



the magazine of the

LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA

broadSIDE

2022 | NO. 2



ESCAPING THE CITY

SUMMER CAMP IMAGES IN THE COLLECTIONS

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LIBRARIAN OF VIRGINIA
Sandra G. Treadway

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THE INSIDE STORY

Summer Interns Join Our Team

Students from diverse backgrounds explore careers and offer fresh insights

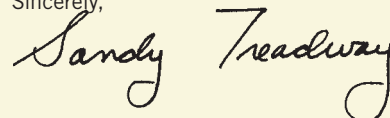
This summer brings several new faces to the Library of Virginia. Thanks to the generosity of donors to the Library of Virginia Foundation, we are pleased to have six paid student interns from diverse backgrounds join us as part of the Transforming the Future of Libraries and Archives program. They are working alongside Library staff members on projects in areas ranging from digital preservation, information security, and fundraising to archival processing, visual studies, and exhibition development. We are delighted to have them on our team, if only for a few months, and look forward to this exciting new collaboration.

We are eager to show these young men and women what goes on behind the scenes in libraries and archives as well as acquaint them with the myriad of career opportunities that cultural heritage institutions such as ours offer. Our hope is that this summer's interns will find the work meaningful, engaging, and fulfilling and that they will give serious consideration to careers in libraries, archives, or museums. Ensuring that the library and archival professions reflect the diversity of the population they serve is one important way we can help our fields remain vibrant, resilient, and relevant.

While we have much to share with our summer interns, we expect to learn a great deal from them as well. We anticipate that these students may have perspectives and experiences that may be vastly different from ours, and we welcome their feedback and ideas. They may view our collections in a new light and offer fresh insight into the documents, images, and stories that they encounter in their work. They may ask challenging questions about the language we use to describe people and events in the past and help to identify gaps in our holdings and our understanding. With luck they will also suggest programming ideas that would appeal to new audiences who may want to connect with cultural organizations in different ways. Hosting these impressive individuals can only make us better at what we do, and we are grateful for the generous support from the Library of Virginia Foundation that made this pilot internship program possible.

If this program is as successful as we hope it will be, we plan to make it a permanent summer offering. If you are interested in learning more about this work or in helping to support it, please contact Elaine McFadden, our director of development, at 804.692.3592 or elaine.mcfadden@lva.virginia.gov.

Sincerely,



Sandra G. Treadway, Librarian of Virginia

Our hope is that this summer's interns will find the work meaningful, engaging, and fulfilling and that they will give serious consideration to careers in libraries, archives, or museums.

ON THE COVER

This Virginia summer camp image is entitled *Morning dip at 7:30, swimming instruction at 11:00, and recreational boating and swimming at 3:30*. Developing confidence on the water was central to the curriculum of many camps, with campers learning to swim, dive, sail, and canoe. 1939 World's Fair Virginia Photograph Collection, Visual Studies Collection.

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LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA

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Welcome to the Library of Virginia, the state's oldest institution dedicated to the preservation of Virginia's history and culture. Our resources, exhibitions, and events attract nearly 100,000 visitors each year. Our collections, containing more than 130 million items, document and illustrate the lives of both famous Virginians and ordinary citizens.

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Photograph © Ansel Olsen

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ESCAPING THE CITY

SUMMER CAMP IMAGES EVOKE MEMORIES OF CHILDHOOD AND NATURE

BY DALE NEIGHBORS

For many families, summer camp is a childhood rite of passage. For more than a century, children in Virginia have packed their bags and traveled backcountry roads to spend a few weeks or months living in rustic cabins, hiking mountain trails, learning to swim, singing songs around campfires, forging lifelong friendships, and connecting to the natural world.

Teachers and philanthropists began experimenting with the idea of summer camp in the 1870s and 1880s. The more urbanized the country became, the more Americans longed for the vanishing wilderness. By recreating the conditions of the pioneer frontier, many hoped physical activity and outdoor life would allow children to develop individual character and self-reliance.

Often credited as the first summer camp, Camp Chocorua was founded by Ernest Balch in 1881 in the White Mountains of New Hampshire. Like other early camp founders, Balch was motivated by what he considered the healing effects of nature and by the “miserable condition of boys belonging to well-to-do families in the summer hotels.” Set up to teach self-reliance, Camp Chocorua required its campers to live in rough wooden buildings and learn to use an axe, sail a boat, and survive in the wilderness.

BACK TO NATURE

1. Culturally appropriated elements are deeply embedded in many camp identities and traditions, as seen with these ca. 1954 Virginia campers wearing Indian costumes. Now acknowledging the harm caused by the inappropriate use of Indigenous names and practices, many camps are working to create an inclusive environment for all. L. H. Freeman Jr. Photograph Collection.

2. The message on the back of this postcard was brief and to the point: “Dear Mother, I hope you are as well as I am. We are having a fine time. We have been swimming twice. I am lovingly your son, Warren.” Postcard Collection.

By the end of the 19th century, more than a hundred similar camps existed in the United States. Camp Greenbrier, an educational and athletic camp for boys, was established in Alderson, West Virginia, in 1898, making it one of the earliest in the South.

Expansion of summer camps in the early 20th century brought camping to a much wider audience. By the 1920s, children could choose from more than a thousand camps nationally. Scouting and YMCA camps began targeting middle-class families, while charitable organizations and urban settlement houses developed programs to provide free camps for the most-at-risk children in the community. Camp Harrison, established in Clarke County, Virginia, by the Visiting Nurse Association, wrote to potential donors that 120 children, who had “no other opportunity of being in the country and who badly need fresh air, good wholesome food and a chance to play and grow strong,” were sent to the camp in 1915. At the close of the season, children at Camp Harrison were sent home “averaging a gain of seven pounds per child.”

By the early 20th century, summer camps were no longer just for boys. National programs like Camp Fire Girls focused on a traditional model where female campers learned household tasks, while Girl Scout camps stressed the importance of physical education and women’s empowerment.

A similar divide could be found in private girls’ camps such as Camp Carysbrook (1923) and Camp Mont Shenandoah (1927), two of Virginia’s longest-operating girls’ camps. Camp Carysbrook originally focused on “esthetic dancing, dramatics, pageants, a camp chorus, hooked rug making and weaving,” while Camp Mont Shenandoah’s 1930s catalogs mentioned “horseback riding, basketball, volleyball, tennis, archery, swimming, and boating.” Even the more traditional camps, however, created a rare opportunity for girls to spend time away from home, and many returned feeling newly confident and independent. Correspondence from a parent to Camp Mont Shenandoah noted: “My daughter came home in splendid condition and in fine spirits. The summer with you seems to have put her in good condition to go through the coming winter.”

