The William M. E. Rachal Award was established in 1985 for the overall best article to appear in the Virginia Historical Society’s quarterly journal, the *Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*. Each year a committee of the journal’s editorial advisory board selects the author whose essay has best advanced the cause of scholarship in Virginia history. The award carries a cash prize of $250 and honors the long-time editor of the journal, Will Rachal, who served from 1953 to 1980.

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