PRE-18TH-CENTURY DOCUMENTS

First-Hand Accounts and Letters, 1550-1749
Virtual Jamestown / Virginia Tech, University of Virginia, and the Virginia Center for Digital History at the University of Virginia.
http://www.virtualjamestown.org/thaccounts_date.html (by date)
http://www.virtualjamestown.org/thaccounts_desc.html (by subject)

A Briefe and True Report of the New Found Land of Virginia, 1590
by Thomas Hariot
University of North Carolina
http://docsouth.unc.edu/nc/hariot/hariot.html

The Virginia Charters
The royal charters by which the London Company of Virginia obtained permission from King James I to establish a colony in Virginia.

The First Charter of Virginia, 10 April 1606
The Avalon Project at the Yale Law School
http://avalon.law.yale.edu/17th_century/va01.asp
University of Groningen / Dept. of Humanities Computing
http://odur.let.rug.nl/~usa/D/1601-1650/virginia/chart01.htm

The Second Charter of Virginia, 23 May 1609
The Avalon Project at the Yale Law School
http://avalon.law.yale.edu/17th_century/va02.asp
University of Groningen / Dept. of Humanities Computing
http://odur.let.rug.nl/~usa/D/1601-1650/virginia/chart02.htm

The Third Charter of Virginia, 12 March 1611/12
The Avalon Project at the Yale Law School
http://avalon.law.yale.edu/17th_century/va03.asp
University of Groningen / Dept. of Humanities Computing
http://odur.let.rug.nl/~usa/D/1601-1650/virginia/chart03.htm

Instructions for the Virginia Colony, 1606
Instructions from King James I to the Virginia Company on how to run the Virginia Colony, which was "established by means of a joint-stock company" for the purpose of trade and profit.
University of Groningen / Dept. of Humanities Computing

An Ordinance and Constitution of the Virginia Company in England, 24 July 1621
University of Groningen / Dept. of Humanities Computing
http://odur.let.rug.nl/~usa/D/1601-1650/virginia/ordi.htm

From the title page of A Briefe and True Report of the New Found Land of Virginia... by Thomas Hariot, 1671 reprint. Library of Virginia, Special Collections.
National Humanities Institute
http://www.nhinet.org/ccs/docs/va-ord.htm

Proceedings of the Virginia Assembly, 1619
Virtual Jamestown / Virginia Tech, the University of Virginia, and the Virginia Center for Digital History at the University of Virginia.
http://etcbin.jamestown-browse?id=J1036

Ordinances for Virginia, 24 July–3 August 1621
Believed to be an almost exact transcription of the 1619 document that gave instructions to Governor Yeardley to convene a Council of State and a General Assembly in Virginia in 1619.
The Avalon Project at the Yale Law School
http://avalon.law.yale.edu/17th_century/va04.asp

Governor William Berkeley on Bacon's Rebellion, 19 May 1676
University of Groningen / Dept. of Humanities Computing
http://odur.let.rug.nl/~usa/D/1651-1700/bacon_rebel/berke.htm

Bacon's Declaration in the Name of the People, 30 July 1676
University of Groningen / Dept. of Humanities Computing
http://odur.let.rug.nl/~usa/D/1651-1700/bacon_rebel/bacon.htm

Treaty Between Virginia and the Indians, 1677
Bay Link
http://www.baylink.org/treaty/Default.html

Charter of the College of William and Mary by King William III and Queen Mary II, 1693
College of William and Mary. Earl Gregg Swem Library. Special Collections.
http://swem.wm.edu/departments/special-collections/exhibits/exhibits/charter/charter/

Selected Virginia Statutes Relating to Slavery (seventeenth & eighteenth centuries)
Virtual Jamestown / Virginia Tech, the University of Virginia, and the Virginia Center for Digital History at the University of Virginia.
http://www.virtualjamestown.org/slavelink.html

Selected Virginia Statutes Relating to Indentured Servants
Virtual Jamestown / Virginia Tech, the University of Virginia, and the Virginia Center for Digital History at the University of Virginia.
http://www.virtualjamestown.org/indlink.html

