

A Guide to the Norfolk (Va.) Borough Registers, 1783-1810

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A Collection in the Library of Virginia
Library of Virginia
2025

History

Processed by: V. Brooks

Title Statement

A Guide to the Norfolk (Va.) Borough Registers, 1783-1810

Subtitle: Norfolk (Va.) Borough Registers

Author: V. Brooks

Publication Statement

Date: © 2025 By The Library of Virginia. All Rights Reserved.

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Profile Description

Creation: Machine-readable finding aid derived from MARC record by V. Brooks, 20 November 2025

Language Usage: Description is in English

Descriptive Summary

Collection Number

54637

Language

English

Collector

Norfolk (Va.) Circuit Court

Physical Characteristics

2 v. (372p.)

Location

Library of Virginia

Repository

The Library of Virginia

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

Please use microfilm copy of Norfolk (Va.) Borough Registers, 1783-1810 available on Norfolk (Va.) Reel 59

Use Restrictions

There are no restrictions.

Acquisition Information

These records came to the Library of Virginia in a transfer of court papers from the City of Norfolk in 2025 under the accession number 54637.

Processing Information

Encoded by V. Brooks: 2025.

Preferred Citation

Norfolk (Va.) Borough Registers, 1783-1810. Local government records collection, Norfolk (Va.) Court Records. The Library of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia 23219.

Alternative Form Available

Norfolk (Va.) Borough Registers, 1783-1810 are available as microfilm on Norfolk (Va.) Reel 59

Adjunct Descriptive Data

Related Material

See also: Norfolk (Va.) Borough Registers, 1682, 1756-1762 available on microfilm as Norfolk (Va.) Reels 58 and 60.

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

Historical Information

Context for Record Type: In maritime law, a master of a vessel could file a written statement, attested by a proper judicial official or notary, to the effect that damage suffered by the ship on her voyage was caused by storms or other perils of the sea, without any negligence or misconduct on his own part. The purpose is to protect the ship's charterer or owner from liability for damage to cargo, the ship or to other ships in a collision, where this was caused by the perils of the sea.

Locality History: Norfolk was located in Norfolk County, which is now extinct. The city took its name from the county of Norfolk, which had been named by King Charles I in 1636. Norfolk was established in 1680 by an act of assembly. It was incorporated as a borough in 1736 and a city in 1845. Norfolk was enlarged in 1906 by the annexation of the town of Berkley.

Scope and Content

Norfolk (Va.), Borough Registers, 1783-1810, consist of two volumes of records documenting damages to cargo or ships experienced during a voyage by ships arriving at the port of Norfolk. One volume covers 1783-1790 and the other spans 1791-1810.

These records document ship arriving from both foreign and domestic ports. The volumes are not registers of all ships entering or clearing the port. The borough registers contain affidavits and other instruments recorded with the mayor of Norfolk to whom, as port authority, ship's officers reported any incident, occurring during a voyage, which resulted in damage to the vessel or cargo. The instrument most frequently noted is the "Protest Against the Winds and Seas," recounting details as to when and where storms were encountered, and noting that cargo damage was suffered. Other instruments pertain to the inspection and sale of damaged cargo and the costs of ships' repairs. Cargo documented includes some enslaved individuals.

Arrangement

This collection is arranged

- Series I: Borough Registers, 1783-1810

Contents List

Series I: Borough Registers, 1783-1810

Extent

2 volumes [use Microfilm]

Physical Location Library of Virginia

Barcode number 0007919499: Borough register, 1783-1790

Barcode number 0007919500: Borough register, 1791-1810

Library of Virginia