

## Found in The Archives

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# FAIRFAX COUNTY

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## VIRGINIA

### Found in the Archives no. 94 Circuit Court Clerk's Office Historic Records Center

#### Memorandum of Marriages Issued by County Clerk

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Hello, and welcome to Found in the Archives, a publication of The Clerk of the Fairfax Circuit Court, 19th Judicial Circuit, who proudly serves The City of Fairfax & Fairfax County. In the spirit of Valentine's Day, we will discuss the Memorandum of Marriages Issued by County Clerk, a record found here at the Historic Records Center.

This record is broken up into two different volumes, the first covering the years 1867 through 1895 and the second book covering 1896 through 1928. These books contain lists of couples applying for a marriage license, and includes information

like the date of application, town of residence of applicants, names, if they were "white or colored," and age of the applicants. During this time, the legal age of marriage was 21. Many applicants under the age of 21 have notations next to their entries stating they have parental permission to marry; some entries even have separate notes mailed or submitted to the court.

1901.

James Brooks	Gussie West	C. 35	16.	Friday gone consent
Char. A. Ashton	Maggie May Bryant	W. C. 38	26	
Edward [unclear]	Martha [unclear]	C. 24	23	
Jamel J. Dowden	Maud H. Camp	"	30	

Memorandum of Marriages Issued by County Court, page 11

Richardson Esq

Falls Church Fairfax  
Va.  
July 25 1888

Sir

Mr & Mrs James Lee  
are willing for Mr.  
Author Woody to have  
their Bessie Lee

as I am so busy that  
I could not come

Wm. James Lee

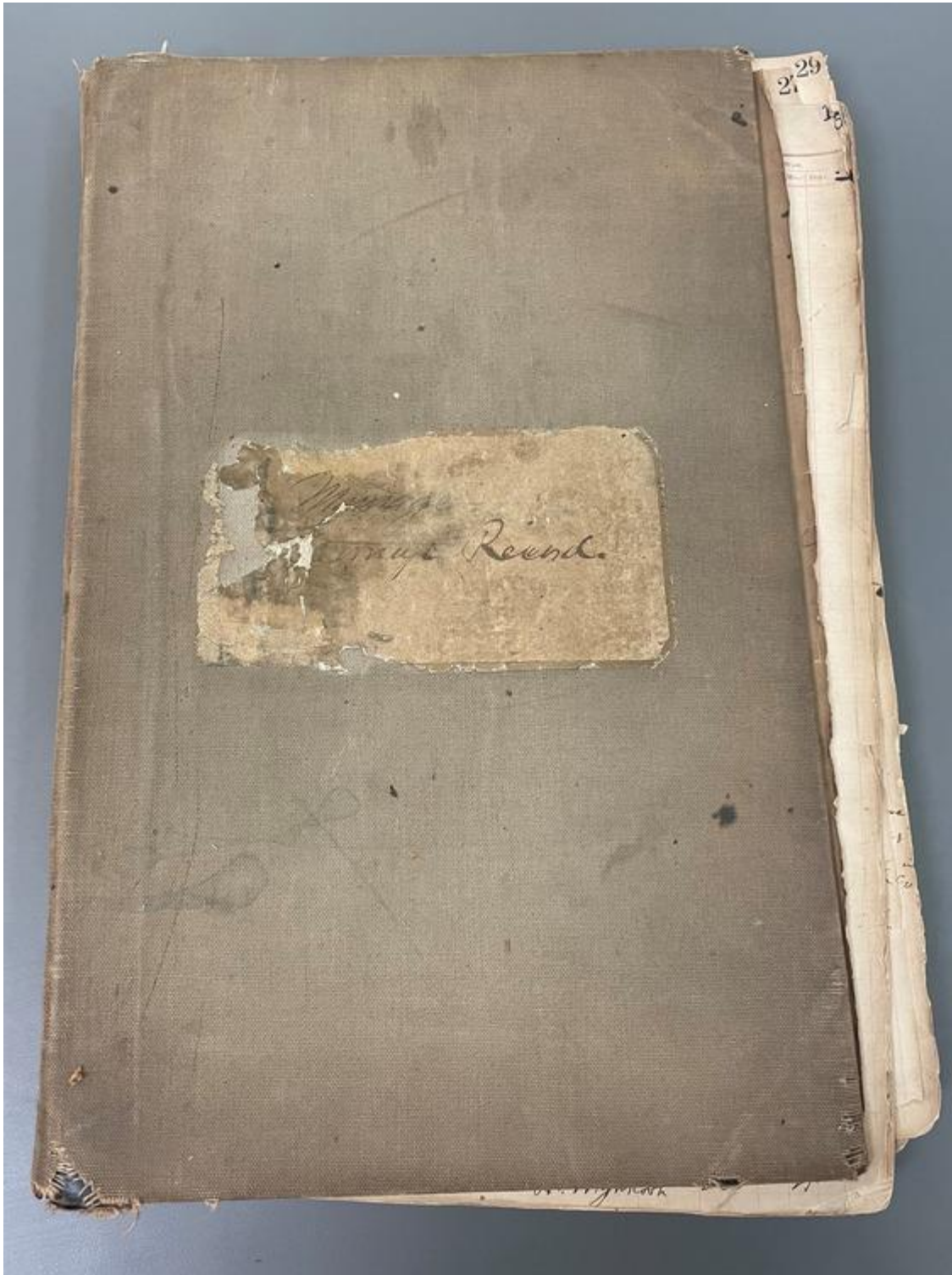
Note found in Memorandum of Marriages Issued by County Clerk

