

A Guide to the Portsmouth (Va.) Deeds, 1858-1965 (bulk 1889-1965)

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A Collection in the Library of Virginia 1008513-1008632, 1008634, 1012483

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Author: Sam Walters

History

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Title Statement

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Profile Description

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Revision Description

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

Descriptive Summary

Barcode numbers

1008513-1008632, 1008634, 1012483

Language

English

Collector

Portsmouth (Va.) Circuit Court

Physical Characteristics

61.5 cu. ft. (122 boxes)

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

These items came to the Library of Virginia in shipments from the city of Portsmouth.

Preferred Citation

Portsmouth (Va.) Deeds, 1858-1965 (bulk 1889-1965). Local government records collection, Portsmouth (City) Court Records. The Library of Virginia, Richmond, Va. 23219.

Adjunct Descriptive Data

Related Material

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

Additional Portsmouth 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

Portsmouth was located in Norfolk County, which is now extinct. It was named by its founder, William Crawford, for the English seaport and was established in 1752. Portsmouth was incorporated as a town in 1836 and as a city in 1858.

Scope and Content

Portsmouth (Va.) Deeds, 1858-1965 (bulk 1889-1965) consist of deeds of bargain and sale, deeds of gift, mortgages, and deeds of trust. On presentation to the court, deeds were proved and recorded. If the deed was not witnessed, the grantor acknowledged the deed in open court. A few of the deeds include plats.

Deeds of bargain and sale are the most commonly 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, from one individual to another "for love and affection." The degree of kinship, if any, between the grantor and grantee is sometimes stated.

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.

The collection may include additional record types that were recorded in deed books such as officials' bonds, fiduciary records, marriage records, road and bridge records, and bills of sale.

Index Terms

Corporate Names:

Portsmouth (Va.) Circuit Court

Subjects:

African Americans -- History
Land subdivision -- Virginia -- Portsmouth
Slaveholders -- Virginia -- Portsmouth
Slavery -- Virginia -- Portsmouth
Slaves -- Virginia -- Portsmouth

Geographical Names:

Portsmouth (Va.) -- History

Genre and Form Terms:

Deeds -- Virginia -- Portsmouth
Land records -- Virginia -- Portsmouth
Local government records -- Virginia -- Portsmouth
Mortgage deeds -- Virginia -- Portsmouth

Arrangement

Chronological