

A Guide to the Records of the Virginia Commissary of Stores, 1775-1785.

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1775-1785.

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31 volumes and .45 cubic feet.

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The Library of Virginia

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

Use microfilm when available.

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Arrangement

Arranged alphabetically.

Historical Information

The office of the state agent and commissary of stores was created by an ordinance passed by the third revolutionary convention on August 21, 1775. In 1777 the office was divided, and different persons were appointed state agent and commissary of stores. Initially the Public Stores were directed by the Commissary of Stores whose duties were closely related to those of the State Agent. Working under the authorizations from the Board of War and later the Commissioner of the War Office, the Commissary distributed all stores under his charge. The office also received supplies imported from abroad or purchased by the State Agent. William Aylett held the double position of State Agent and Commissary of Stores between 1775 and 1777. Upon his resignation, two offices were created, with William Armistead being appointed to the latter in 1777. He served as Commissary of Stores until the office was abolished in February 1782, and was responsible for the storage and distribution of supplies acquired by the state agent's office for the troops in the Illinois country, Pennsylvania, and in Virginia. After February 1782, the commissary's functions were assumed first by the Commercial Agent, being served at the time by David Ross, and taken over by William Hay in May 1782. The Public Stores were placed under the State Quartermaster General, Henry Young, in Oct 1782, when the office of the Commercial Agent was discontinued.

Scope and Content

Virginia Commissary of Stores records include account books, daybooks, journals, ledgers, and receipt books for Public Stores at Fredericksburg, Illinois / Kaskaskie, Pennsylvania / Philadelphia, Petersburg, Richmond and Williamsburg.

For additional records see the Governor's Executive Papers for this time period.

Other Descriptive Data

These records are part of the Revolutionary War / Government record group (R.G. 2)

Contents List

Public Store - Fredericksburg Station, 1775-1783.

Extent

Extent: 1 v. (163 p.) and .45 cubic feet.

Scope and Content

Provisions and Stores Issued, 1780, contains entries of supplies issued to Virginia regiments (1st, 2nd and 3rd), Col. Armand's independent legion, laborers then on furlough and discharged to Maryland divisions, Militia marching to the Southard, Major Mitchell, General Muhlenburg, the staff department, the Continental Hospital, Light Dragoons, and British prisoners, among others. Species and Quantities of Provision Received at Fredericksburg Station in the Southern Department and Provisions Received by Edward Herndon.

Columns include date issued, number of orders, by whom ordered, number of rations, and quantity of beef, meal, mutton, rum, whiskey, salt, soap, molassas, tallow, flour, bacon, beer, rice, fish and vinegar. (Accession 54314)

Also available on Miscellaneous Reel 635.

Negative photostat also available.

Papers, 1775-1783 include accounts, certificates, correspondence, invoices, lists, memoranda, receipts, returns, and warrants. Orders and receipts, 1775-1783, includes accounts, correspondence, orders and receipts for furnishing goods from the Public Store. Goods include food items (bacon, coffee, molasses, pork, sugar, tea); clothing and personal items (belts, blankets, breeches, buckles, buttons, canvas, cloth,

combs, hose, flannel, linen, needles, shirts, shoes, stockings, thread), office supplies (account books, ink, quills, wafers, writing paper); spirits (rum, whiskey, wine); and tools and building materials (augers, axes, chisels, glue, grindstone, locks, nails, rope, saws). Goods were supplied to the Board of War, Clerks of Assembly, Clothier General, and Council, as well as to apothecaries, barracks, garrisons, hospitals, lead mines, officers, regiments, ships, surgeons).

Orders are generally from the Board of War and include the name of the intended recipient, affiliation, and items to be furnished or delivered, and often include and payment information on the reverse.

Some other specific items include the Accounts of William Aylett, 1775; Memorandum of tools for the artificer at Portsmouth, 1779 July; Receipt of Col. Fontaine for the Regiment of Guards at Charlottesville, 1779 Aug; General Necessary Roll for the Detachment of the State Artillery at Portsmouth, 1779 Aug 6; Return of Clothing for the Volunteer Detachment in the Southwest, 1780 Feb; List of debts against the Commanders and Staff Officers of the Virginia Lines taken 1782 Dec; List of Aylett's expenses on his journey to Philadelphia, undated. There are also specific orders and receipts related to receiving and furnishing provision to the army at Hobb's Hole, as well as correspondence related to the appointment of a person to carry out these duties.