Excluded from segregated camps, Black Virginians established their own institutions devoted to providing recreational and cultural opportunities. A June 1923 article in the *Richmond Planet* reported that a committee of the Phyllis Wheatley *continues on page 4*

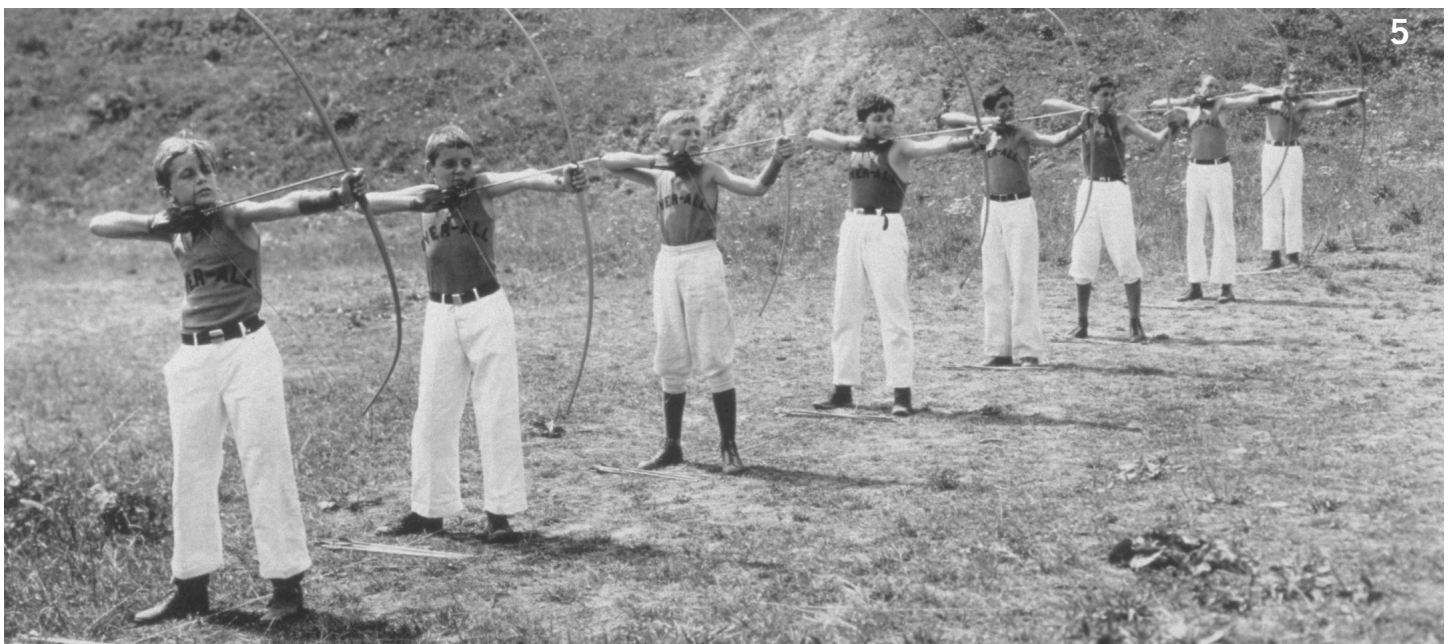
Dale Neighbors is the Library’s Visual Studies Collections coordinator.

**The more urbanized
the country became,
the more Americans
longed for the
vanishing wilderness.**

4

FRESH AIR & ACTIVITIES

3. Camp catalogs were important fundraising tools for charity organizations, such as this 1924 brochure for Camp Harrison.
4. This catalog for Camp Mont Shenandoah in Millboro Springs, Virginia, promoted its 1938 summer season.
5. Summer camps offered activities that many children may not have encountered at home, such as archery training at Camp Overall, Shenandoah Valley, Virginia. 1939 World’s Fair Virginia Photograph Collection.



5

continued from page 3

Branch of the Virginia YWCA had driven to Ash Cake, Virginia, to investigate a site for a summer camp “for the Richmond girls.” Three years later the YWCA of Richmond announced that they were planning a summer camp on the grounds of the Smallwood-Corey Institute in Claremont, Virginia. Activities for the two-week camp would include rowing, hiking, campfires, “stunt night,” games of all kinds, songs, nature hunts, trailblazing, and dramatics.

Later in the 1920s, the YWCA of Norfolk established Camp Fellobe on the shores of the Chesapeake Bay. The location offered a refreshing alternative to the typical mountain landscapes. As a local newspaper article pointed out, “If the breezes fail to cool the waterfront site at Camp Fellobe, the YWCA’s summer gift to sweltering girls at Little Bay, a few miles from Norfolk, it’s a consolation, the happy campers say, to know that the water is just a good run away.” The program at Camp Fellobe was also unique, including folk songs, spirituals, poetry, leather work, pottery, jewelry making, painting, basketball, volleyball, croquet, and swimming.

Over the years, summer camps evolved to reflect America’s changing attitudes toward childhood, as well as expanding to include day camps, which brought recreational activities to cities and suburbs. Growing in number and diversity by the 1950s and 1960s, camps took the form we recognize today. You can still find traditional outdoor camps that focus on nature activities, but contemporary summer camps often explore individual passions, the arts, sports, and social activities. Most of all, summer camps today are seen as a place for children to share new adventures, enjoy a little independence, and just have fun! ■

Excluded from segregated camps, Black Virginians established their own institutions devoted to providing recreational and cultural opportunities.



FORGING FRIENDSHIPS

1. & 2. Northside Day Camp in Richmond, Virginia, is pictured in different eras. YMCA of Greater Richmond Records, 1854–2019.

3. Camp Overall in Shenandoah Valley, Virginia, holds a storytelling session. 1939 World’s Fair Virginia Photograph Collection.

4. The Richmond Area Association for Retarded Citizens founded Camp Baker in Chesterfield County in 1957. Campers such as those pictured here in July of that year enjoyed traditional camp experiences like swimming and arts and crafts. Adolph Rice Photograph Collection.



HELP PRESERVE VIRGINIA IN PICTURES!

Is a picture worth more than a thousand words to you? Support the Library's Visual Studies Collection by making a contribution to care for these priceless images of our past. Make your financial gift by visiting www.lva.virginia.gov/donate.



SUMMER SOJOURNS

5. The 1938 catalog for Camp Mont Shenandoah in Millboro Springs, Virginia, illustrated how "handicrafts keep the minds and fingers busy during many a pleasant hour."

6. & 7. Virginia campers explored nature by horse and canoe. 1939 World's Fair Virginia Photograph Collection.

8. Detail from the cover of *The Summer Camp Guide: The 400 Better Private Summer Camps*, 1940.

Belted Kingfisher

by Alexander Wilson

LIBRARY COLLECTION PRINTS FROM THE VIRGINIA SHOP

Add some illustrated history to your home!
Prints of this engraving and many others from the
Library's collections are available for purchase in
a variety of sizes at the Virginia Shop.
Visit: thevirginiashop.org/shop/prints/11

BEAUTIFUL BIRDS

Volume 3 of author and illustrator Alexander Wilson's
book series *American Ornithology*, 1808–1825,
includes this engraving featuring a belted kingfisher.



a closer look

RARE BOOK COLLECTION

his hand-colored engraving featuring a belted kingfisher is one of the plates that accompany the descriptions in *American Ornithology* by Alexander Wilson (1766–1813). Considered the first comprehensive work on American natural history, the lavishly illustrated, nine-volume set of books published in Philadelphia from 1808 to 1825 was conceived by Wilson as “a collection of all our finest birds.”

