

A Guide to the Northumberland County (Va.) Citizens' Claims of Property Lost to British Army, 1815

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1815

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History

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Descriptive Summary

Barcode number

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Language

English

Collector

Northumberland County (Va.) Circuit Court

Physical Characteristics

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Location

Library of Virginia

Repository

The Library of Virginia

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

There are no restrictions.

Use Restrictions

Collection closed for reformatting.

Acquisition Information

These items came to the Library of Virginia in a transfer of court papers from Northumberland County under the accession number 43283.

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Historical Information

Due to various grievances such as the impressment of American sailors into the British Navy, the United States government declared war on Great Britain in June 1812. In December 1814, the United States and Great Britain signed the Treaty of Ghent which was ratified by Congress in February 1815 and officially ended the war.

As part of this treaty, England agreed to turn over to their American owners those slaves who had escaped to or been taken by British forces during the war. However, instead of returning these individuals, the British government eventually chose to monetarily compensate the slave owners.

Northumberland County probably was named for the English county. It was formed about 1645 from the district of Chickacoan, the early-seventeenth-century name for the region between the Potomac and the Rappahannock rivers.

Scope and Content

Northumberland County (Va.) Citizens' Claims of Property Lost to British Army, 1815, includes inventories made by citizens of Northumberland County that record a listing of the slaves they claimed were taken by the British military between 1812 and 1814. Information found in the inventories include the slaves' names, value, age, occupation, date they escaped or were taken, and name of the individual making the claim.

Index Terms

Corporate Names:

Northumberland County (Va.) Circuit Court.

Subjects:

African Americans -- History

Personal property -- Virginia -- Northumberland County.

Slaveholders -- Virginia -- Northumberland County

Slavery -- Virginia -- Northumberland County

Slaves -- Virginia -- Northumberland County

Geographical Names:

Northumberland County (Va.) -- History -- War of 1812

Genre and Form Terms:

Claims -- Virginia -- Northumberland County

Local government records -- Virginia -- Northumberland County

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