The Virginia Foundation for the Humanities usually reaches an audience of adults who hunger for the kinds of educational materials they may have had in abundance in their school days—books, guest speakers, films, talks, and field trips—and there is a subtle joy in returning to ideas with the added benefit of experience.

But VFH recognizes that the classroom experiences of students—those who are first learning to use language, reason, and imagination to interpret the world around them—are critical to their further development. We reach into those classrooms with humanities programming meant to begin what we hope will become a lifelong passion for discovery.

Enlisted soldier Sam M. Payne was just eighteen when he wrote to a cousin from his Confederate camp near Centreville on August 5, 1861:

One poor fellow I was struck with what he said that he had nothing in the world against any of the Southerners but he could get no work to do and that he had a wife and two children to support so he joined the army only [sic] for the pay. Poor fellow he will never be able to do much now. He had his hands shot off entirely by a cannon ball … Would that the quarrel could be settled without any more blood shed, but if they continue to fight us I shall do my part and shoot as many of them as I can.

Payne would be killed in fighting the following summer, but his letter lives on for hundreds, perhaps thousands, of Virginia students to hear and contemplate in schools across the Commonwealth.

Payne’s letter is one in a generous supply of primary source documents, sketches, and photographs teachers have received during eighteen years of teachers institutes at the Museum of the Confederacy in Richmond. For the past five years, VFH has awarded grants to offset the museum registration fees for as many as twenty Virginia teachers at elementary, middle, and high schools.

Payne’s neatly handwritten note, long preserved in the collections of the museum, has been copied and transcribed for Virginia teachers and included in curriculum lessons for their twenty-first century students under the theme, “War So Terrible: America’s Defining Conflict, through the Eyes of Soldiers, Slaves and Women.”

Over the course of their institute
Inspiring OUR STUDENTS

CONTINUED FROM COVER

at the museum, the teachers were joined by Civil War scholars and historians who engaged them in dialogues—with each other and the material. They traveled to historic sites, including the Emancipation Oak on the campus of Hampton University. One afternoon they experienced a curated war game that emphasized the chaos of war and the importance of communication in the real time of battle. All that experience will be returned to their classrooms.

* * *

T he value of providing rich digital resources to teachers and students is not lost on the VFH staff working on Encyclopedia Virginia. They are often on the road, meeting and introducing the encyclopedia to representatives from Virginia’s Department of Education, to conference attendees at the history-focused Virginia Forum, or at meetings of the Virginia Council of Social Studies.

Two years ago, EV editor Matthew Gibson and programmer Peter Hedlund presented at the annual meeting of the Virginia Association of School Librarians. There they met Suzanna Panter, a Henrico County school librarian, who had successfully developed classroom activities using content from EV. By the following summer, a brainstorming session led by Panter and EV staff convened in Charlottesville with eight additional public school educators to develop even more ways to engage students with the encyclopedia’s digital content.

Thanks to their efforts, high-schoolers now have lesson plans to guide their use of EV to examine how and why the Virginia Constitution of 1902—which effectively disenfranchised Virginia’s black and poor white communities for almost seventy years—came into being. The plans also show how that history might parallel or diverge from contemporary efforts to enact stricter voter registration laws in the United States.

Elementary school teachers who introduce students to Virginia Studies will also soon have access to lesson plans that will guide them through how EV explores the relations between Virginia Indians and Virginia’s first European colonists.

* * *

T he Virginia Festival of the Book prides itself on presenting five days of free and accessible author talks and book signings each spring, but many believe the heart of the Festival is the sixty-five-plus events held each year for students.

School librarians and teachers work with festival organizers and community leaders to supplement schools’ curricula and to generate excitement about reading and writing.

The in-school author events, a tradition as long as the Book Festival’s own twenty-year run, make good use of volunteers, bringing authors to students during the school day. These events are open only to school communities, so students have the privilege of being the exclusive audience for many celebrated authors.

This past spring’s lineup, for example, brought Eric Wight, creator of the Frankie Pickle fiction series and whose books are on the Virginia State Reading Association’s book list, to six Charlottesville-area elementary schools. Meg Medina, winner of the 2012 Ezra Jack Keats Award, delighted second- and third-graders by reading to them in English and Spanish. Kathryn Erskine, a recipient of the National Book Award, shared her work with enthusiastic middle-schoolers, and Brian McMullen, an editor for a San Francisco publishing company, met with Charlottesville high-school students.

