

# A Guide to the Lexington Arsenal and Virginia Militia records, 1702-1839 MS.0244

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1702-1839

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## Title Statement

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## Descriptive Summary

**Unit ID**

MS.0244

**Unit ID**

/repositories/3/resources/607

**Unit Date**

1702-1839

**Language**

English .

**Extent**

47 items

**Physical Location**

Manuscripts stacks

**Repository**

Virginia Military Institute Archives

## Administrative Information

**Conditions Governing Access**

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## Preferred Citation

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# Biographical / Historical

In 1816 the Virginia legislature provided for the establishment of three arsenals to care for the state's accumulation of munitions. One of the three was constructed in Lexington, Virginia, on the site of what is now VMI. The Lexington Arsenal opened in 1818 under the command of Captain James Paxton, and the guard stationed there was responsible for approximately 30,000 stand of arms. Although the size of the detachment stationed at the Arsenal varied somewhat from year to year, it generally consisted of the captain, a sergeant, one or two corporals, ten to thirteen privates, and a few employees, among whom were musicians. This arrangement was maintained until 1839 when VMI opened on the site of the Arsenal and the guard was replaced by the new VMI cadets.

## Scope and Contents

This collection (47 items) consists of two series. The first series contains records (1702-1814; 17 items) related to the Virginia Militia, including regimental returns for various militia units. This material pre-dates the establishment of the state arsenal in Lexington, Virginia, but the documents were found among Lexington Arsenal records. Two of the documents date from the British colonial period (1702). The second series (1819-1839; 30 items) contains items concerning the operation of the state arsenal in Lexington. Included are payrolls and other financial records, guard returns and muster rolls, and two enlistment documents.

## Keywords

Lexington Arsenal (Va.)  
Virginia—Militia—History  
Virginia Military Institute—History—19th century  
Financial records  
Military records  
Muster rolls

## Online Access

The Lexington Arsenal and Virginia Militia records collection is available online.

# Description of Subordinate Components

### Virginia Militia records

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/1706

**Unit Date** 1702-1814

**Language** English.

**Extent** 17 items

### Scope and Contents

This series contains regimental returns for various Virginia Militia units and other documents relating to the Virginia Militia. This material pre-dates the establishment of the arsenal in Lexington, Virginia, but the material was found among the Lexington Arsenal records also contained in this collection. Two of the documents date from the British colonial period (1702).

**Regimental returns**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/1708

**Unit Date** 1795-1802

**Language** English.

**Keywords**

Military records

Virginia—Militia—History

**53rd Regiment, Campbell County, Virginia**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/1714

**Unit Date** 1795 November 10

**Language** English.

**Keywords**

Virginia—Militia—History

Military records

**Transcription**

"A return of the Militia in the 53d Regiment in the County of Campbell commanded by William Henderson, together with a return of arms etc. belonging to said Regiment."

**91st Regiment, Bedford County, Virginia**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/1715

**Unit Date** 1796 June 16

**Language** English.

**Keywords**

Military records

Virginia—Militia—History

**Transcription**

"Return of the militia in the 91st Regiment in the county of Bedford commanded by John Trigg Lieut. Col. Commandt., together with a return of arms etc. belonging to said regiment."

**91st Regiment, Bedford County, Virginia**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/1716

**Unit Date** 1796 November 4

**Language** English.

**Keywords**

Virginia—Militia—History

Military records

**Transcription**

"Return of militia in the 91st Regiment in the county of Bedford commanded by John Trigg Lieut. Commandt., together with a return of arms etc. belonging to said regiment."

**43rd Regiment, Franklin County, Virginia**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/1717

**Unit Date** 1797 November 10

**Language** English.

**Keywords**

Military records

Virginia—Militia—History

**Transcription**

"A return of the Militia ordered to be in readiness to march at a moments warning from the 43 Regiment Franklin County. Samuel Hairston, in the absence of Col. John Early."

**53rd Regiment**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/1718

**Unit Date** 1798 October 30

**Language** English.

**Scope and Contents**

Signed by Daniel B. Berrow, Colonel.