His fabulous bird plates are often admired apart from their accompanying text. This is a shame, because Wilson—a poet

and writer well before he started drawing birds—provides an extensive accounting of each one, including information on anatomy, behavior, diet, and preferred habitat.

This plate from volume 3 of *American Ornithology* shows the belted kingfisher, which Wilson describes as “sprinkled all over with specks of white; the band of blue around the upper part of the breast is nearly half reddish brown; and a little below this passes a band of bright reddish bay, spreading on each side under the wings. The blue and rufous feathers on the breast are strong

like scales. The head is also of a much darker blue than the back, and the white feathers on the chin and throat of an exquisite fine glossy texture, like the most beautiful satin.”

Wilson also expounds eloquently on the bird’s behavior: “Like the love-lorn swains of whom poets tell us, he delights in murmuring streams and falling waters.”

—Audrey McElhinney,
Senior Manuscript, Map,
and Rare Book Librarian



Who Is William Waller Hening?

William Waller Hening (ca. 1767–1828) was a pioneer in the creation of knowledge. Before Hening edited his 13-volume edition of Virginia laws, few comprehensive collections of early Virginia laws existed. In 1823, funds from the sale of Hening's *Statutes at Large* were appropriated to provide formal financial support for the founding of a State Library. The William Waller Hening Society was formed in 2002 to recognize thoughtful donors who are committed to ensuring the vitality of the Library's programs and services by including the Library of Virginia in their estate arrangements.

A Generous Bequest Realized

In 2021 the Library of Virginia Foundation was notified of a generous half-million-dollar bequest made by [redacted], who passed away on October 13, 2021. She received a master of science degree in library science from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in August 1981. Her career included more than eight years as a reference librarian with Reynolds Metals Company and 29 years as corporate librarian and later as vice president of Corporate Support Services at SunTrust Bank (formerly United Virginia Bank and Crestar Bank, now Truist Bank). She retired in October 2000.

Mrs. George had a lifelong interest in genealogy and was a life member of the Jamestowne Society, the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Order of the Descendants of Ancient Planters, the Huguenot Society of the Founders of Manakin in the Colony of Virginia, and the Order of Descendants of Colonial Cavaliers.

The Library of Virginia is incredibly grateful for Mrs. George's extraordinary gift that will provide critical resources to sustain the Library's important work and build capacity in the areas of most urgent need. The Library of Virginia Foundation salutes Mrs. George and other members of the William Waller Hening Society in appreciation of their foresight and generosity to include the Library of Virginia in their estate plans. Their commitments help the Library plan for its future. Please consider joining the Hening Society and do good beyond your lifetime!

SUPPORTING VITAL RESOURCES

Our Local History and Genealogy Research Room is a trusted resource for family and community historians. Marion Dillon George's generous gift will help the Library of Virginia continue to provide these vital resources to the public along with many other core mission activities.

LEGACY PLANNING

One of the greatest gifts you can give during your lifetime is to help ensure that others have the opportunity to experience the power of Virginia's history and culture at the Library of Virginia. Making a legacy gift is a wonderful way to show your support for the Library, while achieving your own philanthropic, estate-planning, and financial goals. Planned gifts can benefit you and your loved ones today and in the future, and allow the Library to preserve and provide access to a rich, diverse, and enduring source of knowledge.

If you would like to have a confidential conversation about including the Library of Virginia in your estate plans, or if you have already made provisions but are not yet a recognized member of the William Waller Hening Society, please contact Elaine McFadden, director of development (elaine.mcfadden@lva.virginia.gov or 804.692.3592). Thank you for your support!

Please consult your financial planner or legal counsel as you proceed with your estate planning. Library of Virginia Foundation Tax ID 54-1298764.

Advice To The Lovelorn By Beatrice Fairfax

Jealousy Causes Her to Dye Her Husband's Spring Suit

Dear Miss Fairfax:

My wife is terribly jealous-minded. I'm no movie beauty of a man, but she thinks every woman I meet has designs on me. I bought myself a light gray suit for spring, because it was marked-down real cheap. She took it to be a come-on flag, and while I was at work she bought some kind of dye that females use for dyeing light stuff and boiled my suit. It turned out a dirty, streaky brown.

I'm so mad about this that I threatened to leave her, but I don't mean to, on account of our three children. But what can you do with a woman who will take a suit, costing \$16.50, marked down from \$40.00, and dye it with a kind of female dye and spoil it? I haven't said a word to her since it happened, and Miss Fairfax I never laid a hand on her, as many a man would have done.

FRED

Let's take up the practical side of your case before we go into the question of your wife's jealousy. Take the suit to the best dyer and cleaner in your city, and see what can be done to save it. Considering present day skill in the cleaner's craft, I think they may be able to do something. If they can't, sell it for what it will bring.

Jealousy of the type, such as you describe, is flattering if inconvenient and extravagant. Have a straight talk with the little woman and tell her frankly that you can't afford her type of green-eyed monster.

BEATRICE FAIRFAX

Dear Miss *America's first newspaper advice*

BY REBECCA SCHNEIDER

We are living in an age of peak advice, a crowded media landscape in which bloggers, columnists, podcasters, and online strangers field inquiries about everything from workplace etiquette to marital strife. Advice columns resonate in an era when many of us feel that our professional and personal lives ought to come with an instruction manual.

As an advice aficionado, I was tickled to learn that the creator of the 20th-century American advice column identified as a Virginian. Marie Manning (later Gasch) was born in Washington, D.C., but it was her down-home roots in Fairfax County, Virginia, that were touted in her very first "Advice to the Lovelorn" column, published under the pen name Beatrice Fairfax in 1898.

In a 1992 article on Manning in *American Heritage* magazine, Lynne Olson quotes from the July 20, 1898, print debut of "Miss Fairfax": "Miss Fairfax is a Virginian. She is a woman of experience. She has read and observed widely. She is young enough to sympathize with love's young dream. She will answer, to the best of her ability, all letters on subjects pertaining to the affections."

Manning was a young reporter and columnist for the *New York Evening Journal* when she was assigned to answer personal letters for a new type of column. Before long, "Advice to the Lovelorn" was syndicated across the country, becoming a national touchstone and even the basis for a 15-episode film serial released in 1916 that followed Beatrice Fairfax's fictional exploits as a "columnist turned crimefighter."

In her columns, Manning tackles familiar questions of infidelity, jealousy, protective parents, difficult in-laws, and the heartaches of romance. Yet these letters also reflect

RICE FAIRFAX

Fairfax The columnist had Virginia roots

an America that was changing, with young people—particularly women—embracing new personal freedoms. Manning's columns also provide evidence of an increasingly diverse and urbanized country, with relationship conflicts stemming from differences in nationality, language, and religion.

Manning's Beatrice Fairfax persona is empathetic and relatively progressive on issues of gender and marriage, but bygone social and legal norms constrain the advice she gives. Modern advice columnists are quick to suggest couples counseling or a visit to the divorce lawyer as an answer to intransigent marital problems, but in a United States without no-fault divorce or antidiscrimination laws, Fairfax almost always counseled married letter writers to learn to live with their spouses, for better or for worse.

