

broadSIDE



the magazine of the **LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA**

2024 | NO. 1



**The Art Experience at the Executive Mansion
and the State Art Collection**

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LIBRARIAN OF VIRGINIA

Dennis T. Clark

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THE INSIDE STORY

Our Third Century

Advancing the Library in the best interests of the Commonwealth

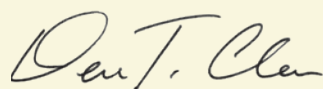
As I write this column in early February, I find myself reflecting on the whirlwind of my first two weeks as Librarian of Virginia. Everyone has been warmly welcoming, and I am deeply appreciative for the Library Board, the Library of Virginia Foundation and each member of our staff for rolling out the red carpet for me. In particular, Dr. Sandy Treadway's thoughtful transition has left me deeply grateful and her unwavering focus on the Library's future is evident to all who know her.

Remarkably, my tenure coincides with the beginning of the Library's third century. The Library was chartered by the General Assembly on Jan. 24, 1823. I began my term — through a fluke in state government hiring practices and not careful planning — exactly two hundred years later, on Jan. 25, 2024. Since then, I've spent some time immersing myself in the Library's history, particularly in Brent Tarter's fine chapter in *The Commonwealth: Treasures from the Collections of the Library of Virginia*. The stories I've read have left me humbled. But if there is a takeaway from them, it is this: from its origins as a modest collection of law books supporting the fledgling colonial government to its current role as a vital facet of the Commonwealth's educational mission, the Library's success in the life of Virginia is a testament to its resilience.

In particular, I've wondered about what my predecessors were challenged by when they began their turn as State Librarian or Librarian of Virginia, and how they met those challenges. Each of them had the best interests of the Commonwealth in their mind, to be sure, and I imagine that each of them felt a similar weight when they looked backwards to their predecessors. But their legacies — from John Pendelton Kennedy's inspired creation of the "extension division" to Nolan Yelich's massive expansion of Library facilities to Sandy Treadway's forward-looking embrace of digitization — are foundational for us today. Taken together, they — along with countless advancements by Library staff — have shaped our institution into the nation's finest state library and archives.

Our mandate, then, remains the same as theirs: to advance the Library in the best interests of the Commonwealth. This entails not only the careful stewardship of our inherited legacy, but also a steadfast commitment to ensure that the Library of Virginia remains essential for the present and future generations of Virginians.

Sincerely,



Dennis T. Clark, Librarian of Virginia



From its origins as a modest collection of law books supporting the fledgling colonial government to its current role as a vital facet of the Commonwealth's educational mission, the Library's success in the life of Virginia is a testament to its resilience.

ON THE COVER

The Art Experience at the Executive Mansion exhibition titled *Do What You Love in Virginia* is pictured here in a 2023 view of the North Ballroom. FAR LEFT: *Skyline Drive / Jamestown / Cape Henry Lighthouse* from the Twelve Views of Virginia series by Miwako Nishizawa, 2012–2014, courtesy of the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts. TOP: *Beach Scene* by Robert Thomas Barbee, 1960, on loan from the Fralin Museum. LEFT: *Shoveling Oysters* by Ed Hatch, 2003. RIGHT: *Little Nickel* by Andras Baloty, 2023, courtesy of the Reynolds Gallery. Photograph by Rosa Woodring.

START
HERE



LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA

804 E. Broad St. | Richmond, VA 23219-8000
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PLAN YOUR VISIT

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.

INFORMATION

804.692.3500 | www.lva.virginia.gov

LOBBY & EXHIBITION GALLERY HOURS

Monday–Saturday, 8:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

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Plus special Saturday hours:

April 6 & 20, 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

May 4 & 18, 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

June 8 & 22, 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

www.lva.virginia.gov/about/hours.php

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

Indigenous Perspectives

Through Aug. 17, 2024

EVENTS

804.692.3999

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www.lva.virginia.gov/LVAevents

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STATEWIDE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

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Photograph © Ansel Olsen

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In the South Ballroom in 2023, First Lady of Virginia Suzanne S. Youngkin viewed the paintings *The Upperville Gallop* (LEFT) by Sharon Lynn Campbell, 2019, courtesy of the artist, and *Three Graces at Maymont* (RIGHT) by Andras Balits, 2022, courtesy of the Reynolds Gallery. Photograph by Rosa Woodring.



SHOWCASING VIRGINIA ARTISTS

The Art Experience at the Executive Mansion

Virginia's Executive Mansion is the oldest continuously occupied governor's residence in the United States. Designed by Alexander Parris, it has been occupied by the governor and the First Family since 1813, with each making their mark on the historic home. The Executive Mansion has featured state-owned artwork since at least the mid-1890s when a photograph of then-Gov. Charles T. O'Ferrall's office pictured the painting *Appomattox* by John Adams Elder (1887) displayed on a wall. The State Art Collection includes paintings, sculptures and works on paper owned by the Commonwealth of Virginia. Collection pieces selected for exhibition in the Executive Mansion over the years have been traditional portraits of notable figures and landscapes of Virginia. In the 1950s Gov. Thomas B. Stanley opened the Executive Mansion to daily public tours, and today thousands of people visit the residence each year.

When Gov. Glenn Youngkin and First Lady Suzanne S. Youngkin became the 57th residents of the historic building, the First Lady launched a new initiative, the Art Experience at the Executive Mansion. This annually rotating exhibition includes artwork from artists and institutions from across the commonwealth. Ranging from historic to contemporary pieces, the exhibitions showcase the rich history and natural landscape of Virginia through different themes.

"It is often said, 'art is food for the soul,'" said First Lady Suzanne S. Youngkin. "As the reality that Glenn and I would have the unfathomable privilege of living in our nation's oldest, purpose-built governor's residence set in, I set about exploring the home's history. I felt strongly that the art in the home, although only one element of the iconic building's majesty, was absolutely critical to inform the narrative around our commonwealth's leaders, cultures, geographies, beauty and talents. I also knew that not to highlight, almost exclusively, the talents of Virginians would

"The art and artifacts in the Executive Mansion needed to be emblematic of more than just our past, but also of the commonwealth's inspiring present and bright future."

—First Lady Suzanne S. Youngkin

be a missed opportunity and that the art and artifacts in the Executive Mansion needed to be emblematic of more than just our past, but also of the commonwealth's inspiring present and bright future. It was with this as a backdrop that we set about curating an exhibit — the 'Art Experience' — to showcase Virginia artists, magnify traditions and pastimes, chronicle our diverse culture, showcase our heroes, highlight Virginia's uniqueness and deliver the unexpected."

