

A Guide to the Henrico County (Va.) Marriage Bonds, Consents and Index, Vols. 1-7 and A-Y, 1781-1831 (bulk 1781-1830)

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A Collection in the Library of Virginia Barcode numbers 1108210-1108212, 1108214-1108217, 1108219-1108221, 1108223-1108231, 1108233/ Henrico County (Va.) Reels 95-105

Library of Virginia

2008

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History

Processed by: Callie Lou Freed

Title Statement

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Publication Statement

Date: © 2008 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, 11 June 2008

Language Usage: Description is in English

Revision Description

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

Descriptive Summary

Collection numbers

1108210-1108212, 1108214-1108217, 1108219-1108221, 1108223-1108231, 1108233/ Henrico County (Va.) Reels 95-105

Language

English

Collector

Henrico County (Va.) Circuit Court.

Physical Characteristics

19 v. (2814 leaves); 1 v. (217 p.); 11 microfilm reels

Location

State Records Center - Archives Annex, Library of Virginia

Repository

The Library of Virginia

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

There are no restrictions.

Use Restrictions

Use microfilm copies, Henrico County (Va.) Reels 95-105.

Acquisition Information

Volumes 1-7, 1781-1799, were restored with money provided by various organizations in 1951, as indicated by the volume's first page, and transferred at a later date to the Library of Virginia with a shipment of court papers from Henrico County.

Volumes A-Y, 1800-1830, were restored (source unknown) and transferred to the Library of Virginia with a shipment of court papers from Henrico County.

Index to Henrico County (Va.) Marriage Bonds and Consents, 1781-1831, was created by the county clerk in 1916 and transferred at a later date to the Library of Virginia with a shipment of court papers from Henrico County.

All microfilm reels were generated by a field operator, from the Virginia State Library's (now the Library of Virginia) Microfilm Section, while filming in the Henrico County Circuit Court Clerk's Office.

Preferred Citation

Henrico County (Va.) Marriage Bonds, Consents and Index, Vols. 1-7 and A-Y, 1781-1831 (bulk 1781-1830). Henrico County (Va.) Reels 95-105, Local government records collection, Henrico County Court Records. The Library of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia 23219.

Adjunct Descriptive Data

Related Material

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

Additional Henrico County Marriage Records can be found in Henrico County deeds, wills, order books and records of the Orphan's court.

Henrico County is one of Virginia's Lost Records Localities. Additional Henrico County Court Records may be found in the Virginia Lost Records Localities Collection at the Library of Virginia. Search the [Lost Records Localities Database](#) found at the Library of Virginia's web site.

See also "Marriages of Henrico County, Virginia, 1680-1808" by Joyce Linsay in the Library of Virginia's book collection.

Historical Information

Henrico County was one of the eight original shires, or counties, first enumerated in 1634. The county was named for Henry, Prince of Wales, eldest son of James I.

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 bond was pledged, with two or more sufficient securities (or witnesses), but no money was exchanged. The license, issued then by the clerk, was given to the minister who performed the service. The practice of bonding was discontinued in 1849, although in some communities bonds were pledged into the 1850s. This practice insured against legal action should the marriage not take place, if either party declined to go through with the union, or if one of the parties was found to be ineligible for marriage--if either the bride or

groom was already married or was underage and lacked approval to wed.

According to Virginia law, individuals under the age of twenty-one needed the consent of a parent or guardian to marry. 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 to two witnesses; the consent was then delivered to the county clerk.

The original bonds and consents, from which these volumes were compiled, were created by the County Court.

Recognized in 1634 as an original shire. All county court records prior to 1655 and almost all prior to 1677 are missing. Many records were destroyed by British troops during the Revolutionary War. Post-Revolutionary War county court records exist. Almost all circuit superior court of law and chancery and circuit court records were destroyed by fire during the evacuation of Richmond on April 3, 1865, during the Civil War. The county's circuit court held its sessions at the state courthouse in Richmond.

