



The First African Baptist Church, northeast corner of College and Broad Streets, Richmond, Va. *Harper's Weekly*, v.18, pt. 1, 1874, p. 545.

Historically, religious institutions have provided strength, stability, and support for their members as well as a focal point for social interaction. Nowhere is this more clearly seen than in the African American community from the antebellum period to the present.

In its effort to collect materials relating to the culture and history of the commonwealth, the Library of Virginia has assembled a wide variety of materials about Virginia religious institutions, including many for African American churches. Types of materials presented in this research guide include:

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HISTORIES OF CONGREGATIONS

The scope of congregational histories may vary from a few paragraphs in an anniversary bulletin to scholarly histories. In addition to a narrative history of a church's activities, these materials may contain membership and leadership rosters, biographical information about their pastors, names and life details of prominent members, and photographs of pastors, groups, and significant events in the institution's past.

The list below is not exhaustive. For information on specific churches as well as for more general histories, please check our catalog using subject headings such as: "African American Baptists–Virginia," "African American Episcopalians Virginia," "African American Churches Virginia," or "African American Churches–Virginia–[Locality]." Check under the names of specific churches. Also, check the local histories of cities and counties for information on African American churches.

ALEXANDRIA

Lynch, Anna. *Compendium of Early African Americans in Alexandria, Virginia*. Alexandria, Va.: Alexandria Archaeology, Office of Historic Alexandria, 1993–1995.

Includes an index compiled from the records of the **First Baptist Church** and **Trinity Methodist Church** as well as censuses and Free Negro Registers.

*Seventy-fifth Anniversary of the **Oakland Baptist Church** and the Twenty-fifth of Its Minister Rev. Luther Mills: September 18, 1966–October 4, 1966*. Alexandria Va.: Oakland Baptist Church Anniversary Committee, 1966.

Wallace, Alton S. *The Saints of Alfred Street*. [s.l.]: A. S. Wallace, 1996.

ARLINGTON COUNTY

*Fiftieth Anniversary of the **Macedonia Baptist Church, 1911–1961***. Arlington, Va.: Anniversary Committee, Macedonia Baptist Church, 1961.

BEDFORD

Washington Street Baptist Church. *The Organization and Growth of the Washington Street Baptist Church, Bedford, Virginia, 1866, 1939*. Bedford, Va.: Washington Street Baptist Church, 1939.

CHARLES CITY COUNTY

Elam Baptist Church. *1810. 1910. History of Elam Baptist Church, Charles City County, Va*. Richmond: Reformer Electric Print., 1910.

———. *Organization and Development of **Elam Baptist Church, 1810–1910***. Ruthville, Va.: The Church, 1976.

As well as a history of the church and description of its programs, this report includes biographies of church leaders and a genealogy of Abram Brown, the founder of the church.

———. *Souvenir program of the silver anniversary of the Rev. George Washington Watkins as pastor of **Elam Baptist Church, Ruthville, Va. and **Second Liberty Baptist Church, Quinton, Va.: Sunday morning, September 27, 1953, through Friday evening, October 9, 1953*****. S.l.: s.n., 1953.

A historical sketch of Elam Baptist Church on page 5.

CHARLOTTESVILLE

McKinney, Richard I. *Keeping the Faith: A History of the **First Baptist Church, 1863–1980***. Charlottesville, Va.: First Baptist Church, 1981.

*Mt. **Zion Baptist Church, Air Conditioned, Charlottesville: A Century of Christian Service, 1867–1967***. Charlottesville, Va.: n.p., 1967.

HANOVER COUNTY

Gales, Melinda D. *African-American Baptist Churches in Hanover County, Virginia, 1865–1900*. Master's thesis, Virginia Commonwealth University, 1999. Ann Arbor, Mich.: UMI, 2001.

HARRISONBURG

Toliver, Ruth M. *History of Kelley Street United Brethren in Christ Church, Newtown, Harrisonburg, Virginia, 1882–1906*. Gaithersburg, Md.: Signature Books, 1998.

