



Suggested Library and Online Resources for AFRICAN AMERICAN GENEALOGY AND HISTORY RESEARCH

Compiled by the Lancaster Virginia Historical Society

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LANCASTER VIRGINIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY www.LancasterVaHistory.org/library

Our History & Genealogy Library contains nearly 9,000 records, books, manuscripts, periodicals, and microfilm holdings about Lancaster County, the Northern Neck region, the Tidewater area, and many other locales in Virginia and nearby states. Collections include census records, county histories, church and cemetery records, bible records, family histories and charts, indexes and abstracts of court records and vital records (such as deeds, wills, court orders, taxes, marriages, births, deaths), historical newspapers, files on local topics and places, and online access to numerous databases.

THE ONLINE CARD CATALOG lists most of the published materials in the LVHS Library and is searchable by title, author, and description fields.

A Sampling of Books and Materials includes:

- Slave and enslaver records compiled from Lancaster County Estate Records 1835-1865
- Slave and enslaver records compiled from Lancaster County will books
- 1850 and 1860 Census records with Slave Schedules
- Runaway Slave Records, abstracted from 18th century Virginia newspapers
- Narratives from former slaves
- *Lancaster County Virginia Register of Free Negroes 1903-1860* (B. Burkett)
- *Black, Red, and Revolutionary: Free African Americans of Lancaster and Northumberland Counties* (K. Sutton)
- *Forgotten Companions, African American and American Indian Patriots* (E. Grundset)
- *The Black Loyalist Directory: African Americans in Exile After the American Revolution* (G. Hodges and S. Cook)
- *Historical Notes on the Education and Achievements of Black People in Lancaster County and the State of Virginia* (D. Cowling)
- "Colored News" and "Among the Colored People" weekly newspaper articles compiled from the Rappahannock Record 1925-1966

LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA www.lva.virginia.gov

• **Virginia Untold: the African American Narrative**

<https://www.virginiamemory.com/collections/aan/>

Search names of free and enslaved blacks in thousands of pre-1865 primary sources in the Library's holdings such as:

- Bills of Sale and Deeds for Enslaved Persons
- Deeds of Emancipation and Manumission of Enslaved Persons
- "Colored Poll Books" and "Lists of Colored Voters"
- "Free Negro" Registers and Registration Papers
- "Free Negro Tax Lists" and "Free Negro Delinquent Tax Lists"
- Freedom Suits, Petitions to Remain in the Commonwealth, Petitions for Re-Enslavement
- Runaway Slave Records
- Colonization Records
- Indentures of Apprenticeship
- "Freedmen's" Contracts
- Virginia Cohabitation Registers

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LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA (continued)

- **Research Guides by Topic** <https://lva-virginia.libguides.com/>
- **Slavery in Virginia: A Selected Bibliography**
<https://lva-virginia.libguides.com/slavery-in-virginia>
- **African American Church Histories at the Library of Virginia**
http://www.lva.virginia.gov/public/guides/African_American_Churches.pdf
- **African American Research at the Library of Virginia to 1870**
<https://lva-virginia.libguides.com/african-american>
- **African American Newspapers** <https://lva-virginia.libguides.com/vaa-newspapers>
Also see searchable newspaper database at <https://virginiachronicle.com>
- **School Desegregation in Virginia** <https://lva-virginia.libguides.com/school-desegregation>

VIRGINIA MUSEUM OF HISTORY AND CULTURE (VA HISTORICAL SOCIETY) <https://virginiahistory.org/>

- **Guide to African American Manuscripts at VMHC**
<https://virginiahistory.org/research/research-resources/guides-researchers/guide-african-american-manuscripts>
- **VMHC objects, exhibits, articles, videos, and other content related to Black History**
<https://virginiahistory.org/topics/black-history>

NOMINI HALL SLAVE LEGACY PROJECT

<http://nominihallslavelegacy.com>

Descendant info on 500+ slaves freed by Robert Carter III of Westmoreland VA beginning in 1791

THE FREEDMEN'S BUREAU ONLINE: Virginia Records

<http://freedmensbureau.com/virginia/index.htm>

NATIONAL ARCHIVES: Black history and heritage resources

<https://www.archives.gov/research/african-americans>

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS: African American Studies Research Guides

<https://guides.loc.gov/african-american-studies>

ANCESTRY.COM: (some free material, some by paid subscription) <https://www.ancestry.com/>

- **African American Ancestry tools:** <https://www.ancestry.com/c/african-american>
- **African American Collection:** Search census records, slave narratives, military records, Freedman's Bank records, photos, and many other sources
<https://www.ancestry.com/search/categories/aabooks/>
- **Guide to African American Family Research**
https://www.ancestrycdn.com/support/us/2023/africanamerican_guide_2023.pdf