

history of virginia beach

History of Virginia Beach: A Journey Through Time

history of virginia beach is a fascinating tale that weaves together Native American heritage, colonial exploration, military significance, and the rise of a bustling coastal city. Nestled where the Chesapeake Bay meets the Atlantic Ocean, Virginia Beach's story is as dynamic and varied as its shoreline. From its early indigenous inhabitants to becoming one of the East Coast's premier resort destinations, exploring this history reveals much about the broader narrative of American development.

Early Inhabitants and Indigenous Roots

Long before European settlers arrived, the land now known as Virginia Beach was home to the Chesapeake tribe, part of the larger Powhatan Confederacy. These Native American peoples thrived in the region for thousands of years, relying on the abundant natural resources found along the coast. The rich fishing grounds, forests, and fertile lands supported their communities with food, materials, and trade.

The indigenous people's lifestyle was deeply connected to the environment—seasonal hunting, fishing, and gathering shaped their culture. Archaeological sites within the area have uncovered tools, pottery, and remnants of villages, offering valuable insights into their way of life. Understanding this foundation is crucial to appreciating the complex history of Virginia Beach, as it sets the stage for the cultural interactions that followed.

European Exploration and Early Settlement

The history of Virginia Beach took a significant turn in 1607 when English colonists landed nearby at Jamestown, just up the James River. While Jamestown is often credited as the first permanent English settlement in America, the area around Virginia Beach was among the earliest points of contact between Europeans and Native Americans.

One of the most notable events in the region's colonial history is the landing of Captain Bartholomew Gosnold in 1602. Gosnold and his crew explored the coastline, naming Cape Henry—the southern point of what is now Virginia Beach—after Henry Frederick, Prince of Wales. This landing marked one of the earliest English explorations of the Atlantic coast and paved the way for later colonization.

By the early 17th century, English settlers had begun to establish small

plantations and trading posts along the coast. The area's strategic position near the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay made it vital for trade, defense, and transportation. The interactions between settlers and the Powhatan Confederacy ranged from cooperative trade to violent conflict, reflecting the broader tensions of colonial America.

Role in the American Revolution

Virginia Beach and its surrounding areas played a supporting role during the American Revolution. The region's waterways were critical for moving troops and supplies. Although no major battles took place directly in Virginia Beach, the military presence and local patriotism contributed to the revolutionary cause.

19th Century Growth and Civil War Impact

As the 1800s progressed, Virginia Beach evolved from a sparsely populated coastal area to a more established community. Agriculture, fishing, and shipping became the main economic activities. The arrival of railroads in the late 19th century dramatically changed the area's accessibility, making it easier for visitors and settlers to reach the coast.

During the Civil War, Virginia Beach's location near Norfolk and Portsmouth, both strategic ports, meant it saw some military activity. Confederate forces used the area as a defensive line, and Union troops blockaded nearby waterways. The war disrupted daily life but also underscored the region's ongoing strategic importance.

Emergence as a Resort Destination

Post-Civil War, Virginia Beach began to transform into a vacation spot for wealthy residents of nearby cities like Norfolk and Richmond. The natural beauty of the Atlantic coastline, combined with improved transportation, attracted tourists seeking fresh sea air and recreation.

By the late 1800s, hotels, boardwalks, and entertainment venues were springing up along the shore. This marked the early days of Virginia Beach as a resort town—a reputation that would only grow in the coming decades.

20th Century: Modernization and Military

Significance

The 20th century brought significant changes to the history of Virginia Beach, especially with the expansion of military installations and urban development.

Naval Influence and World Wars

Naval Station Norfolk, established in 1917 just northwest of Virginia Beach, became the largest naval base in the world. Its proximity to Virginia Beach meant that the area saw an influx of military personnel and their families, influencing the local economy and culture.

During both World Wars, Virginia Beach played a crucial role in coastal defense. Fort Story, located at Cape Henry, was developed as a coastal artillery training base and remains an active military installation today. These military ties brought infrastructure improvements and population growth to the region.