The Art Experience at the Executive Mansion kicked off in 2022 with the exhibition *Spirit of Virginia*, which portrayed "its past, its present, its landscape and its people." That first installment nearly doubled the number of works of art in the residence to over 48 pieces. The current exhibition, *Do What You Love in Virginia*, focuses on the "pastimes, places and people that are enjoyed and adored by Virginians and visitors alike" and boasts more than 75 pieces from institutions and independent artists.

This initiative is made possible through the Citizens' Advisory Council on Furnishing and Interpreting the Executive Mansion (CAC). Since its founding, members of the CAC have worked with the First Ladies of Virginia to promote a greater understanding and awareness of the history and significance of the Executive Mansion. The co-chairs of the Art Experience Committee, Ann Goettman and Judy Boland, are responsible for forging the partnerships and identifying the pieces that carry out the First Lady's vision.

"We are so grateful to our museum partners and the individual artists for their enthusiastic support and for sharing their talent with us," said Boland. "And also to the folks at the Library of Virginia whose knowledge and expertise are so critical to making the Art Experience come to life."

The Library's Visual Studies Collection registrar, Alicia Starliper, manages the legal documentation for all items in the Visual Studies Collection and on loan, including care of the State Art Collection in special exhibition sites like the Executive Mansion. "I work closely with the Art Experience co-chairs to coordinate all loans of artwork from participating art partners," said Starliper.

The administration of these loans includes generating loan agreements, condition reports, insurance coverage and ensuring compliance with lender conditions for each piece in the exhibition. Starliper also supports the installation space planning for each exhibition and implements the movement of more than 100 pieces of artwork and artifacts during each rotation.

"The Art Experience is a first-of-its-kind, dynamic opportunity for Virginia artists and their subjects to decorate Virginia's historic home," said the First Lady, "an opportunity that would not be possible without the Executive Mansion's longstanding and evolving partnership with the Library of Virginia." ■

STATE ART COLLECTION



ART FROM THE COLLECTION & ON LOAN

Exhibitions for the Art Experience at the Executive Mansion have included *Spirit of Virginia* in 2022 and *Do What You Love in Virginia*, which opened in 2023. All photographs by Rosa Woodring.

1. Artworks displayed in the South Ballroom in 2022 included (LEFT TO RIGHT) *August and the Red Glass* by Janet Fish, 1976, courtesy of the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts; *Golden Harvest* by Sidney E. King, late 20th century, on loan from the Virginia Museum of History & Culture; *Grape Pressing* by Pierre Daura, ca. 1955–1971, courtesy of the Taubman Museum of Art; *Mt. Vernon Looking Down the River* by John Gadsby Chapman, 1836, on loan from the Mount Vernon Museum; and *The Curtsey* by E. Antoinette Hale, 1996, courtesy of the Taubman Museum of Art.

2. Artworks displayed in the Old Governor's Office in 2022 included (LEFT TO RIGHT) *King Neptune* by Paul DiPasquale, 2005, courtesy of the Virginia Beach Neptune Festival; *Thomas Jefferson* by John Adams Elder (after Gilbert Stuart), ca. 1886, courtesy of the Library of Virginia; *David Campbell* by Flavius James Fisher, mid-19th century, courtesy of the Library of Virginia; and *James Monroe* by Virginia Keane Bryce (after James Vogle and Gilbert Stuart), 1881, courtesy of the Library of Virginia.

3. Artworks displayed in the North Ballroom in 2022 included *Wild Pony Roundup, Chincoteague, Virginia* (TOP) by Ruth Starr Rose, ca. 1950, courtesy of the Chrysler Museum of Art, and *The Hunt* (BOTTOM) by Vincent Keesee, ca. 1960, courtesy of the Taubman Museum of Art.



VALLEY VIEW

Valley of the Shenandoah, Virginia (Springtime) by Andrew Melrose, 1887, oil on canvas. Purchased by the Executive Mansion in 1978, this landscape depicts a river in the Shenandoah Valley with figures engaged in rural activities. Melrose was born in Scotland and immigrated to the United States in the 1850s. It is presumed he was self-taught and a prolific traveler, documenting the landscape across the country.

A CAPITAL COLLECTION

The Library of Virginia manages and cares for state-owned works of art

For more than 200 years the Commonwealth of Virginia has commemorated its history, culture and people by commissioning and collecting art. In 1998 Gov. George E. Allen issued an executive order conferring on the Library of Virginia responsibility for “the care and oversight” of works of art in the Capitol Square area. The Library had informally assisted with the collection before that time, but the formal arrangement allowed the agency to hire staff and allocate a budget for conservation. Under the Library’s stewardship, the collection has undergone evaluation, conservation and research.

The State Art Collection consists of more than 400 paintings, sculptures and original works of art on paper, most dating from the 18th century to the modern day. More than half of the objects are currently on display in state-owned buildings such as the Library of Virginia, the Executive Mansion, the State Capitol and the Supreme Court Building.

The items were created by artists working in Virginia or represent Virginia subjects and people. Many depict political and military figures and individuals of historic significance. Works include collections of governors’ portraits and busts of Virginia-born presidents; paintings of still lifes, landscapes and war scenes; and iconic statuary like the large-scale Washington Equestrian statue on Capitol Square. Artists include early American and European figures such as Gilbert Stuart, Thomas Sully and Jean-Antoine Houdon, as well as more contemporary artists such as Adèle Clark, Harriet Goodhue Hosmer and Pierre Daura.

**“Each object tells a story and it
is amazing how those stories
continue to evolve today.”**

The Library of Virginia proactively adds works of art to the collection that reflect the diversity and depth of Virginia's history and culture.

The Library's Visual Studies Collection registrar, Alicia Starliper, works with the collection, managing acquisitions and loans, as well as collections administration, which includes research, inventory, regular maintenance and conservation. "Each object tells a story and it is amazing how those stories continue to evolve today," said Starliper. "I'm honored to care for this incredible collection and facilitate public access to these pieces through exhibition in locations around Capitol Square." ■

STATE ART COLLECTION



VISUAL ART FOR VIRGINIA

1. *Portrait of the Artist's Sister* by Sandra Patricia Cornejo, 2012, oil on canvas, gift of the Virginia Center for Latin American Art. This portrait tells the story of Cornejo's sister's emigration from El Salvador and the promise of a better future in the United States. Cornejo was awarded the Evelia Gonzalez Porto Latino Art in Virginia Fellowship in 2012, for which she created this piece.

2. *Virginia State Capitol*, ca. 1860, oil on canvas, purchased by the Virginia State Library Foundation. The work of an untrained artist, this painting is attributed to Howard W. Montague, who was a Baptist minister from Essex County. The painting is an important source of historical and architectural information as it presents the Capitol and Richmond's City Hall as they might have looked at the time.

3. *Portrait of a Lady, Called Queen Elizabeth*, artist unidentified, attributed to Marcus Gheeraerts the Younger, ca. 1595–1600, oil on wood panel. This portrait was a gift from Nancy Astor to the Commonwealth of Virginia. Scholars now believe that the work is unlikely to depict Queen Elizabeth I but may be an unmarried lady in her court. The painting received extensive conservation treatment between 1999 and 2001. **4.** *Woodrow Wilson* by Harriet Whitney Frishmuth, 1931, marble bust, gift of Mr. and Mrs. Louis Pennington. In 1930 the General Assembly authorized the placement of seven marble busts in the Capitol's Rotunda as a "Virginia Hall of Presidents." The busts were installed on various dates in 1931 using private funds.



**STATE ART COLLECTION PORTRAIT**

The June H. Guthrie Foundation Art Collection Fund will help to preserve portraits of Virginians such as this painting. *Portrait of Colin McKenzie Dunlop and His Dog* by George Caleb Bingham, ca. 1841, oil on canvas. Gift of the estate of Martha Spotswood to the Executive Mansion, 1977.

The June H. Guthrie Foundation Art Collection Fund

An artist's gift expands the Commonwealth's State Art Collection

The Library of Virginia is thrilled to announce a generous gift of \$50,000 from the June H. Guthrie Foundation to help the Library launch a State Art Endowment. In memory of June H. Guthrie, an accomplished artist and lover of animals, the June H. Guthrie Foundation Art Collection Fund will focus on growing and preserving the Commonwealth of Virginia's State Art Collection for generations to come.

The Library is the proud steward of the State Art Collection, which encompasses works in a variety of media depicting the people, sites and events that have shaped the Virginia we know today. The collection contains over 400 works, with more than half on display throughout the General Assembly Building, the Executive Mansion and across Capitol Square. Artworks on display from the collection welcome elected officials, foreign dignitaries and thousands of touring schoolchildren and adults every year and introduce these groups to Virginia's rich cultural heritage.

The portraits and statuary celebrate Virginians, from private citizens to elected officials and contemporary leaders of state government, who have made notable contributions to not only the commonwealth's history, but the history of the country as well. Prominent Virginians ranging from Chief Justice John Marshall to desegregation pioneer Barbara Johns are depicted in the collection alongside presidents such as James Madison, James Monroe and John Tyler. Sculptures and other works show the landmarks and historical events that have helped to shape Virginia's identity. Together, these works serve to both commemorate and educate the public about Virginia's vibrant artistic and cultural history.

Today, the Library seeks to cultivate a world-class State Art Collection that will represent our artistic inheritance as a commonwealth and inspire all Virginians to reflect on our interwoven past. The Library of Virginia Foundation has set an ultimate goal of raising \$2 million in endowment support for the State Art Collection. With the help of the June H. Guthrie Foundation, the Library has the necessary seed funding to establish a flexible and sustainable source of income to collect, commission and conserve art that reflects and displays the people and places of Virginia in perpetuity. ■

Help Preserve the State Art Collection!

To learn more about how you can make a significant gift to the State Art Endowment, please contact Elaine McFadden, director of development, at elaine.mcfadden@lva.virginia.gov or 804.692.3592.

Natural Bridge

By Sallie Aubrey Wise, 1887



BEFORE & AFTER CONSERVATION

This 3.5-by-2.5-foot oil on canvas landscape painting revealed brilliant colors after receiving conservation treatment in 2022.



A CLOSER LOOK

STATE ART COLLECTION

Natural Bridge, one of the most iconic and wondrous natural attractions in Virginia, stands 215 feet tall in Rockbridge County. After Thomas Jefferson purchased the land that included Natural Bridge from King George III in 1774, he worked diligently to promote this “most sublime of Nature’s works” and was determined to make it “a famous place, that will draw the attention of the world.” This landmark, formally acquired by the Commonwealth of Virginia in 2023, has been inspiring Virginians and visitors alike for over 250 years.

In 1887, it captivated artist Sallie Aubrey Wise (1868–1935), inspiring her

to create this impressive 3.5-by-2.5-foot landscape painting when she was only 19 years old. Born in Richmond, Wise attended Greensboro Female College in North Carolina on an art scholarship and, according to her family, retired from painting immediately after her marriage in 1889. She lived with her husband, Irvin Linwood Sutherland, in Richmond until her death and is buried at Richmond’s Hollywood Cemetery.

Acquired in 2021, the painting underwent a full conservation treatment, revealing stunning colors after thick layers of grime and soot were removed from the canvas and frame. Original

to the piece, the frame is gilded in silver leaf painted to look gold, a unique application that was likely used as a cost-saving measure because of its size. The frame was purchased from Franck Brothers gilders and framers. Established in 1840, the business operated a shop at 817 E. Franklin Street in Richmond for several generations. The painting is currently on view in the Art Experience at the Executive Mansion.

—Alicia Starliper, *Visual Studies*
Collection Registrar

TAKING THE HELM

Librarian of Virginia Dennis T. Clark leads the agency into its third century

On Jan. 25, 2024, the first day of the Library of Virginia's third century, Dennis T. Clark began his role as the 10th Librarian of Virginia. He brings more than 12 years of senior leadership experience in academic research libraries, most recently as chief of researcher engagement and general collections at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. Clark has also served as dean of libraries at the University of Arkansas; as associate university librarian for research, learning and spaces at the University of Virginia; and as associate university librarian of research and learning for Virginia Commonwealth University.



Clark's career path began farther south, in Alabama. He grew up in Montgomery and lived in the same house from the time he was six months old until he left home after college. He received a bachelor's degree in music from Samford University in Birmingham, and holds a master's degree in library and information studies from the University of Alabama. With interests in music and libraries, he started with a job that combined both subjects, as a music librarian at Samford. He eventually became director of the music library at Vanderbilt University in Nashville.

"At one point, I planned to be a musicologist and get a Ph.D. in that field," said Clark, "but the slim job prospects discouraged me, so I went into music librarianship. I was in that field for about eight years — it was a good match."

While at Vanderbilt, Clark and an ethnomusicologist on the faculty worked on a project with Ugandan musicians to provide recording equipment to them in order gather recordings that they felt should be heard and preserved.

"We traveled to Uganda and Kenya in 2004 to provide the equipment, test its usage and expand the network," said Clark. "I believe the project collected more than 1,800 recordings while it was active, all of which can be heard at globalmusicarchive.org."

