

OCTOBER 2026

The Jones will be **CLOSED** to researchers for the
Columbus Day holiday on Saturday, October 10

This month at The Jones

Leaving America Behind: Lynchburg Colonization Society

Wednesday, October 14
5:00 p.m.
Reading Room

The 2026-27 John D. Owen, Jr. History Series continues with an October talk by Joe Stinnett about the Lynchburg Colonization Society.

In the 1820s, a group of Lynchburg residents founded a local branch of the American Colonization Society, promoting the resettlement of emancipated Black Americans to the west coast of Africa. Learn about the Lynchburg branch, the debates it ignited, and how this controversial movement reflected - and complicated - the struggle over slavery and freedom in antebellum Virginia.

Lectures are always free and open to the public in our Reading Room at 2311 Memorial Avenue, no reservation needed.

FALL 2026
"LYH LONG AGO"

LECTURE SERIES

Jones Memorial Library
John D. Owen Jr. History Series

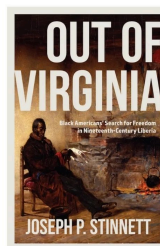
2311 Memorial Avenue, Lynchburg, VA 24501
www.jmlibrary.org 434-846-0501

10/14

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2026
5:00 P.M.

Joe Stinnett

*Leaving America Behind:
Lynchburg Colonization Society*



Emigrate—or stay and fight for freedom? In the 1820s, a group of Lynchburg residents founded a local branch of the American Colonization Society, promoting the resettlement of emancipated Black Americans to the west coast of Africa. Learn about the Lynchburg Colonization Society, the debates it ignited, and how this controversial movement reflected—and complicated—the struggle over slavery and freedom in antebellum Virginia.

Joe Stinnett is the retired editor of *The News & Advance*, Lynchburg, Va.'s daily newspaper, and *The Roanoke Times*. He grew up in Amherst County, attended Amherst County High School, and graduated from the University of Virginia in 1974. He began his journalism career in 1974 as a reporter for *The News*, Lynchburg's morning paper, and later worked as managing editor of the *Amherst News*, *Era-Progress*, and *Nelson County Times* before returning to *The News* and *The Daily Advance*. At the Lynchburg papers, he became night city editor, then city editor, and later managing editor. He concluded his career with a year as editor of *The Roanoke Times* before retiring in 2014. He is the author of *Out of Virginia: Black Americans' Search for Freedom in Nineteenth-Century Liberia*.

Non-Fiction Book Group

Wednesday, October 14

10:30 a.m.

Westminster Canterbury Commons

The Non-Fiction Book Group meets five times a year and in October we discuss Rhys Isaac's award-winner *The Transformation of Virginia, 1740-1790*.

Our book discussions are on Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. in the Hume Room at Westminster Canterbury and are open to the public. Staff from The Jones and Lynchburg Public Library moderate discussions.

You can request a copy of the book from the Lynchburg Public Library, then join us as we discuss it together.

Our January 27 title is T. Tyler Potterfield's *Nonesuch Place: A History of the Richmond Landscape*.

Opening October 20

Dear Folks at Home:

Lynchburg and the Great War

On exhibit in The Jones Reading Room through April 30, 2027

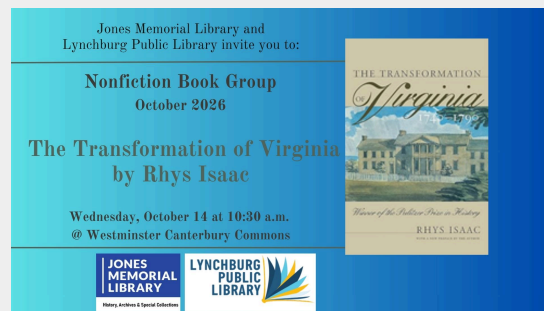
Made possible in part by a grant from Virginia Humanities

The Jones launches a new exhibit this month.

"Dear Folks at Home" highlights original letters, posters, and objects that share the story of Lynchburg's role in World War I.

Learn about the Last Man's Club, and read letters from the front that made it past wartime censors. The exhibit also highlights the heroism of Lynchburg native Dr. Thomas Edward Jones, one of the only African Americans to receive the Croix de Guerre and the Distinguished Service Cross for service during WWI.

Dear Folks at Home launches as a physical exhibit in The Jones Reading Room on October 20. A digital version with expanded documentation will be available starting on Veteran's Day, Wednesday, November 11.



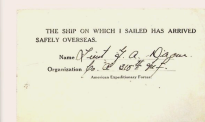
DEAR FOLKS AT HOME

Lynchburg and the Great War 1914 -1918



**On Exhibit at
The Jones**

In the Reading Room & Online



Explore World War I through Lynchburg's letters, stories, and artifacts.

**October 20, 2026
to April 30, 2027**

HISTORY
ARCHIVES
GENEALOGY | **THE JONES**

2511 Memorial Avenue, Lynchburg, VA 24501
www.jmlibrary.org

Made possible in part by
**Virginia
Humanities**

Save the Dates!

Lynchburg's WW1 Last Man's Club

Wednesday, November 4
5:00 p.m.
Reading Room

Made possible in part by a grant from Virginia Humanities

Join us for the third lecture in the 2026-27 John D. Owen, Jr. History Series. Billy Hansen shares the story behind Lynchburg's WW1 Last Man's Club.