Urban Expansion and Tourism Boom

After World War II, Virginia Beach experienced rapid urbanization. The city expanded its boundaries, incorporating smaller communities and increasing its population. Tourism flourished as highways and airports made travel more accessible.

The iconic Virginia Beach Boardwalk, stretching nearly three miles along the oceanfront, became a centerpiece of the city's tourism industry. Festivals, concerts, and events helped cement Virginia Beach's identity as a vibrant coastal destination.

Preserving the Past Amid Growth

As Virginia Beach grew, efforts to preserve its rich history became increasingly important. Historic sites like the Cape Henry Lighthouse, built in 1792, stand as reminders of the city's colonial and maritime past. Nearby, the First Landing State Park commemorates the arrival of the first English colonists in 1607, offering visitors a chance to connect with the very beginnings of American history.

Local museums and cultural centers also work to highlight the stories of Native Americans, colonial settlers, and military veterans who shaped the region. These efforts ensure that while Virginia Beach looks toward the future, it honors the diverse layers of its past.

Tips for Exploring Virginia Beach's History

If you're interested in diving into the history of Virginia Beach, here are some great ways to experience its legacy firsthand:

- Visit the Cape Henry Lighthouse and learn about its role in maritime navigation and military defense.
- Explore First Landing State Park to see the natural setting of the early colonists' landing and enjoy interpretive trails.
- Stop by the Virginia Aquarium & Marine Science Center to understand the coastal ecosystem that supported indigenous peoples and settlers alike.
- Tour the Military Aviation Museum to see vintage aircraft and learn about the area's aviation history tied to military operations.
- Walk along the historic Virginia Beach Boardwalk, where you can find plaques and markers detailing the city's development over time.

Virginia Beach Today: A City with Deep Roots

Today, Virginia Beach is a thriving community known for its beautiful beaches, vibrant arts scene, and diverse population. Yet beneath the modern amenities and bustling tourist attractions lies a rich history that continues to influence the city's identity.

From ancient Native American settlements to colonial milestones, from wartime contributions to the rise of a tourist mecca, the history of Virginia Beach is a story of resilience, adaptation, and growth. Whether you're a history buff or a casual visitor, taking the time to explore this history can deepen your appreciation for one of America's most beloved coastal cities.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the origin of the name 'Virginia Beach'?

Virginia Beach was named after the Virginia Company of London, which established the first permanent English settlement in North America in nearby Jamestown in 1607. The name honors Queen Elizabeth I, the 'Virgin Queen.'

When was Virginia Beach officially incorporated as a city?

Virginia Beach was officially incorporated as a city in 1963, following the consolidation of the City of Virginia Beach with Princess Anne County.

What role did Virginia Beach play during World War II?

During World War II, Virginia Beach was an important military training area and coastal defense site. The nearby Naval Air Station Oceana was established in 1943 and became a major naval aviation training base.

What indigenous peoples originally inhabited the Virginia Beach area?

The area now known as Virginia Beach was originally inhabited by the Chesepian tribe, part of the Algonquian-speaking peoples, who lived in the region before English settlers arrived in the early 17th century.

How did tourism develop in Virginia Beach historically?

Tourism in Virginia Beach began to develop in the late 19th and early 20th centuries with the arrival of railroads, making the beach accessible to visitors. The establishment of the boardwalk and beachfront resorts further boosted its popularity as a vacation destination.

Additional Resources

****A Detailed Exploration of the History of Virginia Beach****

history of virginia beach traces a rich tapestry that intertwines Native American heritage, colonial encounters, military significance, and modern urban development. As one of the prominent coastal cities in the United States, Virginia Beach's historical trajectory offers valuable insights into the broader narrative of American settlement, maritime commerce, and cultural evolution. Examining this history not only illuminates the city's past but also contextualizes its current standing as a vibrant tourist destination and naval hub.

