



LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA

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NEW ONLINE RESOURCE FOR FAMILY HISTORY RESEARCH

“Ancestry for Virginians” offers free access to Library of Virginia materials hosted by Ancestry.com

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For Immediate Release

Richmond, Virginia – The Library of Virginia announces a new resource available to citizens of Virginia called “Ancestry for Virginians,” made possible through a partnership with Ancestry.com.

“Ancestry for Virginians” offers Virginians free access to Library of Virginia materials currently hosted by Ancestry.com, a popular subscription-based service for people conducting family history research.

The Library of Virginia already provides free public access to over 12 million images made available through nearly 100 separate digital collections. Through this partnership with Ancestry.com, Virginians will have free access to even more materials crucial to furthering knowledge and understanding of their familial relationships and the individual Virginians who collectively shaped the commonwealth we know today.

Included in this initial offering are the Virginia vital records indexed and digitized through a public-private partnership between the Virginia Department of Health and Ancestry.com following the 2012 passage of Senate Bill 660, which supported the digitization, indexing, and public accessibility to birth, death, marriage, and divorce records created since 1912. While the indexes to the records have been available since 2015, the commonwealth’s citizens will now have free access through this new resource to digital images of the open records in the following collections:

- Virginia, Birth Records, 1912–2014, Delayed Birth Records, 1854–1911
- Virginia, Death Records, 1912–2014
- Virginia, Marriage Records, 1936–2014
- Virginia, Divorce Records, 1918–2014

In Virginia, death, marriage, and divorce data become open public information 25 years after the event and birth data after 100 years.

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Users will access this material through Find It Virginia (www.finditva.com), a collection of databases that provides access to resources such as newspapers, magazine and journal articles, and books such as encyclopedias. Materials are available for all age ranges and interests and only require a Virginia public library card to access. Find it Virginia is supported by federal funds provided by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (www.imls.gov) and ensures that all residents of the commonwealth have equal access to essential resources for lifelong learning.

“Ancestry for Virginians” is found directly at www.finditva.com/public.php#genealogy, as well as on the Library of Virginia’s “Using the Collections” page: www.lva.virginia.gov/public/using_collections.asp#_guides-BiographicalandGenealogical

The materials available through “Ancestry for Virginians” represent just a fraction of the Library of Virginia’s archival collections and do not include all the Virginia-related content available with an Ancestry.com subscription. When searching “Ancestry for Virginians,” users may see results that include materials not part of the Library of Virginia's collections. Users will be offered the opportunity to access these additional records through a paid subscription to Ancestry.com. Full access to Ancestry.com is also available for use, free of charge, in the second-floor reading rooms at the Library of Virginia and at select Virginia public libraries.

IMAGES AVAILABLE AT

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/zfowd0xwsuz8lpc/AAA-g3K9-fkrCMQtwvD6Z1oqa?dl=0>

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