

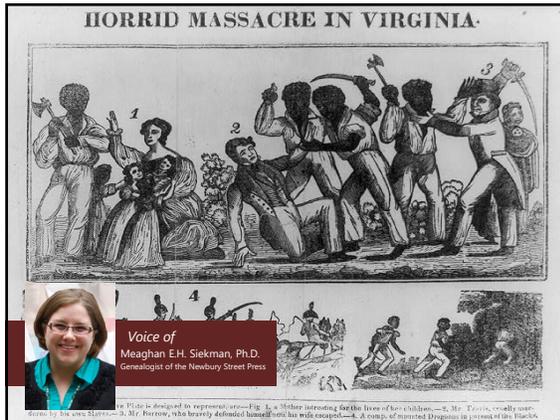
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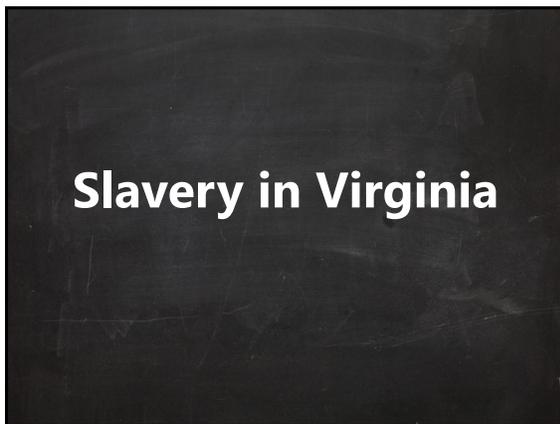
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5

Statehood and Slavery

- 1778 – VA state law prohibits the import of slaves from Africa
 - Solidified by an 1808 Federal law
- VA slave laws become more detailed
 - Regulate enslaved people as nothing more than property
 - Regulations on how enslaved people should be treated

6

Laws that Create Records

Any freedmen that remained in VA for more than a year would forfeit their right to freedom and be sold by the Overseer of the Poor for the benefit of the parish.

1806 1837

Inundated with petitions, the general assembly changed the law to say that petitions could go to local courts.

10

Notice.

Application will be made to the county court of Alleghany county at the next July term thereof by Peter Harris to free negro man, and by Rose a free negro woman, for leave of the said court for them & the children of the said Rose to remain in this state. April 19th 1852.

Alleghany County to wit:
This day John W. Garrett made oath before me as justice of said county that on the 26 day of April 1852 he posts at the door of the court house of Alleghany County a notice in writing of which the above is a true copy. Given under my hand this 26th day of April 1852.

John W. Garrett

Peter Harris 1852 Petition – Library of Virginia

11

Virginia Slave Birth Index

Virginia
Slave Births
Index
1853-1865
Volume 1
A-C

Alexandria Library
Local History/Special Collections
Leticia Anderson Mendenhall
Editor
Aki Valtonen
Assistant Editor

- Physical Books at NEHGS and other libraries – check WorldCat
- Available on FamilySearch.org
- Records contain
 - Name of owner/informant
 - Name of enslaved person
 - Name of mother
 - Date and place of birth

12

LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA

AFRICAN AMERICAN RESEARCH
AT THE LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA TO 1870

Content Warning: Materials in the Library of Virginia's collection contain historical terms, phrases, and images that are offensive to modern readers. These include demeaning and dehumanizing references to race, ethnicity, and nationality; enslaved or free status; physical and mental ability; and gender and sexual orientation.

ENSLAVED OR FREE?

Until the Thirteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution outlawed slavery in 1865, African Americans in Virginia were either free or enslaved. Several types of records provide clues to determine an individual's free or enslaved status. The records listed below are just a starting point and are not exhaustive.

Registers and Lists

Beginning in 1793 in cities and in 1803 in counties, free African Americans were required to register themselves. The resulting lists, known as "Free Negro Registers," often note whether an individual was born here or, if not, the name of the individual who manumitted him or her. If a register does not survive for a particular locality, a reference to the individual registering may be included in a court order or minute book, which provides a summary of actions that came before the court.

In 1861, a law passed that required lists of African Americans who were free to be submitted annually along with lists of taxable property. These "Free Negro Lists" included names, gender, residence, and occupation of individuals.

Census Records

Individuals who are listed by name on the 1850 or 1860 federal census population schedule are almost certainly free. Those who were enslaved were included on a separate schedule called a "slave schedule," which includes only the names of the enslavers and the age, sex, and color of enslaved individuals.

lva-virginia.libguides.com/african-american

25

virginiachronicle
LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA

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REGISTER Log In

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See the Help section for more details.

ABOUT THIS COLLECTION

Virginia Chronicle is a historical archive of Virginia newspapers, providing free access to full-text searching and digitized images of over 3 million newspaper pages. This collection contains 390,400 issues comprising 3,336,972 pages.

In addition to the growing collection of newspapers found at Virginia Chronicle, the Library of Virginia offers access to a wide array of resources for researching newspapers, from its broad collection of over 3,000 Virginia and West Virginia imprints, both in original ink press copy and on microfilm, to a suite of online resources that provide gateways to a significant range of historical newspapers.

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Browse by title
Browse by date

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You can help improve the quality of this collection by contributing to crowdsourced user text correction.

A total of 4,844,950 lines of text have so far been corrected.

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1. DeJaNews 1,202,761

virginiachronicle.com

26

FREE AFRICAN AMERICANS OF VIRGINIA, NORTH CAROLINA, SOUTH CAROLINA, MARYLAND AND DELAWARE

The history of the free African American community is told through the family history of most African Americans who were free in the Southeast during the colonial period.

Winner: The American Society of Genealogists' Donald Lines Jacobus Award and The North Carolina Genealogical Society Award of Excellence in Publishing

Two books you can read on-line containing about 2,700 pages of family histories based on all colonial court order and minute books on microfilm at the state archives of Virginia, Maryland, North Carolina and Delaware (over 1000 volumes), tax lists, wills, deeds, free Negro registers, marriage bonds, parish registers, Revolutionary War pension files, etc. There are also another 2,000 pages of abstracted colonial tax lists, Virginia personal property tax lists, under "Colonial Tax Lists..." find questions, comments and requests for genealogical research to paullhazeg@gmail.com

Virginia - North Carolina and South Carolina (most updates): 1-111; Lawrence, Flood, Bask, Caste, Callahan, Bels, Deas, Gowan, Smith and Smith (1800-1850); 117-177; Fox, George, Pettus, 44-202; Lanes

Foreword by historian Ira Berlin

Maryland and Delaware (most updates 18-2021; Lett, Blandford)

Colonial Tax Lists, Virginia personal property tax lists, Census, and Court Records for Delaware, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia Includes a list of taxable free persons of color in Virginia from 1782 to about 1820. Latest Updates: Fairfax County, Norfolk City and Orange County personal property tax lists

Service in the Revolutionary War Updated March 26, 2021 Richard Spinner, Thomas Garmes

19th century photos of free African American and Indian families

List of Indian Slaves, Free Indians, and Free African Americans identified in Colonial Records Without Last Names

Virginia Slaves Freed After 1782

East Indians in Colonial Maryland, Virginia and North Carolina

Slaves named in colonial Halifax County, North Carolina, and King George County, Virginia wills

FreeAfricanAmericans.com

27

SCOTT FAMILY

Henrico County

1. Joane¹ Scott, born say 1670, was living at Mr. Henry Lomas's when she was indicted in Henrico County on 1 June 1695 for having an illegitimate child. She was discharged from the indictment on 1 February 1695/6 when the court ruled that the law against illegitimate children did not apply to her; "She being an Egyptian, & not a Christian woman" (Orders, 1694-5, 81, 88). She may have been related to Francis Scott who was used for trespas in Henrico County court by Bartholomew Charis on 2 September 1700 (Orders, 1707-9, 28). And she may have been the ancestor of John, James, and Nicholas (no family name) who were "Militaries" servants of John Woodson, Jr., in August 1724 when the Henrico County court ordered them to serve him additional time for running away (Minutes 1719-24, 352). Two members of the Scott family owned adjoining land in Henrico County in 1735. They were
 2. i. Anne², born say 1690.
 3. ii. Jane², born say 1695.
2. Anne² Scott, born say 1690, made a deed of gift of 50 acres in Henrico County adjoining John Scott, Abram Childers and Jane Scott to her son Benjamin Scott on 4 August 1735. This was the lower half of 100 acres which she had purchased from John Price. She had already given the other half to her son John Scott (Miscellaneous Court Records, Vol. 3, 1727-37, 757). Jane, John and Benjamin Scott owned land in Henrico Parish when their land was processed in accordance with the 6 December 1735 order of the vestry. Jane and Benjamin Scott were present when the land marks between their property were returned on 6 February 1739 (Block, *History Book of Henrico Parish, Virginia, 1730-72, 27, 54*). Anne was the mother of
 4. i. John³, born say 1712.
 - ii. Benjamin⁴, born say 1714, perhaps the Benjamin Scott who was taxable in the Lunenburg County household of Thomas Maclin in 1752 (Bell, *Sunlight on the Southside*, 192).

