

A Guide to Family and Local History in Louisa County, Virginia

Louisa County has much information to offer those searching for family or local history. In order to use the time our volunteers offer to the *very best advantage*, we ask that people wishing to find ancestors **in Louisa County** do some searching online to help you narrow down the documents you need us to locate. At this point, the scope of our services is very limited. We can best serve you by going to our courthouse to copy records; property deeds, wills, chancery suits, etc. you have determined you would like to have.

Here's how to begin:

This site hosts our online database records: www.trevilians.com. You will see the vast amount of data available to search. Start with the Master Name Index on the left.

Check Federal Census Records

If you are unsure if an ancestor was in Louisa County, you can check the 1850, 1860 and 1920 census records at www.trevilians.com. The 1880 census is available free at www.familysearch.org.

Louisa Records

Once you know, or suspect an ancestor was here, the easiest way to begin is by searching the Master Name Index file compiled at <http://trevilians.com/master/allindex.htm>. Follow the links to any records that seem to match the correct names and dates. This one master database name list compiles deeds, wills, tombstones, chancery records, and over 20,000 names listed as 'relationships' to someone creating one of these documents. ***In most cases, your search of these records will turn up everything our volunteers can find. Actually, since you may know other family names you may recognize, your own search and lucky hunches may reveal the most information of all.***

If you find a document listed and need a volunteer to go to the courthouse and make a copy for you, we will try to find someone willing to do so. If you have a specific request, please mail or email **your mailing address** and provide the records number cited in the database, i.e. DBL p 47. (Deed Book L, page 47)

We do ask that you kindly send a suggested donation of \$20 per hour plus 25 cents for copies of our documents and \$1 per copy for court house records when you receive your documents (the clerk charges us for copies).

The Louisa County Historical Society has a few publications for sale on our website, www.louisahistory.org, and at <http://trevilians.com/lchs.htm#Top>. Other publications of interest usually have the necessary information on how to order a copy at the top of the database in which they are sited.

Archive Searches

We are in the process of indexing the few dozen family history files in our archives and hope to have a listing of available this summer. The most extensive source will remain the wonderful lists compiled at www.trevilians.com

When you are ready to ask us for a copy of a document, please be very specific and include the reference description, the name of the person you're seeking, dates of that person's residence in Louisa County and any other identifying information you can provide. We will assign your request to one of our volunteers and that person will contact you as soon as possible. Please allow 4-6 weeks for a reply.

If you have further questions, we are most easily reached at louisahistory@verizon.net

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