

A Guide to the Washington County (Va.) Register of Colored Persons of Washington County, State of Virginia, cohabiting together as Husband and Wife, 1866 February 27

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1866 February 27

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Descriptive Summary

Digitool record number

Digitool record number 000048409

Language

English

Collector

Washington County (Va.) Circuit Court.

Physical Characteristics

Digital images.

Location

Library of Virginia

Repository

The Library of Virginia

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

There are no restrictions.

Use Restrictions

Patrons are to use digital images with searchable transcription available through the Library of Virginia's [Virginia Untold: the African American Narrative](#) website.

Acquisition Information

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Adjunct Descriptive Data

Related Material

Additional cohabitation registers are available digitally with searchable transcriptions through the Library of Virginia's [Virginia Untold: the African American Narrative](#) website.

Historical Information

Washington County is the first locality in the United States known to have been named for George Washington. It was formed from Fincastle County in 1776, and a part of Montgomery County was added in 1777.

The Virginia legislature passed an act on 27 February 1866 to legalize the marriages of former slaves who had been cohabiting as of that date. See Virginia Acts of Assembly, 1866-1867, Chapter 18, An act to amend and re-enact the 14th section of chapter 108 of the Code of Virginia for 1860, in regard to registers of marriage; and to legalize the marriages of colored persons now cohabiting as husband and wife.

The federal Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands directed the Assistant Superintendents of the states to order the county clerks to make a registry of such cohabiting couples. See Circular No. 11, dated 19 March 1866, in Orders, Circulars, Circular Letters, and Letters of Instruction, vol. 2 (1866). Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, Records of the Assistant Commissioner for the State of Virginia, 1865-1869. Miscellaneous reel 3880, Library of Virginia. National Archives microfilm M1048 (reel 41), Record Group 105.

Scope and Content

Washington County (Va.) Register of Colored Persons of Washington County, State of Virginia, cohabiting together as Husband and Wife on 27th February 1866. Also commonly called Washington County (Va.) Cohabitation Register. This register records the name of the husband, his age, place of birth, residence, occupation, last owner, last owner's residence, name of the wife, her age, place of birth, residence, last owner, last owner's residence, name of children with the ages of each, and the date of commencement of cohabitation.

Index Terms

Corporate Names:

Washington County (Va.) Circuit Court.

Subjects:

African Americans -- Employment -- Virginia -- Washington County.

African Americans -- Virginia -- Washington County.

Freedmen -- Virginia -- Washington County.

Slaveholders -- Virginia -- Washington County.

Geographical Names:

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

Genre and Form Terms:

Local government records -- Virginia -- Washington County.

Marriage records -- Virginia -- Washington County.

Marriage registers -- Virginia -- Washington County.

Added Entry - Corporate Name:

United States. Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands.