

PHOTO CAPTIONS

Jersey City Free Public Library
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DATE: October 27, 2011

INTRODUCTION:

LOST & FOUND:

LOST – COURT RECORDS, STAFFORD COUNTY, VA, PREPARED OCTOBER 1791
FOUND – BY NJ ROOM, JERSEY CITY FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

WITNESS – THE RETURN OF THIS 220-YEAR-OLD VOLUME TO ITS RIGHTFUL OWNERS, THE VIRGINIA STATE ARCHIVES, ON THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20

VOLUME TAKEN ON MARCH 30, 1863 BY CAPT. W.A. TREADWELL, 4TH NY REGIMENT AS SPOILS OF CIVIL WAR

New Jersey wasn't a battleground state during the Civil War, yet a surprising 'find' by the New Jersey Room of the Jersey City Free Public Library brings the Civil War into local focus, up front and center, during this 150th commemorative year of that war's beginning.

The story of how the 220-year-old order book Stafford County, VA ended up in the Jersey City Free Public Library is one for the history books. This volume, and the other that was found – a biographical record, *Grand Army of the Republic, 1893, Personal War Sketches, G. Van Houten Post No. 3, Volume 2*, which identifies local New Jersey and New York soldiers – provides incredible insight to the journey made by these two volumes. The archival book transfer happened on Thursday morning, October 20, 2011.

Research reveals that Stafford County is a county in Virginia that is among those termed the "burned counties" for the amount of records of historical and genealogical interest lost during the Civil War due to the depredations of battles and to acts of vandalism in which records were seized by Union soldiers and taken as souvenirs. The Library of Virginia is the repository that holds many of the records that still exist from the colonial era. "It is time for this volume, after nearly a century and a half, to be returned to an institution where it can be preserved and made accessible to researchers," said John Beekman, MLIS, New Jersey Room assistant manager.

"The Library of Virginia is pleased to accept this volume on behalf of the Stafford County Circuit Court Clerk and the citizens of Stafford County and the Commonwealth of Virginia," said Director Carl Childs of Local Records Services, Deputy State Coordinator, State Historical Records Advisory Board, Library of Virginia: Archive of the Commonwealth, in Richmond, Virginia. "The return of this volume helps to fill a gap in the history of Stafford County and its inhabitants."

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“For the Library of Virginia to receive back a unique, irreplaceable 18th Century ledger almost 150 years after it was stolen and after all expectation of its return had long ago died, is nothing short of miraculous.

Perhaps other archivists will be inspired by John's action to take a closer look at items that don't really fit the scope of their collection and find more suitable homes or even the rightful homes for any such items,” added New Jersey Room manager Cynthia Harris, MLS.

Carl Childs has worked at the Library of Virginia since December 1993, beginning his career as a library assistant and working in a variety of archival positions in state and local records. Since April 2005, he has served as the Director of the Library's Local Records Services Branch, which is charged with helping to preserve the permanent records of Virginia's circuit courts. He also serves as deputy coordinator of Virginia's State Historical Records Advisory Board (SHRAB), is a member of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference (MARAC), and is currently pursuing a Certified Records Manager (CRM) designation.

BACKGROUND: Since Cynthia Harris became manager of the New Jersey Room of the Jersey City Free Public Library in 2001, projects have been underway to explore the “buried treasures” that have been in storage in the library's special collections, and to arrange and make accessible this material. In 2006 assistant manager John Beekman was hired, and assigned to assist further with processing archival and special collections. Among the principle collections, is material collected by the Historical Society of Hudson County, active in the first half of the 20th Century. Many materials collected by the society were later added to the main local history collection, but a great deal more was put to the side for years.

As the 150th anniversary years of the U.S. Civil War began, John began to look more closely at what materials were in storage that may be relevant to that great and terrible event in our country's history. Two large books in boxes simply labeled Civil War came to his attention. The first of these turned out to be a collection of the war service records and experiences of member of the Van Houten Post of the Grand Army of the Republic, an organization of Jersey City veterans of the Civil War – which will be a valuable addition to the record of local involvement in the conflict.

The other volume, upon examination, turns out to have even more significance, and to be a historical relic not just of the Civil War, but of the Colonial era as well, involving a crime that the Jersey City Free Public Library can finally make right after nearly 150 years. A series of notations on the inside cover of this handwritten volume tells the story.