KING AND QUEEN COUNTY

Hundley, W. T. *History of Mattaponi Baptist Church, King and Queen County, Virginia*. Richmond: Appeals Press, 1928.

Mattaponi Baptist Church, founded August 9, 1828, was composed of both white and African American members until 1866, when **Zion Baptist Church** was formed by the black members of the church. This history includes a brief description of the formation of Zion Baptist Church. Membership lists include names of slaves and their owners.

LOUDOUN COUNTY

Courage, My Soul: Historic African American Churches and Mutual Aid Societies. Leesburg, Va.: Loudoun Museum, 2000.

NORFOLK

First Trinity African Methodist Episcopal Church. *Trinity A.M.E. Church, Berkley, Virginia*. Berkley, Va.: G. S. Ansell Print., 1906.

“Church of the Week.” *Richmond Afro-American*.

“1st Calvary Has Had 4 Pastors in 63 Years,” 25 March 1939, 16.

“First Holiness Church Was Organized in 1899,” 15 April 1939, 24.

Souvenir Program, Fiftieth Anniversary Exercises...1861–1911, St. Luke's African Union Methodist Protestant Church. Norfolk: New Century Printery, 1911.

PETERSBURG

Bragg, George F. *The Story of Old Saint Stephen's, Petersburg, Va.* Baltimore: Church Advocate Print., 1906?

Jackson, Luther Porter. *A Short History of the Gillfield Baptist Church of Petersburg, Va.* Petersburg, Va.: Virginia Print Co., 1937.

Sherwood, William Henry. *Life of Charles B. W. Gordon, Pastor of the First Baptist Church, Petersburg, Virginia and History of the Church...* Petersburg, Va.: J. B. Ege, 1885.

PORTSMOUTH

“New Church Built on ‘Ashes’ of Old (Mt. Calvary Baptist Church).” *Richmond Afro-American*, 23 September 1939, 23.

QUINTON

Souvenir program of the silver anniversary of the Rev. George Washington Watkins as pastor of Elam Baptist Church, Ruthville, Va. and Second Liberty Baptist Church, Quinton, Va.: Sunday morning, September 27, 1953, through Friday evening, October 9, 1953. S.l.: s.n., 1953.

A historical sketch of Second Liberty Baptist Church on page 6.

RICHMOND

Historical Records Survey of Virginia, Works Projects Administration. *Inventory of the Church Archives of Virginia: Negro Baptist Churches in Richmond*. Richmond: Historical Records Survey of Virginia, 1940.

Outlines the background of the church associations and conventions and their member churches in Richmond. Provides location, physical description, history, and archival holdings as well as references for further information. Although repositories may have changed since 1940, this inventory provides a means of tracking difficult-to-find materials.

*One Hundredth Anniversary of **Ebenezer Baptist Church**, 1858–1958, 216 West Leigh Street, Richmond, Virginia.* Richmond: n.p., 1958.

Fifth Street Baptist Church. *Programme of the 50th Anniversary of the Fifth Street Baptist Church, October 5 to 19, 1930, Richmond, Virginia.* Richmond: Service Print Shop, 1930.

Ryland, Robert. "Origin and History of the **First African Church.**" In *The First Century of the First Baptist Church of Richmond, Virginia, 1780–1880.* Richmond: Carlton McCarthy, 1880.

Irons, Charles F. "And All These Things Shall Be Added unto You: The **First African Baptist Church, Richmond, 1841–1865.**" *Virginia Cavalcade*, 47 (Winter 1998): 26–35.

First Baptist Church, South Richmond. *A Historical Chronology, 1821–1992: Preview of the Comprehensive History of First Baptist Church, South Richmond.* Richmond: First Baptist Church, South Richmond, 1992.

———. *A Comprehensive History of **First Baptist Church, South Richmond**, 1821–1993.* Richmond: First Baptist Church, South Richmond. Volume 1 is *Traveling On ... The First Fifty Years, 1821–1871*, December 1993. Volume 2 is *The 133-Year Journey ... 1865–1998*, Winter 1999.

