



The Library of Virginia maintains a collection of published materials—books, newspapers, periodicals, and electronic resources—which can provide invaluable resources for genealogical research, especially when used in conjunction with archival materials. Many of these published materials are guides, summaries, or finding aids to the primary documents and records found in the archives, here and elsewhere. In addition, many authors have published their research on family lines or local and institutional histories. Further, because of the age and depth of the Library's collection of Virginia materials, it is often possible to find materials relating directly to an individual of some prominence, such as speeches, broadsides or biographical sketches.

“How Books Are Arranged at the Library of Virginia” provides a brief overview of the Library of Congress classification system and a map of the reading rooms; however, the materials in the reading rooms of the Library of Virginia comprise only a fraction of the library's collections. The rest are housed in closed stacks and must be requested and sent to the circulation desk. Patrons in the library may request their selections through the online catalog themselves or request assistance from staff at the reference desks.

The Library has an old and varied collection of materials; however, this depth and variety sometimes make it difficult to identify the items you want. Any of the reference staff will be happy to assist in searching the catalog or locating items. Telephone (804-692-3777) and email reference ([refdesk@lva.lib.va.us](mailto:refdesk@lva.lib.va.us)) is also available for information about the collections. Please do not hesitate to ask for assistance whenever necessary.

## FAMILY HISTORIES OR GENEALOGIES

The Library of Virginia owns a number of published family histories, primarily for families with Virginia connections. Although the documentation in these books varies widely, many useful leads can be obtained for filling in blanks in genealogical charts.

Family histories are located in the closed stacks and must be requested through the online catalog. They can be found in the catalog by performing a subject search on the family name always followed by the word family (e.g., Carter family).

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## Published Materials for Genealogists

In addition, there are titles that cover a number of Virginia families such as:

- Boddie, John Bennett. *Historical Southern Families*. Redwood City, Cal.: Pacific Coast Publishers, 1957-1980. CS61 B6
- . *Southside Virginia Families*. Baltimore, Md.: Genealogical Publishing, 1966 [orig.1955-56]. F225 B55
- . *Virginia Historical Genealogies*. Baltimore, Md.: Reprinted for Clearfield Co. by Genealogical Publishing, 1996 [orig. 1954]. F225 B6 1996
- Davis, Virginia Lee Hutcheson. *Tidewater Virginia Families*. Baltimore, Md.: Genealogical Publishing, 1989. F225 D38 1989
- Genealogies of Virginia Families: From the Virginia Magazine of History & Biography*. Baltimore, Md.: Genealogical Publishing, 1981. F225 G32
- Genealogies of Virginia Families: From the College of William & Mary Quarterly Historical Magazine*. Baltimore, Md.: Genealogical Publishing, 1982. F225 G34
- Genealogies of Virginia Families: From Tyler's Quarterly Historical and Genealogical Magazine*. Baltimore, Md.: Genealogical Publishing, 1981. F225 G33
- Foley, Louise Pledge. *Early Virginia Families along the James River*. Baltimore, Md.: Genealogical Publishing, 1979– [orig. 1974–]. F225 F596
- Jester, Annie Lash. *Adventurers of Purse and Person*. 3rd ed. Revised. Richmond, Va.: Order of First Families of Virginia, 1987. F229 J4 1987
- McIlhany, Hugh Milton. *Some Virginia Families*. Staunton, Va.: Stoneburner & Prufer, 1903. F225 M15
- Pecquet du Bellet, Louise. *Some Prominent Virginia Families*. Baltimore, Md.: Genealogical Publishing, 1976 [orig. 1907]. F225 P36 1976

## COUNTY AND CITY HISTORIES AND RECORD ABSTRACTS

These materials include local histories; abstracts of local record books, including wills, deeds, and order books; marriage records; compilations of census records for a locality; and a variety of other local history compilations. The advantages to searching these books are that they can be easier to read than the original records, they may provide a compilation of materials from more than one source, they are often indexed, and they give direct citations to the original sources. Some disadvantages are that these compilations have not been done for every locality, they vary in quality, there are often gaps in the years covered, and sometimes the compilers have made errors. Thus, these sources can be valuable tools when used in conjunction with the local records, but they are not a substitute for searching the primary sources.

