



the magazine of the

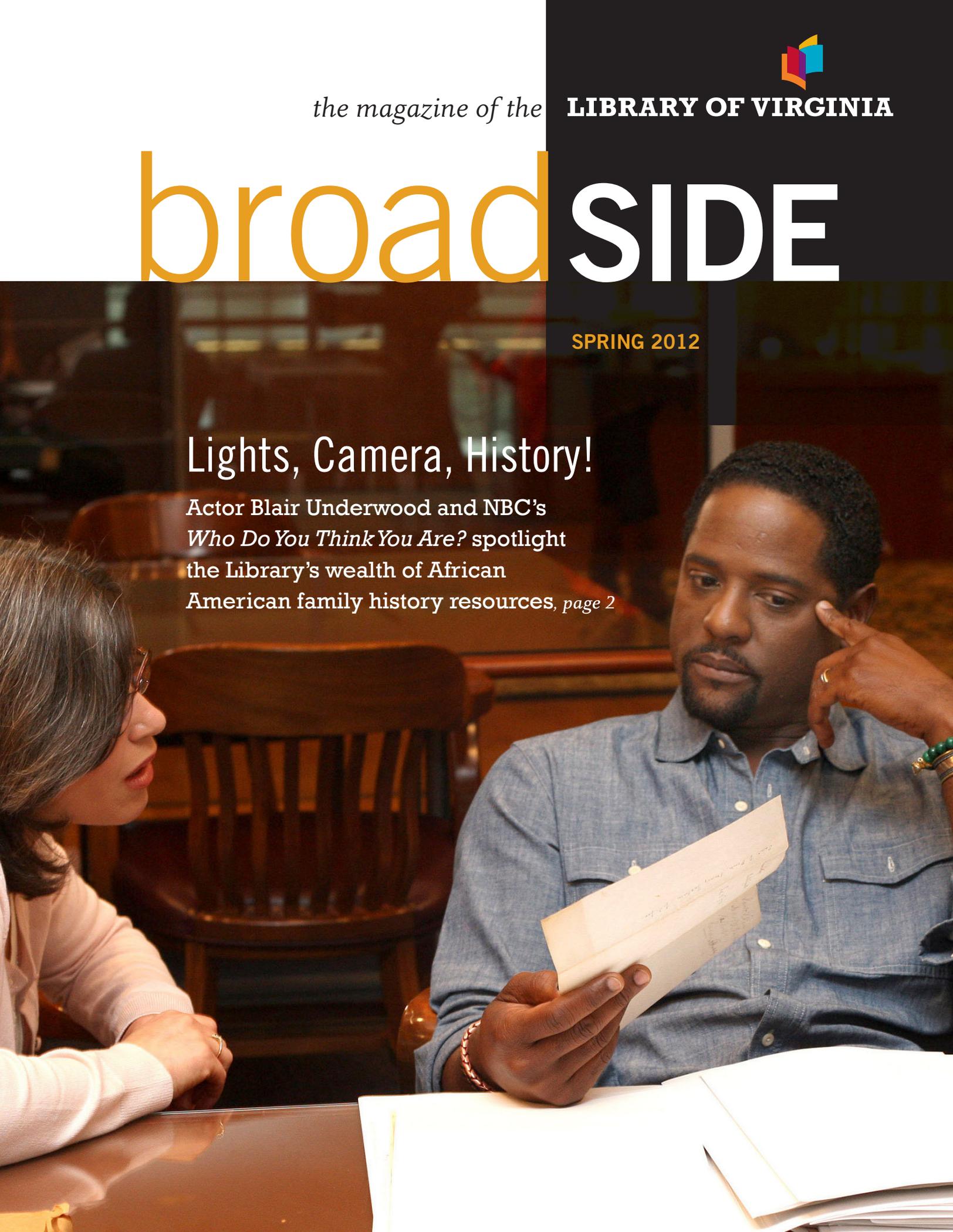
LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA

broadSIDE

SPRING 2012

Lights, Camera, History!

Actor Blair Underwood and NBC's *Who Do You Think You Are?* spotlight the Library's wealth of African American family history resources, *page 2*



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LIBRARIAN OF VIRGINIA
Sandra G. Treadway

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THE INSIDE STORY

Inspire, Ignite, Create

A new vision leads planning for the Library's future

VISION

The Library of Virginia will inspire learning, ignite imagination, create possibilities, encourage understanding, and engage Virginia's past to empower its future.

MISSION

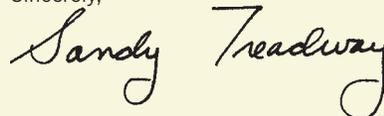
As the Commonwealth's library and archives, the Library of Virginia is a trusted educational institution. We acquire, preserve, and promote access to unique collections of Virginia's history and culture and advance the development of library and records management services statewide.

During the past eighteen months, the Library of Virginia has engaged in a comprehensive "visioning" process that is re-energizing the entire staff and helping us plan a much more strategic approach for re-assessing and re-imagining our many services to the government and citizens of Virginia.

The first step in this process was the articulation of a bold new vision (*shown above*) to guide our path forward. Underlying this vision is our determination to be the best possible stewards of the incomparable historical collections entrusted to our care. In addition to preserving and protecting them for future generations, we want to do everything in our power to make these collections more accessible to the public, thereby fostering greater transparency in government and a deeper understanding of our shared past. We want to create dynamic new opportunities for citizens to benefit from the Library's resources, both online and in person, and to realign our activities as nimbly as possible to meet the needs of the people we serve. With everything we have and in everything we do, we aim to inspire our users, spark new ideas, advance fresh perspectives, and provide Virginians—and those across the globe who study Virginia history—with insights into the past that can enrich their lives and inform their choices and decisions.

So far, most of our planning efforts have been internal, involving staff members across the entire agency who have invested a great deal of their time in our process. As we put the finishing touches on our ambitious strategic plan and take the first steps toward implementation, our goals and strategies will become transparent. In these fiscally challenging times, we cannot do everything overnight, but as we begin to improve our public spaces, our programs, and our online presence, we invite you to share your suggestions, thoughts, and feedback with us. As the commonwealth's foremost research library for Virginia history and culture, we rely on your support as we continually evaluate and strengthen our collections, provide access to our resources and expertise, and serve you as effectively as possible in Virginia's exciting fifth century.

Sincerely,



Sandra G. Treadway, Librarian of Virginia



ON THE COVER

Historian Eva Sheppard Wolf and actor Blair Underwood examine documents related to his family history in the Library's Special Collections Reading Room in the February 24 episode of NBC's genealogy series, *Who Do You Think You Are?* Photograph by Lisa Billings/NBC.

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LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA

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Photographs © Prakash Patel

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CALENDAR

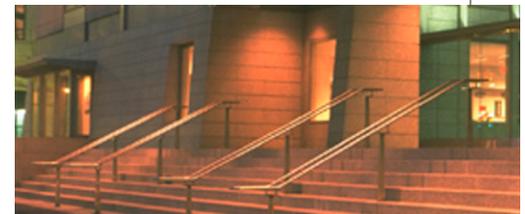
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SPRING 2012

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Photograph by Lisa Billings/NBC



LIGHTS, CAMERA, HISTORY!

Actor Blair Underwood and NBC's *Who Do You Think You Are?* spotlight the Library's wealth of African American family history resources

On February 24, actor Blair Underwood appeared in an episode of NBC's genealogy documentary series, *Who Do You Think You Are?*, which was filmed in part in the Library of Virginia's West Reading Room and Special Collections Reading Room.

Now in its second season, *Who Do You Think You Are?* was adapted from the British series of the same name, aired by the BBC. Each week a celebrity embarks on a journey to trace his or her family tree and uncovers some hidden stories or family secrets along the way.

In this episode, Petersburg native Underwood—an actor, director, and producer known for television shows such as *The Event* and *In Treatment*—uncovered a branch of his family tree that shows a line of free African Americans in Virginia stretching back to the 1820s.

STORIES HIDDEN IN THE RECORDS

ABOVE: Historian Eva Sheppard Wolf and actor Blair Underwood examine documents related to his family history in the Library's Special Collections Reading Room. BELOW: A Campbell County marriage register that Library staff members found for the show's production staff lists the April 2, 1884, Royal-Early marriage—Blair Underwood's Lynchburg-area ancestors—on the second line from the top.

At the Library, historian Eva Sheppard Wolf and Underwood viewed Campbell County Free Negro and Slave Records and the Amherst Free Negro Register for information about Underwood's ancestors. Underwood learned that his fourth-generation great-grandfather, Samuel Scott, owned two slaves in 1838. Wolf explained that most freed black slave owners in Virginia owned family members—in order to care for them and protect them. "It makes sense—you take care of your own," said Underwood in the episode.

