



ASIAN PACIFIC ISLANDER DESI AMERICAN (APIDA) RESEARCH AT THE LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA: A SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

The history of Asian Pacific Islander Desi Americans (APIDAs) is an important part of the American experience. Works dedicated to APIDAs contribute to a fuller understanding of the history of the United States. Their stories encompass a rich legacy of achievement, along with hardships and sacrifices, that deserve to be explored.

In the 2000 U.S. Census, the federal government defines “Asian American” as including persons having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, or the Indian subcontinent. “Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander” includes Fijian, Guamanian or Chamorro, Marshallese, Native Hawaiian, Samoan, and Tongan peoples and covers the people within the United States jurisdictions of Melanesia, Micronesia, and Polynesia. The previous “Asian and Pacific Islander” (API) category was separated into “Asian Americans” and “Native Hawaiians and Other Pacific Islanders.” In the Library’s reference guides, the term “Desi” refers to countries of origin including Afghanistan, Bhutan, Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka.

Historically, Asians, and Pacific Islanders were grouped together by government classifications. Conflicting views exist on the appropriateness of any classification or reference. While these communities use various names to describe themselves, these groupings are ultimately political and part of a dynamic, continuing process of self-determination and self-identification. We use the term “Asian and Pacific Islander Desi American” to include all people of Asian, Asian American, or Pacific Islander ancestry who trace their origins to the countries, states, jurisdictions, and/or the diasporic communities of these geographic regions.

APIDAs are often overlooked in Virginia’s history. Books, articles, and other secondary sources specifically dedicated to APIDAs in the commonwealth are rare. In addition, very few publications address how APIDAs were viewed in the South during the era of “Jim Crow” racial segregation laws. To understand how APIDAs may have navigated life in Virginia, researchers may need to focus on national, regional, and local historiographies and secondary sources, in addition to archival and primary sources. The publications listed here explore the history of these populations in the United States, not in other nations.

A guide for Asian Pacific Islander Desi American archival sources at the Library of Virginia can be found under “Using the Collections” and “Guides and Indexes” on the Library website or by using the link: https://www.lva.virginia.gov/public/using_collections.asp#_guides-AsianPacificIslanderDesiAmericanAPIDAResearch. These are published sources currently available through the Library of Virginia.

A more comprehensive bibliography of selected published sources and curated list of APIDA digital content resources not included in this guide can be found at: <https://edu.lva.virginia.gov/apidaresources>

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Asian Pacific Islander Desi American (APIDA) Studies in Virginia

New Virginians: 1619–2019 & Beyond, an exhibition produced jointly by the Library of Virginia and Virginia Humanities, highlights the changing demographics of the commonwealth through a series of interviews with first-generation immigrants and refugees who arrived in Virginia after 1976. This exhibition explores the historical and continuous journey toward the ideals of America and seeks to foster an honest discussion about the immigrant and refugee experience and Virginia’s increasing diversity. The interviews reveal the complexity of the experience for people representing a wide range of personal backgrounds, experiences, ages, and countries of origin—Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, and the Middle East. *New Virginians* is a Legacy Project of the American Evolution, 2019 Commemoration. Visit the web page at <https://edu.lva.virginia.gov/new-virginians/>.

APIDA interviewees in *New Virginians* include:

- Chandra Chhetri, native of Bhutan
- Mohammad Hassanzada, native of Afghanistan
- Xang Mimi Ho, native of Laos
- Kyung Jung, native of South Korea
- Pryalal Karmarkar, native of Bangladesh
- Nhi Le, native of Vietnam
- Dr. Juan Montero, native of the Philippines
- Gankhuyag (Ganna) Natsag, native of Mongolia
- Atif Qarni, native of Pakistan
- Zhiyi (Joycee) Wang, native of China

Virginia Women in History, a Library of Virginia program that celebrates Women's History Month, has honored three APIDA Virginia Changemakers (<https://edu.lva.virginia.gov/changemakers/>) who have made a difference in their community, state, and nation.