Gilliam, Hannah J. G. *History of the **Seven Pines Baptist Church**, Sandston, Virginia, 1872–1972.* Sandston, Va., 1972?

Johnson, Nessa Theresa. *A Special Pilgrimage: A History of Black Catholics in Richmond.* Richmond: Diocese of Richmond, 1978.

Mosby Memorial Baptist Church. *The Programme of Services Representing the Twentieth Anniversary of the **Clay Street Baptist Church** (formerly **New Baptist Church**) and Dedication of Its New Home, Hereafter to Be Known as the Mosby Memorial Baptist Church from Sunday October 2nd to Sunday October 16, 1927, Inclusive.* N.p., 1927.

Second Baptist Church. *The History and Chronology of Second Baptist Church: Idlewood Avenue and Randolph Street, Richmond, Virginia, 1846–1996.* Richmond: Second Baptist Church, 1996.

Second Baptist Church. *Souvenir Program, Second Baptist Church. First Anniversary of the Pastor, Joseph T. Hill and the Eighty-third Anniversary of the Church, October 14–21, 1929.* Richmond: Second Baptist Church, 1929.

———. ***Sharon Baptist Church**, First and Leigh Streets, Richmond, Virginia. 1887 Golden Jubilee 1937...* Richmond: St. Luke Press, 1937.

Sixth Mount Zion Baptist Church. *Sixth Mount Zion Baptist Church, Richmond, Virginia: "A Celebration of 130 Years of Christian Heritage," 1867–1997.* Richmond: Sixth Mount Zion Baptist Church, 1997.

———. *Souvenir Programme, **Sixth Mount Zion Baptist Church**, Richmond, Virginia; Centennial Celebration of Our Church and the John Jasper Memorial, Sunday, April 2, 1967 to Friday, December 1, 1967.* Richmond: Sixth Mount Zion Baptist Church, 1967.

Swansboro Baptist Church. *The Fiftieth Anniversary of the Swansboro Baptist Church and the Fourth of Its Pastor, Rev. Emmanuel C. Kent...* Richmond: Deluxe Print., 1938.

West, Sandra L. ***Greater Mount Moriah Baptist Church: From Seventy-Six, a Mighty Fortress.*** Richmond: Metropolitan Business Guide, 1997.

"Church of the Week." Richmond Afro-American.

"**Leigh Street M.E.** Keeps Doors Open for Community Service," 22 October 1938, 13.

"**Fifth Street Baptist** Flock Began Life in 1880 in Odd Fellows' Hall," 29 October 1938, 24.

"**Ebenezer Baptist** Was Erected by Donations from Colored and Whites," 5 November 1938, 16.

"**First Baptist Church (of South Richmond)** Is Oldest Separate Colored Church in Richmond," 12 November, 1938, 12.

"**Hood Temple** Was Organized in 1911; Moved Several Times," 19 November 1938, 24.

"**First African Baptist**, Born in 1841, Has Had only Three Pastors," 26 November 1938, 173.

