

# Virginia Wills and Administrations 1632-1800

AN INDEX

OF

WILLS RECORDED IN LOCAL COURTS OF VIRGINIA,  
1632-1800, AND OF ADMINISTRATIONS ON ESTATES  
SHOWN BY INVENTORIES OF THE ESTATES OF IN-  
TESTATES RECORDED IN WILL (AND OTHER) BOOKS  
OF LOCAL COURTS, 1632-1800.

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*Property*  
*of the*  
*Fairfield Genealogy Room*



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rence is due thanks for generous contribution of time and labor towards the completion of this work; and to Neblett, daughter beloved, who "cut the cards," and Mary Turner Rust (friend incomparable to our household), who "dealt" them—thanks.

I am not Virginian born; but, Virginian by choice. However, I lay claim to "the blood" through two great-grandparents. The exigencies of life carried them to the far south. It has been my happy privilege to return to their native land. Twenty-seven years ago I came to Virginia to live. No day since that early spring when I came in young manhood's dawn upon her soil to live has she failed to yield me inspiration and joy. So to whom but to Virginia could I inscribe this book—and to those nearest and dearest—Virginians—Elizabeth, Clayton, Neblett and Norman: my wife, and our "trinity of love" for whom I am indebted to—Virginia.

CLAYTON TORRENCE.

In Virginia.  
16 November, 1930.



## AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THIS WORK

The arrangement of the "Index" is according to *surnames*; following the *surname* will be found the names of *counties* (in alphabetical arrangement where more than one county name is represented) in which wills or administrations of persons of the respective surname are recorded. The *county* name is followed by the *baptismal* names of individuals whose wills or inventories are recorded in the respective counties. The *baptismal name* is followed by the *year* in which the will or inventory was recorded (in some instances the date of record not being given in the record book the *year* in which the document was made is given instead); and the *year* is followed by a *letter* indicating the nature of the document recorded: w=will; i=inventory; a=administrator's bond or estate account (given in absence of inventory); n.w.=nuncupative will. ←

Copies of documents listed in this "Index" may be obtained (by payment of the regular fee) from the Clerk of Circuit Court of the county in which the document is stated to be on record.

The spelling of surnames given in this "Index" is in accordance with the spelling of that specific surname as given in the document of record. Those using this "Index" would do well where variations in spelling of surname are known or suspected, to go carefully through all surnames beginning with the same initial letter in order to catch up all items given under variations in the spelling of the surname.

This "Index" has as its objective the classification by surname and county of residence of the testators of wills and the inventories of estates of parties dying intestate whose inventories were recorded in the county courts of Virginia (colony and state) between 1632 and 1800. Every item in this "Index" is of record in the archives of the county under whose name it is entered. All counties in Virginia, of formation prior to the year 1800, and which still possess any books in which wills and inventories for the period 1632-1800 are recorded have been visited and these documents listed. The year 1632 is named as a "beginning" period owing to the fact that the records of the original Accomack County extend back to that year<sup>1</sup>. The year 1800

<sup>1</sup>First volume of Accomack County records which is in the office of the Clerk of Circuit Court for Northampton County, Eastville, Virginia. A copy of this volume is in the Department of Archives, Virginia State Library, Richmond.

was chosen arbitrarily as the period for terminating this "Index." A limit in point of time had to be placed upon this work, so the ending of the eighteenth century was chosen. Before the organization of county courts wills and administrations were proved before the "general court" of the colony; but, these earlier records have long since disappeared. Even after the organization of county courts there is evidence of the record of some wills in the "general court." The records too have disappeared. So far as the records remaining show, the earliest wills and administrations of record in Virginia are in the old "county court" books. In the year 1634 the colony was divided into eight "shires," or counties, each with its court of record these eight being Accomack, Charles City, Charles River (York), Elizabeth City, Henrico, James City, Warrosquyoake (Isle of Wight) and Warwick River (Warwick). After the year 1634 the counties formed were by subdivisions of the original territory of these original eight counties<sup>1</sup>.

During the long course of years since 1634 many of the record books of these old county courts have disappeared; some have been lost through destruction by fire; some were wantonly destroyed by invading armies, and some have gone in the natural order of decay of such material where it is not properly cared for.

In compiling this "Index" no attempt has been made to go beyond the series of books in which wills and inventories were actually recorded.

The following list indicates the condition of will and inventory records as at present preserved in the several counties of Virginia which were organized prior to the year 1800 which records have been used in the compilation of this "Index." The date following the county name indicates the year in which the county was organized and the word "complete" is used to describe a sequence in the will and inventory records of a county; the counties marked with an asterisk \* are now in the State of West Virginia<sup>2</sup>.

Accomack (1632-1642; original county; records complete)<sup>3</sup>; Accomack (1663; complete); Albemarle (1744; complete from 1749); Amelia (1735; complete); Amherst (1761; complete); Augusta (1745; complete); Bath (1791; complete); Bedford (1754; complete); Berkeley\* (1772; complete); Botetourt (1770; complete); Brooke\* (1797; complete); Brunswick (1720 formed; organized 1732 when records begin; complete); Buckingham (1761; destroyed); Campbell (1782; complete); Caroline (1728; destroyed); Charles City (1634; original; one volume of general records 1655-1665; wills and inventories prior 1769 missing; from 1769 complete); Charlotte (1765; complete); Chesterfield (1749; complete); Culpeper (1749; complete); Cumberland (1749; complete); Dinwiddie (1752; destroyed); Elizabeth City (1632; destroyed); Essex (1692; complete); Fairfax (1742; complete); Fauquier (1759; complete); Fincastle (1772; extinct 1777; will records in Montgomery County); Fluvanna (1777; complete); Franklin (1786; complete); Frederick (1743; complete); Gloucester (1651; destroyed); Goochland (1728; complete); Grayson (1793; complete); Greenbrier\* (1778; complete); Greensville (1781; complete); Halifax (1752; complete); Hampshire\* (1754; wills as listed under specific surnames in this "Index"); Hanover (1721; only remaining volume 1733-5); Hardy\* (1786; complete); Harrison\* (1784; complete); Henrico (1634; original; fragmentary: those remaining: 1677-1718, 1725-37, 1744-57, 1767-69, 1774-82 [re-recorded], 1781-1800); Henry (1777; complete); Isle of Wight (1637; was under name of Warrosquyoake 1634-1637; some few wills during 1650s;

<sup>1</sup>For a presentation of the subject of the formation and organization of the Virginia counties see Morgan P. Robinson's *Virginia Counties: Those Resulting From Virginia Legislation* (Bulletin of the Virginia State Library, Vol. 9, Jan.-July, 1916, Nos. 1, 2 and 3). This work, scholarly in every detail and masterly in its grasp of the subject, is one for which Virginia and Virginians owe a lasting debt of gratitude to Mr. Robinson.

<sup>2</sup>This "Index" does not include the will records of the county of Kentucky formed in the year 1777 and its subsequent divisions which in 1792 became the State of Kentucky.

<sup>3</sup>The records of the original Accomack County (1632-1642) are in custody of the authorities of Northampton County, and wills and inventories entered in this "Index" from these records are marked "Northampton"; to save confusion.

