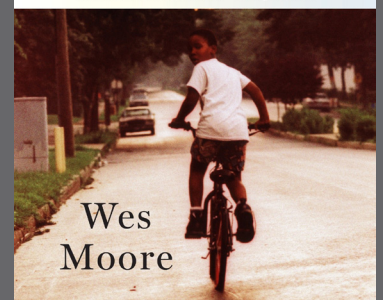
I was inspired to read this book after hearing Wes Moore speak at the Better Housing Coalition's 30th anniversary celebration last fall. The thought that a name can connect two people, but ultimately their fate is determined not by the circumstances in which they are born, but by the influences around them, is why I ended up getting the book. As I've been reading it, I think of how we play a critical role in supporting children and families in learning through play. At the Children's Museum, we will never know what interaction might inspire a child or their caregiver, but making sure that we provide quality interactive educational experiences for ALL children in our community during a critical time in a child's development builds a strong community for generations to come.

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

The Other Wes Moore

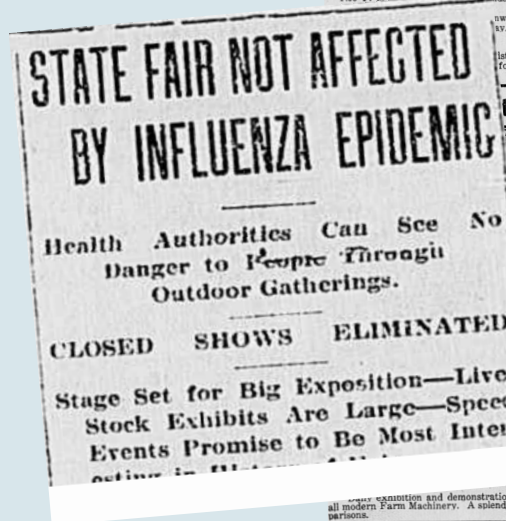
One Name, Two Fates

"Startling and revelatory . . . a rocketing real-life narrative" —*Baltimore Sun*
"A moving book . . . a call to arms." —*Chicago Tribune*



The Pandemic and the Press

Newspapers promoted the 1918 Virginia State Fair through its opening day despite the growing flu crisis



BEFORE THE FLU CANCELED EVERYTHING

At right: This full-page ad in the *Richmond Times-Dispatch* promoted the upcoming Virginia State Fair on October 6, 1918, despite the fact that a flu epidemic was spreading across the city. Above: This notice appeared in the *Times-Dispatch* on the same day as the ad.

RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH, SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6, 1918 ELEVEN



VIRGINIA STATE FAIR

To-Morrow the Day--Come Early--Stay Late

A Magnificent Fair; A Great Patriotic Event

FAIR WEEK

Running Horse Races for \$10,000 Purses

\$5,000 Match Automobile Race

Reduced Fares on All Railroads

Schedule of Days—

Monday—Grand Opening	Thursday—Farmers' Day
Tuesday—Virginia Day	Friday—Children's Day
Wednesday—Richmond Day	Saturday—Automobile Day

Daily Program—

9:00 A. M.—Gates open—Midway opens—Auto Show opens.
 10:00 A. M.—Judging starts in all departments.
 10:30 A. M.—Band concert in Industrial Hall.
 1:00 P. M.—Lunch.

No Advance in Admission Charges

Magnificent New Features

Presenting more entertainment—more instruction for a minimum charge than was ever offered by any fair anywhere.

United States Government War Exhibit

Occupying 10,000 square feet in Main Building.

Record Breaking \$65,000 Cash Prize Exhibits

Stupendous \$35,000 Amusement Program

Polack's Twenty Big Shows on Midway

Direct from Canadian National Exhibition, Toronto. By far the finest Midway ever seen in Richmond.

\$10,000 Purses Running Horse Races

Direction, Ross of Kentucky, fastest horses in America.

\$5,000 Championship Automobile Race

Saturday, October 12, for dirt track championship.

Buffalo Bill's Wild West and Rhoda Royal Circus Combined

Popular price admission to both shows.

Dustless Asphalt Midway

Dustless Floors Main Hall

Magnificent Fireworks Every Night

Thrilling Battle Between Submarine and Battleship.