**Keywords**

Military records

Virginia—Militia—History

**18th Regiment, Patrick County, Virginia**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/1719

**Unit Date** 1799 June 13

**Language** English.

**Keywords**

Military records

Virginia—Militia—History

**Transcription**

"A return of the 18th Regiment of Militia, Patrick County, State of Virginia, including the Arms, Ammunition & Accoutrements in their possession, George Penn, Lt. Col."

**64th Regiment**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/1720

**Unit Date** 1799 October 15

**Language** English.

**Keywords**

Virginia—Militia—History

Military records

**Transcription**

"A return of the sixty fourth Regiment being part of the twelveth Brigade of the Militia of the State of Virginia, including the arms, ammunition, & accoutrements in their possession."

**91st Regiment**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/1721

**Unit Date** 1802 June 9

**Language** English.

**Keywords**

Military records

Virginia—Militia—History

**Transcription**

"A return of the 91st Regiment being part of the 12th Brigade of the Militia of the State of Virginia, including the arms, ammunition, & accoutrements in their possession."

**53rd Regiment**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/1722

**Unit Date** 1802 November

**Language** English.

**Keywords**

Military records

Virginia—Militia—History

**Transcription**

"A return of the 53rd Regiment being part of the 12th Brigade of the Militia of the State of Virginia, including the arms, ammunition, & accoutrements in their possession in Nov. 1802."

### **110th Regiment**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/1723

**Unit Date** 1802 December 10

**Language** English.

#### **Keywords**

Virginia—Militia—History

Military records

#### **Transcription**

"A return of the 110th Regiment including the arms, ammunition, & accoutrements in their possession, Samuel Hairston Lt. Col. Com."

### **Militia appointment documents**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/1709

**Unit Date** 1793-1797

**Language** English.

**Extent** 2 items

#### **Keywords**

Military records

### **John Foster, 3rd Regiment appointment**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/1724

**Unit Date** 1793 September 23

**Language** English.

#### **Scope and Contents**

Signed by Governor Henry Lee. Document appoints John Foster from Orange County (Virginia) Ensign to the Second Battalion, Third Regiment Militia.

#### **Keywords**

Military records

Virginia—Militia—History

### **John Foster, 3rd Regiment appointment**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/1725

**Unit Date** 1797 December 11

**Language** English.

#### **Scope and Contents**

Signed by Governor James Wood. The document appoints John Foster "Ensign of a company of Light Infantry in the third Regiment, and Second Division."

#### **Keywords**

Military records

Virginia—Militia—History

### **Other militia documents**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/1710

**Unit Date** 1702-1814

**Language** English.

**Extent** 4 items

#### **Keywords**

Financial records

Receipts (financial records)

Virginia—Militia—History

### **British financial document**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/1726

**Unit Date** 1702 April-June

**Language** English.

**Scope and Contents**

A British financial document that estimates the cost of arms and other materials for "Colony of Virginia."

**Keywords**

Financial records

**Receipt**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/1727

**Unit Date** 1808 May 31

**Language** English.

**Scope and Contents**

Receipt of Robert Patterson for "two pounds, two shillings & nine pence."

**Keywords**

Receipts (financial records)

**Regimental morning report**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/1728

**Unit Date** 1812 October 19

**Language** English.

**Scope and Contents**

Report titled "Regimental Morning Report Colonel Dudley Evans, Joseph Allen Adjutant, Total 686."

**Keywords**

Military records

Reports

**Militia regulations**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/1729

**Unit Date** 1814 April 4

**Language** English.

**Scope and Contents**

Issued by the Adjutant General's Office in Richmond, Virginia. Regulations regard "changes in the uniform of the Army of the United States."

**Keywords**

Virginia—Militia—History

Military records

**Lexington Arsenal records**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/1707

**Unit Date** 1819-1839

**Language** English.

**Extent** 30 items

**Scope and Contents**

The state arsenal in Lexington, Virginia opened in 1818 and operated until November 1839, when it was replaced by VMI.

