



On August 6, 1736, William Parks printed volume one, number one, of the *Virginia Gazette* in Williamsburg, Virginia. Since that modest beginning of the commonwealth's newspaper-publishing history, numerous newspaper publications from the Chesapeake to the Appalachians have covered both the dramatic and mundane events of everyday life. Virginia newspapers are invaluable historical resources that reveal and document the political, social, and cultural changes that have occurred in Virginia over the past 275 years.

Today, the Library has more than 4,050 individual newspaper titles in original and microfilm formats for patron use. Within the collection you will discover:

- Virginia Daily and Weekly Newspapers
- African American Newspapers
- Political Newspapers
- Underground Newspapers
- Civilian Conservation Corps Newspapers
- College and University Newspapers
- High School Newspapers
- Agricultural Newspapers
- Literary and Music Newspapers
- Mercantile Newspapers
- Business Newspapers
- Military Newspapers
- Out-of-State Newspapers
- Foreign Newspapers

### **The Library of Virginia and the Virginia Newspaper Project**

Established in 1993 and funded in part by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), the Virginia Newspaper Project has worked in partnership with the Library of Virginia and other historical and academic institutions to manage the systematic discovery, cataloging, and preservation of the commonwealth's newspaper collections. Since its inception, the Virginia Newspaper Project has also worked to expand and care for the Library's newspaper collection as well. The project has created an extensive and growing database that includes newspaper holdings for the following institutions:

- Library of Virginia
- Virginia Historical Society
- University of Virginia
- Virginia Tech
- College of William and Mary
- University of Richmond
- Mount Vernon Library
- Virginia Commonwealth University
- Colonial Williamsburg Foundation
- Union Theological Seminary
- Virginia Union University
- Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture

## To Check Availability of Newspaper Holdings in Virginia Libraries

1. Go to the Library home page (<http://www.lva.virginia.gov>).
2. In the search box in the upper right corner of the page, type "Newspaper Project."
3. Click on the Library of Virginia Newspaper Project link.
4. Search by county, city, state, country, or title.
5. The results will display an alphabetical list of newspapers published in the selected locality, with years of publication and a listing of Virginia Newspaper Project libraries that hold the papers and the available formats (original, microfilm, photo reproduction, etc.).
6. To see specific holdings' information, click on an institution's name.  
(Please search the Library catalog for up-to-date holdings information for currently published newspapers.)

## To Retrieve a Newspaper in the Library of Virginia Collection

- At a reference desk, ask for the titles and dates of the newspapers you would like to see. If you're not sure which newspapers you need, staff will help you select the titles and retrieve the issues.
- Reels of microfilmed newspapers can be viewed on microfilm readers or ScanPro machines located in the Archives Reference Reading Room.
- Historic newspapers in hard copy are served in the Rare Books Reading Room or, on Saturdays, in the Manuscript Room.

## Interlibrary Loan

Interlibrary Loan (ILL) is a resource for patrons who wish to borrow newspaper microfilm not available at the Library of Virginia from another library. To borrow newspaper microfilm, patrons should complete an Interlibrary Loan Request Form and turn it in at the Circulation Desk. The ILL form is available on the Interlibrary Loan page on the Library website (<http://www.lva.virginia.gov/public/ill.asp>). It can be filled out and submitted online or printed and brought to the Library. People outside the Richmond area may borrow newspaper microfilm from the Library of Virginia through the ILL departments of their local libraries.

## Digital Newspaper Collections

The following newspaper collections are free, online, searchable resources.

### **CHRONICLING AMERICA: HISTORIC AMERICAN NEWSPAPERS**

**Library of Congress, National Endowment for the Humanities,  
and the Virginia Newspaper Project at the Library of Virginia**

<http://www.loc.gov/chroniclingamerica/>

The National Digital Newspaper Program (NDNP), in participation with the Library of Congress, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Library of Virginia, makes available selected newspapers in searchable digital format. There are currently 41 Virginia newspapers in the collection with coverage dates

from 1860 to 1922. Coverage for Richmond newspapers includes the *Richmond Dispatch* (1884–1903), *The Times* (1890–1903), the *Times-Dispatch* (1903–1913), and the *Richmond Planet* (1889–1910). Additional titles will be added during the course of the project.

### **DAILY DISPATCH (1860–1865)**

**University of Richmond, Tufts University's Perseus Project, and the Virginia Center for Digital History at the University of Virginia**

<http://dlxs.richmond.edu/d/ddr/index.html>

A database of 1,384 issues of the Richmond *Daily Dispatch* during the American Civil War years. Search results are available in transcription and digital image formats.

### **NEW YORK TIMES ARCHIVES**

#### ***New York Times***

<http://www.nytimes.com/ref/membercenter/nytarchive.html>

Articles in the public domain (1851–1922) and articles published 1987–present are free (up to 20 articles per month). For the period 1923–1986, the archive returns an article preview, with the option to purchase the full article. The Library of Virginia has the *New York Times* on microfilm for 1857–2009.

### **VALLEY OF THE SHADOW, CIVIL WAR–ERA NEWSPAPERS (1857–1870)**

**Virginia Center for Digital History at the University of Virginia**

<http://valley.lib.virginia.edu/VoS/newspapers/opening.html>

An archive of primary sources that document the lives of people in Augusta County, Virginia, and Franklin County, Pennsylvania, during the era of the American Civil War. Transcription and digital images are available.

### **VIRGINIA CHRONICLE**

**Virginia Newspaper Project at the Library of Virginia**

<http://virginiachronicle.com>

Currently with 22 titles from around the commonwealth, this database encompasses newspapers from the National Digital Newspaper Program's Chronicling America project. It also offers titles such as the *Virginia Farm Bureau News*, a farming advocacy paper that began publishing in 1941. The Library plans to continue adding a wide range of unique, historical digital newspaper content that will only be available through this free online resource. The database is searchable with full-page views and added features that allow for cropping and printing.