"There are such deep roots in this state that I had no idea about," said Underwood. "Now it makes sense why I feel like such a Virginian."

Archives and Library Reference Services manager Ginny Dunn and several other Library staff members worked with the show's production company, which filmed on two different days here last summer. Senior reference archivist Kelly Sizemore worked with the production crew to assist with researching Underwood's family history. On the first day of filming, in the West Reading Room, "I

REGISTER OF MARRIAGES															
Within the County of <i>Campbell</i> , in the year ending 31st December, 1884															
PLACE OF MARRIAGE	FULL NAME OF THE PARTIES		WHITE	COLORED	AGE AND CONDITION BEFORE MARRIAGE			AGE AND CONDITION BEFORE MARRIAGE			PLACES OF THEIR RESIDENCE		NAMES OF THEIR PARENTS		OCCUPATION OF HUSBAND
	TOWN OR COUNTY	HUSBAND			WIFE	HUSBAND	WIFE	SINGLE OR WIDOWED	HUSBAND	WIFE	HUSBAND	WIFE	HUSBAND	WIFE	
	Yrs.	Mths.	Days.	Yrs.	Mths.	Days.	HUSBAND	WIFE			HUSBAND	WIFE	HUSBAND	WIFE	
<i>Chapel Hill</i>	<i>Gas Arnold</i>	<i>Mary Ruggen</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>Sing Sing</i>	<i>Various & Saunders</i>	<i>Campbell</i>	<i>Campbell</i>	<i>Jerry & Mary</i>	<i>Just & Alice</i>	<i>Rail road</i>				
<i>"</i>	<i>Bru Royal</i>	<i>Fanny Early</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>"</i>				
<i>"</i>	<i>B. G. Minant</i>	<i>Lois Maclan</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>Honest & Sonnet</i>	<i>mine</i>	<i>Palmer</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>"</i>
<i>"</i>	<i>Frank Black</i>	<i>C. A. Paine</i>	<i>32</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>H. B. & Panny</i>	<i>J. G. & Virginia</i>	<i>Mick</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>"</i>



African American History Headquarters

The Library is the state archival leader in African American history and culture

As the center for African American genealogy in the commonwealth, the Library of Virginia holds the vast majority of marriage, birth, and death records for the state, as well as thousands of specialized African American records from all Virginia localities, including many church and business records. African Americans are most frequently documented in public government records, and the Library is the official custodian and trustee for the Commonwealth of all public records.

There are currently more than 43,000 slave names in the Library's statewide Chancery Records Index alone, with many additional names being added daily; the finished project will likely yield well over a million African American names. And this is just one record type among the many state, local, and private collections that the Library holds.

The Library houses the vast majority of the Atlantic slave ship documentation for Virginia in the Virginia Colonial Records Project, the Library's newspaper holdings, and the Library's pioneering publication, *Virginia Slave Trade Statistics*.

Recently the Library assisted in the compilation of a definitive list of the first African American legislators in the General Assembly and African Americans who served in the Underwood Constitutional Convention. The Library's research added several legislators to the list who had previously never been identified.

We are proud to sponsor the annual African American Trailblazers program, which will merge next year with Dominion's "Strong Men & Women: Excellence in Leadership" event to become an even more vibrant and exciting program.

A workshop offered twice last fall, "Researching Your African American Ancestors: Genealogy to 1870," was so popular that the Library had to turn away interested participants. More of such training is in the works, with offerings planned for a range of needs from beginners to more-advanced researchers. Look for more information in future issues of *Broadside*.

—Gregg Kimball, Director of Public Services and Outreach

did a bit of patron wrangling—reminding people to use library voices, that sort of thing," said Sizemore. On the second day, she "retrieved all of the materials they were planning on using and delivered them to Special Collections room, where they were filming," she said. "I handled all the paperwork—patron registration, stacks service slips—for Blair Underwood and the researcher. They taped, but didn't use, me putting volumes out to look at."

Although Sizemore was introduced to Underwood and shook his hand, she didn't have much interaction with the show's star. "He did seem interested in all of the things the researchers found, and was very engaged with the process," she said, "And, of course, very handsome."

"It was truly a long couple of days for everyone involved," said Sizemore. "I was impressed by how many people it took to do everything—producers, lighting people, sound people, legal folks. I was also intrigued by the fact that they didn't use everything they found—they created a really focused story. A tremendous amount of work went into the final product."

The morning after the episode aired, the Library received a call from a woman who had recognized her ancestor's name—Guy Lee—in one of the documents shown during the show. The call was referred to Sizemore because she had all of the citations to the items used in the show. "Since it was the right time and geographic area, she knew that it must have been the right 'Guy Lee,'" said Sizemore. "She was excited to have discovered a document written by him that she probably wouldn't have found otherwise."

Genealogy in the News

Library employees man "Call 12" segment phones to answer questions about our resources

In its efforts to promote *Who Do You Think You Are?*, Richmond's NBC affiliate station, WWBT-TV 12, invited Library of Virginia employees to answer questions during its "Call 12" segments that ran during evening news broadcasts on two Fridays in February when the program aired.

Archives and Library Reference Services staff members Bill Bynum, Tom Crew, Ginny Dunn, Carla Griggs, Amanda Morrell, Tricia Noel, Kelly Sizemore, and Minor Weisiger were on hand to answer questions about family history research and the Library's resources, receiving about 160 calls over the two Friday segments. "They were fantastic and were great ambassadors for the Library," said Jan Hathcock, the Library's public information officer. "We were also amazed by the number of WWBT staff who stopped by to ask about researching their genealogy at the Library."

"The Call 12 experience was interesting," said Dunn. "The questions ranged from 'How do I begin compiling my family tree?' to 'I was born in Italy and adopted by Americans. How can I find my birth family?' I appreciate NBC 12 giving us the opportunity to get the word out about the many and varied genealogical resources we have here."

Soon after their appearance, Weisiger received a telephone call at the Library in which the caller asked if it was as easy as it looks on television. "I assured her it is not," he said.

The station also filmed a promotional spot about the Library's genealogical resources (watch it on YouTube: <http://youtube.com/rV77YyV2yfo>), which ran during episodes of *Who Do You Think You Are?* and also before the Super Bowl.

Don't know where to start? Try these Web pages:

Resources for African American Genealogical Research

www.lva.virginia.gov/public/guides/AA_Genealogical_Research.pdf

Genealogy: How to Begin

www.lva.virginia.gov/public/guides/Genealogy.pdf

On June 30, 1944, 11-year-old Fred Laws of Carbrooke, Norfolk, England, wrote an introductory letter to his new pen pal across the Atlantic, Leona Robbins, of Norfolk, Virginia. Nearly 70 years later (and 13 years after Fred's passing), his son Neil Laws was searching the Internet for information about him. As he often had before, the younger Laws typed "Carbrooke" into Google, hoping to come across some reference to his father, a lifelong resident of that village. Browsing the images called up by his search, he noticed a scanned copy of a letter written by a Carbrooke School student in 1944.

"I saw the letter and started to read it," Laws recalled. "The address at the top being the school's got me quite excited. Reading it quickly, I skipped to the bottom and saw my dad's name, 'Fred Laws, aged 11.' It really was quite unbelievable!" Clicking on the link to the Web site where the letter appeared, he discovered an article posted on the Library of Virginia's *Out of the Box* blog (reprinted on page 5). There he learned that, although his father had spent his life in rural England, a letter written by him now resided in an archival repository in the United States.

The connection between Leona Robbins (now Fitchett) and the students of Carbrooke School during World War II is explained in the blog article. The forging of a new link between Neil Laws and Leona Fitchett came about thanks to a chain of events that took decades to complete.

Fitchett's correspondence with her Carbrooke pen pals lasted for approximately one year. Her mother then stored the letters in a closet, where they stayed until after her passing in 2009. While going through her mother's things, Fitchett found the letters in the same box she had kept them in as a child. "What a trip down memory lane that was," she said of re-reading them all. "I

A TALE OF TWO NORFOLKS

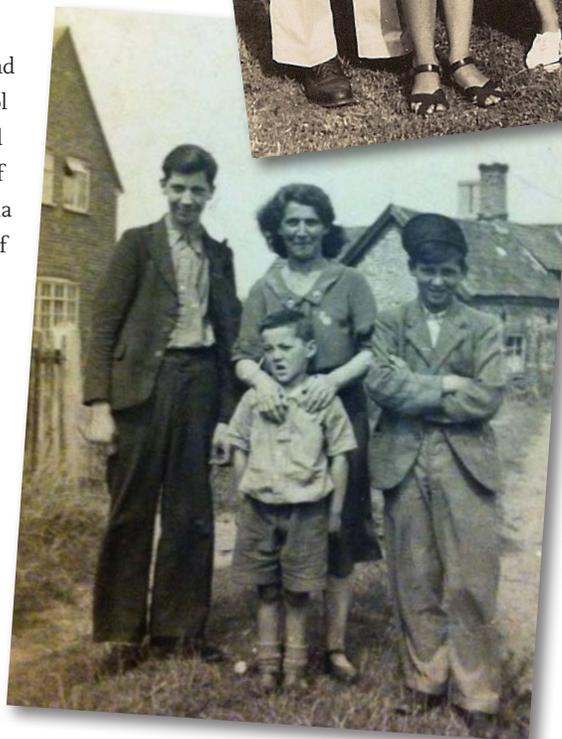
ABOVE: Leona Robbins (CENTER), shown with her parents in Norfolk, Virginia, in the mid-1940s, began corresponding with junior school students in Carbrooke, Norfolk, England, after sending them a wartime "care package" of dolls and toy cars.

RIGHT: Fred Laws (FAR RIGHT) poses with his family in the village of Carbrooke in 1945, a year after he wrote to Leona Robbins: "My father died 3 years ago. I am in the 6th grade."

Dear Leona

Blog entry links Library donor to son of her WWII-era pen pal in England

by Jessica Tyree



just couldn't throw them away, but wasn't sure what I wanted to do with them." When her local newspaper ran an article highlighting the Library of Virginia's call for World War II-era materials, "My first thought was to give them to the Library," said Fitchett.

As senior accessioning archivist at the Library, I had the pleasure of receiving the donation from Fitchett, and was so charmed by both her and the collection that I wrote the aforementioned *Out of the Box* post in September 2011. She and I both hoped that the article might somehow bring about an online reunion with a former correspondent or two.

After Neil Laws came across the article and his father's letter in February, he left a comment on the blog; this opened the door for Laws and Fitchett to get in touch.

"It seems like such a long time ago that we exchanged those letters,"

"It seems like such a long time ago that we exchanged those letters. Over the years I have thought about some of the students and wondered how they were and if they were still living in the Norfolk [England] area."

wrote Fitchett. "Over the years I have thought about some of the students and wondered how they were and if they were still living in the Norfolk [England] area."

Laws described finding the letter by "Googling" his father's hometown: "This wasn't the first time I had done this, and for some unknown reason, *continued on page 6*

Jessica Tyree is a senior accessioning archivist at the Library

ARCHIVES

Out of the Box

NOTES FROM THE ARCHIVES @ THE LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA

Carbrooke School
Thetford
Norfolk.
June 30th

Dear Leona

I hope this letter finds you quite well, as I am. Lt. Field has moved from this District. Have you sent Ray Rix a letter on May 20th, because you cant believe a word he says? I hope you liked the other letters. My Auntie is coming down from London because of the blitz, and the Doodlebugs. Here is a picture of one:-



It is like an Ordinary aeroplane and has got an Automatic Pilot (NO REAL MEN) Square wings, and a square tail, the thing on the tail is a long metal tube, and at night flames come out, and at daytime smoke. It runs on Crude Oil, when the engine stops it drops to the ground and explodes. It is the Jerry's Latest weapon of war. My Father died 3 years ago. I am in the 6th grade, by the way you have it. I have got a baseball bat and a softball. Frederick. Pete. Wolford of N.Y. gave it to me. Here is my address :-

7 Council Houses
Drury Lane
Carbrooke
Thetford
Norfolk England

Must Close now

Lots of Love from

Fred Laws. agell

New Friends in Wartime, An Ocean Apart

This post appeared on the Library's "Out of the Box" blog on September 14, 2011 (www.virginiamemory.com/blogs/out_of_the_box)



INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

A group poses during a 1945 Christmas party given for the children of Carbrooke School by American soldiers stationed in Norfolk, England. A girl in the front row holds one of the dolls that Leona Robbins sent to the students. Fred Laws had moved on to Carbrooke's upper school by this year, but his younger brother, Michael, is in the group.

In late 1943, Leona Robbins was 12 years old, and living in Norfolk, Virginia. Her neighbor and close family friend, Army Lieutenant Charles Field, was headed overseas, where he would be stationed in Norfolk, England. Field suggested that Leona and her friends pull together some toys to distribute to the children there. England had been at war for over four years at that point, and the deprivation and danger faced by its citizens was considerable. Leona responded sympathetically, gathering some dolls and toy cars for the children.

Lt. Field delivered the package to the junior school in the village of Carbrooke, Thetford, Norfolk, in March 1944. Headmistress Mary Norton and each of the children in her class wrote Leona letters of thanks and introduction. Miss Norton spoke highly of the American soldiers, who had thrown two separate Christmas parties for the children the previous December: "They spoilt our children, and consequently are very popular! I honestly think this last was the best Christmas our children have had since 1939."

The students also drew pictures, including some of a christening ceremony they had for the dolls (naming one of them Leona Mary).

The correspondence continued for a little over a year, with each side sending letters and small gifts. The letters show typically curious children, wanting to compare ages, schools, recreational activities, and vacation

The letters show typically curious children, wanting to compare ages, schools, recreational activities, and vacation schedules with their friend overseas. Nearly every detail was worth checking: "Do you milk cows by machinery in America?"

THE WONDERS OF THE WEB

Neil Laws (shown with his wife, Debbie Laws), of Great Ellingham, Norfolk, England, discovered his father's boyhood letter (ABOVE) on the Library's *Out of the Box* blog, posted a comment on the site, and was put in touch with his father's former pen pal, Leona Robbins Fitchett.



DEAR LEONA, from page 4

I felt sure that I would find something just like this!”

For Laws and his family, the surprise discovery was a poignant means of learning more about a cherished central figure in their lives. “You won’t believe how much it means to myself and family,” he wrote. “[Fred Laws] was a wonderful father to me and my two sisters, and a loving husband to my mum. We all still miss him very much. Reading his letter to you seems to have brought a little bit of him back to us that we never knew about.”

Fitchett marveled at the selection of Fred Laws’s letter for the blog, chosen as it was from among a large batch of other children’s letters, concluding: “I truly believe it was meant to be found by you.”

This incident re-energized my own faith in the value of our work as archivists, and in the power of modern tools such as the blog. You never know—perhaps just such a gift awaits you in the archives. ■

schedules with their friend overseas. Nearly every detail was worth checking: “Do you milk cows by machinery in America? We do about here.” They also shared the sorts of stories that kids are bound to find newsworthy. A nine-year-old girl wrote of a humorous incident from a recent family visit, recalling “Our uncle wanted a piece of pie, Auntie wouldn’t get him any, so he sat with his elbows on the table saying ‘pie, pie, pie’ over and over again till she gave him some.”

Mixed in with these average childhood concerns were more or less casual references to extraordinary circumstances. Several children identified themselves as evacuees from London. Many referenced “doodlebugs,” a slang term for the German V-1 flying bombs (described by one child as “the Jerry’s latest weapon of war”) that were raining down on England at an

“The Germans came over on Monday night, the bullets were flying around our house, we were watching some and had to run in, dad thought we would have to go in the dugout, but we didn’t.”

alarming rate in the summer of 1944. In a letter dated March 26, 1945, another child relates that “The Germans came over on Monday night, the bullets were flying around our house, we were watching some and had to run in, dad thought we would have to go in the dugout, but we didn’t.”

Finally, in late April 1945, Miss Norton writes with relief, “I expect you are just as delighted as we are about the news of the war in Europe? By the time you get these letters it may well be over.” In the same packet of letters,

several children write to reassure Leona that her namesake, the doll Leona Mary, is doing well—all things considered. “We still have got her, and she is still as strong as she was when she came here, execepting [*sic*] one hand which is off.”

The unfortunate Leona Mary’s injury did not prevent her from going on an adventure or two. “We are going to play mother’s [*sic*] and father over the meadow today, and I am going to have Leona for my little baby,” writes Marlene Thompson. “Mary Dunnett the girl I sit next to is my husband and Norah Walker is Joyce Starwood’s husband. Yesterday our husbands took us to the pub and we got drunk and fell off our bicycles.”

The final letter was written by Miss Norton in August 1945, having left her teaching job in order to prepare for her upcoming marriage. She wrote that she hoped the correspondence would continue. Unfortunately, as Leona Robbins (now Fitchett) reports, all contact dropped off as everyone “recovered and recouped” from the war. Still, the letters remain as a sweet and sometimes poignant example of the relationships (however fleeting) that can spring up in

the darkest of times. “We all think it so very kind of you to take so much trouble over a bunch of kids you’ve never even seen,” wrote Miss Norton earlier that year. “But if you could see the pleasure they have given I believe you would feel a little repaid.”

A quick check of the Internet reveals that Carbrooke School is still in existence today, and marks its 165th anniversary this year. The letters written by Miss Norton and her class, along with the children’s drawings and a handful of photographs, are cataloged as the Leona Robbins Fitchett Collection (Accession 50068) and are open to researchers at the Library of Virginia.

—Jessica Tyree

ARTFUL ARTIFACT

A drawing done by one of the Carbrooke School students depicts a christening ceremony the class held with the dolls sent by Leona Robbins.



NEW & NOTEWORTHY

Combustible Collectibles

Matchbook covers brought advertising to pocket-sized souvenirs

Several hundred matchbook covers that were recently added to the Library of Virginia's Ephemera Collection illustrate how businesses across Virginia used this popular form of advertising to promote everything from nightclubs to soda fountains. Even people who didn't smoke or use matches would often pick up a matchbook as a souvenir, especially if it had an attractive or intriguing cover or logo. During the 1950s, matchbook collecting (known as phillumeny) was hailed as the "fastest growing hobby in America," outpaced only by stamp collecting (known as philately).

Although fire goes back to the dawn of man, the matchbook's invention in 1889 is credited to a Philadelphia lawyer and patent attorney named John Pusey. In 1896 he sold the patent rights to Diamond Match Co. Because

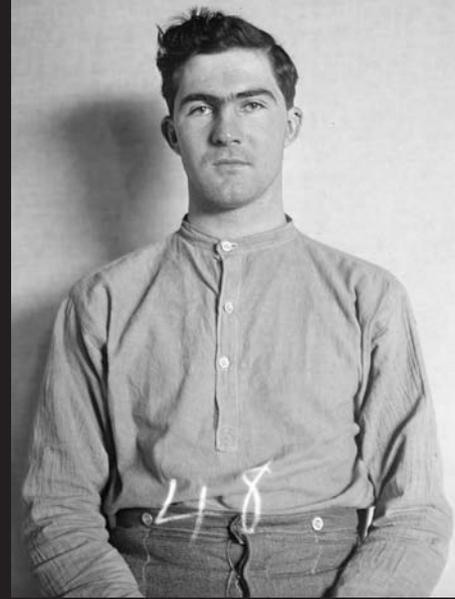
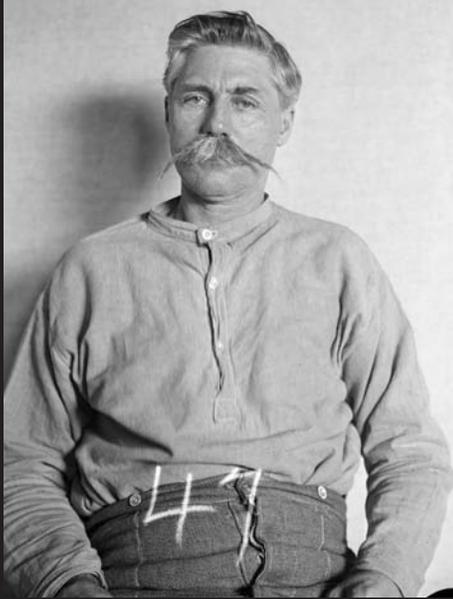
early matchbook designs—with the striker on the inside—were sometimes explosive and could cause personal injury, they were not considered appropriate for advertising. Henry C. Traute, a motivated salesman at Diamond, persuaded the company to protect customers by placing the striker on the outside and adding the phrase "Close Before Striking" to the front flap. He also convinced the company to sell advertising space on the blank matchbooks to such celebrated American corporations as Pabst Brewery, Duke Tobacco, and Wrigley Chewing Gum. The manufacturing of matchbooks peaked by midcentury, when small business advertisers across the country started using matchbooks to promote such local establishments as Pete's Bar-B-Q (Norfolk), the Mineral Tea Room (Mineral), and Maude's Frozen Custard (Richmond).

—Dale Neighbors, Prints and Photographs Collection Coordinator

STRIKE HERE

The Library of Virginia's Ephemera Collection houses an incredible variety of items, including this group of matchbook covers (ca. 1930s–1950s) advertising restaurants and groceries stores in Richmond, Norfolk, and Suffolk.



**FAMILY AFFAIR**

Father and son Floyd and Claude Allen faced the electric chair together and were executed just a few minutes apart at the Virginia State Penitentiary in March 1913. Their bodies were displayed at Bliley's Funeral home in Richmond and then buried in a cemetery near the Blue Ridge Mountains. All of the photographs shown come from the Virginia Department of Corrections, State Penitentiary Records (Accession 41558) at the Library of Virginia.

AFTER THE HILLSVILLE MASSACRE

On the 100-year anniversary, penitentiary records recall the infamous Carroll County courthouse shootings and the aftermath for those convicted

By Roger Christman

On March 13, 1912, in the Carroll County Circuit Court in Hillsville, Virginia, Floyd Allen—a local businessman, landowner, and moonshiner whose extended family had a history of trouble with the law—was tried for attacking two deputies who had arrested two of his nephews for fighting and disturbing a religious meeting. The jury found Allen guilty of assault on March 14 and sentenced him to one year in the penitentiary. Allen stood up and stated, “Gentlemen, I ain’t going,” and shots erupted in the courthouse, leaving four county officials and a spectator dead and seven wounded.

The Allen family claimed that several court officials opened fire on Floyd Allen, while other witnesses contended that Claude Allen, the defendant’s son, began the shooting. Nevertheless, Floyd Allen, Claude Allen, Friel Allen, Sidna Allen, Wesley Edwards, and Sidna Edwards were all tried for murder in the Wythe County Circuit Court between April and December 1912. Floyd and Claude Allen were sentenced to die in the electric chair at the Virginia State

Penitentiary on November 22, 1912, and both were executed on March 28, 1913.

Floyd Allen’s brother and nephews were also charged with murder and manslaughter and sentenced to time in the penitentiary, but did not receive death sentences. Their postsentencing stories are told here through records from the Library of Virginia’s collections, including prisoner photographs and register entries from the records of the State Penitentiary, clemency documents from the Secretary of the Commonwealth, and excerpts from an anonymous article published in the *Beacon*, the prisoner-run State Penitentiary newspaper, that describes one inmate’s observations on the Allen family.

Roger Christman is a senior state records archivist at the Library. A version of this article first appeared as a series of blog posts in the “Mug Shot Monday” series at **Out of the Box: Notes from the Archives @ the Library of Virginia** (www.virginiamemory.com/blogs/out_of_the_box/category/mug-shot-monday).

Floyd Allen stood up and stated, “Gentlemen, I ain’t going,” and shots erupted in the courthouse, leaving four county officials and a spectator dead.

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

There is much more to this story. Read about the event on our new blog, **Fit to Print: Dispatches from the Virginia Newspaper Project @ the Library of Virginia** (www.virginiamemory.com/blogs/fit-to-print). You can also find detailed biographies of the Allen family in the Library’s multivolume reference work, the *Dictionary of Virginia Biography* (www.lva.virginia.gov/public/dvb).



FRIEL ALLEN, PRISONER NUMBER 10994

In August 1912 in the Wythe County Circuit Court, Friel Allen, nephew of Floyd Allen, was convicted of second-degree murder in the death of William McDonald Foster, commonwealth's attorney for Carroll County, and was sentenced to 18 years in the State Penitentiary. An anonymous fellow prisoner, writing in the April 27, 1922, issue of the inmate-run penitentiary newspaper, the *Beacon*, shared his observations of Friel Allen:

I had noticed a well-dressed young man passing through the yard of the prison, and on asking who he was I got this reply: "that is the Superintendent's Chauffeur, Friel Allen." I ventured up for a talk with him, expecting a sad answer, but not so, he sprang a friendly joke on me right away and began to kid me, showing his youth and good spirits. I thought him such a fine fellow that I immediately began to bum him for cigarettes until I got too strong for him along that line, and he broke me by giving me one that behaved like an automobile tire when it blows out. I in turn would play little tricks on him evenings, and he has never shown anything but the boyish, good-natured disposition and forgiving spirit which he has developed under the most adverse circumstances.

Governor E. Lee Trinkle agreed and granted Allen a conditional pardon on October 6, 1922. "[H]e has made a model prisoner," Trinkle wrote in announcing the pardon. Allen "has impressed all who have come in contact with him" and "is a reformed young man, capable and will in the future lead a law abiding life."



SIDNA EDWARDS, PRISONER NUMBER 10995

In August 1912 in the Wythe County Circuit Court, Sidna Edwards, another nephew of Floyd Allen, pleaded guilty to second-degree murder for his involvement in the Carroll County shootout and was sentenced to 15 years in the State Penitentiary. The anonymous writer in the *Beacon* offered this observation of Edwards:

[I] noticed a stalwart looking man standing on the prison hospital steps. He had a young, though sad looking face, his hair was beginning to silver and his general expression showed much pain and worry for a young man of his seeming age. I remarked to another prisoner that the big, young fellow seemed rather under the weather. "Yes," he said, "that is Sidna Edwards. He has rheumatism and has been in the hospital a long time, although not confined to bed. He has the duty of nursing the other patients." To describe him takes only a few words, he has one of the most gentle, accommodating, kind and truthful dispositions that I have ever met in any man.

Governor Trinkle granted Edwards a conditional pardon on October 6, 1922, writing, "I find that the prison record of Sidna Edwards has been without a mark against him."

In March 1928, Edwards applied for the restoration of his voting rights and an absolute pardon. In his appeal to Governor Harry F. Byrd, Edwards wrote that he had "led an exemplary life ever since [his conditional pardon] and enjoy the confidence and respect of all that I come in contact with, but I feel so humiliated and depressed when I remember that I cannot read my title clear to citizenship in my own beloved Virginia." He included letters of recommendation from his Richmond employers, the Little Oil Company and Bradshaw's, a clothing store. Governor Byrd granted both requests in April 1928.



WESLEY EDWARDS, PRISONER NUMBER 11218

In December 1912 in the Wythe County Circuit Court, Wesley Edwards, a third nephew of Floyd Allen, was sentenced to 27 years in the State Penitentiary for two counts of first-degree murder and one count of second-degree murder for his involvement in the Carroll County shootout. The *Beacon* offered this observation of Wesley Edwards:

As soon as I told him where I was from, he at once extended his hand, with a smile, and said he was glad to see someone from near his old home, though he was sorry to see me in trouble. My thoughts of him were many, the chief one being how strange it seemed that this tall, blue-eyed, young fellow could be so jovial and so interested in his work [in the Industrial Department]. He was even then in a hurry, had saw-dust in his hair and on his clothing and carried a rule in his hand.

Edwards's petition for a conditional pardon was denied on October 6, 1922, by Governor Trinkle on grounds that he had only served a small portion of his 27-year sentence. In 1926, Edwards applied again for a pardon, which Governor Byrd granted in April of that year.

In May 1934, Edwards applied for the restoration of his voting rights and an absolute pardon. "[S]ince the granting of the conditional pardon," *continued on page 14*

RMS Titanic: 100 Years Later

Revisit the story through newspaper coverage in an online exhibition

On April 15, 1912, while sailing on its maiden voyage from Southampton, England, to New York City, the RMS *Titanic* hit an iceberg and within three hours sank in the North Atlantic Ocean.

This brief sentence describes an event that, 100 years later, continues to enthrall. While there have been bigger disasters, both manmade and natural, the sinking of the *Titanic* holds a special and enduring fascination within the recent history of sad events.

The *Titanic* lives on for thousands of interested readers, researchers, and devotees, who revisit the disaster through best sellers, a wide assortment of merchandise and memorabilia, mega-hit movies, and, in recent years, *Titanic*-related Web sites and online exhibitions. *RMS Titanic: 100 Years Later*, an online exhibition that focuses on the newspaper coverage of the ship's sinking, is the Library of Virginia's contribution to the investigation into one of the 20th century's most enduring tragedies.

In honor of the 100th anniversary, we encourage readers to investigate the event through this Virginia Newspaper Project Web exhibition that serves as a gateway to the array of newspaper articles about those who perished and who survived. Newspaper Project staff members created the Web exhibition in 1997—ancient by Internet standards, and well before the hit film *Titanic*—and we are in the process of updating the site to offer improved access to a wider range of newspapers available digitally, particularly through Chronicling America (<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov>), a fully text-searchable Web site of close to 5 million pages of U.S. newspapers, of which 300,000 pages were published in Virginia.

The *Titanic* disaster was one of the first truly international news events. While newspapers tried desperately to get the story right, the sheer chaos of a giant liner sinking in the cold waters of the North Atlantic provided fodder for both dedicated journalism and sensational stories of heroic bravery, self-sacrifice, cowardice, and tragedy.

The Newspaper Project sifted through the extensive newspaper collections on microfilm at both the Library of Virginia and the University of Virginia in order to track the day-to-day coverage of the *Titanic* disaster. The resulting exhibition features straightforward news accounts, in-depth human interest pieces, eye-catching photographs and graphics, editorial cartoons, passenger manifests, lists of the living and the dead, and much more. The site is not only the Library's most-frequently visited online exhibition, but also one of the most popular of all the Library's Web resources. Researchers and writers worldwide have made use of its content, including the author John D. T. White, who thanked the Library in the introduction to his latest book, *The RMS Titanic Miscellany*.

RMS Titanic: 100 Years Later reveals the detailed, sometimes inaccurate, and often-sensational coverage in newspapers published in Virginia and the United States, and many of the papers provide stunning images of one of the most famous disasters of the 20th century.

—Errol Somay, Virginia Newspaper Project Director

The sheer chaos of a giant liner sinking in the cold waters of the North Atlantic provided fodder for both dedicated journalism and sensational stories of heroic bravery, self-sacrifice, cowardice, and tragedy.



Virginia Survivor

Robert W. Daniel escaped death, pursued politics, and married a fellow survivor

The newspaper coverage of a survivor named Robert W. Daniel is just one example of the wide array of story lines and angles used to give depth and texture to the human side of the *Titanic's* ill-fated voyage. A businessman from a prominent Virginia family, Daniel survived the sinking, though the details are murky. Daniel, born and raised in Virginia but living in Philadelphia at the time of the incident, rarely spoke of it in later years. He went on to serve in the Senate of Virginia, and his son, Robert W. Daniel Jr., also served the people of Virginia as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives. A curious twist to the story is that Robert W. Daniel ended up marrying a fellow passenger in his lifeboat. Mary Hughes Smith and her husband, Lucien P. Smith, a representative in Congress from West Virginia, were also returning from London on the *Titanic*; Lucien Smith did not survive the disaster. Daniel married the widowed Smith in 1914, but the two divorced nine years later.

—Errol Somay



Richmond passenger on *Titanic*, whose mother suffered great anxiety before learning of his rescue.



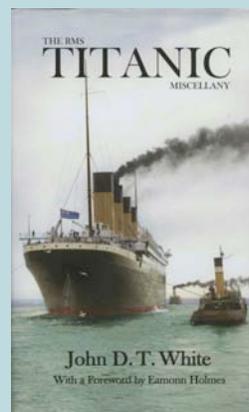
HOMETOWN BOY MAKES GOOD

Richmond newspapers covered the news of local passenger Robert W. Daniel, noting that his mother "suffered great anxiety before learning of his rescue."



SHIPSHAPE

Titanic disaster news coverage featured in the Library's online exhibition includes front-page images from newspapers such as the *Richmond Evening Journal* and Harrisonburg's *Rockingham Daily Record*.



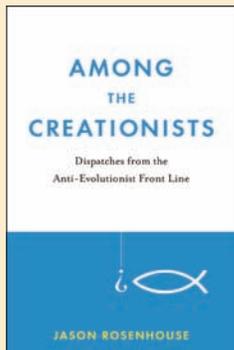
RESEARCH RESOURCE

Many writers and researchers have made use of the online exhibition's content, including John D. T. White, author of the new book *The RMS Titanic Miscellany*.

RMS Titanic: 100 Years Later
www.lva.virginia.gov/exhibits/titanic

calendar

All events are free unless otherwise noted.



Wednesday, May 16

5:30–7:30 PM

**“BOOKS ON BROAD” FEATURING
JASON ROSENHOUSE**

Among the Creationists

Jason Rosenhouse, a self-described nonbeliever, presents a down-to-earth picture of modern creationism and the people who espouse it. Light refreshments (wine and cheese) will be served (5:30–6:15 PM), followed by author talk (6:15–7:15 PM), and book signing (7:15–7:30 PM).

Friday, May 18

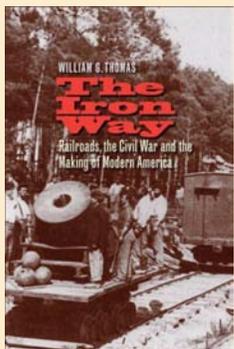
Noon–1:00 PM

**BOOK TALK WITH WILLIAM G.
THOMAS**

**The Iron Way:
Railroads, the Civil War
and the Making of Modern
America**

Place: Conference Rooms
William G. Thomas, professor of history and the John and Catherine Angle Chair in the Humanities at

the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, will discuss his new book, *The Iron Way: Railroads, the Civil War and the Making of Modern America*. Beginning with Frederick Douglass's escape from slavery in 1838 on the railroad, and ending with the driving of the golden spike to link the transcontinental railroad in 1869, his book charts a critical period of American expansion and national formation, one largely dominated by the dynamic growth of railroads and telegraphs. Thomas brings new evidence to bear on railroads, the Confederate South, slavery, and the Civil War era, based on groundbreaking research in digitized sources never available before. *The Iron Way* revises our ideas about the emergence of modern America and the role of the railroads in shaping the sectional conflict.



Thursday, May 24 | 6:00–8:00 PM

LECTURE

In the Service of Children: African American Children's History Before and After Emancipation

Place: Lecture Hall

Dr. Wilma King, the Arvarh E. Strickland Professor of African American History and Culture at the University of Missouri-Columbia, will share her research on the history of African American children, before and after emancipation, and will explore how lessons drawn from the past can inform how we—parents, teachers, and community members—can advocate for today's youth. This free program is offered by a partnership of Hope in the Cities, the Black History Museum and Cultural Center of Virginia, the Virginia NAACP, and the Library of Virginia.

Saturday, June 9 | 9:00 AM–2:00 PM

EXHIBITION-RELATED EVENT

**Lost & Found Adventure:
A Challenge of Historic Proportions!**

Place: Lobby. Fee \$25 per person with up to six players per team.

The Library of Virginia and its environs are the setting for an adventure that pits your wits against a series of cunning clues, crafty codes, and ingenious puzzles. Based on the Library's newest exhibition, *Lost and Found*, teams of up to six embark on a quest that has been described as a combination of *Amazing Race* and *National Treasure*. Put on your sneakers, thinking caps, and imaginative team uniforms and get lost, if only for a couple of hours, in the colorful culture of Richmond's past. Check in: 9:00–9:45 AM. The event begins promptly at 10:00 AM, rain or shine, and concludes by 2:00 PM. Post-adventure celebration begins at 11:00 AM with lunch provided. Register at <http://lostandfoundatva.eventbrite.com>.



Wednesday, June 13 | Noon–1:00 PM

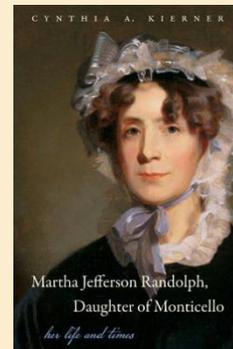
BOOK TALK WITH CYNTHIA A. KIERNER

Martha Jefferson Randolph, Daughter of Monticello: Her Life and Times

Place: Conference Rooms

As the oldest and favorite daughter of Thomas Jefferson, Martha “Patsy” Jefferson Randolph (1772–1836) was extremely well educated, traveled in the circles of presidents

and aristocrats, and was known on two continents for her particular grace and sincerity. Yet, as a mistress of a large household, she was not spared the tedium, frustration, and great sorrow that most women of her time faced. Though Randolph's name is familiar because of her famous father, author Cynthia A. Kierner is the first historian to place her at the center of her own story, taking readers into the largely ignored private spaces of the founding era. Randolph's life story reveals the privileges and limits of celebrity and shows that women were able to venture beyond their domestic roles in surprising ways. Kierner is a professor of history at George Mason University. A book signing will follow the talk.



Wednesday, June 20

5:30–7:30 PM

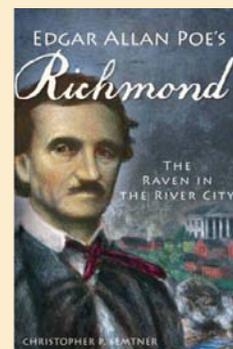
“BOOKS ON BROAD”

**FEATURING CHRISTOPHER P.
SEMTNER**

**Edgar Allan Poe's
Richmond: The Raven
in the River City**

Christopher P. Semtner, curator of the Poe Museum in Richmond, joins us to discuss his newest book. *Edgar Allan Poe's Richmond: The Raven in the River City* reveals how the mystery, madness, and tragedy that Poe encountered during his time in Richmond helped shape his life and literature. Light

refreshments (wine and cheese) will be served (5:30–6:15 PM), followed by author talk (6:15–7:15 PM), and book signing (7:15–7:30 PM).



Friday, June 22 | Noon–1:00 PM

MINING THE TREASURE HOUSE TALK

**Brother Goes to Law Against Brother:
Researching Church History in the
Chancery Causes**

Place: Conference Rooms

Greg Crawford, Local Records program manager, will share examples of church lawsuits in the chancery causes. Rather than settling disputes among themselves, church members often looked to the local court for resolution. The narrative nature

of chancery suits makes them a superb primary source for understanding the reasons church members took their disputes to court. The plaintiffs' complaints, the defendants' answers, depositions, and affidavits were generally given by persons associated with the church in some capacity (members, trustees, pastors); therefore, they provide first-person accounts regarding events that led to divisions within churches. Also found in church-related chancery suits are exhibits such as correspondence, church minutes, membership rolls, financial records, and copies of deeds that were used by litigants to support their arguments. These suits can be a tremendous resource for church historians, social historians, local historians, and African American historians.

Saturday, June 23 | 10:00 AM–5:00 PM

OFF-SITE EVENT

Cultsha Xpo: Art, History, Science, and Family Fun

Place: Science Museum of Virginia, 2500 West Broad Street, Richmond



Join the Library of Virginia at the Cultsha Xpo to support the Library and the arts and culture community in Richmond.

This free event features art, history, science, performances, and family fun. Registered "Cultural Shareholders" will be given a surprise amount of "CultshaBucks"—

from \$10 to \$100—to spend with any organization at the event. Each organization then redeems the CultshaBucks they collected for a real cash donation from CultureWorks. Register ahead of time as a Cultural Shareholder (www.richmondcultureworks.org/cultsha/CultshaSignup.aspx)—then come see us at the Science Museum and give us your CultshaBucks!

exhibitions at 800 east broad

Through September 15, 2012 | East Lobby
The Forgotten War: The War of 1812

Quick! Name two events that occurred during the War of 1812. *The Forgotten War: The War of 1812* commemorates the bicentennial of the War of 1812. Caught in the continuing hostilities between Great Britain and France, the United States sought to remain neutral until Great Britain impressed American seamen into duty and blockaded American shipping. Virginia mobilized to meet the British forces that harassed Virginians who lived along the Chesapeake Bay. On June 22,

1813, British forces attempted an assault on Craney Island in a bid to take Norfolk, but American militiamen and personnel from the USS *Constellation* repulsed the attack. The British burned Washington, D.C., in 1814, and the British siege of Fort Mchenry in Baltimore Harbor inspired Francis Scott Key to pen "The Star-Spangled Banner," which became America's national anthem. *The Forgotten War* highlights a forthcoming digital archive of materials in the collections of the Library of Virginia that relate to the War of 1812 and explores the issues and the impact of the conflict on Virginia and the United States.

Through August 25, 2012 | Exhibition Gallery & West Lobby

Lost and Found

What do you collect and value? *Lost and Found* examines the constantly changing fabric of our world. Things disappear from our cultural landscape, sometimes almost without notice—signs, buildings, even towns—and others go into attics, basements, and landfills. Some are saved and carefully stored and preserved; others are intentionally destroyed, sometimes dramatically. Explore the spectacular destruction of archives by chance and nature, the intentional destruction of personal papers, the careful preservation of family treasures, and the assemblage of materials in a bank safe deposit box.

Sara Bearss Virginiana Conservation Fund

NEW FUND ESTABLISHED AND RARE BOOK ADOPTED IN HONOR OF OUR LATE COLLEAGUE

The Library of Virginia knows of no greater champion of Virginia history than the late Sara Bearss, a gifted writer, editor, and historian who had served as senior editor of the Library's *Dictionary of Virginia Biography* since 2000. Bearss passed away on February 13, 2012, following a brief battle with cancer. In response to the extraordinary outpouring of support from the historical community (and Bearss's friends and colleagues from across the country), the Library of Virginia Foundation has established the Sara Bearss Virginiana Conservation Fund. Proceeds from this fund will provide ongoing support for the conservation and preservation of items in our collections that make an indelible mark on Virginia's history and culture. Preservation of our shared history was Bearss's passion, and we are grateful for the opportunity to continue her legacy in this way.



