



# VIRGINIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

*The Story of Virginia*

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## Virginia Historical Society Exceeds \$38 million Story of Virginia Campaign Goal

**Richmond, VA**—The Virginia Historical Society’s Story of Virginia Capital Campaign has reached and surpassed its goal of \$38 million, it was announced today by the Society’s board of trustees.

The campaign provided significant funds to transform the headquarters building into a vibrant, bustling museum with beautiful new exhibition galleries and to create a multi-purpose learning center with classrooms, a resource room for teachers, display space, and a studio with the streaming capacity to deliver programs to international audiences.

“This campaign has further enhanced the Society’s stature as one of this country’s preeminent historical institutions. Our digital imprint is now worldwide in scope. Our investments in technology have given us the opportunity to talk, in one week, to school students in Sweden about Pocahontas, to a classroom in the Dominican Republic about colonial Virginians, and to educators in Moscow about the Powhatan Indians and incorporating distance learning in a Moscow museum environment. Our campaign will remain open until January 30, 2016,” said immediate past chairman E. Claiborne Robins, Jr., “so that proposals still being considered by various individuals and groups can be accommodated and other specific challenges can be met. Contributions committed to date, and other anticipated support, exceed \$45 million.”

Included in the campaign was \$20 million for capital projects, such as creating the Carole and Marcus Weinstein Learning Center, the Helga Koch Gottwald Gateway to History, the new *Story of Virginia* exhibition, and *Virginia Voices*, the state’s first crowd-sourced documentary.

The eighteen-month construction project included the creation of 4,000 square feet of exhibition space from relocated offices that now house new galleries named for Virginia Sargeant Reynolds, Susan and David Goode, and Cecil R. Hopkins. Glavé & Holmes Architecture was the project architect and The Whiting-Turner Contracting Company was the general contractor.

Also included in the campaign was \$8 million for such projects as the conservation of *The Memorial Military Murals* painted by French artist Charles Hoffbauer from 1913 to 1921. The launch of Unknown No longer: a Database of Virginia Slave Names was supported by Dominion Resources and the Dominion Foundation. The Society’s first special exhibition presented in the new gallery space, *Dressing Downton: Changing Fashion for Changing Times*, was sponsored by Altria Group.

A project for which the VHS will continue to seek funds is a \$2.4 million visionary program needed to receive, store, and digitize the rich archives that the Museum of the Confederacy is transferring to the Virginia Historical Society. Approximately \$1.4 million of this total has been realized and funding opportunities for this project will remain open until the total is achieved. The Museum of the Confederacy has merged with the American Civil War Center at Tredegar to create the new American Civil War Museum.

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The Campaign goal of \$10 million for endowment included the establishment of three new education funds in memory of former board members Hugh V. White, Jr., William W. Berry, and Elmon T. Gray. Weinstein Properties endowed a fund for on-site teachers institutes and MeadWestvaco Corporation and the MeadWestvaco Foundation endowed a similar fund for online teachers institutes.

Support has come from individuals, corporations, and foundations across the Commonwealth and beyond. Competitive grants came from federal agencies, such as the National Endowment for the Humanities, National Endowment for the Arts, National Park Service, National Historical Publications and Records Commission, and the Library of Congress.

These private foundations provided support as they have for every VHS capital campaign: The Robert G. Cabell III and Maude Morgan Cabell Foundation, The Mary Morton Parsons Foundation, the Elis Olsson Memorial Foundation, the Camp Family Foundations, the E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation, the Lettie Pate Evans Foundation, the Richard S. Reynolds Foundation, the Roller-Bottimore Foundation, The Richard Gwathmey and Caroline T. Gwathmey Memorial Trust, the Marietta McNeill Morgan & Samuel Tate Morgan, Jr. Foundation, and the Windsor Foundation.

During the campaign, the Society realized a remarkably generous bequest from Lora and Claiborne Robins, Sr.—their home, Clear View, and its furnishings, along with a significant endowment. The bequest was made in the mid-1990s but not realized until 2014.

The capital campaign, the fourth in the past twenty-five years, was set to raise \$32 million in May of 2011. In November 2012, the board of trustees raised the goal to \$38 million to fund the new south entrance and the redesign of the Boulevard plaza, in addition to a new introductory film.

A slate of events will be set for February 2016 to provide opportunities for donors, VHS members, and the general public to celebrate the success of the campaign and enjoy the new and enhanced experiences that success has engendered.

The Virginia Historical Society (VHS)—a privately funded nonprofit organization—collects, preserves, and interprets the Commonwealth's history, linking past with present to inspire future generations. The VHS is located at 428 North Boulevard in Richmond's Museum District. Hours are Monday – Sunday 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. for the galleries and museum shop, Monday – Saturday 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. for the library. For more information about the VHS call (804) 358-4901, visit [vahistorical.org](http://vahistorical.org), or connect with the VHS on Facebook and Twitter.

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