

### 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/fhaccounts\\_date.html](http://www.virtualjamestown.org/fhaccounts_date.html) (by date)

[http://www.virtualjamestown.org/fhaccounts\\_desc.html](http://www.virtualjamestown.org/fhaccounts_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](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](http://avalon.law.yale.edu/17th_century/va02.asp)

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<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](http://avalon.law.yale.edu/17th_century/va03.asp)

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<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.

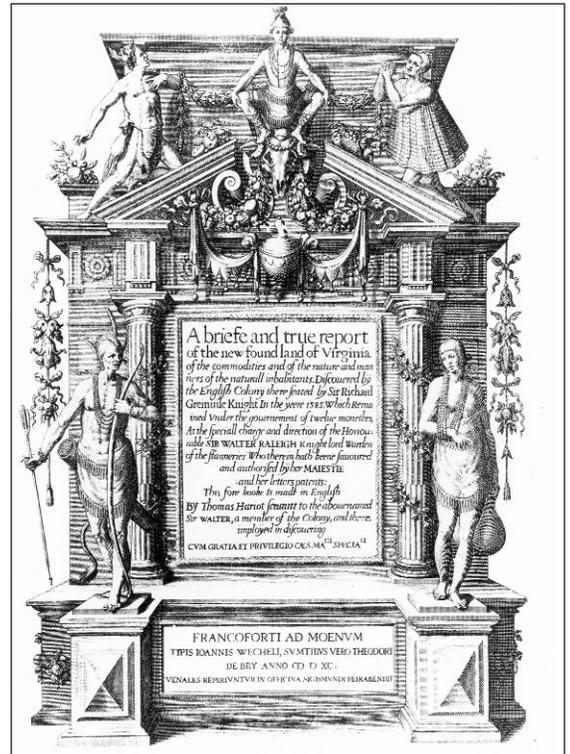
University of Groningen / Dept. of Humanities Computing

<http://odur.let.rug.nl/~usa/D/1601-1650/virginia/instru.htm>

#### 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, 1871 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://etext.lib.virginia.edu/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](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](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](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 1: <http://www.virtualjamestown.org/lawlink.html>

Part 2: <http://www.virtualjamestown.org/lawlink2.html>

## 18TH-CENTURY DOCUMENTS

**Thomas Jefferson on Slavery**

University of Groningen / Dept. of Humanities Computing

<http://odur.let.rug.nl/~usa/P/tj3/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](http://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/petition_va_1764.asp)

**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](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/repehtml/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/res\\_cong\\_va\\_1775.asp](http://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/res_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](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](http://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/jeffcons.asp)**Virginia Declaration of Rights**, 12 June 1776

Library of Congress

<http://myloc.gov/Exhibitions/creatingtheus/DeclarationofIndependence/BattleJoined/ExhibitObjects/VirginiaDeclarationofRights.aspx>

The Avalon Project at the Yale Law School

[http://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th\\_century/virginia.asp](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](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/P/tj3/writings/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.

University of Groningen / Dept. of Humanities Computing  
<http://odur.let.rug.nl/usa/P/jm4/writings/memor.htm>

**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](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](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](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](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](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/nworder.asp](http://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/nworder.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](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/virres.asp](http://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/virres.asp)  
University of Groningen / Dept. of Humanities Computing  
<http://odur.let.rug.nl/~usa/D/1776-1800/constitution/virg1798.htm>

## 19TH-CENTURY DOCUMENTS

**Gabriel's Conspiracy, 1800**

Library of Virginia  
<http://www.lva.virginia.gov/whoware/exhibits/deathliberty/gabriel/index.htm>

**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  
<http://www.lva.virginia.gov/whoweare/exhibits/deathliberty/natturner/index.htm>

**Virginia Constitution, 1851**

Center for History and New Media, George Mason University  
[http://vagovernmentmatters.org/archive/files/vaconstitution1851\\_ded45111de.pdf](http://vagovernmentmatters.org/archive/files/vaconstitution1851_ded45111de.pdf)

**John Brown's Raid, 1859**

Library of Virginia  
<http://www.lva.virginia.gov/whoweare/exhibits/deathliberty/johnbrown/index.htm>

**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**

Full text of selected state documents for the states of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia. Virginia documents include: Acts of the General Assembly (1862–1864), Journal of the House of Delegates (1861–1863), and Message from the Executive [sic] of the Commonwealth: with Accompanying Documents, Showing the Military and Naval Preparations for the Defence of the State of Virginia, &c. &c. (1861)  
 University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
<http://docsouth.unc.edu/ims/states.html>

**Virginia Constitution, 1864**

Center for History and New Media, George Mason University  
[http://vagovernmentmatters.org/archive/files/vaconstitution1864\\_9222e1a0a9.pdf](http://vagovernmentmatters.org/archive/files/vaconstitution1864_9222e1a0a9.pdf)  
 Google Books  
<http://books.google.com/books?id=QDMMAQAAMAAJ&dq=virginia%20constitution%201864&pg=PA6#v=onepage&q&f=false>

**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**

University of Groningen. / Dept. of Humanities Computing  
<http://www.let.rug.nl/usa/D/1851-1875/slavery/addresses.htm>

**Virginia Constitution, 1870**

Constitution of Virginia 1870 (submitted to the people 6 July 1869 and ratified)  
 Google Books

<http://books.google.com/books?id=AhQSAAAAYAAJ&dq=virginia%20constitution%201870&pg=PA611#v=onepage&q=virginia%20constitution%201870&f=false>

## 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=NKwSAAAAYAAJ&dq=virginia%20constitution%201902&pg=PA1#v=onepage&q&f=false>

Excerpts from Article II regarding voter qualifications and election procedures.

University of Virginia

<http://www.vcdh.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/constofva.pdf>

Virginia. General Assembly. <http://legis.state.va.us/Laws/search/Constitution.htm> (can be searched by keyword or phrase)

Disclaimer: This document provides links to Web pages that are not part of the Library of Virginia Web site. Although the Library attempts to furnish links to Web pages that provide accurate information, the Library is not responsible for, and cannot warrant, the validity of any external Web site's content.

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