

A Guide to the Amelia County (Va.) Deeds, 1734-1914

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1734-1914

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History

Processed by: Sherri Bagley; E. Jordan

Title Statement

A Guide to the Amelia County (Va.) Deeds, 1734-1914

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Profile Description

Creation: Machine-readable finding aid derived from being created directly into EAD, created by Sherri Bagley, 28 March 2006

Language Usage: Description is in English

Revision Description

2013-11-21 Converted to schema conforming EAD by dtd2schema.vh.xsl.

Descriptive Summary

Language

English

Creator

Amelia County (Va.) Circuit Court.

Physical Characteristics

44.2 cubic feet (97 boxes); 13 volumes

Location

Library of Virginia

Repository

The Library of Virginia

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

Amelia County (Va.) Bills of Sale and Deeds, 1734-1864, involving enslaved and free Black and multiracial individuals are digitized and available through [Virginia Untold: The African American Narrative Digital Collection](#) on the Library of Virginia website. Please use digital images.

For Amelia County (Va.) Deed Books, 1734-1765, use microfilm Amelia County (Va.) Reels 1-4

Use Restrictions

There are no restrictions.

Acquisition Information

Loose Deeds, 1734-1914, came to the Library of Virginia in a transfer of court papers from Amelia County in 2004 under accession 41505.

Deed Book 1 and bonds, 1734-1741, came to the Library of Virginia in a transfer of court papers from Amelia County in 1966 under accession 26511.

Index to Deeds, 1904-1914, came to the Library of Virginia in a transfer of court papers from Amelia County in under accession 34741.

Remaining material came to the Library of Virginia in a transfer of court papers from Amelia County in an undated accession.

Processing Information

Bills of Sale and Deeds, 1743-1864, pertaining to enslaved and free Black individuals were removed from the larger Amelia County (Va.) deeds record set and then processed and indexed as a distinct unit by Ed Jordan and Lydia Neuroth for the purposes of digitizing them for the digital project Virginia Untold: The African American Narrative. All other Deeds, 1743-1864, pertaining to white and non-Black individuals are still unprocessed and remain in Series II.

Amelia (Va.) Deed Books, 1734-1765 [Amelia county (Va.) Reel 1-4] were previous described separately as " Amelia (Va.) Deed Books, 1734-1765 " but were combined in July 2024 with the present descriptive record for improved context and accessibility.

Encoded by S. Bagley, March 2006 ; Updated by M. Mason, July 2024

Preferred Citation

Amelia County (Va.) Deeds, 1734-1914, Local government records collection, Amelia County Court Records. The Library of Virginia, Richmond, Va. 23219.

Alternative Form Available

Deed Books microfilm Amelia County (Va.) Reels 1-4.

Adjunct Descriptive Data

Related Material

See also: [Amelia County \(Va.\) Deeds of Emancipation, 1767-1859](#)

Records related to free and enslaved people of Amelia County (Va.) and other localities are available through the [Virginia Untold: The African American Narrative Digital Collection](#) on the Library of Virginia website.

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

Historical Information

Context for Record Type: Bills of sale are written agreements which convey title of property, including enslaved people, from seller to buyer. Under the system of chattel slavery, laws permitted enslavers to treat enslaved people as personal possessions in the same manner as livestock, farm equipment, or household items. Enslaved people could be bought or sold without regard to their personal relationships or free will. Bills of sale record the name of the seller, the names of enslaved people being sold and their price, and the name of the buyer. Given that they involved a property transaction, bills of sale were commonly recorded and filed with deeds in the local court. However, there was no official requirement that the transfer of an enslaved person be recorded unless necessary for legal purposes such as a court case or an estate settlement. Enslaved people could also be transferred through a deed of gift, there was no money transaction involved in this case, which distinguishes this record from a bill of sale. Enslavers and their family members often transferred enslaved people between themselves in this manner.

Deeds are written agreements which convey title of property, such as an enslaved person, from one individual to another. These include the voluntary transfer of enslaved people between family members with no financial transaction involved. Deeds include the names of the grantors, grantees, and enslaved people. Clerks proved, acknowledged, and recorded deeds in the local court.

Locality History: Amelia County was named for Amelia Sophia Eleanora, daughter of King George II. It was formed from Prince George and Brunswick Counties by an act passed in 1734 to take effect on 25 March 1735. The county court first met on 9 May 1735.

Scope and Content

Amelia County (Va.) Deeds, 1734-1914, consist of deeds of bargain and sale, deeds of gift, mortgages, bills of sale, and deeds of trust. Included are eight boxes of processed and indexed material consisting of bills of sale and deeds, 1743-1864, involving free and enslaved Black individuals.

