

JONES MEMORIAL LIBRARY

History, Archives & Special Collections

ROBERT C. WATTS, JR. READING ROOM



JML 2025

Annual Report for July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025

2311 Memorial
Avenue
Lynchburg, VA
24501

Tel. 434-846-0501
www.jmlibrary.org

CREATE

FOCUS 2025:
Expand Digitally
Strengthen Structures
Drive Process Improvement

Left:

John Welch of Blue Ridge Millwork installs JML's new reference desk in March 2025. The new desk, which matches the library's original oak tables in the Reading Room, enables two staff members to simultaneously serve patrons and visitors.

Over the past two years, JML has made significant investment in our technology infrastructure. In 2024, JML rolled out an improved website where users can find details on programs, services, and collections. In January 2025 the library expanded our digital presence and migrated more than 35,000 items to Omeka-S, a next-generation web publishing platform for digital cultural heritage collections. Our digital collections, accessible 24/7 online via www.jmlibrary.org, include indexes and catalogs that were previously only available with staff assistance. JML is also improving the in-person experience.

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Collections Services

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Front cover:

JML volunteer Allie M. hangs exhibit panels in the Reading Room in preparation for the June 2025 opening of *The Art of Travel: Highlights from the R. Chambliss Light, Jr. Papers*. The exhibit runs through the end of September.

2025 Update



Thank you for your generous support! Your contributions have helped make 2024-25 a year of opportunity, expansion, and increased access at Jones Memorial Library.

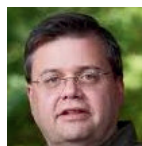
In an exciting development, this year we rolled out a new digital collections portal with Omeka-S. Users can now search by subject across all of the library's holdings at digital.jmlibrary.org. Previously, researchers had to request staff assistance to locate relevant family files, pamphlet files, photographs, and architectural drawings. With our new portal, the titles and locator codes for all of these materials are now available online, 24/7.

The shift to increased digital access has enabled us to better align our staffing and service model. Reference department hours are now the same as hours for in-person services. This year we also added a new Collections Assistant role to provide dedicated support for digitization and collections management projects.

In 2023, the Board of Trustees unanimously adopted FOCUS 2025, a strategic vision to strengthen the library as a vital, robust, and expert resource. As we near the end of 2025, we are sharing an update on progress across our four primary focus objectives to Create, Connect, Communicate, and Care.

As you read the following pages and learn about the library's programs and services, you may notice that we have expanded our donor list to include gifts-in-kind of materials to the collections. We are fortunate to have many supporters who volunteer their time, donate family and local treasures, and contribute financially to our operational needs. We can't do it without you.

On behalf of the Board and staff, **thank you!**



A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Gerard".

Gerard Sherayko, Ph.D.
President



A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Deb".

Deborah A. Smith, M.L.I.S.
Executive Director

JONES MEMORIAL LIBRARY DIGITAL COLLECTIONS

In January 2025, JML launched a greatly expanded digital collections portal with Omeka-S, an open source repository. In addition to our manuscript holdings, the Library's architectural, pamphlet, and family files are now discoverable online. We migrated more than 35,000 items into the portal and are adding newly digitized content weekly. You can discover a wealth of local history and genealogy resources by searching JML's Digital Collections at digital.jmlibrary.org or using our website at www.jmlibrary.org.

CONNECT

FOCUS 2025: Build Partnerships, Grow Programs & Collections, Align with Patron Needs



JML participates annually as a host site for United Way Day of Caring. In 2025, United Way volunteers from Nationwide Insurance (pictured above with JML Executive Director Deborah Smith, far right) helped the library by adding shelf protectors to bookcases, painting a handicapped-accessible restroom, and tidying the exterior grounds. In FY25 more than 40 volunteers donated their time and skills to the library, whether on a weekly basis or during targeted one-and-done projects.

In FY25, JML connected with libraries, archives, and museums across the country through conference presentations, professional service, and memberships in the Virginia Library Association, the Virginia Association of Museums, and the Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference. JML serves as the lead organizer for Lynchburg GLAM, a networking and educational resource for staff and volunteers who work in the local cultural heritage sector. JML staff and volunteers are also regularly “on the road” to share updates about our services at fairs, festivals and events across the region.

