

## Genealogical Research in the Virginia Room

The Virginia Room holds Southwestern Virginia's largest collection of genealogical materials. While many of the materials are Virginia specific, states closely associated with Virginia and its people by birth, boundary division, migration, and immigration are also included.

### Searching for Resources in the Virginia Room

#### *Published Works*

To search the Virginia Room's holdings of published works visit the Roanoke Valley Libraries catalog at [www.rvl.info](http://www.rvl.info). The catalog may be accessed by any computer or mobile device with internet access. Published works in the collection include family histories, county records, parish and vestry records, military records, county histories and subjects related to local, state and regional history.

From the dropdown menu on the top left of the page, select 'Virginia Room' from the list of library locations. This will limit the search to Virginia Room resources.

Enter search terms into the search box. Terms may include the subject, author, title, word or phrase.

- If no results are generated, try fewer search terms. Sometimes being too specific can eliminate all records.
- If too many results are generated, try to limit the search to more specific phrases.

#### *Unpublished Works*

Unpublished works include materials that cannot be searched using the Roanoke Valley Libraries catalog. This includes manuscript collections of genealogical materials, surname files, vertical files, and indexes to publications,

#### Searching unpublished genealogical collections

Finding aids are the tools used to determine what exists in genealogical collections and organizational records collections. Finding aids to all available collections in the Virginia Room can be searched at [www.virginiaroom.org/digital](http://www.virginiaroom.org/digital)

1. All Virginia Room finding aids can be browsed by clicking the 'Finding Aids' link at the top of the homepage.
2. Specific subjects can be searched by entering search terms into the search box on the homepage. It is recommended that the 'Advanced Search' function is used and limited to 'Exact Match' if more than one word is used in the search. Using the search box will generate results for not only finding aids, but all items in the digital collection that include a match to the search terms.

#### Surname files

A list of surnames included in the Virginia Room surname files can be accessed at [http://www.virginiaroom.org/digital/files/original/13/1791/Surname\\_Files.1.pdf](http://www.virginiaroom.org/digital/files/original/13/1791/Surname_Files.1.pdf)

To search the 'Surname File Index', press and hold the 'Ctrl' key and then the 'F' key. A search box will appear to search the index for a specific surname.

## *Microfilm*

Below is a list of microfilm available in the Virginia Room.

### Vital Records

*Bureau of Vital Statistics Virginia Index to Birth Registers 1853-1896*

*Bureau of Vital Statistics Virginia Index to Marriage Registers, Husbands: 1853-1940*

*Bureau of Vital Statistics Virginia Index to Marriage Registers, Wives: 1853-1940*

