



Hanover County, Virginia

18th Century Research Guide

When studying the research methods of 18th century Hanover County, it is crucial to learn about and understand the history and culture of Hanover at the time. Formed from New Kent County in 1721, a variety of settlers had already settled in the area.² In 1721 it was mainly inhabited by English Anglicans, Scots-Irish Presbyterians, and Quakers. Associated with these individual denominations are unique sets of research strategies to implement. Historic events such as the Scots-Irish migrations south into Lunenburg County, Virginia, for example, is part of an overall methodology used to trace Scots-Irish ancestors.

To successfully investigate 18th century settlers, it is important to know where to locate original records to find the most trustworthy information. Although, it is true that original records are not always accurate, they do give a precise account of and shed light on the origins of sources of information. Virginia suffered several crippling events when colonial records were lost, including a fire at the Hanover County courthouse on April 3, 1856.³ However, there are a few surviving sources left in the form of microfilm and in reference books.

1. "All rights reserved © 2017 David Joyce."

2. Library of Virginia, *Formation of Virginia Counties Chart* (Richmond, Virginia : Library of Virginia).

3. Hanover County Government, Genealogical Research (<http://www.hanovercounty.gov> : accessed 1 January 2017), "Many court records, particularly deeds, wills, and marriage records, were destroyed by fire in Richmond on April 3, 1865."

Researching 18th Century English Ancestors

The genealogical research methods used to trace English planters is generally straightforward, with the exception of a lack of records due to the Hanover courthouse fire. The majority of English settlers were members of the Church of England, also known as the Established Church of England in the colonies. The minutes of St. Pauls' parish remain intact and have been transcribed by C. G. Chamberlayne, giving present and future genealogists the ability to investigate this subject further. All settlers, regardless of their religion, were required to participate in Anglican worship services and within the parish itself. As a result, those who were faithful to the Established Church have a rich genealogical record.⁴

One of the duties of the parish was to oversee the construction and preservation of roads. Being the medium of trade, transportation, and travel it was a necessary duty to maintain them. These records are still in existence as well. Published by the Virginia Genealogical Society, *New Kent and Hanover County [Virginia] Road Orders, 1703-1743*, is another invaluable resource to use.

For any colonial genealogical inquiry, it is crucial to examine wills and deeds from the said County. *Virginia Migrations Hanover County: Volume 1 (1723-1850), and Volume II (1743-1871)* by Eugenia G. Glazebrook and Preston G. Glazebrook contains a collection of wills, deeds, marriages, and other related documents. When you hit a brick wall in your research in Hanover County, as is often the case, wills, deeds, and marriage records can be helpful documents to examine.

The following is a summary of available records from Hanover County and their repositories:

Source	Author	Repository	Format
The Vestry Book of St. Paul's Parish: Hanover County Virginia 1706-1786	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Virginia State Library and Archives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Library of Virginia Available for Purchase 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Book
Virginia Migrations Hanover County: Volume I (1723-1850), Volume II (1743-1871)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eugenia G. Glazebrook Preston G. Glazebrook 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Library of Virginia Available for Purchase 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Book
New Kent and Hanover County [Virginia] Road Orders, 1703-1743	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Virginia Genealogical Society 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Library of Virginia Available for Purchase 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Book

4. Robert P. Davis, James H. Smylie, Dean K. Thompson, Ernest Trice Thompson, William Newton Todd, *Virginia Presbyterians in American Life* (Richmond, Virginia : Hanover Presbytery, 1982), 5.

Hanover County [Virginia] Tax Payer's St. Paul's Parish 1782-1815	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • William Ronald Cocke III 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Library of Virginia • Available for Purchase 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Book
Virginia Tithables from Burned County Records	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Robert F. Woodson • Isobel B. Woodson 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Library of Virginia • Available for Purchase 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Book
Court Records [Hanover County], 1733 - 1735 (Wills, Deeds, Etc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Library of Virginia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Microfilm
Court Records [Hanover County], 1783 - 1792 (Deeds)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Library of Virginia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Microfilm
Frederick's Hall Plantation Ledgers and Other Volumes, 1727-1862, 1981	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John Chiswell 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Southern Historical Collection at the Louis Round Wilson Special Collections Library 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Microfilm
John Chiswell's day book: An abstract of a Hanover County, Virginia, merchandise day book, 1751-1757	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John Chiswell 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Available for Purchase [out of print] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Book

Researching 18th Century Scots-Irish Ancestors

Genealogical research of the Scots-Irish communities in Hanover County, Virginia, is more difficult. To successfully investigate the Scots-Irish, it is helpful to practice the research technique known as fan (family, associates, and neighbors). The majority of the Scots-Irish were Presbyterians and refused to worship in and pay the required tithes to the Established Church of England.⁵ As a result, the tithes imposed on the Scots-Irish were then taxed.⁶ Rejecting the threat of being shamed for participating in their local parishes, they worshiped in secret in “reading houses,” and, therefore, are not documented in the minutes of St. Paul’s Parish.⁶

To attempt to resolve this, the research being undertaken should expand to nearby Caroline County, Henrico County, New Kent County, King William County, Spotsylvania County, Louisa County, and Goochland County, Virginia. A close examination of the wills, deeds, tax, and marriage records from those counties can yield indirect evidence if the said ancestor is associated with any Scots-Irish person. However, to find direct evidence of Presbyterian influence, the minutes of the Presbytery of Hanover can be examined. On December 3, 1748, the first official meeting of the Presbyterian Church of central Virginia met at Pole Green Church in Hanover County, Virginia.⁷ If the said ancestor was a member, this would be documented.