For several sixth-graders at Mary McDowell Friends School in Brooklyn, New York, this past year, their contact with voices from the past came when their teacher used a VFH Radio broadcast of With Good Reason to explore the complexities of segregation in the 1950s and ’60s. Giselle Castano, a literacy teacher, and her students at the Quaker school listened to the podcast of “The Legacy of Massive Resistance,” a 2011 broadcast that went on to win a Gabriel award in the following spring.

Students Christian, Jonas, Laszlo, and Marc heard the stories of three now-grown pupils from Prince Edward County, Virginia, three of the thousands who had been locked out of their classrooms when the county, rather than comply with a federal court order to integrate, closed its public schools in 1959. The closure lasted five years.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MARY MCDOWELL FRIENDS SCHOOL

Students Marc, Jonas, Christian, and Laszlo with their teacher, Giselle Castano.

PHOTO BY PETER HEDLUND

Virginia public school teachers and librarians work with Encyclopedia Virginia staff to develop lesson plans and discuss how to engage students.

PHOTO BY PETER HEDLUND
“I don’t think it is fair to let black and poor white students learn under a tree and in basements because schools were closed,” Christian wrote to WGR’s associate producer Elliot Majerczyk in a follow-up letter. “I loved your radio show because you interviewed people who were kids at the time during the Massive Resistance,” wrote Jonas, underscoring his teacher’s decision to use a radio program instead of books for the lesson.

“Hearing the voices of real people makes the history come alive in a way books cannot convey,” Castano told us.

Majerczyk, producer of the broadcast, mentioned that With Good Reason has heard from other teachers who have used WGR shows in the classroom for that same purpose. “I’m very proud of the show. This is a lot of what we do, giving voices to people who are not often heard on the airwaves.”

Scrabble School occupies a small space in Rappahannock County, and a big space in the hearts of its former students, African American men and women who attended the Rosenwald school during the contentious era of Jim Crow segregation.

This fall, with the start of the 2013–2014 school year, the stories of those students—many of whom are still living in the rural county along the foot of the Blue Ridge—will become an official part of the curriculum at Rappahannock Elementary School.

Susanna Spencer couldn’t be more thrilled with this latest success.

Spencer is the Scrabble School Preservation Foundation program director. She works with alumni, foundation members, grant providers such as VFH, and county officials, to not only preserve the school building itself, but also to share its legacy through educational programs.

“Very few materials exist on the Internet that focus specifically on segregated schools during the Jim Crow period, especially for grades K–6,” says Spencer. “What we have created correlates directly with the Virginia SOLs. They were unanimously and enthusiastically approved by teachers, the Instructional Review team and the County School Board. The county that once denied African Americans an equal education will now ensure that a whole new generation learns exactly what segregation meant in their own community.”

With more than 50,000 children under age eighteen in Rappahannock and its five surrounding counties, the potential reach of the Scrabble story is significant. The latest website enhancements, supported by a VFH grant award in March 2012, can carry the lessons of segregated education to an even greater number of classroom teachers, even beyond Virginia borders.

Established in 1921, Scrabble School was one of more than 5,000 “Rosenwald schools” built across fifteen southern states between 1912 and 1932 in an effort to provide better educational facilities for African Americans. The project began as a collaboration between the philanthropist Julius Rosenwald and Booker T. Washington. The school closed in 1968 but, unlike most Rosenwald schools, escaped demolition. It reopened in 2009 as a senior center.

Education is a lifelong process. Part of VFH’s service to that idea will always take place in the classroom, improving access to primary sources for history teachers, providing authors and speakers for classroom visits, producing informative online audio pieces, and undertaking work with Virginia’s many communities to help tell the stories that the textbooks have sometimes left out.

... school children on the Eastern Shore will hear actress Mary Badham talk about her role as Scout in the classic film To Kill a Mockingbird (1962), based on Harper Lee’s novel. Badham will visit schools and libraries on the Shore in September for discussions about segregated life in small towns. Her visit is part of a larger symposium supported by a VFH grant awarded this past June.

... students who open their textbooks or log on with their electronic tablets to study this fall will encounter revised Standards of Learning that acknowledge Virginia Indians as having both a significant past and a contemporary presence in the Commonwealth. VFH’s Karenne Wood, Director of Virginia Indian programs, played a role in revising the language of those SOLs on a committee that made important changes in 2008.