Shown here are a few Beatrice Fairfax columns as they appeared in the 1940 *Suffolk News-Herald*. It's still fun to read these letters and imagine the advice we might offer if we were given the mantle of Miss Fairfax for the day. ■

Boy Friend Seems Imaginative

Dear Miss Fairfax:

I've been going with a boy almost a year now, and love him very much. We went to a party recently, and while there he told all my friends that we are going to get married in November, without even asking me. He also told his parents.

Another time he said in the presence of my friends that he was going to buy me a diamond ring, and made a date for the next evening to pick out the one I wanted. When the next evening arrived he didn't even mention the ring. And now all my friends start to see the ring.

He thinks it's a big joke and as far as to say "Wouldn't every-

one be surprised if they knew we really aren't going to get married?" It looks as if he's making a fool of me, although he does tell me he loves me. He also has broken other promises. My mother said to give him up as he can't be trusted, and that marriage is too serious a thing to be joked about in this manner. What steps do you advise taking?

Maryanna.

The boy you wrote me of is probably too young and inexperienced to know how underbred are these things which he imagines to be jokes. I think you would do well to take your mother's advice and drop him completely until he learns better manners.

Wants to Write Expressive Letters

Dear Miss Fairfax:

Six months ago I fell in love with a girl, and I can't seem to get up enough courage to tell her so. Now I want to write her. What should I say and how? I would like her to believe I can use words with a lot of expression and that I am highly educated. I've had about two or three dates a week with her, and I think she cares for me. She is 20 and I am 24.

JACK.

I like your letter very much and that's why I'm using it. Men and women go to school, to colleges, to universities, and they travel extensively, all for the purpose of increasing their cultivation. They go through all kinds of changes in taste, beginning generally with what is called a "high falutin' style." But in the end they conclude, as do the really great writers and speakers of the world, that the best of all styles is found in simplest expressions. Read "Arabian Nights," the holy Bible, all of the classics, in proof of this statement of mine.

Whatever your style, preserve in it, by all means, that simple, sincere personality that I find so charming in your letter.

"PERTAINING TO THE AFFECTIONS"

The advice columns pictured here appeared in issues of the *Suffolk News-Herald* in 1940 on April 9 (FACING PAGE), October 10 (UPPER RIGHT), and May 7 (ABOVE).

Rebecca Schneider is senior reference librarian at the Library.

A version of this article originally appeared on the Library's blog, *The UncommonWealth* (uncommonwealth.virginiachronicle.com), on March 7, 2022.

Explore Our Digital Newspaper
Collections at virginiachronicle.com

making history

Transcription projects help enhance access to collections of more than 400 years of Virginia history, people, and culture



HELPING MAKE HISTORY ACCESSIBLE

ABOVE AND ON FACING PAGE: Volunteers and Library staff members work on digital documents during a transcription session and “Transcribe-a-versary” celebration at the Library on August 24, 2019.

We have connected with many wonderful volunteers who have worked on collections ranging from correspondence to Chancery Court cases.

In 2014 the Library of Virginia introduced Making History: Transcribe, a collaborative online workspace focused on transcribing documents in the Library’s collections. During the past eight years, our crowdsourced approach has resulted in more than 122,000 pages of transcriptions. Each transcribed page makes it possible for that particular archival item to be found through full-text searching and to be read by those who, for a variety of reasons, cannot decipher the handwritten version. Through our bimonthly Transcribe-a-thon sessions, we have connected with many wonderful volunteers who have worked on collections ranging from correspondence to Chancery Court cases to the papers of the Equal Suffrage League of Virginia.

The Library of Virginia was one of the first institutions to offer a transcription program. While the last eight years have been productive for the Making History: Transcribe project and our transcription community, time has not been as kind to the technology we use behind the scenes. Many of the official government records that the Library holds are organized in forms or spreadsheets—formats that our current transcription system cannot handle. Advances in transcription software now allow for greater flexibility, accommodating both highly structured forms and free-form text. Newer software options also provide simpler user accounts and more user-friendly transcription interfaces.

For these reasons, the Library has upgraded its transcription platform by partnering with From the Page (fromthepage.com), a transcription software used by many other cultural institutions. In April 2022, we transitioned all of our transcription projects to the new platform. Volunteers are invited to create their own accounts on From the Page and begin working on collections that can be found at fromthepage.com/lva. For more hands-on instruction on using the platform, sign up for one of our bimonthly Transcribe-a-thons, which are hosted both virtually and in person at the Library. We look forward to continuing our collaboration with the public to transcribe historical Virginia documents—now with even better technology!

—Sonya Coleman,
Digital Engagement & Social Media Coordinator

VOLUNTEER FOR A RESEARCH SPRINT

With help from volunteer researchers, since 2020 the Library of Virginia has contributed historical resources to “History Unfolded,” a national project from the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. By examining historical newspapers, this project explores what Americans knew about the Holocaust and how they responded. The research is structured around specific events—such as the German government passing the Nuremberg Race Laws on September 15, 1935—that were likely to be covered in U.S. newspapers, from large daily papers in major cities to small weekly publications in rural communities.

The Library’s research sprint volunteers receive an orientation to the History Unfolded project from USHMM staff members, and Library staff mn(y U)1(i)7 6.5 (c)-(b)-6.3 (ra)-4 (ry p)4 (u)13 (b) elt p9 (u)4.7 (m)16.9 (i) to the Historical newsacucnitaff cr1 (e H)19s tary’s re (m l)13..13 (b)9-7cm35streklyb (l)28 (s)-12.6 (t)-7.1 (a

Mining the Manuscripts

Library hosts Virginia Humanities Research Fellows

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 online or in-person talks at the Library, write blog posts, and engage with social media.

D'Anne Graham

D'Anne Graham's work at the Library explored the historical experiences of Virginia midwives and the women and communities they served. Her background as a longtime activist for traditional midwifery beginning in the late 1990s led her to a master of arts degree in health advocacy and sustained research and writing on the Virginia story of birth. Her intent is to go beyond generalizations and excavate the lived experiences of specific midwives in all regions of the state.

Are there any notable items or sources you've found in your research at the Library?

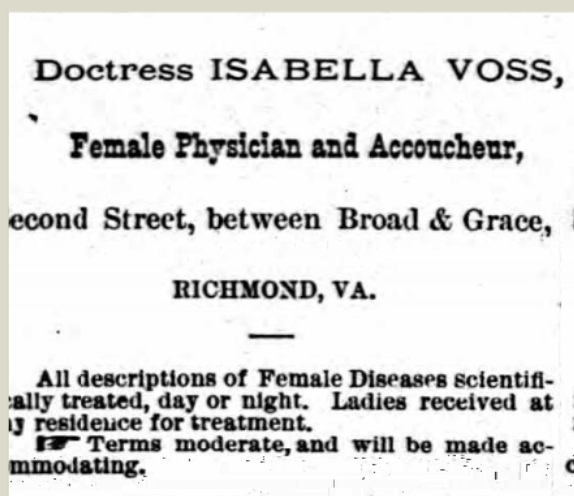
DG: My three decades as a birth and midwifery activist have caused me to ask one fundamental question: How did we get to the place of losing our traditional midwives? This led me to become an independent historian of Virginia midwives and the communities they served. Having read books by the dozens across many academic disciplines on childbirth and women's agency, I arrived at the Library of Virginia well-versed in the current literature. The Library holds a multitude of original sources on which past scholarship is based. To see—and sometimes hold—those manuscripts has been a near-holy moment connecting the present to the past.

