

# Key to the Past



Detail of Charles Varle's map of Frederick, Berkeley, & Jefferson counties in the state of Virginia, 1809.

## From the Archivist

Welcome to the first edition of the Stewart Bell Jr. Archives newsletter. I'm excited to be able to share information about our collections, services, and programs.

We are a local history and genealogy center jointly run by the Handley Regional Library and the Winchester-Frederick County Historical Society. Our collections document the history and culture of the City of Winchester and Frederick County, Virginia from the early 1700s to the present.

Whether you're a genealogist, researcher, student, or simply want to know more about the history of the Winchester-Frederick County area, our Archives is here to help. You'll find an extensive collection of manuscripts, newspapers, photographs, books, maps, yearbooks, city directories, government, business, church, and organizational records, oral histories, and ephemera.

We also host programs and have two special events lined up for May.

On Saturday, May 11, Shannon Combs-Bennett will be here to talk about **Genetic Genealogy**. Shannon is an award-winning author who has researched and written extensively about genealogy. In this presentation, she'll talk about how DNA can help in the search for ancestors, as well as the legal and ethical implications of DNA testing for family history.

Then on Saturday, May 24th, we'll be joined by author John E. Ross for **Traveling Through Time**, a presentation about maps and their value as historical sources. Using some of the earliest maps of the American continent as well as maps of Winchester and Frederick County, John will show how these documents record changing landscapes and populations.

Both events take place in the Robinson Auditorium of the Handley Library.

*Lorna Loring*

Archives Manager

## Events and Programs

### Family History Hunters: Exploring Online Newspaper Websites

Thursday May 9  
12:30 pm to 2:00 pm  
Benham Room, Handley Library

### Genetic Genealogy with Shannon Combs-Bennett

Saturday, May 11  
2:00 pm to 4:00 pm  
Robinson Auditorium, Handley Library



### Applying to Lineage Societies: Get Help with your Application

Saturday, May 25  
10:30 am to 12:00 pm  
Archives Reading Room  
Handley Library

### Traveling through Time, with John Ross

Saturday, May 25  
10:30 am to 12:30 pm  
Robinson Auditorium  
Handley Library

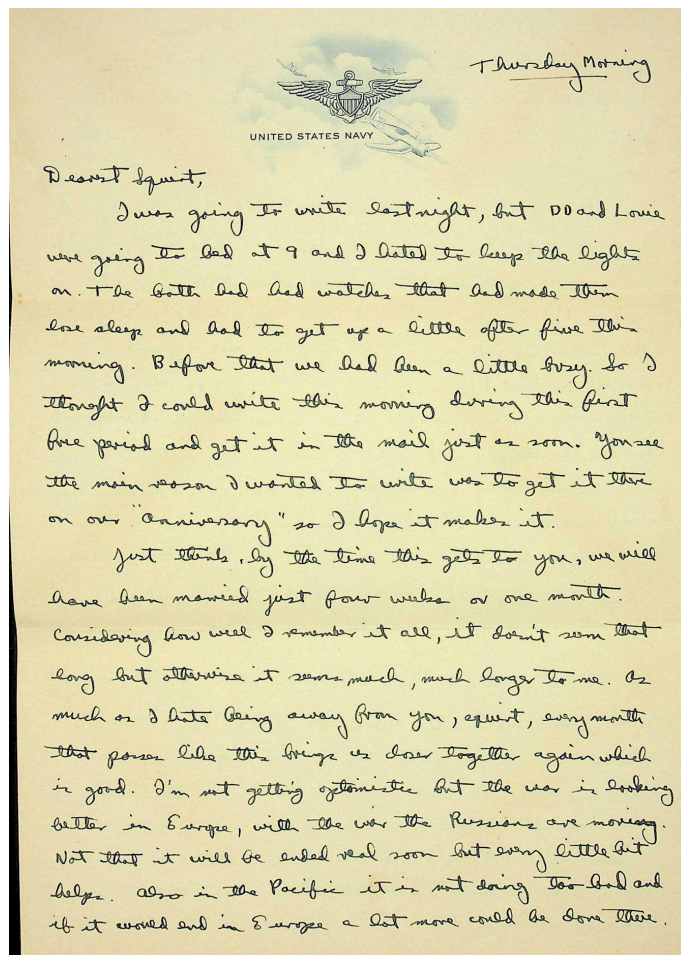
# Collection Highlights: World War II Correspondence of Tevius Cather Bailey and Elsie Louthan

Among our new accessions last month was a collection of letters written between Tevius Cather Bailey and Elsie Louthan during World War II.

Tevius and Elsie were both born in Winchester in 1925, and both attended Handley High School. In 1943, Tevius enlisted as a Naval Air Force Cadet. The correspondence began after Tevius left for training in Emory, Virginia, with Elsie writing in early August 1943, "It's Friday night and you're there and I'm here. Isn't it awful?"

The couple went on to write dozens of letters, each describing their daily lives, family news, and happenings in and around Winchester. They married in December, 1944, but were separated again in 1945 while he underwent pilot training.

Tevius and Elsie's letters are among several collections of wartime correspondence held by the Archives. Each is a valued addition to our holdings, documenting the lives of this area's residents during extraordinary times.



Tevius wrote this letter to Elsie in January 1945, just a few weeks after their wedding and while he was stationed in Athens, Georgia. He begins with "Dearest Squirt," his nickname for Elsie, and comments hopefully "the war is looking better in Europe." From the Tevius Cather Bailey Collection, 1863 THL



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## Contact

Tel.: (540) 662-9041, ext. 17  
Email: [archives@handleyregional.org](mailto:archives@handleyregional.org)  
Website: [www.handleyregional.org/archives](http://www.handleyregional.org/archives)

## Reading Room Hours

Monday - Tuesday: 10:00 am to 5:00 pm  
Wednesday: 10:00 am to 8:00 pm  
Thursday - Saturday: 10:00 am to 5:00 pm

Please note that we close for lunch daily from 12:30 pm to 1:15 pm