

A Guide to the Auditor of Public Accounts Reports of Taxes Due on Dividends1827-1869

Reports of taxes due on dividends, 1827-1869

1827-1869

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Biographical Information

On 27 March 1843 the General Assembly imposed a tax upon the dividends paid by joint stock companies. The next day the General Assembly passed an act specifying the procedures to be followed in paying the tax, and requiring an officer of the company to report his company's dividends to the auditor of public accounts. The auditor kept accounts of the dividends and taxes due and issued warrants to the treasurer to receive the payments.

Scope and Content

Contains a list and register of joint stock companies within the state, letters with reports and amounts of taxes due or paid by joint stock companies, and two ledgers. The first ledger lists taxes on dividends paid by banks and insurance companies from 1861 to 1869. The second ledger lists taxes on dividends paid by banks and other businesses from 1843 to 1859.

The reports had to be "made on oath" by the Treasurer or another officer, a fact which several treasurer's were not aware of and belatedly sent reports in, such as the Staunton and James River Turnpike Company. Reports were often submitted annually or semiannually, although the consistency and frequency vary across the companies. Some companies list just the amount paid while others, like the Little River Turnpike Company's 1843 report, list the name and location of stockholders, the amount paid, and number of shares they hold in the company.

Arrangement

Documents are arranged numerically by folder title.

Contents List

Commissioners of Revenue reports on joint stock companies paying dividends 1848-1850