Early Inhabitants and Indigenous Roots

Before European explorers arrived on the shores, the area now known as Virginia Beach was inhabited by Native American tribes, notably the

Chesepians. Archaeological evidence suggests that these indigenous peoples lived in the region for thousands of years, relying on the Atlantic Ocean and its adjacent waterways for sustenance and trade. The Chesepians were part of the larger Powhatan Confederacy, which played a crucial role in early colonial interactions.

The rich natural environment, including extensive wetlands and barrier islands, provided ample resources. The indigenous community's relationship with the land and sea laid the foundation for future settlements, yet much of this early history remains underrepresented in mainstream narratives.

European Exploration and Colonial Beginnings

The history of Virginia Beach is deeply connected to the Age of Discovery, beginning with the arrival of English explorers in the early 17th century. In 1607, the same year Jamestown was established, Captain Christopher Newport and the Virginia Company explored the Chesapeake Bay region, including the area that would become Virginia Beach.

One of the city's most significant historical landmarks, Cape Henry, marks the spot where the first English colonists landed. This event is commemorated by the Cape Henry Memorial and the Cape Henry Lighthouse, the latter being the first federally funded lighthouse in the United States, constructed in 1792. The lighthouse symbolizes the city's long-standing maritime importance.

During the colonial period, the economy in the area was largely agrarian, with plantations growing tobacco and other cash crops. The port facilities gradually developed to support trade, especially given Virginia Beach's strategic location on the Atlantic coast.

Role in Early American Conflicts

Virginia Beach's geographical position made it a focal point during several military conflicts. In the War of 1812, the region was vulnerable to British naval attacks due to its proximity to the Chesapeake Bay, although it did not witness major battles. The city's defense infrastructure, including forts and coastal batteries, was gradually enhanced in response to such threats.

The Civil War also left its imprint on the area. Though relatively less active in terms of direct combat within Virginia Beach's boundaries, the city was affected by blockades and troop movements. The coastal location was strategically important for controlling supply routes and naval operations.

20th Century Transformation and Urban Development

The history of Virginia Beach took a significant turn in the 20th century as it transitioned from a quiet fishing community to a bustling urban center. The expansion of transportation, including the construction of highways and railroads, connected Virginia Beach more directly with Norfolk and other parts of Hampton Roads.

Tourism emerged as a primary economic driver, fueled by the city's extensive beachfront and oceanfront resorts. The development of the Virginia Beach Boardwalk in the mid-20th century became a landmark attraction, drawing millions of visitors annually. This period saw a surge in hotel construction, entertainment venues, and recreational facilities.

Military and Naval Significance

Virginia Beach's military importance expanded considerably during World War II and the subsequent Cold War era. The city hosts several key naval installations, including Naval Air Station Oceana, one of the Navy's largest air bases. These military facilities contributed to the city's economic growth and population influx.

The presence of the military has shaped Virginia Beach's identity, with numerous memorials, museums, and community events dedicated to veterans and active service members. This connection underscores the city's continuing role in national defense and aerospace operations.

Cultural and Economic Evolution

Beyond its historical milestones, the history of Virginia Beach encompasses its cultural diversity and economic shifts. The city has evolved into a melting pot, with communities reflecting African American, Native American, European, and immigrant influences.

The economic landscape has diversified beyond tourism and military sectors to include technology, education, and healthcare. Institutions such as Virginia Wesleyan University and the Virginia Aquarium & Marine Science Center contribute to the city's cultural and educational offerings.

Environmental and Coastal Challenges

Virginia Beach's coastal geography presents ongoing challenges that have

historical roots. The city has faced hurricanes, coastal erosion, and rising sea levels, which have influenced urban planning and infrastructure development. Efforts to balance growth with environmental preservation remain central to policy discussions.

Notable Historical Landmarks

- **Cape Henry Lighthouse:** An iconic symbol of early American maritime history.
- **First Landing State Park:** Commemorates the English colonists' landing in 1607.
- **Virginia Beach Boardwalk:** A 3-mile oceanfront promenade representing the city's tourism heritage.
- **Military Aviation Museum:** Preserves the city's aviation history linked to its naval base.

