

A Guide to the Caroline County (Va.) Marriage Register, 1852-1857

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A Collection in the Library of Virginia 1104917
Library of Virginia
2007

Author: Callie Lou Freed

History

Processed by: Library of Virginia staff

Title Statement

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Subtitle: Caroline County (Va.) Marriage Register, 1852-1857

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Publication Statement

Date: © 2007 By The Library of Virginia. All Rights Reserved.

Publisher: Library of Virginia

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Profile Description

Creation: Machine-readable finding aid derived from MARC record, created by Callie Lou Freed, 03 January 2008

Language Usage: Description is in English

Revision Description

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

Descriptive Summary

Barcode number

1104917

Language

English

Collector

Caroline County (Va.) Circuit Court.

Physical Characteristics

1 v.

Location

State Records Center - Archives Annex, Library of Virginia

Repository

The Library of Virginia

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

There are no restrictions.

Use Restrictions

There are no restrictions.

Acquisition Information

This item came to the Library of Virginia in a transfer of court papers.

Preferred Citation

Caroline County (Va.) Marriage Register, 1852-1857. Local government records collection, Caroline County Court Records. The Library of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia, 23219.

Adjunct Descriptive Data

Related Material

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

See the [Lost Records Localities Digital Collection](#) available at Virginia Memory.

For more information and a listing of lost records localities see [Lost Records research note](#).

Historical Information

Caroline County was formed from Essex, King and Queen, and King William counties on 1 May 1728, and additional parts of King and Queen County were added in 1742 and 1763. The county was named for Caroline of Anspach, wife of King George II.

Most loose records and deed books prior to 1836 and will books prior to 1853 were stolen, mutilated, and/or destroyed by Union troops who ransacked the courthouse in May 1864. A near-complete run of order books exists.

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. In the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, officials were especially concerned about females under the age of 16 marrying without consent. County clerks were not authorized to issue a marriage license without certificate (permission) from the parent, master or guardian. In the nineteenth century, a parent or guardian could give consent verbally to the clerk of the court, or provide written consent in front of one or two witnesses; the consent was then delivered to the county clerk.

The original marriage records, from which this volume was compiled, were created by the County Court.

Scope and Content

Caroline County (Va.) Marriage Register, 1852-1857, includes an alphabetical and chronological listing of marriage licenses and consents issued in Caroline County. Included in these listings are the names of both parties and the date when the marriage license was issued. Individual consents are glued or paper clipped in the proper alphabetical and chronological order. An additional entry for the surname "C" is found on the last page of the volume. Intended marriages between "free negroes or free persons of color" are noted--such as between Robert Nelson Freeman and Betsy Ann Studdy (with consent given for Miss Studdy) in March 1867.

Index Terms

Corporate Names:

Caroline County (Va.) Circuit Court.

Subjects:

Free African Americans--Marriage--Virginia--Caroline County.

Free African Americans--Virginia--Caroline County.

Marriage--Virginia--Caroline County.

Geographical Names:

Caroline County (Va.)--History--19th century.

Genre and Form Terms:

Local government records--Virginia--Caroline County.

Marriage consents--Virginia--Caroline County.

Marriage records--Virginia--Caroline County.

Marriage registers--Virginia--Caroline County.

Added Entry - Corporate Name:

Caroline County (Va.) County Court.

Arrangement

Arranged alphabetically and chronologically by intended groom's surname.