

A Guide to the Augusta County (Va.) Organization Records, 1823-1883

Augusta County (Va.) Organization Records, 1823-1883
1823-1883

A Collection in the Library of Virginia
Library of Virginia
2025

History

Processed by: Bari Helms

Title Statement

A Guide to the Augusta County (Va.) Organization Records, 1823-1883

Subtitle: Augusta County (Va.) Organization Records, 1823-1883

Author: Jennifer Taylor

Publication Statement

Date: © 2025 By The Library of Virginia. All Rights Reserved.

Publisher: Library of Virginia

Profile Description

Creation: Machine-readable finding aid derived from MS Word by Jennifer Taylor, 12 June 2025

Language Usage: Description is in English

Descriptive Summary

Language

English

Collector

Augusta County (Va.) Circuit Court

Extent

2 volumes

Location

State Records Center

Repository

The Library of Virginia

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

There are no restrictions.

Use Restrictions

There are no restrictions.

Acquisition Information

These records came to the Library of Virginia in a transfer of court papers from Bedford County in 2008 under accession number 43836.

Processing Information

Prior to 2025, the various organization records in this collection were originally described as individual records, but they have been consolidated into one large organization record for the locality. Since 2025, these records additionally include identified but not processed records.

These records were processed by Bari Helms in 2008.

Encoded by J. Taylor: June 2025.

Preferred Citation

Augusta County (Va.) Organization Records, 1823-1883, [series or volume title]. Local government records collection, Augusta County Court Records. The Library of Virginia, Richmond, Va. 23219.

Adjunct Descriptive Data

Related Material

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

Historical Information

Context for Record Type: Organization Records, both volumes and loose records, are in some cases transferred to the Library of Virginia as components of court record transfers. These organization records in some cases were simply stored in the local court building for safe keeping by business owners. In other cases, organization records (particularly ledgers, account books, etc.) may have been filed in a court case as an exhibit. These organization record exhibits appeared both in chancery causes and in judgments, these records serving as exhibits for business dissolution cases, debt suits, and contract disputes.

Locality History: Augusta County was named for Augusta of Saxe-Gotha, who married Frederick Louis, Prince of Wales, and was the mother of King George III. It was formed from Orange County by a statute of 1738 that stipulated that when the population was large enough the new county government would begin to function. The county court first met on 9 December 1745.

Scope and Content

Augusta County (Va.) Organization Records, 1823-1883 is comprised of various records created by groups in Augusta County. Represented records consist of a ledger and a library record.

Arrangement

This collection is arranged into two series:

- Series I: Augusta Lending Library Records, 1823-1829
- Series II: Augusta Law Library Association Records, 1853-1883

Contents List

Series I: Augusta Lending Library Records, 1823-1829

Extent

1 volume

Physical Location State Records Center

Scope and Content

Historical Information: This lending library was an organization which operated in Augusta County, Virginia, during the mid-nineteenth century. Using the list of borrowers as evidence, it is probable that the library was some type of subscription library. All listed users of the library were men, and many were considered prominent, influential citizens of Augusta County -- James Crawford, William Donaghe, William

T. Eskridge, Nicholas C. Kinney, Archibald Stuart, and Hugh Sheffey.

Scope and Content: The organization records of the Augusta County (Va.) Lending Library consist of a ledger. The volume functioned as a circulation register. Transactions are listed chronologically under individual accounts with separate entries for loans and returns. For each account, the left page was used to record loans while the right page documented book returns. Each entry includes the date and the name of the book along with the volume number. Books offered by the library included Smith's Essays, Dwight's Travels, Sir Walter Scott's *Tales of my Landlord*, Gillie's Greece, the works of Shakespeare, Plutarch's Lives, Rob Roy, Silliman's Travels, *Don Quixote*, *History of England*, and *Ivanhoe*.

Barcode Number 1178315: Augusta Lending Library Ledger, 1823-1829

Series II: Augusta Law Library Association Records, 1853-1883

Extent

1 volume

Physical Location State Records Center

Scope and Content

Historical Information: The Augusta County Law Library Association was formed after an act of the General Assembly, passed 29 March 1853, authorized the establishment of law libraries. The act stated that members of the bar practicing in a given locality should procure by voluntary contribution a law library of the value of at least one hundred dollars for the use of the courts held in the particular locality. The Augusta County Law Library Association first met on 7 June 1853 under the supervision of Judge Lucas P. Thompson to establish the rules for the formation and management of the law library. Any member of the bar would be eligible for membership after paying the required admission fees and dues. Books were either donated or purchased with library funds. Users of the library were limited to judges of federal and state courts, lawyers, and law students. The clerk of court would serve as librarian, and a three-member library committee was formed to biannually report the condition of the library and to make any suggestions for the enlargement and management of the library. John B. Baldwin, Alexander H. H. Stuart, and John N. Hendren served on the first library committee. The Augusta County Law Library Association started with twenty members and a fund of approximately two hundred dollars. During its first year of existence, the library association purchased upwards of a hundred volumes, and when combined with donations the library contained nearly five hundred volumes. Throughout the thirty years documented by the Library Record, the library continued to grow although membership remained steady, with approximately twenty members reported at each term.

Scope and Content: The organization records of the Augusta County Law Library Association consist of a record book. The volume documented the meetings of the library association. Early meetings record the formation of the association and the establishment of rules to govern the management of the library. The remainder of the meetings documented include the presentations of the library committee reporting on the condition of the library and its membership. These presentations discuss book purchases and book donations. Each report is followed by a statement from the librarian about the condition of the library and its volumes. The committee also included the receipts for any books purchased and a detailed list of books donated that include notations concerning the condition of the donated volumes. Membership lists are also provided that include the name of the member and the amount of dues or fees paid throughout the term.

Barcode Number 1187939: Augusta Law Library Association Record Book, 1853-1883