These papers also include orders and receipts that document the use of enslaved labor: Order to Capt. Maxwell for a negro employed in the Chickahominy Shipyard, 1779 Aug 5; Order to furnish Mr. Cole for his two negroes Jack and Ned waistcoats, breeches, shirts, shoes and stockings, 1779 Sep 14; Order for clothing to be supplied to 25 negroes employed in the garrison, 1779 Sep 24; Order regarding George Eubank's negro Davey, 1779 Oct 11; Order regarding the use of a negro hired of William Steptoe employed on the Mayflower, 1779 Oct 20; and an Order related to shoes and stockings for negro fellows, 1780 Feb.

Provisions and Stores Issued, 1780 Feb-June.

Papers: Orders and receipts, 1776.

Box 1

Folder 1

Papers: Orders and receipts, 1777.

Box 1

Folder 2

Papers: Orders and receipts, 1778.

Box 1

Folder 3

Papers: Orders and receipts, 1779 July.

Box 1

Folder 4

Papers: Orders and receipts, 1779 Aug 3-10.

Box 1

Folder 5

Papers: Orders and receipts, 1779 Aug 11-30.

Box 1

Folder 6

Papers: Orders and receipts, 1779 Sep.

Box 1

Folder 7

Papers: Orders and receipts, 1779 Oct.

Box 1

Folder 8

Papers: Orders and receipts, 1779 Nov.

Box 1

Folder 9

Papers: Orders and receipts, 1779 Dec.

Box 1

Folder 10

Papers: Orders and receipts, 1780 Jan-Feb.

Box 1

Folder 11

Papers: Orders and receipts, 1781.

Box 1

Folder 12

Papers: Orders and receipts, undated.

Box 1

Folder 13

Papers: Accounts of William Aylett, 1775.

Box 1

Folder 14

Papers: Account of Simon Murray, 1783.

Box 1

Folder 15

Papers: Correspondence - John Moss to William Armistead, 1779 July 25.

Box 1

Folder 16

Papers: General necessary roll for the detachment of State Artillery at Portsmouth, 1776 Aug 6.

Box 1

Folder 17

Papers: General return of store received and issued, 1779-1780.

Box 1

Folder 18

Papers: Hobb's Hole - Orders and receipts, 1778-1779.

Box 1

Folder 19

Papers: Hobb's Hole - Orders and receipts, 1780 July-Dec.

Box 1

Folder 20

Papers: Hobb's Hole - Orders and receipts, 1781-1782, undated.

Box 1

Folder 21

Papers: Hobb's Hole - Correspondence and returns, 1780.

Box 1

Folder 22

Papers: List of debts against the Commanders and Staff Officers of the Virginia Lines, 1782.

Box 1

Folder 23

Papers: Return of clothing of volunteer detachment in Southwest, 1780 Feb.

Box 1

Folder 24

Papers: Sundries to officers, 1778-1779.

Box 1

Folder 25

Public Store - Illinois Department / Kaskaskie, 1776-1782.

Extent

Extent: 3 v.

Scope and Content

Account book, 1780 (65 p.), with accounts against the state of Virginia for issues at Fort Jefferson. Volume records the issue of supplies to members of the Illinois regiment, many of whom are named. Some of the supplies mentioned: linen, muslin, combs, flannel, velvet, writing paper, metal buttons, rum, sugar, handkerchiefs, and ink pots. John Dodge and Israel Dodge are the agents who kept the accounts. Various accounts due John Dodge and Israel Dodge from the state for supplies furnished for use of the Illinois Department / George Rogers Clark. Accounts include date, name of person receiving the article and the article issued. Items were signed for by the person receiving them. Among persons receiving issues are George Rogers Clark, John Montgomery, Dodge himself and several Indians (arranged under Indian Dept.). Also included are inventories of sundries purchased in New Orleans and other places and transferred to the department; lists of sundries issued to various persons; abstracts of issues of merchandise; abstracts of vouchers; lists of articles overdrawn beyond allowance by law; and a listing of entries in an unspecified volume, some copies attested to in 1783. The final dozen pages contain extracts of communications to and from Dodge between 1779 Aug-1780 Apr. No arrangement and no index. (Accession 54314)

Ledger, 30 Aug 1776-12 Mar 1782 (368 p.), accounts for the distribution of equipment and supplies to military officers. In addition, there is a list of bills drawn on the treasury of Virginia by William Shannon, and a memorandum of bills drawn on Col. George Rogers Clark, 1779. Account book maintained by William Shannon, Commissary and Quarter Master General, of stores furnished for use of the Illinois Department under George Rogers Clark. Clark, in an affidavit of 9 Nov 1779 attests to the authenticity of the accounts. Folio 165 includes Commonwealth in account with Shannon as settled by the Auditors of Williamsburg, Feb 1780; folio 169 includes a list of bills drawn on the Treasurer of Virginia after the first of Jan 1780 by William Shannon. Also includes various memoranda of purchases and certificates entered in the back. Restored. Indexed in the front of the volume and each separate account arranged chronologically. (Accession 190, 54314).