Deeds of bargain and sale are the most recorded deed in which one individual sells property, usually land, but occasionally personal property, to another individual. Such deeds show the names of the grantor and grantee, the residence of both parties, a description of what is being sold, the consideration (or price), the location of the tract of land, the tract's boundaries, and any limitations on the property being sold. The deed was signed by the grantor, and possibly his wife or anyone else having a claim to the property, and by at least two witnesses. Appended to the deed may be a memorandum of livery of seisin, stating that the property has changed hands and that peaceful possession has taken place.

Deeds of gift are often found transferring property, either real or personal including enslaved people, from one individual to another "for love and affection." The degree of kinship, if any, between the grantor and grantee is sometimes stated. Information recorded included name(s) of the grantor(s), grantee(s), and enslaved people. Deeds of gift were proved and recorded in the local court.

Mortgages and deeds of trust were deeds where one party is indebted to another and transfers or mortgages property to a third party to secure the debt.

Bills of sale are written agreements which convey title of property, such as an enslaved person, from seller to buyer. Bills of sale record the name of the seller, the names of enslaved persons being sold and their price, and the name of the buyer. Given that they involved a property transaction, bills of sale were commonly recorded and filed with deeds in the local court.

Arrangement

This collection is arranged

- Series I: Deeds and bills of sale, 1743-1864, involving free and enslaved people, arranged chronologically
- Series II: Deeds and records related to, 1734-1914, arranged chronologically

Contents List

Series I: Deeds and Bills of Sale, relating to free and enslaved Black and multiracial persons, 1743-1864

Extent

3.6 cubic feet (8 boxes)

Physical Location Library of Virginia

Arrangement

arranged chronologically

Barcode number 1166390: Deeds 1743-1784 Free and Enslaved People

Barcode number 1166395: Deeds 1785-1806 Free and Enslaved People

Barcode number 7869071: Deeds 1807-1823 Free and Enslaved People

Barcode number 7869294: Deeds 1824-1829 Free and Enslaved People

Barcode number 7869296: Deeds 1830-1839 Free and Enslaved People

Barcode number 7869298: Deeds 1840-1848 Free and Enslaved People

Barcode number 7869300: Deeds 1849-1864 Free and Enslaved People

Barcode number 7880922: Unrecorded and Partially Proven Deeds 1766-1856 Free and Enslaved People

