

Virginia Genealogical Timeline

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1540-1609	Spanish exploration - Jesuit Ajacán Mission
1584	Sir Walter Raleigh granted charter to discover "remote and heathen lands"
1607	English settlement at Jamestown, Roanoke Island
1619	Anglican Church becomes the established church in the colony
1624	London Virginia Company's charter revoked - became a royal colony
1634	Local governmental Shire (county) system established
1638	Nansemond tribe converted to Anglicanism
1651	Many English Royalists flee to Virginia - Established influential families
1652	Cromwell sends a more moderate Puritan to be governor of colony - local autonomy
1662	<i>Partus sequitur ventrem</i> law established - solidified slavery
1676	Bacon - Berkeley rebellion (burning of Jamestown)
1689	Toleration Act of 1600 - freedom of worship for Protestants - applied to English colonies
1706	Earliest marriage records being kept (few survive before 1730)
1710	Irish Presbyterians begin migrating down from Pennsylvania
1730s	First Great Awakening - Protestant religious upheaval
1748	First commercial coal mining near Richmond - becomes major boost to economy
1763	French & Indian War results in all land east of the Mississippi belonging to the colonies
1765	Stamp Act - a tax on all legal documents, magazines, playing cards, newspapers, etc.
1774	First Continental Congress - American colonists equal to British citizens
1776	Virginia declares independence from England
1776-1783	American War of Independence
1779	Part of Virginia ceded to Pennsylvania (extended the Mason-Dixon Line)
1780	State capitol moved from Jamestown to Richmond
1784	Northwest Territory ceded to U.S. (Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota)
1786	First Amendment rights eliminate threat of a state religion
1786	Beginning of the "Underground Railroad"
1788	Virginia admitted to the Union (10th state)
1790	Cumberland Gap opened to accommodate wagon traffic
1790	U.S. Census shows population to be close to 750,000 inhabitants (more than 2X New York)

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1791	More Native Americans converted to Christianity
1792	Kentucky ceded as a separate state
1810	Census records 30,000 slaves have become free
1853-1896	The state required county officials to record births, marriages (bonds & banns), and deaths
1861-1865	Civil War
1863	West Virginia created out of 50 northwestern counties (Kanawha)
1865-1877	Reconstruction era - Freedmen's Bureau
1866	Cohabitation Law
1868	Beginning of post-war railroad boom (Chesapeake & Ohio)
1872	Freedmen's Bureau abandoned
1900	"Jim Crow" laws - racial segregation
1912	Statewide registration of vital statistics begins (14 June)