

A Guide to the Albemarle County (Va.) Certificates of Importation, 1794, 1811-1818

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A Collection in the Library of Virginia
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2025

History

Processed by: E. Jordan

Title Statement

A Guide to the Albemarle County (Va.) Certificates of Importation, 1794, 1811-1818

Subtitle: Albemarle County (Va.) Certificates of Importation

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Publication Statement

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Profile Description

Creation: Machine-readable finding aid derived from MS Word by Caroline Collins, 29 October 2025

Language Usage: Description is in English

Descriptive Summary

Language

English

Collector

Albemarle County (Va.) Circuit Court.

Extent

11 items

Location

Library of Virginia

Repository

The Library of Virginia

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

IN PROGRESS: Albemarle County (Va.) Certificates of Importation, 1794, 1811-1818, 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 papers from Albemarle County (Va.) as part of an undated accession.

Processing Information

Albemarle County Certificates of Importation were found among Albemarle County Deeds and separated out by E. Jordan in 2025.

These records were processed, scanned, and indexed by E. Jordan and L. Neuroth for the purposes of digitizing them for the digital project Virginia Untold: The African American Narrative in 2025.

Encoded by C. Collins: October 2025.

Preferred Citation

Albemarle County (Va.) Certificates of Importation, 1794, 1811-1818. Local government records collection, Albemarle County Court Records. The Library of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia.

Adjunct Descriptive Data

Related Material

See also: [Albemarle County \(Va.\) Free and Enslaved Records, 1799-1870](#)

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

Additional Albemarle 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."](#)

Albemarle County is one of Virginia's Lost Records Localities. Additional Albemarle County records may be found in the [Lost Records Localities Digital Collection](#) available on the Library of Virginia website.

Historical Information

Context for Record Type: In 1778, Governor Patrick Henry enacted legislation preventing importation of enslaved people into the commonwealth. Those that did bring their enslaved people were required to register them with the county court and sign a certificate of importation agreeing that they were not bringing enslaved people into the commonwealth with the intent to sell. The enslaved person is sometimes named, but not always, and occasionally information is given as to age, birthdate, and the state from which the individuals were moving. According to Section 3 of the act "every slave imported into this commonwealth contrary to the true intent and meaning of this act, shall upon such importation become free." By this clause, those enslaved people who were brought into Virginia illegally could pursue their freedom in the local courts.

Locality History: Albemarle County was named for William Anne Keppel, second earl of Albemarle, and governor of Virginia from 1737 to 1754. It was created by a statute of 1744 and formed from Goochland County; part of Louisa County was added in 1761 and islands in the Fluvanna (now the James) River in 1770. The court met for the first time on 8 February 1745. The county seat is the city of Charlottesville.

Lost Locality Note: All order books except the first and many loose papers between 1748 and 1781 were destroyed by British general Banastre Tarleton's raid on Charlottesville in 1781 during the Revolutionary War.

Scope and Content

Albemarle County (Va.) Certificates of Importation, 1794, 1811-1818, sometimes entitled certificates of nonimportation, contain information whereby an enslaver swears that they have not imported the enslaved person from Africa and that the enslaver has not brought the enslaved person into Virginia with the purpose of selling the enslaved person. The enslaved person is sometimes named, but not always, and occasionally information is given as to age, birthdate, and the state the individuals are moving from.

This collection includes the following certificates:

1794, which verifies that Alexander Catlet brought Cuffey, Pat, Fanny, Letty, Lucy, Nancy, Walter, Celia, and Fruman (or Truman) to Virginia from an unnamed place;

1811, which verifies that Richard Franklin brought Jenny to Virginia from Maryland;

1811, which verifies that Nathaniel Wilson brought Mary to Virginia from Maryland;

1813, which verifies that Thomas Wells transported Watt, John, Peter, Jack, Tom, Davie, Sall, and Nancey from Maryland to Virginia;

1813, which verifies that Richard Franklin brought Diner to Virginia from Maryland;

1814, which verifies that John Wood transported Coots from Kentucky to Virginia;

1814, which verifies that Jacob Moon brought Isaac, Beckey, Keziah, and Eliza to Virginia from Tennessee;

1815, which verifies that Jacob Moon transported James, Black David, Lott, Belley (or Billey), Frankey, Doll, Fanny, and Mary from Tennessee to Virginia;

1815, which verifies that John R. Campbell brought Alley, Perry, David, Jim, Perry, and Jacob to Virginia from Maryland;

1818, which verifies that Thomas G. Watkins transported Jesse, Paul, Rachel, James, and Aime from Pennsylvania to Virginia;

1818, which verifies that Richard Moon brought Phill, George, Suckey, Amy, Mirah, and Esther, to Virginia from an unnamed place.

Arrangement

This collection is arranged

- Series I: Certificates of Importation, 1794, 1811-1818, arranged chronologically.

Contents List

Series I: Certificates of Importation, 1794, 1811-1818

Extent

Extent: 11 items

Physical Location Library of Virginia

Arrangement

Arranged chronologically

Barcode number 1144734: Free and Enslaved Records, 1807-1870

Library of Virginia