#### *Bureau of Vital Statistics Virginia Birth Registers:*

Augusta County: 1892-1896

Bath County: 1853-1896

Bedford County: 1853-1896

Bland County: 1861-1896

Botetourt County: 1853-1896

Buchanan County: 1858-1891

Buckingham County: 1853-1896

Campbell County: 1853-1859

Carroll County: 1855-1895

Fairfax County: 1853-1896

Floyd County: 1853-1896

Franklin County: 1853-1896

Frederick County: 1855-1896

Giles County: 1852-1896

Gloucester County: 1853-1883

Grayson County: 1853-1896

Greene County: 1853-1896

Hanover County: 1853-1896

Henry County: 1853-1896

Madison County: 1895-1896

Mathews County: 1853-1896

Middlesex County: 1853-1896

Montgomery County: 1853-1896

Nelson County: 1853-1873

Northumberland County: 1853-1896

Radford: 1891-1896

Rappahannock County: 1853-1896

Richmond: 1881-1896

Richmond County: 1853-1896

Roanoke: 1884-1896

Roanoke County: 1853-1896

Rockingham County: 1859-1884

Russell County: 1853-1889

Shenandoah County: 1892-1896

Staunton: 1854-1896

Williamsburg: 1853-1892

Wise County: 1857-1896

*Bureau of Vital Statistics Virginia Marriage Registers*

Alleghany County, 1822-1916  
Appomattox, 1854-1935  
Arlington, 1853-1935  
Augusta County, 1853-1935  
Bath County, 1853-1935  
Bedford County, 1853-1882; 1909-1935; General Index to Marriage Bonds, 1754-1870  
Bland County, 1861-1935  
Botetourt County, 1853-1935  
Brunswick County, 1853-1935  
Buchanan County, 1858-1935  
Buckingham County, 1854-1935  
Campbell County, 1853-1935  
Caroline County, 1853-1935  
Carroll County, 1854-1935  
Charles City County, 1853-1935  
Charlotte County, 1854-1899  
Fauquier County, 1914-1935  
Floyd County, 1853-1935  
Fluvanna County, 1853-1935  
Franklin County, 1853-1935  
Frederick County, 1853-1935  
Fredericksburg, 1918-1935  
Giles County, 1853-1935  
Gloucester County, 1853-1935  
Goochland County, 1853-1935  
Grayson County, 1854-1929  
Hanover County, 1918-1935  
Henrico County, 1853-1935  
Henry County, 1853-1935  
Highland County, 1853-1935  
Hopewell, 1853-1935  
Isle of Wight County, 1853-1901  
Lynchburg, 1853-1901  
Mecklenburg County, 1883-1935  
Middlesex County, 1853-1935  
Montgomery County, 1853-1935  
Nansemond County, 1853-1899  
Page County, 1930-1935  
Patrick County, 1853-1935  
Pittsylvania County, 1853-1886  
Portsmouth, 1927-1935  
Prince George County, 1920-1935  
Prince William County, 1854-1935  
Princess Anne County, 1853-1935  
Pulaski County, 1853-1935  
Radford, 1892-1935  
Rappahannock County, 1853-1935  
Richmond, 1853-1878; 1934-1935  
Richmond County, 1853-1935

Roanoke, 1884-1935  
Roanoke County, 1853-1935  
Rockbridge County, 1853-1896  
Shenandoah County, 1908-1935  
Smyth County, 1853-1935  
Southampton County, 1853-1900  
Surry County, 1854-1935  
Sussex County, 1854-1935  
Tazewell County, 1853-1935  
Warren County, 1853-1935  
Warwick County, 1853-1935  
Washington County, 1853-1930  
Wise County, 1914-1935  
Wythe County, 1853-1935  
York County, 1854-1935

*Bureau of Vital Statistics Virginia Death Registers*

Bath County, 1890-1896  
Bedford County, 1853-1897  
Bland County, 1861-1896  
Botetourt County, 1853-1896  
Brunswick County, 1853-1860  
Campbell County, 1855-1896  
Caroline County, 1853-1896  
Carroll County, 1854-1896  
Charles City County, 1853-1896  
Charlotte County, 1853-1899  
Chesterfield County, 1853-1861  
Essex County, 1895-1896  
Fairfax County, 1853-1897  
Fauquier County, 1853-1896  
Floyd County, 1853-1897  
Fluvanna County, 1853-1896  
Franklin County, 1853-1896  
Frederick County, 1855-1896  
Giles County, 1853-1896  
Gloucester County, 1853-1896  
Goochland County, 1853-1896  
Grayson County, 1853-1896  
Greene County, 1853-1896  
Greensville County, 1853-1896  
Halifax County, 1853-1890  
Henrico County, 1884-1896  
Henry County, 1853-1896  
Highland County, 1853-1896  
Isle of Wight County, 1853-1873  
Mecklenburg County, 1853-1896  
Middlesex County, 1853-1896  
Montgomery County, 1853-1896  
Nansemond County, 1853-1856

Pulaski County, 1853-1893  
Rappahannock County, 1853-1896  
Richmond, 1884-1896  
Richmond County, 1853-1896  
Roanoke, 1884-1896; June 1894- May 1909  
Roanoke County, 1853-1896  
Rockbridge County, 1853-1862  
Stafford County, 1876-1896  
Staunton, 1853-1896  
Surry County, 1853-1896  
Sussex County, 1853-1896  
Tazewell County, 1853-1896  
Warren County, 1853-1876  
Williamsburg, 1853-1896  
Winchester, 1853-1895

### Miscellaneous Records

Augusta County Court Martial Records, 1756-1796  
Augusta County Index to Wills, 1745-1903  
Augusta County Wills, Volume 1, 1745-1753  
Augusta County Wills, Volume 1A, 2& 2A, 1778-1871  
Augusta County Wills, Volumes 3 & 4, 1761-1772  
Augusta County Surveyors Records, 1744-1906  
Botetourt County Personal Property Tax Lists, 1783-1851  
Botetourt County Surveyors Records, 1774-1914  
Grayson County Ended Chancery Causes, 1809; 132-1842  
Grayson County Ended Chancery Files, 1809-1813; 1842-1857; 1856-1862

### Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps

Roanoke: 1886, 1889, 1893, 1898, 1903, 1907, 1919 (additional indexes 1946, 1948, 1951), 1930 (additional indexes 1948 and 1949)  
Rocky Mount: 1893, 1898, 1902, 1907, 1913, 1922, 1928 (additional index 1943)  
Salem: 1886, 1891, 1898, 1903, 1908, 1913, 1922 (South Salem), 1932 (additional index 1959)

### Virginia State Land Office Index to Surveys, 1779-1819

Virginia State Land Office Index and Abstracts of Patents, 1623-1774 and Grants, 1779-

Reel 322: Accomack, Amelia, Augusta, Albemarle, Amherst, Bath, and Bedford Counties.