- Corazon Foley, native of the Philippines
- Pearl Fu, native of China
- Marii Hasegawa, native of Japan

Prints & Photographs

The Library of Virginia's Prints and Photographs Collection houses more than 240,000 prints, photographs, postcards, posters, and ephemera items. Over the years, we have digitized not only parts of our own collections, but also some local photograph collections housed at public libraries across the commonwealth. These can be found at: https://www.virginiamemory.com/collections/online_photo_collections. As with all of our digital collections, the digital photograph collections are searchable by keyword, creator, and title.

- APIDA soldiers can be found in the U.S. Army Signal Corps Photograph Collection, which includes photographs from the Hampton Roads Port of Embarkation series, 1942–1946, taken by Army Signal Corps photographers assigned to the port historian's office. The nearly 3,500 photographs depict the arrival and departure of U.S. military personnel and equipment, the preparation and loading of war materials, civilian employees, Red Cross workers, wounded personnel, and German and Italian prisoners of war.
- A photo of an APIDA woman can be found in the Harry C. Mann Photograph Collection, a collection of glass plate negatives located in the Library's Picture Collection.
- A few photos of APIDAs can be found in the Adolph B. Rice Studio Collection, which constitutes a unique photographic record of life in Richmond from 1949 to 1961. The Library offers digital versions of over 400 of the 16,000 images from Rice's commercial studio, including studio portraits, aerial views, advertising shots for local department stores, and local religious and educational events. If you are familiar with the people, places, and events depicted in the Rice Collection, you can add comments and metadata online that will help us identify more of this content.

Newspapers & Virginia Chronicle

The Library of Virginia has an extensive collection of historical and current newspapers. Back issues of newspapers are generally available in microfilm and can be located by executing a title search (e.g., Virginia Herald) in the online catalog. Some commonly used titles are located in the microfilm cabinets in the West Reading Room. Others must be requested from the stacks in the same manner as books. A listing of newspapers by locality is available at the reference desk. The Virginia Newspaper Project, established in 1993, has worked to locate, describe, inventory, preserve, and provide public access to United States imprint newspapers housed not only at the Library of Virginia but throughout the commonwealth. A bibliography of American newspapers cataloged and inventoried by the Virginia Newspaper Project can be found at: <https://www.lva.virginia.gov/public/vnp/>.

From the *Abingdon Virginian* to the *Richmond Planet*, the Library's Virginia Chronicle (<https://virginiachronicle.com/>) archive provides free access to over a million newspaper pages from the commonwealth and beyond. These full-text searchable and digitized images give glimpses into the lives of Virginians from 1787 to 2013, outlining everything from community happenings to notable moments in American history. Volunteers help correct the text of articles. Articles on APIDAs in Virginia can be found by searching in this database. In

addition, the Library of Virginia holds microfilm and hard copy versions of *Asian Fortune*, a periodical from Vienna, Virginia.

The UncommonWealth

Check out the Library of Virginia's blog, The UncommonWealth, at <https://uncommonwealth.virginiamemory.com/> to learn about what we do, why we do it, and how our efforts relate to current issues and events. In addition to our intriguing collections and groundbreaking projects, we spotlight public libraries, staff members, and specialized professions. Below are a few entries that spotlight APIDAs in our collection (you can search the blog for these titles).

- "Abandoned Papers: The Naturalization Certificates of Ow Chuck Sam and Eng Yick Yu"
- "The High Cost of Entertainment: Chang and Eng Go to the General Assembly"
- "Vestiges of Vietnam: Gathering Stories of the Refugee Experience"

Helpful Publications at the Library of Virginia

Virginia & Southern History

While the following books on the history of Virginia and the South do not specifically address APIDAs, they can provide context for the experiences of Asian Pacific Islander Desi American (APIDA) populations in the state, particularly in regard to race relations and laws, which differ from those on the West Coast.

During the Jim Crow period in Virginia (between 1877 and the mid-1960s), authorities enforced racial segregation throughout the state. In 1924, the Virginia General Assembly, with much persuasion from Virginia's registrar of statistics, Dr. Walter Ashby Plecker, passed the Racial Integrity Act, which required that all Virginia birth certificates and marriage certificates list the person's race as either "white" or "colored," and classified all nonwhites, including Native Americans, as "colored." Like Native Americans, Asians and Asian Americans were individuals who did not fit easily into this legal and cultural system predicated on a binary distinction. The 1924 statute specifically limited the rights of anyone who was not categorized as "white" in Virginia, including "prohibition against whites marrying anyone save another white," and the definition of a white person as one "who has no trace whatsoever of any blood other than Caucasian." The small population of APIDAs in Virginia during this period had to live and work within these racial laws and constraints.

Blanton, S. Walker, Jr. "Virginia in the 1920s: An Economic and Social Profile." PhD diss., University of Virginia, 1969.

Griggs, Walter S., Jr. *World War II Richmond Virginia*. Charleston, SC: The History Press, 2013.

Hale, Grace Elizabeth. *Making Whiteness: The Culture of Segregation in the South, 1890–1940*. New York: Pantheon Books, 1998.

Hardwick, Kevin R., and Warren R. Hofstra, eds. *New Histories of the Old Dominion: Virginia Reconsidered*. Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 2003.

Heinemann, Ronald L., John G. Kolk, Anthony S. Parent Jr., and William G. Shade. *Old Dominion, New Commonwealth: A History of Virginia, 1607–2007*. Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 2007.

Holloway, Pippa, ed. *Other Souths: Diversity and Difference in the U.S. South, Reconstruction to Present*. Athens: University of Georgia Press, 2008.

Lewis, Earl. *In Their Own Interests: Race, Class, and Power in Twentieth-Century Norfolk, Virginia*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1991.

Lutz, Francis Earle. *Richmond in World War II*. Richmond, VA: The Dietz Press, 1951.

Newbeck, Phyl. *Virginia Hasn't Always Been for Lovers: Interracial Marriage Bans and the Case of Richard and Mildred Loving*. Carbondale: Southern Illinois University Press, 2004.

Salmon, Emily J., and Edward D. C. Campbell, Jr., eds. *The Hornbook of Virginia History, Fourth Edition*. Richmond: Library of Virginia, 1994.

Sherman, Richard B. "'The Last Stand': The Fight for Racial Integrity in Virginia in the 1920s." *The Journal of Southern History* 54, no. 1

(February 1988): 69–92.

Smith, J. Douglas. *Managing White Supremacy: Race, Politics, and Citizenship in Jim Crow Virginia*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2002.

Tarter, Brent. *Virginians and Their Histories*. Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 2020.

Wallenstein, Peter. *Cradle of America: Four Centuries of Virginia History*. Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 2007.

Wallenstein, Peter. "Race, Marriage, and the Law of Freedom: Alabama and Virginia 1860s–1960 – Freedom: Personal Liberty and Private Law." *Chicago-Kent Law Review* 70, no. 2 (December 1994): 371–437.

Ward, Jason Morgan. "'A Richmond Institution': Earnest Sevier Cox, Racial Propaganda, and White Resistance to the Civil Rights Movement." *Virginia Magazine of History and Biography* 116, no. 3 (2008): 262–293.

General Books on Race

Coleman, Arica L. *That the Blood Stay Pure: African Americans, Native Americans, and the Predicament of Race and Identity in Virginia*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2013.

Dorr, Gregory Michael. *Segregation's Science: Eugenics and Society in Virginia*. Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 2008.

Pascoe, Peggy. "Miscegenation Law, Court Cases, and Ideologies of 'Race' in Twentieth-Century America." *Journal of American History* 83, no. 1 (June 1996): 44–69.

Wallenstein, Peter. *Tell the Court I Love My Wife: Race, Marriage, and Law – An American History*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2002.

