

A Guide to the Orange County (Va.) Health and Medical Records, 1800-1901

Orange County (Va.) Health and Medical Records, 1800-1901
1800-1901

A Collection in the Library of Virginia 0007823254
Library of Virginia
2022

History

Processed by: T. Harter

Title Statement

A Guide to the Orange County (Va.) Health and Medical Records, 1800-1901

Subtitle: Orange County (Va.) Health and Medical Records, 1800-1901

Collection: 0007823254

Author: Tracy S. Harter

Publication Statement

Date: © 2022 By The Library of Virginia. All Rights Reserved.

Publisher: Library of Virginia

Profile Description

Creation: Machine-readable finding aid created in EAD by Tracy S. Harter, 6 May 2022

Language Usage: Description is in English

Descriptive Summary

Barcode Number

0007823254

Language

English

Creator

Orange County (Va.) Circuit Court

Extent

1 folder

Repository

The Library of Virginia

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

There are no restrictions.

Use Restrictions

There are no restrictions.

Acquisition Information

This collection came to the Library of Virginia in a transfer of court papers from Orange County.

Preferred Citation

Orange County (Va.) Health and Medical Records, 1800-1901. Local government records collection, Orange County Court Records, The Library of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia.

Adjunct Descriptive Data

Related Material

Additional Orange County court records can be found on microfilm and in the Chancery Records Index at the Library of Virginia. Consult ["A Guide to Virginia County and City Records on Microfilm"](#) and [The Chancery Records Index](#).

Historical Information

Mental Health Records may consist of a variety of documents that historically were referred to as lunacy papers in the courthouses of Virginia localities and municipalities.

See also: Fiduciary Records. A fiduciary is an individual who enters into a confidential and legal relationship which binds them to act on behalf of another. Guardians are legally invested to take care of another person, and of the property and rights of that person. Thus, some records referred to as insanity papers are housed with fiduciary records and not with mental health records.

First known as commissions, the Justice of the Peace office originated with the county quarterly court in 1623. Commanders of Plantations (1607-1629) were predecessors of the commissioners, who since 1662 have been called justices of the peace. They have traditionally had both civil and criminal jurisdiction, and have served other functions, including performing coroners' and lunacy inquisitions. Until 1869 justices served both as judges of the county court and as individual justices; since then they have had only the latter function.

During its session begun in November 1769, the House of Burgesses passed an act establishing a hospital in Williamsburg for the mentally ill. The Eastern Lunatic Asylum (now Eastern State Hospital) was the first institution in America constructed as a mental hospital. The first patients were admitted in October 1773.

Orange County, according to most accounts, was named for William of Orange, the Dutch prince who became William III of England in 1688. It is more probable, however, that the name honored William IV, prince of Orange-Nassau, who married Anne, eldest daughter of George II, in 1734--the year Orange County was formed from Spotsylvania County.

Scope and Content

Orange County (Va.) Health and Medical Records 1800-1901, consist of one folder of Mental Health Records. These records may include warrants, orders, petitions, depositions, reports, etc. for or by justices of the peace and others regarding the mental condition of individuals who were examined and released to the recognizance of a family member or who were recommended to be committed to the mental hospital in Williamsburg. Fiduciary records such as estate inventories of a person judged insane may also be present.

Arrangement

Chronological.

Contents:

Peter Stevenson, 1800.

Thomas Finnill, Jan 1817.

Reubin Boston, Mar 1817. Estate inventory includes references to ten unnamed enslaved people.

Oliver Terrill, 1819. Estate inventory includes references to 24 unnamed enslaved people.

Archibald Petty, Jan 1826. Estate inventory includes reference to enslaved man Ben, age 42.

Nancy Boston, Feb 1826. Estate inventory includes reference to enslaved woman Mariah and enslaved man Albert Jackson. File also includes affidavits and depositions of ten individuals.

James Ernest Armstrong, 1901.