

A Guide to the Northumberland County (Va.) Petitions to Remain in the Commonwealth , 1818,1822

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A Collection in the Library of Virginia
Library of Virginia
2025

History

Processed by: Sam Walters

Title Statement

A Guide to the Northumberland County (Va.) Petitions to Remain in the Commonwealth , 1818,1822

Subtitle: Northumberland County (Va.) Petitions to Remain in the Commonwealth, 1818,1822

Author: Mary Ann Mason

Publication Statement

Date: © 2025 By The Library of Virginia. All Rights Reserved.

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Profile Description

Creation: Machine-readable finding aid derived from MS Word, created by Mary Ann Mason, 15 December 2025

Language Usage: Description is in English

Descriptive Summary

Language

English

Collector

Northumberland County (Va.) Circuit Court.

Physical Characteristics

2 items; digital images.

Location

Library of Virginia

Repository

Library of Virginia

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

Northumberland County (Va.) Petitions to Remain in the Commonwealth, 1818,1822 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 were transferred to the Library of Virginia from Northumberland County (Va.) 2007 in under accession number 43283.

Processing Information

Northumberland County (Va.) Petitions to Remain in the Commonwealth were originally described as part of the Northumberland County (Va.) Free and Enslaved Records but were removed to the present Northumberland County (Va.) Petitions to Remain in the Commonwealth, record to enhance discoverability in November 2025.

These records have been processed, scanned, and indexed by Library of Virginia staff for the purposes of digitizing them for the digital project Virginia Untold: The African American Narrative.

Encoded by M. Mason: November 2025.

Preferred Citation

Northumberland County (Va.) Petitions to Remain in the Commonwealth, 1818,1822. Local government records collection, Northumberland County Court Records. The Library of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia.

Adjunct Descriptive Data

Related Material

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

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

Additional Northumberland 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: Sometimes referred to as "Applications to Remain," these records are applications that formerly enslaved individuals submitted to state and local courts for permission to remain in Virginia with their free status. The Virginia General Assembly passed a law stating that all formerly enslaved people freed after 1 May 1806 who remained in Virginia more than twelve months could be put on trial by the state. Individuals who wished to remain in the commonwealth were to petition the state legislature. In 1816, a new Act of Assembly gave the local courts power to grant permission to remain. The documents in these cases will include: the name(s) of the petitioner(s), the circumstances of free status, and a request to remain in the county. Individuals needed to prove that they had in fact been emancipated. Therefore, application packets might also include supporting documents such as the formerly enslaved person's register, a copy of a will or deed of emancipation, or witness statements known as affidavits.

Locality History: Northumberland County was probably named for the English county. It was formed about 1645 from the district of Chickacoan, the early seventeenth century name for the region between the Potomac and Rappahannock Rivers.

Scope and Content

Northumberland County (Va.) Petitions to Remain in the Commonwealth, 1818,1822, consist of Petitions to remain in the County filed by Tom, 1818, and by Charlotte, Vincent, Fanny, Patty, Royston, and Sally, 1822.

Arrangement

This collection is arranged

- Series I: Petitions to Remain in the Commonwealth,1818,1822, arranged chronologically.

Contents List

Series I: Petitions to Remain in the Commonwealth, 1818,1822

Extent

2 items; Digital Images [Use digital Images]

Physical Location Library of Virginia

Barcode number 1189869: Free and Enslaved Records, 1786-1862

Library of Virginia