

## Virginia Vital Records and Ancestry.com

As a result of a public-private collaboration between the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) and Ancestry.com, more than 16 million Virginia vital records have been digitized and indexed. Scanned images of the original public documents are available online through Ancestry.com. Access to the indexed information for these records is available free of charge to Library of Virginia patrons inside the Library building only.

Patrons may access the AncestryInstitution.com database through the Library's public access computers located on the second floor. It's also available via Wi-Fi on a personal computer in the Library's reading rooms at [www.lva.virginia.gov/public/using\\_collections.asp](http://www.lva.virginia.gov/public/using_collections.asp).

So far, birth and death records from 1912 to 2014, marriage records from 1936 to 2014, and divorce records from 1918 to 2014 have been scanned. There may be birth records dating back to 1864 that were filed after 1912. Non-public records—those that have not yet reached the required time for release—are available as an “Index Only Record.” In Virginia, death, marriage and divorce data become public information 25 years after the event; birth data are public after 100 years. To see an index of records scanned by Ancestry, visit the [Virginia Department of Health](#) index. Please note that the birth index on the VDH website includes location and year of birth but no other information without a subscription to Ancestry.com. Their death, marriage and divorce index gives names only. Please contact the Virginia Department of Health for questions regarding the index.

“The Office of Vital Records in the Virginia Department of Health has done a great service for family historians and the genealogical community by making these important records much more easily accessible,” Librarian of Virginia Sandra G. Treadway commented. “The Library of Virginia is pleased to have assisted with this project and to help Virginians in accessing the Ancestry.com database.”