

A Guide to the Virginia Express Company Minute Books and Cashbook, 1867-1869

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1867-1869

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History

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Descriptive Summary

Barcode numbers

1178215, 1187918

Language

English

Collector

Augusta County (Va.) Circuit Court

Physical Characteristics

3 v.

Location

State Records Center - Archives Annex, Library of Virginia

Repository

The Library of Virginia

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

Closed for reformatting.

Use Restrictions

There are no restrictions.

Acquisition Information

These items came to the Library of Virginia in transfers of court papers from Augusta County under the accession number 43658.

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Adjunct Descriptive Data

Related Material

For additional information see the Augusta County Chancery Cause, Norfolk and Petersburg Railroad Company versus Virginia Express Company. It can be found in the [Chancery Records Index](#) at the Library of Virginia web site. The index number is 1891-077.

Historical Information

The Virginia Express Company, incorporated by an act of the General Assembly on 23 February 1867, was a freight and cargo transport company operating out of Staunton, Virginia. The company used both stage lines and railroads to ship its freight. During the establishment of the company, Michael G. Harman served as president and William Watts was a clerk for the company. In December 1868, the Virginia Express Company relinquished control of its shipping lines. The stage line business was taken over by Trotter & Company and Harman & Company, while the railroad interests were taken over by the Adams Express and Southern Express Companies.

Scope and Content

The Virginia Express Company Minute Book, 1867, records the meetings of the company's stockholders and board of directors. These meetings were held early in the life of the Virginia Express Company and detail the organization of the business. The minutes discuss such topics as the election of officers, the fixing of salaries for company directors and employees, and the creation of by-laws for the government of the business. One meeting details which specific railroads the express company would utilize to ship their freight. Also included in the minutes of the first meeting is a list of stockholders that lists each stockholder by name along with the number of shares purchased.

Minute Book, 1868-1869, records the meetings of the company's stockholders. Meetings were recorded beginning in December 1868 and end in February 1869 and primarily concern the dissolution of the business and transfer of control to various companies. The minutes include copies of the contracts agreed upon that transferred control of the stage line and railroad shipping ventures. Also included in the minutes are presentations of statements of the assets and liabilities of the company along with a list stockholders. The January 1869 meeting briefly discusses the company's reaction to a robbery that occurred in Norfolk, Virginia.

The Virginia Express Company Cashbook, 1867-1869, records the cash received and cash disbursed on a chronological basis. Entries include the type of transaction and the amount of monies debited or credited. Transactions include cash received for the payment of vouchers and receipts; these transactions are often listed under the employee who received the transaction. Freight charges are listed under the customer name and include amounts paid and the locations of departure and arrival. Several freight transactions include the name of the railroad used to ship freight. Also included in the cashbook are company expenses such as livery fees, shoeing horses, rider fees, employee wages, advertising, equipment repairs, amounts paid for damages of freight, and items purchased such as horses, wagons, iron safes, and postage.

Index Terms

Corporate Names:

Virginia Express Company.

Subjects:

Freight and freightage--Virginia.

Railroads--Freight--Virginia.

Shipment of goods--Virginia.

Geographical Names:

Augusta County (Va.)--Commerce--19th century.

Augusta County (Va.)--History--19th century.

Genre and Form Terms:

Cashbooks--Virginia--Augusta County.

Local government records--Virginia--Augusta County.

Minute books--Virginia--Augusta County.

Minutes--Virginia--Augusta County.