

THE SLATTEN LECTURES PAST SPEAKERS

The FVSA brings top genealogical speakers to the Library of Virginia each year to share their expertise and provide insights into research methodology. Many of the speakers use the rich resources of the Library in their research, making the annual Slatten Lectures of broad interest to anyone with genealogical roots in Virginia.

In the spring of the year, the FVSA sponsors "Straight to the Source," a program that features discussions of additions to the research collections, new projects that are underway, in-depth looks at frequently used resources, and innovative research uses of archival records. Now well into its third decade, these presentations are the longest-running series of public programming at the Library of Virginia focused on the archival collection.

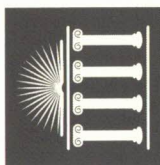
The FVSA has worked diligently in the past to supplement the resources at the Library and enhance its already well-deserved reputation as a major research institution. Microfilm copies of military records of Virginians, microfilm copies of early county court records from surrounding states, and copies of published local histories and indexes to useful sources have all been added to the Library's collections through the support of the Friends.

Archives News brings members notices and reviews of programs, along with articles about unusual discoveries from the archival collection.

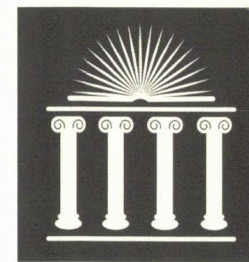
Join with the Friends in these efforts. As Richard Slatten, first president of the Friends, said, "History is too fragile to be left to chance; only dedicated support can preserve it."

Listed below are the scholars who have addressed us under the sponsorship of Kathleen Littlejohn Slatten's series *The Richard Slatten Lectures*.

2000	Lloyd Bockstruck	2013	John Philip Colletta
2001	John Phillip Colletta	2014	Pamela Boyer Sayre
2002	Christine Rose	2015	Victor S. "Vic" Dunn
2003	Elizabeth Shown Mills	2016	Barbara Vines Little
2004	Sandra Hargreaves Lueking	2017	Dr. Michael D. Lacopo
2005	Michael John Neill	2018	J. Mark Lowe
2006	Lloyd Bockstruck	2019	Michael L. Strauss
2007	Thomas W. Jones	2021	Victor S. "Vic" Dunn
2008	Patricia Law Hatcher	2022	Rebecca Whitman Koford
2009	Richard Sayre	2023	Judy G. Russell
2010	Claire Mire Bettag	2024	Craig R. Scott
2011	Elizabeth Shown Mills	2025	Barbara Vines Little
2012	Lloyd Bockstruck		



Friends of the Virginia State Archives
P.O. Box 4804
Richmond, VA 23220



FRIENDS of THE
VIRGINIA STATE ARCHIVES

26TH ANNUAL
SLATTEN LECTURE

FEATURING



JUDY G. RUSSELL,
JD, CG, CGL, FUGA

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2026

LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA
800 EAST BROAD STREET
RICHMOND, VA 23219

FRIENDS OF THE VIRGINIA STATE ARCHIVES
26TH ANNUAL SLATTEN LECTURE

The Friends of the Virginia State Archives present the annual Richard Slatten Lecture as part of its annual meeting to be held on Saturday, November 7, 2026, at the Library of Virginia, 800 East Broad Street, Richmond, VA, with registration commencing at 8:30 AM. Judy G. Russell, JD, CG, CGL, FUGA, will present four lectures drawing on her extensive research experience. Known and respected widely as "The Legal Genealogist," Russell is a genealogist with a law degree. She writes, teaches and lectures on a wide variety of genealogical topics, providing expert guidance through the murky territory where law and family history intersect. Russell enjoys helping others understand a wide variety of genealogical issues. After she last spoke at the Slatten Lecture, Friends members asked "When will you have Judy speak again? We learned so much!" Fortunately, she has an extensive catalog of topics to draw from and agreed to return to speak to the Friends. A professional colleague says, "When the Legal Genealogist talks, everybody listens." Come and be part of the conversation.

The first session of the day, "Linking the Generations with Court and Land Records," addresses the single biggest issue genealogists face: how do we connect one generation to the next with reliable evidence. Vital records often don't exist and it is necessary to find workarounds. Using court and land records, we can often find the evidence we need to link generations accurately.

From being treated as property to having their children and their property stolen by those who used the law against the freedmen, African-Americans' experience at the courthouse had only one bright spot: it created records for the genealogist-descendants of enslaved and enslavers. The second session of the day, "Property Rights and Wrongs – African-Americans at the Courthouse," discusses the records created in these encounters and how to extract useful information from them.

During the third session of the day, "When There Is – or Isn't a Will," learn that even when there isn't a will, there is still a probate. Understanding the process and finding the records created when our ancestors died can help break through those brick walls.

Catastrophic records loss due to fires, wars, and disasters at courthouses in Virginia is a fact of life. "After the Courthouse Burns: Rekindling Family History through DNA," discusses how it may still be possible to light our family's research fires and rekindle interest in our ancestral roots using DNA evidence.

25TH ANNUAL SLATTEN LECTURE

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2026

PRESENTATIONS BY

JUDY G. RUSSELL,
JD, CG, CGL, FUGA

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| 8:30 AM | Registration |
| 9:15 AM | Welcome |
| 9:30 AM | Linking the Generations with
Court and Land Records |
| 10:30 AM | Break |
| 10:45 AM | Property Rights and Wrongs—
African-Americans at the
Courthouse |
| 11:45 AM | Annual Meeting of the Friends |
| 12:00 NOON | Lunch |
| 1:00 PM | Where There Is – or Isn't –
a Will |
| 2:00 PM | Break |
| 2:15 PM | After the Courthouse Burns:
Rekindling Family History
through DNA |
| 3:15 PM | Questions and Discussion |

This lecture is supported by the Richard Slatten Endowment of the Friends of the Virginia State Archives through the Community Foundation for a Greater Richmond.

REGISTRATION

*Please complete, detach, and return by
November 2, 2026, with check made payable to:*

**Friends of the Virginia State Archives
P.O. Box 4804
Richmond, VA 23220**

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Registration Fees:

FVSA member \$40 ____

Non-member \$55 ____

Join FVSA, attend as member \$75 ____

Total enclosed \$ ____

NOTES:

Pre-registration is highly recommended. Registrations will be received at the door, but lunch cannot be guaranteed.

Lunch and beverage are included in registration fee.

For more information contact:

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Email: SlattenLecture2026@gmail.com

<https://friendsvirginiaarchives.org/>