

A Guide to the Petition of Madison Douglas to Remain in Highland County, 1862, circa

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1862, circa

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Descriptive Summary

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Language

English

Collector

Highland County (Va.) Circuit Court

Physical Characteristics

1 p.

Repository

The Library of Virginia

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

There are no restrictions.

Use Restrictions

There are no restrictions.

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Historical Information

Highland County was so named because of its mountainous terrain, and it is sometimes called the Little Switzerland of America. It was formed from Pendleton (now in West Virginia) and Bath Counties in 1847.

In 1806, the General Assembly moved to remove the free negro population from Virginia with a law that stated that all emancipated slaves, freed after May 1, 1806, who remained in the Commonwealth more than a year, would forfeit their right to freedom and be sold by the Overseers of the Poor for the benefit of the parish. Families wishing to stay were to petition the legislature through the local county court. Beginning in 1837, freed slaves could petition the local courts for permission to remain.

Scope and Content

Petition of Madison Douglas to Remain in Highland County, 1862, circa. The petition identifies Douglas as a free Negro of the age of 21 years. The petitioner also requests an opportunity to produce satisfactory proof of his being of good character, sober, peacable, orderly, and industrious.

Index Terms

Personal Names:

Madison, Douglas.

Corporate Names:

Highland County (Va.) Circuit Court

Subjects:

Free African Americans--Virginia--Highland County
Slavery--Law and legislation--Virginia--Highland County

Geographical Names:

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

Genre and Form Terms:

Free negro and slave records--Virginia--Highland County.
Local government records--Virginia--Highland County.
Petitions--Virginia--Highland County.