

A Guide to the Wythe County (Va.) Certificates of importation, 1818-1819

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1818-1819



A Collection in the Library of Virginia 1138040
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History

Processed by: L. Neuroth

Title Statement

A Guide to the Wythe County (Va.) Certificates of importation, 1818-1819

Subtitle: Wythe County (Va.) Certificates of importation

Collection: 1138040

Author: Mary Ann Mason

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Profile Description

Creation: Machine-readable finding aid derived from MS Word, created by Mary Ann Mason, 06 September 2023

Language Usage: Description is in English

Descriptive Summary

Barcode number

1138040

Language

English

Collector

Wythe County (Va.) Circuit Court

Physical Characteristics

2 items .

Location

Library of Virginia

Repository

Library of Virginia

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

Wythe County (Va.) Certificates of importation, 1818-1819, are digitized and available through [Virginia Untold: The African American Narrative Digital Collection](#) on the Library of Virginia website. Please use digital images.

Use Restrictions

There are no restrictions.

Acquisition Information

These items came to the Library of Virginia in shipments of court papers from Wythe County in 2022 under the accession number 53665.

Processing Information

Certificates of importation, 1818-189 were removed from other items previously stored in a filing cabinet at the Wythe County Circuit Court. Lydia Neuroth indexed the certificates of importation for the purposes of digitizing them for the digital project Virginia Untold: The African American Narrative.

Encoded by M. Mason: September 2023

Preferred Citation

Wythe County (Va.) Certificates of importation, 1818-1819. Local government records collection, Wythe County Court Records. The Library of Virginia, Richmond, Va. 23219.

Adjunct Descriptive Data

Related Material

See also: [Wythe County \(Va.\) Free and Enslaved Records, 1832-1838](#)

Records related to free and enslaved people of Wythe County (Va.) and other localities are available through the [Virginia Untold: The African American Narrative Digital Collection](#) on the Library of Virginia website.

Additional Wythe County (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 of Record Type: In 1778, Governor Patrick Henry enacted legislation preventing importation of enslaved people into the commonwealth. Those that did bring their enslaved people were required to register them with the county court and sign a certificate of importation agreeing that they were not bringing enslaved people into the commonwealth with the intent to sell. The enslaved person is sometimes named, but not always, and occasionally information is given as to age, birthdate, and the state from which the individuals were moving. According to Section 3 of the act "every slave imported into this commonwealth contrary to the true intent and meaning of this act, shall upon such importation become free." By this clause, those enslaved people who were brought into Virginia illegally could pursue their freedom in the local courts.

Locality History Note: Wythe County was named for George Wythe, a signer of the Declaration of Independence and chancellor of Virginia in 1789 when Wythe County was formed from Montgomery County. Part of Grayson County was added in 1825.

Scope and Content

Wythe County (Va.) Certificates of Importation, 1818-1819, sometimes entitled certificates of nonimportation, contain information whereby an enslaver swears that they have not imported the enslaved person from Africa and that the enslaver has not brought the enslaved person into Virginia with the purpose of selling the enslaved person. The enslaved person is sometimes named, but not always, and occasionally information is given as to age, birthdate, and the state the individuals are moving from.

This record set include 2 certificates. A certificate, 1818 August, concerning the importation of Zachariah, Peggy, and Harrison, by Henry Simmerman; and one of, 1819 February 15, concerning the importation of Dick, Reuben, Lucindy, Joshua, and George, by John Bryson.

Arrangement

This collection is arranged chronologically.

Contents List

Series I: Certificates of Importation 1818-1819

Extent

2 items

Barcode number 1138040: Free and Enslaved Records 1818-1838

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