FreeAfricanAmericans.com

28

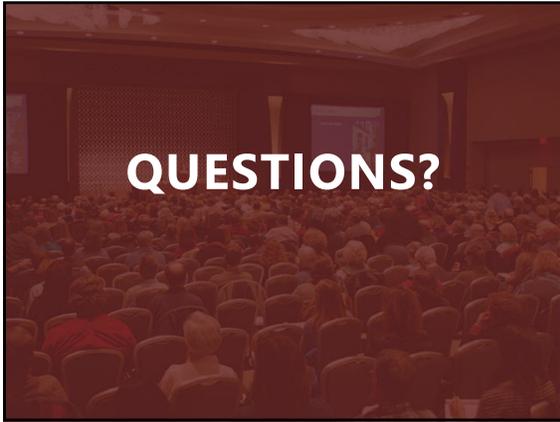
Federal Census Records

29

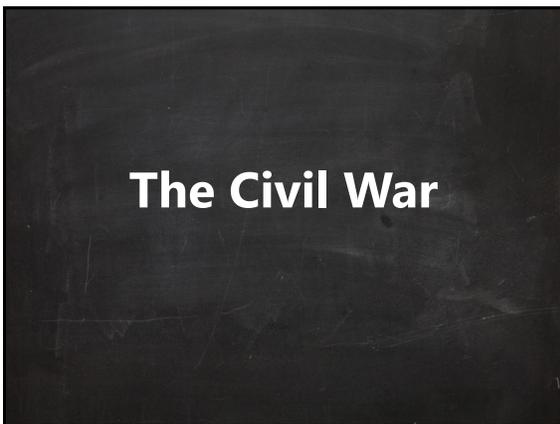
19th Century Census Records

- 1800-1840 lists only head of households and age brackets for members of household
 - Second Page has brackets for Slaves and Free People of Color
- 1850-1860 have separate Slave Schedules
 - If ancestors are recorded by name on the general Federal Census these years – they were free
- 1870 first Federal Census to list formerly enslaved people by name.

30



34



35

Virginia in the Civil War

Virginia, United States Genealogy • Virginia Military • Virginia in the Civil War

Guide to Virginia in the Civil War ancestry, family history and genealogy: birth records, marriage records, death records, census records, parish registers, and military records.

Contents (1/2)

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Virginia Military Units
- 3 Battles Fought in Virginia
- 4 Union Records
 - 4.1 1890 Census
 - 4.2 Service Records
 - 4.3 Pension Records
 - 4.4 Old Soldier Homes
 - 4.5 Southern Claims Commission
 - 4.6 Grand Army of the Republic (GAR)
 - 4.7 Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
- 5 Confederate Records
 - 5.1 Service Records
 - 5.2 Pension Records
 - 5.3 Presidential Pardon of Former Confederates, 1863-1868
 - 5.4 Confederate Prisons of War
 - 5.5 Regimental Rosters and Histories
 - 5.6 Cemetery Records
- 6 Guides to Military Units
- 7 Former Sites
- 8 References

Introduction (with edit source)

Virginia was a prominent part of the Confederate States of America during the American Civil War. Many of the battles fought during the war were fought on Virginian land. The first and last significant battles were held in Virginia, and the men that Virginia supplied for the fight were men from all economic and social levels, both slaveholders and non slaveholders, as well as former Unionists. The only areas that saw fear or no men to fight for the Confederacy were located on the border with the North.

The state was the focal point for a number of reasons. It had more manufacturers and more miles than any other state. It also had nearly 20% of the railroad track of the Southern states. Its state capital, Richmond, was also the Confederacy's capital. Because armies focus on capturing the enemy's capital, the Federals concentrated on capturing Richmond. The Confederates in turn worked to capture Washington D.C. The courtesies in between were doomed to suffer mass devastation. By 1865, the state's handsome towns were wrecked; its manufacturing centers destroyed; its farms ruined; Virginians starved and found themselves prey to foraging soldiers, looters and lawless bands. A half million men became casualties within its borders.

