

A Guide to the Danville (Va.) City Administrative Records, 1833-1978

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A Collection in the Library of Virginia
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History

Processed by: Vincent T. Brooks

Title Statement

A Guide to the Danville (Va.) City Administrative Records, 1833-1978

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Profile Description

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Descriptive Summary

Collection Number

Barcode number

Language

English

Creator

Danville (Va.) City Council; Danville (Va.) School Board

Extent

140 v.; 50 microfilm reels

Location

Library of Virginia

Repository

The Library of Virginia

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

City Administrative Records, City Council, 1833-1978, use microfilm copies, Danville (Va.) Reels 032-080. See ["Danville \(Va.\) City Administrative Records"](#)

Use Restrictions

There are no restrictions.

Acquisition Information

Danville City Common Council, Alderman, and Ordinance volumes came to the Library of Virginia in an undated transfer of records from the city of Danville.

School Board records came to Library of Virginia in a transfer from the city of Danville School Board in April 2026 under accession 54784.

Processing Information

The City Council volumes have not been rehousing and are maintained in their original format and arrangement.

The School Board minute book volumes were housed in archival boxes due to their size. The volumes were not disbound before rehousing.

Encoded by V. Brooks: 2026.

Preferred Citation

Danville (Va.) City Administrative Records, 1833-1978, [cite volume and year]. Local government records collection, Danville (Va.) Records. The Library of Virginia, Richmond, Va. 23219.

Alternative Form Available

City Council, 1833-1978, available on microfilm Danville (Va.) Reels 032-080.

Adjunct Descriptive Data

Related Material

See also: [Danville \(Va.\) Civil Rights Case Files, 1963-1973](#)

Historical Information

Context for Record Type:

Danville City Council

The General Assembly passed legislation incorporating Danville as a town in February 1830. The act of assembly prescribed the election of twelve men to serve as aldermen, common council members, recorder, and mayor. The town's charter was updated in March 1854 to establish the Council of the Town of Danville composed of twelve members known as councilmen. The mayor and five aldermen were also to be elected, along with a town sergeant, commissioner of the revenue, and treasurer. This charter update also established a hustings court for the town of Danville. As a result, the town's voters would also be required to elect a clerk of the hustings court and an attorney for the commonwealth. The town charter was again updated in December 1865. The update reestablished a hustings court for Danville presided over by the elected mayor and aldermen. A circuit court for the town of Danville was instituted, and the town was no longer under the jurisdiction of the circuit court of Pittsylvania County. The town council was to be made up of eight elected council members. Other elected positions noted in the updated charter included a mayor, nine aldermen, a sergeant, treasurer, commissioner of the revenue, clerk of the hustings court, clerk of the circuit court, and an attorney for the commonwealth.

In February 1890, Danville was incorporated as a city by act of assembly. As before, the aldermen and council members were elected by ward, while the mayor and other officers, such as the commonwealth's attorney, city sergeant, and clerk were elected at large. The city designation also prompted the establishment of a corporation court and a circuit court for the City of Danville. A charter update in April 1952 changed the city's government to the Council-Manager model. In this scheme nine council members would be elected at large and serve 4-year terms. The Council would then appoint a City Manager to serve as the chief executive officer of the city. The City Manager's appointment was indefinite.

Danville School Board

The public schools in Danville were administered by the school board of Pittsylvania County through the 1870s. In August 1879, Reverend George Washington Dame was appointed as the first superintendent of Danville's public schools. A board of school trustees was established as a committee of the Town Council, and later, after independent city status in 1890, as a committee of the City Council.

Locality History:

Danville, in Pittsylvania County, was named for the Dan River on which the city is located. Danville was established in 1793, was incorporated as a town in 1830, and became a city in 1890. The town of North Danville, incorporated in 1877 and renamed Neopolis in 1894, was added in 1896.

Scope and Content

Danville (Va.) City Administration Records, 1833-1978, consists of records including minutes, journals, ordinances, records books, accounts, etc. created by various administrative offices and officials for the city of Danville. These include:

Danville City Council Records, 1833-1978, which consist of records of the historic Common Hall comprised of the Common Council and Board of Alderman and modern City Council; records solely created by the Board of Alderman, and records solely created by the Common Council.

