

A Guide to the Petersburg (Va.) Ministers' Returns, 1850-1872

Petersburg (Va.) Ministers' Returns, 1850-1872
1850-1872

A Collection in the Library of Virginia 0007762464
Library of Virginia
2019

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History

Processed by: Library of Virginia staff

Title Statement

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Subtitle: Petersburg (Va.) Ministers' Returns, 1850-1872

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Publication Statement

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

Publisher: Library of Virginia

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Profile Description

Creation: Machine-readable finding aid derived from MARC record, created by Greg Crawford, 18 December 2019

Language Usage: Description is in English

Revision Description

2019-11-21 Converted to schema conforming EAD by dtd2schema.vh.xsl.

Descriptive Summary

Barcode number

0007762464

Language

English

Collector

Petersburg (Va.) Circuit Court.

Physical Characteristics

1 v.

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

These items came to the Library of Virginia in a transfer from Petersburg Circuit Court under the accession number 52919.

Preferred Citation

Petersburg (Va.) Ministers' Returns, 1850-1872, Local government records collection, Petersburg Court Records. The Library of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia 23219.

Adjunct Descriptive Data

Related Material

Additional Petersburg Marriage and Vital Statistics Records can be found on microfilm at the Library of Virginia. Consult ["A Guide to Virginia County and City Records on Microfilm"](#) found on the Library of Virginia web site.

Historical Information

Petersburg was formed from parts of Dinwiddie, Prince George, and Chesterfield Counties. A garrison and fur trading post called Fort Henry was established there in 1645 on the site of the Indian town Appamattuck. The present name, suggested in 1733 by William Byrd (1674-1744), honors Peter Jones, Byrd's companion on expeditions into the Virginia backcountry. Petersburg was established in 1748 and incorporated as a town in 1784. In the latter year the towns of Blandford, Pocahontas, and Ravenscroft were added to Petersburg. It was incorporated as a city in 1850.

Prior to 1780 marriages could only be performed legally in Virginia by ministers of the Church of England, who were required to record marriages in the parish register. After 1780, dissenting ministers were also permitted to conduct marriages. In order to have a record of all marriages, ministers were required to sign a certificate to be filed with the county clerk. Initially, ministers sent marriage certificates to the clerk every three months; beginning in 1784, marriage certificates were returned annually. The law was rarely enforced, and ministers' returns were sometimes late, incorrect, incomplete, or, in many instances, not made at all. County clerks compiled a register of marriages based, in part, on ministers' returns.

Scope and Content

Petersburg (Va.) Ministers' Returns, 1850-1872, record marriages performed by ministers and submitted to local court to be certified. Information recorded included name of minister, name of church the minister served, name of bride and groom, date of marriage, and date marriage was submitted to court by minister.

Index Terms

Corporate Names:

Petersburg (Va.). Circuit Court.

Subjects:

African Americans -- History.

Marriage -- Virginia -- Petersburg.

Geographical Names:

Petersburg (Va.) -- History -- 19th century.

Genre and Form Terms:

Local government records -- Virginia -- Petersburg.

Marriage records -- Virginia -- Petersburg.

Vital statistics -- Virginia -- Petersburg.

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