

A Guide to the Rockbridge County (Va.) Superintendent of the Poor Ledger, 1875-1888

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Author: Louise Jones

History

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Title Statement

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Descriptive Summary

Collection numbers

Barcode number 1089690/Rockbridge County (Va.) Reel 200

Language

English

Collector

Rockbridge County (Va.) Circuit Court

Physical Characteristics

1 v. (185 p.) and 1 microfilm reel

Location

Library of Virginia

Repository

The Library of Virginia

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

There are no restrictions.

Use Restrictions

Use microfilm copy, Rockbridge County (Va.) Reel 200

Acquisition Information

This item came to the Library of Virginia in shipments of court papers from Rockbridge County.

The microfilm was generated by Backstage Library Works through the Library of Virginia's Circuit Court Records Preservation Program.

Preferred Citation

Rockbridge County (Va.) Superintendent of the Poor Ledger, 1875-1888. Local Government Records Collection, Rockbridge County Court Records. The Library of Virginia, Richmond, Va. 23219.

Adjunct Descriptive Data

Related Material

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

Historical Information

Rockbridge County was named for Natural Bridge, an exceptional rock formation located in the county. The county was formed from Augusta and Botetourt counties in 1778, and another part of Botetourt was added later.

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 Overseers took over the supervision of the poorhouses and workhouses built by the vestries and built new poorhouses and workhouses where they were needed.

In 1844, the General Assembly enacted laws to create poor farms overseen by boards of directors for the maintenance and education of the poor. The boards bought farms and built buildings, appointed a superintendant for each poor farm, and chose a physician to attend the sick and teachers to educate the children. The adults and older children were required to work if they were able.

Scope and Content

Rockbridge County (Va.) Superintendent of the Poor Ledger is one volume dated 1875-1888. It contains the records of money received and spent by Charles J. Brawley and James W. Alexander who served as Superintendents of the Poor during this period. These records dealt with the Poor House, the Poor Farm, as well as the Poor Levy. It includes the records of services provided by the Overseers of the Poor for the Natural Bridge, Buffalo, Kerr's Creek, West Creek, South River, Lexington, and Walker's Creek Overseers of the Poor Districts. It also includes the records of Dr. J. McD. Taylor, Physician of the Poor House.

Stuck in the book are numerous items. One is a bill, dated July 1, 1886, from Thomas S. White and Company, dealers in general merchandise for food items; and also for material and other items needed to make clothing. There is a bill dated April 22, 1881, from B. H. Gorrell for two prescriptions for Mrs. Henry. There are two papers with accounts on them. There is a bill to the Overseer of the Poor of South River District, dated September 22, 1885, for Dr. H. T. Barton's services for Miss Dempsy. There is a note dated June 21, 1878 of a loan to J. D. Morrison of seventy cents. A paper with Samuel Yount's Overseer of the Poor accounts for August 1881 is also stuck in the book.

Index Terms

Corporate Name:

Corporate names:

Rockbridge County (Va.) Board of Overseers of the Poor

Rockbridge County (Va.) Circuit Court

Subjects:

Almshouses -- Virginia -- Rockbridge County

Poor. -- Virginia -- Rockbridge County

Poor-- Virginia -- Rockbridge County

Public welfare -- Virginia -- Rockbridge County

Geographical Names:

Rockbridge County (Va.) -- History

Genre and Form Terms:

Ledgers (account books)--Virginia--Rockbridge County

Local government records -- Virginia -- Rockbridge County

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