Selected Virginia Statutes Relating to Religion
Virtual Jamestown / Virginia Tech, the University of Virginia, and the Virginia Center for Digital History at the University of Virginia.
Part 2: http://www.virtualjamestown.org/lawlink2.html

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Thomas Jefferson on Slavery
University of Groningen / Dept. of Humanities Computing
http://odur.let.rug.nl/~usa/9th3/writings/slavery.htm

Petition of the Virginia House of Burgesses to the House of Commons, 18 December 1764
The Avalon Project at the Yale Law School
http://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/petition_va_1764.asp
20TH-CENTURY DOCUMENTS

Primary Source Documents for Educational Use
Eighteenth- to twentieth-century documents that are primarily excerpts designed for ease of use in the classroom, rather than full transcriptions.
Library of Virginia
http://www.lva.virginia.gov/whatwedo/k12/psd/index.htm

Virginia Constitution, 1902
This was the fifth constitution of the Commonwealth. It established a poll tax as a prerequisite for voting, effectively disenfranchising black voters.
Google Books
http://books.google.com/books?id=1NgwAAAAIAAJ&q=virginia%20constitution%201902&pg=PA1#v=onepage&q=1902&f=false
Excerpts from Article II regarding voter qualifications and election procedures.
University of Virginia
http://www.vch.virginia.edu/afam/politics/legislation.html#Amendment

Virginia Constitution, Effective 1 July 1971 with Amendments, 1 January 2007
The 1971 edition of the Virginia Constitution is the one currently in effect. It was revised and agreed to by the General Assembly in the 1969 session and again in the 1970 session. It was ratified by the people on 3 November 1970, and went into effect at noon on the first day of July 1971.
Virginia, General Assembly. http://legis.state.va.us/Laws/search/Constitution.htm (can be searched by keyword or phrase)

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Reference Section
Revised June 2011

Virginia Stamp Act Resolutions, 30 May 1765
Colonial Williamsburg
http://www.history.org/History/teaching/tchcrvar.cfm

The Association of the Virginia Convention, 1–6 August 1774
The Avalon Project at the Yale Law School
http://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/assoc_of_va_conv_1774.asp

Early Virginia Religious Petitions, 1774–1802
Library of Congress / Library of Virginia
http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/repehome/repehome.html

Resolutions of the Provincial Congress of Virginia, 23 March 1775
The Avalon Project at the Yale Law School
http://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/nes_cong_va_1775.asp

Preamble and Resolution of the Virginia Convention, 15 May 1776
The Avalon Project at the Yale Law School
http://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/const02.asp

Draft Constitution for Virginia, June 1776
The Avalon Project at the Yale Law School
http://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/jeffcons.asp

Virginia Declaration of Rights, 12 June 1776
Library of Congress
The Avalon Project at the Yale Law School
http://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/virginia.asp

Virginia Constitution, 29 June 1776
National Humanities Institute
http://www.nhinet.org/ccs/docs/va-1776.htm
Library of Virginia
http://www.virginiamemory.com/online_classroom/shaping_the_constitution/doc/va_constitution

Draft for a Bill for Establishing Religious Freedom, 1779, by Thomas Jefferson
University of Groningen / Dept. of Humanities Computing
http://odur.let.rug.nl/~usa/PhJ/bjwritings/draft1779.htm

The Virginia Cession, 1 March 1784
On 2 January 1781, Virginia offered to cede its northwestern lands, but attached conditions unacceptable to Congress. On 20 December 1783, the Virginia legislature modified its position and passed the Virginia Act of Cession. The other states with western claims subsequently relinquished them, easing the way toward ratification of the Articles of Confederation.
Indiana Historical Bureau
http://www.in.gov/history/2898.htm

Memorial and Remonstrance 20 June 1785, by James Madison
Written in opposition to a bill introduced in the General Assembly of Virginia to levy a general assessment for the support of teachers of religions, Madison’s memorial presented a powerful argument against state-supported religion. It was written just a few months before the General Assembly passed Jefferson’s religious freedom bill.
The Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom, 16 January 1786
The Library of Virginia
http://www.virginiamemory.com/online_classroom/shaping_the_constitution/doc/religious_freedom
University of Virginia
http://religiousfreedom.lib.virginia.edu/sacred/vaact.html