- “**Mosby Memorial**, Daughter of 5th Street, Born 1907, Has Fourth Pastor,” 3 December 1938, 24.
- “**Sharon Baptist Church** Is Nearly 52 Years Old,” 10 December 1938, 17.
- “**First Mt. Olivet** Pastor Kept Post 35 Years, Died in 1935,” 17 December 1938, 21.
- “Pastor Who Built **Fourth Baptist** Edifice Served 46 Years Until Death in 1926,” 24 December 1938, 12.
- “**Second Seventh-Day-Adventist Church** Obtained First Church Home in 1912,” 14 January 1939, 12.
- “**Fifth Baptist** Was Born in Wake of Freedom’s Guns,” 21 January 1939, 16.
- “**Mount Calvary** Had First Cornerstone Laid in Richmond by Odd Fellows,” 28 January 1939, 15.
- “**Third Street Bethel Church**, Erected 1859, Still Points the Way to Progress,” 4 February 1939, 6.
- “**Goodwill Baptist Church** Formed by Six Men and Women in 1923,” 11 February 1939, 14.
- “**Mt. Moriah Baptist Church** Held First Sessions in Armstrong High,” 18 February 1939, 14.
- “**Sixth Street Church**, Daughter of Mt. Carmel, Began with 40 Members,” 25 February 1939, 15.
- “**Rising Mt. Zion** Emerged from Quaker School in Fulton in 1869,” 4 March 1939, 15.
- “**Trinity Baptist Church**, Founded in 1906, Started as a Mission,” 11 March 1939, 12.
- “**Timothy Baptist Church** Was Begun with Thirteen Members,” 18 March 1939, 24.
- “**Mount Vernon Baptist** Began in 1905 with Its Present Pastor,” 1 April 1939, 15.
- “**Grayland Avenue Baptist** Born in Home of Mrs. Martha Johnson,” 8 April 1939, 6.
- “The Rev. W. H. Branch, Founder and Only Pastor of **7th Street Baptist**,” 15 April 1939, 24.
- “**Church of God in Christ** Was Dream of Elder R. N. Johnson,” 22 April 1939, 15.
- “**Osgood Memorial P.E.** Was Born during World War Days,” 29 April 1939, 15.
- “52-Year-Old **Mt. Carmel** Records Congregation’s First Song,” 13 May 1939, 15.
- “**Little Church around the Corner** Organized in 1890 with 14 Members,” 20 May 1939, 24.
- “**St. Philip P.E. Church** Organized as Mission Sunday School in 1859,” 27 May 1939, 24.
- “**Charity Baptist** Had 12 Members When It Was Organized in 1915,” 10 June 1939, 24.
- “**Mount Zion Baptist Church** Can Boast Social and Religious Service,” 24 June 1939, 6.
- “**First Union Baptist**, Organized in 1895, Had Noted Dedication Speaker,” 22 July 1939, 7.

SALEM

Shiloh Baptist Church. *Fiftieth Anniversary, 1896–1946: Shiloh Baptist Church, Alabama and Burwell Streets, Salem, Virginia.* Roanoke, Va.: Rev. F. E. Alexander, 1946.

ASSOCIATIONS AND CONVENTIONS

Reports of church and Sunday school associations provide lists of clergy, ordinations, and often memorial biographies of recently deceased prominent members. Although more impersonal than histories of congregations, the facts that can be gleaned from these reports can provide dates and locations for further research.

The list below is not exhaustive. For additional materials on associations, check the catalog under the subject headings “African American Baptists–Virginia,” “African American Baptists–Virginia–Societies, etc.–Periodicals,” “African American Baptists–Virginia–Periodicals,” and “African American Baptists–Virginia–Congresses.” Also check under the name of the organization.

Directory of Negro Baptist Churches in the United States. Chicago: Illinois Historical Records Survey, 1942.

Volume II contains listings of the Virginia Baptist Associations, their member churches, addresses, and pastors.

Further information about these associations is found in their minutes or proceedings. Library of Virginia holdings include scattered individual copies and the following more extensive microfilm collection:

American Baptist-Samuel Colgate Historical Library. *African-American Baptist Annual Reports, Virginia, 1865–1990.* Rochester, N.Y.: American Baptist-Samuel Colgate Historical Library, 1997.

Fiftieth Anniversary of the Methodist Sunday School Union Association of Petersburg and Vicinity (program). Petersburg, Va.: The Association, 1916.

General Association of Virginia (Afro-American). *Proceedings of the General Association of Virginia*. 1900.

Johnson, William Henry, 1858–1935. *A History of the Bethany Baptist Sunday School Convention, Southside Virginia, organized 1888*.

Macedonian Baptist Association of Virginia. *Minutes of the Macedonian Baptist Association*. 1907, 1910.

Mattaponi Baptist Association of Virginia. *Minutes of the Mattaponi Baptist Association*. 1908.

Mattaponi District Baptist Sunday School Convention. *Minutes of the Mattaponi District Bapt. Sunday School Convention*. 1908, 1910.