As a late-in-life scholar, I worried my work would not be fresh. However, as I have read these manuscripts in their entirety, I see new information and angles that offer original perspectives untouched in the current literature. I have also come across a particular story buried in old court records that illuminates the dynamics of race, class, and power in the Early National Period (approximately 1790–1830). With the Library's vast holdings of manuscripts, archival records, books, and electronic databases, every day here is a treasure hunt. Stay tuned!



VIRGINIA'S HISTORICAL MIDWIVES

During her time at the Library, Virginia Humanities Research Fellow D'Anne Graham (ABOVE) found items such as this 1881 Richmond city directory advertisement for Isabella Distradoza Voss. A midwife from Spain who at times used the term “doctress,” Voss ran a clinic with her German physician husband. Graham also found this photograph that includes Lucy Hudson Crowley (BACK ROW, RIGHT) and Ruth Hudson Galford (BACK ROW, CENTER), who represent a line of midwives going back to the late 1790s in Augusta County and Pocahontas County (now in West Virginia). Although the sisters did not label themselves “midwives”—women just helped each other out—Crowley kept a saddlebag packed for when word arrived that a woman was in labor. They attended to women within the hollers without thought of state residency. Their granddaughter and great-niece Sarita Bennett is a retired Virginia midwife who also attended women in both states.



What will you remember about your time here?

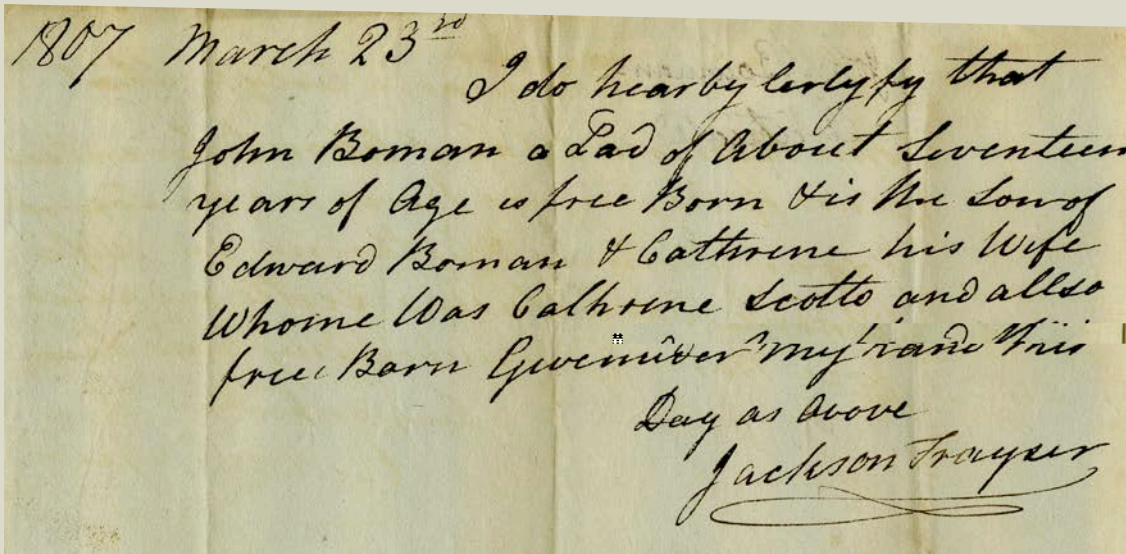
DG: It has been fantastic to be around the Library of Virginia staff. These career historians, librarians, and archivists unquestionably view me as a colleague and consider my work of societal importance. They supported my research as much as did the documents I discovered. I also want to thank the Library's security and housekeeping staff who do their jobs with kindness and a smile. Every facet of the Library made me excited and comfortable during my fellowship.

Lois Leveen

A public humanities scholar whose work has appeared everywhere from the *Atlantic* and the *New York Times* to medical journals and academic books, Lois Leveen may be most familiar to the Library of Virginia community as the author of the novel *The Secrets of Mary Bowser*. A work of historical fiction, the novel imagined the life of one of the legendary figures alleged to have participated in the pro-Union underground operating in Richmond during the Civil War. During her time at the Library, Leveen did research for a nonfiction book, the first scholarly biography of the real woman behind the “Mary Bowser” myth.

Are there any notable items or sources you’ve found in your research at the Library?

LL: There’s a line in my novel, “He was the first of us to hold free papers in his hand, and we shared his pride in touching those pages, at once so fragile and so weighty.” I confess, I wrote that description more than a decade ago, without ever having held such papers! I think I imagined them as very formal, standardized documents, always with official seals. But in my recent research at the Library, I came across many examples of papers attesting to the freedom of particular Black Virginians, and I was struck by how varied they are. Some of them seem to be on random scraps of paper, while others are indeed very formal documents. When you are doing research in an archive far from home, it’s easy to try to rush through to find as much as you can in the limited time you have. But every time I came across one of these documents, even if it was not directly related to my project, I made myself pause as I held it, to honor how much it meant to the person to whose freedom it referred, and to all the people who cared for that person. It amazes me that anyone can come into the Library today and read and hold these centuries-old papers. I hope more people will do that. They are as precious today as they were when they were created, because they attest to all the ways African Americans claimed their rightful place among kin and community here in Virginia, despite so many local, state, and national laws and policies intended to harass and harm them.



FREEDOM PAPERS

Virginia Humanities Research Fellow **Lois Leveen** (ABOVE) found “Free Negro” registers in the Library’s collections, such as this March 23, 1807, affidavit declaring that 17-year-old John Boman was a free-born Virginian.

What will you remember about your time here?

LL: Like most people who write about the history of race and racism in America, I do this work because I know we need to be honest and accurate in understanding the past if we are going to live up to America’s promise in the present and the future. Sometimes during my time in the Library, I was confronted by written and visual records of white supremacy at its most brutal and violent. Sometimes the records revealed the more mundane ways that the lives

and hopes and efforts of free and enslaved Blacks were continuously being undermined. Either way, it felt emotionally wearing to do this work. And then I’d overhear an exchange between Library staff and patrons: helpful staff, grateful patrons. Often these exchanges happened “across the color line,” to use a phrase that historians often encounter, meaning the staff person might be of a different race or from a different cultural background than the patron. It reminded me that in our present moment, in the Library, we can connect in ways that counter the Virginia and the America these sources speak to. The kindness and professionalism of librarians, archivists, and all the staff always make a difference to researchers and patrons, but when these qualities also exemplify how we can overcome the worst of our shared history, it’s especially memorable and sustaining.