City Council Records, 1833-1978, consists of records created by the bicameral Danville Common Hall which included the Board of Alderman and Common Council as well as other administrative officers, as well as records created by the modern system of the eight-person city council. The majority of these records consist of ordinances enacted by the city council, but also includes some general records, accounts, budgets, committee records, and miscellaneous records. Also included are council minute books for Neopolis, also known as North Danville, a formerly distinct town across the Dan River from Danville. The town was annexed by Danville in 1896. The Neopolis records include meeting minutes and financial transactions of the town council of Neopolis, adoption of ordinances and resolutions, petitions to town council, and funds collected and disbursed. The records also include a copy of charter creating North Danville; reports related to name change from North Danville to Neopolis; change of street names; work done on bridges; census taken of town's white and African-American population; and reports and charter related to annexation to Danville.

Board of Alderman Records, 1904-1919, consists of various volumes of the Board of Alderman journals.

Common Council Records, 1904-1920, includes various volumes of the Common Council journals.

Council Financial Records, 1883-1957, consists of specifically identified cash books and journals, general ledgers, and statements of accounts. Additional financial records may also be found in the City Council, Board of Aldermen, and Common Council volumes.

School Board Records, 1900-1975, consist of minutes of school board meetings beginning in June 1900 and ending in December 1975. A handwritten note on the inside of the first volume of minutes indicates that earlier minute books were destroyed in a fire. The surviving minutes include actions taken by the board and its various committees such as the hiring or removal of staff, purchase of property, school building construction, contractual agreements, and revenue expenditures.

Arrangement

This collection is arranged into the following series:

- **Series I: City Council Records, 1833-1978,**
- Subseries A: Board of Alderman Records, 1904-1919
- Subseries B: Common Council Records, 1904-1920
- Subseries C: Council Financial Records, 1883-1957
- **Series II: School Board Records, 1900-1975.**

Contents List

Series I: City Council Records 1833-1978

Extent

135 volumes

Physical Location Original volumes are housed at the State Records Center.

Scope and Content

This series is predominately minutes and ordinances created by the Danville Town, and later City, Councils. City Council records are indicated as records that were not explicitly created by one of the houses of council, either the Board of Aldermen or the Common Council. See Series I: Subseries A or B for records known to have been created specifically by the Board of Alderman or the Common Council.

Arrangement

Alphabetically by title and chronologically thereunder.

Barcode number 1101942: Charter Minutes 1833-1844

Barcode number 1101937: Charter Minutes 1845-1847

Barcode number 1101930: City Council Minutes (photostat) 1833 Feb 14 - 1847 Dec 28

Barcode number 1101931: City Council Minutes (photostat) 1854 May 1 - 1868 May 5

Barcode number 1101898: City Council Record Book 1920 Sept -1923 May

Barcode number 1101905: City Council Record Book 1923 June -1925 Aug 10

Barcode number 1101904: City Council Record Book 1925 Aug 25 -1927 Oct 15

Barcode number 1101903: City Council Record Book 1927 Nov 10 -1929 Dec 10

Barcode number 1101899: City Council Record Book 1929 Dec 23 -1931 Sept 11

Barcode number 1101901: City Council Record Book 1931 Oct 12 -1933 Sept 11

Barcode number 1101912: City Council Record Book 1933 Oct 10 -1934

Barcode number 1101911: City Council Record Book 1935-1936

Barcode number 1101913: City Council Record Book 1937-1939 Apr 10

Barcode number 1101914: City Council Record Book 1939 Apr 9 -1941 Nov 3

Barcode number 1101923: City Council Record Book 1941 Nov 10 -1944

Barcode number 1101915: City Council Record Book 1945-1947

Barcode number 1101922: City Council Record Book 1948-1950 Aug

Barcode number 1101924: City Council Record Book 1950 Sept -1953 Jan 1

Barcode number 1101921: City Council Record Book 1953 Jan 12 -1955 June 10

Barcode number 1101920: City Council Record Book 1955 July 11 -1957

Barcode number 1101919: City Council Record Book 1958-1959

Barcode number 1101918: City Council Record Book 1960-1961

Barcode number 1101917: City Council Record Book 1962-1963

Barcode number 1101916: City Council Record Book 1964-1965

Barcode number 1101935: City Council Record Book 1966-1967

Barcode number 1101932: City Council Record Book 1968-1969 Aug 22

Barcode number 1101941: Committee of Fire Records 1902 Oct 13 -1908 Jan 24

Barcode number 1101945: Council Committee Minutes 1955 June 14 -1958 Aug 29

Barcode number 1101944: Council Committee Minutes 1958 Sept 9 -1962 Dec 27

Barcode number 1101940: Council Minutes and Ordinances Passed 1873 July 23 -1877 Aug 7