### **VIRGINIA GAZETTE (1736–1780)**

**Colonial Williamsburg Digital Library**

<http://research.history.org/DigitalLibrary/BrowseVG.cfm>

Digital images of the *Virginia Gazette*, the newspaper of record in colonial Virginia, are available for browsing by date. The images are also linked to the index topics in Lester J. Cappon and Stella F. Duff's *Virginia Gazette Index, 1736–1780*.

In addition to the free, online newspaper databases listed above, the Library of Virginia subscribes to the following databases. These are available on the computers in the Library reading rooms. Starred titles are also available remotely via the Library website with a Library of Virginia library card.

### **ACCESS NEWSPAPER ARCHIVE**

A digital collection of select issues from more than 5,000 national, local, and foreign newspapers, with some content dating back to the 1700s. Virginia titles include the *Bee* (Danville, Virginia, 1922–1977), the *Danville Register* (1961–1977), the *Progress Index* (Petersburg, Virginia, 1953–1977), and the *Winchester Star* (1980–2012).

#### **\*\*DAILY PRESS DIGITAL MICROFILM (2010–current)**

<http://digitalmicrofilm.proquest.com/ipbarcode?aid=2774>

Provides complete issues of the newspaper (including images) which can be retrieved by date. Issues for the current year are added as they become available. [Please note: The search function isn't operational and will always return a zero result.]

#### **\*\*HARPWEEK (1857–1912)**

<http://www.lva.virginia.gov/public/harpweek.htm>

Digital access to *Harper's Weekly*, America's leading 19th-century illustrated newspaper.

#### **\*\*MID-ATLANTIC NEWSPAPERS**

<http://search.proquest.com/barcode?accountid=44788&groupid=46524>

Provides full-text coverage for 12 regional newspapers including the *Washington Post*, *Baltimore Sun*, *Progress-Index*, *Roanoke Times*, and *Virginian-Pilot*.

#### **\*\*NEW YORK TIMES (1980–current)**

<http://search.proquest.com/barcode?accountid=44788&groupid=46524>

Provides full-text coverage, including the *New York Times Book Review* and the *New York Times Magazine* (1997–current).

#### **\*\*NEWSPAPER SOURCE PLUS**

<http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?authtype=ip,cpid&custid=ns004890&profile=ehost&defaultdb=n5h>

Provides full-text coverage for national and international newspapers and radio/television program transcripts. Virginia content includes select current coverage for the *Free Lance Star*, *Manassas Journal Messenger*, *Carroll News*, and *Virginia Gazette* as well as historical coverage for the *Richmond Times-Dispatch* (1997–2009), the *Daily Press* (1997–2009), and additional titles.

#### **\*\*NORFOLK JOURNAL AND GUIDE (1921–2003)**

<http://search.proquest.com/barcode?accountid=44788&groupid=46524>

Digital access to the *Norfolk Journal and Guide*, which had a circulation of over 80,000 by the 1940s.

**\*\*PROQUEST CIVIL WAR ERA**

<http://search.proquest.com/barcode?accountid=44788&groupid=46524>

Access to primary sources from the antebellum and American Civil War periods (1840–1865). Users can search 13 digitized newspapers, including the Richmond *Daily Dispatch* (1852–1865), and nearly 2,000 pamphlets covering a vast range of Civil War–era research topics.

**\*\*WASHINGTON POST (1877–1994)**

<http://search.proquest.com/barcode?accountid=44788&groupid=46524>

Digital access to the *Washington Post*, which often covered stories in Virginia, making its archive a means of pinpointing specific dates of Virginia events.

**\*\* WASHINGTON POST DIGITAL MICROFILM (2008–current)**

<http://digitalmicrofilm.proquest.com/ipbarcode?aid=2774>

Provides complete issues of the newspaper (including images), which can be retrieved by date. Issues for the current year are added as they become available. [Please note: The search function isn't operational and will always return a zero result.]

## Newspaper Indexes

The Library of Virginia also provides researchers with a helpful suite of newspaper indexes. With the exception of the Freeman File, the indexes below can be accessed from the Library website by clicking on “Using the Collections” and selecting the index title from the Alphabetical Listing.

### General

**FREEMAN FILE**

An index to articles from the *Richmond Times-Dispatch* and the *Richmond News Leader* covering the late 1920s to October 1985. The index is on microfiche and is available at the Library.

**NEWSPAPER INDEX: RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH, RICHMOND NEWS LEADER 1940s–1985**

A digital copy of the newspaper index card file.

**PETERSBURG PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWSPAPER INDEX**

A proper name and subject index covering more than 40 newspaper titles primarily published in Petersburg, Virginia, 1797–1877.

**SELECTED INDEXING OF VIRGINIA NEWSPAPERS AVAILABLE AT THE LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA**

A list of general newspaper indexes and Virginia newspaper indexes organized by city and county.

## Marriages/Obituaries

### **HENLEY MARRIAGE/OBITUARY INDEX TO VIRGINIA NEWSPAPERS**

A personal name index to more than 51,000 marriage and obituary entries published between 1736 and 1982.

### **MARRIAGE INDEX FOR *RICHMOND ENQUIRER/RICHMOND VISITOR***

An index of the *Richmond Enquirer* (1804–1860) and the *Richmond Visitor* (1809–1810).

### **OBITUARY INDEX FOR *RICHMOND ENQUIRER/RICHMOND VISITOR***

An obituary index of the *Richmond Enquirer* (1804–1860) and *Richmond Visitor* (1809–1810).

*Cover image from the collections at the Library of Virginia, Lab# 02-1106-01.*

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