Patriotic Band Concerts and Singing

2 Vaudeville Shows—Free—Twice Daily

YOU will see a wonderful Fair at Richmond this week. There have been great Virginia State Fairs in the past, but this one will really and truly be **GREATEST**. Greatest because of the number and excellence of big features. Everything is on a bigger scale than ever before—larger cash premiums in all departments—more exhibits and better exhibits; a finer amusement program than was ever thought of before, and—most important of all—a spirit of patriotism brought out by many special features, due to the active co-operation of the United States Government. The government has a message—many messages—on subjects pertaining to the war, and has chosen some of the great fairs of the country as the place for reaching all the people. Accordingly the government has sent a most remarkable official exhibit from Washington, and has arranged to allow special reduced railroad fares to Richmond from all Virginia points. It is impossible to even begin to cover the hundreds of interesting features of the Fair in this space. Only a few are mentioned. Come out and see them all—come early—come often—and take plenty of time, so as to see everything. Don't miss a single thing. Although this is the biggest and coolest Fair on record, there is no advance in admission charges—prices remain exactly the same as previous years.

VIRGINIA STATE FAIR ASSOCIATION.

Stock Show

Showing of all American experiments are entered.

U.S. Girls' Clubs. Entries in the SHOW of all our Southern fair. The story show will give you a...

a Marvel

A cross—\$7,000.00 in exhibits. Farmers unable pointers from fall.

DIVING GIRLS



DIVING GIRLS

Home Canning, Preserving, Etc.

Women will be deeply interested in the exhibits of home canning, preserving, cooking, needlework, etc. Exhibits this year are away ahead of previous years.



Beau Brummel and Cycling Girls

SLAYMAN BEN-AL'S TROUPE OF ARABS



Bright and Early Monday Morning the Gates Swing Open!

EVERYBODY WILL BE THERE!

LET'S GO!



Bellefair's Loop-the-Loop Attraction

a closer look

VIRGINIA NEWSPAPER PROJECT

On October 6, 1918, an elaborate full-page ad appeared for the Virginia State Fair in the *Richmond Times-Dispatch*. “To-Morrow the Day—Come Early—Stay Late,” it read, with a list of enticements ranging from horse races to nightly fireworks. “Everybody Will Be There!” Someone glancing at the issue would have fully expected that the annual State Fair, set to take place October 7–12, would open in spite of a deadly flu sweeping through the city at the same time.

Just days before the fair’s opening, the number of influenza cases in Richmond had

reached 2,000, with hundreds of new cases reported daily. The growing rate of disease was so formidable that Dr. Roy K. Flannagan, head of the Richmond Health Department, warned residents that he “would not be surprised if we were visited by the most widespread epidemic of gripe the city has ever known.” The same day the full-page ad for the fair ran, the *Times-Dispatch*’s front page reported the closing of all churches, public and private schools, theaters, motion picture houses, dance halls, and poolrooms and the cancellation of all indoor public

gatherings. The ruling, however, left “the doors open to the State Fair.”

After meeting with the State Fair’s board of directors, Dr. Flannagan decided the fair could go on because it was outdoors and, for that reason, he believed attendees were no more at risk of catching the flu than if they were walking down a city street. Dr. Flannagan did advise the board to eliminate indoor shows and exhibitions, but otherwise the fair could go on as usual. A letter from C. C. Cochran, the deputy clerk of the U.S. District Court in Big Stone Gap, questioned

the decision and warned Governor Westmoreland Davis, “I am advised that over 100 cases of Spanish influenza can be traced directly to the small county fair held at Jonesville, Lee County, Virginia, and that all assemblies of every character tend to spread the disease.”

As the situation in Richmond quickly grew increasingly dire, it was decided that the safest course of action was to cancel the State Fair. The *Times-Dispatch* continued printing State Fair-related articles and advertisements until finally announcing on October 8 that, “No price is too heavy to pay for the protection of the community’s life and health. . . . The annual State Fair, which opened for a few hours yesterday morning, has come under the ban. Its gates are closed, its entertainers and concessioners are leaving. . . . The disappointment is keen to the men who for months have worked untiringly to make it a success and to the people of the city and State who looked forward to its allurements.”

The late decision was a blow not only to local retailers, fair workers, and visitors, but also to the farmers who had traveled long distances to show their livestock. “The closing of the State Fair in Richmond which was necessary as a precaution against the spread of influenza broke the plans of many people,” reported the *Clinch Valley News* of October 18, 1918. “Mr. Reynolds and Mr. M. L. Peery chaperoned twenty-one fine baby beef calves to the fair for exhibition paying an entrance fee of some \$30.00 besides railroad fare and some hotel bills, only to be informed after arriving . . . that the whole big show had been called off.”