The numbers:

1 new
Service Desk

2 major
exhibits

3 large
acquisitions

4 presentations
at conferences

5 new
laptops

and **35,000+**

items added to our online collections at digital.jmlibrary.org



Photos:

JML trustee & exhibit curator Marge Freeman leads a tour of the Fine Dining exhibit; intern Matthew Parker retrieves materials from the manuscript collection for digitization.



The library held two major exhibits this year - *Fine Dining in the 1920's* and *The Art of Travel*. Mini-exhibits in the Fall and Spring about the history of the nuclear industry and funeral homes in Lynchburg complimented talks in the John D. Owen Jr. local history lecture series.

In addition to regular lectures, JML held workshops on researching the history of your home, Open Houses for educators and genealogists, and special tours for area groups.

COMMUNICATE

FOCUS 2025: Upgrade User Experience, Solidify Messaging

Above:
Students from Randolph College get a hands-on introduction to the library's special collections during a visit. JML offers tailored tours of the library for colleges, schools, and organizations.

In April, JML completed an 18-month project to digitize architect Stanhope Johnson's papers from his 1950's restoration of Patrick Henry's Red Hill. More than 2,500 pages of material were scanned and added to our online portal. The project was funded by the Lynchburg Committee of the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in Virginia.



2024-25 Donations & Grants



Jones Memorial Library received several gifts of materials and equipment this year.

A grant from the Greater Lynchburg Community Foundation in December helped the library to purchase laptop computers for staff. The laptops are Windows-11 compliant, and help our staff serve patrons in more flexible and mobile ways. We also use them in the stacks to tackle tasks like inventory, or for presentations at conferences and meetings away from the library.

In addition to gifts-in-kind of materials, we received several large collections courtesy of **Marjorie Huiner, Cham Light, Travis McDonald, and John M. Storton**. These collections include family papers, letters, research materials, and architectural plans. As materials are received, staff create Finding Aids and process the papers to make them available to researchers. Print materials are simultaneously assessed for digitization.

In February, JML received four portraits of the Jones family from the Maier Museum of Art. The library has restored two of the portraits and is seeking funds to continue the repairs. Once restored, all four portraits will be held in the library's art collection and will join three other pastel portraits by local artist Sallie Blount Mahood (1864-1953) - making JML the largest single repository in the country for Mahood's portraiture.

The library board and staff are grateful for these gifts which advance the mission of the Library and document the region's history. Thank you!



Clockwise from top right:

A book before repairs to reinforce its spine (in Fall 2025 the library is offering practical workshops on how to repair family papers at home); LU Serve Day volunteers show 'can do!' enthusiasm when moving furniture and equipment in the stacks; JML Executive Director Deborah Smith, Maier Museum of Art curator Debbie Spanich, and Maier Director Martha Johnson transfer four portraits of the Jones family by artist Sallie Mahood from the Maier Museum's collection to JML; Sallie Mahood's pastel portraits of sisters Georgie and Lily Jones after conservation treatment.

Honor Roll of Donors

\$5,000 and above

Greater Lynchburg Community Foundation

\$1,000 - \$4,999

Anonymous
E.F. and Elizabeth B. Burmahln Charitable Fund
James Burruss
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Council of Independent Colleges
Dodson Pest Control and Bert Dodson Jr.
The Cap & Margaret Anne Eschenroeder Fund
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Robert Leslie
Beth McDaniel

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Anthem Blue Cross & Blue Shield
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Abram McWane
Natural Bridge Appalachian Trail Club, Inc.
Sarah Rhodes
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph M. Seiffert
Martha & Paul Seuffer
The Woman's Club of Lynchburg

