

John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Library

COLONIAL WILLIAMSBURG

RESEARCHING AFRICAN AMERICANS IN COLONIAL AND REVOLUTIONARY VIRGINIA

In 1619, a Dutch ship brought the first “20 and odd Negroes” to Jamestown. During the next 150 years, Africans and African Americans contributed greatly to the development of the young colony as it became more entrenched within Virginia’s legal and economic structure. The following resources will provide a starting point for research in the John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Library.

Find a short overview of the topic:

Finkelman, Paul. *Encyclopedia of African American History, 1619-1895: From the Colonial Period to the Age of Frederick Douglass*, Vol. 3, p. 285. New York: Oxford U P, 2006.

REF E 185.E545 or African American Studies Center, [<http://www.oxfordaasc.com>] search “Virginia”

Paquette, Robert L. and Mark M. Smith, eds. *Oxford Handbook of Slavery in the Americas*. New York : Oxford U P, 2010. **HT1048 .O94 2010**

I. Guides and Bibliographies

Higginbotham, Evelyn Brooks, et.al, eds. *The Harvard Guide African-American History*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard. Press, 2001. **Ref Z 1361.N39 H37 2001** See section 26.2.43 for sources related to Virginia.

Hodges, F. Holly, compiler. *Guide to African American Manuscripts in the Collection of Virginia Historical Society*. Richmond, VA: Virginia Historical Society, 2002.
Z 1361.N39 V57 2002

Plunkett, Michael. *Afro-American Sources in Virginia: A Guide to Manuscripts*. Charlottesville, VA: UVA Press, 1990. **Z 1361.N39 P496 1990**

II. Primary Sources

Manuscripts, originals, copies or transcriptions are available in the Special Collections Department. Papers and account books of plantation owners and merchants, such as the Shirley Plantation Collection, 1650-1989, Major-Marable Family papers, 1787-1929, the Robert Carter Letter books, 1761-1769, Barwick Bruce’s Medical record book, March 17-June 6, 1791 and the Nathaniel Burwell (Carter’s Grove) Papers, 1771-1812 may be of interest. Check with the Special Collections staff to identify pertinent documents.

III. General Works

Berlin, Ira. *Many Thousands Gone: The First Two Centuries of Slavery in North America*. Cambridge, Mass.: Belknap Press, 1998. **E446.B47 1998**

Davis, David Brion. *Slavery in the Colonial Chesapeake*. Williamsburg, VA.: CWF 1986. **E445 .V8 D38 1986**

Enslaving Virginia: Becoming Americans: Our Struggle To Be Both Free and Equal, 1999. Williamsburg: CWF, 1998. **E 445.V8 E57 1998**

McCartney, Martha W. *A Study of the Africans and African Americans on Jamestown Island and at Green Springs, 1619-1803*. Williamsburg: CWF, 2003. **F234 .J3 M334 2003** or

<http://www.nps.gov/jame/historyculture/upload/African%20Americans%20on%20Jamestown%20Island.pdf>

Morgan, Edmund S. *American Slavery, American Freedom: the Ordeal of Colonial Virginia*. New York: W.W. Norton & Co., 2003. **E445 .V8 M67 2003**

Morgan, Philip D. *Slave Counterpoint: Black Culture in the Eighteenth-Century Chesapeake and Lowcountry*. Chapel Hill: UNC Press for OIEAHC, Williamsburg, VA, 1998. **F232 .C43 M67 1998**

Nicholls, Michael L. *Aspects of the African American Experience in Eighteenth-Century Williamsburg and Virginia*. CWF Research Report, RR-330. **F 234.W7 N52 1990**

Parent, Anthony S. *Foul Means: the Formation of a Slave Society in Virginia, 1660-1740*. Chapel Hill: UNC Press for OIEAHC, Williamsburg, VA. 2003. **445 .V8 P37 2003**

Tate, Thad W. *The Negro in Eighteenth-Century Virginia*. Williamsburg: UVA Press, 1965. **F234.W7 T3 1985**

IV. The Revolutionary War

Grundset, Eric, ed. *Forgotten Patriots: African American and American Indian Patriots in the Revolutionary War: a Guide to Service, Sources, and Studies*. Washington, D.C.: National Society DAR, 2008. **Ref. E 269.N3 G78 2008**. See the extensive bibliography of Virginia sources on pages 536-548.

