

# A Guide to the Henry County (Va.) Provisions for Families of Indigent Soldiers, 1863-1864

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A Collection in the Library of Virginia 1154886

Library of Virginia

2008

**Author:** Rachel Muse

## History

**Processed by:** Library of Virginia staff

## Title Statement

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**Subtitle:** Henry County (Va.) Provisions for Families of Indigent Soldiers, 1863-1864

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## Publication Statement

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## Profile Description

**Creation:** Machine-readable finding aid derived from being created directly into EAD, created by Rachel Muse, 27 August 2008

**Language Usage:** Description is in English

## Revision Description

**2013-11-21** Converted to schema conforming EAD by dtd2schema.vh.xsl.

## Descriptive Summary

**Barcode number**

1154886, 1016313

**Language**

English

**Collector**

Henry County (Va.) Circuit Court.

**Physical Characteristics**

.7 cu. ft.

**Location**

State Records Center - Archives Annex, Library of Virginia

**Repository**

The Library of Virginia

## Administrative Information

**Access Restrictions**

There are no restrictions.

**Use Restrictions**

There are no restrictions.

**Acquisition Information**

These items came to the Library of Virginia in shipments of court papers from Henry County (Va.).

**Preferred Citation**

Henry County (Va.) Provisions for Families of Indigent Soldiers, 1863-1866. Local government records collection, Henry County Court (Va.) Records. The Library of Virginia, Richmond, Va. 23219.

## Historical Information

Henry County was named for Patrick Henry, revolutionary leader and the first governor of the commonwealth of Virginia. It was formed from Pittsylvania County in 1776.

Throughout the Civil War, the principal responsibility for Virginia's indigent soldiers' families lay with the locality. The Virginia State Convention in 1861 gave the responsibility entirely to counties and incorporated towns and authorized whatever actions had already been taken. Acts of Assembly in 1862 and 1863 expanded the localities' powers to provide for their needy, and in 1863 some minimal state assistance was added in. At first relief was provided as money, but as the monetary system collapsed, relief was distributed in kind. Agents of the court maintained lists of eligible families, gathered goods for distribution and paid for them, and impressed supplies if necessary. Virginia was unique amongst the southern states in that it assigned the provisioning of needy families almost solely to the locality.

## Scope and Content

The Henry County (Va.) Provisions for Families of Indigent Soldiers is primarily made up of reports of indigent soldiers' families. These reports include the names of soldiers and family members, the amount of money or supplies provided to each family, and the use for which the money was intended. Also included are lists of soldiers' families, receipts for provisions purchased and accounts of overseers demonstrating funds distributed in various county districts and details about the families living in those districts. Information included in the accounts include number and age of children, economic state and health of family (e.g. "she is poor, lives with her father" or "in good condition-dropped from list) and details about the soldiers. The reports and receipts record that funds were to be used for specific foods such as bacon, wheat, beef, flour and corn. Also included is one file of papers relating to court cases involving non-payment of funds for provisions for indigent soldiers' families.

## Index Terms

**Corporate Names:**

Henry County (Va.) Circuit Court

**Subjects:**

Families of military personnel--Virginia--Henry County

Poor--Virginia--Henry County

Public welfare -- Virginia -- Henry County

**Geographical Names:**

Henry County (Va.)--History--19th century

Henry County (Va.)--History--Civil War, 1861-1865

## Genre and Form Terms:

Accounts--Virginia--Henry County

Local government records--Virginia--Henry County

Reports--Virginia--Henry County

## Arrangement

Chronological

Library of Virginia