Shiloh Baptist Association (Afro-American). *Minutes of the Shiloh Baptist Association*. 1875, 1896, 1903.

Winfield, C. W. *Minutes of the Forty-second Session of the Virginia Annual Conference of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, Petersburg, Va.*: Presses of Frank A. Owen, 1907.

Woman's District Convention (Va.). *Minutes of the ... annual session of the Woman's District Commission*. 1919–1922, 1924–1928.

BIOGRAPHIES OF VIRGINIA CHURCH LEADERS

Biographies of pastors and other church leaders provide information not only about the subjects but also about the churches and congregations they helped to form. For additional titles, check the catalog using subject headings “African American Clergy–Virginia” or “African American–Clergy–Virginia–[Locality].” Also check under the names of specific individuals.

Berry, Leonidas H. *I Wouldn't Take Nothin' for My Journey: Two Centuries of an Afro-American Minister's Family*. Chicago: Johnson Publishing, 1981.

Berry, Silas N. *Memories of Rev. R. D. Merchant*. Virginia: s.n., 1935?

Harris, Odell Greenleaf. *It Can Be Done: The Autobiography of a Black Priest of the Protestant Episcopal Church Who Started under the Bottom and Moved up to the Top*. Alexandria, Va.: Protestant Episcopal Theological Seminary in Virginia, 1985.

James, Allix Bledsoe. *Three Score and Ten Plus: The Pilgrimage of an African American Educator*. Richmond: Choice Communications, 1998.

James, Isaac. *“The Sun Do Move”: The Story of the Life of John Jasper*. Richmond: Whittet & Shepperson, 1954.

Norman, Worth Earlwood. *James Solomon Russell: Former Slave, Pioneering Educator, and Episcopal Evangelist*. Jefferson, North Carolina: McFarland & Company, Inc., 2012.

Robertson, Benjamin W. *Just As He Promised: A Lifetime Directed and Protected by the Word of God*. Franklin, Tenn.: Providence House, 1998.

Proctor, Samuel DeWitt. *The Substance of Things Hoped For*. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1995.

Spencer, Jon Michael. *The Hymnody of Charles Price Jones and the Church of Christ (Holiness) U.S.A.* Reprinted from *Black Sacred Music* 4, no. 2 (Fall 1990): [14]–29.

West, Landon. *The Life of Elder Samuel Weir (Colored)*. 10th ed. Covington, Oh.: Tribune Print., 1909.

White, William S. *The African Preacher: An Authentic Narrative*. Philadelphia: Presbyterian Board of Publication, 1849.
The African preacher was a slave in Nottoway County, Va., called Uncle Jack.

DENOMINATIONAL HISTORIES

Denominational or general histories of African American religious development often present clues or pathways for further research.

Bragg, George F. *The Colored Harvest in the Old Virginia Diocese*. Baltimore: n.p., 1901.

Brydon, George MacLaren. *The Episcopal Church among the Negroes of Virginia*. Richmond: Virginia Diocesan Library, 1937.

Butt, Israel L. *History of African Methodism in Virginia...* Hampton, Va.: Hampton Institute Press, 1908.

Corey, Charles H. *History of the Richmond Theological Seminary*. Richmond: J. W. Randolph Company, 1895.

Earnest, Joseph B. Harris. *The Religious Development of the Negro in Virginia*. Charlottesville, Va.: Michie Co., 1914.

Gullins, W. R. *The Heroes of the Virginia Annual Conference of the A.M.E. Church*. Smithfield, Va.: W. R. Gullins, 1899.

Hamilton, C. Horace. *The Negro Church in Rural Virginia*. Blacksburg, Va.: Virginia Polytechnic Institute, 1930.

Harris, Odell Greenleaf. *The Bishop Payne Divinity School: Petersburg, Virginia, 1878–1949*. Alexandria, Va.: Protestant Episcopal Theological Seminary, 1980.

Hopkins, William I. *History of the Virginia Baptist State Church School Convention*. Richmond: The Convention, 1945.