\$325,750

Operating Budget

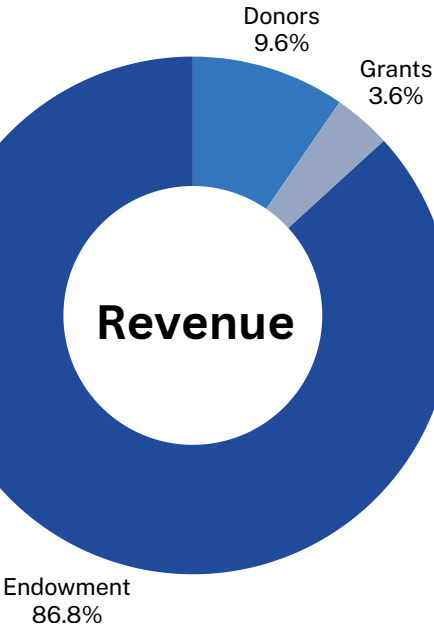
188

Donors
July 1 - June 30

\$6,777,633.13

Endowment Value
June 30, 2025

Revenue



Endowment
86.8%

Fundraising
1.5%

Facilities
14.7%

Programs & Outreach
2.3%

Collections
12.5%

Expenses

Administrative
69.1%

\$100-\$249

V. Cassell Adamson, Jr.
Dr. & Mrs. John B. Arnold
Dr. & Mrs. Lewis A. Arthur
Jacqueline W. Asbury
Louis Basten
Betty Jean Barker
Joan Logan Brooks
Lisa Broughman
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Joe & Ellen Stinnett
Rita Sydnor
Elizabeth R. Tanner
John & Persis Tinsley
UDC Appomattox 11
Leigh Vaughan
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Diane & Billy Walker
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Peter & Jessica Ward
Teresa Watson
Robert C. Watts III
Phyllis Webb
Sandra Weigand
West of the Falls Chapter VA25
Kenneth S. White
Carole Stalling Whittle
Laura & Brent Wigington
Mr. & Mrs. James D. Williamson III
Gorham B. Wood
William C. Wooldridge
Dr. & Mrs. James W. Wright
Dr. Nancy K. Young

\$99 and under

Celia Ayers
Baird Foundation, Inc.
Elizabeth B. Clarkson
Martha Conde
Truman E. Cox
David Crank
Harry Glenn Cumby
Vince & Glenda Desmond
Arlene Domaleski
Patricia E. Douglas
Alan Douglass
Amelia Talley Driskill
Georgie Easter
Dr. & Mrs. B.P. Edmunds Jr.
Maegan Crews Fallen
Jerry Falwell Jr.
Elizabeth L. Gereau
William & Martha Goodman
William & Kathryn Hansen
Chip Harvey
Douglas K. Harvey
Nathalie W. Heppner
Mrs. William B. Hodges
Shanda & Garrett Horner
Marjorie Huiner
Jeffery Hume-Pratuch
William E. & Archer G. Hunt
Allison B. Jablonski
Brenda & Doug Kincaid
Kirkwood Otey UDC #10
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Martha Wilson
Jo Woods

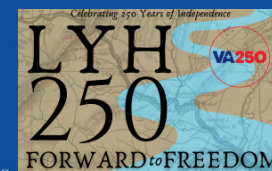
Below:

In June, JML hosted high school students exploring careers in museums and the cultural heritage sector as part of the Museum Career Immersion Camp.



LECTURES FALL 2025

Jones Memorial Library
John D. Owen Jr. History Series



WEDNESDAYS @ 5:00 P.M.

2311 Memorial Avenue, Lynchburg, VA 24501

www.jmlibrary.org 434-846-0501

9/10

SEPTEMBER 10, 2025

Marjorie & Joseph Freeman

Colonial Churches & Their Role in Virginia



Before the Revolution, Virginia's churches performed many local government functions. It was at church that many of the Founding Fathers acquired their governing skills. Uncover the history of colonial congregations in Virginia, and learn more about the unique architecture of these churches.

10/8

OCTOBER 08, 2025

Benjamin L. Greenbaum

Who was John Brown?

Abolitionist, patriot, agitator? Who exactly was John Brown? Learn about the man who planned an insurrection at Harper's Ferry that sought to overthrow American chattel slavery. In 2024, Civil War authentication expert Ben Greenbaum evaluated JML's John Brown pike (on display in the Reading Room). Learn how weapons like the pike were procured by Brown, and how the quest for freedom was foiled at the federal arsenal.

11/12

NOVEMBER 12, 2025

R. Chambliss Light Jr.

Lynchburg's Friends & Families



In the early to mid 1700's Central Virginia emerged as the next frontier in westward expansion. A large percentage of the earliest settlers were members of the Society of Friends (commonly called Quakers). Learn about Lynchburg's Quaker families, whose names, homes, and plantations are familiar even 200+ years later.

LECTURES SPRING 2026 Freedom Forward!

Jones Memorial Library
John D. Owen Jr. History Series



3/11

MARCH 11, 2026

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.