Summer Reading Gets Results

SUMMER READING PROGRAMS

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

Summer reading programs help children and teens retain and enhance their reading skills over the summer, provide a haven and a community for readers, and are a valuable outreach tool for libraries. Children and teens who participate in summer library programs benefit from activities that promote literacy development and help to counter summer reading loss.

The Library of Virginia supports libraries in these endeavors by encouraging children and teens to improve their skills over the summer by reading and using their public libraries. Virginia is a member of the Collaborative Summer Learning Program, which offers print materials for summer reading programs and access to a comprehensive programming manual. This summer we're providing public libraries a free subscription to Beanstack, an online tracking program. Through Find It Virginia, a database offers recommendations specifically for younger readers to help users find books that match their reading level and interests.

This summer's theme is "Oceans of Possibilities," with graphics featuring a variety of marine life and ocean-related images. The Library of Virginia supports public libraries' summer learning programs with federal funds provided by the Institute of Museum and Library Services through the Library Services and Technology Act.

—Susan La Paro, *Children's and Youth Services Consultant*



featured book

A Photographic Journey through the James River Park System

By Bill Draper

This collection of images is a testament to photographer Bill Draper's appreciation of Richmond's most distinctive

urban oasis, the James River Park System. These diverse views of the park and the Richmond skyline were captured on and off the beaten path in all four seasons, from vantage points that are not always seen by the everyday park visitor.

BrandyLane Publishers, January 2021, \$38.95

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WHAT ARE YOU READING?

MARLENE PAUL

*Co-founder & Executive Director,
ART 180*

The Love Songs of W. E. B. DuBois

By Honorée Fanonne Jeffers

A coworker read this over Christmas break and recommended it. Unlike me, he's a voracious reader and devoured it in two weeks. I ordered it and was shocked when it arrived: all 816 pages and 2.1 pounds. So it sat on my nightstand, tempting but intimidating this 30-minutes-before-bed reader. The heft and weight make sense, as the content is heavy. It centers on one African American woman and her ancestors, who include enslaved Africans, Native Americans, and whites. Alternating between past and present and eventually connecting the two through bloodlines and recurring themes, it shares the complex history of one family within the complicated history of our country, in fiction. If only it were just fiction. Whenever I considered giving up, I remembered that real people like the characters lived these stories. That kept me going—all the way through spring break when I finally finished. It reminded me how ignorant I am about our history. If only it were just history.

literary virginia

LITERATURE & LITERACY

DON'T MISS THESE UPCOMING TALKS!

Learn more & register: www.lva.virginia.gov/public/weinstein

All events are free and in person in the Library's Lecture Hall, but will also be livestreamed on our Facebook and YouTube pages.

At the time of the event, visit www.facebook.com/LibraryofVA or www.youtube.com/user/LibraryofVa.

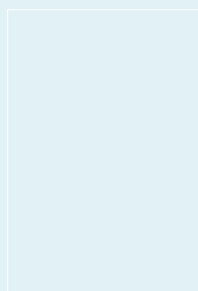
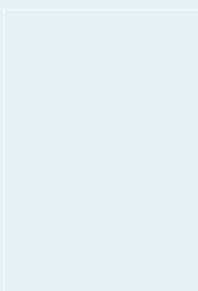


Thursday, July 28 | 6:00–7:30 PM

RITA DOVE

Playlist for the Apocalypse

In her first volume of new poems in 12 years, Rita Dove investigates the vacillating moral compass guiding America's, and the world's, experiments in democracy.



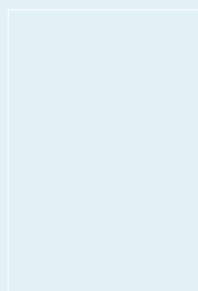
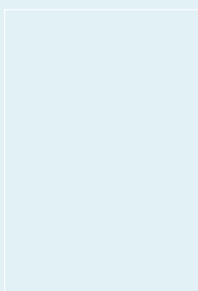
Tuesday, August 23 | 6:00–7:30 PM

BETH MACY

Raising Lazarus:

Hope, Justice, and the Future of America's Overdose Crisis

Beth Macy's complex story of public health, big pharma, dark money, politics, race, and class is a must-read for all Americans.



Thursday, September 22 | 6:00–7:30 PM

SCOTT REYNOLDS NELSON

Oceans of Grain:

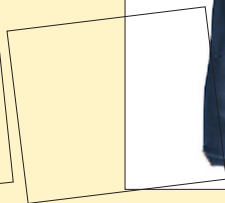
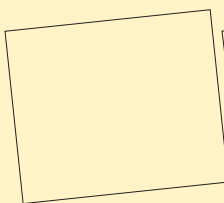
How American Wheat Remade the World

Scott Reynolds Nelson's revelatory global history shows how cheap American grain toppled the world's largest empires.

The Carole Weinstein Author Series supports the literary arts by bringing both new and well-known authors to the Library of Virginia through online or in-person events. Free and open to the public, the series focuses on Virginia authors and Virginia subjects across all genres.

Celebrate summer in the commonwealth with "Virginia is for Lovers" gear! From T-shirts and hats to tumblers and campfire mugs, the Virginia Shop has you covered. We even have bandanas for your furry friends! Shop in-store or online at THEVIRGINIASHOP.ORG.

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behind the scenes

INSIDE THE MAP COLLECTION

Questions for Cassandra Farrell, Senior Map Archivist



MAP HISTORIAN

Senior map archivist **Cassandra Farrell** reviews maps in her office.

: My initial introduction to historical maps was at Colonial Williamsburg. I was a historical interpreter there for three years, and maps were a part of our presentations and tours. I joined the Library in 2002 and was promoted to map specialist and senior research archivist in 2005. My title changed to senior map archivist in 2015 when my position was moved to Manuscripts and Special Collections. That transition has allowed me to spend the majority of my time on all of the aspects that govern our map collection—acquisitions, donations, adding digital images, creating short records in the catalog, public service, presentations, lectures, organizing the physical collections, and housing maps appropriately. I've been working with the Library's map collection for 17 years. I have a master's degree in history from Old Dominion University and I'm currently a doctoral student in history at George Mason

The Library of Virginia's map collection, which is part of the Manuscripts and Special Collections department, houses many genres for research, including military, government, commercial, manuscript, topographic, thematic, transportation, and more. As researchers increasingly look for materials online, we are striving to meet that need by digitizing maps to increase accessibility.

Maps are served by appointment Tuesday through Friday, and anyone with a Library of Virginia library card can set up a time to review maps. We strongly encourage users to search our map indexes and catalog prior to an appointment so that we can retrieve materials before your visit or let you know what may be available online. We're able to serve some maps digitally, and much of our reference work is conducted by email. In the past year we have assisted doctoral students, independent researchers, family historians, genealogists, archaeologists, and city planners, among others.

The Library provides research guides (lva-virginia.libguides.com) to some map collections as well as online map exhibitions on Google Arts and Culture (artsandculture.google.com/partner/library-of-virginia). We also offer map workshops and presentations and have encouraged map education through the Alan M. and Nathalie P. Voorhees Lecture on the History of Cartography. Senior map archivist Cassandra Farrell answers some questions below.

