

A Guide to the Henry County (Va.) Business Records, 1841-1898

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A Collection in the Library of Virginia
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History

Processed by: Greg Crawford

Title Statement

A Guide to the Henry County (Va.) Business Records, 1841-1898

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Author: Jennifer Taylor

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Profile Description

Creation: Machine-readable finding aid derived from MARC record, created by Jennifer Taylor, 11 June 2024

Language Usage: Description is in English

Descriptive Summary

Language

English

Collector

Henry County (Va.) Circuit Court

Physical Characteristics

8 volumes.

Location

State Record Center-Archives Annex, Library of Virginia

Repository

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 transfers of court papers from Henry County in undated accessions.

Processing Information

Prior to 2024, the various business records in this collection were originally described as individual records, but they have been consolidated into one large business record for the locality.

These records were processed in 2003 by Greg Crawford.

Encoded by J. Taylor: June 2024.

Preferred Citation

Henry County (Va.) Business Records, 1841-1898. [include volume title]. Local government records collection, Henry County Court Records. The Library of Virginia, Richmond, Va. 23219.

Adjunct Descriptive Data

Related Material

Additional Henry County 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: Business Records, both volumes and loose records, are in some cases transferred to the Library of Virginia as components of court record transfers. These business records in some cases were simply stored in the local court building for safe keeping by business owners. In other cases, business records (particularly ledgers, account books, etc.) may have been filed in a court case as an exhibit. These business record exhibits appeared both in chancery causes and in judgments, these records serving as exhibits for business dissolution cases, debt suits, and contract disputes.

Locality History: Henry 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. The county seat was previously in Martinsville but has been moved near Collinsville.

Scope and Content

Henry County (Va.) Business Records, 1841-1898, is comprised of various records created by individuals and companies in pursuit of documenting business activities in and around Newport News (Va.). Represented records largely consists of bound volumes such as ledgers, day books, and account books.

Arrangement

This collection is arranged into eight series:

- Series I: Business Records of John H. Matthews, 1868-1875
- Series II: Business Records of John H. Matthews and Company, 1872-1874
- Series III: Business Records of T.C. Shelton, 1841-1843
- Series IV: Business Records of Trent and Davis, 1892-1893
- Series V: Business Records of an Unidentified Business, 1855
- Series VI: Business Records of an Unidentified General Store, 1898
- Series VII: Business Records of an Unidentified Grocery Store, 1897-1898
- Series VIII: Business Records of an Unidentified Mercantile Business, 1882-1883

Contents List

Series I: Business Records of John H. Matthews, 1868-1875

Extent

1 volume.

Physical Location State Records Center

Scope and Content

Historical Information: John H. Matthews was a businessman in Henry County involved in various business activities during the mid-nineteenth century. They included mercantile, blacksmithing, flour trade, and carding wool.

Scope and Content: John H. Matthews Business Records consists of an account book which recorded the accounts of individual customers. Each account lists transactions in chronological order. Information found in each entry includes date of transaction, type of transaction (goods sold or services rendered), quantity of goods sold, cost of each item, amount owed, and amount paid. Goods sold include spices, wheat, flour, hair pins, wool, beeswax, meat, dry goods, axes, and shoes. Services rendered include carding wool, shoeing horses, repairing and sharpening farm tools, and making coffins. Payments made by cash, credit, labor, and barter of such goods as apples, wood, and fodder.

Barcode Number 1098508: John H. Matthews Account Book 1868-1875

Series II: Business Records of John H. Matthews and Company, 1872-1874

Extent

1 volume

Physical Location State Records Center

Scope and Content

Historical Information: John H. Matthews and Company was a general store that conducted business in the town of Horse Pasture Mills in Henry County, Virginia during the late nineteenth century.

Scope and Content: John H. Matthews and Company Business Records consists of a daybook which recorded in chronological order the daily transactions of John H. Matthews and Company. Information recorded in the daybook includes date of transaction, name of customer, merchandise purchased, quantity purchased, price of each item, form of payment, and amount owed or paid. Merchandise sold includes axes, rope, castor oil, sugar, scissors, clothing, bacon, nails, spices, and dry goods. Payments made by cash or barter of goods such as berries, corn, and beans.

Barcode Number 1098512: John H. Matthews and Company Daybook 1872-1874

Series III: Business Records of T.C. Shelton, 1841-1843

Extent

1 volume

Physical Location State Records Center

Scope and Content

Historical Information: T. C. Shelton was a physician in Henry County during the mid-nineteenth century.

Scope and Content: T.C. Shelton Business Records consists of an account book which recorded the accounts of individual customers. Information found in each account includes name of customer, dates of transactions, services rendered, amount owed and paid, and form of payment. Medical services rendered include visits to patients (many of whom were slaves), medication for illnesses, and extracting teeth. Medicines given to patients by Shelton include cream tartar, chamomile, peppermint, squills, purgative pills and powders, and hartshorn. Payments made by cash, credit, labor such as shoemaking, and barter of items such as corn, pork, and a coat.

Barcode Number 1098553: T.C. Shelton Account Book 1841-1843

Series IV: Business Records of Trent and Davis, 1892-1893

Extent

1 volume

Physical Location State Records Center

Scope and Content

Historical Information: Trent and Davis was a grocery store that conducted business in Henry County

during the late nineteenth century.

Scope and Content:The Trent and Davis Business Records consists of a ledger which recorded the accounts of individual customers. Each account lists transactions in chronological order. Information found in each entry includes date of transaction, merchandise sold, quantity of items sold, amount owed and paid, and form of payment. Items sold include cigars, poultry, fruit, vegetables, fish, lard, ham, butter, chocolate, and meal. Payments made by cash, check, and barter of such items as chickens and pigs. Additional transactions of an unknown nature are found at the end of volume.

Barcode Number 1098507: Trent and Davis Ledger 1892-1893

Series V: Business Records of an Unidentified Business, 1855

Extent

1 volume

Physical Location State Records Center

Scope and Content

Scope and Content:The business records of the unidentified business consist of a daybook. The business sold alcoholic beverages in Martinsville, Virginia. The volume recorded daily transactions in chronological order. Information found in each entry includes name of customer, alcoholic beverage purchased, quantity of beverage purchased, amount owed and paid, and form of payment. Beverages sold include brandy, whiskey, and cider.

Barcode Number 1098527: Daybook of an Unidentified Business, 1855

Series VI: Business Records of an Unidentified General Store, 1898

Extent

1 volume

Physical Location State Records Center

Scope and Content

Scope and Content:The business records of the unidentified general store consist of a daybook. The volume recorded in chronological order the store's daily transactions. Information found in daybook includes date of transaction, name of customer, merchandise purchased, quantity purchased, form of payment, and amount owed or paid. Merchandise sold includes soda, potatoes, cabbage, sardines, handkerchiefs, meat, candy, oil, suspenders, and dry goods. The last few pages at the end of volume records the accounts of individual customers.

Barcode Number 1098516: Daybook of an Unidentified General Store, 1898

Series VII: Business Records of an Unidentified Grocery Store, 1897-1898

Extent

1 volume

Physical Location State Records Center

Scope and Content

Scope and Content:The business records of the unidentified grocery store consist of a daybook. The volume recorded in chronological order the store's daily transactions. Information found in daybook includes date of transaction, name of customer, merchandise purchased, quantity purchased, form of payment, and amount owed or paid. Merchandise sold includes puffs (perhaps cigars/cigarettes), doughnuts, yeast, bread, candy, cream, fruit (apples, bananas, and oranges), cakes and peanuts. Pages at the end of volume contains the store's cash sales accounts and accounts of individuals who purchased meal. Payments made by cash, credit, and labor.

Barcode Number 1098531: Daybook of an Unidentified Grocery Store,

1897-1898

Series VIII: Business Records of an Unidentified Mercantile Business, 1882-1883

Extent

1 volume

Physical Location State Records Center

Scope and Content

Scope and Content:The business records of the unidentified mercantile business consist of an account book. The volume recorded the accounts of individual customers and the store's controlling accounts. Each account lists transactions in chronological order. Information found in each entry includes date of transaction, merchandise sold, quantity of items sold, amount owed and paid, and form of payment. Items sold include cigars, oysters, sardines, apples, tobacco, cakes, cigarettes, chestnuts, candy, and oil. The store's controlling accounts include cash account and merchandise account.

Barcode Number 1098509: Account Book of an Unidentified Mercantile Business, 1882-1883

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