Wong, Edlie L. *Racial Reconstruction: Black Inclusion, Chinese Exclusion, and the Fictions of Citizenship*. New York: New York University Press, 2015.

Asian Pacific Islander Desi American (APIDAs) Studies in the South

While works dedicated to the history of Asian Pacific Islander Desi American (APIDA) populations in the South as a whole are scarce, some publications may help to interpret what life may have been like for APIDAs in Virginia. Many of these can offer useful case comparisons between attitudes in Virginia and other southern states.

Cohen, Lucy M. *Chinese in the Post-Civil War South*. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1984.

Foley, Corazon Sandoval. *Sandoval Stories, 1760s–2013: Filipino American Odyssey from Iloilo, Palawan, Manila to Fairfax County, Virginia*. Self-published, 2010.

Filipino American National Historical Society Hampton Roads Chapter. *In Our Aunties' Words: The Filipino Spirit of Hampton Roads*. San Francisco: T'Boli Publishing, 2004.

Hinnershitz, Stephanie. *A Different Shade of Justice: Asian American Civil Rights in the South*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2017.

Mohl, Raymond A., John E. Van Sant, and Chizuru Saeki, eds. *Far East, Down South: Asians in the American South*. Tuscaloosa: University of Alabama Press, 2016.

Joshi, Khyati Y., and Jigna Desai, eds. *Asian Americans in Dixie: Race and Migration in the South*. Chicago: University of Illinois Press, 2013.

Selected General Asian Pacific Islander Desi American (APIDAs) Books

The larger historiographies of Asian Pacific Islander Desi American (APIDA) history and selected sociology works are fundamental to understanding APIDA life in Virginia. Many of these publications look solely at the West Coast, however, and tend to generalize national attitudes with little attention to a southern context, particularly in regard to race.

Bradunas, Elena, and Topping, Brett. *Ethnic Heritage and Language Schools in America*. Washington, DC: American Folklife Center, Library of Congress, 1988.

Buenker, John D., and Lorman A. Ratner. *Multiculturalism in the United States: A Comparative Guide to Acculturation and Ethnicity*. Rev. and expanded ed. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 2005.

Gjelten, Tom. *A Nation of Nations: A Great American Immigration Story*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2015.

Lim, Shirley Geok-lin, and Amy Ling. *Reading the Literatures of Asian America*. Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1992.

Leonard, Karen Isaksen. *Immigrant Faiths: Transforming Religious Life in America*. Walnut Creek, CA: AltaMira Press, 2005.

Ngai, Mae M. *Impossible Subjects: Illegal Aliens and the Making of Modern America*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2003.

Schultz, Jeffrey D. *Encyclopedia of Minorities in American Politics*. Phoenix: Oryx Press, 2000.

Straub, Deborah Gillian. *Voices of Multicultural America: Notable Speeches Delivered by African, Asian, Hispanic, and Native Americans, 1790–1995*. Detroit: Gale Research, 1996.

Sutter, Valerie O'Connor. *The Indochinese Refugee Dilemma*. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1990.

Takaki, Ronald T. *Strangers from a Different Shore: A History of Asian Americans*. New York: Little, Brown and Company, 1989.

Asian Pacific Islander Desi American (APIDA) Genealogical Resources at the Library of Virginia

Full access to Ancestry.com is available for use in the second floor reading rooms at the Library of Virginia. In addition, the Library holds the following books, which can help you get started.

Carmack, Sharon Debartolo. *A Genealogist's Guide to Discovering Your Immigrant and Ethnic Ancestors*. Cincinnati: Betterway Books, 2000.

Eales, Anne Bruner and Robert M. Kvasnicka, eds. *Guide to Genealogical Research in the National Archives*. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 2000.

Smith, Jessie Carney. *Ethnic Genealogy: A Research Guide*. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1983.

Szucs, Loretto Dennis. *They Became Americans: Finding Naturalization Records and Ethnic Origins*. Salt Lake City: Ancestry Incorporated, 1998.