Most of these resources for Virginia localities can be found in the Library reading rooms (and online catalog) in the F232 – F234 call number range. They are arranged alphabetically by county and then by city. Similar materials for localities in surrounding states are found in the call number ranges immediately preceding and following the Virginia materials. Most of the books about Virginia localities can be found in the reading rooms; however, it is a good idea to do a subject search on any locality being researched (e.g., Henrico County, Va.—genealogy sources) to call down any items housed only in the stacks.

Sometimes, a researcher does not know which county to look for family records in. For the post-1800 time period, checking the census indexes may be helpful in determining a county to review. In addition, there are some compilations of county records for both the pre- and post-1800 periods that may be helpful for identifying a locality to research. These compilations include:

- Torrence, Clayton. *Virginia Wills and Administrations, 1632–1800*. Baltimore, Md.: Genealogical Publishing, 1972 [orig. 1930]. F225 T85 1972
- Reflecting and expanding Torrence's work is the digital Index to Wills and Administrations prepared by Library of Virginia staff members at <<http://eagle.vsla.edu/torrence/>>.*

Pippenger, Wesley E. *Index to Virginia Estates, 1800–1865*. Richmond Va.: Virginia Genealogical Society, 2001–. F225 P57 2001

Liahona Research. *Virginia Marriages, Early to 1800: A Research Tool*. Bountiful, Utah: Precision Indexing Publisher, 1991. F225 V55 1991

## CITY DIRECTORIES

City directories often provide information about urban residents, including place of employment and names of other household members. Individual entries may be arranged alphabetically by surname as well as by address and, more recently, by telephone number. Sometimes it is helpful to “follow” a person across a number of years and take note of neighbors and other people with the same surname. The Library of Virginia has an extensive collection of directories for Virginia cities and towns, including some dating back to the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. Availability may be determined by conducting a subject search in the online catalog: *Locality Name*—directories (e.g., Richmond, Va.—directories). A guide to these materials and their locations is available at the reference desks.

## AFRICAN AMERICAN RESOURCES

Guides to resources and special methodologies for locating African American ancestors include:

Byers, Paula K. *African American Genealogical Sourcebook*. New York: Gale Research, 1995. E185.96 A444 1995

Woodtor, Dee Parmer. *Finding a Place Called Home: A Guide to African American Genealogy and Historical Identity*. New York: Random House, 1999. E185.96 W69 1999

Johnson, Anne E., and Adam Merton Cooper. *A Student's Guide to African American Genealogy*. Phoenix, Ariz.: Oryx Press, 1996. E185.96 J57 1996

Record indexes and abstracts pertaining to African Americans are included with the Local histories and record abstracts. To view many of these titles perform a subject search for “African Americans—Virginia—*County name*.”

Of special note is a resource that contains family histories or genealogies for the majority (perhaps more than 80 percent) of those counted as “all other free persons” in the 1790 and 1800 censuses:

Heinegg, Paul. *Free African Americans of North Carolina, Virginia, and South Carolina*. (4th ed.), Baltimore, Md.: Clearfield, 2001. E185.96 H482 2001.

## CHURCH RESOURCES

The Library of Virginia has a large collection of church histories that includes broad overviews of denominations as well as narratives of specific churches within a denomination, for example:

*Encyclopedia of the Brethren* or  
*History of Daleville Church of the Brethren*

Generally denominations are grouped alphabetically (e.g., Episcopal Church, Methodist Church, Presbyterian Church).

It is particularly helpful to perform both subject and keyword searches in the online catalog when looking for these types of materials as they may be classified in a variety of subject areas depending on the primary focus of the work.