... the staff of Arlington Public Schools will convene a pair of “content academies,” one day teacher-training programs to serve fourth- and sixth-grade social studies teachers. VFH staff will facilitate these sessions. The first of these will focus on Virginia Indian history and tribal cultures in the present day. The second will explore the history of segregation, desegregation, and the civil rights movement, connecting local history with events both state- and nationwide.
HAVE YOU HEARD?

You may have heard that BackStory with the American History Guys has now passed the 2.6 million mark for its podcast downloads—an impressive statistic. But there’s more: the show has twice been ranked in the top ten of the iTunes “Society and Culture” list, which is no small feat either. And this spring BackStory rose to 125th among all iTunes podcasts, which are estimated as numbering in the hundreds of thousands. All this means that people everywhere are tuning in to hear Peter Onuf, Ed Ayers, Brian Balogh, and their many guests, via desktops, earbuds, and iPads.

BackStory subscribers are up more than 300 percent since weekly production launched in May 2012, from 3,900 to 11,800, with 20,000 to 25,000 downloads for the program every week.

Many new listeners find BackStory just by browsing the iTunes store. The higher BackStory is in the iTunes rankings, the easier it becomes to find; iTunes pushes shows higher based on user engagement. So why not engage? Stop by BackStory’s iTunes page, give the show a rating, write a review (to do so, just click the “View in iTunes” button), and boost the show’s iTunes ranking. If you love BackStory as a listener, rate and review the show—you’ll be helping to spread the word.

MORE AND MORE PINS ON THE MAP

Radio is where it all started and the airwaves are full of BackStory. The weekly show is already broadcast by thirty-five public radio stations, serving seventy-one communities in twenty states and Washington, D.C. Among these are WBEZ, Chicago; WAMU, Washington; KSTX, San Antonio; WFYI, Indianapolis; WHRV, Norfolk; KVCR, San Bernardino; KCPW, Salt Lake City; WSNC, Winston-Salem; KUOW-HD, Seattle; and WABE-HD, Atlanta. More than forty additional stations, many in major markets, regularly air BackStory as a “special.”

For fall 2012 in the Washington, D.C., metro market, BackStory was the number-one show for its time period on WAMU, with 31,600 weekly listeners—up about 50 percent over the previous show. For spring 2013, BackStory’s WAMU audience rose to 35,300, a 20 percent share of the overall listening audience. Chicago Public Radio also reported a 50 percent audience increase for BackStory last fall, while Vermont Public Radio showed a near doubling of its audience numbers for the same period. Exceptional ratings get stations’ attention. And with every new station—or new pin on the map—more and more listeners become BackStory fans.

LIVE AND IN PERSON

Balogh, Onuf, and Ayers regularly make live appearances for local and national audiences, also boosting the program’s overall profile. Notable appearances this year include a live January 19 show on “Presidential Inaugurations in American History” at the Smithsonian’s National Museum of American History—cablecast and webcast by C-SPAN3; a keynote session on “Rights in American History,” March 23, for the National Council for History Education’s annual conference in Richmond; and a special, closed-door program for the bipartisan Chiefs of Staff of the U.S. Senate, July 29, with support from the Pew Charitable Trusts. The evening’s topic: “Partisanship and Gridlock in American History.”

Edward L. Ayers, 19th Century History Guy on BackStory radio and president of the University of Richmond, was awarded the National Humanities Medal by President Obama on July 10, 2013, in an East Room ceremony at the White House.

PHOTO BY RALPH ALSWANG, COURTESY OF NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES

SUBSCRIBE, DOWNLOAD, OR SUPPORT AT BackStoryradio.org

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There’s a distinguishing characteristic of a great book that only twenty years can reveal. Twenty years later, a great book still has something new to say, a detail that you as reader missed the last time, a character who seems more relatable, lovable, or tragic.

The book, of course, has stayed the same. The difference between experiences is always a tale about ourselves.

There’s something akin to this phenomenon that has made the Virginia Festival of the Book great after all the years. Nancy Damon, Festival Program Director since 2000, was part of the volunteer organizing committees for the first Festival in 1995.

What hasn’t changed since the first year? “The high level of programming,” says Damon, “the variety and range of topics, quality of writing, accessibility of audiences, both adult and youth.”