Receipt book, 1780 June 10-Nov 20 (90 p), for items received by John Dodge, Esq., agent for the state of Virginia at Fort Jefferson, Ill., mainly for clothin, material and weapons. Among the items received were salt, blankets, knives, broadcloth, and plain and ruffled shirts. Receipts for sundries issued out of the public store at Fort Jefferson, Illinois by John Dodge, agent for the store. Includes an Aug 7, 1780 affidavit concerning articles lost by Israel Dodge in March when crossing the Ohio entered as a promissory note, and also a promissory note from George Rogers Clark to Don Fernando de leyliia for furnishes dated 29 Apr 1779, and a later note instructing Dodge to pay the note. Also includes a list of some articles delivered to Joseph Pauley on account of the debt, July 1780. Restored and bound. No index. (Accession 54314)

Account book and Receipt book also available on Miscellaneous Reel 406.

Account book, 1780.

Ledger, 1776 Aug 30-1782 Mar 12.

Receipt book, 1780 June 10-Nov 20.

Public Store - Pennsylvania / Philadelphia, 1778-1780.

Extent

Extent: 5 v.

Scope and Content

Daybook, 1779 Sept 4-1780 Apr 1 (1 v.), of John Moss, state agent in Pennsylvania, which records transactions and the issuing of uniform items to Virginia troops. (Accession 54314).

Journals, 1778 Aug 1-1780 Apr 1 (2 v.), were kept by John Moss, state agent in Philadelphia, recording the issue of uniform items and sundries to officers of Virginia regiments. Volume 1, August 1, 1778 - August 30, 1779, is prefaced by an extract of an act of Congress of March 23, 1779, regulating the clothing department for the armies of the United States, by Charles Thomson, secretary. Volume 2, September 1779 - April 1780, is prefaced by an extract from acts of the General Assembly concerning officers, soldiers, and sailors, and marines regarding terms of enlistment and re-enlistment, and a statement concerning clothing entitlements, bounties, as a reward for service and the salary for recruiters. Also includes a memorandum of dimensions of soldiers' hats. Volumes are records of disbursements and receipts, indentifying each item and its value. Total sales for each month are listed. Names of officers given in the journals. Volumes are in chronological and thereunder by regiment, and are not indexed. (Accessions 158, 54314)

Ledgers, 1778 Aug 4-1780 Sept (2 v.), kept by John Moss, State Agent in Philadelphia, recording transactions of uniform items and sundries to officers and troops of Virginia regiments. Volumes show a record of cash receipts, with columns for purchaser, date, articles involved, price, and page of Journal on which the transaction is entered. The credit side of the ledger includes the date on which the account was settled, by what means, amount, and again, a page reference to the Journal. (Accession 174, 54314)

Also available on Miscellaneous Reel 637.

Daybook, 1779 Sept 4-1780 Apr 1.

Journal, 1778 Aug 1-1779 Aug 30.

Volume 1

Journal, 1780 Sept 7-1780 Apr.

Volume 2

Ledger, 1778 Aug 4-1779 Sept 1.

Volume 1

Ledger, 1779 Sept-1780 Apr.

Volume 2

Public Store - Petersburg, 1781 Sept-Oct.

Extent

Extent: 24 leaves.

Scope and Content

Accounts of provision stores received and delivered at Petersburg, 1781 Sept-Oct, contains an account of provision stores received and delivered at Petersburg by John Watlington. The account of provisions received provides the date received, whom received, county, whom brought, mill, and amount of commodities including indian meal, bacon, flour, biscuit, loose meal, whiskey, rum, and vinegar. The account of provisions delivered provides the date delivered, number of receipts, whom delivered, what vessel, and commodities including indian meal, flour, biscuit, loose meal, rum, vinegar, fish, bacon, empty barrels, brandy and whiskey. No index. (Accession 50708).

Accounts, 1781 Sept-Oct.

Public Store - Richmond, 1780-1785.

Extent

Extent: 4 v.

