

A Guide to the Hanover County (Va.) Marriage Register of Freedmen living in Hanover County, Virginia, who were married by the Act passed by the Legislature of Virginia, February 27th, 1866

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A Collection in the Library of Virginia Hanover County (Va.) Reel 61

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Descriptive Summary

Microfilm reel number

Hanover County (Va.) Reel 61

Language

English

Collector

Hanover County (Va.) Circuit Court.

Physical Characteristics

1 microfilm reel and digital images.

Location

Library of Virginia

Repository

The Library of Virginia

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

There are no restrictions.

Use Restrictions

There are no restrictions. Digital images with searchable transcription available through the Library of Virginia's [Virginia Memory](#) website.

Acquisition Information

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Adjunct Descriptive Data

Related Material

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

Additional cohabitation registers are available digitally with searchable transcriptions through the Library of Virginia's [Virginia Memory](#) website.

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

See [The Chancery Records Index](#) to find the chancery records of additional Virginia localities.

Historical Information

Hanover County was formed in 1720 from New Kent County.

The Virginia legislature passed an act on 27 February 1866 to legalize the marriages of former slaves who had been cohabiting as of that date. See Virginia Acts of Assembly, 1866-1867, Chapter 18, An act to amend and re-enact the 14th section of chapter 108 of the Code of Virginia for 1860, in regard to registers of marriage; and to legalize the marriages of colored persons now cohabiting as husband and wife.

The federal Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands directed the Assistant Superintendents of the states to order the county clerks to make a registry of such cohabiting couples. See Circular No. 11, dated 19 March 1866, in Orders, Circulars, Circular Letters, and Letters of Instruction, vol. 2 (1866). Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, Records of the Assistant Commissioner for the State of Virginia, 1865-1869. Miscellaneous reel 3880, Library of Virginia. National Archives microfilm M1048 (reel 41), Record Group 105.

Most county court records, particularly deeds, wills, and marriage records, were destroyed by fire in Richmond on 3 April 1865, where they had been moved for safekeeping during the Civil War. The circuit court records were not moved to Richmond and were relatively unscathed. Consequently, there is a strong run of common law papers and chancery papers after 1831 that were generated by the circuit superior court of law and chancery and its successor, the circuit court.

Scope and Content

Hanover County (Va.) Marriage Register of Freedmen living in Hanover County, Virginia, who were married by the Act passed by the Legislature of Virginia, February 27th, 1866, contains similar information as that found in a cohabitation register. Recorded are date and place of marriage, full name of both parties, age and condition before marriage (year, single or widowed, slave or free), place of birth, place of residence, names of parents of both parties, occupation of husband. Marriages are recorded for the years 1816-1866.

Index Terms

Corporate Names:

Hanover County (Va.). Circuit Court.

Subjects:

African Americans -- Employment -- Virginia -- Hanover County.

African Americans -- Virginia -- Hanover County.

Freedmen -- Virginia -- Hanover County.

Geographical Names:

Hanover County -- History -- 19th century.

Genre and Form Terms:

Local government records -- Virginia -- Hanover County.

Marriage records -- Virginia -- Hanover County.

Marriage registers -- Virginia -- Hanover County.

Added Entry - Corporate Name:

United States. Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands.