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Archives ?

PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY GENEALOGY

A GUIDE TO SOURCES

History of jurisdictions

- 1644-1648 Chicacoan plantation
- 1648-1651 Northumberland County
- 1651-1653 Northumberland County (P)
Lancaster County (R)
- 1653-1656 Westmoreland County (P)
Lancaster County (R)
- 1656-1664 Westmoreland County (P)
(Old) Rappahannock County (R)
- 1664-1692 Stafford County (P)
(Old) Rappahannock County (R)
- 1692-1721 Stafford County (P)
Richmond County (R)
- 1721-1731 Stafford County (P)
King George County (R)
- 1731 Prince William County organized
- 1742 Fairfax County (with Loudoun,
Arlington, Alexandria) cut off
- 1759 Fauquier County cut off
- 1795 Manassas and Manassas Park cut off

(P) = Potomac watershed

(R) = Rappahannock watershed



Prince William County 1731-1742
(map from Kegley's *Virginia Frontier*)

Histories (general county histories with significant genealogical information)

- Harrison, F. *Landmarks of Old Prince William* (1924) scholarly hist. to 1860.
- Prince William: a Past to Preserve* (1982) historic sites (PWC Hist. Comm., \$20)
- Ratcliffe, R. *This Was Prince William* (1978) photographic history (Manassas Museum, \$12 hb, \$7.75 pb) (Manassas Museum \$11)-----
- Writers Program. *Prince William: the Story of Its People and Its Places* (1941)

Organizations (please include SASE when requesting info, keep questions brief)

- Prince William County Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 2019, Manassas, VA 22110.
(Dues \$10/yr. Publishes monthly *Newsletter*.)
- (There is no PWC historical society. The following organizations substitute.)
- Prince William Co. Historical Commission, 1 County Complex, Woodbridge, VA 22192.
- Manassas Historical Committee/Manassas Museum, 9406 Main St, Manassas, VA 22110.
- Historic Dumfries Inc./Weems-Botts Museum, 300 Duke St, Dumfries, VA 22026.
- Historic Occoquan/Mill House Museum, Mill St, Occoquan, VA 22125.
- Prince William Library, Virginiana Collection, 8601 Mathis Ave, Manassas, VA 22111.
- Clerk of Circuit Court, Prince William County, Court House, Manassas, VA 22110.

Guide to Records

- Dorman, J. "Guide to the counties of Va: Prince William County", *Virginia Genealogist*, v. 21 (1977), p.54-56. Includes list of early post offices.

Vital Records

- Clerk's Office, Cte.Hse: Births and Deaths 1864-1870, 1913- , Marriages 1856-
Va. State Liby. (Dept. of Vital Records copy): Births 1877-1896, Deaths 1853-1896,
Marriages 1854-1935. (Not available on interlibrary loan)
- Marriage bonds prior to 1854 are lost (Courthouse was ransacked in 1863).
- Ages and birthdates may be gotten from indentures (Dettingen vestry book), court
minutes, voter registration lists (beginning ca.1900) and burial records (1931-).
(Draft of Baker Funeral Home records, 1931-1969, available at PW Library.)

also

Probate Records (Wills 1731-34 and 1744-78 are lost; some will books are mutilated).

Dorman, J. *Prince William Co, Va, Will Book C, 1734-1744* (1956).

County Court Note Book (1921-1931) contains PWC executors' bonds 1753-86 and reference to estates from court orders 1752-69 (repr. by GPC).

Johnson, June. *Pr. Wm. Co, Va, Bond Book 1753-1782* (1982, author, 4134 Minton Dr, Fairfax, VA 22032, \$7), contains administrators' bonds.

Dorman, J. "Prince William Co, Va, Order Book 1759-1761", *Va. Genalogist* (1975-80).

Johnson, J. *Pr. Wm. Co, Va, Will Book G, 1778-1791 and Order Book 1768-1771*

selective items (1985, author, \$20). Order book was returned from Ill. 1984.

Church Records (no colonial registers of births, etc., for Hamilton or Dettingen Parish).