Frey, Sylvia R. *Water from the Rock: Black Resistance in a Revolutionary Age*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton U P, 1991. **E269.N3F74 1991**

Jackson, Luther Porter. *Virginia Negro Soldiers and Seamen in the Revolutionary War*. Norfolk, VA: Guide Quality Press, 1944. **Ref. E 269.A35 J33**

Holton, Woody. *Forced Founders: Indians, Debtors, Slaves, and the Making of the American Revolution in Virginia*. Chapel Hill: UNC Press, 1999. **E210 .H695 1999**

Moss, Bobby G. and Michael C. Scoggins. *African American Patriots in the Southern Campaign of the American Revolution*. Blacksburg, SC: Scotia-Hibernia Press, 2004. **E 269.N3 M67 2004**

African American Loyalists in the Southern Campaign of the American Revolution. Blacksburg, SC: Scotia-Hibernia Press, 2005. **E 269.N3 M66 2005**

Nash, Gary B. *The Forgotten Fifth: African Americans in the Age of Revolution*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard U P, 2006. **E269 .N3 N36 2006**

Quarles, Benjamin. *The Negro in the American Revolution*. Chapel Hill, NC: UNC Press, 1996. **E 269.N3 Q3 1996**

Ruch, John E. *Carleton's Loyalist Index (Computer File): Also: The Book of Negroes*. Ottawa: United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada, 1996. **Ref. CD-Rom E 277.C37 1996** (Microfilm of the Carleton Papers is available as **M-154, 1-30**. See also: <http://blackloyalist.com/canadiandigitalcollection/index.htm>; chose "Documents" from the menu.

V. Education

Stephenson, Mary A. *Notes on the Negro School in Williamsburg: 1760-1774*. Williamsburg: CWF, 1949. **LC 2803.W5 S73 1963**

VI. Laws

- Catterall, Helen Tunnicliff, ed. *Judicial Cases concerning American Slavery and the Negro: Volume 1: Cases from the Courts of England, Virginia, West Virginia, and Kentucky*. New York: Octagon Books, 1968. **KF 4545.S5 C3 1968**
- Guild, June Purcell. *Black Laws of Virginia: a summary of the legislative acts of Virginia concerning Negroes from earliest times to the present*. Lovettsville, VA: Willow Bend Books, 1996. **Ref. E185.93 V8 G9**
- Schwarz, Philip J. *Slave Laws in Virginia*. Athens: Univ. of Georgia Press, 1996. **KFV2801.6 S55 S386**
- Willis, Anne. "The Masters' Mercy: Slave Prosecutions and Punishments in York County, Virginia 1700 to 1780." Master's thesis, W&M, 1995. **KFV 2801.6 S55 W54**

VII. Lists/Censuses of Slave Names

- Barden, John Randolph. "'Flushed With Notions of Freedom': the Growth and Emancipation of a Virginia Slave Community, 1732-1812." PhD diss., Duke Univ., 1993. **E 445.V8 B24 1993a** - Includes lists of slaves owned by the Carter family. Appendix 20 (p.486) lists the emancipated slaves of Robert Carter III as well as their descendants.
- Heinegg, Paul. *Free African Americans of North Carolina and Virginia: Including the Family Histories of More Than 80% of Those Counted as "All Other Free Persons" in the 1790 and 1800 Census, Third Edition*. Baltimore: Clearfield Co., 1997. **E 185.96 H48 1997**. For corrections and updates, see <http://www.freeafricanamericans.com/>
- Reed, B. Bernetiae. *The Slave Families of Thomas Jefferson*. Greensboro, NC: Sylvest-Sarah: 2007. **Ref. E 332.2R443 2007**
See also the Monticello Plantation Database: <http://plantationdb.monticello.org/>
- Vogt, John, ed. *Register for Bruton Parish, Virginia, 1662-1797*. Athens, GA: New Papyrus Publishing Co., 2004. **F 232.J15 R44 2004** . Includes baptismal records for slaves in the Williamsburg community.
- "Williamsburg Area Resident (W.A.R.) files." Data on Williamsburg residents compiled from house histories and Query files. Ask a librarian for assistance.
- "York County Records Project." Abstracts of York County records from 1633-1815, includes an index of slave names. Ask a librarian for assistance. **M 1797, 1 - 151**