from 1661 complete except that some of books are damaged); James City (1634; destroyed); Kanawha\* (1789; complete); King and Queen (1691; destroyed); King George (1721; records in existence, wills 1752-1800 [some pages missing from the books]; inventories 1721-1765; bonds 1739-1790 [executors, administrators, etc.], fiduciary accounts 1794-1807); King William (1702; some fragments)<sup>1</sup>; Lancaster (1651; complete); Lee 1793; destroyed); Loudoun (1757; complete); Louisa (1742; complete with the exception of first pages from the first will book); Lunenburg (1746; complete); Madison (1793; complete); Mathews (1791; destroyed); Mecklenburg (1765; complete); Middlesex (1673; some wills, etc. in order books 1673-94; will books preserved 1698-1734 and 1740-1795, though a number of pages are missing from the volume 1713-34 and first ten pages from volume 1748-60); Monongalia\* (1776; destroyed); Montgomery (1777; complete); Nansamond (organized 1637 under name of "Upper Norfolk," and changed to Nansamond in 1642. The Nansamond records totally destroyed); New Kent (1654; destroyed); Norfolk (organized 1636 under name of "New Norfolk" and in 1637 became "Lower Norfolk," and in 1691 Norfolk County; records continuous from 1637, though some volumes very badly damaged, pages illegible, etc.; gaps here and there in the record books); Northampton (1642; complete; these records include the records of the original Accomack County, 1632-1642); Northumberland (1648; wills and inventories remain for periods: 1652-1672, 1706-20, 1710-13, 1718-29, 1738-1800); Nottoway (1789; complete); Ohio\* (1776; complete); Orange (1734; complete); Patrick (1791; complete); Pendleton (1788; complete); Pittsylvania (1767; complete); Powhatan (1777; complete); Prince Edward (1754; complete); Prince George (1702; remaining volumes 1713-28 and 1787-92); Prince William (1731; remaining volumes cover periods 1734-1744 and 1778-1803); Princess Anne (1691; complete); Randolph\* (1787; complete); Old Rappahannock (1656; became extinct 1692; complete; records kept in Essex Court); Richmond (1692; complete 1699-1800; first will book 1692-99 missing); Rockbridge (1778; complete); Rockingham (1778; destroyed); Russell (1786; destroyed); Shenandoah (organized under name of "Dunmore" in 1772 and name changed in 1778 to Shenandoah; records continuous from 1772, and complete); Southampton (1749; complete); Spotsylvania (1722; complete); Stafford (1664; will and inventory records remaining for 1699-1709, 1729-1748, 1748-1763, 1780-89); Surry (1652; sequence in volumes to 1800, though some pages are almost illegible and one volume badly damaged); Sussex (1754; complete); Warwick (1634; destroyed); Washington (1777; complete); Westmoreland (1653; wills and inventories 1653-1677 and 1691-1800 appear to be complete; there is a gap in the wills, etc. between 1677 and 1690); Wood\* (1798; but no will records prior to 1800); Wythe (1790; complete); Yohogania (1776; major portion of territory fell within Pennsylvania on adjustment of boundary line 1780; and other portion added to Ohio County in 1786); York (1634; organized as Charles River and name changed to York in 1642; records continuous from 1633, and complete).

<sup>1</sup>The King William County records were burned in 1885. Fragments of record books picked up after the fire are bound in 17 volumes; but these fragments include comparatively few items prior to 1790, and these items are very largely composed of deeds. The will and inventory books evidently suffered almost total destruction.

## CHAPMAN

*Accomack*  
Wm. 1720 w.  
Silas 1749 nw.  
Henry 1755 i.  
*Amelia*  
Saml. 1773 w.  
David 1773 w.  
*Brunswick*  
Jno. 1743 w.  
Jno. 1763 w.  
Wm. 1770 w.  
*Culpeper*  
Thos. 1782 i.  
*Fairfax*  
Nathaniel 1762 i.  
Constant 1791 w.  
Constant 1798 w.  
*Frederick*  
Jas. 1785 a.  
Thos. 1797 i.  
*Hampshire*  
Wm. 1796 w.  
*Isle of Wight*  
Chas. 1710 w.  
Jos. 1729 w.  
Chas. 1749 w.  
Wm. 1773 i.  
Chas. 1777 w.  
Chas. 1789 i.  
Jno. 1737 w.  
Jno. 1761 i.  
Jordan 1769 w.  
Jos. 1792 w.  
Jno. 1796 i.  
Rhoda 1797 i.  
*King George*  
Wm. W. 1786 w.  
*Lancaster*  
Wm. 1703-4 i.  
Wm. 1709 w.  
*Lunenburg*  
Moses 1764 i.  
*Middlesex*  
Eliz. 1778 w.  
*Montgomery*  
Jno. 1794 i.  
*Northampton*  
Phillip 1644 w.  
Philip 1650 i.  
Pearce 1733 i.  
Pierce 1738 i.  
*Northumberland*  
Winter 1652 i.  
*Orange*  
Isaac 1747 i.  
*Princess Anne*  
Nicklas 1726 i.  
Jas. 1729 i.  
Henry 1734 i.  
Jas. 1760 i.  
Jno. 1773 w.

