

# A Guide to the Petersburg (Va.) Apprenticeship Indentures, 1778-1893

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## History

**Processed by:** Ed Jordan

## Title Statement

A Guide to the Petersburg (Va.) Apprenticeship Indentures, 1778-1893

**Subtitle:** Petersburg (Va.) Apprenticeship Indentures, 1778-1893

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## Publication Statement

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## Profile Description

**Creation:** Machine-readable finding aid derived from MARC record, created by Greg Crawford, 18 July 2019

**Language Usage:** Description is in English

## Descriptive Summary

**Barcode number**

0007748370

**Language**

English

**Collector**

Petersburg (Va.) Circuit Court.

**Physical Characteristics**

.45 cu.ft. (1 box)

**Location**

Library of Virginia

**Repository**

Library of Virginia

## Administrative Information

## Access Restrictions

There are no restrictions.

## Use Restrictions

Petersburg (Va.) Apprenticeship Indentures, 1778-1893, of "free Blacks" and "free persons of color" are available at [Virginia Untold: the African American Narrative digital collection](#).

## Acquisition Information

These items came to the Library of Virginia in a transfer of court records from Petersburg.

## Preferred Citation

Petersburg (Va.) Apprenticeship Indentures, 1778-1893. Local government records collection, Petersburg Court Records. The Library of Virginia, Richmond, Va. 23219.

# Adjunct Descriptive Data

## Related Material

Additional Petersburg Records can be found on microfilm at the Library of Virginia. Consult ["A Guide to Virginia County and City Records on Microfilm"](#) found on the Library of Virginia's web site.

## Historical Information

Petersburg was formed from parts of Dinwiddie, Prince George, and Chesterfield Counties. A garrison and fur trading post called Fort Henry was established there in 1645 on the site of the Indian town Appamattuck. The present name, suggested in 1733 by William Byrd (1674-1744), honors Peter Jones, Byrd's companion on expeditions into the Virginia backcountry. Petersburg was established in 1748 and incorporated as a town in 1784. In the latter year the towns of Blandford, Pocahontas, and Ravenscroft were added to Petersburg. It was incorporated as a city in 1850.

In 1780 the Virginia General Assembly replaced the Anglican vestries and churchwardens of the colonial period with elected bodies called Overseers of the Poor. The Overseers provided food, clothing, shelter, and medical treatment for the persons who were too poor to support themselves or too ill to provide for their basic needs. They also bound out children whose parents could not support them or who failed to educate or instruct them, as well as orphans to become apprentices. The boys learned a trade and the girls learned domestic skills.

## Scope and Content

Petersburg (Va.) Apprenticeship Indentures, 1778-1893, are bonds and contracts of apprenticeship given by the Overseers of the Poor, showing the names of master and apprentice, the trade to be taught, details of the contract, the amount of the bond and the names of sureties. Many of the apprentices bound out prior to 1866 were "free Blacks" and "free persons of color."