While the cancellation of the State Fair was a disappointment and inconvenience to many at the time, one can only imagine the consequences had it gone on as planned. To follow newspaper coverage of the 1918 influenza in the *Richmond Times-Dispatch* and the *Clinch Valley News*, visit Virginia Chronicle (virginiachronicle.com), the Library of Virginia’s digital newspaper database.

—Kelley Ewing, Senior Project Cataloger

“I am advised that over 100 cases of Spanish influenza can be traced directly to the small county fair held at Jonesville, Virginia, and that all assemblies of every character tend to spread the disease.”

continued from page 12

What surprised you most as you researched *Virginians and Their Histories*?

BT: How many kinds of written records that historians have seldom or never used. Every record contains one or more human dramas, real-life human dramas, not merely evidence for drawing impersonal generalizations. For instance, Gregory Crawford, local records program manager at the Library of Virginia, recently called our attention to some of the records of the state’s little-known Literary Fund. These records documented that Virginia’s government bought and sold enslaved people during the decades before the Civil War and that the profits went to the state’s underfunded schools for the children of poor white people. Interesting, surprising, and important information of that kind is waiting to be discovered in every research library and archive. Even here in the Library, where historians and archivists have been working in the records for more than a century, we find new evidence all the time that makes us rethink what we once believed or assumed.

Those insights, some of which may seem small, taken together change the master narrative of Virginia history.

Your book tells new stories about well-known episodes in Virginia history. What stories have changed in your narrative as a result of extensive primary source research?

BT: I’ve encountered so many that it’s impossible to select just one. Recently, as we were researching the campaign for woman suffrage in Virginia, we learned that at almost the same time the General Assembly refused to ratify the 19th Amendment in 1920, both houses by large margins nevertheless passed a law to allow women to register and vote, and they proposed a woman suffrage amendment to the state constitution. Nobody knew that. What do we learn from that? We learn that Virginia’s suffragists achieved their first objective, which was to persuade the General Assembly to propose a woman suffrage amendment to the state constitution. It was

too late to make any practical difference in 1920, but the woman suffrage movement in Virginia cannot any longer be told as a narrative of a failed reform movement; it becomes a narrative of almost-success. Understood in that way, the details of the work of the suffragists look different, and the way we tell their stories necessarily changes. Indeed, I had to tear out several pages of *Virginians and Their Histories* at a very late stage in order to rewrite that story and put in the new version.

It’s a little scary to publish a history of Virginia and then think about the many millions of unexamined records and other original materials we have right here in this archive, not to mention elsewhere, that might make me wish to rewrite other portions of the narrative, too. ■

Mining the Manuscripts

Library hosts Virginia Humanities Research Fellow

A partnership between the Library of Virginia and Virginia Humanities allows researchers to examine in-depth the Library's vast manuscript resources during their stay as scholars in residence. The Fellows present their findings and experiences with public talks at the Library, write blog posts, and engage with social media.



TRACY ROOF

An associate professor of political science at the University of Richmond, Tracy Roof is conducting research at the Library for a forthcoming book entitled *Nutrition, Welfare, or Work Support? A Political History of the Food Stamps Program*. Her project traces the origins, institutionalization, and sustained growth of the food stamp program from the 1950s through the current pandemic. The program has gone from a small pilot project during the Kennedy administration to the largest income support program in America's limited social safety net. At the height of the Great Recession, almost 15 percent of the population received food stamps and a record number of families may turn to the program in the next year as a result of the economic crisis produced by COVID-19. The book looks at the role of the South, the agricultural economy, rural areas, and the civil rights movement in shaping the food stamp program. Her research suggests that key features in the early development of the food stamp program have allowed it to grow as other anti-poverty programs have declined.

What is one of the most notable things you've found in your research here at the Library?