According to a note on the inside front cover, the volume was prepared in October of 1791, and is a transcription “in a fair and legible hand” of the Court of Stafford County from 1749 to 1755. A note on the next page reads “Taken from Stafford Court House, March 30, 1863. By Capt. W. A. Treadwell 4th N. York Regiment.” Another note records that Capt. Treadwell presented the volume to Charles B. Duff, no date listed. A final note records that the volume was presented to the Hudson County Historical Society by the Estate of William Brinkerhoff, a former NJ State Senator and member of a prominent Jersey City family.

The New Jersey Room is a collection of materials about New Jersey with an emphasis upon Jersey City and Hudson County. The collection includes both current and historical information and numbers about 20,000 volumes. While the New Jersey Room is the main resource of information on the history of Jersey City, many of its patrons come in search of information on local real estate, development, business information, and genealogy research.

ATTACHED: *Biography – Col. William Augustus Treadwell* (Salem, MA)
 Personal War Sketches, Vol. 2 – Private John W. Stringham (Jersey City, NJ)
 Personal War Sketches, Vol. 2 – Private George W. Scudder (Hoboken, NJ)
 Personal War Sketches, Vol. 2 – Private John Pollard (Schenectady, NY)

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PHOTO # 1:

HOW HISTORIC! – Jersey City Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy speaks with New Jersey Room manager Cynthia Harris, as she describes the historic volume that was found in the Main Library before it returns to its rightful owner – Stafford County, Virginia.

PHOTO # 2:

MANY HAPPY RETURNS – Cynthia Harris exclaims, “I love my job!” as she introduces the media to the historic find by New Jersey Room assistant manager John Beekman (left). Carl Childs (right) of the Library of Virginia came to retrieve the volume, court records from Stafford County, Virginia, dated 1749-1755.

PHOTO # 3:

CLOSE UP – New Jersey Room manager Cynthia Harris, Jersey City Free Public Library, Jersey City, New Jersey.

PHOTO # 4:

FIRST, OF MANY – John Beekman, assistant manager of the New Jersey Room, shows the inside cover of the Stafford County, VA court records, 1749-1755, as he sought to turn the pages – of time, for sure!

PHOTO # 5:

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE – Carl Childs, director of Local Records Services and deputy state coordinator, State Historical Records Advisory Board of the Library of Virginia: Archive of the Commonwealth, traveled from Richmond to discuss the historical significance of the Stafford County archival book.

PHOTO # 6:

CLOSE UP – Carl Childs of the Library of Virginia: Archive of the Commonwealth, as he described the history affiliated with the volume of Stafford County, VA court records, 1749-1755.

PHOTO # 7:

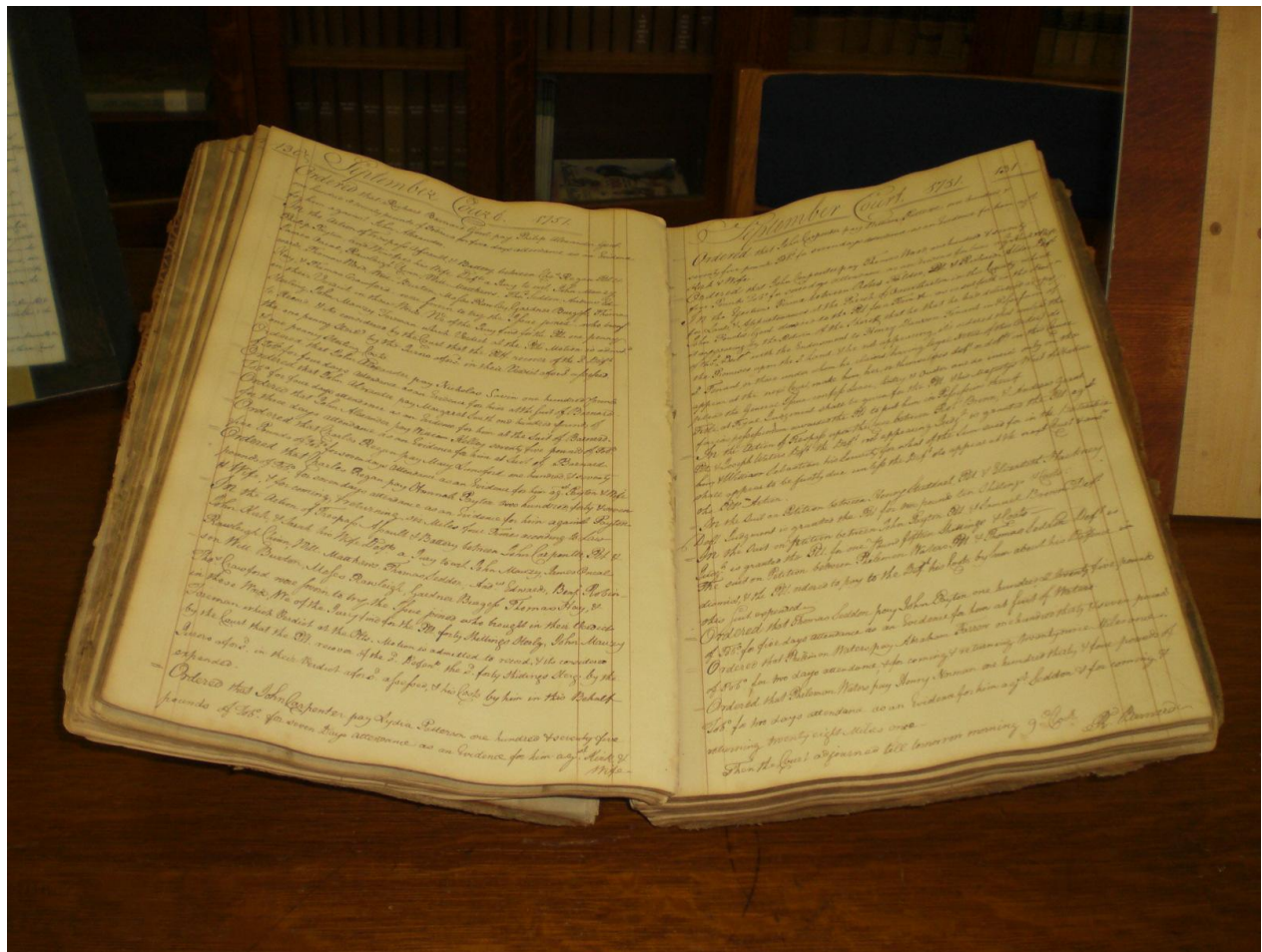
THE HISTORIC HANDOVER – The Jersey City Free Public Library formally presents the Library of Virginia the lost, and now found: Stafford County, VA court records, 1749-1755. L to R: Assistant Library Director Sonia Araujo; Library Director Priscilla Gardner; Jersey City Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy; New Jersey Room assistant manager John Beekman; New Jersey Room manager Cynthia Harris; and Carl Childs, director of Local Records Services and deputy state coordinator, State Historical Records Advisory Board of the Library of Virginia: Archive of the Commonwealth.

PHOTOS # 8:

ACTUAL BOOK – Opened to September 1751, Stafford County, VA court records, 1749-1755.



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BIOGRAPHY: COL. WILLIAM AUGUSTUS TREADWELL

William A. Treadwell, son of John Crocker and Sarah Anne (Goodrich) Treadwell, was born in Salem, Mass., July 12, 1834, and died in New Orleans, April 27, 1908. He attended the private schools of his town and the Andover, Mass., Academy, and entered the University in 1855, remaining two years.

Soon after, he located in New York, where he drilled several companies of militia. During 1861 and 1862, he was engaged in recruiting and drilling volunteer troops, but failing to secure a commission from the governor of the State of New York, he accepted a position in the Commissary Department at Acquia Creek, Va. In the summer of 1862, he accompanied the 95th New York Infantry on the Maryland campaign, and at the battle of Antietam served as volunteer aide-de-camp to General Abner Doubleday. Returning to New York, he raised a company for the 164th New York Infantry, and was commissioned captain, served with the regiment for two months at Norfolk, Va., but was not mustered into service. During 1863, he was engaged in drilling colored troops at Washington, D. C, and was to have commanded one of the regiments; but owing to misunderstanding between Senator Sumner and Governor Andrews of Massachusetts, he failed to receive his commission. He returned to New York in June, 1863, * and recruited Company G, 14th New York Heavy Artillery; was mustered into service as its captain December 5, 1863, and served with it at the battles of the Wilderness, Spottsylvania. North Anna, Cold Harbor, and before Petersburg. He was mustered out of service, December 14, 1864. He was made colonel of the 1st Regiment Veteran Volunteers of New Jersey, but was not mustered into service on account of the close of the war; and since then Col. William Augustus Treadwell has held staff appointments of the same rank. In 1865, was tendered a commission in the regular army, but declined the appointment.