On January 1, 1745, John Caldwell, a Presbyterian minister, established a Scots-Irish community called Cub Creek in Brunswick County, Virginia. Given permission by Governor Gooch of Virginia on November 4, 1738, he and his followers were free to worship as they pleased without the political and religious restrictions usually imposed on Presbyterians.⁹ Around the year 1748, a Scots-Irish, Presbyterian migration traveled from Hanover County to Lunenburg County, Virginia; Lunenburg County have been formed from Brunswick County in 1746. Scots-Irish ancestors from central Virginia often made a home for themselves at Cub Creek in hopes of finding for themselves a new and hopeful future.

5. Davis, Smylie, Thompson, Thompson, Todd, *Virginia Presbyterians in American Life*, 5.

6. Robert P. Davis, James H. Smylie, Dean K. Thompson, Ernest Trice Thompson, William Newton Todd, *Virginia Presbyterians in American Life* (Richmond, Virginia : Hanover Presbytery, 1982), 18-19.

7. Presbyterian Church in the U.S.” ; Hanover Minutes, 1755-1785; Union Presbytery Seminary, Richmond Virginia, microfilm.

8. Brunswick County, Virginia,” Brunswick County, Virginia, Deed Book 4, 1750-1674”, p. 59-60, Kennon to Caldwell entry, January 1 1745; Library of Virginia microfilm 3.

9. Robert P. Davis, James H. Smylie, Dean K. Thompson, Ernest Trice Thompson, William Newton Todd, *Virginia Presbyterians in American Life* (Richmond, Virginia : Hanover Presbytery, 1982), 12.

The following is a summary of available 18th century records from Hanover County, Lunenburg County, and their repositories:

Source	Author	Repository	Format
[Presbytery of Hanover] Hanover Minutes, 1755-1785	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presbyterian Church in the U.S 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Union Presbytery Seminary, Richmond, Virginia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Microfilm
Sunlight on the Southside: Lists of Tithes, Lunenburg County, Virginia (1748-1783)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landon C. Bell 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Library of Virginia Available for purchase 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Book
[Lunenburg County] Tithable Lists, 1748-1756	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Library of Virginia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Microfilm
[Lunenburg County] Tithable Lists, 1751-1752	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Library of Virginia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Microfilm
[Lunenburg County] Tithable Lists, 1757-1771	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Library Virginia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Microfilm
[Lunenburg County] Tithable Lists, 1772-1781	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Library of Virginia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Microfilm
[Lunenburg County] Will Book, No. 1, 1746 - 1762, Unpaged index, 350 p.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Library of Virginia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Microfilm
[Lunenburg County] Will Book, No. 2, 1762 – 1778, Unpaged index, 474 p.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Library of Virginia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Microfilm
[Lunenburg County] Will Book, No. 3, 1778 - 1791, Unpaged index, 397 p.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Library of Virginia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Microfilm
[Lunenburg County] Will Book, No. 4, 1791 - 1799, Unpaged index, 262 fo.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Library of Virginia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Microfilm
[Lunenburg County] General Index to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Library of Virginia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Microfilm

Marriages, 1746 - 1929.			
[Lunenburg County] Index to Marriage Bonds, 1746 - 1850.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Library of Virginia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Microfilm
[Lunenburg County] Deed Book, 1, 1746 - 1751, Unpaged index, 503 p.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Library of Virginia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Microfilm
[Lunenburg County] Deed Book, 2, 1750 - 1752, Unpaged index, 510 p.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Library of Virginia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Microfilm
[Lunenburg County] Deed Book, 3, 1752 - 1754 c [xvi] index, 551 p.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Library of Virginia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Microfilm
[Lunenburg County] Deed Book, 4, 1754 - 1757, Fragmented index, 549 p.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Library of Virginia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Microfilm
[Lunenburg County] Deed Book, 5, 1757 - 1760, Unpaged index, 574 p.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Library of Virginia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Microfilm
[Lunenburg County] Deeds, 1757 - 1762, see Fiduciary Book 4.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Library of Virginia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Microfilm
[Lunenburg County] Deed Book, 6, 1760 - 1761, Unpaged index, 545 p.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Library of Virginia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Microfilm
[Lunenburg County] Deed Book, 7, 1761 - 1762, Unpaged index, 403 p.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Library of Virginia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Microfilm
[Lunenburg County] Deed Book, 8, 1762 - 1764, Unpaged index, 388 p.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Library of Virginia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Microfilm
[Lunenburg County] Deed Book, 9, 1763 - 1764, Unpaged index, 483 p.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Library of Virginia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Microfilm
[Lunenburg County] Deed Book, 10, 1764 -	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Library of Virginia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Microfilm