And what has changed? Recall that in 1995, the Internet was new. “The Festival has become much more digital—we depend on people using the web for their information—and we are able to offer much more information about authors, venues, schedules on the web than we could years ago.”

“The structure and the wide range of programming have remained solid,” Damon observes. “It continues to be free and open to the public, which is also a continual struggle. People seem to think that because we have a Festival year after year, we don’t need to worry about funding.”

A few ticketed events—including the annual luncheon—have allowed the Festival to dream big, pay the bills, and keep the greater part of Festival programming accessible to all.

Its success largely remains, also like a great book, a matter of what, or really who, appears inside it.

The litany of celebrated and rising authors goes on and on—best-sellers, literary-prize winners, poets laureate—and no two Festival-goers would likely agree on the top ten.

Damon has some favorite parts. She once had the experience of inviting a grade-school friend as the luncheon speaker, cartoonist and novelist Doug Marlette. “Who knew that skinny little kid would win a Pulitzer Prize? I remember hearing people say they almost didn’t come, since they had not heard of him, and then admitting that they were overwhelmed at how funny and talented he was.”

The plot has been very simple all along: Charlottesville loves books and authors love to come to Charlottesville.

It’s the many who’ve helped to tell this tale—committees, volunteers, sponsoring organizations, VFH staff, and the authors themselves—who we have to thank for the memories. The story’s still strong, made so by the passionate determination to rediscover it every year.
The Curious Case of LaSalle Corbell:
Or, How We Remember the Civil War

BY BRENDAN WOLFE

A century ago LaSalle Corbell Pickett, the widow of the famed General George Pickett, published *The Bugles of Gettysburg*. The book follows the fictional Jasper Carrington and his devoted slave all the way to the fields of Pennsylvania, where on July 3, 1863, about 12,000 real-life Confederate soldiers launched Pickett’s Charge, a desperate, headlong, and failed attack on the center of the Union line.

“Pickett’s men started on their death-march,” LaSalle Pickett wrote. “They marched out from the forest calmly and steadily as if drawn up for a grand review. Two great armies watched them in admiring awe. Over on Seminary Hill the man on the gray horse looked on at the costly sacrifice the South was making for its cause. On Cemetery Height the men in blue were silent, watching the majestic scene.”

I thought of this passage as the 150th anniversary of the battle passed this year. Such anniversaries encourage us not only to remember, but to consider how we remember. A century ago, Pickett’s widow made a good living glorifying a failed and bloody charge, transforming it into something awe-inspiring. Deftly she erased black people from “the South” and slavery from “its cause,” while giving us Robert E. Lee—that anonymous man on the gray horse—as the Old Testament God, surveying the carnage he had commanded.

In some respects, we’ve come a long way. Much has been written since 1913 to demystify Lee and to contextualize slavery in the politics of the 1850s and 1860s. In fact, we are in the midst of a scholarly renaissance in the study of slavery, an institution that bore no resemblance to the one depicted by Mrs. General Pickett.

And yet we are still awestruck by that “majestic scene.” During this year’s sesquicentennial commemoration of Gettysburg, Peter Carmichael controversially suggested that reenactments of battles like Pickett’s Charge are counterproductive. Carmichael, a professor and historian, served as *Encyclopedia Virginia*’s section editor for its Civil War content. Once a reenactor himself, he said he had given it up out of respect for his father, “who struggled with his combat experiences in Korea.”

I used to be a reenactor, too, and one of the reasons I quit is because reenacting betrays the most central fact of the soldier’s experience: death. We cannot reenact that, and the very act of trying only trivializes it. When we march headlong into unloaded cannons, we don’t honor history; we erase it.

Not everyone shares this view, of course. Donald Gilliland, a writer who “embedded” himself with some reenactors prior to the commemoration of Gettysburg, responded to Carmichael’s comments by describing their “suffering.”

“It reminded me of the hermit saints of the middle ages who deprived themselves to...
step closer to and honor God,” he wrote. “In some odd, unspoken way, it seemed like the reenactors’ suffering—though not religious—was an homage to the men who fought and died in the Civil War.”

