

My Favorite Sources at Jones Memorial Library-



Why Use Books as a Resource

In the world of internet and google, we often forget printed sources. Jones Memorial Library began with the old-fashioned card catalog system, as did I. It would be in the mid-1990s before the world of technology came to the library. In the early years, I only had books to rely on for research. Many of these have found their way to the internet, but many have not. There is still value in book resources, and we will discuss a few of my favorites in the Jones Memorial Library Collection.

Benefits of Books

- **Credibility:** Books, especially academic ones, offer more reliable and accurate information, as information is vetted before publication.
- **Depth:** Books provide deeper, more comprehensive coverage of a topic, allowing for greater understanding and context.
- **Retention & Comprehension:** Research indicates that physical books can lead to better comprehension and memory recall compared to digital formats.
- **Concentration:** Reading print can foster deeper focus and concentration, reducing distractions often found online.
- **Structure:** Books offer a continuous flow of thought and a structured, logical progression of information that is beneficial for learning.

1996

My first days at JML:

- No Computers
 - Our first was a DOS system computer
- Pre-Google, only a Card Catalogue
- No Ancestry.com
- No Newspapers.com

We had the card catalogue and books...lots of amazing books, Many became my favorite sources and we will discuss them today.



Oxford Dictionary - 1884

Our Copy Title: “A new English dictionary on historical principles; founded mainly on the materials collected by the Philological society. Edited by James A. H. Murray ... with the assistance of many scholars and men of science. PE1625 .M7

On February 1, 1884, editors published the first volume of what would become the *Oxford English Dictionary*. Since then, the OED has become one of the most respected and comprehensive dictionaries in the world.

Jones Memorial Library copy dates from 1888 and is a great source for looking up terms used before 1884 that are no longer in use.

It tells you when a word was first used by providing the date of its earliest known written appearance, along with an illustrative quotation, directly in the entry for that word.

- **Historical Principles:** The OED tracks the evolution of words from their first recorded usage in English to their present form, including when meanings become obsolete.
- **Extensive Evidence:** It uses millions of quotes from sources ranging from classic literature to modern social media to illustrate usage.
- **Expert Curation:** Definitions are created and reviewed by academic experts.
- **Comprehensive Detail:** Entries include detailed etymology (origins), pronunciation in various English dialects, and frequency of use.
- **Ongoing Updates:** The OED is updated quarterly, ensuring new words and updated research are added consistently.
- The Oxford English Dictionary is recognized as the most complete record of the English language ever assembled,

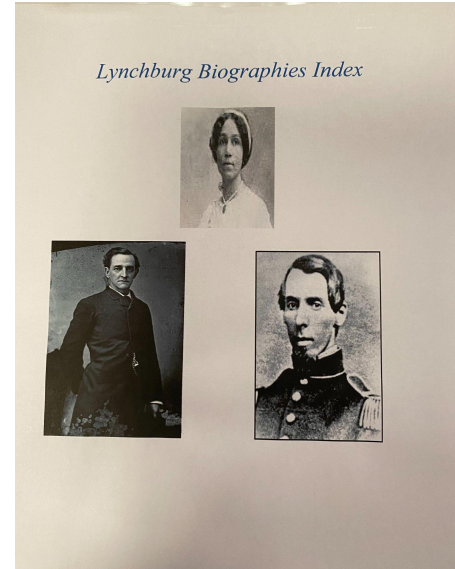


Lynchburg Biographies Index

This index is a compilation of biographical sources about some of Lynchburg's prominent men and women. It was compiled by Wayne Rhodes. Most of these sources are publications that were copyrighted before 1926 and can not be photocopied. However, you are free to use a digital camera. This source is currently (2025) located in the reading room of JML in a white 3-Ring notebook on top of the short filing cabinet.

