

FEBRUARY 2026

JONES MEMORIAL LIBRARY

History, Archives & Special Collections



This month at Jones

On Display: The Office and Authority of a Justice of Peace

2026 Virginia Top 10 Endangered Artifact

Jones Memorial Library is honored to to share that a rare 1774 legal text from our collection, *The Office and Authority of a Justice of Peace* by Richard Starke, has been selected as one of ten finalists in the Virginia Association of Museums' 2026 Top 10 Endangered Artifacts Program.

The Top 10 program supports conservation efforts at institutions across the Commonwealth. The library is calling on your support to help preserve our significant piece of Virginia's colonial legal history. You can vote daily for JML's entry until February 20th at <https://www.vamuseums.org/vote-for-vas-top-10-endangered-artifacts>

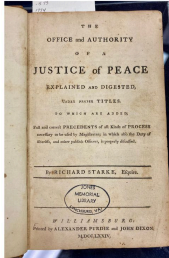



History, Archives & Special Collections

Jones Memorial Library is honored to have
The Office and Authority of a Justice of Peace
named one of Virginia's Top 10 Endangered Artifacts

Help us secure conservation funding in the People's Choice program!
Vote daily between now and February 20, 2026 at
<https://www.vamuseums.org/virginia-top-10-endangered-artifacts>

**Vote for
JML!**



The Office and Authority of a Justice of Peace by Richard Starke is among the earliest legal handbooks created specifically for use in the American colonies. Published in Williamsburg in 1774, the book was designed to explain English common and statutory law in clear, practical language.

The manual guided justices of the peace in resolving disputes, enforcing moral and civil codes, and providing accessible legal forms for ordinary colonists on the eve of the American Revolution. As such, the book reflects both the influence of British legal tradition and the growing independence of American governance.

JML's rare volume bears the marks of its long life—the cover shows tape residue and handwritten notations, while interior pages are spotted and stained. Conservation treatment is needed to clean, stabilize, and protect this important resource that bridged English law and emerging American justice.

Exhibit: **READ**

On view in the Reading Room

In October, JML launched a new exhibit about the history of censorship in Central Virginia. The exhibit examines the historical frameworks for restrictive efforts that occurred from the 1660s to the 1960s. Covering issues related to religion, abolition, and communism, "READ" shares censorship examples from across the Commonwealth, including from JML's own history.

"READ" is supported by a Judith F. Krug Memorial Fund Banned Books Week Programming Grant from The Freedom to Read Foundation. In 2025 five awardees from across the nation were selected among a competitive pool of libraries, schools and nonprofit organizations to offer innovative and engaging programming.

"READ" is free and open to the public in the JML Reading Room. Groups may contact the library to arrange a tour.

**SELECT
SUPPRESS
CENSOR
BAN
BURN
REVISE
READ**

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO READ FREE
IN CENTRAL VIRGINIA?

October 7, 2025 - March 6, 2026

On exhibit in the Reading Room
Jones Memorial Library
2311 Memorial Avenue
Lynchburg, VA 24501

JONES MEMORIAL LIBRARY
History Archives & Special Collections

Freedom to Read Foundation
FREE PEOPLE READ FREELY

Save the Dates!

John D. Owen Jr. History Series Documenting & Restoring Virginia's Houses with Travis McDonald

Wednesday, March 11
5:00 p.m.
Reading Room

The John D. Owen, Jr. History Lecture series returns this spring with our March talk by architectural historian Travis McDonald. Learn about a thirty year project to document early houses in the Central Virginia area. The annual Poplar Forest Restoration Field School is a unique training opportunity for students. See how participants have recorded and preserved the architectural history of old homes in the area that are in danger of disappearing from the local landscape.

SPRING 2026
Freedom Forward!

Jones Memorial Library
John D. Owen Jr. History Series

LECTURE SERIES

2311 Memorial Avenue, Lynchburg, VA 24501
www.jmlibrary.org 434-846-0501

3/11

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 2026
5:00 P.M.



Travis McDonald

Documenting & Restoring Virginia's Houses



Learn about a thirty year project to document early houses in the Central Virginia area. The annual Poplar Forest Restoration Field School is a unique training opportunity for students. See how participants have recorded and preserved the architectural history of old homes in the area that are in danger of disappearing from the local landscape.

