

A Guide to the Rockingham County (Va.) Deeds and Related Records, , 1756-1920

Rockingham County (Va.) Deeds and Related Records, , 1756-1920
1756-1920

A Collection in the Library of Virginia
Library of Virginia
2019

History

Processed by: Greg Crawford

Title Statement

A Guide to the Rockingham County (Va.) Deeds and Related Records, , 1756-1920

Subtitle: Rockingham County (Va.) Deeds and Related Records, 1756-1920

Author: Greg Crawford

Publication Statement

Date: © 2019 By The Library of Virginia. All Rights Reserved.

Publisher: Library of Virginia

Profile Description

Creation: Machine-readable finding aid derived from MS Word, created by Greg Crawford , 10 July 2019

Language Usage: Description is in English

Descriptive Summary

Language

English

Collector

Rockingham County (Va.) Circuit Court

Extent

.

Location

Library of Virginia

Repository

Library of Virginia

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

Rockingham County (Va.)identified Bills of Sale and Deeds, 1765-1864, involving enslaved and free Black and multiracial individuals are digitized and available through [Virginia Untold: The African American Narrative Digital Collection](#) on the Library of Virginia website. Please use digital images.

Majority of Rockingham deed books 1778-1901 are available as microfilm at the Library of Virginia, consult [Rockingham County Microfilm](#). Please use Microfilm copies.

Use Restrictions

There are no restrictions.

Acquisition Information

These records came to the Library of Virginia in a transfer of court papers from Rockingham County under an undated accession 51717.

Processing Information

Encoded by G Crawford 10 July 2019 ; updated by M. Mason, June 2026

Preferred Citation

Rockingham County (Va.) Deeds and Related Records, 1756-1920. [Site series, box, and or volume]. Local Government Records Collection, The Library of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia.

Adjunct Descriptive Data

Related Material

See Also: [Rockingham County \(Va.\) Deeds and Land Grants, 1758-1852](#)

See also: [Rockingham County \(Va.\) Deeds of Emancipation](#)

Records related to free and enslaved people of Rockingham County (Va.) and other localities are available through the [Virginia Untold: The African American Narrative Digital Collection](#) on the Library of Virginia website.

Additional Rockingham County (Va.) Court Records can be found on microfilm at The Library of Virginia web site. Consult ["A Guide to Virginia County and City Records on Microfilm."](#)

Historical Information

Context for Record Type:

Bills of sale are written agreements which convey title of property, including enslaved people, from seller to buyer. Under the system of chattel slavery, laws permitted enslavers to treat enslaved people as personal possessions in the same manner as livestock, farm equipment, or household items. Enslaved people could be bought or sold without regard to their personal relationships or free will. Bills of sale record the name of the seller, the names of enslaved people being sold and their price, and the name of the buyer. Given that they involved a property transaction, bills of sale were commonly recorded and filed with deeds in the local court. However, there was no official requirement that the transfer of an enslaved person be recorded unless necessary for legal purposes such as a court case or an estate settlement. Enslaved people could also be transferred through a deed of gift, there was no money transaction involved in this case, which distinguishes this record from a bill of sale. Enslavers and their family members often transferred enslaved people between themselves in this manner.

Deeds are written agreements which convey title of property, such as an enslaved person, from one individual to another. These include the voluntary transfer of enslaved people between family members with no financial transaction involved. Deeds include the names of the grantors, grantees, and enslaved people. Clerks proved, acknowledged, and recorded deeds in the local court.

Locality History: Rockingham County was named for Charles Watson-Wentworth, second marquis of Rockingham, who supported the colonies during the years before and during the Revolutionary War. The county was formed from Augusta County in 1778. The county seat is the city of Harrisonburg.

Lost Locality History: Created in 1778. A courthouse fire in 1787 destroyed wills and estate records, primarily. In June 1864 during the Civil War, court records (mostly volumes) were removed from the courthouse and loaded on a wagon to be taken to place of safety on or beyond the Blue Ridge. The wagon was overtaken by Union troops near Port Republic and set on fire, which was put out by local citizens. Many order books, deed books, will books, and fiduciary books, however, were lost or severely damaged by the fire. The loose records that remained at the courthouse were undamaged. Pre-1865 records including deeds and wills were rerecorded following an act of assembly passed in November 1884.