The Library has also adopted a rare book for restoration to honor Bearss. Among the many historical figures of interest to

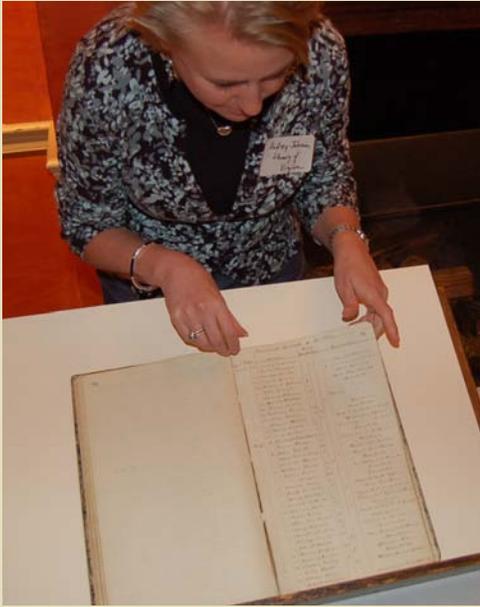
her, Henry Clay was near the top of the list. In an attempt to find a rare title in need of conservation that related to Clay, we surveyed our Special Collections holdings for just the right item. An 1837 Philadelphia imprint with a lengthy title (which we will abbreviate here), *The Speeches of Henry Clay, delivered in the Congress of the United States*, seemed to be the perfect selection because the cover bore a gilded, stamped inscription to "The Library of Virginia presented by Judge Francis T. Brooke." Brooke, who was Clay's close friend, is included in the *Dictionary of Virginia Biography*, and his entry was written by Sara Bearss. The original red leather binding will be restored; the text block will be cleaned, deacidified, and guarded with Japanese paper; and the book will receive a custom clamshell box.

To contribute to the **Sara Bearss Virginiana Conservation Fund**, please send your gift to: Library of Virginia Foundation, Sara Bearss Virginiana Conservation Fund, 800 E. Broad St., Richmond, VA 23219. For more information, or to make a gift, contact Dan Stackhouse at dan.stackhouse@lva.virginia.gov or 804.692.3813.

Old Town Event

The Library and the Friends of Alexandria Archaeology raise funds to restore Freedmen's Cemetery record book

On October 11, 2011, representatives of the Library of Virginia joined the Friends of Alexandria Archaeology at the Principle Gallery in Old Town Alexandria for a reception and silent auction to raise funds to restore a book of records for the Alexandria Freedmen's Cemetery. This book recorded the marriages and deaths of hundreds of African Americans who came to Alexandria seeking refuge during and after the Civil War. The evening was a wonderful success, with more than \$1,500 raised to restore the book and wonderful stories shared about the history of freedmen in northern Virginia. The Friends of Alexandria Archaeology group has a particular interest in the book because it lists many of the people interred in the Freedmen's Cemetery, around which they are currently working to build a memorial.



FUND-RAISING FETE

TOP LEFT: Senior rare book librarian **Audrey Johnson** shows off a page of records in the Freedmen's Cemetery record book. The book's cover (LEFT) is displayed in its pre-conservation condition. ABOVE: Alexandria city councilwoman **Alicia Hughes**, joined by Alexandria Archaeological Commission chairman **Vince LaPointe**, offers greetings from city council and shares her enthusiasm for the restoration project. ABOVE RIGHT: The evening drew a great crowd of history and archaeology fans from throughout Northern Virginia. All photographs by Ellen Hamilton.

HILLSVILLE, from page 9

Edwards's attorneys wrote to Governor George C. Peery, "Mr. Edwards has been actively engaged in business, and at the present time operates a filling station on the Richmond-Washington Highway in Henrico County." Governor Peery granted both requests in June 1934.

SIDNA ALLEN, PRISONER NUMBER 11217

In December 1912 in the Wythe County Circuit Court, Sidna Allen, Floyd Allen's brother, was sentenced to 35 years in the State Penitentiary for the crimes of first-, second-, and third-degree murder. The *Beacon* offered this observation of Sidna Allen:

He was working [in the carpenter shop] with as much zeal as any man who owned and operated a manufacturing plant. His hair was a silvery gray, though tinted with the yellow saw-dust, and his face pale, though it had the illuminated appearance of a pure Christian man. I found that the expression on his face was only revealing the man as he was; a true Christian man. Sunday morning and any time he had a spare, you could see him sitting around reading the Bible and enjoying the words he was daily living.

Allen's petition for a conditional pardon was denied on October 6, 1922, by Governor Trinkle on grounds that he had only served a small portion of his 35-year sentence. In 1926, Allen again applied for a pardon. Governor Byrd granted the pardon on April 29, 1926, writing, "This man, having served about thirteen and one-half years and made an excellent prisoner, and feeling that under the circumstances and also by reason of the peculiar conditions surrounding the case that he has probably been sufficiently punished as to warrant giving him another chance, granted conditional pardon."



Adoption Success Stories

In this issue we're sharing a couple of the program's success stories. To see more "before and after" shots of items that have been adopted and restored, go to: www.lva.virginia.gov/involved/adopted.asp.

Thank you to Margaret Page Edgerton for adopting this item, which was featured in the Fall 2010 issue:

A Description of the English Province of Carolana, by the Spaniards call'd Florida, and by the French La Louisiane

Genre: Book | **Date:** 1727

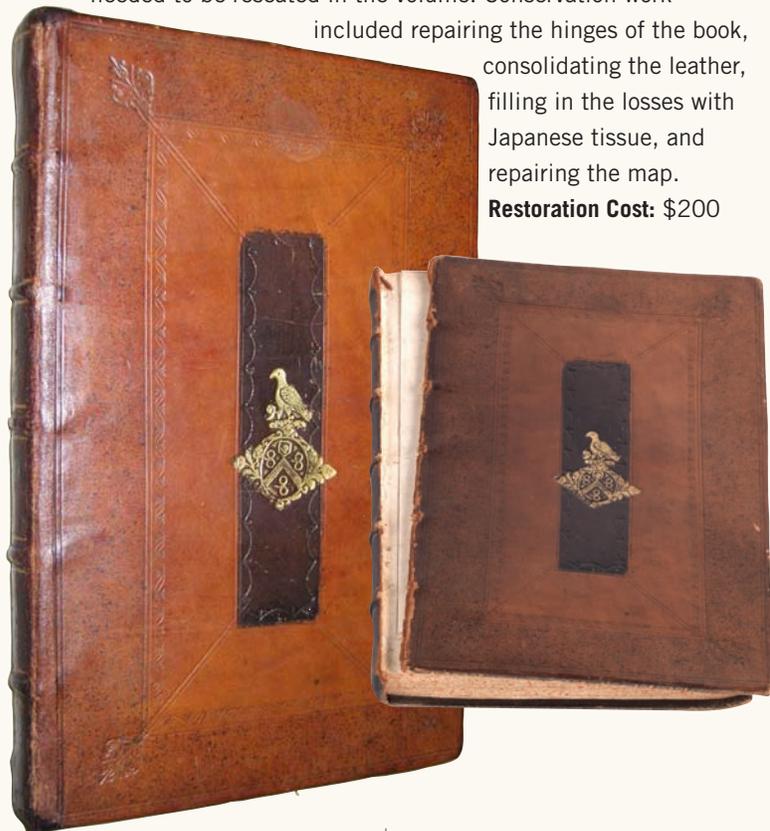
Author: Daniel Coxe (1673–1739)

Description: Printed for E. Symon, London, this is the first English work to describe the southeastern United States in detail and is credited with being the first published proposal for a political confederation of the North American colonies. The author, Daniel Coxe, resided in the Carolinas for 14 years and claimed grants to much of the South from his father. The elder Daniel Coxe was physician to Charles II and Queen Anne. This first edition includes a rare large folding map, which was drafted by the Coxe family to further its land claims. The map shows most of the South and includes regions as far north as the Great Lakes. Much of the information, gathered from British hunters and explorers, was published here for the first time.

Restoration Completed: The loose front and back covers were coming apart from the spine. The map inside was torn and needed to be resealed in the volume. Conservation work

included repairing the hinges of the book, consolidating the leather, filling in the losses with Japanese tissue, and repairing the map.

Restoration Cost: \$200



ADOPT VIRGINIA'S HISTORY

Save a Piece of the Past

Your gift can preserve specific rare items in the collections

The Adopt Virginia's History program supports our conservation efforts, helping the Library preserve our state's collective memory. Conservation can involve a simple repair and cleaning to make an item more accessible to the general public, which can cost as little as \$100. A larger, more complex work can cost as much as \$5,000 for a complete restoration. Any adoption gift of \$100 or more will be recognized in the Library's catalog record of the item. We welcome donations to our general conservation fund in any amount. You can be proud of your contribution to this important cause, which is tax deductible. For more information, please contact Dan Stackhouse at 804.692.3813 or dan.stackhouse@lva.virginia.gov.