Colonial Church of England parishes and their descendant institutions are described in a set of three works:

Cocke, Charles Francis. *Parish Lines: Diocese of Virginia*. Richmond, Va.: Virginia State Library, 1978 [orig. 1967]. Z881 V81 P8 no. 28 1978

———. *Parish Lines: Diocese of Southern Virginia*. Richmond, Va.: Virginia State Library, 1979 [orig. 1964]. Z881 V81 P8 no. 22 1979

———. *Parish Lines: Diocese of Southwestern Virginia*. Richmond, Va.: Virginia State Library, 1980 [orig. 1960]. Z881 V81 P8 no. 14 1980

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## Published Materials for Genealogists

A list of published registers and vestry books, identifying the parish, dates, call numbers, county, and type of record is available at the reference desks.

### GENEALOGICAL MAGAZINES

Local historical and genealogical societies often publish articles of genealogical interest in their bulletins, newsletters, and journals. The Library tries to collect all these materials from Virginia organizations. They are a valuable source of genealogical information that is often ignored. The *Periodical Source Index (PERSI)*, indexes such articles by place (county and state), family name, and type of information (e.g., cemetery records, military records, biography, etc.). The print version of *PERSI* consists of two parts: a retrospective compilation from 1847 through 1985 and yearly updates from 1986 forward. An online version of *PERSI* is available on the AncestryPlus subscription database available in the Library of Virginia reading rooms.

Another index to genealogical periodicals and other materials, the *American Genealogical–Biographical Index* or *AGBI* (Z5313 U5 A55) is located in the West Reading Room. At present there are around 220 volumes, (A - Z and Supplements). Full citations to the materials indexed are available only in Volumes 1, 6, 10, 34, and 54. This index is aimed more toward sources for New England families, but the Library of Virginia does own a number of the materials indexed. In particular, the genealogical columns from the *Boston Transcript* (Fiche 52) are indexed and copies of these columns are available in the microfiche section of the East Reading Room. A searchable electronic version of *AGBI* is also available on AncestryPlus in the Library of Virginia reading rooms.

If a source identified in these indexes is not available in the Library, a patron may be able to obtain a copy through the interlibrary loan service.

### THE VIRGINIA HISTORICAL INDEX

Also known as *Swem's Index* after the name of its compiler, this is one of the most important research guides for Virginia historical and genealogical researchers. It provides a comprehensive index to eight publications:

*Calendar of Virginia State Papers*  
*Hening's Statutes at Large*  
*Lower Norfolk Antiquary*  
*Virginia Historical Register*  
*Tyler's Quarterly Magazine*  
*Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*  
*William & Mary Quarterly, First Series*  
*William & Mary Quarterly, Second Series*

The index is outstanding because it lists not only general subjects and important names, but also every name mentioned in every article. Because the articles in these periodicals cover a wide range of topics, abstracts, and transcriptions, this is a good source for locating a personal or family name in a locality.

There are copies of the *Virginia Historical Index* and all the volumes of the titles indexed in both the East and West reading rooms near the reference desks.

### VIRGINIA NEWSPAPERS

The Library of Virginia has an extensive collection of historical and current newspapers. Unfortunately, locating specific genealogical information in them can be difficult, because, for the most part, few indexes exist for these papers. There are, however, a number of finding aids to various newspapers that may be useful. A bibliography, "Selected Indexing of Virginia Newspapers," compiled by locality, is available at the reference desks and on the Library of Virginia Web site in the "Newspapers and Periodicals" section under "What We Have" <[http://www.lva.lib.va.us/whatwehave/news/guide\\_selectindex.htm](http://www.lva.lib.va.us/whatwehave/news/guide_selectindex.htm)>. Electronic, full-text indexes of the *Richmond Times Dispatch* (1986–Current), the *Newport News Daily Press* (1989–Current), the *Norfolk Virginian Pilot* (1990–Current), the *Roanoke Times* (1990–Current), the *Staunton Daily News Leader* (2002–Current), and the *Washington Post* (1977–Current) are available in the reading rooms.

Back issues of newspapers are generally available in microfilm and can be located by executing a title search (e.g., *Virginia Herald*) in the online catalog or the "Newspapers in Virginia Database." Some very commonly used titles are located in the microfilm cabinets in

the West Reading Room. Others must be requested from the stacks in the same manner as books. A listing of newspapers by locality is available at each reference desk.