Jackson, Luther Porter. "Religious Development of the Negro in Virginia from 1760–1860." *Journal of Negro History* 16 (April 1931): 168–239.

Legacy Museum of African American History (Lynchburg, Va.). *By God's Grace: The African American Worship Experience in Central Virginia, 1820–1950*. Lynchburg, Va.: The Legacy Project, Inc., 2004.

Includes a chronological list of congregations in Central Virginia.

Reavis, Ralph. *Virginia Seminary: A Journey of Black Independence*. Bedford, Va.: Print Shop, 1989.

Robert, Joseph C. *Excommunication Virginia Style*. Reprinted from the *South Atlantic Quarterly* XL no. 3, July 1941.

Smith, Edward D. *Climbing Jacob's Ladder: The Rise of Black Churches in Eastern American Cities, 1740–1877*. Washington, D.C.: Smithsonian Institution, 1988.

Sobel, Mechal. *Trabelin' On: The Slave Journey to an Afro-Baptist Faith*. Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 1988.

Tate, Thad W. "The Humanitarian Impulse: Religion and Education," in *The Negro in Eighteenth-Century Williamsburg*. Williamsburg, Va.: Colonial Williamsburg, 1965.

Taylor, Alrutheus Ambush. "Religious Efforts among the Negroes" and "The Impressions the Church Made." In *The Negro in the Reconstruction of Virginia*. Washington, D.C.: Association for the Study of Negro Life and History, 1926.

NEWSPAPERS

Newspaper databases can be checked for specific individuals, churches, and events. The following websites and databases have digitized newspapers that can be searched full-text:

Chronicling America (<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov>): Includes the *Richmond Planet* with issues from November 16, 1889, to December 31, 1910.

Virginia Chronicle (<http://viriniachronicle.com>): Includes the *Afro-American Churchman* with issues from July 17, 1886, through September 1, 1890; the *Richmond Planet* with issues from November 16, 1889, through December 31, 1910.

ProQuest Historical Newspapers: *Norfolk Journal and Guide* (1921–2003). With a library card, this database can be accessed off-site.

MANUSCRIPT RESOURCES

Included are records of churches with African American membership as well as church records with references to slaves.

AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL

Williams, Frances Tsepho, comp. Personal Papers Collection. Historical materials about **Third Street Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church**, 1867–1999. Accession 36905.

Includes fliers, histories, newsletters, and programs relating to Third Street Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Richmond, Virginia, and photocopies of minutes and committee reports of the Virginia Annual Conference of the African Methodist Episcopal Church from 1867–1869, 1872, 1877, 1886, and 1896.

BAPTIST

Ryland, Garnett. Permission and character certificates for slaves seeking to join **Bethel Baptist Church**, 1832–1860. Accession 22681.

Permission and character certificates, 1832–1860, for slaves seeking to join Bethel Baptist Church in Clarke County, Virginia.

Ebenezer Baptist Church (Richmond, Va.) Church Records Collection; Baptist. Records, 1858–1980 [microform]. Miscellaneous microfilm reels 1088–1089. Accession 33482.

This material consists of seventeen volumes that contain matters of church business and discipline as well as some lists of baptisms and deaths. Periods covered are 1858–1876, 1879–1883, 1892–1904, 1908–1911, 1910–1925, 1921, 1961–1974.

First African Baptist Church (Richmond, Va.) Church Records Collection; Baptist. Minute books, 1841–1930 [microform]. Miscellaneous microfilm reel 494. Accession 28255.

The material includes three minute books. The first covers the period from 3 October 1841 to 7 August 1859. There is an account of the organization of the church and many names are listed of candidates for baptism, persons dismissed or excluded, and deaths. The second volume, 7 June 1875 to 12 September 1897, contains very full minutes. The third volume covers the period from 5 October 1897 to 2 June 1930. There are no membership lists in any of the three volumes.

Gillfield Baptist Church (Petersburg, Va.) Church Records Collection; Baptist. Minute book, 1815–1842. Accession 20784.