One bottle. One promise. One final survivor. During and after World War I, veterans from across the country formed "Last Man's Clubs" - groups of comrades who vowed that the last surviving member would open a shared bottle of wine in memory of those who had fallen.

Discover the local men who made a pact in France after frontline loss, and how the club's legacy honored a generation shaped by the Great War.

Jones lectures are always free and open to the public in our Reading Room at 2311 Memorial Avenue, no reservation needed.

Non-Fiction Book Group

Wednesday, January 27
10:30 a.m. @ Hume Room
Westminster Canterbury

The Non-Fiction Book Group meets five times a year and in January we discuss *Nonesuch Place: A History of the Richmond Landscape* by T. Tyler Potterfield.

Book discussions are on Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. in the Hume Room at Westminster Canterbury and are open to the public. Staff from The Jones and Lynchburg Public Library moderate discussions.

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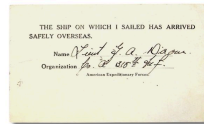
2311 Memorial Avenue, Lynchburg, VA 24501
www.jmlibrary.org 434-846-0501

11/04

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 04, 2026
5:00 P.M.

William Hansen

Lynchburg's WWI Last Man's Club



One bottle. One promise. One final survivor. During and after World War I, veterans across the country formed "Last Man's Clubs" - groups of comrades who vowed that the last surviving member would open a shared bottle of wine in memory of those who had fallen. Discover the local men who made a pact in France after frontline loss, and how the club's legacy honored a generation shaped by the Great War.

William "Billy" A. Hansen, IV
Billy Hansen is a commercial real estate appraiser, broker, and investor living in Lynchburg, Virginia. Billy attended Jefferson Forest High School, graduated from the University of Virginia with a degree in Economics, and received an MBA from the University of Lynchburg. Billy has taught Real Estate Appraisal and Personal Finance as an adjunct professor at both Longwood University and Randolph College. He serves locally on a number of boards including the Jones Memorial Library, the Downtown Lynchburg Association, the Lynchburg Affordable Housing Collaborative, and the Lynchburg Board of Equalization. Billy's favorite hobby is capturing human stories by recording oral histories, writing profiles of interesting local people, and producing the Lynchburg Neighborhood podcast.

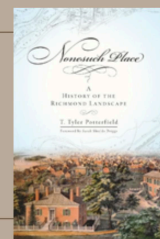
Made possible in part by
Virginia Humanities

Jones Memorial Library and
Lynchburg Public Library invite you to:

Nonfiction Book Group
January 2027

**Nonesuch Place: A History of
the Richmond Landscape**
by T. Ryler Potterfield

Wednesday, January 27 at 10:30 a.m.
@ Westminster Canterbury Hume Room



Now Online

FY26 Annual Report

We are grateful for the support of donors who make monetary gifts to the library, as well as individuals and organizations that donate materials or services.

The Jones Annual Report is our way of recognizing and thanking all donors and volunteers who contributed to the library during our most recent fiscal year, between July 1 2025 and June 30, 2026.

We mailed the report to area households in late August. Didn't get one in your mailbox? Stop by the library to pick up a copy, or read the [digital version online](#).

Thank you!



Make a gift to the Annual Fund

Did you know you can make a **qualified charitable distribution** from your individual retirement account to The Jones?

The library is a registered 501(c)3 non-profit organization. We accept donations directly and via platforms like Benevity.

Donors who make a gift between July 1, 2026 and June 30, 2027 will be listed in our FY27 annual report

@ The Jones

10th Anniversary of Natural Bridge State Park

September 24th marked the 10th Anniversary of the Natural Bridge becoming a Virginia State Park. At The Jones we have many collections documenting this Natural Wonder.

Conveyed to Thomas Jefferson in 1774 by King George III, by 1890 it had become a well known retreat. Visitors included many folks from Lynchburg, plus Teddy Roosevelt's son (he visited from Maine in 1897).

In 1916, architects James McLaughlin and Stanhope Johnson drew up plans for alterations to the Hotel, which was altered again in 1937 and 1945 by Pendleton S. Clark.

The items in the links, along with the materials in the picture (*right*), can be viewed at The Jones.



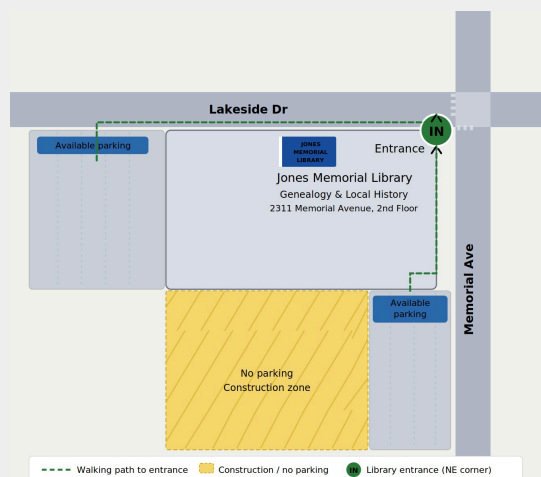
Facility Update

Where to park while LPL renovates

Jones Memorial Library is an independent genealogy and history archive. The Jones is located on the 2nd floor above the Lynchburg Public Library.

During LPL's renovations, The Jones is open as usual to serve researchers using our genealogy and history collections. Parking is available on both sides of the library parking lot.

To learn how to access public library services during the renovations, visit lynchburgpubliclibrary.org



THE JONES MEMORIAL LIBRARY



Where History Finds Connection

This email was sent to {{ contact.EMAIL }}