Scope and Content

Rockingham County (Va.) Deeds and Related Records, includes deeds of bargain and sale, deeds of gift, mortgages, bills of sale, and deeds of trust. Included are about twenty processed bills of sale and deeds, 1784-1842, involving free and enslaved Black and Multiracial individuals.

Deeds and Bills of Sale, 1784-1842, contain the name of the seller, the name of the purchaser, and the name of the enslaved person or persons being sold. Descriptions of persons being sold usually include age and family relationships among the persons being sold.

Deeds of bargain and sale are the most recorded deed in which one individual sells property, usually land, but occasionally personal property, to another individual. Such deeds show the names of the grantor and grantee, the residence of both parties, a description of what is being sold, the consideration (or price), the location of the tract of land, the tract's boundaries, and any limitations on the property being sold. The deed was signed by the grantor, and possibly his wife or anyone else having a claim to the property, and by at least two witnesses. Appended to the deed may be a memorandum of livery of seisin, stating that the property has changed hands and that peaceful possession has taken place.

Deeds of gift are often found transferring property, either real or personal including enslaved people, from one individual to another "for love and affection." The degree of kinship, if any, between the grantor and grantee is sometimes stated. Information recorded included name(s) of the grantor(s), grantee(s), and enslaved people. Deeds of gift were proved and recorded in the local court.

Mortgages and deeds of trust were deeds where one party is indebted to another and transfers or mortgages property to a third party to secure the debt.

Bills of sale are written agreements which convey title of property, such as an enslaved person, from seller to buyer. Bills of sale record the name of the seller, the names of enslaved persons being sold and their price, and the name of the buyer. Given that they involved a property transaction, bills of sale were commonly recorded and filed with deeds in the local court.

The deed books record the name of the grantor and grantee, the county of residence of both individuals and a description of property being sold or transferred. All of the books have indexes.

Arrangement

This collection is arranged

- Series I: Deeds and bills of sale, 1784-1842, involving free and enslaved people, arranged chronologically
- Series II: Deeds and records related to, 1756-1920 largely unprocessed but loosely arranged chronologically;
- Series II: Subseries A: Deeds, 1756-1920
- Series II: Subseries B: Deed books, 1805-1863

Contents List

Series I: Deeds and bills of sale involving free and enslaved Black and Multiracial people 1784-1842,

Extent

17 items; use digital images

Physical Location Library of Virginia

Barcode number 1159564: Free and Enslaved Records, 1783-1861, undated

Barcode number 1050329: Land Records [housed with various record types], 1765-1890

Series II: Deeds and Records Related to 1756-1920

Extent

72 boxes; 23 volumes

Physical Location Library of Virginia; State Records Center

Series II: Subseries A: Deeds, 1756-1920

Extent 72 boxes

Physical Location Library of Virginia

Barcode number 0007641883: Deeds 1756-1784

Barcode number 0007641884: Deeds 1785-1791

Barcode number 0007641885: Deeds 1792-1796

Barcode number 0007641886: Deeds 1797-1800

Barcode number 0007641887: Deeds 1801-1802

Barcode number 0007641888: Deeds 1802-1803

Barcode number 0007641930: Deeds 1805-1806

Barcode number 0007641931: Deeds 1806-1808

Barcode number 0007641933: Deeds 1808-1809

Barcode number 0007641934: Deeds 1810-1811

Barcode number 0007641935: Deeds 1811-1813

Barcode number 0007641936: Deeds 1813-1814

Barcode number 0007641937: Deeds 1815-1816

Barcode number 0007642073: Deeds 1816-1817

Barcode number 0007642076: Deeds 1817-1818

Barcode number 0007642079: Deeds 1818-1819

Barcode number 0007642081: Deeds 1819-1820

Barcode number 0007642082: Deeds 1820-1821

Barcode number 0007642085: Deeds 1821

Barcode number 0007642977: Deeds 1822

Barcode number 0007642978: Deeds 1822-1823

Barcode number 0007642979: Deeds 1823-1824

Barcode number 0007642980: Deeds 1824-1825

Barcode number 0007642981: Deeds 1825

Barcode number 0007642982: Deeds 1826

Barcode number 0007643270: Deeds 1827

Barcode number 0007643271: Deeds 1827-1828

Barcode number 0007643272: Deeds 1828

Barcode number 0007643273: Deeds 1828-1829

Barcode number 0007643274: Deeds 1829-1830

Barcode number 0007643275: Deeds 1830

Barcode number 0007643276: Deeds 1830-1831

Barcode number 0007643821: Deeds 1831-1832

Barcode number 0007643822: Deeds 1832

Barcode number 0007643823: Deeds 1832-1833

Barcode number 0007643824: Deeds 1833

Barcode number 0007643825: Deeds 1834

Barcode number 0007643826: Deeds 1834-1835

Barcode number 0007643827: Deeds 1835

Barcode number 0007644847: Deeds 1835-1836

Barcode number 0007644850: Deeds 1836

Barcode number 0007644853: Deeds 1837-1838

Barcode number 0007644854: Deeds 1838

Barcode number 0007644855: Deeds 1839

Barcode number 0007644856: Deeds 1839-1840

Barcode number 0007644857: Deeds 1840

Barcode number 0007647177: Deeds 1841

Barcode number 0007647178: Deeds 1842

Barcode number 0007647179: Deeds 1842-1843

Barcode number 0007647180: Deeds 1843

Barcode number 0007647181: Deeds 1844

Barcode number 0007647183: Deeds 1844-1845

Barcode number 0007647184: Deeds 1845-1846

Barcode number 0007649208: Deeds 1846-1847

Barcode number 0007649209: Deeds 1847

Barcode number 0007649210: Deeds 1847-1848

Barcode number 0007649211: Deeds 1848

Barcode number 0007649212: Deeds 1849

Barcode number 0007649213: Deeds 1849-1850

Barcode number 0007649215: Deeds 1850

Barcode number 0007649993: Deeds 1851

Barcode number 0007649995: Deeds 1851-1852

Barcode number 0007649996: Deeds 1852-1857

Barcode number 0007649997: Deeds 1858-1891

Barcode number 0007649998: Deeds 1891-1897

Barcode number 0007649999: Deeds 1898-1902

Barcode number 0007650001: Deeds 1902-1905

Barcode number 0007650002: Deeds 1906-1910

Barcode number 0007650005: Deeds 1911-1914

Barcode number 0007650007: Deeds 1914-1916

Barcode number 0007650458: Deeds 1916-1920

Barcode number 1159567: Land Records, Unrecorded Deeds 1900-1913; 1875-1913

Series II:Subseries B:Deed books, 1805-1863

Extent 23 volumes [use microfilm]

Physical Location State Records Center

Barcode number 1048449: Deed Books 1853-1854

Barcode number 1048436: Deed Books 1805-1807 (1806-1807)

Barcode number 1048459: Deed Books 1859-1861 (1859-1860)

Barcode number 1048448: Deed Books 1847-1848

Barcode number 1048451: Deed Books 1852-1853 (including fragments of 1

Barcode number 1048442: Deed Books 1829-1830

Barcode number 1048447: Deed Books 1849

Barcode number 1048441: Deed Books 1830-1832(including 1 item 1827)

Barcode number 1048446: Deed Books 1848-1849

Barcode number 1048440: Deed Books 1838-1839

Barcode number 1048437: Deed Books 1823-1824

Barcode number 1048445: Deed Books 1844-1846 (plus items dated 1823, 1

Barcode number 1048453: Deed Books 1858-1859

Barcode number 1048450: Deed Books 1854-1855

Barcode number 1048452: Deed Books 1856-1857

Barcode number 1048439: Deed Books 1815-1817

Barcode number 1048438: Deed Books 1827-1828

Barcode number 1048454: Deed Books 1858

Barcode number 1048444: Deed Books 1842-1843, 1843-1844

Barcode number 1048443: Deed Books 1841-1842

Barcode number 1048435: Deed Books 1811-1813, 1814-1815

Barcode number 1048434: Deed Books 1810-1811 (1809-1811)

Barcode number 1048456: Deed Books 1859-1863