Comparative Perspective: Virginia Beach and Other Coastal Cities

When compared to other Atlantic coastal cities such as Charleston, South Carolina, or Miami, Florida, Virginia Beach exhibits a unique blend of historical continuity and modern adaptation. Unlike Miami's rapid 20th-century boom focused on tourism and real estate, Virginia Beach's growth has been more gradual and closely tied to military expansion and colonial heritage.

In contrast to Charleston's preserved colonial architecture and deep-rooted antebellum history, Virginia Beach emphasizes its maritime and military past, reflecting its strategic coastal location. This distinction shapes the city's tourism appeal and cultural identity.

Continuity and Change in the History of Virginia Beach

The history of Virginia Beach is emblematic of the broader American experience, reflecting themes of exploration, conflict, settlement, and modernization. From indigenous stewardship to colonial encounters, from wartime resilience to peacetime prosperity, the city's narrative continues to

evolve.

Understanding this history provides context for current urban challenges and opportunities, including balancing economic development with environmental stewardship and honoring the diverse communities that have shaped Virginia Beach over centuries. The city's past is not merely a record of events but a living foundation influencing its trajectory well into the future.

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history of virginia beach: Virginia Beach Amy Waters Yarsinske, 2002-11-13 Few would guess from looking at the resplendent Virginia Beach shoreline-its stretches of fine sand, sloping dunes, and rolling waves-that the city has experienced anything but peace and tranquility since the history of its native Chesapeake tribe collided with the ambition and vision of new European settlers on the colonial coastline. But turmoil and conflict, as well as progress and achievement, are all a part of the area's unique story. Virginia Beach: A History of Virginia's Golden Shore brings to life the people, places, and events that contributed to the city's celebrated reputation. Through stories and memories, readers are introduced to the varied citizens who called this land home, including such characters as Sarah Offley who married three of early Virginia's most powerful settlers, and to the city's illustrious visitors. This volume also details, in both word and image, the influential resort age, which began in 1880 and saw the community flourish as people flocked to the Atlantic shore to dance, picnic, and enjoy the surf at the Princess Anne Hotel. Everyday vacationers mingled with notables such as Alexander Graham Bell and John, Lionel, and Ethel Barrymore at the landmark hotel with the railroad at its front door. Although little of the golden shore remains unchanged, modern residents continue to preserve what they can-especially their memories, pride, and love for the city.

history of virginia beach: Haunted Virginia Beach Alpheus J. Chewning, 2006-09-30 Forty spooky stories that reveal the otherworldly history of this coastal city . . . Includes photos! Researched and written by a local history expert, this book delves into the creepy, unexplored avenues of Virginia Beach's past. You'll learn about the paranormal sightings at the Mayflower Apartments, where elevators behave bizarrely; the spectral details of Blackbeard's buried treasure; a deadly stretch of road inexplicably responsible for eighty-nine fatalities over thirty years; and the untimely death of a military wife. From a wailing woman in the old Coast Guard Station to

supernatural activity provoked by the association of two friends, Haunted Virginia Beach offers up spine-tingling apparitional tales that will shock and delight visitors and locals alike.

history of virginia beach: The History of Virginia Beach , 199? A thumbnail history of the Virginia Beach area created by the staff of the Virginia Beach Public Library.

