

A Guide to the Winchester (Va.) Military and Pension Records, 1804-1917; undated

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A Collection in the Library of Virginia
Library of Virginia
2024

History

Processed by: Library of Virginia staff

Title Statement

A Guide to the Winchester (Va.) Military and Pension Records, 1804-1917; undated

Subtitle: Winchester (Va.) Military and Pension Records

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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, 19 September 2024

Language Usage: Description is in English

Descriptive Summary

Language

English

Collector

Winchester (Va.) Circuit Court

Extent

1.15 cu. ft. (2 boxes)

Location

Library of Virginia

Repository

The Library of Virginia

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

Military and pension records included in the box labeled "Court Records; Inventories of ardent spirits in local pharmacies; Clerks' Records; Public Buildings and Grounds; Tax and Fiscal Records; Bonds, Commissions, Oaths; Election Records; Military and Pension Records, 1786-1925 circa" are unprocessed. All records remain tri-folded or in original bundles and may be fragile. Contact Archives Research services for availability.

Use Restrictions

There are no restrictions.

Acquisition Information

These records came to the Library of Virginia in a transfer of court papers from the city of Winchester.

Processing Information

Military and pension records, 1807-1904, were separated from Winchester city court records and processed by Library of Virginia staff.

The remaining military and pension records are still unprocessed.

Encoded by M. Long: September 2024.

Preferred Citation

Winchester (Va.) Military and Pension Records, 1804-1917; undated. Local government records collection, Winchester (City) Court Records. The Library of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia, 23219.

Adjunct Descriptive Data

Related Material

See also:

[Winchester \(Va.\) Declarations for Revolutionary War Pensions, 1819](#) at the Library of Virginia.

[Winchester \(Va.\) Confederate Pension Board Register and Minutes, 1900-1915](#) at the Library of Virginia.

[Winchester \(Va.\) Muster Roll in the War with Germany, 1917-1960 \(bulk 1917-1918\)](#) at the Library of Virginia.

Additional Winchester 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: 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 "public 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: Winchester, in Frederick County, was first known as Opequon, then as Frederick's Town (or Fredericktown), and, finally, on establishment as a town in 1752, as Winchester. According to tradition, one of the town's founders, James Wood, named the town in honor of his birthplace in England. Winchester was incorporated as a town in 1779 and as a city in 1874.

Scope and Content

Scope and Content

Winchester (Va.) Military and Pension Records, 1804-1917; undated, consist of military service records, accounts and vouchers, and claims for reimbursement by civilians and service members. These include:

Processed military and pension records, 1807-1904, consist of payments to the 31 Virginia Militia from 1807 and 1813, a roster of ex-Confederate soldiers living in the city from 1898, and a list of "old soldiers" housed in an unnamed hospital from 1903 to 1904. The list indicated that the former soldiers were separated by race, with white soldiers noted as being housed in the first and second ward and Black soldiers being separately housed in a designated "colored" ward, typical of the othering Black Americans experienced in segregated public spaces.

Unprocessed military and pension records, 1804-1917; undated, primarily include pension papers and militia lists.

Arrangement

This collection is arranged into the following series:

- **Series I: Processed Military and Pension Records, 1807-1904**, is housed in a box with other Winchester court records, which have been arranged alphabetically by subject.
- **Series II: Unprocessed Military and Pension Records, 1804-1917; undated**, is housed in a box with other unprocessed court records for Winchester.

Contents List

Series I: Processed Military and Pension Records, 1807-1904

Extent

.15 cubic feet (1 box)

Arrangement

Housed in a box with other Winchester court records, which have been arranged alphabetically by subject.

Barcode number 1140453: Bonds, Commissions, Oaths; Court Records; Election Records; Fiduciary Records; Land Records; Miscellaneous Records; Military and Pension Records; Tax and Fiscal Records; Treasurer, 1800-1977

Series II: Unprocessed Military and Pension Records, 1804-1917; undated

Extent

1.00 cubic feet (1 box)

Arrangement

Housed in box with other unprocessed court records for Winchester.

Barcode number 1017121: Court Records; Inventories of ardent spirits in local pharmacies; Clerks' Records; Public Buildings and Grounds; Tax and Fiscal Records; Bonds, Commissions, Oaths; Election Records; Military and Pension Records, 1786-1925 circa