

# A Guide to the Powhatan County (Va.) Registers of Free Negroes and Mulattoes, 1800-1865

Powhatan County (Va.) Registers of Free Negroes and Mulattoes, 1800-1865  
1800-1865

---

A Collection in the Library of Virginia Barcode numbers 1138346 and 0007734842/Powhatan County (Va.)  
Reels 45 and 58  
Library of Virginia  
2008

**Author:** Catherine G. O'Brien

## History

**Processed by:** Library of Virginia staff

## Title Statement

A Guide to the Powhatan County (Va.) Registers of Free Negroes and Mulattoes, 1800-1865

**Subtitle:** Powhatan County (Va.) Registers of Free Negroes and Mulattoes, 1800-1865 Barcode numbers 1138346 and 0007734842/Powhatan County (Va.) Reels 45 and 58

**Author:** Catherine G. O'Brien

## Publication Statement

**Date:** © 2008 By The Library of Virginia. All Rights Reserved.

**Publisher:** Library of Virginia

[Conditions of Use](#)

## Profile Description

**Creation:** Machine-readable finding aid derived from MARC record, created by Catherine G. O'Brien, 21 February 2008

**Language Usage:** Description is in English

## Revision Description

**2013-11-21** Converted to schema conforming EAD by dtd2schema.vh.xsl.

## Descriptive Summary

### Collection numbers

Barcode numbers 1138346 and 0007734842/Powhatan County (Va.) Reels 45 and 58

### Language

English

### Collector

Powhatan County (Va.) Circuit Court.

### Physical Characteristics

2 vol. and 2 microfilm reels

### Location

Library of Virginia

**Repository**

The Library of Virginia

## **Administrative Information**

**Access Restrictions**

Use microfilm copy of the Powhatan County (Va.) Register of Free Negroes and Mulattoes, 1800-1820 and 1820-1865, Powhatan County (Va.) Reels 45 and 58.

**Use Restrictions**

There are no restrictions.

**Acquisition Information**

Both volumes came to the Library of Virginia in a transfer of court papers from Powhatan County. Register of Free Negroes and Mulattoes, 1800-1820, was transferred under accession number 52618.

**Preferred Citation**

Powhatan County (Va.) Registers of Free Negroes and Mulattoes, 1800-1865, Powhatan County Reels 45 and 58. Local government records collection, Powhatan County Court Records. The Library of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia 23219.

## **Historical Information**

Powhatan County was named for the Indian chieftain who ruled the Native American inhabitants of tidewater Virginia in the early seventeenth century. It was formed from Cumberland County in 1777, and part of Chesterfield County was added later.

An act passed by the Virginia legislature in 1803 required every free negro or mulatto to be registered and numbered in a book to be kept by the county clerk.

## **Scope and Content**

Powhatan County (Va.) Registers of Free Negroes and Mulattoes, 1800-1865 are comprised of two volumes, one for the years 1800 to 1820 and one for the years 1820-1865. The registers record the registration number, age, name, color, stature, marks or scars, and in what court the person was emancipated or whether the person was born free. Some clerks recorded additional information, not required by law. The first volume also includes miscellaneous court notes and orders interspersed with the free negro registrations; it is unpagged and does not include an index. The second volume is 112 pages and includes an index.

## **Index Terms**

**Corporate Names:**

Powhatan County (Va.) Circuit Court.

**Subjects:**

Free African Americans--Virginia--Powhatan County.

Racially mixed people--Virginia--Powhatan County.

**Geographical Names:**

Powhatan County (Va.)--History--19th century.

**Genre and Form Terms:**

Free negro and slave records--Virginia--Powhatan County.

Local government records--Virginia--Powhatan County.

Registers (lists)--Virginia--Powhatan County.