Series II: Deeds and records relating to, 1734-1914

Extent

40.6 cubic feet (89 boxes); 13 volumes

Physical Location Library of Virginia

Arrangement

arranged chronologically

Series II: Subseries A: Deeds, 1734-1913

Barcode number 1166364: Deeds 1734-1791 A-BE

Barcode number 1166365: Deeds 1734-1791 BEV-BRY

Barcode number 1166366: Deeds 1734-1791 BU-CLE

Barcode number 1166367: Deeds 1734-1791 CO-CRY

Barcode number 1166368: Deeds 1734-1791 DAL-EL

Barcode number 1166369: Deeds 1734-1791 ELM-FORD

Barcode number 1166370: Deeds 1734-1791 FORE-GORE

Barcode number 1166371: Deeds 1734-1791 GRE-HAS

Barcode number 1166372: Deeds 1734-1791 HAT-HUD

Barcode number 1166373: Deeds 1734-1791 HUG-JES

Barcode number 1166374: Deeds 1734-1791 JET-JON

Barcode number 1166375: Deeds 1734-1791 JONES-LIG

Barcode number 1166376: Deeds 1734-1791 LIGO-MAY

Barcode number 1166377: Deeds 1734-1791 MEA-MOU

Barcode number 1166378: Deeds 1734-1791 MU-OV

Barcode number 1166379: Deeds 1734-1791 PAC-Q

Barcode number 1166380: Deeds 1734-1791 RAD-SHO

Barcode number 1166381: Deeds 1734-1791 SI-TAL

Barcode number 1166382: Deeds 1734-1791 TAN-TU

Barcode number 1166383: Deeds 1734-1791 VAD-WAL

Barcode number 1166384: Deeds 1734-1791 WAR-WH

Barcode number 1166385: Deeds 1734-1791 WIL-WING

Barcode number 1166386: Deeds 1734-1791 WINN-Z

Barcode number 1166387: Deeds 1792-1809 AD-BOOK

Barcode number 1166388: Deeds 1792-1809 BOOT-COLE

Barcode number 1166389: Deeds 1792-1810

Barcode number 1166391: Deeds 1792-1809

Barcode number 1166392: Deeds 1810-1812

Barcode number 1166393: Deeds 1812-1814

Barcode number 1166394: Deeds 1814-1816

Barcode number 1166396: Deeds 1816-1818

Barcode number 1166397: Deeds 1818-1819

Barcode number 1166398: Deeds 1820-1821

Barcode number 1166399: Deeds 1822-1823

Barcode number 1166400: Deeds 1824-1825

Barcode number 1166401: Deeds 1825-1826

Barcode number 1166402: Deeds 1826-1827

Barcode number 1166403: Deeds 1828-1829 A-J

Barcode number 1166404: Deeds 1829-1831 L-H

Barcode number 1166405: Deeds 1831-1832 J-W

Barcode number 1166406: Deeds 1833 A-W

Barcode number 1166407: Deeds 1834-1835 A-W

Barcode number 1166408: Deeds 1836-1837

Barcode number 1166409: Deeds 1838-1839

Barcode number 1166410: Deeds 1840-1841

Barcode number 1166411: Deeds 1842-1843 I

Barcode number 1166411: Deeds 1841-1842 J

Barcode number 1166412: Deeds 1843-1845 K

Barcode number 1166413: Deeds 1846-1848

Barcode number 1166414: Deeds 1849-1851

Barcode number 1166415: Deeds 1852-1854

Barcode number 1166416: Deeds 1855-1856

Barcode number 1166417: Deeds 1857-1858

Barcode number 1166418: Deeds 1859-1861

Barcode number 1166419: Deeds 1862-1866

Barcode number 1166420: Deeds 1867-1870 E

Barcode number 1166421: Deeds 1870-1871 F-J

Barcode number 1166422: Deeds 1871-1873

Barcode number 1166423: Deeds 1874-1876 A-C

Barcode number 1166424: Deeds 1876-1878 D-J

Barcode number 1166425: Deeds 1878-1880 M-G

Barcode number 1166426: Deeds 1880-1881 H

Barcode number 1166427: Deeds 1882-1883 F

Barcode number 1166428: Deeds 1883-1885 G-L

Barcode number 1166429: Deeds 1885-1886 M-Y

Barcode number 1166430: Deeds 1887-1888 A-J

Barcode number 1166431: Deeds 1888-1889 M

Barcode number 1166432: Deeds 1890

Barcode number 1166433: Deeds 1891-1893 A

Barcode number 1166434: Deeds 1894-1895 A-W

Barcode number 1166435: Deeds 1896-1897 B-W

Barcode number 1166436: Deeds 1898-1899 W

Barcode number 1166437: Deeds 1900-1901 A-W

Barcode number 1166438: Deeds 1902-1903 B-W

Barcode number 1166439: Deeds 1904

Barcode number 1166440: Deeds 1905

Barcode number 1166441: Deeds 1906 A-MI

Barcode number 1166442: Deeds 1906 MO-W

Barcode number 1166443: Deeds 1907 A-S

Barcode number 1166444: Deeds 1907-1908 T-R

Barcode number 1166445: Deeds 1908-1909 S-G

Barcode number 1166446: Deeds 1909 H-W

Barcode number 1166447: Deeds 1910 A-S

Barcode number 1166448: Deeds 1910-1911 T-O

Barcode number 1166449: Deeds 1911-1912 P-B

Barcode number 1166450: Deeds 1912 C-P

Barcode number 1166451: Deeds 1912-1913 R-B

Barcode number 1166452: Deeds 1913 C-N

Barcode number 1166453: Deeds 1913 O-Y

Barcode number 1160445: Articles of Agreement/Memorandum of Agreements/Contracts; Boundary Line Establishment; Certificates of Satisfaction; Deeds of Gift; Deeds of Trust; Ejectments; Land Inquisitions; Mill Petitions; Miscellaneous Land Records; Processioners' Returns 1739-1907, undated

Series II: Subseries B: Deed Books and Indexes, 1734-1914

Barcode number 1146311: Deed Book #1 and Bonds 1734-1743;1735-1741

Barcode number 1146312: Deed Book #6 1756-1759

Barcode number 1124483: Deed Book (copy) 1742-1747

Barcode number 1104189: Deed Book [copy] 1750-1754

Barcode number 1104192: Deed Book [copy] 1759-1762 (Part 2)

Barcode number 1104191: Deed Book [copy] 1759-1762 (Part 1)

Barcode number 1104208: Deed Book [copy] 1768-1769

Barcode number 1104200: Deed Book [copy] 1773-1774

Barcode number 1104188: Index [to Deed Book No. 5] 1749-1757

Barcode number 1104207: Index to Deeds (Acc. 34741, No. 41) 1904-1907

Barcode number 1104206: Index to Deeds (Acc. 34741, No. 42) 1907-1911

Barcode number 1104203: Index to Deeds (Acc. 34741, No. 43) 1911-1914

Barcode number 1104108: Records on Appeal; Deeds 1810-1823

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