1767, Unpaged index, 341 p.			
[Lunenburg County] Deed Book, 11, 1767 - 1771, Unpaged index, 450 p.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Library of Virginia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Microfilm
[Lunenburg County] Deed Book, 12, 1771 - 1777, Unpaged index, 542 p.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Library of Virginia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Microfilm
[Lunenburg County] Deed Book, 13, 1777 - 1784, Unpaged index, 585 p.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Library of Virginia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Microfilm
[Lunenburg County] Deed Book, 14, 1784 - 1787, Unpaged index, 450 p.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Library of Virginia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Microfilm
[Lunenburg County] Deed Book, 15, 1787 - 1790, Unpaged index, 538 p.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Library of Virginia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Microfilm
[Lunenburg County] Deed Book, 16, 1790 - 1795, Unpaged index, 541 p.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Library of Virginia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Microfilm
[Lunenburg County] Deed Book, 17, 1795 - 1797, Unpaged index, 549 p.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Library of Virginia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Microfilm
[Lunenburg County] Deed Book, No. 18, 1797 - 1801, Unpaged index, 273 fo.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Library of Virginia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Microfilm

Researching 18th Century Quaker Ancestors

The minutes of the Quaker Meetings of Hanover County, Virginia, are well documented and thus allow researchers to easily gain insight into their genealogies. Considered “radicals of the Protestant Reformation”, Quakerism was uniquely different from the Anglican and Presbyterian faith.¹⁰ Known as the Society of Friends, they believed in accurate record keeping which allows researchers to gain ready access to information about their religious practices. Like the Presbyterians, they did not participate in St. Pauls’ Parish, but rather held their own meetings. The book, *Our Quaker Friends of Ye Olden Time* by J. P. Bell, describes in great detail accounts of births, deaths, and marriages. However, it also contains information about removals, disownments, confessions, and condemnations.

Based on the ideology of strict morals, members of the church could be “disowned for drunkenness and adultery”, as well as, marrying outside the Society of Friends.¹¹ Because there were several Quaker colonies in colonial Virginia, it is productive to research the records of neighboring counties for more leads. One method is to search for relatives of a Quaker ancestor in the minutes of the Henrico County monthly meetings since Quakers were a close-knot society. Confessions and condemnations were also important to this denomination. After being disowned, members could recant their actions in order to get back into the good graces of the church.¹²

The following is a summary of available records from Hanover County and their repositories:

Source	Author	Repository	Format
Our Quaker Friends of Ye Olden Time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> J. P. Bell 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Library of Virginia Available for Purchase 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Book
Quaker Records of Henrico County Monthly Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> F. Edward Wright 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Library of Virginia Available for Purchase 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Book
Ladd Family Ledger, 1791-1849	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ladd Family 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Library of Virginia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Original Document
Micajah Crew Account Book 1761-1801	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Micajah Crew 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Library of Virginia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Microfilm
Encyclopedia of American Quaker Genealogy, Volume 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> William W. Hinshaw 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Library of Virginia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Book

10. J. P. Bell, *Our Quaker Friends of Ye Olden Time* (Bowie, Maryland : Heritage Books, Inc, 1997)., 171.

11. J. P. Bell, *Our Quaker Friends of Ye Olden Time* (Bowie, Maryland : Heritage Books, Inc, 1997)., 145.

12. J. P. Bell, *Our Quaker Friends of Ye Olden Time* (Bowie, Maryland : Heritage Books, Inc, 1997)., 161-166.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Available for Purchase	
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Conclusion

Successful research of the Anglican, Presbyterian, and Quaker communities of 18th century Hanover County, Virginia, depends on the use of specific investigative methods. The Established Church of England, unlike the other denominations, was the most prominent politically. Requiring all settlers to attend to worship services in the Church of England and requiring them to pay tithes, they held the reigns of political power. Despite the record loss in Hanover County, researching your Anglican ancestors can be achieved by studying the remaining records of St. Paul's Parish and other related colonial documents. Refusing to worship in the Establish Church of England, Presbyterians and Quakers preferred to meet in secret. As a result, they are not documented in the records of St. Paul's Parish and, therefore, can be more difficult to trace. However, the wealth of information chronicled in their individual meetings is a wealth of information. For Presbyterians, one can search the Hanover of Presbytery minutes and the records of Lunenburg County, Virginia, where they migrated to about 1748. The detailed Quaker meeting minutes of Hanover County and Henrico County are also a great source for researchers.