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Old Virginia Obituaries, 1790-1940
<http://viriniaobits.homestead.com/>

Rent roll of Virginia 1704, 1705
<http://ftp.rootsweb.com/pub/usgenweb/va/misc/1704va.txt>

Richmond Daily Dispatch
<http://dlxs.richmond.edu/d/ddr/index.html>

VA-AfricanAmer
A mailing list for anyone with a genealogical interest in African Americans in the state of Virginia. To subscribe send "subscribe" to va-africanamer-l-request@rootsweb.com (mail mode) or va-africanamer-d-request@rootsweb.com (digest mode).

Virginia Death Record Index, 1853 to 1896
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‘Abrams Collection Genealogy Highlights’

Virginia Genealogy Sources for Michiganders



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Does your family have roots in Virginia? You might be surprised. Today Virginia has defined borders with ninety-five counties and forty independent cities. This was not always the case. Decades after the colonies of Maryland, Pennsylvania, and Virginia were well established on maps, few colonial administrators and residents really knew where the boundaries were, much less agreed upon them. The most long lasting border discrepancy, between Virginia and Pennsylvania, was not settled until 1792. Even after that date, rivers that formed natural boundaries were one of the few sure ways individuals knew in which state they lived.

One of the links between Virginia and Michigan is the Ohio River. Southern Ohio was still a part of Virginia until 1787 with the establishment of the Northwest Ordinance. West Virginia did not become an independent state until the Civil War. Between these two lands ran the Ohio River, which was a main gateway to the Mississippi watershed, New Orleans, and Western Expansion. Well before the American Revolution, individuals were traveling west to trade, hunt, and seek out land. Maps dating from the mid 17th century have sections of what is now Ohio and Michigan marked with notations of “fine land”. Settlers, and at times squatters, would travel down the Ohio to advance west and to the north to what are now northern Indiana, Illinois and Michigan. If a family had ancestors from Ohio in the early years of the 19th century, they may very well have originated in Virginia.

The British in Detroit also linked what is now Michigan with Virginia. The American Revolution was fought on the east coast and in the Southern colonies of Georgia and South Carolina. Few realize the level of hostilities in the far western regions of what was at the time termed to be Pennsylvania and Virginia. Americans were pushing west while the British in Detroit were trying to hold as much land as possible. Military raids and full attacks were launched from British Detroit against the Americans living on the frontier. At the same time, these western regions were isolated from assistance due to the mountains that divided them from the eastern seaboard. Many Americans had to accept British offers of peace and protection in a refugee status. As a result of the hostilities, Americans were also taken captive and often ransomed at the British forts. Others landed in the region as there was a demand for skilled trades people and thus stable occupations in an unstable region.

Genealogical information on families residing in “Virginia” can be found in Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware, West Virginia, Ohio, Kentucky, Tennessee, and at times Michigan. While seen as a wilderness prior to 1810, in fact thousands of settlers were pouring into Virginia and pushing west as early as the 1730s. After the French and Indian War, settlers, often former military personnel, advanced across the Blue Ridge Mountains. After the Revolutionary War, the Ohio River was the main highway for thousands of pioneers moving west taking up land in what is now, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan and points further west.