history of virginia beach: History of Alaska , Volume I Jonathan M. Nielson, Ph.D., 2018-02-01 As a unique, distant geographical region of the United States, Alaska has evolved from military insignificance to high strategic priority in the 142 years since its purchase from Russia in 1867. The reasons for this dramatic shift derive from a correlation of geography, foreign policy, domestic politics, and military technology. Historically the role of the armed forces in Alaska has been large and diverse. Alaska was one of the two principal territorial purchases made by the United States between 1803 and 1867 adding nearly 1.5 million square miles to America's national domain. Smaller by the size of Texas than Jefferson's Louisiana Purchase, Alaska, unlike all of the territories and states carved out of the former, languished in obscurity and isolation, and was administered as a colonial dependency by the military and other branches of the federal government, its official 'territorial status' and government notwithstanding. While sharing many common aspects of frontier settlement and Western history with territories such as Montana, the Dakotas, Wyoming, and Colorado, Alaska presented special challenges peculiar to a non-contiguous arctic and sub-Arctic environment, separated from the United States by a foreign power. Indeed, only the defeated South under Reconstruction experienced the same degree of military occupation and martial law. Alaska also has the unique distinction in the American experience of belonging to Imperial Russia before it became of interest to American expansionists. Still others found Alaska tempting and pursued their own designs North of '53. The Spanish, British, Canadians, and even the French plied Alaska's waters and made their claims to Alyeska- the Great Land. And it is with these clashing imperial ambitions that this three-volume history begins.

history of virginia beach: The Land Was Ours Andrew W. Kahrl, 2016-06-27 The coasts of today's American South feature luxury condominiums, resorts, and gated communities, yet just a century ago, a surprising amount of beachfront property in the Chesapeake, along the Carolina shores, and around the Gulf of Mexico was owned and populated by African Americans. Blending social and environmental history, Andrew W. Kahrl tells the story of African American-owned beaches in the twentieth century. By reconstructing African American life along the coast, Kahrl demonstrates just how important these properties were for African American communities and leisure, as well as for economic empowerment, especially during the era of the Jim Crow South. However, in the wake of the civil rights movement and amid the growing prosperity of the Sunbelt, many African Americans fell victim to effective campaigns to dispossess black landowners of their properties and beaches. Kahrl makes a signal contribution to our understanding of African American landowners and real-estate developers, as well as the development of coastal capitalism along the southern seaboard, tying the creation of overdeveloped, unsustainable coastlines to the unmaking of black communities and cultures along the shore. The result is a skillful appraisal of the ambiguous legacy of racial progress in the Sunbelt.

history of virginia beach: Virginia's Historic Courthouses Margaret T. Peters, 1995 They examine historic structures ranging from the Essex County courthouse (1729) and the King William County courthouse, built ca. 1725 and one of the oldest public buildings in continuous use in the nation, to the newer historic courthouses such as Richmond's massive Supreme Court/State Library Building, dedicated in 1941.

history of virginia beach: Lost Attractions of Hampton Roads Nancy E. Sheppard, 2019-06-10 Take a trip down memory lane to beloved destinations for fun and families across Virginia's tidewater. Cruise the rails of Ocean View Amusement Park's The Rocket roller coaster, dig for fossils at Hampton's Rice's Fossil Pit, celebrate the winter season at Portsmouth's Coleman's Nursery and learn the significant role that Buckroe Beach's Bay Shore Beach Park played in American history. From the Great White Fleet to a Wild West park, journey through this vibrant history with author and historian Nancy E. Sheppard and discover whether such cherished places

can ever truly be lost.

history of virginia beach: Queer Virginia Charles H. Ford, Jeffrey L. Littlejohn, 2025-06-12 A new, definitive queer history of the Commonwealth Queer Virginia is a long-needed record of the courageous and creative ways that LGBTQ+ people across the commonwealth have persevered and fought for their rights. The history recovered here is remarkable and illuminating, including the life of Hannah Nokes, a Black transgender woman who overcame severe discrimination in Loudoun County during the 1930s; the story of the Hershee Bar, a historic lesbian bar in Norfolk and longtime community focal point; efforts to gather oral histories and produce a queer digital archive in the old capital of the Confederacy, and much more. Full of poignant and telling glimpses of LGBTQ+ life through the decades, this volume reveals generations of widespread prejudice and oppressive laws and the inspiring resilience that queer Virginians brought to this struggle.