Like Carmichael, we at Encyclopedia Virginia approach these issues as historians. That does not mean that we approach them free of agendas or biases. Neither does it mean that we have any special claim to the truth. But our entry on LaSalle Corbell Pickett helps us understand how she remembered, and how her remembrances color ours. Her primary motivation seemed to have been to idealize her late husband. Toward that end, she fabricated an entire wartime correspondence with him (letters that were later quoted by Ken Burns), and in doing so gave us a Gettysburg that readers could love. Recall her line: “Two great armies watched them in admiring awe.”

With an eye toward business and her own personal fame, Pickett positioned herself at the center of early American efforts to memorialize the Civil War. She honored Union and Confederate soldiers alike, and stripped each side of any historical context to which her audience might object. It won her a standing ovation at a reading in Boston.

Reading about Mrs. General Pickett might help us at least ask the right questions about today: What are we trying to accomplish when we remember Gettysburg, when we march into unloaded cannons or cheer on others who do?

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BIGGER SPACE, SMALLER BOOKS:
A Miniature Tour of the VABC

BY KEVIN MCFADDEN

The Virginia Arts of the Book Center has expanded into another 1,000 square feet of classroom and gallery space under the Art Box in Ivy Road Shopping Center. And it is making up for its recent expansion by focusing on the small.

For the last few months, all the members at VABC have been working at two-by-three-inch scale.

The community of artists exploring books, paper, and printmaking in the VFH’s hands-on print studio has just hosted the Monumental Ideas in Miniature Book II exhibition (coordinated by Hui-Chu Ying, professor of art at Myers School of Art at the University of Akron). The eighty-seven-book exhibition by artists from all over the country and world included one book by VABC Coordinating Committee member Addieane Caelleigh. The exhibit was linked to a simultaneous exhibition of the vast holdings of miniature books at the Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library at UVA.

Wowed by these thoughtful, small-scale works, deciding on the membership’s next collaborative project was easy: VABC members are creating more than a dozen of their own diminutive books that could fit in the palm of your hand.

The unveiling of these handmade, limited-edition publications will be Friday, November 15, from 5:30 to 8 p.m. at the annual Raucous Auction. The fund-raiser helps the VABC maintain operations and provide access to those interested in traditional printing techniques and book culture. Donations are provided by local merchants like Creative Framing/The Art Box and the thriving community of forty artists who now call VABC home.

You’ll see two lively auction sets at 6 and 7 p.m., with an ongoing silent auction that ends at 8 p.m. For details, visit VirginiaBookArts.org

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Ninth Annual Raucous Auction
November 15, 5:30–8pm
2125 Ivy Road “Beneath the Art Box”

The Raucous Auction is an evening of food, drink, and printing in a slightly unruly atmosphere ... scheduled just before the holiday gift season is upon us. A donation of $20 or auction purchase is suggested.
Reading Our Way to a Better World

BY ANN WHITE SPENCER

This past summer VFH Fellow Osayimwense Osa fought on, not with fists or swords, but, predictably, with words. His battle cry? Reading and studying literature makes this a better world.

Osa, professor of English at Virginia State University (VSU), is the 2013 recipient of the VFH Fellowship Program’s summer residency for faculty from Virginia’s Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs).

When he left Nigeria for the United States in the late 1980s, Osa had already accumulated an impressive collection of academic accolades and publications on African children’s and youth literature. He was confident even then that nuanced study and teaching of certain multicultural writing can contribute to peaceful coexistence among polarized and conflicting cultures.

To that end, he founded the Journal of African Children’s & Youth Literature, and organized international exchanges on Japanese, German, African, and African American youth literature. He published literary studies illustrating the uses of children’s and youth literature in indigenous African languages with a focus on books about war, racism, crisis, and violence. And he has taught thousands of students and education majors. Most recently, Osa collaborated with other scholars in Morocco to identify texts and literature from Islamic religion and culture to include in comparative literature studies at VSU.

Osa’s VFH summer project is a revision of his past summer VFH Fellow Osayimwense Osa fought on, not with fists or swords, but, predictably, with words. His battle cry? Reading and studying literature makes this a better world.

Osayimwense Osa’s lifetime of studying, writing, and teaching, and its influence, will far outlast him, as will the work of most of our more than 300 residential fellows since the program began in 1984. Of those 300-plus fellows, less than 10 percent have been from HBCUs.