Barcode number 1101876: Council Record Book 1897 Oct 12-1899 Apr 11

Barcode number 1101885: Council Record Book 1899 Apr 14 -1900 June 12

Barcode number 1101883: Council Record Book 1900 June 13 -1901 Oct 8

Barcode number 1101881: Council Record Book 1901 Aug 14 -1903 Mar 10

Barcode number 1101882: Council Record Book 1903 Mar 21 -1904 Aug 29

Barcode number 1101946: Finance Committee Minutes 1921-1946

Barcode number 1101953: Minutes of Committees of the City of Danville 1963 Jan 28 -1965 Dec 10

Barcode number 1101952: Minutes of Committees of the City of Danville 1966-1969

Barcode number 1101951: Minutes of Committees of the City of Danville 1970-1971

Barcode number 1101954: Minutes of Committees of the City of Danville 1972-1975

Barcode number 1101939: Minutes of the Committees of Public Works and Public Welfare 1947-1955 June

Barcode number 1101934: Neapolis (North Danville) Council Record Book 1883 June 12 -1890 July 1

Barcode number 1101936: Neapolis [North Danville) Council Minute Book 1894 June 1 -1896 June 30

Barcode number 1101938: Neapolis [North Danville] Council Minutes and Appropriation Records 1896 Jan. 14 -1898 Oct 11

Barcode number 1101965: North Danville Cash Book and Journal 1890-1896

Barcode number 1101962: North Danville Council Minutes 1890-1893

Barcode number 1101933: North Danville Council Proceedings 1877 Mar 30 -1883 May 4

Barcode number 1043144: Old Ordinances for C and P Franchise 1913-1921

Barcode number 1101959: Ordinances 1904-1911

Barcode number 1043145: Ordinances 1922-1927

Barcode number 1101948: Ordinances and Accounts Approved by Common Council 1909-1916

Barcode number 1101960: Ordinances and Resolutions 1923-1930

Barcode number 1043146: Ordinances and Resolutions 1927-1930

Barcode number 1043150: Ordinances and Resolutions 1940-1959

Barcode number 1043151: Ordinances and Resolutions 1940-1959

Barcode number 1043154: Ordinances and Resolutions 1960-1969

Barcode number 1043155: Ordinances and Resolutions 1960-1969

Barcode number 1043158: Ordinances and Resolutions 1970-1976

Barcode number 1043159: Ordinances and Resolutions 1970-1976

Barcode number 1101961: Ordinances Approved by Common Council 1885 Jan 23 -1902 Apr 22

Barcode number 1101910: Record of Council Proceedings 1868 May 15 - 1873 May 8

Barcode number 1101900: Record of Council Proceedings 1873 June 5 - 1876 Dec 4

Barcode number 1101909: Record of Council Proceedings 1876 Dec 5 - 1879 May 15

Barcode number 1101908: Record of Council Proceedings 1879 July 10 - 1880 Oct 5

Barcode number 1101907: Record of Council Proceedings 1880 Oct 6 -1881 July 8

Barcode number 1101906: Record of Council Proceedings 1881 Aug 2 - 1883 Feb 28

Barcode number 1101902: Record of Council Proceedings 1883 Mar 8 - 1884 Apr 1

Barcode number 1101888: Record of Council Proceedings 1884 Apr 3 - 1885 Mar 10

Barcode number 1101896: Record of Council Proceedings 1885 Mar 11 - 1886 Mar 10

Barcode number 1101894: Record of Council Proceedings 1886 Mar 10 - 1887 Apr 8

Barcode number 1101893: Record of Council Proceedings 1887 Apr 12 - 1888 Mar 14

Barcode number 1101889: Record of Council Proceedings 1888 Mar 14 - 1889 Feb 13

Barcode number 1101890: Record of Council Proceedings 1889 Feb 25 - 1890 Feb 11

Barcode number 1101891: Record of Council Proceedings 1890 Feb 11 - 1891 Apr 7

Barcode number 1101892: Record of Council Proceedings 1891 Apr 1 - 1892 May 1

Barcode number 1101895: Record of Council Proceedings 1892 May 10 - 1893 July 31

Barcode number 1101887: Record of Council Proceedings 1893 Aug 8 - 1894 Dec 19

Barcode number 1101886: Record of Council Proceedings 1894 Dec 26 - 1896 May 6

Barcode number 1101897: Record of Council Proceedings 1896 May 12 - 1897 Sept 28

Series I: Subseries A: Board of Aldermen Records, 1904-1919

Extent

6 volumes

Physical Location Original volumes are housed at the State Records Center.