To use the index

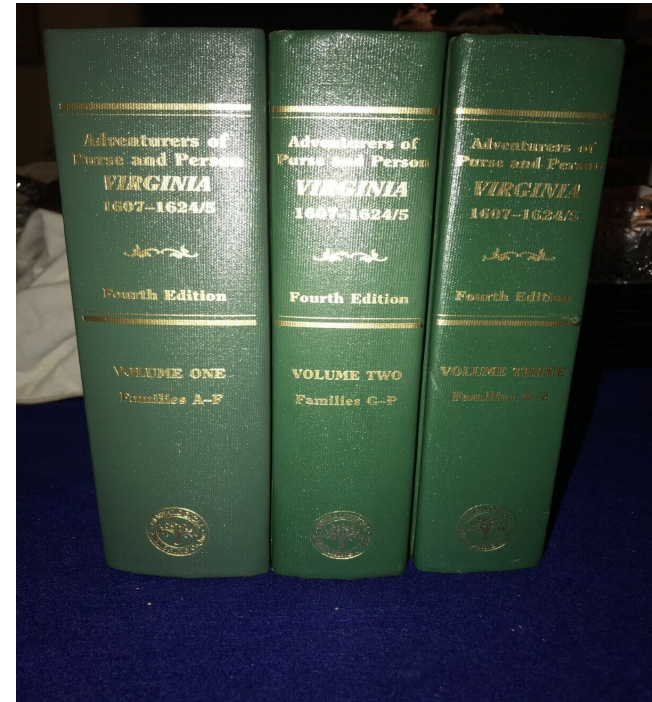
- Look for the name
- Locate Reference and page number
- The key to the reference and call number is in front of the notebook



Adventurers of Purse and Person 1607-1625

The fourth edition of the most celebrated compendium of family histories in the entire field of Virginia genealogy, was prepared under the auspices of the Order of First Families of Virginia, 1607-1624/5 in anticipation of the 400th anniversary of the founding of Jamestown, and edited by the foremost authority on Virginia genealogy, John Frederick Dorman. [F225 .A7 2004 - Three volumes]

- The purpose of the book is to establish descents--through the sixth generation--of the approximately 150 individuals who can be identified as either:
- 1) Adventurers of Purse (i.e. stockholders in the Virginia Company of London) who either came to Virginia in the period 1607-1625 and had descendants or who did not come to Virginia within that period but whose grandchildren were residents there.
- (2) Adventurers of Person, 1607-1625 (i.e. immigrants to Virginia) who left descendants as resident in Virginia (or subsequently in other states) are identified.
- Family accounts are supported by 10,000 footnote citations to manuscripts or published records. The index contains 19,000 name, place, and subject entries, many with multiple page citations.



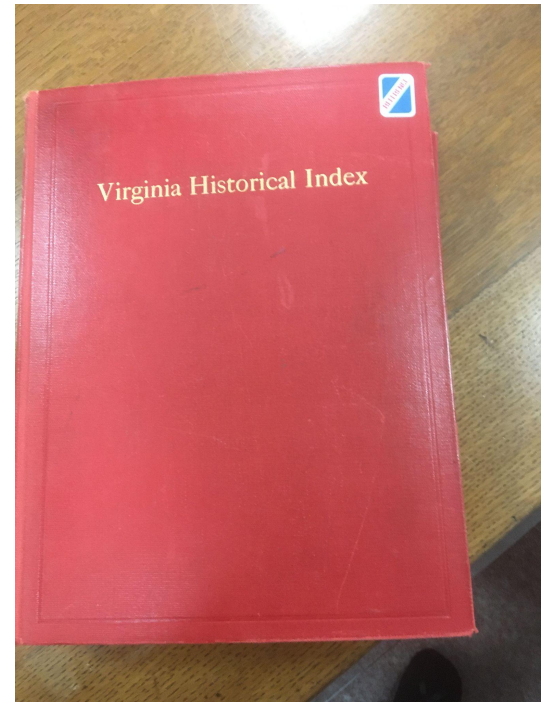
Virginia Historical Index

Published by the Virginia Historical Society in two volumes. Swem Index, as it is commonly known, is a index of individuals mentioned in 8 titles known for their resources for genealogical information.