history of virginia beach: *Roanoke, Virginia, 1882-1912* Rand Dotson, 2008 Tells the story of a city that for a brief period was widely hailed as a regional model for industrialization as well as the ultimate success symbol for the rehabilitation of the former Confederacy. In a region where modernization seemed to move at a glacial pace, those looking for signs of what they were triumphantly calling the New South pointed to Roanoke. No southern city grew faster than Roanoke did during the 1880s. A hardscrabble Appalachian tobacco depot originally known by the uninspiring name of Big Lick, it became a veritable boomtown by the end of the decade as a steady stream of investment and skilled manpower flowed in from north of the Mason-Dixon line. The first scholarly treatment of Roanoke's early history, the book explains how native businessmen convinced a northern investment company to make their small town a major railroad hub. It then describes how that venture initially paid off, as the influx of thousands of people from the North and the surrounding Virginia countryside helped make Roanoke - presumptuously christened the Magic City by New South proponents - the state's third-largest city by the turn of the century. Rand Dotson recounts what life was like for Roanoke's wealthy elites, working poor, and African American inhabitants. He also explores the social conflicts that ultimately erupted as a result of well-intended reforms initiated by city leaders. Dotson illustrates how residents mediated the catastrophic Depression of 1893 and that year's infamous Roanoke Riot, which exposed the façade masking the city's racial tensions, inadequate physical infrastructure, and provincial mentality of the local populace. Dotson then details the subsequent attempts of business boosters and progressive reformers to attract the additional investments needed to put their city back on track. Ultimately, Dotson explains, Roanoke's early struggles stemmed from its business leaders' unwavering belief that economic development would serve as the panacea for all of the town's problems.

history of virginia beach: Deadly Storms of the Delmarva Coast Michael Morgan, 2019-05-06 Journey to the coast with Michael Morgan as he looks back at the area's most deadly storms. Coastal Delaware, Maryland and Virginia have always been vulnerable to the power of storms. In the early nineteenth century, storm-driven shipwrecks led to the construction of the Delaware breakwater. In 1933, a storm created an inlet on the south edge of Ocean City and changed the character of the Maryland resort. The Ash Wednesday nor'easter of 1962 devastated oceanfront communities, led to the creation of beach replenishment projects that pushed the ocean back from the new multimillion-dollar buildings that sat on the sand and spurred the creation of Assateague Island National Seashore. Michael Morgan narrates the stories of these storms and reminds us of the power of wind and water.

history of virginia beach: *A Delaware Album, 1900-1930* George David Miller, 2011-04-15 A Delaware Album, 1900-1930 contains over 300 postcard photographs from the entire state taken during the period from 1900 to 1930. Arranged by subjects—City and Town Views; Delaware Beaches; Amusements; Industry and Agriculture; Signs of the Times; Trains, Trolleys, and Automobiles; Water Transportation; Schools; Religion; Businesses; Hotels and Motels—each photo has a caption ranging from a sentence or two to several paragraphs. The book's introduction details how the cards were produced, analyzes the subject matter depicted on the cards, documents the history of several of the most prominent local photographers in the state whose work is found almost

only on postcards, and traces the evolution and popularization of postcard photography. Through the photographs readers can witness the development of Delaware agriculture and fisheries, the expansion of the railroad into southern Delaware, the declining days of steamship service on Delaware rivers and creeks, the fate of Middletown's last trolley, and Delaware's unsuccessful campaign against King Alcohol. They can see how Delawareans worshiped, worked, and shopped. They can visit local amusement parks and beaches from New Castle county to Sussex county. For the early decades of the twentieth century the postcard recorded every aspect of American life. As local historians will tell you, the photographic record of small town America during the period from 1900 to 1930 exists almost only on postcards. That is why historical societies, libraries, and museums have begun to amass postcard collections. In the last twenty years, historians and scholars have increasingly turned to the postcard as a way of seeing what our past literally looked like, what we enjoyed doing, where we worked and played, how we viewed one other, what we thought was important, and what prejudices we held.