EPISCOPAL. *Records of Dettingen Parish, Pr. Wm. Co, Va: vestry book 1745-1785, minutes of overseers of the poor 1788-1802, indentures 1749-1782* (1976, Historic

Dumfries). Va. State Liby. has *Dumfries Church* register 1815-1824 (Dettingen Par.)

BAPTIST. Va. State Liby. has records of: *Frying Pan Church* 1791-1879 (served N. PWC), *Broad Run Church* 1762-1873 (served W. PWC), *Occoquan Church* 1794-1843 (served E. PWC), *Chappawamsic Church* 1766-1919 (served S. PWC).

PRESBYTERIAN. See Woodworth, R. *A History of the Presbytery of Winchester* (1947), p. 207-210. Describes PWC congregations. Earliest congregation, Greenwich, 1798.

METHODIST. Johnson, E. *History in a Horseshoe Curve* (1982) describes early church.

Cemetery Records (PW Library has a map showing locations of known cemeteries).

Conner, E.R.III. *100 Old Cemeteries of Pr. Wm. Co, Va* (1981, author, P.O. Box 52, Catharpin, VA 22018, \$16) [Unpub. typescript at PW Library-----]

Genealogical Records of Elizabeth McIntosh Hammil Chapter, DAR (1973):

Cemeteries Found in and about Pr. Wm. Forest Park (1973). Unpub. typescript.

Land Records (many records prior to 1865 lost; index 1731-1827 [M-Z only] helps).

Nugent, N. *Cavaliers and Pioneers*. Vol. 1, 2 and suppl. contain Pr. Wm. land grants.

Northern Neck Land Grants and Surveys, 1690-1859. Microfilm at PW Library.

Johnson, J. *Pr. Wm. Co. Deed Books A & B, 1731-1735* (1982, author, \$15).

Johnson, J. *Pr. Wm. Co. Deed Book D, 1738-1740* (1984, author, \$10).

See also rent rolls, land tax lists, and land causes, on microfilm; insurance policies.

Censuses and Substitutes (1790, 1800 censuses are lost, 1890 is destroyed).

1723 Rent roll for Stafford Co, in: King, G. *Register of Overwharton Parish, 1723-1758* (1961) also contains Tobacco Tenders list for 1724. (S. PWC).

1737 Residents of Brent Town tract (W. PWC) named in *Newsletter of PWCGS*, Dec. 1983.

1738-1777 Rent rolls on microfilm of manuscripts at the Huntington Library.

Index to 1738 list in: King, J. *Abstracts of Wills of Fauquier Co, Va* (1939), p. 73; 1751-1777 lists indexed in: *Early Virginia*, v.1, by R. Jackson (1980).

1741 List of PWC voters in: Boogher, W. *Gleanings of Va. History* (1903), p. 116-125. Alphabetized in *Newsletter of PWCGS*, 1984.

1747 Tithables list for Dettingen Parish west of Cedar Run. *Newsletter PWCGS* 1984.

1782-1861 Annual land and personal property tax lists (microfilm, PW Library).

1865- Annual land tax books (at PWC Court House).

Maps (showing significant detail for the whole county).

1820 John Wood map of Pr. Wm. Co. (original in Co. Clerk's office, copy at PW Library)

1862 *Official Military Atlas of the Civil War*, plates VII and VIII.

1901 William Brown map of Pr. Wm. Co. (shows landowners' names) (PW Mapping Office, \$2)

1937 Aerial photos of Pr. Wm. Co. (U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, most at PW Library).

Newspapers (available on microfilm at PW Library, no indexes)

Virginia Gazette and Agricultural Repository, Dumfries, Va, 1791-1793.

Republican Journal and Dumfries Advertiser, 1795-1796.

/burg newspapers.]

[During most of 19th century, residents depended on Alexandria, Warrenton, Fredericks-Manassas Gazette, 1869-1896 (few issues extant), have some as photostats).

Manassas Journal, 1895-1951 (few issues before 1906; gaps 1923-1930, 1944-1949).

Manassas Democrat, 1909-1921 (gaps). *Manassas Messenger*, 1945-1951.

Journal Messenger, 1951-date (merging of *Manassas Journal* and *Manassas Messenger*).

Potomac News, 1959-date (files before 1967 lost).

D. Wilson, 10/85