

A Guide to the Lynchburg (Va.) Deeds, 1805-1936 (bulk 1817-1906)

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History

Processed by: Library of Virginia staff

Title Statement

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Author: Sam Walters

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Profile Description

Creation: Machine-readable finding aid derived from being created directly into EAD, created by Sam Walters, 15 November 2007

Language Usage: Description is in English

Revision Description

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

Descriptive Summary

Language

English

Collector

Lynchburg (Va.) Circuit Court

Physical Characteristics

19.8 cubic feet (44 boxes); 18 volumes

Location

State Records Center - Archives Annex, Library of Virginia

Repository

The Library of Virginia

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

Lynchburg County (Va.) Bills of Sale and Deeds, 1807-1865, 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.

Use Restrictions

There are no restrictions.

Acquisition Information

These items came to the Library of Virginia in shipments of court papers from the city of Lynchburg.

Processing Information

Bills of Sale and Deeds, 1807-1865, pertaining to enslaved and free Black individuals were removed from the larger Lynchburg 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, 1807-1865, pertaining to white and non-Black individuals remain in Series II.

Encoded by Sam Walters, 2007; Updated by M. Mason, October 2024

Preferred Citation

Lynchburg (Va.) Deeds, 1805-1936 (bulk 1817-1906). Local Government Records Collection, Lynchburg (Va.) Court Records. The Library of Virginia, Richmond, Va.

Adjunct Descriptive Data

Related Material

See also: [Lynchburg \(Va.\) Free and Enslaved Records, 1834-1837, undated](#)

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

Deed Books and Indices to Deeds for Lynchburg can be found on microfilm at the Library of Virginia. Consult ["A Guide to Virginia County and City Records on Microfilm."](#)

Additional Lynchburg Land Records can be found on microfilm at The Library of Virginia web site. 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: Lynchburg, in Campbell County, was named for John Lynch, the owner of the original town site. It was established in 1786, was incorporated as a town in 1805, and became a city in 1852. Parts of Campbell and Bedford counties were annexed to the city in 1976.

Scope and Content

Lynchburg (Va.) Deeds, 1805-1936 (bulk 1817-1906) consist of deeds of bargain and sale, deeds of gift, mortgages, bills of sale, and deeds of trust. Included are two boxes of processed and indexed material consisting of bills of sale and deeds, 1807-1865, 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.

Also includes bound volumes of general indexes to loose deeds, 1805-1936.

Arrangement

This collection is arranged

- Series I: Deeds and bills of sale, 1807-1865, involving free and enslaved people, arranged chronologically
- Series II: Deeds and records related to, 1805-1936, arranged chronologically

Contents List

Series I: Deeds and Bills of Sale, relating to free and enslaved Black and multiracial persons, 1807-1865

Extent

.45 cubic feet (2 boxes)

Physical Location Library of Virginia

Arrangement

arranged chronologically.

Barcode number 1035627: Deeds, 1807-1843

Barcode number 1035625: Deeds and Unrecorded Deeds, 1844-1865

Series II: Deeds and records relating to, 1805-1936

Extent

18.9 cubic feet (42 boxes); 18 volumes

Physical Location State Records Center; Library of Virginia

Arrangement

arranged chronologically

Series II, Subseries A: Deeds, 1805-1929

Barcode number 1035614: Deeds 1805

Barcode number 1035618: Deeds 1817

Barcode number 1035617: Deeds 1818

Barcode number 1035616: Deeds 1819-1821

Barcode number 1035619: Deeds 1821-1824

Barcode number 1035623: Deeds 1825-1827

Barcode number 1035620: Deeds 1828-1831

Barcode number 1035622: Deeds 1832-1833

Barcode number 1035621: Deeds 1834-1836

Barcode number 1035624: Deeds 1837-1839

Barcode number 1035628: Deeds 1840-1842

Barcode number 1035629: Deeds 1843-1845

Barcode number 1035630: Deeds 1846 - 1848

Barcode number 1035626: Deeds 1849-1851

Barcode number 1035635: Deeds 1852-1854

Barcode number 1035634: Deeds 1855-1857

Barcode number 1035633: Deeds 1858-1860

Barcode number 1035632: Deeds 1861-1869

Barcode number 1035636: Deeds 1870-1874

Barcode number 1035637: Deeds 1875-1876

Barcode number 1035642: Deeds 1877-1879

Barcode number 1035641: Deeds 1879-1881

Barcode number 1035640: Deeds 1881-1882

Barcode number 1035639: Deeds 1883

Barcode number 1035638: Deeds 1884

Barcode number 1035647: Deeds 1885

Barcode number 1035644: Deeds 1886

Barcode number 1035645: Deeds 1887

Barcode number 1035648: Deeds 1888-1889

Barcode number 1035646: Deeds 1890

Barcode number 1035643: Deeds 1891

Barcode number 1035649: Deeds 1892

Barcode number 1035650: Deeds 1893

Barcode number 1035651: Deeds 1894

Barcode number 1035652: Deeds 1895

Barcode number 1035653: Deeds 1896

Barcode number 1035654: Deeds 1897

Barcode number 1035655: Deeds 1898

Barcode number 1035659: Deeds 1899

Barcode number 1035660: Deeds 1900

Barcode number 1035658: Deeds 1901-1906, 1929

Series II, Subseries B: General Indexes, 1805-1936

Barcode number 1097059: General Index to Deeds 1805-1841

Barcode number 1097060: General Index to Deeds 1841-1876

Barcode number 1097053: General Index to Deeds 1876-1888

Barcode number 1097058: General Index to Deeds 1888

Barcode number 1097057: General Index to Deeds 1894

Barcode number 1097056: General Index to Deeds 1899

Barcode number 1097055: General Index to Deeds 1902

Barcode number 1097054: General Index to Deeds 1907

Barcode number 1097051: General Index to Deeds 1910-1913

Barcode number 1097052: General Index to Deeds 1913

Barcode number 1097077: General Index to Deeds 1916-1919

Barcode number 1097076: General Index to Deeds 1920-1922

Barcode number 1097075: General Index to Deeds 1922

Barcode number 1097063: General Index to Deeds 1925

Barcode number 1097074: General Index to Deeds 1927

Barcode number 1097078: General Index to Deeds 1930

Barcode number 1097072: General Index to Deeds 1932

Barcode number 1097071: General Index to Deeds 1936

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