VIII. Material Culture

- Covey, Herbert C., and Dwight Eissnach. *What the Slaves Ate: Recollections of African American Food and Foodways from the Slave Narratives*. Santa Barbara, CA: Greenwood, 2009. **E 443.C73 2009**
- Franklin, Maria. *An Archaeological Study of the Rich Neck Slave Quarters and Enslaved Domestic Life*. Williamsburg: CWF, 2004. **F 234.R48 F73 2004**
- Heath, Barbara J., and Amber Bennett. "The little spots allow'd them." *Historical Archaeology* 34(2000):38-55
- Katz-Hyman, Martha B. "*In the Middle of this Poverty Some Cups and a Teapot:*" *the Material Culture of Slavery in Eighteenth-Century Virginia and the Furnishings of Slave Quarters at Colonial Williamsburg*. Williamsburg: CWF, 1993. **E 443.K37 1993**
World of a Slave: Encyclopedia of the Material Life of Slaves in the United States. Santa Barbara, CA: Greenwood, 2011. **E441.W675 2011**
- Morgan, Philip David. "The Development of Slave Culture in Eighteenth Century Plantation America." PhD diss., University College, 1977. **E 443 M67**
- Walsh, Lorena Seebach. *From Calabar to Carter's Grove: the History of a Virginia Slave Community*. Charlottesville, University Press of Virginia, 1997. **F234 .C35 W35 1997**

IX. Religion

Frey, Sylvia. *Come Shouting to Zion: African American Protestantism in the American South and British Caribbean to 1830*. Chapel Hill: UNC Press, c1998.

BR563 .N4 F74 1998

Jackson, Luther Porter. *Religious Development of the Negro in Virginia from 1760-1860*.

{Indianapolis: Bobbs-Merrill Co., 197-} Reprinted from *The Journal of Negro History*, Vol. XVI, No. 2, 1931, April. **E185 .B6 pt.4**

Scully, Randolph Ferguson. *Religion and the Making of Nat Turner's Virginia: Baptist Community and Conflict, 1740-1840*. Charlottesville: UVA Press, 2008. **BX6248 .V8 S296 2008**

Semple, Robert B. *A History of the Rise and Progress of the Baptists in Virginia*. Richmond, VA: Pitt and Dickinson, 1894. **BX 6248 .V8 S4 1894**

Sidbury, James. *Ploughshares into Swords: Race, Rebellion, and Identity in Gabriel's Virginia, 1730-1810*. New York: Cambridge U P, 1997. **F234 .R59 N477 1997**

X. Runaway Ads

Windley, Lathan A. *A Profile of Runaway Slaves in Virginia and South Carolina from 1730 through 1787*. New York: Garland Publishing, Inc, 1995. **E445.V8 W593 1995**

The Geography of Slavery. <http://www2.vcdh.virginia.edu/gos/explore.html> *Virginia Gazette*. Search by subject, "Slaves, Runaway".

<http://research.history.org/DigitalLibrary/BrowseVG.cfm>

XI. Slave Trade

Donnan, Elizabeth. *Documents Illustrative of the History of the Slave Trade to America*. New York: Octagon Books, 1965. **E 441.D69**

Eltis, David. *Atlas of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade*. New Haven, Conn: Yale U P, 2010. **REF G2446 .E625 E48**

XII. Trades

Patrick, Vanessa E. *"As Good a Joiner as any in Virginia": African-Americans in the Eighteenth-Century Building Trades*. Williamsburg: Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, 1995.

E 185.93 V8 A8 1995

Virginia Gazette. Look up "Slaves, as curriers, as dairymaids, as ferrymen, as fiddle makers, etc. Paper copies in Virginia Reference Section. Online version is on the Library's website:

<http://research.history.org/DigitalLibrary/BrowseVG.cfm>

XIII. For more information about our holdings

Search the [Library catalog](#) for the following subjects: Slave Trade; Slavery Virginia; Slaves' Writings, American; Plantation Life; Freedmen; Women Slaves.

XIV. Online databases provided for in-house use and other recommended websites can be found listed on the webography, "[Slavery in Early America](#)".

http://research.history.org/JDRLibrary/Online_Resources/Research_Topics/WebSlavery.cfm

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