



The Virginia Genealogical Society

NEWSLETTER

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GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH IN VIRGINIA (CONT.)

The two previous issues of this Newsletter for 1983 discussed facilities for genealogical research located in the city of Richmond. There are also important collections to be found outside the capital, however, and the genealogist bent on an exhaustive search should be aware that certain of them contain material not available elsewhere. Some details concerning three of these, the Swem, the Alderman, and the Jones Memorial Libraries are given below.

The Earl Gregg Swem Library, College of William and Mary in Virginia, Williamsburg, Virginia 23185, is located on Campus Drive of the College grounds. Their Special Collections Division, with which we are here especially concerned, located on the ground floor, is open Monday through Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. and on Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. (Saturday researchers may wish to call ahead [(804) 253-4550] in view of the fact that there is some variation in Saturday hours related to the school's academic schedule.) The contents of the Special Collections falls into three main groups: rare books, holdings of the College Archives, and the manuscript collections. The last named is the most important for most family researchers. Central to this collection is an impressive group of family papers. A very small sample of the many families represented among these papers is here given: Armistead, Ballard, Bevill of Henrico County, Billups, Bland, Burwell, Campbell of Orange County, Carter of the Northern Neck, Coalter, Coleman of Orange County, Dade of King George County, Funkhauser of Shenandoah County, Goodwyn, Hamilton, Jennings of Rockingham County, Millington, Nelson of Hanover County, Parramore, Robertson of Lynchburg, Spooner, Tomlin, Tucker, Turner of New Kent County, Tyree, Upshire of the Eastern Shore, and Watkins. For a complete list, the card catalog must be consulted, of course. However, in the interests of rapid and profitable use of the Swem's family papers, the researcher must not overlook the valuable inventories which the library has prepared for some of its more sizable family collections.

These inventories are enormously valuable finding aids which describe, often item by item, materials to the contents of which there would otherwise be no such key.

The Alderman Library, the University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia 22903, has as part of its Rare Books and Manuscript Department an abundant assortment of family papers and other genealogically related items. This Department, located on the second floor of the library, maintains its own card catalog and other finding aids, none of which, it should be noted, is entered in the public card catalog on the main floor. The Library's ordinary hours of operation are Monday to Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Saturdays, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Those contemplating a visit to the Alderman, especially a first visit, would be wise to study beforehand A Guide to Resources in the University of Virginia Library: Virginia Genealogy. Prepared by the Reference Department, this guide, now in a revised edition, may be ordered from the University Press of Virginia, Box 3608, Charlottesville, VA 22903-0608 @ \$4.95 per copy, plus \$1.00 for postage and handling, plus 20¢ VA sales tax, where applicable. Because the Alderman is a very large building (there are five floors!) and because its printed and manuscript materials useful to the genealogist are not housed together, the Reference Department has done a great service to busy researchers by providing this useful aid.

The Jones Memorial Library, 343 Rivermon Ave., Lynchburg, VA 24504, in the seventy-four years of its existence as a privately endowed public library has developed a growing reputation as an important center for genealogical research. The archives of the Appalachian Trail Club and a number of issues of old accounts of the Virginia General Assembly are among the contents of its Virginia collection. Those with special interest in this area of Virginia would be well advised to send a SASE to the Reference Librarian a request further details regarding its holdi

