

A Guide to the Mathews County (Va.) Overseers of the Poor Records, 1863-1931

Mathews County (Va.) Overseers of the Poor Records, 1863-1931
1863-1931

A Collection in the Library of Virginia
Library of Virginia
2012

Author: Sam Walters

History

Processed by: Library of Virginia Staff

Title Statement

A Guide to the Mathews County (Va.) Overseers of the Poor Records, 1863-1931

Subtitle: Mathews County (Va.) Overseers of the Poor Records, 1863-1931

Author: Sam Walters

Publication Statement

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Profile Description

Creation: Machine-readable finding aid derived from MARC record, created by Sam Walters, 27 April 2012

Language Usage: Description is in English

Revision Description

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

Descriptive Summary

Language

English

Collector

Mathews County (Va.) Circuit Court

Physical Characteristics

1.3 cubic feet (2 boxes, 1 folder).

Location

Library of Virginia, State Records Center- Archives Annex

Repository

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 a shipment of court papers from Mathews County.

Processing Information

Mathews County (Va.) Overseers of the Poor records, 1863-1899, were flat-filed and described by S. Walters around 2012. The Superintendent of the Poor annual reports and vouchers have been identified but are unprocessed.

Encoded by S. Walters: April 2012; Updated by V. Brooks: August 2025

Preferred Citation

Mathews County (Va.) Overseers of the Poor Records, 1863-1931, Local government records collection, Mathews County Court Records. The Library of Virginia, Richmond, Va. 23219.

Adjunct Descriptive Data

Related Material

Additional Mathews County Records can be found on microfilm at the Library of Virginia. Consult ["A Guide to Virginia County and City Records on Microfilm."](#)

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

Historical Information

Context for Record Type:

Overseers of the Poor

In 1780 the Virginia General Assembly replaced the Anglican vestries and churchwardens of the colonial period with elected bodies called Overseers of the Poor. The Overseers provided food, clothing, shelter, and medical treatment for the persons who were too poor to support themselves or too ill to provide for their basic needs. The cities had Almshouses to board invalids and paupers living in their cities. They also obtained employment for those who were able to work.

Superintendent of the Poor

The Virginia Constitution of 1869 provided for the election of a superintendent of the poor in each county, who would be charged with operating the county poor house. Overseers of the poor in each district or township would send indigent citizens from their area to the superintendent for housing at the county poor house. The superintendent was required to report to the board of supervisors annually the number of paupers at the poor house, their race, their names, and length of stay, along with they year's revenue expenditures.

Locality History: Mathews County was named for Thomas Mathews, of Norfolk, the Speaker of the Virginia House of Delegates when it was formed from Gloucester County by a statute passed on 16 December 1790 to take effect on 1 May 1791.

Scope and Content

Mathews County (Va.) Overseers of the Poor Records, 1863-1931, consists of reports, notices, and vouchers for supplies provided to the poor house by the Overseer of the Poor. Also included are annual reports and vouchers from the Superintendent of the Poor.

Arrangement

This collection is arranged into

- Series I: Overseers of the Poor Records, 1863-1899
- Series II: Superintendent of the Poor Records, 1871-1931

Contents List

Series I: Overseers of the Poor Records, 1863-1899

Extent

1 folder

Physical Location Library of Virginia

Scope and Content

Consists of loose records

Barcode Number 1208352: Overseers of the Poor Records, 1863-1899

Series II: Superintendent of the Poor Records, 1871-1931

Extent

2 boxes

Physical Location State Records Center

Scope and Content

Consisting of loose records

Barcode Number 1006272: Overseers of the Poor Annual Reports, 1871-1889

Barcode Number 1006116: Overseers of the Poor Annual Reports and Vouchers, 1892-1931