Lists of Joint Stock Companies, 1827-1869

Box 1

Folder 1

Register of Joint Stock Companies, Stock Issued, and Dividends, 1827-1850

Box 1

Folder 2

3 - Virginia Fire and Marine Insurance Companies, 1843-1851

Box 1

Folder 3

4 - Chesterfield Railroad Company, 1844

Box 1

Folder 4

5 - Portsmouth Savings Fund Society, 1843-1852

Box 1

Folder 5

6 - Lynchburg Toll Bridge Company, 1844-1852

Box 1

Folder 6

7 - Staunton and James River Turnpike Company, 1850-1851

Box 1

Folder 7

8 - Tuckahoe and James River Railroad Comany, 1850-1851

Box 1

Folder 8

9 - Fire and Marine Insurance Company Petersburg, 1844-1851

Box 1

Folder 9

10 - James River Boat Company, 1843

Box 1

Folder 10

13 - Mechanicsville Turnpike Company, 1844, 1850

Box 1

Folder 11

14 - Brooke Turnpike Company, 1843, 1848, 1851

Box 1

Folder 12

15 - French's Hotel Company, 1842-1851

Box 1

Folder 13

16 - Virginia Towing Company, 1850-1852

Box 1

Folder 14

16 - Winchester and Frederick County Savings Institution, 1843, 1850

Box 1

Folder 15

17 - Ashby Gap Turnpike Company, 1844-1845, 1850-1851

Box 1

Folder 16

20 - Lynchburg Manufacturing Company, 1844-1847, 1850, 1880

Box 1

Folder 17

21 - Swiftrun Gap Turnpike Company, 1850

Box 1

Folder 18

22 - White and Salt Sulphur Springs Turnpike Company, 1844, 1850

Box 1

Folder 19

23 - Berryville Turnpike Company, 1844, 1849-1850

Box 1

Folder 20

24 - Manchester Cotton and Woolen Manufacturing Company, 1844-1847, 1850

Box 1

Folder 21

25 - Lynchburg and Campbell Court House Turnpike Company, 1844, 1847

Box 1

Folder 22

26 - Hampton River and Mill Creek Toll Bridge Company, 1848-1851

Box 1

Folder 23

27 - Louisa Railroad Company, 1843-1845

Box 1

Folder 24

28 - Lafayette and English Ferry and Turnpike Company, 1844, 1847

Box 1

Folder 25

29 - Petersburg Railroad Company, 1846

Box 1

Folder 26

30 - Norfolk Draw Bridge Company, 1849-1852

Box 1

Folder 27

31 - James River Manufacturing Company, 1850

Box 1

Folder 28

32 - Lynchburg and Salem Turnpike Company, 1850-1852

Box 1

Folder 29

33 - Virginia Woolen Factory, 1850

Box 1

Folder 30

34 - Winchester and Potomac Railroad Company, 1850

Box 1

Folder 31

35 - Little River Turnpike Company, 1843, 1848, 1850-1851

Box 1

Folder 32

36 - Mechanic's Manufacturing Company, 1850

Box 1

Folder 33

37 - Ettrick Manufacturing Company, 1850, 1852

Box 1

Folder 34

38 - Merchants Manufacturing Company, 1850

Box 1

Folder 35

39 - Battersea Manufacturing Company, 1850

Box 1

Folder 36

40 - Washington and Alexandria Turnpike Company, 1850-1852

Box 1

Folder 37

41 - Petersburg Aqueduct Company, 1850, 1852

Box 1

Folder 38

42 - Warm Springs and Harrisonburg Turnpike Company, 1850, 1852

Box 1

Folder 39

43 - Powell's Hotel Company (Petersburg), 1850-1852

Box 1

Folder 40

44 - Valley Turnpike Company, 1850

Box 2

Folder 1

45 - Clover Hill Railroad Company, 1850-1851

Box 2

Folder 2

46 - Fire and Insurance Company of Alexandria, 1850-1852

Box 2

Folder 3

47 - Fire and Marine Insurance Company (Wheeling), 1843, 1850-1852

Box 2

Folder 4

48 - Wheeling Savings Institution, 1850-1851

Box 2

Folder 5

49 - Western Insurance Company (Wheeling), 1850-1851

Box 2

Folder 6

50 - Citizens Savings Bank (Lynchburg), 1850-1851

Box 2

Folder 7

51 - Fredericksburg Aqueduct Company, 1850

Box 2

Folder 8

53 - Fauquier White Sulphur Springs Company, 1850

Box 2

Folder 9

54 - American Insurance Company, 1851-1852

Box 2

Folder 10

55 - Belvidere Manufacturing Company, 1850-1851

Box 2

Folder 11

56 - Midlothian Coal Mining Company, 1851-1852

Box 2

Folder 12

57 - Belle Isle Manufacturing Company, 1850

Box 2

Folder 13

58 - Harper's Ferry and Shenandoah Manufacturing Company, 1850-1851

Box 2

Folder 14

59 - Leesburg Turnpike Company, 1851

Box 2

Folder 15

60 - Little Kanawha Bridge Company, 1851

Box 2

Folder 16

61 - Lynchburg and Concord Turnpike Company, 1850-1852

Box 2

Folder 17

62 - Lynchburg and Blue Ridge Turnpike Company, 1850

Box 2

Folder 18

63 - Mount Vernon Manufacturing Company, 1850

Box 2

Folder 19

64 - Matoaca Manufacturing Company, 1850

Box 2

Folder 20

65 - Pittsylvania and Lynchburg Turnpike Company, 1850

Box 2

Folder 21

66 - Shepherdstown and Smithfield Turnpike Company, 1850

Box 2

Folder 22

67 - Shannondale Springs Company, 1851

Box 2

Folder 23

68 - Valley Telegraph Company, 1850

Box 2

Folder 24

69 - Wheeling and Belmont Bridge Company, 1850

Box 2

Folder 25

70 - Berryville and Charlestown Turnpike Company, 1851

Box 2

Folder 26

71 - Exchange Hotel Company, 1850

Box 2

Folder 27

72 - Smithfield, Charlestown, and Harper's Ferry Turnpike Company, 1850-1851

Box 2

Folder 28

73 - Appomattox Railroad Company, 1851

Box 2

Folder 29

74 - Warm Springs Mountain Turnpike Company, 1851-1852

Box 2

Folder 30

75 - Lynchburg Hose and Fire Insurance Company, 1851-1852

Box 2

Folder 31

76 - Kanawha Springs Institution, 1851-1853

Box 2

Folder 32

77 - Fincastle and Blue Ridge Turnpike Company, 1851

Box 2

Folder 33

78 - Indian Poll Draw-Bridge Company, 1852

Box 2

Folder 34

79 - Red and Blue Sulphur Springs Turnpike Company, 1851

Box 2

Folder 35

80 - Taylor Hotel Company, 1851

Box 2

Folder 36

81 - Wythe Watering Company, 1851

Box 2

Folder 37

82 - Norfolk Savings Institution, 1851

Box 2

Folder 38

83 - Alexandria Savings Institution, 1850-1851

Box 2

Folder 39

84 - Wytheville Savings Bank, 1851

Box 2

Folder 40

Wheeling Cotton Mills, 1850

Box 2

Folder 41

Wheeling Glass Company, 1850

Box 2

Folder 42

Ledger of Taxes on Dividends Paid by Banks and Insurance Companies, 1861-1869

Book Ledger

Ledger of Taxes on Dividends Paid by Banks and Other Businesses, 1843-1859

Book Ledger