Two years ago VFH Staff and Board members decided to encourage and support access to the residential fellowship program for faculty from our Virginia HBCUs because historically, while there has never been a shortage of talented scholars and writers at these institutions, there has been a shortage of applications for our fellowships.

HBCU faculty are often assigned heavy teaching loads and have broad community and professional service responsibilities at their institutions, seriously limiting their time for scholarly activities. Our summer fellowship is the first step in what we hope will grow to a full-semester or full-year fellowship designated for HBCU faculty.

This summer VFH hosted two more Virginia HBCU faculty with external funding. Paula Barnes (English), a former fellow from Hampton University, was supported by a Mellon Faculty Residency to work on her book, The Trope of the Mulatta Woman in the Cottage in African American Literature. Carol Pretlow (political science), Norfolk State University, was awarded an institutional research grant while there has never been a shortage of talented scholars and writers at these institutions, there has been a shortage of applications for our fellowships. Scholars in Morocco to identify texts and literature from Islamic religion and culture to include in comparative literature studies at VSU.

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HISTORY

BETWEEN THE LINES

BY JANE KULOW

What do those of us who are not professional historians gain from reading original documents? With even a passing knowledge of American history, we can appreciate the significance of General Washington announcing victory at Yorktown, for example:

Head Quarters near York 19th Octo. 1781.
Sir
I have the Honor to inform Congress, that a Reduction of the British Army under the Command of Lord Cornwallis, is most happily effected—

Yet the vast net of correspondence to and from the Founding Fathers also captures documents from lesser-known names. Founders Online, the single source of access to all the papers of the Founding Fathers, offers a glimpse into the lives of those individuals, people with a commonplace reason for writing as well as some caught in the maelstrom of the revolution.

Documents Compass staff, engaged in proofreading digital versions of these documents, have come to know some of those people. As Docs Compass proofreaders Jeff Diehm and Jeffrey Villines tell us in an email, “The human element in these letters is never lost. Real people living their lives and expressing their thoughts, experiences, passions, and trials, expressed in a beautiful and interesting language (regardless of how well they spell or how clearly they could write it) is what we see every day.”

They provide an example of this in Thomas Langley Collyer (Collier) who, in 1781, was accused of lurking about camp at Fishkill, attempting to pass information to the enemy. In this letter, he appealed to General Washington for his life:

Fishkill Provo. May 27th 1781
Sir
Having Informashon that I am under Sentens of Death. I was Born and Brought up In old England and what I am porsest of Come from ther. I Lived My Natife Countery to Carey on the woolen Maneyfactory and Have Doun a Grit Deal of Et and to Gret satesfacton In pertickler In Colling [skarlet] and If my Condock Have forfet My Life I Bege et at youer hand to save et for part of the Evidancs a Gainst Me Is fales. I Hope that wer Excellence will Tacke et In to Consedrashion I have a wife and Tow Children and Might In [persee] of Time Be a Great Benefit to the Countery for Manafactery if My Life Is Spard. I Hope for yover Excelencs Grase from yover Hombel Pertishann

Thos Langly Collyer

While Washington’s response to this plea has not been located, Diehm and Villines found likely evidence that Collyer survived the war and fathered more children. This letter may only come to our attention because his correspondent was George Washington, yet Collyer offers us a better understanding of the struggles of ordinary citizens that coincided with those of the Founding Fathers. His is a voice from between the lines of history that can enrich our own human experience.

READ THE LETTERS OF THE FOUNDING FATHERS AT founders.archives.gov

FOUNDETS ONLINE

offers access to the thousands of extant documents written or received by John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Alexander Hamilton, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, and George Washington. The website is funded by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC), the grant-making branch of the National Archives, and was developed by Rotunda, the electronic imprint of the University of Virginia Press.

Documents Compass, a VFH program dedicated to providing the tools and expertise to create digital editions of historical and literary documents, carried out an NHPRC-funded pilot program in 2009, making 5,000 of Adams’s and Madison's previously unpublished papers available online. The success of that initiative provided the basis for a cooperative agreement with NHPRC, the University of Virginia Press, and VFH to create Founders Online.

VFH Staff leading the project include Susan Holbrook Perdue, director of Documents Compass, and project managers Laura Baker and Will Kurtz.

LAURA BAKER received her PhD in nineteenth-century American literature from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. Her dissertation focused on a series of unpublished diaries from the 1860s and included the transcription, editing, and analysis of seven volumes of the diaries housed at the American Antiquarian Society. She has continued writing and editing since finishing her degree, including work on an annotated collection of Ralph Waldo Emerson’s essays.

