

A Guide to the Henry County (Va.) Estray Records, 1783-1929

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A Collection in the Library of Virginia Barcode number 1098545, 1154885

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History

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Collection: 1098545, 1154885

Author: Mary Ann Mason

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Descriptive Summary

Collection numbers

Barcode numbers 1098545, 1154885

Language

English

Collector

Henry County (Va.) Circuit Court.

Physical Characteristics

.23 cu. ft. ; 1 v.

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 records from Henry County.

Preferred Citation

Henry County (Va.) Estray Records, 1783-1929. Local government records collection, Henry County Court Records. The Library of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia 23219.

Historical Information

Henry County, like Patrick County, was named for Patrick Henry, who was the first governor of the commonwealth of Virginia. It was formed from Pittsylvania County in 1776. The county court first met on 20 January 1777. Part of Patrick County was added later in 1858.

Estrays were stray livestock found wandering. An inquest was held to determine the value of the livestock in order to reimburse the person who had found and cared for the animal. The report generally includes a physical description of the animal as well as an assessed monetary value.

Scope and Content

Henry County (Va.) Estray Records, 1783-1929, contain various loose and bound records giving public notice of valuable, tame animals, either lost or found wandering and presumed escaped from their owners, allowing the owners to reclaim the animals. Entries generally indicate by whom the animal was taken up, before what justice the person went and when, and the description and appraisement (value) of the animal.

The small amount of loose estray records are also housed with records concerning powers of attorney and certifications of character.