

A Guide to the Grayson County (Va.) Marriage Bonds and Ministers' Returns, Volumes 1-7, 1793-1852

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1793-1852

A Collection in the Library of Virginia 1146512, 1128741-1128746

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Descriptive Summary

Barcode numbers

1146512, 1128741-1128746

Language

English

Physical Characteristics

7 vol. (917 p.) All volumes are negative photostatic copies. Page numbers are found on all volumes but not on the corresponding microfilm.

Repository

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

Use microfilm copy, Grayson County, Reels 34-37.

Use Restrictions

There are no restrictions.

Acquisition Information

The numerical order of the bonds, consents and ministers' returns was compiled by the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) from the original court records found in the Grayson County Circuit Court Clerk's Office. Following this work, the volumes were bound by the DAR. This organization also created an index and abstracts to the bonds, consents and returns which are found only on Reel 34 of the microfilm.

The negative photostatic copies were created by the Virginia State Library's (now the Library of Virginia) Archives Division from the DAR's bound volumes. The microfilm copy of these volumes was generated by The Library of Virginia's Imaging Services Branch.

Preferred Citation

Grayson County (Va.) Marriage Bonds and Ministers' Returns, Volumes 1-7, 1793-1852. Grayson County Reels 34-37, Local Records Government Collection, The Library of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia.

Adjunct Descriptive Data

Separated Material

Volumes 2-7 are found at the Library of Virginia's State Records Center.

Related Material

Additional Grayson County Marriage Records can be found on microfilm at the Library of Virginia. Consult "[A Guide to Virginia County and City Records on Microfilm.](#)"

Historical Information

Grayson County was formed in 1792 from Wythe County. A portion of Patrick County was added in 1810. The county is named for Walter Grayson, a delegate to the Continental Congress from 1784 to 1787 and one of the first two United States senators from Virginia.

Prior to 1853, when the Commonwealth began recording vital statistics, Virginia marriages were recorded at the county or city level. Beginning in 1661, in order to be married by license, the groom was required to go before the county clerk and give bond with security that there was no lawful reason to prevent the marriage. The license, issued then by the clerk, was given to the minister who performed the service. Written consent from a parent or guardian was needed for individuals younger than twenty-one years.

Until 1780, marriages could be performed only by ministers of the Established Church, who were required by law to record marriages in the parish register. In 1780, dissenting ministers (only four per county from each sect) were first permitted to perform marriage ceremonies. Ministers' returns were required by law beginning in 1780, so all marriages from that date would be of record in the county court clerk's office-- thereby creating an official record. Some ministers adopted a custom of making collected returns--a list of marriages performed within a period of time such as a year or several years.

Scope and Content

Marriage Bonds and Ministers' Returns, Volumes 1-7, 1793-1852, are comprised of two separate sections. The first section records the original bonds of marriage between a bride and groom within the county. Marriage consents, made by a parent or guardian, are also included in this section. The second section records the original returns made by individual ministers of marriages performed within the county. Some returns took the form of lists which record the date of marriage and names of both parties.

Access Terms

Grayson County (Va.). Circuit Court.
Clergy--Virginia--Grayson County.
Marriage--Virginia--Grayson County.
Grayson County (Va.)--History.
Local government records--Virginia--Grayson County.
Marriage bonds--Virginia--Grayson County.
Marriage consents--Virginia--Grayson County.
Marriage records--Virginia--Grayson County.
Ministers' returns--Virginia--Grayson County.

Arrangement

Chronological.

Contents List

Marriage Bonds and Ministers' Returns, Volume 1, 1793-1809

Barcode number 1146512

Marriage Bonds and Ministers' Returns, Volume 2, 1809-1822

Barcode number 1128741

Scope and Content

There are no marriage bonds for 1817, 1820 or 1821.

Marriage Bonds and Ministers' Returns, Volume 3, 1823-1827

Barcode number 1128742

Marriage Bonds and Ministers' Returns, Volume 4, 1828-1832

Barcode number 1128743

Marriage Bonds and Ministers' Returns, Volume 5, 1833-1837

Barcode number 1128744

Scope and Content

There are no marriage bonds for 1835 and 1836.

Marriage Bonds and Ministers' Returns, Volume 6, 1838-1844

Barcode number 1128745

Marriage Bonds and Ministers' Returns, Volume 7, 1845-1852

Barcode number 1128746

Scope and Content

At the end of this volume (following 1852), there is one undated bond and one undated return and two returns dating from 1845-1846.