Barcode number 1101925: Board of Aldermen Records 1904 Sept 1 -1907 June 6

Barcode number 1101926: Board of Aldermen Records 1907 June 11 -1910 Aug 31

Barcode number 1101927: Board of Aldermen Records 1910 Sept 1 -1913 Oct 30

Barcode number 1101928: Board of Aldermen Records 1913 Nov 14 -1916 Sept 12

Barcode number 1101929: Board of Aldermen Records 1916 Oct 13 -1919 Dec 12

Barcode number 1101947: Joint Meetings of Board of Aldermen and Common Council 1904 Oct 25 -1920 Oct 11

Series I: Subseries B: Common Council Records, 1904-1920

Extent

6 volumes

Physical Location Original volumes are housed at the State Records Center.

Barcode number 1101880: Common Council Minutes 1904 Sept 1 -1906 Dec 11

Barcode number 1101879: Common Council Minutes 1907 Jan 8 -1910 Jan 21

Barcode number 1101878: Common Council Minutes 1910 Feb 8 -1913 Feb 25

Barcode number 1101877: Common Council Minutes 1913 Mar 11-1915 June 18

Barcode number 1101875: Common Council Minutes 1915 July 13-1918 Jan 23

Barcode number 1101884: Common Council Minutes 1918 Jan. 28 -1920 Aug 27

Series I: Subseries C: Council Financial Records, 1883-1957

Extent

44 volumes

Physical Location Original volumes are housed at the State Records Center.

Barcode number 1101971: Cash Accounts Journal 1918-1922

Barcode number 1101982: Cash Accounts Journal 1922-1924

Barcode number 1101981: Cash Accounts Journal 1924-1927

Barcode number 1101980: Cash Accounts Journal 1927-1930

Barcode number 1101972: Cash Accounts Journal 1930-1935

Barcode number 1101985: Cash Accounts Journal 1935-1938

Barcode number 1101995: Cash Accounts Journal 1938-1941

Barcode number 1101986: Cash Accounts Journal 1942-1946

Barcode number 1101983: Cash Accounts Journal 1947-1951

Barcode number 1101978: Cash Accounts Journal 1952-1954

Barcode number 1101976: Cash Accounts Ledger 1940

Barcode number 1101950: Cash Book and Journal 1883 May -1887 May

Barcode number 1101958: Cash Book and Journal 1883-1891

Barcode number 1101963: Cash Book and Journal 1885-1887

Barcode number 1101957: Cash Book and Journal 1886-1891

Barcode number 1101955: Cash Book and Journal 1887-1890

Barcode number 1101949: Cash Book and Journal 1887-1891

Barcode number 1101956: Cash Book and Journal 1887-1891

Barcode number 1101968: Cash Book and Journal 1887-1896

Barcode number 1101964: Cash Book and Journal 1888-1890

Barcode number 1101966: Cash Book and Journal 1890-1895

Barcode number 1101967: Cash Book and Journal 1890-1896

Barcode number 1101977: Cash Book and Journal 1891-1893

Barcode number 1101969: Cash Book and Journal 1891-1895

Barcode number 1101979: Cash Book and Journal 1891-1898

Barcode number 1101970: Cash Book and Journal 1899-1907

Barcode number 1101973: Cash Book and Journal 1904-1909

Barcode number 1101974: Cash Book and Journal 1909-1916

Barcode number 1101975: Cash Book and Journal 1914-1918

Barcode number 1101998: General Ledger 1953

Barcode number 1101999: General Ledger 1954

Barcode number 1102000: General Ledger 1955

Barcode number 1101996: General Ledger 1956

Barcode number 1101997: General Ledger 1957

Barcode number 1101987: Ledger 1921

Barcode number 1101984: Ledger 1918-1921

Barcode number 1101988: Ledger 1924-1927

Barcode number 1101989: Ledger 1928-1932

Barcode number 1101990: Ledger 1933-1936

Barcode number 1101991: Ledger 1937-1940

Barcode number 1101992: Ledger 1941-1944

Barcode number 1101993: Ledger 1945-1948

Barcode number 1101994: Ledger 1949-1952

Barcode number 1102001: Statements of Accounts Approved by Council 1900-1904

Series II: School Board Records 1900-1975

Extent

5 volumes

Physical Location Original volumes are housed at the Library of Virginia.

Scope and Content

This series consists of minutes of school board meetings.

Arrangement

Chronological.

Barcode number 7932337: School Board Minutes 1900-1931

Barcode number 7932338: School Board Minutes 1931-1951

Barcode number 7932339: School Board Minutes 1951-1959

Barcode number 7932340: School Board Minutes 1962-1972

Barcode number 7932341: School Board Minutes 1972-1975

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