University, where I'm focusing on early America, the early modern Atlantic world, and digital history. I plan to incorporate maps into my dissertation! In 2020 I earned a certificate in geographic information systems or studies from Michigan State University. The technology required to use maps for research in the humanities means that I need to be familiar with geographic programs like ArcGIS and QGIS, so I continue to gain training and practical use in each.

: I really like the variety. I've put together map exhibitions in numerous formats, and the research that it requires—whether it's for a digital or physical exhibition or for a program—makes you become familiar with each map. I answer reference questions and accession and process maps. I'm involved in map acquisition, too. We're currently working to incorporate the map card catalog—yes, an actual card catalog—into our online catalog so that all of our map

titles are discoverable in one place. I enjoy speaking about our map collection, leading map workshops, and giving presentations about maps and cartographic history. I really think of myself as a map historian.

: My favorite maps to research and study are from the colonial and Early Republic period. I enjoy discovering the kinds of information diffused from maps, how they are made, and learning about those who made them. The making of a map involves several people and processes, and I find that fascinating.

: I think how multifaceted the work is and the sheer amount of knowledge you have to gain in order to do this kind of work correctly. There is a lot of background work that gets done before a map or map collection appears in our catalog. ■

I enjoy giving presentations about maps and cartographic history. I really think of myself as a map historian.

CARING FOR THE COLLECTION

ABOVE: Farrell returns a map to the storage area in the archival stacks.

BELOW: One of Farrell's favorite items in the collection is this 1676 miniature map by English cartographer and historian John Speed entitled *Virginia and Maryland*. Only 8 x 12 centimeters in size (or a bit over 3 by a bit under 5 inches), the map is oriented with the north at the right.



DID YOU KNOW?

With your gift of \$100 or more, you can join one of the Library of Virginia Foundation's affinity groups like the **Fry-Jefferson Map Society**, which is for individuals interested in developing, enhancing, and promoting the cartographic collections of the Library. To learn more, contact Elaine McFadden at 804.692.3592 or elaine.mcfadden@lva.virginia.gov.

Help Preserve Virginia's History!

Your support helps the Library care for its world-class Special Collections, which include maps, architectural drawings, rare books, and private papers. Please consider making a gift at www.lva.virginia.gov/donate.

calendar

Summer Events

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

ALL EVENTS ARE FREE UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.

Thursday, July 7 | 6:00–7:00 PM

BOOK TALK WITH MARY SARAH BILDER

Female Genius: Eliza Harriot & George Washington at the Dawn of the Constitution

Place: Online

Registration required:

lva-virginia.libcal.com/event/9297745

Join us for a virtual talk by law professor and award-winning author Mary Sarah Bilder on her new book, *Female Genius*. Her provocative new biography of pathbreaking educator Eliza Harriot Barons O'Connor makes clear that America's framing moment did not belong solely to white men and offers an inspirational transatlantic history of women who believed in education as a political right. For more information, contact Elizabeth Klaczynski at elizabeth.klaczynski@lva.virginia.gov or 804.692.3536.

Wednesdays & Saturdays, July–Sept.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Making History with LVA

See page 11 for details.

Wednesday, July 13

6:00–7:30 PM

BOOK CLUB

Literary Virginia Book Group

Place: Online

Registration required:

lva.virginia.gov/public/literary_virginia_book_group

Read and discuss the best of today's Virginia literature. July's book is *First Principles: What America's Founders Learned from the Greeks and Romans and How That Shaped our Country* by Thomas E. Ricks. For more information, contact Nan Carmack at nan.carmack@lva.virginia.gov or 804.692.3792.

Friday, July 15 | 10:00–11:00 AM

VIRTUAL GENEALOGY WORKSHOP

Church & Religious Records at the Library of Virginia

Place: Online

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

Registration required: churchandreligiousrecordsatlva.eventbrite.com

This workshop explores church and religious records that can help fill the gaps in genealogical research. Contact Ashley Ramey Craig at ashley.ramey@lva.virginia.gov or 804.692.3991 for more information.

Tuesdays, July 19 & Sept. 20 | 6:00–7:30 PM

BOOK CLUB

Common Ground Virginia History Book Group

Place: Online

Registration required: lva.virginia.gov/public/virginia_history_book_group

Join a virtual book group discussion on compelling non-fiction books hand-picked by Library staff members.

July's book is *The Middle of Somewhere: An Artist Explores the Nature of Virginia* by Suzanne Stryk. No meeting in August.

September's book is *Trailed: One Woman's Quest to Solve the Shenandoah Murders* by Kathryn Miles. For more information, contact Rebecca Schneider at rebecca.schneider@lva.virginia.gov or 804.692.3550.

ANNE & RYLAND

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INSTITUTE

AT THE LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA

EDUCATOR WORKSHOPS

Anne & Ryland Brown Teacher Institute

July 25–August 4 | 9:00 AM–5:00 PM

Place: Multiple locations

Learn more & register: edu.lva.virginia.gov/brown/brown-institute

This year's two-day Brown Teacher Institute workshops, which focus on local stories and histories that have been hidden from mainstream narratives, will be held in South Boston (July 25–26), Danville (July 28–29), Richmond (Aug. 1–2), and Arlington (Aug. 3–4).

Wednesday, July 27 | 5:30–7:30 PM

RESEARCH SPRINT

History Unfolded: U.S. Newspapers & the Holocaust

See page 11 for details.

Thursday, July 28 | 6:00–7:30 PM

WEINSTEIN AUTHOR SERIES: RITA DOVE

Playlist for the Apocalypse

Place: Lecture Hall or Online

Registration required:

lva.virginia.gov/public/weinstein

Join us for a special evening of poetry with Pulitzer Prize winner and former U.S. Poet Laureate Rita Dove, who will read from her latest book, *Playlist for the Apocalypse*.

Friday, August 5 | 9:30 AM–12:00 PM

GENEALOGY WORKSHOP

Court Records at the Library of Virginia

Place: Conference Rooms

Cost: \$25 (\$20 for Library members)

Registration required:

courtrecordsatlva.eventbrite.com

This workshop explores court records in the Library's collections and offers advice on how to use them in your genealogical research. Contact Ashley Ramey Craig at ashley.ramey@lva.virginia.gov or 804.692.3991 for more information.

Saturday, August 6 | 10:30–11:30 AM

MAP EVENT

The Dunn Plat: An Adaptation of Joseph Smith's Plan for the City of Zion

Place: Conference Rooms

Registration suggested:

lva-virginia.libcal.com/event/9162838

Join us for a presentation on a compelling artifact of Virginia's urban planning history. A plat of an unnamed location that staff members originally described as a "mystery town" appears to follow the precepts of Joseph Smith's Plan for the City of Zion. Contact Elizabeth Klaczynski at elizabeth.klaczynski@lva.virginia.gov or 804.692.3536 for more information.

Friday, August 12 | 12:00–1:00 PM

BOOK BREAK WITH BILL GLOSE

All the Ruined Men

Place: Orientation Room

Registration suggested: bit.ly/GloseBookBreak

Join award-winning writer Bill Glose for a discussion on his book of short stories *All the Ruined Men*, which shows veterans struggling for normalcy as they return from war to civilian life. For more information, call the Virginia Shop at 804.692.3524 or email shop@thevirginiashop.org.