The second of these books contains different printed headings, and it is clear this book was originally intended for a different use. This is one example of how records were sometimes recorded in whatever was available, even if it meant scratching out pre-printed headings and categories.

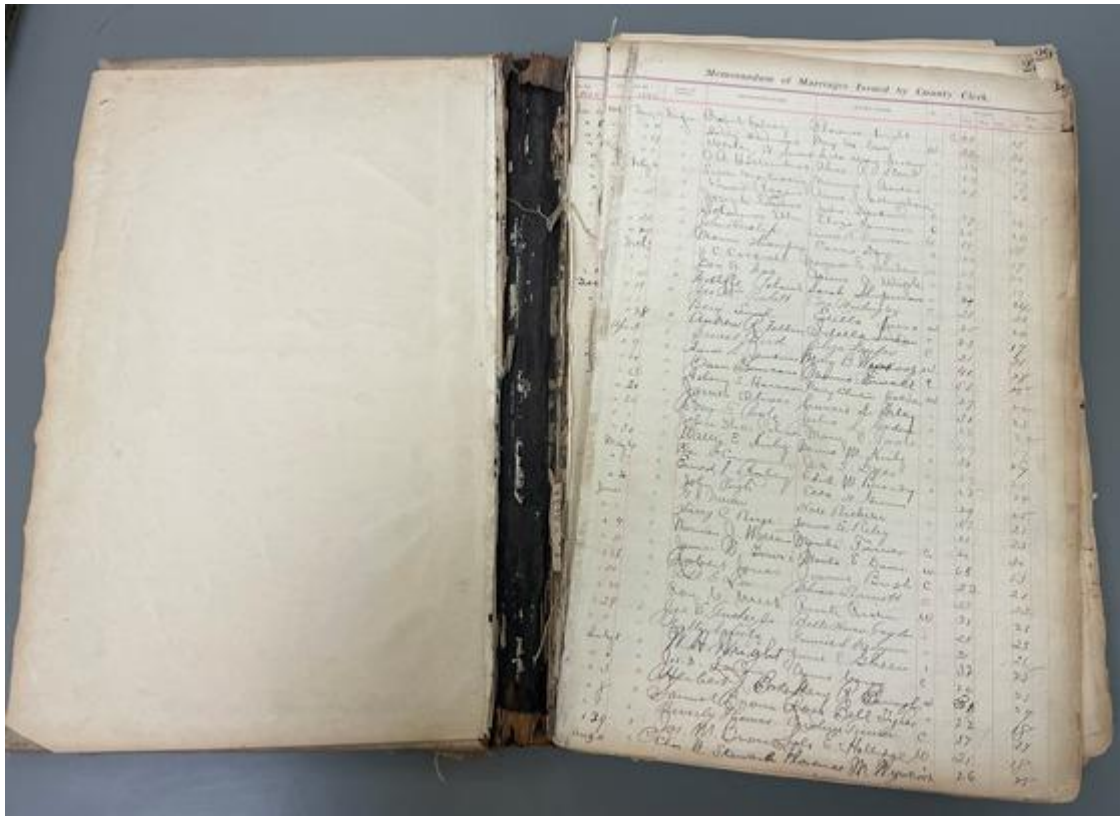
DATE OF JUDGMENT	NAMES OF PLAINTIFFS	NAMES OF DEFENDANTS	AMOUNT OF JUDGMENT
1867 License Jan'y 1st	Lewis Henry Rely Husband	Charlotte Elizabeth Rely Wife	(none)
" 7	Richard Scott	Harriet Lallen	00
" 23	Henry Simon	Ann Maria Norton	00

Memorandum of Marriages Issued by County Clerk, page 1

As can be seen below, these books are in need of cleaning and repair. Luckily, they will be sent out for conservation in the coming months and will be returned to us looking better than ever.