- C = Calendar of Virginia State Papers
- H = Hening's Statutes of Virginia
- N = Lower Norfolk County Virginia Antiquary
- R = Virginia Historical Register
- T = Tyler's Historical and Genealogical Quarterly
- V = Virginia Magazine History and Biography
- W(1) = William and Mary College Quarterly First Series
- W(2) = William and Mary College Quarterly Second

All entries in the index are referenced in the same way: volume number, abbreviation of publication title, and page number.

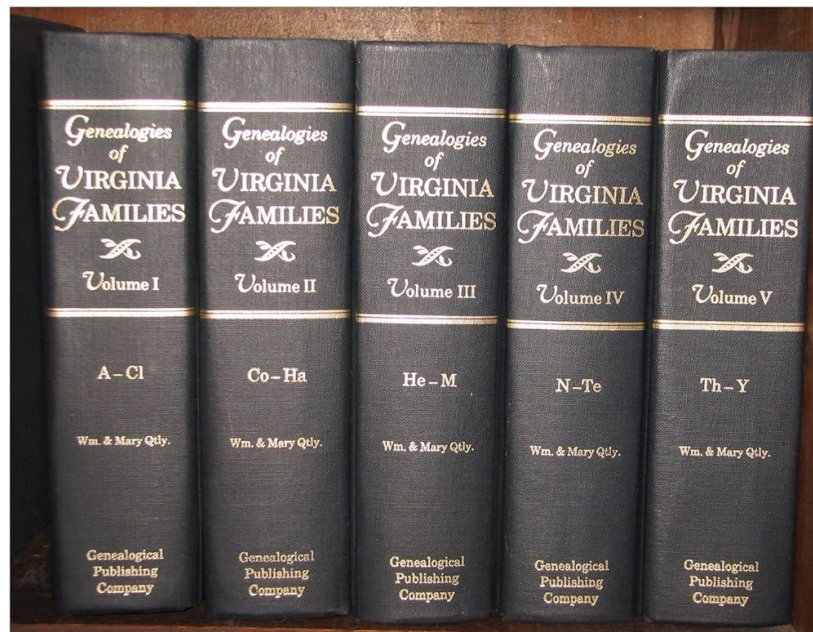
Sample entries would read "Nicholas, Wilson Cary 11V295" or "Cape Henry 7T22."



Genealogies of Virginia Families Series

Articles originally published in three major genealogy quarterly magazines from first publication date to about 1943 were compiled in one volume.

- Genealogies of Virginia families : from the Virginia magazine of history and biography was published in 1981 compiling genealogies published in the magazine beginning in 1893. Those genealogies are compiled in one place in this 5 volume set. [F225 G46]
- Genealogies of Virginia families : from the William and Mary College quarterly historical magazine. This five-volume series contains every family history article published in the Quarterly from its beginning in 1892 until 1943, when genealogical contributions to the Quarterly ceased.[F225 .G468 - Five Volumes]
- Genealogies of Virginia families : from Tyler's quarterly historical and genealogical magazine The four-volume set has all of the family history articles, about 350, that appeared in the magazine from its inception in 1919 until its demise in 1952. [F225 G47 - Four Volumes]



Cavaliers and pioneers; abstracts of Virginia land patents and grants, 1623-1800.

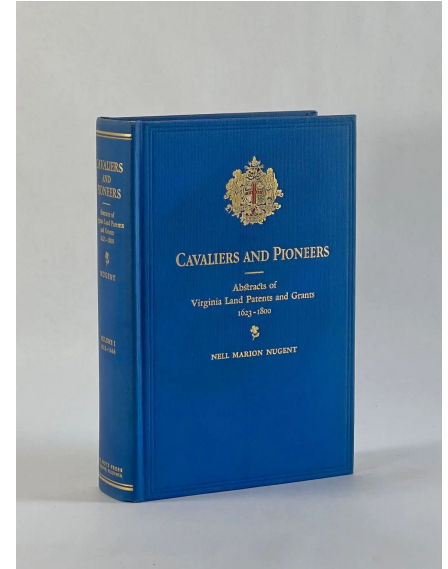
By Nell Marion Nugent, F 225 .N842 1934

For Virginia research this is one of the most outstanding records of early emigrants For early land grants and patents from 1623 to 1800

- name of the patentee or grantee,
- giving the number of acres, locations and dates of settlement
- names of family members

Also includes:

- references to marriages, wills, and other legal instruments.
- It also has the names of some thousands who were transported or brought over by the early settlers as "headrights." The Headright System was a colonial-era policy granting land (usually 50 acres) to individuals who paid for their own or others' passage to the colonies, particularly Virginia, to encourage settlement and labor.