Clark became familiar with the Library of Virginia during his time at VCU and UVA. He met several members of the Library of Virginia staff over those years, including Librarian of Virginia Emerita Sandra Treadway; John Metz, deputy of collections and programs; and Mary Clark, director of Acquisitions and Access Management. He also heard about the Library at meetings of the Virginia Academic Library Consortium and the State Council of Higher Education's Library Advisory Committee. "When I saw the

A NEW LEADER FOR OUR NEXT ERA

State Librarian Dennis T. Clark plans to spend much of his first year listening and asking "everyone I meet to tell me what I need to know, from their perspective."

"I'm just so impressed with the depth of our collections. It really is humbling to see what the Library has become through the hard work of its staff over the centuries."

position posted, I knew I couldn't pass up the chance to work at such an amazing institution," he said.

Clark most recently worked at the Library of Congress, which provided experiences that will inform his role here. Because that library is a federal agency, he found that all his decisions were filtered through a complicated process. "The most challenging work was trying to facilitate change," he said. "What should have taken three months would take three years, even simple things. So that was exhausting."

He enjoyed his role in shaping national library policy, however, and making a difference for the people who were researching in the reading rooms, making discoveries and writing books. "It was a heady place to work, especially for me, as I oversaw the historic Main Reading Room in the Thomas Jefferson Building and the reading room in the John Adams Building," said Clark. "I learned to respect processes and to have patience — I hope that will keep me in good stead here."

In familiarizing himself with the Library, Clark said his first impression is that the staff members are passionate about the work they do, and they do it very well. "We're well regarded in the 'pantheon' of state agencies. It's been a series of pleasant surprises, to be sure," he said. "I'm just so impressed with the depth of our collections. It really is humbling to see what the Library has become through the hard work of its staff over the centuries."

He has been involved in large-scale capital space projects at Vanderbilt University, Texas A&M University, UVA and the University of Arkansas. But VCU is where Clark worked on the most comprehensive project — expanding and renovating Cabell Library — a \$52 million endeavor. "Each of those projects was specific to its campus but all had the same general rationale: how can this library meet the needs of its students better," said Clark.

When asked how these experiences might influence his approach to the Library's use of its space in our third century, he replied, "We can extrapolate that here a bit — how can THIS library meet the needs of its researchers, visitors and employees and how is that different in 2024 and beyond than it was in 1997? The focus of our work here must be on creating agile spaces, so that it doesn't take a once-every-three-decades capital project to adapt to changing uses and preferences."

When considering the future of libraries and archival organizations in general and the Library of Virginia in particular, Clark believes that the agency should continue on its current path, but focus on a couple of strategic areas. "The Library of Virginia and most other libraries and archives are doing great things — connecting with their communities, being creative about models of engagement, enhancing access through digitization, and continuing the thoughtful but often invisible work of accessioning, processing and describing our collections," he said. "But I think that it will be increasingly important for us to be more proactive about marketing ourselves than

libraries and archives have done traditionally. Another important trend is to engage with philanthropy more comprehensively. State funding is our primary source of revenue for our collections, programs and services, but being ambitious for our future will require more nonstate funding, and I'm happy the Library of Virginia Foundation is active on our behalf."

Clark's first year will be primarily about listening — to the staff, the Board, the Foundation, people in the Department of Education and other government agencies, other GLAM (galleries, libraries, archives and museums) institutions in Virginia, our users, and the broader library and archives environment.

"I think that it will be increasingly important for us to be more proactive about marketing ourselves than libraries and archives have done traditionally."

"Unlike the past two State Librarians, I don't have decades of experience to lean on when making decisions in this role," he said. "So I'll ask everyone I meet to tell me what I need to know, from their perspective. I also think we'll see some real movement this year on programming around a potential building renovation, and we'll need to begin a strategic 'framework' process. So, it'll be a busy first year!"

When Clark is not working he can often be found watching college football and cheering the Crimson Tide. His main musical outlet these days is singing in the Richmond Symphony Chorus — along with the Library's exhibitions coordinator, Barbara Batson. When he lived in Richmond previously, he often ran the Monument Avenue 10K, which he intends to continue.

"As cliché as it sounds, I do love being outdoors in Virginia," said Clark. "I have an annual National Park pass and I use it! The trails off Skyline Drive in Shenandoah National Park are one of my happy places." ■

calendar

SPRING EVENTS

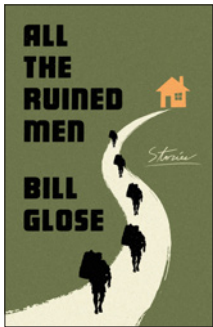
For the latest information, please follow us on social media and visit our Calendar of Events at www.lva.virginia.gov/lvaevents.

ALL EVENTS ARE FREE UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.



Wednesdays: April 3 & May 1 | 5:30–7:30 p.m.
VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY
Making History with LVA

Place: Online
 Registration required: bit.ly/LVAvirtualvolunteer
 Volunteers will transcribe handwritten pages and historical newspapers by reading text and typing it into digital form. Contact Sonya Coleman for more information at makinghistory@virginiamemory.com or call HandsOn Greater Richmond at 804.330.7400.



Wednesdays: April 10 & May 8 | 6:00–7:30 p.m.
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. April's book is *All the Ruined*

Men: Stories by Bill Glose (the 2023 Virginia Literary Award for Fiction winner). May's book is *Gangsters of Capitalism: Smedley Butler, the Marines, and the Making and Breaking of America's Empire* by Jonathan M. Katz (a 2023 Virginia Literary Award for Nonfiction finalist). For more information, contact Nan Carmack at nan.carmack@lva.virginia.gov or 804.692.3792.

Friday, April 12 | 9:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

INTERMEDIATE GENEALOGY WORKSHOP
How to Trace Your Virginia Roots

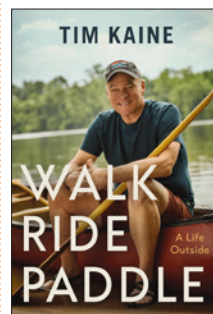
Place: Conference Rooms
 Cost: \$25 (\$20 for Library of Virginia Foundation members)
 Registration required: bit.ly/Roots24

Reference archivists will introduce you to the types of records in the Library's collections and help you get started with your Virginia-based genealogical research. For more information, contact Anne McCreary at anne.mccrery@lva.virginia.gov or 804.692.3568.

