

# Massie Family, Enslaved Persons Books

Record Book Listing of Enslaved People of the Massie Family  
1823-1863

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## Title Statement

Massie Family, Enslaved Persons Books Record Book Listing of Enslaved People of the Massie Family MSS 12705

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## Publication Statement

**Publisher:** Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library

Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library  
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## Profile Description

**Creation:** This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on 2026-06-11 07:00:18 +0000.

**Language Usage:** Description is written in: English, Latin script.

**Descriptive Rules:** Describing Archives: A Content Standard

## Revision Description

**2026-06** Descriptive metadata transferred from library catalog to ArchivesSpace by Anastasia Scholze-Wang.

## Descriptive Summary

**Unit ID**

MSS 12705

**Unit ID**

[Archival Resource Key](#)

**Unit ID**

/repositories/3/resources/1883

**Unit Date**

1823-1863

**Language**

English

**Creator**

Massie, William, 1795-1862

**Creator**

Massie, Thomas, Major, 1747-1834

**Extent**

2 Volumes

**Repository**

Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library

## Administrative Information

**Conditions Governing Access**

The collection is open for research use.

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**Processing Information****Preferred Citation**

MSS 12705, Record Book Listing of Enslaved People of the Massie Family, Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library, University of Virginia Library.

## Biographical / Historical

Thomas Massie (1747-1834) was a Revolutionary War officer, plantation owner, and enslaver, who established his family in Nelson County, Virginia.

William Massie (1795-1862), the son of Thomas Massie, was a plantation owner, miller, and enslaver in Nelson County, Virginia. He also served a term in the Virginia legislature.

## Scope and Contents

This collection contains two bound volumes of record books from the Massie family of Virginia.

The cover of the first volume bears the handwritten label "Stock Book, Va. Negroes Ages [?] from 1739." This volume contains information on enslaved people claimed in ownership by the family, giving name, parentage, date of birth and occasionally status (deceased, sold). The oldest enslaved person recorded was born in 1739. In a few instances, fathers are listed as well as mothers. The volume also lists stock, and farm tools, owned in the years 1783, 1785, 1786, 1789, 1790, and 1793. Most of the information in the volume appears to be compiled from sources not now present.

The cover of the second volume bears the handwritten label "Negro Book," a list of years from 1851 to 1858, and includes an outline drawing of two individuals with short, curly hair. The illustration was likely created to represent the people documented within, though the drawing may reflect the racial attitudes of that time. The second volume dates 1850-1863, contains accounts of individual enslaved persons, and identifies the person who claimed ownership of them. Enslaved people received credit for extra work or work done for people outside the Massie family. Purchases made by enslaved people against their earnings include food, clothing and whiskey. Of interest are accounts for skilled workers including William, a cooper, Brock, Edmund and Julius, blacksmiths, and Squire and Dan, carpenters.

The Massie family plantations were named Level Green, Pharsalia, Tyro and Montebello.

## CONTENT WARNING

This material contains offensive or harmful language or imagery. The purpose of this note is to give users the opportunity to decide whether they need or want to view these materials, or at least, to mentally or emotionally prepare themselves to view the materials.

## Keywords

Nelson County (Va.) -- History

Enslaved persons--Social conditions

Slaves -- Virginia

Slavery--United States -- Virginia

registers (lists)

## Description of Subordinate Components

### **Record book listing of enslaved people of the Massie family, volume 1**

**Unit ID** [Archival Resource Key](#)

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/293514

**Unit Date** 1739-1849

**Bound Volumes** 1 (Volume)

**Digital Archival Object**

Record book listing of enslaved people of the Massie family, volume 1, 1739-1849

### **Record book listing of enslaved people of the Massie family, volume 2**

**Unit ID** [Archival Resource Key](#)

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/293515

**Unit Date** 1850-1858

**Bound Volumes** 2 (Volume)

**Digital Archival Object**

Record book listing of enslaved people of the Massie family, volume 2, 1850-1858