WILL KURTZ received his PhD in U.S. history at the University of Virginia. His dissertation, currently under contract with Fordham University Press, examines Roman Catholics in the American Civil War. Kurtz has worked on various Documents Compass projects, including the Mellon-funded People of the Founding Era project since 2010, and the NHPRC Pilot Project in 2009.
VFH Fellow MAURIE MCKINNIS, art history professor and vice provost at the University of Virginia, received acclaim for her 2012 book Slaves Waiting for Sale: Abolitionist Art and the American Slave Trade, appearing on C-SPAN’s Book TV and receiving the Eldredge Prize from the Smithsonian’s American Art Museum, and the Library of Virginia Literary award for nonfiction.

VFH Fellow ELIZABETH DOWLING TAYLOR had the privilege (and fun!) of appearing on The Daily Show with Jon Stewart in January 2012, after publication of A Slave in the White House, about James and Dolley Madison’s slave Paul Jennings.

VFH Senior Fellow WILLIAM W. FREEHLING had his series The Road to Disunion: Secessionists Triumphant: 1854–1861, about the origins of the U.S. Civil War, reviewed in the New York Times Sunday Book Review.

VFH Fellow MARY E. LYONS, Charlottesville author of numerous history books for young readers, published the e-book Dark Passage, the Virginia Blue Ridge Tunnel, an account of the 1850s construction of a railroad tunnel through Afton Mountain, available through iTunes.

The Virginia Folklife Program and Director JON LOHMAN landed a cover mention and feature in the February 2013 issue of Virginia Living.

Three Emmy nominations went to the documentary The Loving Story, produced by VFH grantees NANCY BUIRSKI and ELISABETH HAVILAND JAMES. The story of the Virginia couple—Mildred and Richard Loving—made worldwide headlines in 1967 when the U.S. Supreme Court’s landmark ruling overturned state laws banning interracial marriage. The film aired on HBO on Valentine’s Day 2012.

THE PASCHALL BROTHERS, a cappella gospel singers out of Tidewater Virginia and participants in the VFH Folklife Apprenticeship Program, performed at the 2007 Smithsonian’s National Folklife Festival and recorded their CD On the Road Right Now on the prestigious Smithsonian Folkways label.

VFH Fellow HENRY WIENCEK’s book on Thomas Jefferson and his slaves, Master of the Mountain, attracted national press attention, including a cover story in the October 2012 Smithsonian magazine.

The award-winning VFH radio show With Good Reason, hosted by SARAH MCCONNELL, now in its twenty-first year, airs during the week on Virginia NPR stations and a growing number of stations outside Virginia—including in Alaska, Hawaii, and Colorado.

VFH Views / FALL 2013
VFH WELCOMES New Staff Members

EMILY CHARNOCK is assistant producer of BackStory with the American History Guys. She earned her PhD in government from UVA., an MA in political science from American University, and a BA in philosophy, politics, and economics from the University of Oxford. A native of the United Kingdom, Charnock is passionate about American political history.

NINA EARNEST is an associate producer for BackStory with the American History Guys. After graduating with a BA in journalism and international studies from the University of Iowa, she worked at the Washington Delegation of the European Union. She joins VFH after interning at WNPR in Connecticut and NPR in Washington, D.C.

Lemon, McInnis, Sims, and Treacy Join VFH Board of Directors

W. TUCKER LEMON, a native of Roanoke, Virginia, received his BA in economics from Princeton University and his JD from the UVA. School of Law. Lemon practiced corporate and entertainment law for twelve years in Los Angeles before returning to Roanoke in 1998 and joining his father and brother at Martin, Hopkins & Lemon, where he is president of the firm. He continues his corporate practice, representing startups and closely held family businesses while also managing real estate and angel investments. An adamant supporter of local arts and culture, Lemon serves on the board of Thomas Jefferson’s Poplar Forest and of Explore Park. He is a past president of the Historical Society of Western Virginia, the Roanoke Symphony Society, and the local chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution.