Travis McDonald is an architectural historian who was hired to direct the restoration of Poplar Forest in 1989. A native of Galveston, Texas, he received a degree in American history from the University of Texas and a graduate degree in architectural history from the University of Virginia's School of Architecture. He formerly worked for the Chief Historical Architect of the National Park Service, for the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, and has directed museum restorations in Virginia for more than 40 years. In 2011 he was awarded The Architecture Medal for Virginia Service, by the Virginia Chapter of the American Institute of Architects for his work at Poplar Forest. In 2016 he received a Commendation from the Virginia Senate for Preserving the Heritage of Virginia. In 2021 he was awarded the University of Virginia, School of Architecture's Distinguished Alumni Award.

Lectures at Jones Memorial Library are free and open to public.

Non-Fiction Book Group

Wednesday, March 25

10:30 a.m.

Westminster Canterbury

Join the Non-Fiction Book Group in March as we discuss the Pulitzer Prize winning *King: A Life* by Jonathan Eig.

At our March and May meetings we will also discuss and finalize our non-fiction reads for 2026-27. Come with your suggestions!

The book discussion group is free and open to the public. Sessions are co-moderated by librarians from Jones Memorial Library and the Lynchburg Public Library. We meet at Westminster Canterbury in the Hume Room.

Read all of the book, or come to learn more about it! You can borrow a copy of the book from the Lynchburg Public Library or use the Hoopla and Libby apps to read or listen online.

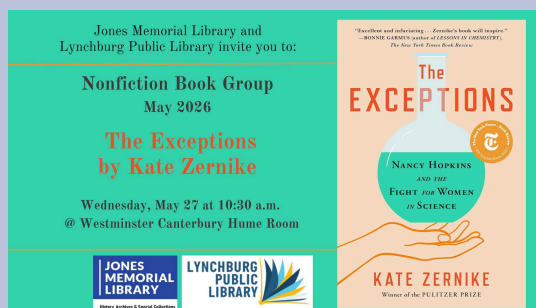
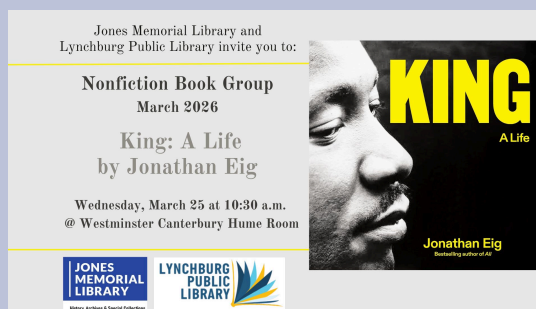
Upcoming titles:

March 25

King: A Life by Jonathan Eig

May 27

The Exceptions by Kate Zernike



Online & At JML

Photographs from the Diamond Hill Historical Society Papers (MS 1595)

Images of streets and homes in the Diamond Hill District are now available in JML's Digital Collections. These images were previously only available to view at the library.

The photographs, taken mostly in the late 1900s and early 2000s, are organized by street name in the [Diamond Hill Papers Item Set](#). Streets in the Item Set include Clay, Church, Grace, Harrison, Madison, Pearl, Washington, and 13th streets. Also included are images of the Craddock



Diamond Hill Papers (MS 1595)
Item Set with Photographs

Terry building and other landmarks in the neighborhood.

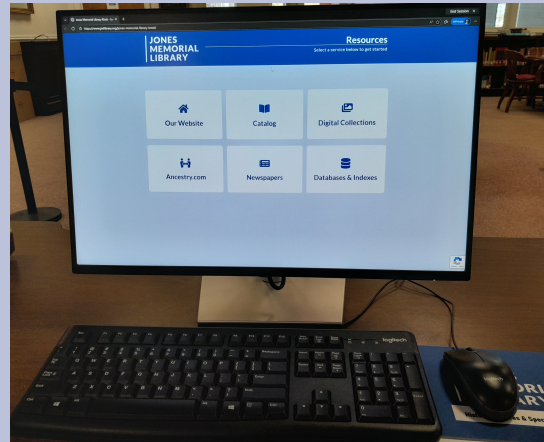
Thank you to DHHS for donating these photographs in digitized format, which made it easier to add them to our online collections. In addition to in-house digitization of materials, JML is regularly reviewing existing collections with already digitized items to add this content online.