Tuesdays: April 16 & May 21 | 6:00–7:30 p.m.
BOOK CLUB

Common Ground Virginia History Book Group
 Place: Online
 Registration required: lva.virginia.gov/public/virginia_history_book_group

Join a virtual book group discussion on compelling nonfiction books handpicked by Library staff members. April's book is *Room Swept Home* by Remica Bingham-Risher. May's book is *Not in My Backyard: How Citizen Activists Nationalized Local Politics in the Fight to Save Green Springs* by Brian Balogh. For more information, contact Rebecca Schneider at rebecca.schneider@lva.virginia.gov or 804.692.3550.



Thursday, April 18
 6:00–7:30 p.m.
WEINSTEIN AUTHOR SERIES: TIM KAINE
Walk, Ride, Paddle: A Life Outside

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

Don't miss this special evening with Senator Tim Kaine, who will discuss his new book, *Walk, Ride, Paddle: A Life Outside*, a captivating memoir that blends adventure, reflection and political insight. In 2019, Kaine embarked on a journey to hike, cycle and canoe across the state. His chronicle became a reflection of the extraordinary events occurring in America during that time. For more information, contact Anne McCreary at anne.mccrery@lva.virginia.gov or 804.692.3568.

Saturdays: April 20 & May 18 | 12:00–2:00 p.m.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY
Making History with LVA

Place: Computer Classroom
 Registration required:
bit.ly/makinghistory-inperson

Volunteers will transcribe handwritten pages and historical newspapers by reading text and typing it into digital form. Contact Sonya Coleman for more information at makinghistory@virginiamemory.com or call HandsOn Greater Richmond at 804.330.7400.



Wednesday, April 24
 12:00–1:00 p.m.

EXHIBITION-RELATED EVENT

"Union Tooth and Nail": Pamunkey Indians and the Civil War

Place: Lecture Hall
 Registration required:
lva.virginia.libcal.com/event/11899253

Join us for a talk from anthropologist Ashley Spivey, a citizen of the Pamunkey Indian Tribe, about how the Pamunkey engaged in the Civil War as Union veterans and supporters. For more information, contact Ashley R. Craig at ashley.ramey@lva.virginia.gov or 804.692.3001.

Friday, May 3 | 9:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

INTERMEDIATE GENEALOGY WORKSHOP
Out of the Shadows: Little-Known Records for Virginia Genealogy

Place: Conference Rooms
 Cost: \$25 (\$20 for Library of Virginia Foundation members)
 Registration required:
bit.ly/LittleKnownRecords24

Archivists will discuss records that are often overlooked when doing family history research, such as penitentiary records, state mental hospital records, court order books, business records and militia commission records. For more information, contact Anne McCreary at anne.mccrery@lva.virginia.gov or 804.692.3568.



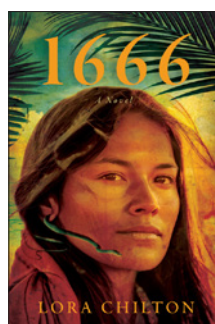
Friday, May 3 | 5:00–8:00 p.m.

FIRST FRIDAYS AT LVA

Virginia Stories: Indigenous Community

Place: Lobby

Join us for quarterly First Fridays at the Library of Virginia! View art from contemporary Indigenous artists, enjoy refreshments and get creative in our makerspace. Learn more here: lva.virginia.gov/public/first_fridays



Wednesday, May 8

12:00–1:00 p.m.

EXHIBITION-RELATED

BOOK TALK

1666: A Novel

Place: Conference Rooms

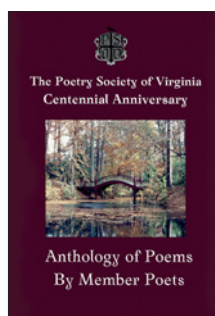
Registration required:

lva.virginia.libcal.com/event/11895614

Join us for a lunchtime

talk with author Lora

Chilton, who will discuss her new work of historical fiction, *1666: A Novel*, the survival story of the Patowomeck tribe of Virginia. For more information, contact Ashley R. Craig at ashley.ramey@lva.virginia.gov or 804.692.3001.



Wednesday, May 15

6:00–7:30 p.m.

WEINSTEIN AUTHOR SERIES:

POETRY SOCIETY OF VIRGINIA

Centennial Anniversary

Anthology

Library of Virginia

Lecture Hall

Registration required:

lva.virginia.gov/public/weinstein

Enjoy an evening of poetry with members of the Poetry Society of Virginia in celebration of the group's centennial anthology. Five poets will discuss their craft and read from their works in the book. For more information, contact Anne McCreery at anne.mccreery@lva.virginia.gov or 804.692.3568.

EXHIBITION AT 800 EAST BROAD

INDIGENOUS PERSPECTIVES

Through Aug. 17, 2024 | Monday–Saturday, 8:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

Exhibition Gallery & Lobby | Free

A multimedia exhibition highlights the commonwealth's Indigenous history and how the tribes remain a vital part of Virginia today. *Indigenous Perspectives* explores the voices and experiences of Virginia's tribal communities. View excerpts from video interviews with citizens of Virginia's tribes, archival records from the Library's collection that were collaboratively selected by the tribes and Library staff members, and objects contributed by the tribes — such as eel pots, regalia and quilts — that reflect their traditions and culture.

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LVA ON THE GO IS HEADING YOUR WAY!

Our custom-made van is bringing some of the vast resources and staff expertise of the Library across the commonwealth. For more information, contact Peter North at 804.692.3536 or peter.north@lva.virginia.gov.



SPRING 2024 SCHEDULE

Saturday, April 6

Mecklenburg County Public Library

Burnett Library & Learning Center
914 Virginia Ave., Clarksville, VA 23927

Saturday, April 20

Smyth County Public Library

118 S. Sheffey St., Marion, VA 24354

Saturday, April 27

Eastern Shore Public Library

Parksley Branch
24313 Bennett St., Parksley, VA 23421

Saturday, May 4

Chesterfield Public Library

North Courthouse Road Library
325 Courthouse Rd.
North Chesterfield, VA 23236

Saturday, May 18

Buchanan County Public Library

1185 Poe Town St., Grundy, VA 24614

April Is Poetry Month

Margaret O. Daramola | Poet Laureate of Virginia



“I was raised in Switzerland, where I began writing at an early age. In the middle of the pandemic, I published my first poetry collection. While the world was shut down, it was an opportunity for many of us to dig a bit deeper into who we truly are. Poetry is at the core of my being, so my first book, *A Pathway Through Survival*, also came from the core. After its successful launch, the book has been studied at schools, book clubs and events. I spend a lot of my time giving keynote addresses and sharing poems. I enjoy connecting with people and creating impact through poetry and literature. I am always amazed at the impact poetry has on people and I hope to carry on that legacy as the Poet Laureate of the Commonwealth of Virginia.”