Scope and Content

Henrico County (Va.) Marriage Bonds and Consents, Vols. 1-7 and A-Y, 1781-1830, record the original bonds of marriage between a bride and groom within the county. These volumes also contain original marriage consents. These volumes and indexes cover only the years 1781-1830. All original bonds and consents were arranged in numerical order (as they appear in the volume) by the alphabetical letter of the groom's surname and placed in the pages of nineteen volumes by means of an adhesive. Because of the adhesive technique used, it is possible to view the back of all these documents. When the volumes were restored, typewritten indexes were created for each volume and reflect the order of arrangement of the original documents in the volumes. Typewritten indexes for Volumes 1-7, however, were not microfilmed. Free African American marriages are found throughout the volumes from 1797-1830. Original bonds, now found in Volumes 1-7 but previously found in the Circuit Court Clerk's Office, were microfilmed by the Virginia State Library's Photographic Division and are found on Microfilm Reel 89a.

Index to Marriage Bonds and Consents, 1781-1831, is a separate index. As indicated, it contains marriage bonds and consents found in all nineteen volumes as well as bonds and consents from 1831 not included in these volumes. The index is arranged only by the alphabetical letter of the groom's surname and then the bride's surname, A-Y. In order to find a specific page number in the volumes, the typed index found in the front of all volumes must be utilized by finding the groom's surname. The index lists the date of the marriage bond and any remarks--such as the status or parents of the bride or groom and the race of the couple. The volume was not microfilmed.

Index Terms

Corporate Names:

Henrico County (Va.) Circuit Court.

Subjects:

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

Free African Americans--Virginia--Henrico County.

Marriage--Virginia--Henrico County.

Geographical Names:

Henrico County (Va.)--History.

Genre and Form Terms:

Indexes (reference sources)--Virginia--Henrico County.

Local government records--Virginia--Henrico County.

Marriage bonds--Virginia--Henrico County.

Marriage consents--Virginia--Henrico County.

Marriage records--Virginia--Henrico County.

Arrangement

Arranged numerically by alphabetical letter of groom's surname except for separate index.

Contents List

Barcode number 1108214/ Reel 95: Marriage Bonds and Consents, Vol. 1, A-B, 1781-1799

Scope and Content

This volume contains a marriage bond and consent for Patrick Henry's daughter Elizabeth on page 34.

Barcode number 1108217/ Reel 95: Marriage Bonds and Consents, Vol. 2, C-D, 1781-1799

Barcode number 1108221/ Reel 96: Marriage Bonds and Consents, Vol. 3, E-G, 1781-1799

Barcode number 1108212/ Reel 96: Marriage Bonds and Consents, Vol. 4, H-L, 1781-1799

Barcode number 1108210/ Reel 97: Marriage Bonds and Consents, Vol. 5, M-P, 1781-1799

Barcode number 1108215/ Reel 97: Marriage Bonds and Consents, Vol. 6, Q-S, 1781-1799

Barcode number 1108216/ Reel 98: Marriage Bonds and Consent, Vol. 7, T-Y, 1781-1799

Barcode numbers 1108219/ Reel 99: Marriage Bonds and Consents, Vol. A-Ber, 1800-1830

Barcode number 1108220/ Reel 99: Marriage Bonds and Consents, Vol. Big-Bur, 1800-1830

Barcode number 1108224/ Reel 100: Marriage Bonds and Consents, Vol. C, 1800-1830

Barcode number 1108225/ Reel 101: Marriage Bonds and Consents, Vol. D-E, 1800-1830

Barcode number 1108226/ Reel 101: Marriage Bonds and Consents, Vol. F-Goo, 1800-1830

Barcode number 1108227/ Reel 102: Marriage Bonds and Consents, Vol. Gor-H, 1800-1830

Barcode number 1108233/ Reel 102: Marriage Bonds and Consents, Vol. I-L, 1800-1830

Barcode number 1108228/ Reel 103: Marriage Bonds and Consents, Vol. M, 1800-1830

Barcode number 1108223/ Reel 103: Marriage Bonds and Consents, Vol. N-Re, 1800-1830

Barcode number 1108229/ Reel 104: Marriage Bonds and Consents, Vol. Ri-S, 1800-1830

Barcode number 1108230/ Reel 104: Marriage Bonds and Consents, Vol. T-V, 1800-1830

Barcode number 1108231/ Reel 105: Marriage Bonds and Consents, Vol. W-Y, 1800-1830

Scope and Content

In addition to this volume, Microfilm reel 105 also contains all typewritten indexes (12) for volumes, 1800-1830, A-Y

Barcode number 1108211: Index to Marriage Bonds and Consents, 1781-1831