Reel 323: Botetourt, Caroline, Chesterfield, Cumberland, Charlotte, Campbell, Cabell, Buckingham, Brunswick, Brooke, Berkeley, Culpeper, Dunmore, Fauquier, Fairfax. Charles City, Dinwiddie, Elizabeth City, Essex, Gloucester, and Giles Counties

State Free Negro Capitation Tax Books, Charleston, South Carolina: 1811-1860

### Newspapers

With the exception of the *Roanoke Times* from 1990 through current editions and the *New York Times*, **newspapers are not indexed**. It is important to know an approximate date before searching.

*Roanoke Times*: November 1889 – December 2018. January 2019 through current issues are available digitally at NewsBank: <http://www.virginiaroom.org/databases/>

*Roanoke World News*: January 1903 -November 1991

*Roanoke Tribune*: January 1992 – current

*Salem Times Register*: 1909; August 1934 – current

*Vinton Messenger*: January 1998 – December 2008

*Floyd Press*: January 1944 – December 1990

*Herald of the Valley*: July 1820 – July 1823

*Bluefield Daily Telegraph*: 1939

*Lynchburg Press*: 1809 – April 1822, scattered issues

*Lynchburg Virginian*: August 1822 – August 1869

*Lynchburg Daily Virginian*: September 1870 – September 1885

*Virginia Gazette*: September 1736 – December 1780

*Virginia Gazette Daybooks*: 1750-1752; 1764-1766

*Negro History Bulletin*: October 1937 – November 1970

*Railway Age*: 1905-1966; 1969-1988

*Southern Workman*: 1872 – 1989

*Fredericksburg Christian Banner*: September 1850 – August 1862

*Wall Street Journal*: 1957 – 2010

*New York Times*: September 1851 – December 2009

*Firstworld*: 1978 – 1980

*Encore American & Worldwide News*: 1975 – 1982

## Online Resources

In addition to databases available through Roanoke Public Libraries, there are several online resources which can be used in genealogical research.

Hathitrust Digital Library - <https://www.hathitrust.org/>

Hathitrust includes full scans of books, including genealogies, which are not subject to copyright restrictions. Access is free and no registration is required.

*Library of Virginia* – [www.lva.virginia.gov](http://www.lva.virginia.gov)

Unknown No Longer - <https://www.virginiamemory.com/collections/aan/search-the-narrative>

The Virginia Museum of History & Culture launched Unknown No Longer in 2011 to make accessible biographical details of enslaved Virginians from unpublished historical records in its collections.

Virginia Land Patents and Grants - <https://lva-virginia.libguides.com/land-grants>

This collection consists of Virginia land patents (1623–1774) and land grants (1779– ), including land grants within the Northern Neck proprietary (1690–1874) and survey plats and descriptions for the Northern Neck land grants (1786–1874).

Lost Records Localities Digital Collection - <https://www.virginiamemory.com/collections/lost>

This collection consists of images for a wide variety of court records found as part of chancery and other local records-processing projects. The images are of surviving records from localities where most records are no longer extant. The original record is scanned, and the images are filed together in an artificial online collection—the Lost Records Localities Digital Collection. Please check periodically as this is an ongoing project.

Cohabitation Registers for Virginia Counties - <https://tinyurl.com/mwvt6u5r>

A cohabitation register, or as it is properly titled, *Register of Colored Persons...cohabiting together as Husband and Wife on 27th February 1866*, was the legal vehicle by which former slaves legitimized both their marriages and their children. The information about an individual person contained in a cohabitation register is literally priceless as it is often the first time that a former slave appeared officially on the public record and because of the extensive kinds of information that the register recorded. Though recorded at the local level, registers may not exist for every county in Virginia.

Confederate Disability Applications - <https://lva-virginia.libguides.com/confederate-disability>

This collection consists of certificates submitted by injured veterans to the Virginia Board of Commissioners on Artificial Limbs. Injured soldiers submitted certificates from their county court stating that they were Virginia citizens, that they had been disabled in the war, and what assistance they required.

Confederate Pension Applications, Veterans and Widows - <https://lva-virginia.libguides.com/confederate-pensions>

This collection consists of pension applications and amended applications filed by resident Virginians who served in the Confederate military and their widows, as well as more than 500 enslaved and free Blacks who labored as cooks, herdsman, laborers, servants, or teamsters.

Revolutionary War Bounty Land Claims - <https://lva-virginia.libguides.com/bounty-claims>

The collection consists of images of application files for military bounty land. Related bounty land certificate files are indexed, but not imaged. Following a 1779 legislative act, the state offered bounty lands for Revolutionary War military service. To qualify, a Virginia soldier or sailor had to serve at least

three years continuously in the Continental or state forces. No bounty land was given by the state for militia service.

Revolutionary War Virginia State Pensions - <https://va-virginia.libguides.com/revolutionary-pensions>  
Between 1777 and 1785, the Virginia General Assembly passed several laws authorizing pensions for disabled soldiers and for widows of soldiers who died while on active duty. This collection of 646 pension files provides digital images of the documents submitted for pension claims.