The most complete and detailed catalog of Virginia newspapers has been developed by the Virginia Newspaper Project, sponsored by the Library of Virginia with the direct participation of the University of Virginia, the College of William and Mary, and the Virginia Historical Society. The goal of the Project is to locate, identify, catalog, and preserve newspapers with American imprints housed in repositories throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia.

The Newspapers in Virginia Database generated by the project includes catalog records for almost 6,000 individual newspaper titles and identifies the holdings of these newspapers in libraries around the state. This database is also available on the Library of Virginia Web site in the "Newspapers and Periodicals" section under "What We Have."

## SHIPS' PASSENGER LISTS

Tracing ancestors back across the ocean is a source of frustration for many researchers. It is especially difficult for those whose ancestors immigrated to colonial Virginia because Virginia had no main port of entry. Thus, lists of passengers arriving in the colony have not survived as they have for other ports such as Philadelphia or Boston. One source of implied immigration to Virginia is *Cavaliers and Pioneers: Abstracts of Virginia Land Patents and Grants* (F225 N84). These records provide important documentation of immigration because of the policy of granting land (50 acres), called a "headright," for each person transported to the colony at private expense. The necessity of naming the persons transported in order to receive the grants has resulted in records indicating early immigrants. The seven-volume set covers the period from 1623 through 1776.

In addition, LVA does have published compilations of passengers to America such as:

Filby, P. William. *Passenger and Immigration Lists Index*. Detroit, Mich.: Gale Research, 1980-. CS68 P34

Coldham, Peter Wilson. *The Complete Book of Emigrants in Bondage, 1614-1775 (and Supplement)*. Baltimore, Md.: Genealogical Publishing, 1988. CS61 C62 1988

———. *King's Passengers to Maryland and Virginia*. Westminster, Md.: Family Line Publishers, 1997. E184 B7 C632 1997

———. *More English Adventurers and Emigrants, 1625-1777: Abstracts of Examinations in the High Court of Admiralty with Reference to Colonial America*. Baltimore, Md.: Genealogical Publishing, 2002. E184 B7 C64 2002

Zimmerman, Gary J., and Marion Wolfert. *German Immigrants: Lists of Passengers Bound from Bremen to New York (1847-1867)*. Baltimore, Md.: Genealogical Publishing, 1985-88. E184 G3 Z563

Glazier, Ira, and P. William Filby. *Germans to America (1850-1893)*. Wilmington, Del.: Scholarly Resources, 1988-. E184 G3 G39 1988

Schrader-Muggenthaler, Cornelia. *Swiss Emigration Book*. Apollo, Pa.: Closson Press, 1993-. E184 S9 S34 1993

Similar publications can be found by performing a subject search for the term "ships—passenger lists."

## MILITARY RECORDS AND UNIT HISTORIES

The Library of Virginia has a range of books indexing or outlining military records and rosters for Virginia from colonial times through World War II and other Twentieth Century conflicts.

### COLONIAL SOLDIERS

Bockstruck, Lloyd. *Virginia's Colonial Soldiers*. Baltimore, Md.: Genealogical Publishing, 1988. F229 B7 1988

Crozier, William Armstrong. *Virginia Colonial Militia, 1651-1776*. Baltimore, Md.: Genealogical Publishing, 1973 [orig. 1905]. F221 V75 v.2 1973

Eckenrode, H. J. *List of the Colonial Soldiers of Virginia*. Baltimore, Md.: Genealogical Publishing, 1980 [orig. 1913]. F229 V94

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## Published Materials for Genealogists