**Financial records**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/1711

**Unit Date** 1822-1839

**Language** English.

**Keywords**

Financial records

Receipts (financial records)

**Payroll records**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/1730

**Unit Date** 1822-1837

**Language** English.

**Keywords**

Financial records

**Payroll of the Public Guard**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/1739

**Unit Date** 1822 November-December

**Language** English.

**Scope and Contents**

Names on the payroll include: James Paxton (Captain) Samuel Lasley Rodk [Roderick?]King John Spooner James Barnett Alexander Briant John Mays James Hening Wilford Downs David Craig Benjamin Downs James Edsal Elias Wood William McCrery Ezekiel Kirby Andrew Hincer Thomas Jones John Short James R. Collins James Smith Jessee Pannal James Page William Brown Chesly Woodard William B. Smith Benjamin Bowler Granvill Doores

**Keywords**

Financial records

**Payroll of the Public Guard**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/1740

**Unit Date** 1826 September-October

**Language** English.

**Scope and Contents**

Names on the payroll include: James Paxton (Captain) Wilfred Downs William H. Knap James Smith William Suthard John Clark Silas Rogers Archibald Downey William Lewis John Mays Henry Peterman Angus McLaughlin Michael Robinson Thomas Johnson Fayette

**Keywords**

Financial records

**Payroll of the Public Guard**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/1741

**Unit Date** 1830 November-December

**Language** English.

**Scope and Contents**

Names on the payroll include: David E. Moore (Captain) Jacob Moses (Sergeant) John T. Giles (Corporal) Andrew Gass (Corporal) Thomas Burton Elijzh Coomer John Davis (1st) James Barron William Cunningham Jospeh Hockman John Masterson James Smith William Suthard John Davis (2nd) [illegible]

**Keywords**

Financial records

**Payroll document for Private William Suthard**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/1742

**Unit Date** 1834 August

**Language** English.

**Scope and Contents**

For the period of March 1 to April 11, 1834.

**Keywords**

Financial records

**Payroll document**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/1743

**Unit Date** 1837 May-June

**Language** English.

**Scope and Contents**

Names on payroll include: David E. Moore (Captain) John Oringderff Richard Anderson Valentine Franklin Thomas Anderson Berry Epperson John Flint Andrew Gass Joseph Hockman John Pavo [Povo?] James Robinson Thomas Smith Benjamin F. Steele James Vandegraff Isaac Walton James H. Wiglesworth George W. Rowsey Daniel Ward Jack

**Keywords**

Financial records

**Payroll document**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/1744

**Unit Date** 1837 September-October

**Language** English.

**Scope and Contents**

Names on the payroll include: David E. Moore (Captain) John Oringderff Richard Anderson Valentine Franklin Thomas Anderson Berry Epperson Samuel Flint Andrew Gass Joseph Hockman John Pavo James Robinson Thomas Smith Benjamin F. Steele James Vandegraff Isaac Walton James H. Wiglesworth George W. Rowsey Daniel Ward Jack

**Keywords**

Financial records

**Accounts**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/1731

**Unit Date** 1823-1839

**Document, return of extra days work done by the Guard**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/1745

**Unit Date** 1823 June 21

**Language** English.

**Scope and Contents**

Letter of explanation on reverse. Signed by Captain James Paxton.

**Keywords**

Military records

**Subsistence and clothing account for Captain James Paxton**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/1746

**Unit Date** 1826 September-October

**Language** English.

**Keywords**

Financial records

**Subsistence and clothing account for Captain D. E. Moore**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/1747

**Unit Date** 1830 July-August

**Language** English.

**Keywords**

Financial records

**Account statement, Caruthers**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/1748

**Unit Date** 1832-1833

**Language** English.

**Scope and Contents**

For various sundries and dry goods, including material for a shroud for John Pointer.

**Keywords**

Financial records

**Account book**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/1749

**Unit Date** 1832-1839

**Language** English.

**Scope and Contents**

One bound volume that contains accounts primarily for provisions and rations.

