

A Guide to the York County (Va.) Military and Pension Records, 1803

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1803

A Collection in the Library of Virginia
Library of Virginia
2024

History

Processed by: Sam Walters/Library of Virginia staff

Title Statement

A Guide to the York County (Va.) Military and Pension Records, 1803

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Publication Statement

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Profile Description

Creation: Machine-readable finding aid derived from being created directly into EAD, created by McKenzie Long, 9 September 2024

Language Usage: Description is in English

Descriptive Summary

Language

English

Collector

York County (Va.) Circuit Court

Extent

.1 cu. ft. (1 box)

Location

Library of Virginia

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 York County.

Processing Information

Military and pension records, 1803, were processed alongside other York County court records by Sam Walters/Library of Virginia staff.

Encoded by M. Long: September 2024.

Preferred Citation

York County (Va.) Military and Pension Records, 1803. Local government records collection, York County Court Records. The Library of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia, 23219.

Adjunct Descriptive Data

Related Material

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

York County is one of Virginia's Lost Records Localities. Additional York County Court Records may be found in the [Lost Records Localities Digital Collection](#) available on the Library of Virginia website.

Historical Information

Context for Record Type: Keeping large bodies of militia in the field required an elaborate system of support based on the purchase of goods and services from civilians, in addition to the usual pay and allowances to officers and soldiers. The result was the creation of a large number of records concerning the state's disbursements to both soldiers and civilians. Many claims for payment went unsatisfied until 1821. Locality military and pension records consist largely of pay and muster rolls, accounts and vouchers concerning supplies, claims for reimbursement for services rendered, and military pension applications. Pension applications summarize the applicant's service record and may include medical evaluations; information about income and property; and, in the case of widows, the date and place of marriages.

During the Revolutionary War, commissioners were appointed in each county to impress supplies and non-military services (such as driving cattle or wagons) for the war effort. Officials provided certificates or receipts so that individual suppliers could be reimbursed by the state government. Beginning in 1782, claims for reimbursement could be submitted to county courts. These "publick claims," known as court booklets and lists, exist for almost all Virginia counties. Between 1777 and 1785, the Virginia General Assembly passed several laws authorizing pensions for disabled soldiers and for widows of soldiers who died while on active duty.

Throughout the Civil War, the principal responsibility for Virginia's indigent soldiers' families lay with the locality. The Virginia State Convention in 1861 gave the responsibility entirely to counties and incorporated towns and authorized whatever actions had already been taken. Acts of Assembly in 1862 and 1863 expanded the localities' powers to provide for their needy, and in 1863 some minimal state assistance was added in. The Virginia General Assembly passed several Confederate pension acts beginning in 1888. The initial act provided pensions to Confederate soldiers, sailors, and marines disabled in action and to the widows of those killed in action. A 1900 act broadened the coverage to include veterans disabled by "infirmities of age" and widows whose husbands died after the war. African Americans who had served "faithfully" as servants, cooks, laborers, hostlers, or teamsters for the Confederate army were eligible for pensions beginning in 1924. District of Columbia residents became eligible in 1926; previously, all pension applicants were required to be residents of Virginia.

Locality History: York County originally was named Charles River County, for King Charles I, and was one of the eight shires, or counties, first enumerated in 1634. A record of 7 January 1634 employs the name York County, and a statute of 1643 officially changed the name to York County, probably in honor of James, duke of York, the second son of King Charles I, and later King James II. The county seat is Yorktown.

Lost Locality Note: Most pre-Revolutionary War-era loose records are missing. Volumes that record deeds, court orders, and wills exist. County court clerks during the Revolutionary War and Civil War removed the volumes from the courthouse for safekeeping.

Scope and Content

York County (Va.) Military and Pension Records, 1803, consists of a list of military pensioners living in the locality.

Arrangement

This collection is arranged into the following series:

- **Series I: Military and Pension Records, 1803**, housed in box with other court records from York County.

Contents List

Series I: Military and Pension Records, 1803

Extent

.1 cubic feet (1 box)

Arrangement

Housed in box with other court records from York County.

Barcode number 1156338: Fiduciary Records, Land Records, Road and Bridge Records, Board of Supervisors, Bonds/Commissions/Oaths, Court Records, Election Records, Marriage Records and Vital Statistics, Militia and Pension Records, School Records, Tax and Fiscal Records, etc., 1788-1889