Memorandum of Marriages Issued by County Clerk, Volume 1



Memorandum of Marriages Issued by County Clerk, Volume 1

Virginia began recording marriages in 1853, so these books do not include all of the marriage licenses we have at the Historic Records Center. Researching marriages before 1853 can be difficult since there is typically no official documentation for them. However, researchers can get around that lack of documentation by looking in our “implied marriages” resources. An implied marriage comes from other official documentation and records, like a deed, court case, or will, that include phrases like, “my wife Susan” or “her husband John.” Although there may be no marriage certificate or contract, it can be safe to use those phrases to confirm marriages. (The Historic Records Center has published books put together through meticulous research that share some of the implied marriages found in our court records.) Through meticulous research and indexing work, the Historic Records Center has an Implied Marriage index card catalog, from which 1 book were created and published in 1994. The Circuit Court still issues and maintains marriage licenses today. While we do not work with the modern licenses, we do have a collection of original marriage licenses beginning in 1853 and ending around 1957.

# Marriage License

Virginia, *Fairfax County* to wit:

**To ANY PERSON LICENSED TO CELEBRATE MARRIAGES:**

You are hereby authorized to join together in the Holy State of Matrimony, according to the rites and ceremonies of your Church, or religious denomination, and the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia, *John P. Allen* and *Marion Taliaferro*

Given under my hand, as Clerk of the *Fairfax* County Court of *Fairfax* this *11* day, *Dec* 1879  
*J. Michaelson* Clerk.

**CERTIFICATE TO OBTAIN A MARRIAGE LICENSE.**

To be annexed to the License, required by Acts passed 15<sup>th</sup> March 1861, and February 25<sup>th</sup>, 1866.

Time of Marriage,	Condition of Wife, (widowed or single) <i>Single</i>
Place of Marriage,	Place of Husband's Birth, <i>Virginia</i>
Full Names of Parties Married, <i>John P. Allen</i>	Place of Wife's Birth, <i>Fairfax Co.</i>
<i>Marion Taliaferro</i>	Place of Husband's Residence, <i>Fairfax</i>
Color, <i>W<sup>h</sup></i>	Place of Wife's Residence, <i>"</i>
Age of Husband, <i>23</i>	Names of Husband's Parents, <i>George J. Allen</i>
Age of Wife, <i>25</i>	Names of Wife's Parents, <i>John Taliaferro</i>
Condition of Husband, (widowed or single) <i>Single</i>	Occupation of Husband, <i>Farm</i>
Given under my hand this <i>11</i> day of <i>Dec</i> 1879 <i>J. Michaelson</i> Clerk.	

**MINISTER'S RETURN OF MARRIAGE.**

I Certify, That on the *12<sup>th</sup>* day of *December* 1879 at the Residence of *the M. E. Ch. South* I united in Marriage the above-named and described parties, under authority of the annexed License.

*W. H. Boyle* Pastor of M. E. Ch. South  
*Michaelson*

The Minister celebrating a marriage, is required, within TEN days thereafter, to return the license to the Office of the Clerk who issued the same, with an endorsement thereon of the FACT of such marriage, and of the TIME and PLACE of celebrating the same.

Fairfax Marriage License, John P. Allen and Marion Taliaferro, 1879

If you would like to learn more about these and other court records, come visit the Historic Courthouse on Saturday, February 3rd during the Chocolate Lovers Festival. The Courthouse will be open with documents on display from 10am-3pm, including original pages of George Washington's Will, with a mock trial taking place at 10am and a game show at noon.

♥ FEBRUARY 3RD, 2024

**FAIRFAX  
HISTORIC  
COURTHOUSE  
OPEN HOUSE**

♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥

**SHOWROOM OPEN 10AM - 3 PM**

FAIRFAX BAR ASSOCIATION  
PROGRAMS

♥ 10AM - MOCK TRIAL  
♥ 12PM - GAME SHOW

**ALL AGES WELCOME!**

Fairfax City  
*Chocolate  
Lovers  
Festival*

For more information on these and other records held at the Fairfax Circuit Court Historic Records Center, please call 703-246-4168 or email [CCRHistoricRecords@Fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:CCRHistoricRecords@Fairfaxcounty.gov)

The Historic Records Center is open to both walk-ins and appointments. Click below to sign up for Found in the Archives!