**Keywords**

Account Books

**Subsistence and clothing account for Captain D. E. Moore**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/1750

**Unit Date** 1834 May-June

**Language** English.

**Keywords**

Financial records

**Subsistence and clothing account for Captain D. E. Moore**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/1751

**Unit Date** 1837 September-October

**Language** English.

**Keywords**

Financial records

**Account, bounties**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/1752

**Unit Date** 1837 September-October

**Language** English.

**Keywords**

Financial records

**Statement, number of arms in Arsenal**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/1753

**Unit Date** undated

**Language** English.

**Scope and Contents**

"The Arsenal at Lexington contains 30601 muskets, 1001 rifles, 87 carbines, 30 cavalry swords."

**Keywords**

Military weapons

**Receipts**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/1732

**Unit Date** 1832-1834

**Receipt, Nathan Carpenter****Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/1754**Unit Date** 1832 December**Scope and Contents**

For freight on box of clothing.

**Keywords**

Receipts (financial records)

**Receipt, John Darst****Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/1755**Unit Date** 1833 April 18**Scope and Contents**

For repairs to Lexington Arsenal.

**Keywords**

Receipts (financial records)

**Receipt, J. Moses****Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/1756**Unit Date** 1834 May & June**Keywords**

Receipts (financial records)

**Receipt, Reuben Jackson****Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/1757**Unit Date** 1834 June**Scope and Contents**

For payment as fifer.

**Keywords**

Receipts (financial records)

**Receipt, John McKinsey****Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/1758**Unit Date** 1834 June 25**Scope and Contents**

Payment for freight.

**Keywords**

Receipts (financial records)

**Receipt, William Southard****Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/1759**Unit Date** 1834 August 13**Scope and Contents**

For clothing due on discharge.

**Keywords**

Receipts (financial records)

**Receipt, Jacob H. Moses****Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/1760**Unit Date** 1834 August**Scope and Contents**

For returning soldier E. McCraw who was in jail in Lynchburg, Virginia.

**Keywords**

Receipts (financial records)

**Receipts, William Southard**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/1761

**Scope and Contents**

Discharge bounty

**Keywords**

Receipts (financial records)

**Receipt, William Southard**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/1762

**Scope and Contents**

Final pay upon discharge.

**Keywords**

Receipts (financial records)

**Guard returns and muster roll**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/1712

**Unit Date** 1820-1838

**Language** English.

**Scope and Contents**

Additional muster rolls are located in the bound account book in this collection.

**Keywords**

Muster rolls

Military records

**Half monthly return**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/1733

**Unit Date** 1820 January 1-15

**Language** English.

**Keywords**

Military records

**Half monthly return**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/1734

**Unit Date** 1829 September 1-15

**Language** English.

**Scope and Contents**

Appended to bottom is the note that reads "No recruits enlisted since last return. The following supply of clothing will be necessary for the guard at the arsenal during the ensuing winter..."

**Keywords**

Military records

**Half monthly return**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/1735

**Unit Date** 1830 November 15-30

**Language** English.

**Scope and Contents**

Includes note concerning the receipt of clothing.

**Keywords**

Military records

**Muster roll**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/1736

**Unit Date** 1838 March-April

**Language** English.

**Scope and Contents**

Names on the muster roll include: D. E. Moore (Captain) John Orindorf R. Anderson V. Franklin J. Vandegriff T. Anderson B. Epperson Samuel Flint J. Povo G. W. Rowsey F. G. Steele William Smith I. Walton J. H. Wigglesworth A. W. Eaton William Eaton M. Slagle

**Keywords**

Muster rolls

**Enlistment documents**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/1713

**Unit Date** 1819-1820

**Language** English.

**Keywords**

Military records

**Enlistment, Andrew Hincer [Hincee]**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/1737

**Unit Date** 1819 May 9

**Language** English.

**Scope and Contents**

"...born in the county of Rockingham ..aged 22 years, 5 feet 3 inches high...by profession a tailor...."

**Keywords**

Military records

**Enlistment, John Spooner**

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/1738

**Unit Date** 1820 March 1

**Language** English.

**Scope and Contents**

"...born in the town of Coblentz and empire of Germany, aged 20 years, 5 feet 4 inches...by profession a tobacconist...."

**Keywords**

Military records