MAURIE McINNIS, vice provost for Academic Affairs and professor of American art and material culture at UVA., received her BA from UVA. and her MA and PhD in art history from Yale University. Her main research interest is in the cultural history of American art in the colonial and antebellum South. McInnis is the author of two award-winning books; the most recent, Slaves Waiting for Sale: Abolitionist Art and the American Slave Trade, was awarded the Charles C. Eldredge Book Prize from the Smithsonian American Art Museum for outstanding scholarship in American art, and the Library of Virginia Literary award for nonfiction. She will be the guest curator for a related exhibition opening at the Library of Virginia in October 2014.

MARTHA J. (MARRY) SIMS retired in September after a long and distinguished career as Director of the Virginia Beach Public Library and, most recently, after the opening of the Virginia Beach Joint Use Library, a partnership between the City of Virginia Beach and Tidewater Community College. Sims received her BA in English from Mary Baldwin College, her MLIS from the University of North Carolina, and her MA in public administration from Old Dominion University. Sims serves on several boards, including the Virginia Literacy Foundation, Smart Beginnings South Hampton Roads, and Westminster Canterbury. She is a past chair of the Virginia Beach United Way Campaign. Sims was recognized by VFH in 2004 with the Award for Excellence in the Humanities.

DENNIS TREACY is executive vice president and chief sustainability officer at Smithfield Foods and serves as the executive director of the Smithfield-Luter Foundation, the philanthropic wing of Smithfield Foods. Treacy received his JD from the Northwestern School of Law at Lewis & Clark College in Portland, Oregon. He completed his BS in fisheries and wildlife at Virginia Tech, and currently serves on its board of visitors. Prior to joining Smithfield Foods, Treacy was director of the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality and served as assistant attorney general in the natural resources section of the Virginia attorney general’s office. He is a 2010 Distinguished Environmental Law Graduate from Lewis & Clark.
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VFH GRANTS DEADLINES CHANGE

Since 1974, VFH has awarded more than 3,000 grants to nonprofit organizations that serve audiences throughout the Commonwealth. Effective immediately, VFH Open Grant applications will be considered in two grant cycles per year, with these deadlines:

**OCTOBER 15**
Draft proposals submitted by October 5 • decisions in early December

**APRIL 15**
Draft proposals submitted by April 5 • decisions in early June

Application procedures are unchanged. Discretionary Grant applications may still be submitted at any time throughout the year. For full application guidelines, please see VirginiaHumanities.org/grants.

VFH’S VIRGINIA FOLKLIFE STAGE
at the RICHMOND FOLK FESTIVAL
OCTOBER 11-13, 2013

The Richmond Folk Festival is one of Virginia’s largest events, drawing visitors from all over the country to downtown Richmond’s historic riverfront. The Festival is a free three-day event featuring more than 200 performers and performing groups on six stages with continuous music and dance performances, along with the Virginia Folklife Area, a stage and craft demonstration area produced by the Virginia Folklife Program. See more details at VirginiaFolklife.org.

Mandolin innovator Jesse McReynolds played a set with his band at the 2012 Richmond Folk Festival. PHOTO BY PAT JARRETT

Stephen K. Adkins
CHARLES CITY, VA

Carolyn Bell
LYNCHBURG, VA

Bob Blue
RICHMOND, VA

Robert H. Brink
ARLINGTON, VA

Scott Colley
KEESWICK, VA

Theodore DeLaney
LEXINGTON, VA

William Freehling
FREDERICKSBURG, VA

Barbara J. Fried
CROZET, VA

Joanne Gabbin
HARRISONBURG, VA

Oliver Hill, Jr.
PETERSBURG, VA

W. Tucker Lemon
ROANOKE, VA

Angelica Light
NORFOLK, VA

B. Thomas Mansbach
WASHINGTON, DC

Maurie D. McInnis
CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA

Michelle DuPont Olson
MCLEAN, VA

Rita Roy
RESTON, VA

Walter Rugaber
MEADOWS OF DAN, VA

Martha J. Sims
VIRGINIA BEACH, VA

Dennis H. Treacy
SMITHFIELD, VA

Robert C. Vaughan, III
CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA

Emma Violand-Sanchez
ARLINGTON, VA

Peter Wallenstein
BLACKSBURG, VA

Lacy Ward, Jr.
FARMVILLE, VA

Stefanie Hargrove
CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA

Mandolin innovator Jesse McReynolds played a set with his band at the 2012 Richmond Folk Festival. PHOTO BY PAT JARRETT