

A Guide to the Sussex County (Va.) Register of Convicts, 1871-1932

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A Collection in the Library of Virginia Sussex County (Va.) Reel 324
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History

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Title Statement

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Collection: Sussex County (Va.) Reel 324

Author: Callie Lou Freed

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Descriptive Summary

Microfilm reel number

Sussex County (Va.) Reel 324

Language

English

Collector

Sussex County (Va.) Circuit Court.

Physical Characteristics

1 microfilm reel.

Location

Library of Virginia

Repository

The Library of Virginia

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

There are no restrictions.

Use Restrictions

Use microfilm copy, Sussex County (Va.) Reel 324.

Acquisition Information

Microfilm Reel 324 was generated by a field operator, from the Virginia State Library's (now the Library of Virginia) Microfilm Section, while filming in the Circuit Court Clerk's Office.

Preferred Citation

Sussex County (Va.) Register of Convicts, 1871-1932. Sussex County (Va.) Reel 324, Local government records collection, Sussex County Court Records. The Library of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia 23219.

Adjunct Descriptive Data

Related Material

Additional Sussex 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

Sussex County was formed in 1753 from Surry County. This county was named for the English county.

During the 1869-1870 session, the General Assembly passed an "Act to Secure Identification of Persons Convicted of Criminal Offences." On 2 November 1870, the act was approved. The act specified that "every clerk of the court of each county and corporation shall keep a register of full and accurate descriptive lists of every person convicted in his own or any other court of record of his county or corporation, of felony or other infamous offence, and a duly certified and attested copy of any such descriptive list may be used as prima facie evidence of the facts therein stated in any question of identity. Such registers shall be kept written up, well indexed, and shall be open to public inspection at reasonable hours. The register shall follow a set form and each descriptive list shall be attested by said clerk."

In addition, "the clerk of every court of record of each county or corporation, other than the county or corporation court, shall within ten days from the date of conviction of any person in his court of any offence mentioned in the first section of this act, deliver to the clerk of the county or corporation court, for record in said register, an attested descriptive list of the person so convicted, in the form hereinbefore prescribed." The judges of the respective courts are responsible for seeing that the provisions of the act are "punctually and properly carried out" by their respective clerks. The act was amended on 18 January 1871 and outlined the following: "For the services mentioned in this or the first section of this act, the clerk shall be entitled to a fee of fifty cents, to be paid out of the state treasury." By and large, the county and circuit court clerks went about compiling these registers throughout the counties of Virginia as late as the 1960s.

Order books record all matters brought before the court when it was in session and may contain important information not found anywhere else. A wide variety of information is found in order books--including individuals convicted of felonies.

This original register was created by the County and Circuit Courts.

Scope and Content

Sussex County (Va.) Register of Convicts, 1871-1932, is a comprehensive register of "every person convicted in the County Court or other Court of Record of Henrico County, of Felony, or other infamous offence." Based on a form, the listings of each conviction include the individual's name in full and any aliases, the present and last known residence of the accused, the color or race of the individual (including white, black, yellow and mulatto), the individual's height, eye color, hair color and any identifying marks, the apparent or known

age of the accused, his or her occupation, the offence, the court in which convicted, the date of conviction and page of record and whether the judgment was reversed or pardon granted and date thereof. The volume has an internal index. The index is arranged by the surname of the individual (A-Y) as it appears in the volume.

Index Terms

Corporate Names:

Sussex County (Va.) Circuit Court.

Subjects:

African American prisoners--Virginia--Sussex County.
African Americans--Employment--Virginia--Sussex County.
African Americans--History--1863-1877.
African Americans--History--1877-1964.
African Americans--Virginia--Sussex County.
Occupations--Virginia--Sussex County.
Prisoners--Virginia--Sussex County.
Public records--Virginia--Sussex County.
Racially mixed people--Virginia--Sussex County.

Geographical Names:

Sussex County (Va.)--History.

Genre and Form Terms:

Criminal court records--Virginia--Sussex County.
Local government records--Virginia--Sussex County.
Order books--Virginia--Sussex County.
Registers (lists)--Virginia--Sussex County.

Added Entry - Corporate Name:

Sussex County (Va.) County Court.

Arrangement

Arranged chronologically by month and year of conviction.