

Photography Guidelines

Photography is a rich expression of a people's culture. If you are interested in pursuing this format, we suggest these considerations.

1. Most historical societies and county libraries have collections. Stories of place with historic or cultural interest can be scanned. If permitted, scan at least using 600 dpi (dots per inch. By default, most scanners work at 300 dpi. Scan to disk not to print. You can scan to disk or laptop as jpeg or pdf. We can use either.
2. You can take your own photographs but provide a note as to its significance to place. This can be creative. If living models are in the photographs, you need to get a release to use them in any publication. Think composition and think gray scale. The journal is printed both in color and gray scale, but images that depend on color composition will not look the same in gray scale. Photos tell a story, but you will need to provide context.
3. Think scale. A 4" x 6" photo of a mountain makes for a small mountain. It is always critical to photography where size matters to have references in the photo to scale. A tree or person or building in the foreground provides this visual reference.
4. We don't want landscapes or floral arrangements. We strive to record cultural artifacts. This covers a wide range of topics.
5. Most smart phones have excellent photo properties. You have more control using traditional digital cameras. When you send photos to us, whether one or more, always zip them and attach. All email services downsize photos.

Questions? Always query first your interest. If you are using images held by libraries or historical societies, without renewal copyright does not extend past 75 years and most images in holdings are not copyrighted any way. If someone tells you they own the copyright, you don't need to challenge them, but you can ask. The Virginia Writers Project is a volunteer, non-profit. Copyrights always revert to the creator or owner in our project. If you need documentation to this effect, we are glad to provide it.

Thanks for participating.

Richard Lewis vrpredux@gmail.com