### REVOLUTIONARY WAR

- Sanchez-Saavedra, E. M. *Guide to Virginia Military Organizations in the American Revolution*. Richmond Va.: Virginia State Library, 1978. E263 V8 S25
- Abercrombie, Janice. *Virginia Revolutionary Publick Claims*. Athens, Ga.: Iberian Publishing, 1992. E263 V8 A36 1992 (Index E263 V8 A37 1992)
- Bockstruck, Lloyd. *Revolutionary War Bounty Land Grants*. Baltimore, Md.: Genealogical Publishing, 1996. E255 B66 1996
- Brumbaugh, Gaius Marcus. *Revolutionary War Records, Volume I*. Virginia. Baltimore, Md.: Genealogical Publishing, 1967 [orig. 1936]. E263 V8 B85 1967
- Eckenrode, H. J. *Virginia Soldiers of the American Revolution*. Richmond, Va.: Virginia State Library and Archives, 1989 [orig. 1912]. E263 V8 V79 1989
- Gwathmey, John Hastings. *Historical Register of Virginians in the Revolution: Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, 1775–1783*. Baltimore, Md.: Genealogical Publishing, 1979 [orig. 1938]. E263 V8 G9 1979
- Hatcher, Patricia Law. *Abstract of Graves of Revolutionary Patriots*. Dallas, Tex.: Pioneer Heritage Press, 1987. E255 H37
- Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (JLARC). *Special Report: Preservation of Revolutionary War Veteran Gravesites in Virginia*. House Document No. 42. Richmond, Va.: Commonwealth of Virginia, 2001. F228 S64 2001  
*Contains Appendix B, "Lists of the Revolutionary War Veterans Buried or Recognized at Specific Locations in Virginia": B-1, Index of Veterans; B-2, Veterans by Locality of Burial (Counties); B-2, Veterans by Locality of Burial (cities); B-4, French Memorial Cemetery.*
- McAllister, J. T. *Virginia Militia in the Revolutionary War*. Bowie, Md.: Heritage Books, 1989, [orig. 1913]. E263 V8 M13 1989
- White, Virgil D. *Genealogical Abstracts of Revolutionary War Pension Files*. Waynesboro, Tenn.: National Historical Publishing, 1990–1994. E255 W55 1990
- . *Index to Revolutionary War Service Records*. Waynesboro, Tenn.: National Historical Publishing, 1995. E255 W56 1995

### WAR OF 1812

- Butler, Stuart Lee. *Guide to Virginia Militia Units in the War of 1812*. Athens, Ga.: Iberian Publishing, 1988. E359.5 V8 B87
- Butler, Stuart Lee. *Virginia Soldiers in the United States Army 1800–1815*. Athens, Ga.: Iberian Publishing, 1986. E359.5 V8 B9
- Virginia Militia in the War of 1812: from Rolls in the Auditor's Office at Richmond*. Baltimore, Md.: Genealogical Publishing, 2001. E359.5 V8 V84 2001
- Virginia. Auditor of Public Accounts. *Pay Rolls of Militia Entitled to Land Bounty under the Act of Congress of Sept. 28, 1850*. Baltimore, Md.: Genealogical Publishing, 2001 [orig. 1851]. E359.5 V8 V84 2001
- Wardell, Patrick G. *War of 1812: Virginia Bounty Land & Pension Applicants*. Bowie, Md.: Heritage Books, 1987. E359.4 W37 1987
- White, Virgil D. *Index to War of 1812 Pension Files*. Waynesboro, Tenn.: National Historical Publishing, 1989. E359.4 W45 1989

## MEXICAN WAR

White, Virgil D. *Index to Mexican War Pension Files*. Waynesboro, Tenn.: National Historical Publishing, 1989. E409.4 W586 1989

Wolfe, Barbara Schull. *An Index to Mexican War Pension Applications*. Indianapolis, Ind.: Heritage House, 1985. E409.4 W64 1985

## CIVIL WAR

Wallace, Lee A. *Guide to Virginia Military Organizations, 1861–1865*. Rev. 2nd ed. Lynchburg, Va.: H.E. Howard Publishing, 1986. E581.4 W3 1986

Sifakis, Stewart. *Compendium of the Confederate Armies. Virginia*. New York: Facts on File, 1992. E581 S5 1992

United States. War Department. *The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies*. Harrisburg, Pa.: National Historical Society, distributed by Broadfoot Publishing, 1985. E464 A512

*Virginia Regimental History Series*. Lynchburg or Appomattox, Va.: H. E. Howard Publishing, 1982–. E581.5 1st–