Resolution of the General Assembly of Virginia, 21 January 1786
A resolution proposing a joint meeting of commissioners from the states to consider and recommend a federal plan for regulating commerce.
The Avalon Project at the Yale Law School
http://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/const03.asp

Variant Texts of the Virginia Plan, presented by Edmund Randolph to the Federal Convention, 29 May 1787
Text A. The Avalon Project at the Yale Law School http://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/vatexta.asp
Text B. The Avalon Project at the Yale Law School http://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/vatextb.asp
Text C. The Avalon Project at the Yale Law School http://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/vatextc.asp

The Northwest Ordinance, 13 July 1787
An ordinance for the government of the Territory of the United States northwest of the River Ohio.
The Avalon Project at the Yale Law School
http://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/worder.asp
University of Groningen / Dept. of Humanities Computing
http://odur.let.rug.nl/~usa/D/1776-1800/ohio/norwes.htm

Ratification of the Constitution by the State of Virginia, 26 June 1788
The Avalon Project at the Yale Law School
http://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/ratva.asp

Virginia Resolution, 1798
A resolution against the Alien and Sedition Acts.
The Avalon Project at the Yale Law School
http://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/irreses.asp
University of Groningen / Dept. of Humanities Computing
http://odur.let.rug.nl/~usa/D/1776-1800/irides.htm

19TH-CENTURY DOCUMENTS

Gabriel's Conspiracy, 1800
Library of Virginia

Virginia Constitution, 1830
An Amended Constitution or Form of Government for Virginia (adopted by the Convention 14 January 1830)
West Virginia Division of Culture and History
http://www.wvculture.org/history/government/1830constitution01.html

The Confessions of Nat Turner, 1831
University of Groningen / Dept. of Humanities Computing
http://odur.let.rug.nl/~usa/D/1826-1850/slavery/confes01.htm

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
http://docsouth.unc.edu/neh/turner/menu.html

Nat Turner's Rebellion, 1831
Library of Virginia

Virginia Constitution, 1851
Center for History and New Media, George Mason University
http://vagovernmentmatters.org/archive/files/vaconstitution1851_od045111de.pdf

John Brown's Raid, 1859
Library of Virginia

John Brown's Address to the Court, 1859
PBS
http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/aia/part4/4h2943t.html

[Virginia] Ordinance of Secession, 17 April 1861
West Virginia Division of Culture and History
http://www.wvculture.org/history/statehood/ordinanceofsecession.html

Declaration of the People of Virginia Represented in Convention at Wheeling, 13 June 1861
This document called for the reorganization of the government of Virginia on the grounds that, due to Virginia's decision to secede from the United States, all state government offices had been vacated. This initiated the division of Virginia and West Virginia into separate states.
West Virginia Division of Culture and History
http://www.wvculture.org/history/statehood/declaration.html

The Southern Homefront 1861–1865: Topical Access to State Official Documents
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
http://docsouth.unc.edu/imls/states.html

Virginia Constitution, 1864
Center for History and New Media, George Mason University
http://vagovernmentmatters.org/archive/files/vaconstitution1864_9222e1a0a9.pdf
Google Books
http://books.google.com/books?id=QDMMQAQAAAJ&dq=virginia%20constitution%201864&pg=PA64#v=onepage&q&f=false

An Address to the Loyal Citizens and Congress of the United States of America Adopted by a Convention of Negros Held in Alexandria, Virginia, from August 2 to 5, 1865
University of Groningen / Dept. of Humanities Computing
http://www.let.rug.nl/usa/D/1851-1875/slavery/addres.htm

Virginia Constitution, 1870
Constitution of Virginia 1870 (submitted to the people 6 July 1869 and ratified)
Google Books
The Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom, 16 January 1786
The Library of Virginia
http://www.virginiamemory.com/online_classroom/shaping_theconstitution/doc/religious_freedom
University of Virginia
http://religionfreedom.lib.virginia.edu/sacred/vaact.html

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http://docsouth.unc.edu/nel/tturner/menu.html

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An Address to the Loyal Citizens and Congress of the United States of America Adopted by a Convention of Negroes Held in Alexandria, Virginia, from August 2 to 5, 1865
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