



On 6 August 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 two hundred and seventy years.

Today, the Library has more than 3,355 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
- Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture
- Colonial Williamsburg Foundation
- Union Theological Seminary
- Virginia Union University
- Virginia Commonwealth University

To Check Availability of Newspaper Holdings in Virginia Libraries

1. Go to the Library's home page (<http://www.lva.virginia.gov>).
2. In the search box in the upper right of the page, type Newspapers in Virginia Bibliography.
3. Click on the Newspapers in Virginia Bibliography option.
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, photoreproduction, etc.).
6. To see specific holdings' information, click on an institution's name.

To Retrieve a Newspaper in the Library of Virginia Collection

- At a reference desk, ask for the specific titles and dates of the newspapers you would like to see. The staff will assist you in retrieving the issues.
- Reels of microfilmed newspapers can be viewed on the microfilm readers in the West Reading Room.
- Historic newspapers in hard copy are served in the Rare Books Reading Room or, on Saturdays, in the Manuscript Room. The staff will accompany patrons to these locations

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 ILL office next to the West Reading Room. The ILL form can be filled out and submitted online by clicking on the Forms option at the top of the Library's home page. The Interlibrary Loan Request Form is among the Using Collections and Ordering options. 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, electronically searchable resources. They provide full-text copies of articles and/or other materials such as advertisements.

- ***Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers, Richmond Dispatch (1900–1903), The Times (1900–1903), and the Times-Dispatch (1903–1910).*** Library of Congress, National Endowment for the Humanities, 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 published 1900–1910 in fully searchable digital format. Titles in addition to those listed above will be added during the course of the project. Once newspapers from 1900 to 1910 are online, the NDNP will digitize selected titles from the Library of Virginia's collection published from 1880 to 1900.

- ***Richmond 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>
 This project provides a fully searchable database of 1,384 issues of the *Richmond Daily Dispatch* during the American Civil War years. Results are available in transcription and digital image formats.
- ***Virginia Gazette, 1736–1780.***
Colonial Williamsburg Digital Library.
<http://research.history.org/DigitalLibrary/BrowseVG.cfm>
 Images of the *Virginia Gazette*, the newspaper of record in colonial Virginia, are available for browsing by date, and the images are also linked to the index topics in Lester J. Cappon and Stella F. Duff's *Virginia Gazette Index, 1736–1780*.
- ***Valley of the Shadow, Newspaper Archive, 1857–1870.***
Virginia Center for Digital History at the University of Virginia.
http://www.vcdh.virginia.edu/xml_docs/valley_news/html/opening.html
 The "Valley of the Shadow" is a digital 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.
- ***New York Times Archives.***
New York Times.
<http://www.nytimes.com/ref/membercenter/nytarchive.html>
 Articles in the public domain (1851–1922) are free, as are articles published 1987–present. For the period 1923–1986, the archive returns an article preview with date and page. The Library of Virginia has a full run of the *New York Times* on microfilm.

In addition to the free, online newspaper databases listed above, the Library of Virginia subscribes to the following electronic databases. These are available on the Library Catalog computers in the Library reading rooms.

- ***Harpweek (1857–1912)***
 Harpweek provides searchable, electronic access to *Harper's Weekly*, America's leading 19th century illustrated newspaper.
- ***ProQuest Civil War Era.***
 ProQuest Civil War Era provides digital access to primary sources from the antebellum and American Civil War periods (1840–1865). Users can search thirteen full-text newspapers, including the *Daily Dispatch*, and nearly 2,000 pamphlets covering a vast range of Civil War–era research topics.
- ***NewsBank (America's Newspapers).***
 This searchable database of several hundred United States newspapers includes the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, the *Washington Times*, and *USA Today*. NewsBank provides access to numerous small, weekly Virginia newspapers, as well as to larger dailies such as the *Bristol Herald Courier*, the *News & Advance* (Lynchburg, Va.), *Danville Register & Bee*, and the *Daily Progress* (Charlottesville, Va.). To see the full list of available titles, click on NewsBank from the LVA Databases & External Research Websites page and then select Virginia Newspapers.

- ***Historical Washington Post (1877–1992).***

This subscription archive of the *Washington Post* displays digital images of the newspaper pages with search terms highlighted. Because the *Washington Post* often covered stories in Virginia, the archive provides a means of pinpointing specific dates of Virginia events.

Newspaper Indexes

The Library of Virginia also provides researchers with a helpful suite of newspaper indexes. Click on Using the Collections and then go to the Alphabetical Listing to find the following newspaper indexes.

- **“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 (also available in the Library Catalog).

- **“Marriage Index for *Richmond Enquirer*/*Richmond Visitor*.”**

An index of the *Richmond Enquirer* (1804–1860) and the *Richmond Visitor* (1809–1810) (also available in the Library Catalog).

- **“Newspaper Index: *Richmond Times Dispatch*, *Richmond News Leader* 1940’s–1985.”**

A digital copy of the newspaper index card file.

- **“Obituary Index for *Richmond Enquirer*/*Richmond Visitor*”**

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

- **“Petersburg Public Library Newspaper Index.”**

A proper name and subject index covering more than 40 newspaper titles primarily published in Petersburg, Virginia, 1797–1877 (also available in the Library Catalog).

- **“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 (PDF format) (also available in the Library Catalog).

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

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