

A Guide to the Botetourt County (Va.) Minute Book for Court Exemption from Military Draft, 1861-1865

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1861-1865

A Collection in the Library of Virginia Barcode number 1202872/ Botetourt County (Va.) Reel 198
Library of Virginia
2009

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History

Processed by: Sarah Nerney

Title Statement

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Subtitle: Botetourt County (Va.) Minute Book for Court Exemption from Military Draft, 1861-1865

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Publication Statement

Date: © 2009 By The Library of Virginia. All Rights Reserved.

Publisher: Library of Virginia

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Profile Description

Creation: Machine-readable finding aid derived from MARC record, created by Sarah Nerney, 20 November 2009

Language Usage: Description is in English

Revision Description

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

Descriptive Summary

Collection numbers

Barcode number 1202872/ Botetourt County (Va.) Reel 198

Language

English

Collector

Botetourt County (Va.) Circuit Court.

Physical Characteristics

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Location

Library of Virginia

Repository

The Library of Virginia

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

Access to original Botetourt County records is not granted without an appointment and without prior discussion with an archivist. Same day access to records is not possible. Advance notice of at least one week is required so that an archivist will have time to inspect the requested records. An archivist may determine that some materials cannot be served due to their physical state. The records were heavily water damaged and as a result are extremely fragile and can be severely moldy. Persons with mold or dust sensitivity may want to avoid research in these records. Patrons must consult with Archives Research Services prior to a visit to the Library of Virginia to view any original Botetourt County records.

Use Restrictions

Use microfilm copy, Botetourt County (Va.) Reel 198.

These materials can be extremely fragile and moldy due to extensive water damage. An archivist may determine that a record is too fragile or damaged to be served. Patrons must consult with Archives Research Services prior to a visit to the Library of Virginia to view any original Botetourt County records.

Acquisition Information

This item came to the Library of Virginia in a transfer of court papers from Botetourt County. The microfilm was generated by OCLC through the Library of Virginia's Circuit Court Records Preservation Program.

Preferred Citation

Botetourt County (Va.) Minute Book for Court Exemption from Military Draft, 1861-1865. Local government records collection, Botetourt County Court Records. The Library of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia 23219.

Historical Information

Botetourt County was named for Norborne Berkeley, baron de Botetourt, the royal governor of Virginia from 1768 to 1770. It was formed from Augusta County in 1769, and part of Rockbridge County was added in 1785.

On 1970 December 15, a fire gutted the Botetourt County courthouse in Fincastle, Virginia. The court records were not burned but were heavily water damaged. Many of the court papers are extremely fragile today as a result of this water damage and some are not useable. Because of the near-loss of the Botetourt County records, the Virginia General Assembly passed the Virginia Public Records Act in 1975. The act mandated that deeds, wills, and other vital records be inventoried and microfilmed and copies of the film stored permanently in the Library of Virginia in Richmond for safekeeping. Counties could also choose to send court records to the Library of Virginia for storage and safekeeping as needed.

In accordance with an act passed by the General Assembly 1862 Feb. 18 and amended 1862 Oct. 1 providing a mode of exemption from military service, the county and corporation courts were directed to appoint a Board of Exemption. The board was charged with deciding all claims for military exemptions brought before it, "carefully and rigidly conforming to all the provisions of the Act of Assembly." On 1863 Feb. 13, the Governor issued an order directing that where no board had been appointed, the presiding justice of each county and corporation court, together with the two senior justices, constitute the board.

Scope and Content

Botetourt County (Va.) Minute Book for Court Exemption from Military Draft, 1861-1865, document the board's ruling on petitions for exemption from military service in the Confederate army. Most petitions were made on the grounds of permanent bodily infirmity or having furnished a substitute. Most all statements about applications for exemption state the regiment to which the requestor was drafted to serve. Two of the 1862 meetings give names of free male negroes who were drafted into the Confederate States Quartermaster department to work on defenses in the New River District or with the Army of South Westerly Virginia.

The final pages of the volume contain information more likely to be found in a court minute or order book and dates from 1865 and 1867. Information of note recorded includes the removal of the court papers by the clerk due to occupation of the territory by the enemy; information about supplies impressed for soldiers'

families; appointment of William McCreecy to inventory and if necessary distribute supplies and stores abandoned by the Confederate Quartermaster and Company Stores attached to the Nitre and Mining Bureau, including wagons, horses, mules, iron, kettles, flour, bacon, grain, cotton cloth, clothing, and leather; and a decree for a commissioner in the chancery cause of George W. Barger vs. Polly Barger etc. Other information includes will provings, road surveyor appointments, trustee appointments, summons for justices to establish the levy, administrator's bonds, and etc.

Index Terms

Corporate Names:

Botetourt County (Va.) Board of Exemption.

Botetourt County (Va.) Circuit Court.

Subjects:

African Americans -- Employment -- Virginia -- Botetourt County.

Confederate States of America -- Army -- Recruitment, Enlistment, etc.

Free African Americans -- Virginia -- Botetourt County.

Geographical Names:

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

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

Genre and Form Terms:

Civil court records -- Virginia -- Botetourt County.

Local government records -- Virginia -- Botetourt County.

Military records -- Virginia -- Botetourt County.

Minute books -- Virginia -- Botetourt County.

Order books -- Virginia -- Botetourt County.

Petitions -- Virginia -- Botetourt County.

Arrangement

Arranged chronologically by court date. There is an incomplete index at the front of the volume.