He devoted his time to literary pursuits. He was military editor of the New York Press from 1882 until April, 1898, when he removed to San Francisco, Cal., where he was interested in various enterprises; was a director of the Oriental & Masbate Gold Mining Co.; was also connected with the famous Treadwell mine, Alaska. Soon after the earthquake in April, 1906, he removed to New Orleans, La., where he made his home until his death. He was a prominent Mason and a member of the Veteran Officers' Loyal Legion, G. A. R., and the A. O. U. Foresters.

He was married March 10, 1859, to Mary Letitia Barnard of Newark, N. J., who survives him and resides in New Orleans. Two children were bom to them: Amy Adelaide, bom May 25, 1861, died January, 1863; Charlotte Grace, bom October 28, 1865, married George Arthur Treadwell, resides in New Orleans.

<http://www.archive.org/stream/norwichuniversit02elli#page/610/mode/2up>

Norwich University, 1819-1911; her history, her graduates, her roll of honor – Vol. 2 – p. 611-612

*Grand Army of the Republic, 1893
Personal War Sketches, G. Van Houten Post No. 3
Volume 2, Page 103*

**ENTRY: Private George W. Scudder
Company K, 22nd Regiment, NJ Volunteers Infantry**

DOB / Birthplace: March 7, 1845, Hoboken, NJ

Entered "U.S. Service": August 20, 1862 @ Hackensack, NJ
Private / Company K, 22nd Regiment, NJ Volunteers Infantry
Discharge on June 25, 1863 @ Trenton, NJ

"Enlisted in the U.S. service, August 20, 1862, at Hackensack, Bergen County, New Jersey, as Private in Company K, 22nd Regiment, NJ Volunteers.

"Discharged at Trenton, NJ, June 25, 1863. Expiration of term of service.

"First battle engaged in Pollack Mills, VA. Other engagements: Fredericksburg, and Chancellorsville, VA.

"Intimate comrades in the service 1st Lieut. Albert Forbush, 1st Serg't. Geo. A. Wood (sic), and James Reynolds.

"Most important events, the escape from being taken prisoner in Chancellorsville.

"The Regiment was first attached to the Provisional Brigade, Casey's Division, Defences of Washington; thence to Patrick's Brigade Provost Guard, Army of the Potomac; then to the Third Brigade, First Division, First Army Corps. under command of Major General Reynolds."

Grand Army of the Republic, 1893
Personal War Sketches, G. Van Houten Post No. 3
Volume 2, Pages 67 & 303

ENTRY: **Private John Pollard**
Company E, 18th Regiment, NY State Volunteers Infantry

DOB / Birthplace: January 14, 1843, Schenectady, NY

Entered "U.S. Service": May 14, 1861, Schenectady, NY
Private / Company E, 18th Regiment, NYS Volunteers Infantry
Honorable Discharge on May 28, 1863 @ Albany, NY

First Battle: Bull Run, July 16-22, 1861 (VA)

Other Engagements: Braddock Road, July 16
Fairfax Station, July 17
Blackburn's Ford, July 18

Supported: Battery G, 2nd U.S. Artillery

Skirmishes: near Bailey's Cross Roads (sic), August 28-30
Springfield Station, October 3
Munson's Hill, November 16
Annondale, December 4
Union Hill, March 12, 1862

Moved to: Bristow Station, April 6, and to the Peninsula [VA], April 7

Seige of Yorktown: April 17 – May 4, 1862

Peninsula Campaign: May 6 – August 16

West Point: May 6 [NOT LISTED: other campaigns]

"Mustered out of service": Albany, NY, May 28, 1863

"The three years men being transferred to the 121st New York Volunteers Infantry. Captured at James Mills, VA, June 27, 1862. Imprisoned in Libby Prison and on Belle Isle, Richmond, VA. A selected number were sent to Andersonville, GA, but escaped, August 6, 1862, when about to be paroled.

"Intimate comrades in the service: Hugh Douglas! Andrew Bardydlt. James Ainsworth.

Private John Pollard
Page 2

"The most important event: The seven days fight in the Peninsula [by Williamsburg, VA]

"Regiment organized at Albany, NY, May 17, 1861, with G.R. Myers on Colonel, John G. McGinnis, Lieut. Colonel. Severed in the Department of Washington, D.C., June 21 – July 13, 1861, 2nd Brigade, 2nd Division, Dept. and Army of Northeast Virginia until October 1861. Franklins Brigade, Division of the Potomac and 3rd Brigade, 5th Division, Army of the Potomac until May 1862. Third Brigade, 1st Division, 6th Corps, Army of the Potomac until May 1863. Left Division, Army of the Potomac, from November 4, 1862 – February 5, 1863."