Thank you to Ron and Sally Greve for adopting this item, which was featured in the Summer 2010 issue:

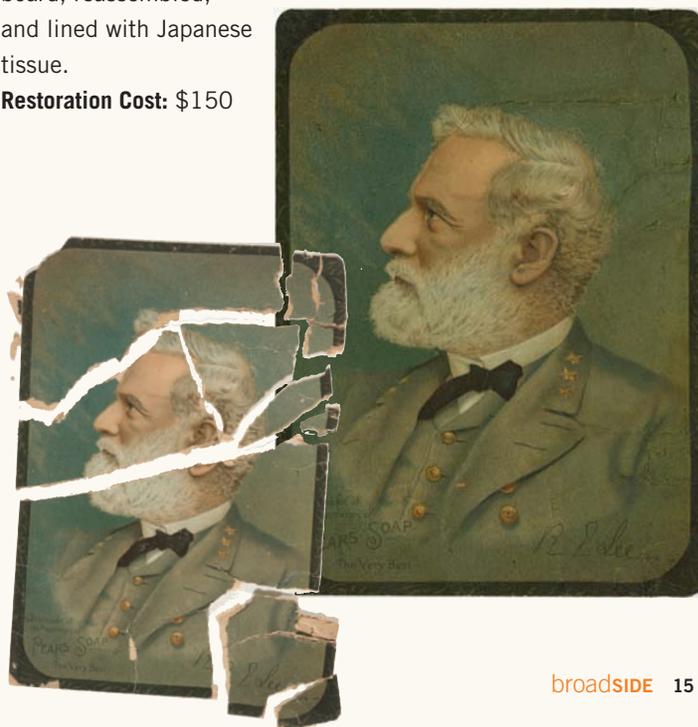
Robert E. Lee Pear's Soap Advertising

Genre: Lithograph | **Date:** ca. 1880–1890s

Description: This large-format (6 x 9 inch) advertising trade card for Pear's soap is illustrated with a portrait of Robert E. Lee and includes product testimonials on the back by Mary Anderson, Adelina Patti, Lillie Langtry, Sir Erasmus Wilson, and Henry Ward Beecher.

Restoration Completed: The lithograph was removed from acidic board, reassembled, and lined with Japanese tissue.

Restoration Cost: \$150



Saving Governor Jefferson

Roller-Bottimore Foundation provides funding to complete conservation of Jefferson Gubernatorial Papers

The Library of Virginia Foundation is pleased to announce that a grant from the Roller-Bottimore Foundation has provided the needed funds to complete the conservation and preservation of the Executive Papers and Letterbooks of Governor Thomas Jefferson, 1779–1781. These records document Jefferson’s efforts to meet the challenges he faced as governor of Virginia in the years that America was fighting for independence. This collection was the recipient of a significant grant from the Save America’s Treasures program in 2011 and is currently undergoing delamination, restoration, and digitization here at the Library.

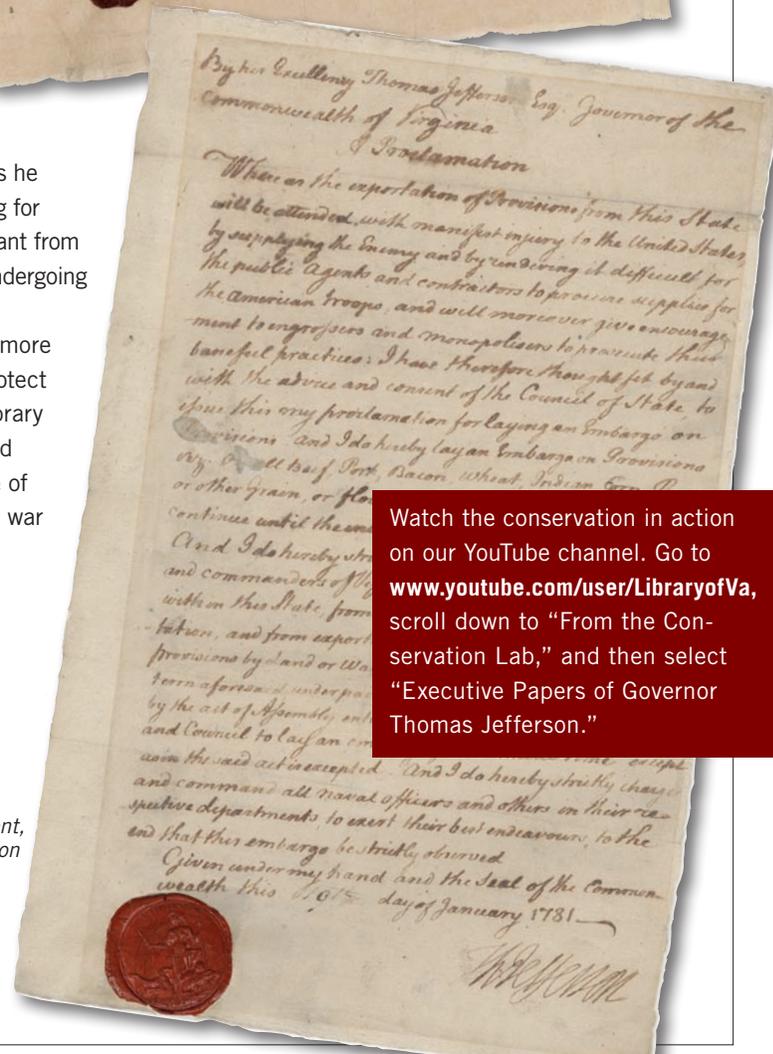
In addition to Governor Jefferson’s papers, the Roller-Bottimore Foundation has provided additional support to conserve and protect a portion of the Library’s colonial records. In the 1950s the Library of Virginia and other cultural institutions in the state established the Virginia Colonial Records Project to reconstitute the archive of Virginia’s colonial history—a documentary record decimated by war and fire during the Old Dominion’s first three centuries.

“We are tremendously grateful that the Roller-Bottimore Foundation and Save America’s Treasures have seen the value in preserving these important pieces of Virginia history,” said Mary Beth McIntire, executive director of the Library of Virginia Foundation. “By preserving these documents now, they are ensuring that they will be available to the people of Virginia for generations to come.”

—Dan Stackhouse, Director of Development,
Library of Virginia Foundation

FUNDING FOUND

The executive papers of Virginia governor Thomas Jefferson, which provide a “snapshot” of the working life of one of America’s Founding Fathers, are currently undergoing delamination, restoration, and digitization.



Watch the conservation in action on our YouTube channel. Go to www.youtube.com/user/LibraryofVa, scroll down to “From the Conservation Lab,” and then select “Executive Papers of Governor Thomas Jefferson.”

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June 18–23, 2012

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WHY MEMBERSHIP MATTERS:

Dan Stackhouse

DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT, LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA FOUNDATION

Happy Spring, everyone! As I reflect on the work of the Library of Virginia, it truly inspires me to think how much public good we achieve with private support. Every year, hundreds of individuals, corporations, and foundations throughout Virginia and across the country provide hundreds of thousands of dollars to support the Library of Virginia Foundation in its effort to keep Virginia's official state library and archive thriving. The Foundation leverages this private support to strengthen vital Library programs, including:



- Teacher-training workshops and online resources to help inspire a love of Virginia history and culture in K-12 students statewide
- Restoration and conservation of Virginia's cultural treasures
- Digitization of archival materials to make them available worldwide

- Materials and expert assistance for reading programs in public libraries statewide
- Exhibitions that inspire and bring new audiences to the Library and to downtown Richmond
- Acquisition of new materials for the collection to expand the collective knowledge of our shared history
- Internships to train the next generation of archivists

The Foundation's fiscal year ends on June 30. Please help us end the year with a bang by making a tax-deductible gift today. Your support will have a profound effect on the Library as we seek to preserve, protect, and interpret the stories of the people of Virginia.

If you feel inspired to give, please visit www.lva.virginia.gov/donate, fill out the form below, or call me 804.692.3813. From all of us at the Library of Virginia and Foundation, thank you.

LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA ONLINE DONATION PAGE:
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GIVING

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AS A MEMBER OF THE SEMPER VIRGINIA SOCIETY, YOU HELP US—Acquire books, maps, and other artifacts for our collection • Conserve and restore rare treasures so they can be shared with the public • Inspire tens of thousands of your fellow patrons through exhibitions, Virginia author talks, and educational lectures • Create new Virginia history resources for teachers through the Brown Teaching Fellowship and Teacher Workshop programs • Share the life and legacy of extraordinary Virginians through the Virginia Women in History, African American Trailblazers, and Virginia Literary Festival programs • Train interns throughout the Library to create the next generation of historians and archivists. **THERE ARE BENEFITS TO YOU AS WELL, INCLUDING DISCOUNTS OF UP TO 20 PERCENT IN THE VIRGINIA SHOP.**

BECOMING A MEMBER IS EASY—Online: WWW.LVA.VIRGINIA.GOV/DONATE | Phone: 804.692.3900 | Mail: Return this form with payment to the Library of Virginia Foundation, 800 East Broad Street, Richmond, VA 23219-8000

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NEW PARTNERSHIP

On January 26, 2012, Librarian of Virginia Sandra G. Treadway and Robert C. Vaughan, III, president of the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities, signed the Library's agreement with the foundation to publish historical content from the *Dictionary of Virginia Biography* and other Library collections on Encyclopedia Virginia (www.encyclopediavirginia.org).