

A Guide to the Our Virginia: Past and Present Collection, 2010-2013

Our Virginia: Past and Present Collection 2010-2013
2010-2013

A Collection in the Thomas Balch Library SC 0076
Thomas Balch Library
2006

Author: Rebecca K. Ottinger

History

Processed by: Rebecca K. Ottinger

Title Statement

A Guide to the Our Virginia: Past and Present Collection, 2010-2013

Subtitle: Our Virginia Past: and Present Collection

Collection: SC 0076

Author: Rebecca K. Ottinger

Publication Statement

Date: © 2006 By Thomas Balch Library. All rights reserved.

Publisher: Thomas Balch Library

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Profile Description

Creation: Machine-readable finding aid derived from MS Word, created by Stephanie Adams Hunter, 12 August 2011

Language Usage: Description is in English

Revision Description

2013-11-21 Converted to schema conforming EAD by dtd2schema.vh.xsl.

Descriptive Summary

Collection number

SC 0076

Language

English

Abstract

This collection includes a copy of the 4th grade textbook, *Our Virginia: Past and Present* by Joy Masoff, and several press releases and articles expressing concern about errors and omissions in the text. It also includes the report submitted to the Virginia Department of Education by the three independent reviewers: Dr. Ronald Heinemann, Retired, Hampden-Sydney College; Dr. Luranett Lee, Curator of African American History, Virginia Historical Society; and Dr. Brent Tarter, retired, Library of Virginia. In addition, there is a rebuttal to criticism from Dr. Peter Wallenstein, one of the experts charged with revising the first edition of *Our Virginia*. Dr. Wallenstein published his response the *Virginian-Pilot* as a guest editorial on 11 October 2011, and discussed criticism of the text and his response in the plenary session of the Virginia Forum on 21 March 2013.

Creator

Five Ponds Press, Virginia Beach, VA.

Repository

Thomas Balch Library

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

Collection open for research.

Use Restrictions

No physical characteristics affect use of this material.

Acquisition Information

Five Ponds Press, Virginia Beach, VA.

Processing Information

Rebecca K. Ottinger, 25 July 2011; Updated 27 March 2013

Preferred Citation

Our Virginia: Past and Present Collection, 2010-2013 (SC 0076), Thomas Balch Library, Leesburg, VA.

Accruals

2011.0067

Alternative Form Available

None

Adjunct Descriptive Data

Related Material

None

Bibliography

Leesburg Today *Our Virginia: Past and Present* The Washington Post The Library of Congress Authorities, <http://authorities.loc.gov/cgi-bin/Pwebrecon.cgi?DB=local&PAGE=First> (accessed 25 July 2011). The Virginia Gazette Virginia Department of Education, Independent Reviews of *Our Virginia: Past and Present*, December 2010. Virginia Department of Education News Virginia Department of Education News

Other Finding Aid

None

Technical Requirements

None

Historical Information

Our Virginia: Past and Present written by Joy Masoff (1951-) and published by Five Ponds Press was adopted as a fourth grade social studies textbook for students in Virginia's public schools in 2010. Soon after its distribution to schools, Carol Sheriff, professor of history at the College of William & Mary, detected errors in her daughter's textbook. These errors referred to black soldiers fighting for the Confederacy during the Civil War. A report by three independent reviewers-Dr. Ronald Heinemann, Retired, Hampden-Sydney College; Dr. Luranett Lee, Curator of African American History, Virginia Historical Society; and Dr. Brent Tarter (1948-), retired, Library of Virginia-donated for the Virginia Department of Education in December 2010 cites numerous omissions as well as additional factual and grammatical errors in the book. The publishing company offered labels making the corrections which could be affixed over the misinformation and hired historians, including Dr. Peter Wallenstein of Virginia Tech, to edit and revise the text for a second edition. The Virginia Board of Education announced on 24 March 2011 that it withdrew approval of that text and a fifth grade history text, entitled *Our America to 1865*, also published by Five Ponds Press. On 21 October 2011 Wyde Byard, spokesman for Loudoun County Public Schools, announced that these books had been withdrawn from Loudoun County's classrooms.

At the same time The Virginia Board of Education announced that it had adopted a revised text book review and adoption process which requires that future texts be reviewed by qualified experts before being submitted to the Department of Education for possible adoption in Virginia's classrooms.

Scope and Content

This collection includes a copy of the 4th grade textbook, *Our Virginia: Past and Present* by Joy Masoff, and several press releases and articles expressing concern about errors and omissions in the text. It also includes the report submitted to the Virginia Department of Education by the three independent reviewers: Dr. Ronald Heinemann, Retired, Hampden-Sydney College; Dr. Luranett Lee, Curator of African American History, Virginia Historical Society; and Dr. Brent Tarter, retired, Library of Virginia. In addition, there is a rebuttal to criticism from Dr. Peter Wallenstein, one of the experts charged with revising the first edition of *Our Virginia*. Dr. Wallenstein published his response the *Virginian-Pilot* as a guest editorial on 11 October 2011, and discussed criticism of the text and his response in the plenary session of the Virginia Forum on 21 March 2013.

Arrangement

Folder

Contents List

Folder 1: Our Virginia: Past and Present

Folder 2: Report of Virginia Department of Education, Independent Reviewers

Folder 3: Newspaper articles and press releases

Folder 3: Materials from Virginia Forum, 2013