Tuesday, August 23 | 6:00–7:30 PM

WEINSTEIN AUTHOR SERIES:

BETH MACY

Raising Lazarus

Place: Lecture Hall or Online

Registration required: lva.virginia.gov/public/weinstein

Join us for a talk by award-winning journalist and best-selling author Beth Macy on her latest work, *Raising Lazarus: Hope, Justice, and the Future of America's Overdose Crisis*. This complex story of public health, big pharma, dark money, politics, race, and class is a must-read for all Americans.

Friday, September 9 | 10:00–11:00 AM

VIRTUAL GENEALOGY WORKSHOP

Immigration Records:

From Ellis Island Forward

Place: Online

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

Registration required: immigrationrecords-fromellislandforward.eventbrite.com

This workshop explores the changes in the naturalization process and related records such as passenger lists from the late 19th century through 1952. Contact Ashley Ramey Craig at ashley.ramey@lva.virginia.gov or 804.692.3991 for more information.

Tuesday, September 22

6:00–7:30 PM

WEINSTEIN AUTHOR SERIES:

SCOTT REYNOLDS NELSON

Oceans of Grain

Place: Lecture Hall or Online

Registration required:

lva.virginia.gov/public/weinstein

Join us for a talk by history professor and award-winning author Scott Reynolds Nelson on his latest book, *Oceans of Grain: How American Wheat Remade the World*. This revelatory global history shows how cheap American grain toppled the world's largest empires.

Friday, September 23 | 11:00 AM–12:00 PM

BOOK BREAK WITH LUCINDA ROY

Dreambird Chronicles Series

Place: Orientation Room

Registration suggested: bit.ly/RoyBookBreak

Join Lucinda Roy for a discussion about the works in her Dreambird Chronicles series: *The Freedom Race* and its sequel, *Flying the Coop*. For more information, please call the Virginia Shop at 804.692.3524 or email shop@thevirginiashop.org.

Friday, September 23 | 5:15–7:30 PM

BOOK & MUSIC EVENT

Sweet Bitter Blues: A Conversation with Authors Phil Wiggins & Frank Matheis

Place: Lobby

Registration required: lva-virginia.libcal.com/event/9239442

Join authors Phil Wiggins and Frank Matheis for a conversation about their compelling narrative on the Washington, D.C., Piedmont blues scene, along with a performance of blues harmonica by Wiggins, a pre-talk reception, and a book signing. For more information, contact Elizabeth Klaczynski at 804.692.3536 or elizabeth.klaczynski@lva.virginia.gov.

800 exhibitions at east broad

Through November 19, 2022

Monday–Saturday | 9:00 AM–5:00 PM

Exhibition Gallery & Lobby | Free

Imagine having to explain to the House of Delegates why you want to divorce your spouse, change your name, or take other actions that affect your life. Virginians had to do just that for nearly a century. *Your Humble Petitioner* highlights petitions that involved deeply personal issues such as divorce and requests by emancipated Black people to remain in the commonwealth, offering a glimpse into the realities of 18th- and 19th-century life.

in circulation

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING
AT THE LIBRARY



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2



3

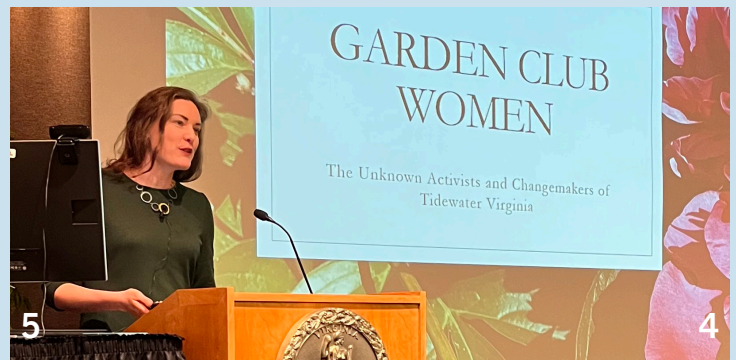
1. Author and journalist **Kristen Green** signed copies of her new book, *The Devil's Half Acre: The Untold Story of How One Woman Liberated the South's Most Notorious Slave Jail*, after her Carole Weinstein Author Series talk at the Library on April 14, 2022. Photograph by Ben White.

2. On April 28, 2022, in the Library's East Reading Room, **Governor Glenn Youngkin** signed the Virginia Literacy Act into law in front of students from Richmond's Martin Luther King Jr. Middle School and other guests. The bipartisan effort will help address lagging reading rates in the commonwealth's classrooms.

3. Historian and author **Gregory D. Smithers** presented a talk on his new book, *Reclaiming Two-Spirits: Sexuality, Spiritual Renewal & Sovereignty in Native America*, at the Library on April 26, 2022.

4. On May 3, 2022, Bill Leighty, senior strategic advisor at the L. Douglas Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs at Virginia Commonwealth University, gathered a number of Virginia's former Secretaries of Administration at the Library for a briefing on state construction projects in and around Capitol Square, followed by a hard-hat tour of the new General Assembly Building, slated to open later this year. FRONT ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT: **Bill Leighty, Nancy Rodrigues, Lisa Hicks Thomas, Viola Baskerville, Sandra Bowen, and Carolyn Moss.** BACK ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT: **Mike Thomas, Grindly Johnson, Bryan Slater, and Don Moseley.**

5. **Meredith Henne Baker** presented a talk on "Garden Clubs Make History: How Virginia's Gardening Women Changed a State" at the Library on April 28, 2022. An author and independent scholar, she conducted research on the subject at the Library as a Virginia Humanities Research Fellow during the autumn of 2021.



4

5

4



SUPPORT YOUR LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA

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. The Library relies on individuals like you to help support its programs, collections, education activities, and outreach initiatives.

Your gift is tax deductible, and in gratitude for your support, the Library of Virginia Foundation extends the following benefits to all donors of \$100 or more:

- Priority seating at Library events
- One free Library workshop per year
- 10% discount at the Virginia Shop
- Discounted tickets to Library programs
- Invitations to members-only lectures and events
- One-year print subscription to *Broadside* magazine
- Recognition in the Library's annual list of donors on our lobby display

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

Learn more about how your gift makes the Library's work possible by contacting Dawn Gregg at 804.692.3813.

SEMPER VIRGINIA SOCIETY

Make a significant investment to aid the Library in its mission to acquire, preserve, and promote access to unique collections of Virginia's history and literature. Donors whose annual giving totals \$1,000 or more become members of the Semper Virginia Society.

Join fellow donors at exclusive Semper Virginia programs, events, and travel opportunities. To learn more, please contact Elaine McFadden at 804.692.3592 or elaine.mcfadden@lva.virginia.gov.

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**LIBRARY
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Literary Awards Celebration

Celebrate with 2022 Virginia Literary Awards finalists and host Adriana Trigiani as we award the commonwealth's highest literary prizes for fiction, nonfiction, and poetry.

25TH ANNIVERSARY

SAVE THE DATES: OCTOBER 14–15, 2022

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