

Milton Penn Collection Finding Aid MS267

Milton Penn Collection (MS267)

1794-1893



Title Statement

Milton Penn Collection Finding Aid MS267

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Profile Description

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Descriptive Rules: Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

MS267

Unit Date

1794-1893

Language

English .

Extent

.46 Cubic Feet 2 boxes

Repository

Local History and Special Collections Branch, Alexandria Library

Administrative Information

Preferred Citation

[Item identification], Milton Penn Collection, MS267, Alexandria Library, Local History/Special Collections, Alexandria, Va.

Content Description

The papers in this collection cover all of the Alexandria Fire Department's business and legal transactions over a span of one hundred years. The canceled checks show the many expenditures necessary to outfit, maintain, and operate the volunteer fire companies. There are also many receipts from commercial firms who provisioned, repaired, serviced and supplied the volunteer fire companies. The Alexandria Common Council appropriated money each year to cover the entire Fire Department.

Many reports to the Common Council are included. These contain appropriations for the fire companies, fire warden appointees and resignations, construction and repair of fire houses, minutes of Fire Department meetings, the establishment of a Fire Department Board of Directors and the enactment of laws covering fire house bells and assembly at fire houses.

One report from the Fire Department, dated May 8, 1860, describes how much usable hose each fire company has on-hand and requests purchase of more hose, in linear feet. A quarterly report dated August 15, 1851 lists the number of members in each fire company: The Sun had 111; the Relief, 63; the Friendship, 76; the Star, 47; and the Hydraulion, 52.

Related Materials

Alexandria vertical file: Fire Department, Old Charles Sampson collections, MS053 and MS126.

Keywords

Fire departments -- Virginia -- Alexandria

Accruals

Additional materials donated in 1995

Bibliography

The Alexandria Fire Department included five different volunteer fire companies during the period covered in these records. The first was the Friendship Fire Company, founded in 1774 and located on 107 South Alfred Street. Next was the Sun Fire Company in 1775. The Relief Fire Company was begun in 1788 and was located at 315 Prince Street. The Star Fire Company was started in 1799 and combined with the Friendship in 1852. Its new name was the Columbia Engine Company #4, when it was equipped with a new steam-powered fire engine in 1883. It was located at 109 South St. Asaph Street. In 1827, the Hydraulion Fire Company was founded. It was located at 1210 Cameron Street.

Each household in Alexandria purchased fire insurance and was assigned a specific fire company in case of disaster. The volunteer fire companies would not assist anyone without a plaque on their domicile or business, proving they were legitimately covered with insurance from the Fire Insurance Company of Alexandria.

Arrangement

The material is arranged chronologically by type of correspondence or business-related transaction. Arrangement repeated for Box 2 added in 1995.

Description of Subordinate Components

Canceled checks to various businesses for fire department services

Unit Date September 3, 1844-December 5, 1859

Text 1 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Canceled checks to various businesses for fire department services

Unit Date January 6, 1860-December 2, 1865

Text 1 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Canceled checks to various businesses for fire department services

Unit Date April 30, 1866-October 20, 1875

Text 1 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Receipts for services and goods rendered to fire department from commercial firms

Unit Date April 10, 1837-November 27, 1851

Text 1 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Receipts for services and goods rendered to fire department from commercial firms

Unit Date January 1, 1854-November 27, 1868

Text 1 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Receipts for services and goods rendered to fire department from commercial firms

Unit Date February 13, 1869-December 31, 1872

Text 1 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

Receipts for services and goods rendered to fire department from commercial firms

Unit Date January 1, 1873-March 23, 1876

Text 1 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

Alexandria Common City Council documents concerning the Fire Department

Unit Date January 17, 1794-December 29, 1851

Text 1 (box)

Container 8 (folder)

Alexandria Common City Council documents concerning the Fire Department

Unit Date January 7, 1852-October 3, 1893

Text 1 (box)

Container 9 (folder)

2nd Ward 1858 Engine and Fire Dept. Gauges and Measures of Wood and Lumber - Election book(?)

Text 2 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Deed and receipt to the Mayor of Alexandria from the Court of the County of Fairfax

Unit Date 1794-1796

Text 2 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Expenditures

Unit Date 1847-1852

Text 2 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Reports - Quarterly Night Watch

Unit Date September 1851-February 27, 1871

Text 2 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Acts Appropriating Salaries

Unit Date 1859-1865

Text 2 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Petition of Guy Atkinson and W. Yeaton to city council and letter to proprietor of theater regarding needed repairs

Text 2 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

Petitions - Thomas Taylor for Clerk (1845); to celebrate Thanksgiving

Unit Date 1845

Text 2 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

Miscellaneous - non Fire Department receipts and documents; guard and picket passes

Unit Date 1864

Text 2 (box)

Container 8 (folder)

Mayor's office/City Council correspondence

Unit Date 1820-1849

Text 2 (box)

Container 9 (folder)

Mayor's office/City Council correspondence

Unit Date 1851-1859

Text 2 (box)

Container 10 (folder)

Mayor's office/City Council correspondence

Unit Date 1862-1870

Text 2 (box)

Container 11 (folder)

Checks

Unit Date 1844-1883

Text 2 (box)

Container 12 (folder)

Miscellaneous bills and receipts

Unit Date 1794, 1835, 1840s

Text 2 (box)

Container 13 (folder)

Miscellaneous bills and receipts

Unit Date 1850s

Text 2 (box)

Container 14 (folder)

Miscellaneous bills and receipts

Unit Date 1860s

Text 2 (box)

Container 15 (folder)

Miscellaneous bills and receipts

Unit Date 1870s

Text 2 (box)

Container 16 (folder)