FamilySearch.org

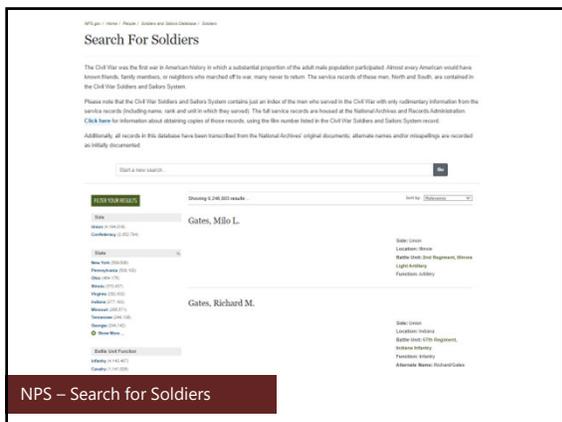
36



37



38



39



64



65

The Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands

- Often referred to as the "Freedmen's Bureau"
- Established 3 March 1865 to provide food, shelter, clothing, medical services, and land to displaced southerners including the newly emancipated
- Was not abolished until 1872, though the bulk of its work was done between June 1865 and December 1868.

66

Freedmen's Bureau

The work of the Bureau was varied:

- Provided rations and clothing
- Developed schools and provided educational opportunities for children and adults
- Supervised work contracts between those newly emancipated and planters
- Legalized marriages that took place during slavery.

67

Freedmen's Bureau Cont.

- Operated hospitals to provide necessary medical care
- Created banks to provide freedpeople the opportunity to build their own wealth
- Provided transportation to reunite families displaced by slavery or to those trying to relocate to other parts of the country
- Assisted Black soldiers in receiving the pension payments or back pay.

68

Discover your roots and unlock your future.

Search the Freedmen's Bureau records for your African American ancestors.

First Name Last Name

Place Year



What Was the Freedmen's Bureau?

Emancipation freed nearly 4 million slaves. The Freedmen's Bureau was established to help transition them from slavery to citizenship, providing food, housing, education, and medical care. And for the first time in U.S. history, the names of those individuals were systematically recorded and preserved for future generations.

The Freedmen's Bureau Project

The Freedmen's Bureau Project helps African Americans reconnect with their Civil War-era ancestors. Join us in discovering your roots, and begin building your own family tree.

<http://www.discoverfreedmen.org/>

69

Post-War Black Codes

- 1866 VA passes and act “for the punishment of Vagrants” which allowed law enforcement to arrest and hire out to work anyone with no means to support themselves.
 - Allows for extension of Slavery
- Work agreements often amount to little more than work for housing – legally
- Understand an ancestor's legal status

82

BLACK LAWS OF VIRGINIA

A SUMMARY OF THE LEGISLATIVE ACTS OF VIRGINIA CONCERNING NEGROES FROM EARLIEST TIMES TO THE PRESENT

By
TOWN FERRISS QUINN, LL.M.,
Formerly Professor of Social Work in the University of Toledo,
and of the staff of Virginia State University
Author: "Slavery With Its Laws"
Joint Author: "Handbook on Social Work Legislation," etc.

WHITNEY & LOEBERFELD, RICHMOND, VIRGINIA
1936

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https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=mdp.39015058018006&view=1up&seq=102

Guild – Black Laws of Virginia

BLACK LAWS OF VIRGINIA

220

1866. Resolution No. 1. Resolved by the General Assembly of Virginia that the people of the Commonwealth cordially approve the policy pursued by Andrew Johnson, President of the United States, in the reorganization of the Union. We accept the result of the late contest and do not desire to renew what has been so conclusively determined. Involuntary service, except for crime, is abolished and ought not to be re-established; the Negro race among us should be treated with justice, humanity and good faith.

1866. Chapter 17. The following acts are repealed: All acts relating to slaves and slavery, and free Negroes.

1867. Chapter 42. At the extra session it is enacted that the value of the service of a slave from the time of detention to emancipation shall be taken as the measure of damage, should the plaintiff recover in an action for the alleged conversion or detention of a slave.

1867-1870. Constitution of Virginia called in pursuance of an act of Congress of 1867. Bill of Rights; Sections 19 to 21: Slavery, except as punishment for crime, shall not exist in the state. All citizens of the state are declared to possess equal civil and political rights and public privileges.