4/8

APRIL 08, 2026

Ted Delaney
*A Century of Women in Lynchburg Politics:
1920–2020*



Women formally entered local politics in 1920, just after the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution guaranteed all women the right to vote. Learn more about how they responded to this new right—and shaped government and public policy in the Hill City over the next century.

5/13

MAY 13, 2026

Robert L. Canida, II
*Resilience, Resolve, and Rising Up:
Lynchburg's Voices for Civil Rights*

This presentation will examine how Lynchburg's Civil Rights Movement and Movers addressed pressing issues and how the "community" came together to speak up and demand equity and justice. The "movement" served, and continues to serve, as the vehicle to challenge actions that prevent freedom for all!



Gifts in Kind

Academy Archives
Altavista Presbyterian Church
Amherst Chapter DAR
Amherst Public Library
Appomattox Chapter 11 UDC
backtoootsgen.com
Samuel M. Baggett
Terry Bailey
Bernard C. Baldwin
Jeffrey Barker
Bedford Central Library
Bedford Museum & Genealogical Library
Kathy Bedsworth
Robert Blevins
Bret Boman
Camp Alleghany
Ted Delaney
Julianne B. Dias
Ron Driskill
Liz Ecklund
Jacob Etter
Fairview United Methodist Church
Charlotte Fischer
Carolyn Gills Frazier
Sylvia Gallagher & Christopher C. Webb
Robert H. Gillette
Betsy Grzybowski
Deborah R. Harvey
Robert L. Hiller
Becky Bane Howard
Bill Inge and Margaret Poston Inge
James River Chapter NSDAR
Elizabeth Johnston
David Jones
Richard Tim Jordan
R. Chambliss Light Jr.
Lynchburg Chapter Amer. Guild of Organists
Lynchburg History Museum
Lynchburg Plate Glass Company
Lynchburg Road Runners Club
Lynchburg Stamp Club
Douglas MacLeod
Maier Museum at Randolph College
Bernard Kyle Mundy II
Mundy Family
Nelson County Historical Society
Jenny Novalis
Oakwood Garden Club
Don Oxley
The Pat Oxley Family
Cynthia Page
Peakland United Methodist Church
Susan Reynolds
Danya Robinson
Marjorie Sale
Elizabeth Dawson Shreckhise
Mark Sihlanick
Mark Smith
Thomas R. Terry
Emily C. Tuck
Madsyn Tyree
Catherine Vaughn
Jack Terry Walton
Larry Wells
Amy Whitaker
Mark Whorley
Woman's Club of Lynchburg
Noell Woodcock
Bonnie K. Worsham
YWCA Central VA
Susan Zlomke

In memory of

O.B. Barker III
Betty Jean Barker
William W. Clarkson
Elizabeth B. Clarkson
John Wimbush Craddock
Nathalie W. Heppner
John & Judy Crank
David Crank
John D. Doyle Jr.
Karin W. Doyle
Mrs. Dorothy Ferguson
Drs. Clifton & Dorothy Potter
Edward Marshall Frost
Jane F. Bowden
Ann Harper
Claudia H. Mann
Louise Davis Hume
Jeffery Hume-Pratuch
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Dr. Myra Gordon
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Thomas & Kathryn Marshall
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Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Christian
Martha & Paul Seuffer
George D. Vermilya Jr.
Ronald McDaniel
Pat Ferguson
Judy G. Bryant
Jeanne D. Mead
Melinda Mead
William & Jeanne Mead
Alan Douglass
John D. Owen
John & Persis Tinsley
Dr. James Owens
Nancy Elizabeth Fitch, Ph.D.
Eric Gordon Peters Sr.
Sarah Myers Peters
Peggy Ryan Poole
Truman E. Cox
Iris Cundiff Powell
Arlene D. Cundiff
Harriet Ramsey
Martha Houck
Gustav H. Stalling
Carole Stalling Whittle
Edgar Sydnor
Rita Sydnor
J. Thomas Sydnor
Jo Woods
Charles A. Tanner III
Elizabeth R. Tanner
Jane Halligan Boyd Whisnant
Mrs. William E. Painter
Jane Baber White
Kenneth S. White

