



Using the Library of Virginia Databases

What Does the Library of Virginia Have?

Many people find that their roots go back to the early Virginia Colony. The Library of Virginia has an interesting collection of items that range from tax records, land records, Bibles (Document images for 6,000 family Bible records are available online), photographs, military records, etc. Most of these are not available online, but the Land Records which includes county and city deeds, patents and grants and military records are also searchable online with digitized images of the records available. This guide will talk about those resources listed under Genealogical Research.

Accessing the Library of Virginia Databases

- Go to <http://www.lva.lib.va.us/whatwehave/gene/index.htm>

Searching the Library of Virginia Databases

- Select one of the following categories:
 - Census Records
 - Vital Records (births, deaths, and marriages 1853-1896 and 1912-1935)
 - County and City Records
 - Military Records
 - Bible Records
 - Published Family Histories
 - Genealogical Notes and Charts
- If another page appears that lists various sources within the category, select the desired one.
- A window will generally appear that has search fields – either (1) a word or phrase search field and drop-down menu of fields that can be searched such as **Names in Subject**, **Words Anywhere**, **Words in Title**, **Words in Subject**, **Words in Author**, or **System Number** or (2) **Browse an Alphabetical List** which will allow you to enter a phrase or word and select the type of index to browse – **Name** (last name first), **Title begins with** (omit initial article(s)), **Subject begins with** (), **Author Name** (last name first). Occasionally, you will be given a further page to make a selection in which case, follow the instructions given.
- Enter the desired search criteria in the field, then, click **Go**.
- If there are results, a list will appear. Use the **Previous** and **Next** buttons to move forward and back until you reach the desired name. Then, click on the **name**.
- To view the details of a record, click on the **number** for the record.
- Note that if the record is available in another format such as on microfilm, this will be indicated and the volume number and reel number(s) will be given.
- If the record has an online image available, there will be a line saying **URL (Click on link)**. Click on the link.

The **Document Image** window will open and, if more than one page exists, the 5 pages previous to and the 5 pages after the page will be listed. Click on the page number desired and the digital image of the page will appear in a new window. (Read under the **Note** section of the record to see what the description is. For instance, it may not be a transfer of land in which the person was involved, but it may refer to the property of that person as bounding the land being sold or transferred.)

 - Use the tools at the top of the **Document** window to print, save, magnify or move around in the document.
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