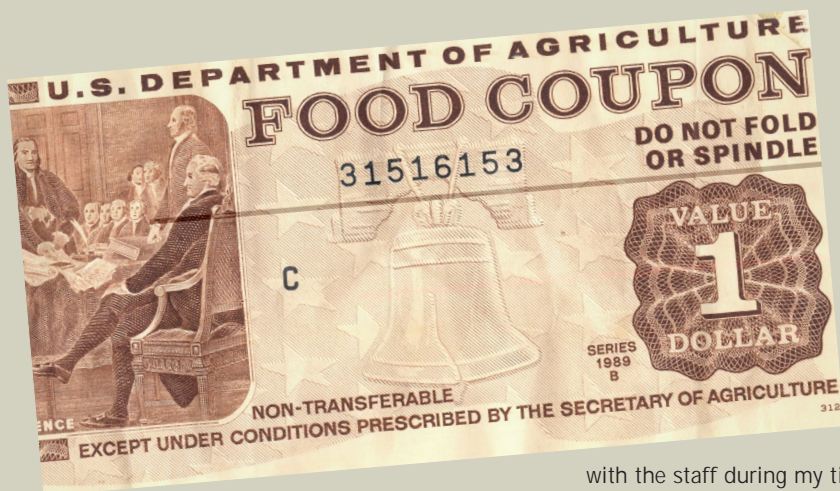
TR: I would say that my biggest "find" was data on the holdings of surplus agricultural commodities in the 1950s and 1960s by the Commodity Credit Corporation, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Because of improved farming techniques, American agriculture became much more efficient, producing considerably more of certain staple crops than could be sold by the mid-1950s. I wanted to show how the attention in Congress to creating a food stamp program increased as the holdings

of surplus commodities grew, but I had been unable to locate data on the actual dollar amounts held by the federal government in the 1950s. The Library's Acquisitions and Access Management director, Mary Clark, was able to help me find USDA reports containing the data on microfiche. They weren't in the Library's catalog and I would likely have never found them on my own.

What will you remember about your time here?

TR: I will remember the supportiveness and approachability of all the Library of Virginia staff members I interacted with. The Library and its many professionals are an amazing state resource. But I will also inevitably associate my time at the Library of Virginia with the rise of the coronavirus pandemic. It became the dominant subject of weekly lunchtime discussions

with the staff during my time in the building, and it eventually sent many of us home to work remotely (and to homeschool our stir-crazy children). While the Library closed to the public, the staff continued their work and offered all the support I needed to continue mine. My research also took on contemporary significance as food stamps, now known as the Supplemental Nutrition Support Program (SNAP), became a critical source of assistance to low-income families and the newly unemployed. A program first created to help people like the laid-off coal miners of southwestern Virginia will now serve a whole new wave of service sector, retail, gig economy, and other workers in Virginia and across the nation who have lost their livelihoods because of efforts to contain the spread of the virus. Part of my project looks at how existing programs often get repurposed to meet changing demands. The latest economic crisis is a good illustration, as Congress used SNAP to quickly address the emergency food needs of low-income families as the economy turned sharply downward.



THE HISTORY OF FIGHTING HUNGER

Virginia Humanities Research Fellow Tracy Roof made use of government documents such as the transcripts of congressional hearings on food stamp legislation, government reports on hunger, and reports from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Shown above is a USDA Food Coupon.

Summer Virtual Events calendar

The Library is pleased to offer a number of virtual events and workshops while our on-site events are temporarily suspended. For the latest information, please follow us on social media and visit our Calendar of Events at www.lva.virginia.gov/news/calendar.



Friday, August 7 | 10:00–11:00 AM

AFRICAN AMERICAN GENEALOGY

VIRTUAL WORKSHOP

Reconstructing Family: Post-Emancipation Records at the Library of Virginia

Place: Online

Registration required:

<https://reconstructingfamilyatlva.eventbrite.com>

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

Library of Virginia reference archivist Cara Griggs provides an overview of records created from 1865 to 1880 in the aftermath of the Civil War and how they may be used to find information on individuals. For more information, contact Ashley Ramey at ashley.ramey@lva.virginia.gov or 804.692.3001.



Friday, September 18 | 10:00–11:00 AM

GENEALOGY VIRTUAL WORKSHOP

Virginia Genealogy to ca. 1850

Place: Online

Registration required:

<https://virginiagenealogyto1850.eventbrite.com>

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

Explore the methods and resources for researching Virginia genealogy prior to ca. 1850. Library of Virginia reference archivist Cara Griggs presents ways that information can be found despite record loss and records that lack detail. For more information, contact Ashley Ramey at ashley.ramey@lva.virginia.gov or 804.692.3001.



