

A Guide to the Rockingham County (Va.) Deeds, 1756-1920

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A Collection in the Library of Virginia 1050329, 0007641883-0007650458

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History

Processed by: Rockingham County Circuit Court

Title Statement

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Profile Description

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Descriptive Summary

Barcode number

1050329, 0007641883-0007650458

Language

English

Collector

Rockingham County (Va.) Circuit Court.

Physical Characteristics

32 cu. ft.

Location

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 of court papers from Rockingham County under accession number 51717.

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Adjunct Descriptive Data

Related Material

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

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

Historical Information

Rockingham County was named for Charles Watson-Wentworth, second marquis of Rockingham, who supported the colonies during the years before and during the Revolutionary War. The county was formed from Augusta County in 1778. The county seat is the city of Harrisonburg.

Created in 1778. A courthouse fire in 1787 destroyed wills and estate records, primarily. In June 1864 during the Civil War, court records (mostly volumes) were removed from the courthouse and loaded on a wagon to be taken to place of safety on or beyond the Blue Ridge. The wagon was overtaken by Union troops near Port Republic and set on fire, which was put out by local citizens. Many order books, deed books, will books, and fiduciary books, however, were lost or severely damaged by the fire. The loose records that remained at the courthouse were undamaged. Pre-1865 records including deeds and wills were rerecorded following an act of assembly passed in November 1884.

Scope and Content

Rockingham County (Va.) Deeds, 1756-1920, consist of deeds of bargain and sale, deeds of gift, mortgages, deeds of trust, and deeds of emancipation or manumission. Pre-1866 deeds include transactions of enslaved people. 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.