

A Guide to the Princess Anne County (Va.) Apprenticeship Indentures, 1806-1868

Princess Anne County (Va.) Apprenticeship Indentures 1806-1868
1806-1868

A Collection in the Library of Virginia
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History

Processed by: Library of Virginia staff

Title Statement

A Guide to the Princess Anne County (Va.) Apprenticeship Indentures, 1806-1868

Subtitle: Princess Anne County (Va.) Apprenticeship Indentures, 1806-1868

Author: Greg Crawford

Publication Statement

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Profile Description

Creation: Machine-readable finding aid derived from MARC record, created by Greg Crawford, 29 July 2019

Language Usage: Description is in English

Descriptive Summary

Language

English

Collector

Virginia Beach (Va.) Circuit Court.

Physical Characteristics

.25 cubic feet (1 box)

Location

Library of Virginia

Repository

Library of Virginia

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

Princess Anne County (Va.) Apprenticeship Indenture, 1806-1868, relating to Black and Multiracial children are digitized and available through [Virginia Untold: The African American Narrative Digital Collection](#) on the Library of Virginia website. Please use digital images.

Use Restrictions

There are no restrictions.

Acquisition Information

These records came to the Library of Virginia in a transfer of court records from Virginia Beach (Va.) Circuit Court in an undated accession.

Processing Information

Updated by M. Mason, November 2025.

Preferred Citation

Princess Anne County (Va.) Apprenticeship Indentures, 1806-1868. Local government records collection, Princess Anne County Court Records. The Library of Virginia, Richmond, Va.

Adjunct Descriptive Data

Related Material

See Also: [Princess Anne County \(Va.\) Free and Enslaved Records](#)

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

Additional Princess Anne County (Va.) court records can be found on microfilm at the Library of Virginia. Consult ["A Guide to Virginia County and City Records on Microfilm."](#)

Historical Information

Context for Record Type: In 1765, the General Assembly established that illegitimate children of "woman servants, Negroes, white women by Negroes were to be bound out" until the age of 21 for males and 18 for females. In the late eighteenth century, the General Assembly established the Overseers of the Poor, an appointed body that provided food, clothing, shelter, and medical treatment for people who were too poor to support themselves or too ill to provide for their basic needs. They also bound out children whose parents could not support them and those who were orphaned through apprenticeship contracts. These agreements arranged for white children to be taught a trade or domestic skills as well as educated in reading, writing, and arithmetic. In 1805, the General Assembly amended the previous act to no longer require the master of "black or mulatto orphans" to teach reading, writing, or arithmetic, with the intent that this would prevent Black children from learning these skills.

Locality History: Princess Anne County (extinct) was named for Anne, daughter of James II, who became queen of England in 1702. The county was formed from Lower Norfolk County in 1691 and became extinct in 1963, after its consolidation with the city of Virginia Beach. The county seat was Princess Anne.

Scope and Content

Princess Anne County (Va.) Apprenticeship Indentures, 1806-1868, consist of contracts or agreements binding out white, Black, or Multiracial children, sometimes those who were orphaned, to learn a particular trade or craft. These indentures may be written agreements between the family of the apprentice and those responsible for the indentured. In many cases this includes the direct involvement of the Overseers of the Poor. They typically contain the name of the person or institution binding out, the person to whom bound, the name of the person being indentured, the length of the apprenticeship, and the responsibilities of the person taking on the indenture.

Many of the apprentices bound out prior to 1866 in Princess Anne County (Va.) were free Black children. Records also include indentures for Acoo, Kyhin, and Ah Man, three Chinese immigrant children, and Sunas, an immigrant child of India, apprenticed in 1860.

Arrangement

This collection is arranged

- Series I: Apprenticeship Indentures, 1806-1868

Contents List

Series I: Apprenticeship Indentures, 1806-1868

Extent

.23 cubic feet (1 box)

Physical Location Library of Virginia

Barcode number 0007748854: Apprenticeship Indentures, 1806-1868

Library of Virginia