This minute book covers the period from 4 February 1815 to 15 April 1827. Some sessions list those present. Names of those received for membership are also recorded. Membership lists are detailed and well organized.

Mossingford Baptist Church (Charlotte County, Va.) Church Records Collection; Baptist. Minute book, 1823–1869. Accession 28981

Mossingford Church was constituted in 1785. In 1865, the black members requested and were granted permission to organize a separate church. These minutes cover the period from June 1823 to March 1869. Membership lists appear on pages 145–202.

Mount Tirzah Church (Charlotte County, Va.) Church Records Collection; Baptist. Minute books, 1834–1915. Accession 24261

Includes three minute books. Membership lists are included in each volume. This church included a large black membership and some of the minutes concern debate about their welfare.

New Prospect Baptist Church of Christ (Amherst County, Va.) Church Records Collection; Baptist. Minute book, 1828–1849 [microform]. Misc. reel 994. Accession 32176.

Members including slaves and their owners appear on pages 157–158, and 162 for the years 1846–1868, and on pages 163–165 for the year 1828.

Sixth Mount Zion Baptist Church. 130th Anniversary Committee (Richmond, Va.) Church Records Collection; Baptist. Records, 1997. Accession 35664.

The Sixth Mount Zion Baptist Church was organized on 3 September 1867 by Reverend John Jasper. These records consist of material from the 130th Anniversary Committee of the Sixth Mount Zion Baptist Church in Richmond, Virginia, including a program, a copy of “De Sun Do Move—The Celebrated Sermon of John J. Jasper,” and assorted pamphlets and copies of photographs.

Taylorsville Church (Hanover County, Va.) Church Records Collection; Baptist. Minute book, 1841–1861. Misc. Reel 504. Accession 28291. Membership lists include the names of “servants” belonging to the church with their owners.

CATHOLIC

St. Joseph’s Catholic Church (Richmond, Va.) Church Records Collection; Catholic. Records, 1884–1912 [microform]. Miscellaneous microfilm reel 1084. Accession 33476.

St. Joseph’s Catholic Church was the first Catholic church in Richmond, Virginia, established to serve the African American community. The records include the baptismal register, 1884–1912; marriage records, 1908–1912; marriage register, 1884–1912; death records, 1908–1912; confirmation register, 1885–1912; and first communion register, 1885–1912.

Holy Innocents Foundling Asylum (Richmond, Va.) Church Records Collection; Catholic. Records, 1888–1912 [microform]. Miscellaneous microfilm reels 1085–1086. Accessions 33477, 33478.

St. Francis Colored Foundling and Orphan Asylum, Richmond, Virginia, was founded in 1893, and the name was later changed to Holy Innocents Foundling Asylum. Miscellaneous reel 1085, Accession 33477, consists of two volumes. The first volume, 1894–1897, shows orphan’s name, date of birth, parents’ names (if known), by whom the orphan was sent, and baptismal information. The second volume, 1888–1906, includes index, chronological list of deaths, orphan’s name, place and date of birth, color, sex, parents’ names, date orphan was admitted, and reason. Miscellaneous reel 1086, Accession 33478, includes a third volume, 1906–1912, containing index, chronological list of deaths, orphan’s name, place and date of birth, color, sex, parents’ names, date orphan was admitted, and reason.

EPISCOPAL

Balmain, Alexander, 1741–1821. Personal Papers Collection. Ledger, 1775–1821. Accession 20562.

Includes a list of birth dates for his slaves.

Christ Episcopal Church (Winchester, Va.) Church Records Collection; Episcopalian. Records, 1782–1976 [microform]. Misc. reel 815–822. Accession 30740.

Includes the journal of Rev. Alexander Balmain, 1782–1820, which records slave births.

Fairfax Parish (Fairfax, Va.) Church Records Collection; Episcopal. Records, 1765–1928 [microform]. Washington, D.C.: Library of Congress, Photoduplication Service, 1950. Misc. reel 137. Accessions 23956a-b, 29952a-i.

