

Virginia Lives

There is in the Genealogy Room of the Danville Public Library a copy of the book, "Virginia Lives", by Dr. Richard Lee Morton which was published by the Historical Record Association of Hopkinsville, Kentucky in 1964. The 1120-page book contains over 3700 biographies of people which the book describes as "Contemporary leaders in Virginia with Special Emphasis on Their Achievements in making it one of America's Greatest States" including over 60 from the Danville area. Although the book does not contain an index, the biographies it contains are arranged in alphabetical order which makes them relatively easy to locate. The timing of the book is particularly fortuitous for historians and genealogists because most of the people whose biographies are listed are now deceased and their death dates, at least the month and year if not the exact date, can be found in the Social Security Death Index. From these dates obituaries can usually be found which give more information about the persons as do funeral home records and tombstone inscriptions. Danville City Directories, of which the Danville Public Library has for most years in the 20th century and forward, give information on places where the person lived and worked. Either they or their parents, who are usually listed in "Virginia Lives", can usually be found in the 1930 census which can be a starting point for searches on their families in earlier census records. Many of the persons who have biographies in "Virginia Lives" were known personally by people still alive today.

We hope to collect information from the sources listed above for each person from the Danville area and store it in files in the Search Room of the Virginia/North Carolina Piedmont Genealogical Society for use by people in the future who may be interested in these people or their families. Anyone who would like to assist in this project will be welcomed. This information should be of value to those in the future who will be interested in the history and genealogy of people in the Danville area during the 20th century.

Some of the Danville area people whose biographies are included in "Virginia Lives" and the page number of the book on which their biographies appear are as follows:

Charles Irving Anderson, page 31	Luther Fay Ashworth, page 34
Loren Everett Barkhouser, page 43	Jefferson Davis Beale, Jr., page 60
Benjamin Moore Beckham, Jr., page 63	Hubert Douglas Bennett, page 69
Curtis Vance Bishop, page 76	Herbert Lee Boatwright, Jr., page 88
Russell Carlyle Brachman, page 109	George Doswell Brooke, page 119
William Moseley Brown, page 127	Grace Oakes (Willis) Burton, page 143
Baxter Hayes Byerly, page 148	Charles Albert Carr, page 162
James William Clement, page 191	Joseph Hathaway Cosby, page 213
Albert Edward Cox, page 217	Albert Jones Cox, page 217
William Johnson Dawson, page 256	Martin Donelson, Jr., page 278
Clifford Lyle East, Jr., page 292	William J. Erwin, page 308
Mozelle Myers (Whitmer) Fairer, page 314	Mary Catherine Fugate, page 343
Albert Earle Garrett, Jr., page 354	Samuel Stone Gregory, Jr., page 391
Audrey Jane Hudson Grinstead, page 397	Snowden C. Hall, Jr., page 409

Fletcher Daniel Harris, page 433
Solomon Holsveig, page 766
Henry Charles Hurt, page 492
Kurt Oskar Leonhardt, page 587
Francis Henry McGovern, page 633
Victor Edsel Mantiely, page 648
Frank Opie Meade, page 672
Virgil Atwell Motley, page 679
Ernest Fulton Neal, page 725
Edith Chambliss Overbey, page 751
Jesse Powers Pullen, page 803
Kathryn duPuy Woody Sager page 869
Herbert Ralph Silverman, page 915
James Marshall Swanson, page 932
Dewey Wade Swicegood, page 974
William Galen Vansant, Sr., page 1028

David Lee Henry, page 445
Theodore Pollard Huggins, page 487
Hannah Veigel Leonhardt, page 487
Blanche Harrison Livingstone, page 599
Mary Nannie Davis Sours, page 635
Edwin Baylies Meade, page 671
Herman Marvin Midkiff, page 679
George Anderson Myers, Jr., page 722
Samuel Newman, page 732
Charles Greenwood Patterson, page 766
Henry Lederer Roediger, Jr., page 855
John Bryan Sesler, Jr., page 894
John Walter Squire, page 946
John Cabell Swanson, page 973
Glenn Brady Updike, Sr., page 1023
George Alexander Weimer, page 1032