—MARGARET O. DARAMOLA

Poet, author and public speaker Margaret O. Daramola was appointed as Poet Laureate of Virginia by Gov. Glenn Youngkin in May 2023. At the age of 23, she made history as the youngest person to serve in the position and works as the ambassador and chief promoter of poetry in the commonwealth. Daramola holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in English with a minor in history from Hampton University. She is currently a graduate student at Harvard University conducting research at the Divinity School.

Virginia's General Assembly established the position of poet laureate in 1936. Since 1998, poet laureates have been selected from a list of nominees submitted by the Poetry Society of Virginia. Previous honorees have included Pulitzer Prize winners Claudia Emerson and Rita Dove.

Autumn Leaves

Mother gave birth to me in the fall
in the midst of grieving trees and withering leaves.
Winter came home right after
accompanied by winds of solitude.
My earliest memories revolved around cold weather
yet I remember meeting with summer
before ever blowing my first candle.
I saw these same trees shimmer in full bloom.
I saw their branches clothed in vivid green.

Early on,
I learned not to shed a tear when autumn leaves
for I know that summer comes home through the shiver.

Reprinted from *A Pathway Through Survival* (2021). Copyright © 2021 by Margaret O. Daramola. Used with permission of the author. All rights reserved.



featured book

Changing History

Virginia Women Through Four Centuries

Changing History tells the important and compelling stories of women — both famous and lesser-known — who have influenced the course of history in the commonwealth.

Authors cover

Virginia's rich history

from the region's

Indigenous peoples

before the founding of

Jamestown to a 21st

century profoundly

changed by a second

wave of feminism.

Library of Virginia,

2013. \$24.95

HANOVER COUNTY PORTRAITS

Early-20th-century photographs of a Virginia family of Indigenous heritage came to the Library through a generous donation.

LEFT: The inscription below this image identifies the family group as “Willie P. Winston, wife Elizabeth, and six children. King, Wingfield, Irene, Elaise, Marrondelilah and Pocahontas” on Nov. 12, 1911. BELOW: The boys in this photograph are unidentified, but the inscription on the back says “Miss Ada King.”



*Willie P. Winston, wife Elizabeth, and six children
King, Wingfield, Irene, Elaise, Marrondelilah and Pocahontas
November 12 1911*



PICTURING FAMILY

Donation of King family photographs expands the Library's Indigenous collections

BY DALE NEIGHBORS

Whether displayed on household walls, stored on a cell phone or tucked away in a box in the attic, family photographs provide a visual narrative of family relationships and a sense of continuity and connection to earlier generations.

A recent donation of family photographs to the Library of Virginia's Visual Studies Collection has helped to expand the diversity of Virginians pictured in our collections.

The set of images of the King family of Hanover County was donated by Kathy O'Kane Kreutzer, an adjunct faculty member at Virginia Commonwealth University, who saw the photos listed on a Richmond-

area online auction site. Despite lacking any genealogical ties to the family, Kreutzer was determined to preserve their visual heritage. She participated in the auction and successfully acquired every photograph that was made available from the original family collection.

"They were broken into several separate lots, and I kept thinking about what a shame it would be to split up the collection," said Kreutzer. "The fact that they depicted people of color from our area made me feel even more strongly that it was important to preserve them. I kept going back to them, and finally bid on the photos, hoping that the Library of Virginia would be interested in them."

Although the auction house described the collection as photographs of a “prominent mulatto family” from Hanover County, one family member’s 1912 birth certificate lists his mother’s race as “Indian,” and the family members have connections to Virginia’s Mattaponi and Pamunkey tribes, so it appears that the family is of Indigenous heritage.

The collection most likely belonged to Ada King, daughter of William M. King and Eliza Wingfield. Ada King’s sister Emma L. King married George F. Custalow, who was chief of the Mattaponi tribe, and her niece Marion King (identified in the family group photo as Marrondelilah) married Ottigney Pontiac Cook Sr., the son of George Major Cook, who was chief of the Pamunkey tribe.

We don’t know how the collection found its way from family members to an online auction.

“The fact that they depicted people of color from our area made me feel even more strongly that it was important to preserve them.”

—Kathy O’Kane Kreutzer, donor

have passed, many choose to give away or sell old family photographs rather than keeping pictures of those whose names have long been forgotten.

As a result of her efforts, Kreutzer has ensured the survival of this Virginia family’s photographs and guaranteed that future generations will have access to these visual representations of our collective memory.

Dale Neighbors is Visual Studies Collection coordinator at the Library.

Help Preserve Virginia’s History

Your support helps the Library care for its world-class Special Collections, which include prints and photographs, maps, rare books and private papers. Support our work by making a gift at lva.virginia.gov/donate.



KEEPSAKES KEPT TOGETHER

These photographs from the King Family Photograph Collection are inscribed as follows (TOP TO BOTTOM): “Nannie Winston to Ada”; unidentified; “Compliment of Ada and Blanche King. Ada age five years of age, Blanche 13 years old. Year of 1902, June 18”; and “William N. King and Wife. To Mrs. Eliza King.”

Groundbreaking African Americans Honored

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

2024 Strong Men Women in



Dr. Erma L. Freeman

1946– | Mecklenburg County
DENTIST

The first Black woman to earn a dental degree from Virginia Commonwealth University, Dr. Erma L. Freeman strives to increase diversity in the dental profession.

Strong Men & Women

of her efforts, winner Katelyn Luu received an Apple MacBook Air laptop and money to participate in a contest sponsored by Dominion Energy and the American Library of Virginia as part of the program recognizing the achievements of African Americans in the commonwealth. Entrants submitted a creative performance or digital project on the subject of their choice.

Contest Winner & Finalists

Each year, high school students from across Virginia participate in a contest sponsored by Dominion Energy and the American Library of Virginia as part of the program recognizing the achievements of African Americans in the commonwealth. Entrants submitted a creative performance or digital project on the subject of their choice.



R. Tyrone Foster

1958– | Bristol
SHERIFF

In a lifetime of dedicated service to the Bristol community, Sheriff Tyrone Foster has worked to ensure the safety and protection of all citizens.



Gregory L. Robins

1960– | Manassas
NASA PROJECT DIRECTOR

Gregory L. Robinson oversaw the completion and launch of NASA's transformational James Webb Space Telescope.



Captain Janet H. Days

1969– | Norfolk
NAVY COMMANDING OFFICER

With decades of meritorious service in the United States Navy, Captain Janet H. Days is the first African American to command Naval Station Norfolk, the world's largest naval station.

