

A Guide to the Gloucester County (Va.) Township Records, 1871-1875

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A Collection in the Library of Virginia Barcode numbers 1096151-1096152/ Gloucester County (Va.) Reel 8

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History

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Title Statement

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Profile Description

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Descriptive Summary

Collection numbers

Barcode numbers 1096151-1096152/ Gloucester County (Va.) Reel 8

Language

English

Collector

Gloucester County (Va.) Circuit Court.

Physical Characteristics

2 v. and 1 reel

Location

Library of Virginia/ State Records Center - Archives Annex, Library of Virginia

Repository

The Library of Virginia

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

There are no restrictions.

Use Restrictions

Use microfilm, Gloucester County (Va.) Reel 8

Acquisition Information

These items came to the Library of Virginia in a transfer of court papers from Gloucester County.

Preferred Citation

Gloucester County (Va.) Township Records, 1871-1875. Local government records collection, Gloucester County Court Records. The Library of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia 23219.

Adjunct Descriptive Data

Related Material

See the [Lost Records Localities Digital Collection](#) available at Virginia Memory.

For more information and a listing of lost records localities see [Lost Records research note](#).

Historical Information

Gloucester County was probably named for the English county, although it may have been meant to honor Henry, duke of Gloucester, the third son of Charles I. It was formed from York County in 1651.

The 1870 Virginia Constitution required that each county in the state be divided into no less than three townships (see Article VII, section 2). Based on the New England administrative organization of a county, each township would elect the administration officials for the offices of supervisor, clerk, assessor, collector, commissioner of the roads, overseer of the poor, justice of the peace, and constable. The supervisors of each township would comprise the board of supervisors for the county, and would be responsible for auditing the county accounts, examining the assessors' books, regulating property valuation, and fixing the county levies. The Acts of Assembly provided that each township be divided into school and electoral districts (see Acts of Assembly 1869-1870, Chapter 39). A constitutional amendment in 1874 changed the townships into magisterial districts and each district elected one supervisor, three justices of the peace, one constable, and one overseer of the poor. The supervisors of the districts made up the county board of supervisors whose duties were identical as those set out in 1870. The published Acts of Assembly appended a list of township names by county following the acts for every year that townships existed in Virginia.

All records were destroyed by an 1820 fire, and most of the records created after 1820 were destroyed by fire in Richmond on 3 April 1865, where they had been moved for safekeeping during the Civil War.

Scope and Content

Gloucester County (Va.) Township Records, 1871-1875, are 2 volumes of minutes and accounts relating to the administrative functions of township boards of the county.

Abingdon Township Records, 1871-1874, consist of minutes. Information recorded includes the boundaries of the township, division of the township into road district, appointment of road overseers, establishment of rates allowed for road work, order for road signs to be made, appointment of election judges, reports and accounts allowed of road overseers, establishment of township levy and rates, and orders to collect delinquent taxes.

Petsworth Township Records, 1871-1875, consist of minutes and accounts. Information recorded includes the division of the township into road accounts, establishment of rates allowed for road work, appointment of road overseers, scheduling of elections, road overseer reports, payments allowed to township officials, township levy accounts, appointment of election judges, notes about bridge construction, and accounts allowed for claims against the township. Pages 45-47 contain the charter of the Gloucester Point Land Wharf Warehouse and Transportation Company from 1882.

Index Terms

index terms

Corporate Names:

Gloucester County (Va.). Circuit Court.

Subjects:

County government -- Records and correspondence -- Virginia -- Gloucester County.

Local finance -- Virginia -- Gloucester County.

Local government -- Virginia -- Gloucester County.

Public records -- Virginia -- Gloucester County.

Geographical Names:

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

Genre and Form Terms:

Accounts -- Virginia -- Gloucester County.

Local government records -- Virginia -- Gloucester County.

Minute books -- Virginia -- Gloucester County.

Township records -- Virginia -- Gloucester County.

Added Entry - Corporate Name:

Township of Abingdon (Gloucester, VA)

Township of Petsworth (Gloucester, VA)

Contents List

Barcode number 1096151: Abingdon Township Records, 1871-1874

Barcode number 1096152: Petsworth Township Records, 1871-1875