

A Guide to the Letter from Frederick Briggs, 1789

Letter from Frederick Briggs, 1789
1789

A Collection in the Library of Virginia 1119453
Library of Virginia
2011
Author: Sam Walters

History

Processed by: Library of Virginia staff

Title Statement

A Guide to the Letter from Frederick Briggs, 1789

Subtitle: Letter from Frederick Briggs, 1789

Collection: 1119453

Author: Sam Walters

Publication Statement

Date: © 2011 By The Library of Virginia. All Rights Reserved.

Publisher: Library of Virginia

[Conditions of Use](#)

Profile Description

Creation: Machine-readable finding aid derived from being created directly into EAD, created by Sam Walters, 07 July 2011

Language Usage: Description is in English

Revision Description

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

Descriptive Summary

Barcode number

1119453

Language

English

Collector

Prince Edward County (Va.) Circuit Court

Physical Characteristics

1 broadside

Location

Library of Virginia

Repository

The Library of Virginia

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

There are no restrictions.

Use Restrictions

There are no restrictions.

Acquisition Information

This item came to the Library of Virginia in a transfer of court papers from Prince Edward County.

Preferred Citation

Letter from Frederick Briggs, 1789. Local Government Records Collection, Prince Edward County Court Records. The Library of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia.

Adjunct Descriptive Data

Related Material

Court orders and depositions from Frederick Briggs' trials in Charlotte County and Prince Edward County can be found on microfilm at the Library of Virginia. Consult [A Guide to Virginia County and City Records on Microfilm](#)

An additional copy of this broadside is located in the Library of Virginia's Special Collections, and the record is available through the [Library of Virginia's online catalog](#) under call number Broadside 1789 .B7 FF.

Historical Information

In August 1789, Frederick Briggs and William McElhany (spelled variously M'Elheney and Mackelhany) stole two horses from John Spencer in Charlotte County and were apprehended in Nottoway County by a posse led by Colonel Freeman Epps. They were transported back to Charlotte County and subsequently sent to the district court in Prince Edward County for further trial. The district court found both men guilty of horse thievery and sentenced them to die on 16 October 1789 by hanging.

In a deposition given in 1782, an individual named Bontley claimed that Frederick Briggs was a member of criminal gang specializing in horse thievery and counterfitting money. The catalog record for this deposition is available through the [Library of Virginia's online catalog](#) under call number 45000.

Scope and Content

The Letter from Frederick Briggs, 1789, consists of a typescript copy of a letter printed on a broadside from Briggs to his wife. In this letter, Briggs explained that he would soon be executed for horse thievery and pleaded with his wife to raise their children in such a way that they would not repeat his mistakes and enter a life of crime.

Index Terms

Corporate Names:

Prince Edward County (Va.) Circuit Court

Subjects:

Crime -- Virginia -- Prince Edward County

Criminals -- Virginia -- Prince Edward County

Larceny -- Virginia -- Prince Edward County

Geographical Names:

Prince Edward County (Va.) -- History --18th century

Genre and Form Terms:

Letters (correspondence) -- Virginia -- Prince Edward County
Local government records -- Virginia -- Prince Edward County

Added Entry - Personal Name:

Briggs, Frederick

Library of Virginia