WWW.LVA.VIRGINIA.GOV/SMW

1,000 ONLINE BIOGRAPHIES

The Dictionary of Virginia Biography marks a digital milestone

BY JOHN DEAL & MARI JULIENNE

The Library of Virginia's *Dictionary of Virginia Biography* (DVB), an ongoing biographical reference work, shares the stories of people from all centuries, regions and categories of Virginia's history and culture, with many entries offering the first reliable biography about these subjects. The DVB began as a print publication with 1,400 entries in three volumes for surnames from Aaroe to Daniels appearing in 1998, 2001 and 2006. The reference work changed to a digital format more than a decade ago, and recently hit a milestone by publishing its 1,000th digital entry, which featured the African American civic leader Temple Cutler Erwin.

When the internet exploded as an information resource, many reference works migrated online to increase accessibility. The *Dictionary of Virginia Biography's* editors did likewise, publishing existing print entries and new born-digital entries online, and moved from publishing in alphabetical order to a thematic organization.

One of the DVB's original goals was to expand the definition of who was significant to Virginia's history, so the editors began focusing primarily on African Americans and women, who have often been left out of history books. The DVB partnered with Virginia Humanities' online resource *Encyclopedia Virginia* to publish about 200 DVB entries on influential Black Virginians during the post-Civil War decades, including all who served in the General Assembly in the 19th century. As part of the Library's commemoration of the centennial of the ratification of the 19th Amendment, the DVB also published a series of biographies related to the campaign for woman suffrage.

The growth of digital resources has dramatically expanded the ability of DVB editors to uncover the unique and often untold stories of underrepresented Virginians.



UNCOVERING FASCINATING PEOPLE FROM VIRGINIA'S PAST

OPPOSITE PAGE: The Library of Virginia published three volumes of the *Dictionary of Virginia Biography* between 1998 and 2006.

BELOW: African American community organizer and educator Temple Cutler Erwin was featured in the *Dictionary of Virginia Biography*'s 1,000th digital entry. The photograph shown here appears in the 1921 publication *History of the American Negro*, Vol. 5: *Virginia Edition*. Find Erwin's biography and many more at lva.virginia.gov/public/dvb/classified-index.asp.

DVB biographies are accessible through a search page (lva.virginia.gov/public/dvb/classified-index.asp) and also appear on platforms including Virginia Humanities' *Encyclopedia Virginia* (encyclopediavirginia.org) and the websites for the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Commission (mlkcommission.dls.virginia.gov) and the History of the Virginia House of Delegates (house.virginia.gov).

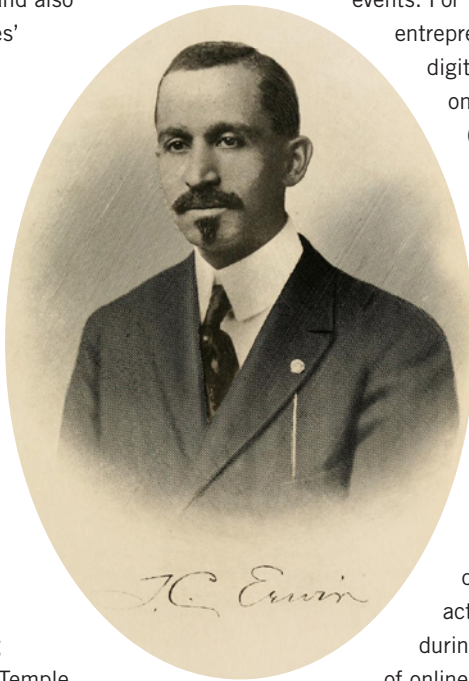
The growth of digital resources has dramatically expanded the ability of DVB editors to uncover the unique and often untold stories of underrepresented Virginians. Public records can offer information about people who didn't leave behind personal papers like letters, diaries or other documentation. U.S. Census records available on commercial sites, such as Ancestry (available to users onsite at the Library) have allowed researchers to track Virginians across the country over time in a manner that would have been almost impossible if confined to using traditional indexes and microfilm. In the case of Temple Cutler Erwin, DVB editors found his self-reported birth date in his World War I and II draft registration cards, which are among the National Archives and Records Administration records available online through Ancestry.

The exponential increase in digitized newspapers and periodicals at the Library has been vital in drawing out a subject's life story. As

the daily record of history, newspapers can help identify forgotten events. For Temple Cutler Erwin and other African American entrepreneurs, civic leaders and community activists, digitized Black newspapers, such as those found on the Library's Virginia Chronicle website (virginiachronicle.com), can provide a wealth of information. Hampton University's *Southern Workman* contained articles relating to Erwin's work with the Negro Organization Society, while the *Richmond Planet* supplied references to Erwin's Commercial Bank and Trust Company, including its charter by the State Corporation Commission.

As the *Dictionary of Virginia Biography* embarks on its next thousand digital entries with a focus on Virginia Indians in conjunction with the Library's current exhibition, *Indigenous Perspectives*, online databases are helping to document the work of early tribal chiefs in taking action against the commonwealth's discrimination during the 20th century. With the constant addition of online resources and increased access to DVB biographies, the internet has transformed this reference work, which continues to reshape the narrative of Virginia history.

John Deal and Mari Julienne are editors of the *Dictionary of Virginia Biography*. A version of this article appeared in the Library's blog, *The UncommonWealth*.



ADD SOME LOCAL COLOR TO YOUR GAME NIGHT

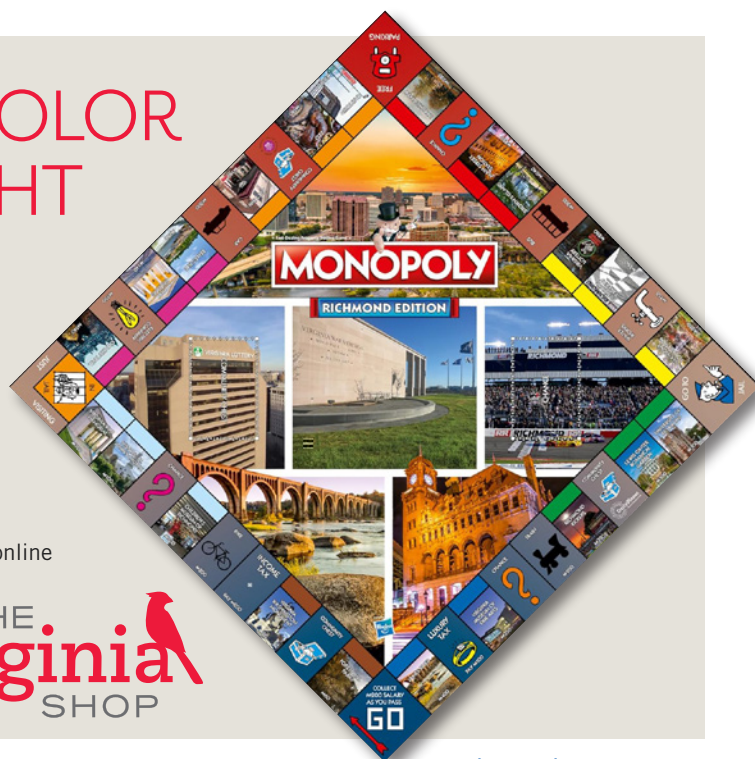
Get the Richmond Edition Monopoly board game at the Virginia Shop!

The commonwealth's capital is one of 24 cities featured in the classic board game's Community Editions series. A great gift for Richmond residents or fans, this edition highlights landmarks and locations such as the James River, the Virginia War Memorial, Belle Isle, Joe's Inn and Carytown.

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WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING AT THE LIBRARY



1. Guests explored the Library's *Indigenous Perspectives* exhibition during the opening reception in December 2023.

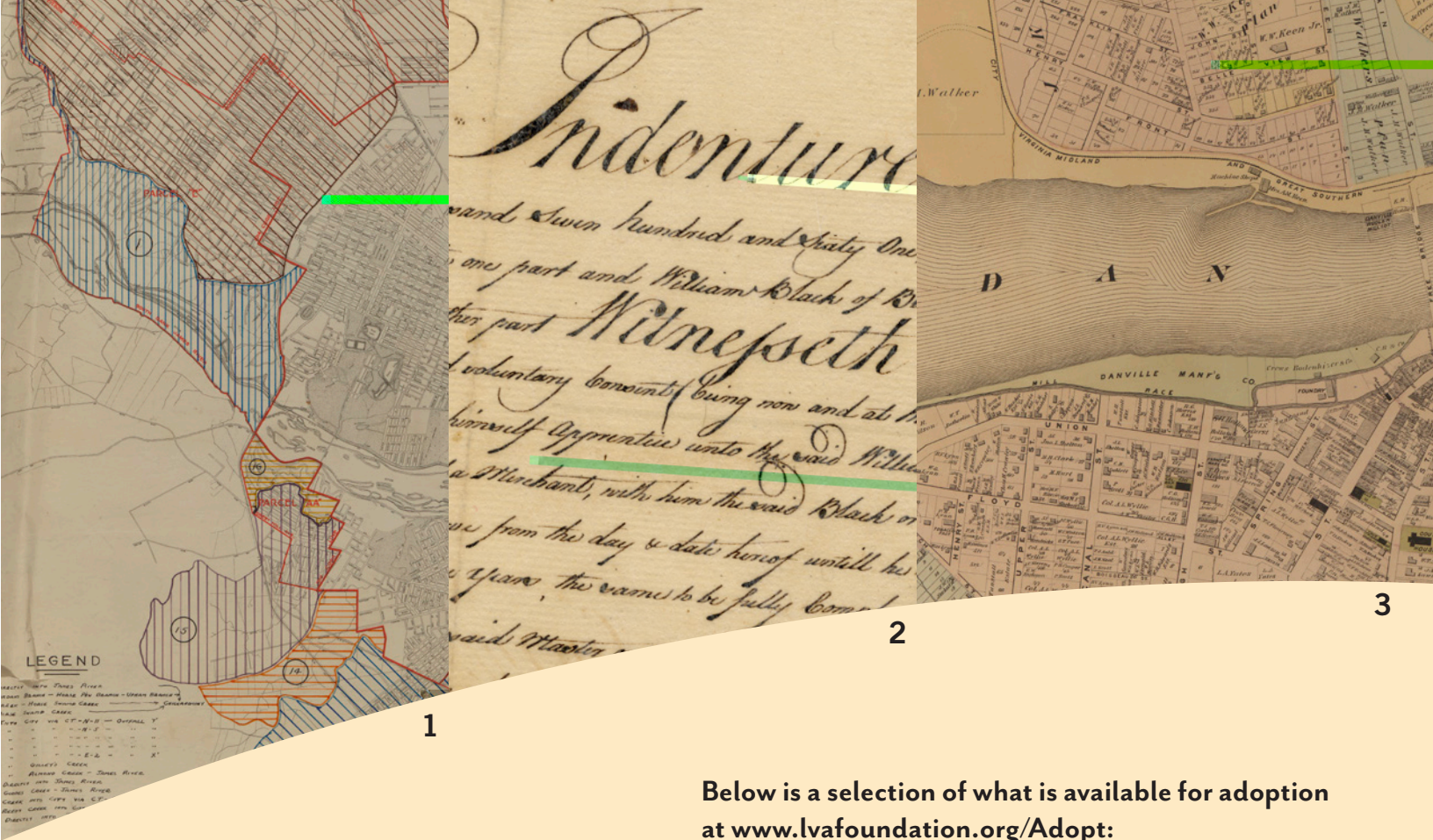
2. During the Library's quarterly First Fridays event in February, visitors viewed portraits from Virginia artists.

3. In January, Library of Virginia Board chair **C. Paul Brockwell Jr.** (LEFT) and vice chair **Blythe Ann Scott** (CENTER) presented then-Librarian of Virginia **Sandra G. Treadway** (RIGHT) with a resolution honoring her service and awarded her with the honorary Patron of Letters degree during her last week of work before retirement. Treadway led the organization for 16 years and served as deputy librarian for 11 years prior to that.

4. At a private event cohosted by the Library and Tilt Creative + Production in February, guests gathered to celebrate *Birth of a Planet: Richmond on Paper*, a documentary film about one of the country's oldest Black-owned newspapers and its editor, John Mitchell Jr. The filmmakers donated



the materials and archival footage from the documentary to the Library of Virginia and the Black History Museum and Cultural Center of Virginia. Shown are John Mitchell Jr.'s great-great-grandniece, **Ida Mitchell** (LEFT), great-great-grandnephew, **John Mitchell** (CENTER), along with John Mitchell's wife, **Shuron Mitchell** (RIGHT).



ADOPT VIRGINIA HISTORY

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

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

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

VISUAL STUDIES COLLECTION

1. *Richmond (VA.) Office of the City Engineer, Records, 1809–1975, Proposed Annexation Map, Richmond, 1936* | \$500

LOCAL RECORDS

2. *Prince George County, Apprenticeship Indenture, 1762* | \$1,500

MAP COLLECTION

3. *Topographical map of Danville, Pittsylvania Co., Va., from actual surveys and records, 1877* | \$4,000



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WWW.CANCANRVA.COM/CAFE