In honor of

Archives Staff
Nancy T. McGlasson
Lewis Averett
Douglas Harvey
Mrs. William B. Hodges
Shanda & Garnett Horner
Chuck Bradner
Joan Logan Brooks
Amelia Talley Driskill
Mary W. Gough
Nadine McFarland
William A. & Mary Kathryn McIntosh
Drs. Clifton & Dorothy Potter
Dolly F. Pugh
Phyllis Webb
Melvin Campbell
Dodson Pest Control
Peggy Kent
Amelia Talley Driskill
R. Chambliss Light Jr.
Dr. & Mrs. B.P. Edmunds Jr.
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Mr. & Mrs. J. Randolph Nelson
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Dr. & Mrs. Lewis A. Arthur
Karen & Randy Nelson
J.R. Pugh
Doug MacLeod
Martha K. & William R. Goodman Jr.
Wayne Rhodes
Douglas MacLeod
Edward & Carolyn Polloway
Gerard Sherayko
Robert H. Gillette
Anne Martin Langley
Deborah Smith
David Neumeyer
The Woman's Club of Lynchburg
Marie Waller
Jacqueline W. Asbury
Nancy Weiland
Diane Kizer



Above:
JML Archivist Gwen Wells studies rare books in the vault at the Virginia Museum of History and Culture during a guided tour with the Virginia Caucus of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference in May.

**JONES
MEMORIAL
LIBRARY**

History, Archives & Special Collections

WEDNESDAYS @ 5:00 P.M.

2311 Memorial Avenue

Lynchburg, VA 24501

www.jmlibrary.org 434-846-0501

CARE

FOCUS 2025: Support Staff, Recognize Service, Grow Capacity

In January, the library added a part-time collections role and hired former intern Garrett Reynolds (*below, far left*). In April, library staff welcomed Molly Landergan (*second from left*) to the reference staff with a fun lunch downtown.

All staff complete ongoing professional education each year. Regular volunteers receive comprehensive onboarding and the library hosts an annual service recognition program. In 2025, the library's board approved updated personnel guidelines and an expanded retirement benefit.

Special Milestone:

Research Assistant Nancy Jamerson Weiland (*above, in yellow*) will retire from JML in 2026. Nancy joined the library staff in 1996. For 30 years, she has been helping researchers find their roots and connect with JML's collections. Join us for a special presentation ("Nancy Knows!") in February about her favorite JML resources. A celebration of Nancy's service is being planned for May.

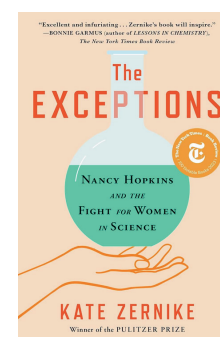
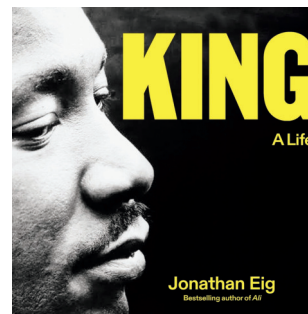
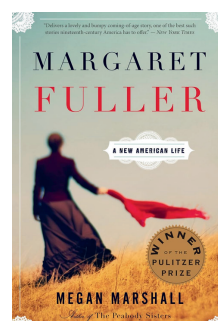
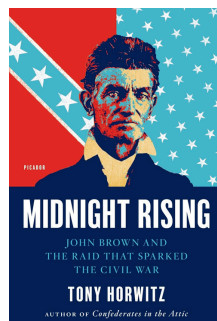
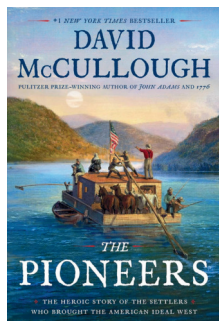


Jones Memorial Library
2311 Memorial Avenue
Lynchburg, VA 24501

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Lynchburg, VA
Permit No. 147

2025-26 Recommended Reads

The Non Fiction Book Group is a free discussion group moderated by staff from Jones Memorial Library and Lynchburg Public Library. Discussions are open to all. The group meets five times a year on select Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. at Westminster Canterbury. This year we are partnering with LYH250 to discuss books that share the story of American history after 1776. Join us to chat about *The Pioneers* (August 27), *Midnight Rising* (October 22), *Margaret Fuller* (January 28), *King: A Life* (March 25), and *The Exceptions* (May 27).



Special collections in genealogy & history
Open Tues 11-7 (summer) or 9-5 (winter), Weds/Thurs/Fri 1-5, Sat 9-5
and online at WWW.JMLIBRARY.ORG