Hewett, Janet B., ed. *Roster of Confederate Soldiers, 1861–1865*. Wilmington, N.C.: Broadfoot Publishing, 1995–. E548 H4 1995

———. *Roster of Union Soldiers, 1861–1865*. Wilmington, N.C.: Broadfoot Publishing, 1997. E494 H4 1997

Spratt, Thomas. *Men in Gray Interments*. Athens, Ga.: Iberian Publishing, 1996–. E548 S67 1996

U.S. Quartermaster's Department. *Roll of Honor: Names of Soldiers Who Died in Defense of the American Union, Interred in the National Cemeteries*. Baltimore, Md.: Genealogical Publishing, 1994. E494 R653 R43 1994 (E494 R653 R43 1994 Index)

## THE POST CIVIL WAR PERIOD

On the Library of Virginia Web site, the “Virginia Military Dead Database,” <<http://www.lva.lib.va.us/whatwehave/mil/vmd/vmdintro.htm>>, contains data on more than 6,300 Virginia men and women who have died in service in peacetime and in war since 1898. The database pulls together information from a wide variety of sources to make it more accessible.

## SPANISH AMERICAN WAR

United Spanish War Veterans. Department of Virginia. *Annual Report of the Department Historian*. Suffolk, Va., July 1, 1937. E714.3 U7

*A guide to units and a review of Virginia unit events in the Spanish American War*.

Virginia. Division of Military Affairs. *Report of the Adjutant-General of the Commonwealth of Virginia for the Years 1898 and 1899*. Richmond, Va.: Division of Purchases and Supply, 1899. UA43 V8

*Muster out rolls for Virginia units serving in United States Service during the Spanish American War (pp. 172–414). These contain names, date mustered in, and place of residence, as well as losses and cause of loss.*

Ray, Edwin. *Virginia's Participation in the Spanish American War, 1898; The Philippine Insurrection, 1899–1901; and the China Relief Expedition, 1900–1901: Selected Resources in the Library of Virginia*. Richmond, Va.: Library of Virginia, 2002. E726 V8 L53 2002

## WORLD WARS I AND II

Virginia. Adjutant General's Office. *Initial Muster Rolls, Organizations Virginia National Guard Called into Federal Service for War against Germany, and Discharged from Virginia National Guard by Draft into Federal Service on August 5, 1917*. [Richmond, 1920]. UA502 A4 1919

Virginia. Adjutant General's Office. *Report of the Adjutant-General of the State of Virginia for the Year(s) 1920–22*. Richmond, Va.: Supt. of Public Printing, 1920–22. UA43 V8  
*Reports for 1920 and 1921 contain lists of Virginians who died in World War I.*

*World War I Selective Service System Draft Registration Cards, 1917–1918: Virginia*. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1985. Film 1696

Virginia. World War II History Commission. *Gold Star Honor Roll of Virginians in the Second World War*. Charlottesville, Va.: Virginia World War II History Commission, 1947. D797 U6 V8 1947

Ray, Edwin. *Virginia's Participation in World War I: Selected Resources at the Library of Virginia*. Richmond, Va.: Library of Virginia, 2002. D570 L53 2002

## VIRGINIANA

In 1975, the Virginia State Library published a two-volume bibliography, *Virginiana in the Printed Book Collections of the Virginia State Library*. Although many materials have been added in the last 25 years, this compilation of 22,000 titles still provides a useful insight into the depth and nature of the collection different from that comprehended from a catalog screen.

## ONLINE COLLECTIONS

In addition to the many print materials outlined above, the Library of Virginia Web site <<http://www.lva.lib.va.us/>> provides a number of databases of genealogical interest in the “What We Have” section. These databases include images of archival materials and card files formerly available only by visiting the Library. Examples include the Land Office Patents and Grants Database, the Virginia Historical Inventory, and the Confederate Pension Rolls, Veterans and Widows Database among many others.

Gail Tatum  
Reference Services  
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Cover Illustration: Hepner Family photograph, 1901, Shenandoah County, Virginia. Courtesy of the Library of Virginia.