*Prince William*

Jos. 1736 w.  
Jno. 1783 i.  
Thos. 1785 w.  
Jno. 1791 w.  
Thos. 1791 i.

*Spotsylvania*

Geo. 1747 w.  
Jno. 1776 w.

*Stafford*

Jno. 1735 i.  
Taylor 1749 w.

*Surry*

Benj. 1720 i.  
Mary 1736 w.

*Westmoreland*

Jno. 1738 w.

*York*

Walter 1751 w.  
Hudson 1763 w.  
Ann 1770 w.  
Allen 1794 w.  
Jno. 1799 w.

## CHAPPEL

*Chesterfield*

Abraham 1781 w.

*Princess Anne*

Jonas 1704 i.  
Chas. 1783 i.  
Chas. 1784 i.  
Geo. 1788 i.

*Sussex*

Ransom 1782 i.

## CHAPPELL

*Amelia*

Jno. 1766 i.  
Jas. 1770 w.  
Jno. 1774 w.  
Prudence 1778 i.  
Miles 1784 w.

*Lunenburg*

Thos. 1790 w.  
Robt. 1794 w.

*Prince George*

Robt. 1724 w.

*Richmond*

Henry 1701 w.

*Surry*

Saml. 1749 w.

*Sussex*

Eliz. 1761 w.  
Jas. 1769 w.  
Jas. 1778 w.

## CHAPPIN

*Fairfax*

Benj. 1782 i.

## CHAPPLE

*Princess Anne*

Jno. 1774 i.

## CHARERON

*Albemarle*

Anthony 1755 w.

## CHARITY

*Surry*

Shorod 1782 w.

## CHARKE

*Louisa*

Rosamond 1786 i.

## CHARLES

*Accomack*

Jno. 1708 w.

*Brunswick*

Eliz. 1781 w.  
Lewis 1784 w.  
Margt. 1785 w.

*Charles City*

Lydia 1795 w.  
Philip 1792 w.  
Willis Sr. 1792 w.

*Henrico*

Thos. 1694 i.

*Lancaster*

Thos. 1743 w.

*Southampton*

Rebecca 1760 w.  
Mathew 1795 w.  
Jethro 1797 i.  
Eleanor 1798 w.

*Sussex*

Thos. 1787 w.

*Westmoreland*

Thos. 1713 i.

## CHARLESWORTH

*Amelia*

Robt. 1745 a.

## CHARLETON

*Surry*

————— 1676 i.

## CHARLTON

*Cumberland*

Abraham 1790 w.

*Fairfax*

Andrew 1757 i.

*Montgomery*

Jno. 1790 w.

*Northampton*

Stephen 1654 w.

*York*

Geo. 1749 i.  
Lydia 1760 w.  
Richd. 1779 w.  
Francis 1798 i.

## CHARMOIE

*Norfolk*

Saml. 1652 w.

## CHASE

*Accomack*

Wm. 1737 i.

## CHASEE

*Louisa*

Jas. 1793 a.

## CHASTAIN

*Cumberland*

Jno. 1762 w.