Relevant records include register, 1825–1855, consisting of baptisms, burials, marriages, and communicants. Also includes baptisms, marriages, and burials for African Americans. Accession 23956a is the transcribed copy of this volume. Transcribed copy includes index. (Accession 29952e; Misc. reel 137, no.5.)

Henrico Parish (Richmond, Va.) Church Records Collection; Episcopal. **St. Philip’s Church** history, St. Philip’s Church vestry books, 24 May 1869–2 May 1887 Microfilm Records, 1730–1941. Accession 28068a and 28068b-d (bound together).

St. Philip’s Church, an African American church established in 1861, ceased to exist in 1865 probably due to the burning of Richmond at the end of the Civil War, but in 1866 reapplied for admittance to Council. Materials include St. Philip’s Church History (n.d.), St. Philip’s Church vestry books, 24 May 1869–2 May 1887; 7 April 1888–7 July 1892; 22 March 1895–5 February 1904. Register entries are found in the first volume, and miscellaneous material in the third volume extends the date range to 1941.

Kingston Parish (Va.) Church Records Collection; Episcopalian. Records, 1679–1917. Mathews County reel 57. Accession 19728. The Register, 1749–1827, includes births and baptisms of slaves.

Christ Church Parish (Middlesex County, Va.) Church Records Collection; Episcopalian. Christ Church Parish (Middlesex County, Va.) records, 1663–1856.

The register and miscellaneous material, 1653–1814, Accession 20285, includes records of births and deaths of slaves. A published transcript can be found in *Christ Church Parish Register, Middlesex County, Virginia, 1653–1812*, by John Otto Yurechko.

St. Andrew's Parish (Brunswick County, Va.) Church Records Collection; Episcopal. Records, 1732–1946 [microform]. Misc. reels 649, 1072–1073. Other format: Vestry book, 1732–1786 (Accession 19769) also available in photostat.

Relevant materials include two parish registers, 1838–1915. The first register, 1838–1891, contains a list of ministers, baptisms, communicants, marriages, funerals, confirmations, and offerings for whites and African Americans (item 2 on misc. reel 1073).

Tizzard, A. B. Register, 1828–1878 (bulk 1837–1878). Accessions 21282, 25464, and 30124.

Contains records of families, baptisms, confirmations, communicants, marriages, and funerals for Dale Parish, Chesterfield County; King William Parish, Powhatan County; and Grub Hill Church, Amelia County. Also includes entries for African Americans.

METHODIST

Monumental Methodist Church (Portsmouth, Va.) Church Records Collection; Methodist. Records, 1772–1936 [microform]. Miscellaneous microfilm reel 380. Accession 29799f.

Includes reports from the African Methodist Church organized by African American members of Dinwiddie Street Methodist Church who wanted their own church.

METHODIST EPISCOPAL

Methodist Episcopal Church, South. Virginia Conference, Norfolk District, Princess Anne Circuit, Church Records Collection; Methodist. Register, 1828–1868 [microform]. Accession Princess Anne County reel 54.

Relevant records include a “Register of Colored Members,” November 1859.

PRESBYTERIAN

Cumberland Presbyterian Church (Va.) Church Records Collection; Presbyterian. Records, 1787–1900. Accession 19964.

This group of records includes entries showing birth dates of slaves, 1774–1823.

UNITED BRETHREN IN CHRIST

Kelley Street United Brethren in Christ Church (Harrisonburg, Va.) Church Records Collection; United Brethren in Christ. Records, 1892–1905. Accession 37081

On 28 November 1892, the Reverend T. K. Clifford officially organized this African American congregation. Records include a minute book, financial records, minutes of a Quarterly Conference meeting, and loose papers. These records have been transcribed in *History of Kelley Street United Brethren In Christ Church, Newtown, Harrisonburg, Virginia, 1892–1906*, by Ruth M. Toliver, 1998.

IMAGES

Various images, including photographs and drawings, are available for research in Special Collections. Open by appointment, 804.692.3703. Special Collections can be reached by e-mail at www.lva.virginia.gov/about/contact.asp.

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Revised and updated June 2016 by Sarah Huggins