JML Databases and Indexes now searchable

In January we shared that the library purchased new Windows-11 compliant computers for patron use in the Reading Room. Our new equipment is now installed, including four new PCs for patron use.

We also worked with I.T. consultants at DataPrivia to improve navigation. Patrons can now easily link to content across the library's catalog, digital collections, and website. They can also connect to free resources that JML provides, including Ancestry.com Institutional and Newspapers.com, plus we added a one-stop link to our internal databases and indexes. Resources include lists of city officials, lists of theaters and funeral homes, and more. These indexes were previously available in limited formats but can now be searched directly by patrons while at the library.

A summary of the indexes is available on our [Research webpage](#).



JML List of Indexes

JML Receives Grant

George W. Reynolds Memorial Fund

Library receives additional funding for technology upgrades & outreach

In December, JML got the good news that the George W. Reynolds Memorial Fund, a donor advised fund of the Greater Lynchburg Community Foundation (GLCF), awarded the library \$5,000.

JML will use the funding to extend work on our new oral history and Memory Lab initiatives. These programs were funded with a grant last summer from the Fund. In February, the Memory Lab and Oral History room will open by appointment at JML. To book an appointment or learn more about these services, visit our [Lab webpage](#).

In addition to opening the Lab, new funding will support the targeted collection of oral histories from the local community regarding the Central Virginia Training Center.

Thank you to the Reynolds family for your support!



Opening Soon

Memory & Digitization Lab opening in late February

We are nearing the opening of our new Memory & Digitization Lab, funded with a 2025 grant from the George W. Reynolds Memorial Fund. This month we are cataloging new equipment for the lab, launching the appointment booking system, and arranging the lab space.

The Memory & Digitization at Jones Memorial Library will be a dedicated do-it-yourself space equipped for scanning and digitizing letters and photographs. Lab equipment can be used to convert slides, cassette recordings, and video tapes into digital format. The lab also has equipment to record oral histories.

The Lab will be housed in re-purposed office space within the library and can accommodate 1 to 4 people at a time. Users will be able to book an appointment on the library's website and are encouraged to donate a copy of their digitized materials and/or oral histories to the Library for long-term preservation while retaining original documents, digital copies, and recordings.

Lab equipment will also be available for short-term loan to community groups such as churches, service member organizations, and others.

To learn more, visit <https://www.jmlibrary.org/lab/>

THE ORAL HISTORY & MEMORY LAB

Preserving Stories
Sharing Memories



Jones Memorial Library

2311 Memorial Avenue
Lynchburg, Virginia

Service Updates

Holiday Hours @ JML in February

JML will be closed on Saturday, February 14 in honor of Presidents' Day.

Lynchburg Public Library Renovation

Big changes are coming to our building!

Jones Memorial Library is a private genealogy and history archive. We are pleased to share a building with the Lynchburg Public Library. JML is located on the 2nd floor while LPL is on the 1st floor.

Starting in January, extensive renovations will be happening at LPL on the 1st floor. You can stay up to date about that project and how to access public library services during renovations on the LPL website at lynchburgpubliclibrary.org/

During the LPL renovations, JML will remain open to serve researchers using our genealogy and history collections. Our hours will remain the same. Limited parking will still be available near the library, and JML will remain accessible via the sidewalks on the Memorial Avenue side of the building.

Please note that JML provides specialized archive services; JML does not offer public library services. Patrons seeking those services during the renovations will be redirected to LPL's temporary service locations. You can stay up to date about JML's programs and services on our website at www.jmlibrary.org

We're excited about the renovations planned for LPL and look forward to seeing their refreshed spaces in 2027.

**MAKE A GIFT TO THE 2025-26
ANNUAL FUND**

Jones Memorial Library

2311 Memorial Avenue, Lynchburg VA 24501

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