Atlas of county boundary changes in Virginia, 1634-1895

by Michael F. Doran G1291 .F7 D6 1987

Maps covering the growth of Virginia counties and their subdivisions for each decade beginning in 1634 and ending with the last county formed in West Virginia in 1895. Each map is accompanied with a discussion of the changes and a table listing each new county and its parent county (or counties).

With the Atlas, a researcher can locate exactly what county an ancestor lived in during the colonial days.

- checking the maps for the appropriate time period. It is possible that the absence of any records on an individual might not necessarily denote his moving, but the shifting of the county boundary and recording of information in a different county
- An ancestor may have lived in the same spot but existed in several different counties over time due to boundary shifts (e.g., Orange to Augusta to Botetourt).
- Virginia began with eight original shires in 1634: James City, Henrico, Charles City, Elizabeth City, Warwick River, Warrosquyoake (Isle of Wight), Charles River, and Accomac.
- As the population grew, large western counties were divided to bring courthouses closer to residents, with changes continuing until 1895.
- When researching, check the parent county if the current county was formed after your ancestor lived there

Overview of Sources for Colonial Ancestors

- Adventurers of Purse and Persons, Virginia 1607-1625 by John Frederick Dorman F229 .J4 1964
- Virginia historical index. By Swem F221 .S93 1965
- Virginia Colonial Abstracts by Beverly Fleet F225 .F58
- Genealogies of Virginia families : from **Tyler's quarterly**
- Genealogies of Virginia families : from the **Virginia magazine of history and biographical magazine** F225 .G47
- Genealogies of Virginia families : from the **William and Mary College quarterly** historical magazine F225 .G468

Some Suggested Titles for Colonial Research

- Virginia Wills and Administrations, 1632-1800 by Clayton Torrence F225 .T85 1972
- Index to Virginia Estates 1800-1865 F225 .P46 2001- 5 volumes
- Cavaliers and Pioneers: A Calendar of Virginia Land Grants 1623-1800 by Nell M. Nugent F225 .N842 1934
- The Original List of Person of Quality by John Camden Hotten E187.5 .H795
- Virginia vital records : from the Virginia magazine of history and biography, the William and Mary College quarterly and Tyler's quarterly F225 .V93 1982
- Virginia marriage records : from the Virginia magazine of history and biography, the William and Mary College quarterly, and Tyler's quarterly F225 .V883 1982
- Virginia tax records : from the Virginia magazine of history and biography, the William and Mary College quarterly, and Tyler's quarterly F225 .V887 1983
- Virginia land records : from the Virginia magazine of history and biography, the William and Mary College quarterly, and Tyler's quarterly F225 .V875 1982
- Virginia will records : from the Virginia magazine of history and biography, the William and Mary College quarterly, and Tyler's quarterly F225

Burned County Sources

- Virginia tithables from burned record counties. F225 .W66 1970
- Some wills from the burned counties of Virginia and other wills not listed in Virginia wills and administrations, 1632-1800 / William Lindsay Hopkins. F225 .H67 1987
- Vital records of three burned counties : births, marriages, and deaths of King and Queen, King William, and New Kent counties, Virginia, 1680-1860 / Therese Fisher. F232 .K4 F57 1995
- Burned county data, 1809-1848 : as found in the Virginia contested election files / compiled by Benjamin B. Weisiger III. F225 .W42 1986
- Some marriages in the burned records counties of Virginia. F225 .V85
- Henrico County, Virginia, proceedings of the Commissioners respecting the records of Henrico Court destroyed by the enemy (annotated) / Cypalcorp. F232.H4 H46 2018



Questions?



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