The declaration of the political rights and privileges of the inhabitants of this state is hereby declared to be a part of the Constitution of this Commonwealth and shall not be violated on any pretence whatever.

*These sections on slavery do not appear in the Constitution of 1902.

83



Race & Place
An African-American Community in the Jim Crow South

About the Project | Personal Papers | Newspapers | Images | Maps | Political Materials | Oral Histories

The Project

Race & Place

Home

Race and Place is an archive about the racial segregation laws, or the "Jim Crow" laws from the late 1800s until the mid-twentieth century. The focus of the collection is the town of Charlottesville in Virginia. The Jim Crow laws segregated African-Americans from white Americans in public places such as schools, and school buses. The archive contains photos, letters, two regional newspapers and a floor map of the town of Charlottesville. The Jim Crow laws were not overturned until the important Brown versus Board of Education court ruling in 1954 (but not totally eliminated until the Civil Rights Act of the 1960s).

The project intends to connect race with place by understanding what it was like to live, work, pray, learn, and play in the segregated South. We plan to develop manuscript collections and oral histories of African-Americans in the segregation period, and construct the social, political, and economic history to understand race in the context of place. This research effort is a collaborative project of the Virginia Center for Digital History and the Carter G. Woodson Institute of African and Afro-American Studies.

If you have any questions or comments about this website, please [Contact us here](#)

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<http://www2.vcdh.virginia.edu/afam/raceandplace/>

84

Some Take-Aways

- The 19th century in Virginia was shaped by the political, social, and racial tensions of the Civil War
- Understanding the legal status of an ancestor and the laws of Virginia can help you identify record sets
- There is valuable information about Black and White ancestors in the Freedmen Bureau papers.

85

QUESTIONS?

Hire Research Services
research@nehgs.org

Chat with a Genealogist
AmericanAncestors.org/chat

86

Virginia Research: Four Centuries of History and Genealogy, 2023

Thank you for registering for the online course, Virginia Research: Four Centuries of History and Genealogy!

Over the last four centuries, Virginia has transformed from a land of early indigenous and European settlements to the sprawling suburban landscape of today. It has been continually shaped and reshaped by political, social, and economic changes in the region, including war, migration patterns, laws surrounding enslavement, and more. This four-week online seminar provides a century-by-century look at the records, resources, repositories, and research strategies that are essential to exploring your Virginia roots. We will also discuss the historical context of the changes and events that transformed the state and influenced the lives of your ancestors.

This course includes four 90-minute classes, exclusive access to handouts and recordings of each presentation, and in-depth Q&A sessions with the instructors. These recordings and all course materials will be available for the foreseeable future.

JOIN THE LIVE SESSIONS

Click here to join the live broadcasts: <https://zoom.us/j/9770327565>

If you are unable to attend the live sessions, you will be able to watch the recordings on this course page.

COURSE SCHEDULE

February 1 - Class 1: 17th Century Research: Birth of a Colony
Presented by Ann Landers

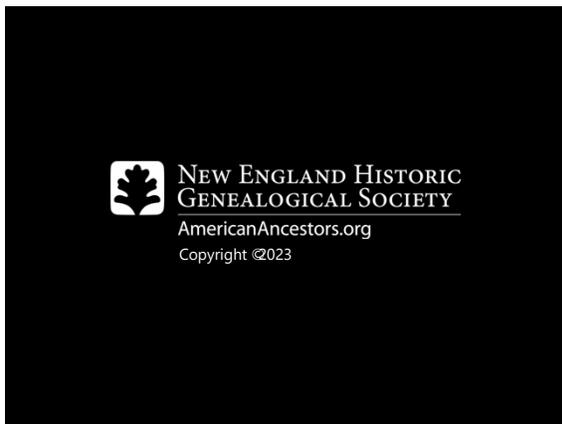
This first class explores the history, people and resources for 17th-century Virginia genealogical research, beginning with the extensive Indigenous settlements. Next, the trials of the Virginia Company and its Jamestown post are discussed. The early experiences of Jamestown shaped decisions about governance and trade in Virginia and ultimately influenced the way Virginia's stratified society evolved. You will learn about published resources for researching your 17th-century ancestor and where to find the limited primary record sources. The class concludes by discussing how to overcome research challenges.

AmericanAncestors.org/virginia-research-four-centuries-history-and-genealogy-2023

87



88



89