Scope and Content

Daybook, 1780 June 14-Nov 30, is a record of daily business at the Public Store in Richmond and identifies good, to whom delivered and under what authorization. This volume contains daily issue of items stocked in the Public Store, Richmond, to a variety of customers including Cherokee Indians (ribbon, rum, and nails) and the State Agent (tobacco and rum). Arranged chronologically. No index. (Accession 54314).

Journal, 1782 Nov 5-1783 May 21 (90 p.), is an account book kept by Captain Henry Young, Quartermaster General, for uniforms and other items issued from the Public Store in Richmond. Record of disbursements, both civil and military from the Store. In some instances value is attached. Names, chiefly officers, are given along with assigned account numbers. Under date 1 May 1783, are the individual entries for soldiers of Dabney's Legion for "difficiencies of clothing due to them." Arranged chronologically. No index. (Accession 54314)

Ledger, 1781 Mar 16-1785 Dec 30, contains an accounting of items issued from the Public Store in Richmond. Entries include date, transaction and sum. Preceding the accounts is an alphabetical list of all account holders, their residence, and account number. (Accession 54314)

Receipt book, 1782 Nov 5-1783 July 22, contains receipts for items issued by Captain Henry Young, Quartermaster General for the public store in Richmond, under both civil and military authorization. Items issued include woolen overalls, leather breeches, stockings, shoes, bark, and ipecac. Includes an extensive list of persons in Dabney's Legion and State Regiments who have received clothing in full for all deficiencies against the State. (Accession 36171)

Also available on Miscellaneous Reel 636.

Daybook, 1780 June 14-Nov 30.

Journal, 1782 Nov 5-1783 May 21.

Public Store - Williamsburg, 1775-1781.

Extent

Extent: 18 v.

Scope and Content

Cashbook, 1779-1780, (1 v.) contains a chronological listing by fund of items issued from the Public Store in Williamsburg. Included are yardage, linen, shirts, and other uniform items and sundries.

Daybooks, 1775-1780, (7 v.) consist of general accounts of the regimental store listing payments for sundry goods and services. Names of officers and some soldiers are given. Frequently person receiving goods sign below the list of items turned over to them. Some beginning and ending pages have doodles regarding purchases, some of which have been marked through, indicating that they have been entered. In the final volume, advertisements for two Parisian suppliers of office equipment are pasted on the front leaf. No index. (Accession 54314).

Journals, 1775-1780, (6 v.) contain a chronological list, by fund, of items issued from the Public Store in Williamsburg. Includes accounts of disbursements from the store for cash, goods and wages. Uniform items, arms, rum, and sundries were issued directly to the military, or to the Boards of Trade and War, ships' captains and sutlers. Volume 5 includes periodic notations regarding the entries having been examined up to that point by L. Wood, Jr. Also includes two clippings advertising suppliers of office goods in Paris, which are pasted into the front of the volume. No index. (Accession 54314)

Ledgers, 1775-1780, (4 v.) show daily issue of uniform supplies and sundries from the Public Store in Williamsburg. Entries include date, description of transaction, page reference to journal, and sum. Each separate account is arranged chronologically. No index. Near the back of the volume 1 is a memorandum of goods sent from the Public Store in Williamsburg to Richmond, per executive order of 13 June 1777, showing articles and quantity.

Cashbook, 1779 July 1-1780 June 22.

Volume 1

Daybook, 1775 Oct 12-1776 Oct 17.

Volume 1

Daybook, 1776 Oct 16-1777 Aug 17.

Volume 2

Daybook, 1777 Aug 18-1778 Sept 30.

Volume 3

Daybook, 1778 Jan 7-May 30.

Volume 4

Daybook, 1778 June 1-Nov 13.

Volume 5

Daybook, 1778 Nov 15-1780 June 20.

Volume 6

Daybook, 1779 July 1-1780 July 12.

Volume 7

Journal, 1775 Oct 12-1776 Dec 24.

Volume 1

Journal, 1776 Oct 16-1777 Aug 16.

Volume 2

Journal, 1777 Aug 18-1778 Sept 30.

Volume 3

Journal, 1777 Dec. 19-1780 Feb. 9.

Volume 4

Journal, 1778 Sep 14-1779 Nov 30

Volume 5

Journal, 1779 July 1-1780 July 12

Volume 6

Ledger, 1775 Oct 6-1776 Oct 21

Volume 1

Ledger, 1776 Oct 16-1778 Sep 30

Volume 2

Ledger, 1778 Feb 5-1779 Nov 24

Volume 3

Ledger, 1779 July 3-1781 Nov 25

Volume 4