history of virginia beach: *Manual of the Railroads of the United States* Henry Varnum Poor, 1889

history of virginia beach: *Rocky Mountain Heartland* Duane A. Smith, 2022-09-13 This is a lively history of three Rocky Mountain states in the twentieth century. With the sure hand of an experienced writer and the engaging voice of a veteran storyteller, the well-known historian Duane A. Smith recounts the major social, political, and economic events of the period with verve and zest. Smith is thoroughly familiar with his subject and has a genuine enthusiasm for the history of the region. Written with the general reader in mind, *Rocky Mountain Heartland* will appeal to students, teachers, and "armchair historians" of all ages. This is the colorful saga of how the Old West became the New West. Beginning at the end of the nineteenth century and concluding after the turn of the twenty-first, *Rocky Mountain Heartland* explains how Colorado, Montana, and Wyoming evolved over the course of the century. Smith is mindful of all the factors that propelled the region: mining, agriculture, water, immigration, tourism, technology, and two world wars. And he points out how the three states responded in varying ways to each of these forces. Although this is a regional story, Smith never loses sight of the national events that influenced events in the region. As Smith skillfully shows, the vast natural resources of the three states attracted optimistic, hopeful Americans intent on getting rich, enjoying the outdoors, or creating new lives for themselves and their families. How they resolved these often-conflicting goals is the modern story of the Rocky Mountain region.

history of virginia beach: *The Refinement of America* Richard Lyman Bushman, 2011-09-21 This lively and authoritative volume makes clear that the quest for taste and manners in America has been essential to the serious pursuit of a democratic culture. Spanning the material world from mansions and silverware to etiquette books, city planning, and sentimental novels, Richard L. Bushman shows how a set of values originating in aristocratic court culture gradually permeated almost every stratum of American society and served to prevent the hardening of class consciousness. A work of immense and richly nuanced learning, *The Refinement of America* newly illuminates every facet of both our artifacts and our values.

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history of virginia beach: *Frederick Douglass* Gregory P. Lampe, 2012-01-01 This work in the MSU Press Rhetoric and Public Affairs Series chronicles Frederick Douglass's preparation for a career in oratory, his emergence as an abolitionist lecturer in 1841, and his development and activities as a public speaker and reformer from 1841 to 1845. Lampe's meticulous scholarship overturns much of the conventional wisdom about this phase of Douglass's life and career uncovering new information about his experiences as a slave and as a fugitive; it provokes a deeper

and richer understanding of this renowned orator's emergence as an important voice in the crusade to end slavery. Contrary to conventional wisdom, Douglass was well prepared to become a full-time lecturer for the Massachusetts Anti-Slavery Society in 1841. His emergence as an eloquent voice from slavery was not as miraculous as scholars have led us to believe. Lampe begins by tracing Douglass's life as slave in Maryland and as fugitive in New Bedford, showing that experiences gained at this time in his life contributed powerfully to his understanding of rhetoric and to his development as an orator. An examination of his daily oratorical activities from the time of his emergence in Nantucket in 1841 until his departure for England in 1845 dispels many conventional beliefs surrounding this period, especially the belief that Douglass was under the wing of William Lloyd Garrison. Lampe's research shows that Douglass was much more outspoken and independent than previously thought and that at times he was in conflict with white abolitionists. Included in this work is a complete itinerary of Douglass's oratorical activities, correcting errors and omissions in previously published works, as well as two newly discovered complete speech texts, never before published.

history of virginia beach: Alaska History Marvin W. Falk, 2006-03-30 Marvin W. Falk offers a systemic and select listing of just over 3,000 publications on the history of Alaska, published from the 18th century to early 2004. Early explorations were conducted by nationals from several nations, and the results were published in Russian, German, French, Spanish, and English. Many of these foreign language accounts have been published in translation and are included in the bibliography. This bibliography covers a wide span of Alaskan history including historical literature from: Discovery in 1741 The Russian period ending in 1867 The U.S. territorial period ending with statehood in 1959 The oil boom

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