Every Tuesday | 1:00–1:15 PM

FACEBOOK LIVE VIDEO

Virtual Visit: Tuesdays at the Library

Place: Online at www.facebook.com/LibraryofVA

Join us on Tuesdays at 1:00 PM for a virtual visit! Get a peek at the Library's fascinating collections through a short Facebook Live video. Each week a Library of Virginia staff member will share and discuss a favorite item from our archives. A post-event Q&A session will follow each video, with questions answered within the comments by a Library staff member.

EXHIBITION EXTENDED THROUGH MARCH 31, 2021!



The Library's Exhibition Gallery is currently closed. Until we can welcome visitors back to view the exhibition in person, we hope you'll explore our related online resources at edu.lva.virginia.gov/wedemand.

This year marks the centennial of the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution guaranteeing women's right to vote. *We Demand: Women's Suffrage in Virginia* reveals how women created two statewide organizations to win the right to vote. This exhibition is a project of the Task Force to Commemorate the Centennial Anniversary of Women's Right to Vote. A small companion exhibition on the second floor, *Unfinished Business*, has also been extended into 2021. The series of panel displays explores the fundamental question of citizenship through obstacles that limited suffrage to some Americans.

Anna Moser & Peter Schwartz

William Waller Hening Society



Prints from the Collection

Brighten your home with reproductions from the Library of Virginia's archives. With museum-quality paper and fade-resistant ink, our prints can add the perfect touch to your decor or make a great gift. We can also customize the size or help you find the perfect image! Visit thevirginiashop.org/shop/prints/11.



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

in circulation **WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING AT THE LIBRARY**

Find past event images at www.flickr.com/photos/lvaevents



While on-site events and visits to the Library of Virginia have been on hold, our staff members continued their work keeping operations running by answering research questions by phone and email, expanding online resources, and providing many other services for Library users.

1. Records and information management analyst **Glenn Smith** attends a virtual meeting with other teleworking staff members on May 22, 2020. Shown on his monitor are (CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT) **Patrice Morgan**, **Emeline Alexander**, **Corey Smith**, and **Chad Owen**.



2. Housekeeper **Letizia Stith** sanitizes keyboards in the West Reading Room on April 30, 2020.

3. Senior manuscripts, maps, and rare books librarian **Audrey McElhinney** is filmed for a Facebook Live video discussing one of her favorite items in the collections on May 19, 2020.

4. Senior reference archivist **Dawn Tinnell** examines microfilm records to assist with a patron request on April 28, 2020.

5. Records storage technician **Marc Storrs** retrieves a file box from the multistory shelving at the Library's State Records Center on Charles City Road on May 6, 2020.



6. Digital and video imaging specialist **Ben Steck** photographs an item from the collections on April 21, 2020.

Membership Has Its Privileges

Though millions of people from across the country and around the world use the Library's collections for research, the Library is only partially funded by the Commonwealth of Virginia. Did you know that the Library has a membership program that supplements its programs, events, and exhibitions? Our corps of members provides the support needed to share and enrich the Library's collections. Membership is tax-deductible and offers many benefits:

- A subscription to *Broadside*, the quarterly magazine of the Library of Virginia
- A one-time, 30% discount at the Virginia Shops each year you renew
- A 10% discount for the remainder of your membership at the Virginia Shop
- Discounted tickets for special trips
- Invitations to exclusive members-only programs and events
- Discounted tickets for fee programming

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

To learn more about the Semper Virginia Society and benefits of membership, contact Dawn Greggs at 804.692.3813.

LIBR *Literary Awards Celebration* OCTOBER 16–17, 2020

Library of Virginia Online Donation Page
[www.lva.virginia.gov/involved/
semper.asp](http://www.lva.virginia.gov/involved/semper.asp)



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COVID-19 RESPONSE

We've Missed You!

Library of Virginia welcomes back researchers

We understand how much many of you have missed having direct access to the Library of Virginia's resources this spring and are excited to welcome researchers back to the building. Our new hours are Tuesday–Friday, 10:00 AM–4:00 PM, by research appointment only. The visitor experience is slightly different, but we've been working hard to open our doors while ensuring your safety. The Library is following directives from the Office of the Governor as well as guidelines recommended by the Virginia Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. We have made physical changes to the research areas, revised procedures, and implemented a by-appointment model to support social distancing, among other changes. See this issue's inside cover and page 1 for more information. Thank you for your continued patience as we navigate this unprecedented situation together.

Photograph © Ansel Olsen