

Rockingham County Board of School Commissioners Records, 1835-1840

Records Group Summary

Title	Rockingham County Board of School Commissioners Records, 1835-1840
Reference Code	RCSR
Inclusive Dates	1835-1840
Document Creator	Rockingham County Board of School Commissioners
Extent	1 box consisting of 19 folders
Genre/Format	Official records
Language	English
Location	Rockingham County Circuit Court
Access and Restrictions	This work has been identified as being free of known restrictions under copyright law, including all related and neighboring rights.
Bio/Historical Note	On February 21, 1818, the Virginia legislature passed a school bill which appropriated \$45,000 annually from the Literary Fund for the education of poor children. The Literary Fund had been established in 1810 which passage of a bill to appropriate "certain escheats, confiscated, and forfeited lands" for the "encouragement of learning." Under the provisions of the 1818 School Act, each county court was required to appoint five to fifteen commissioners to establish and/or administer schools for children of the poor. A more comprehensive public school system was established by legislature in 1870. Prior to 1818, county schools were given the option of whether to appoint a Board of School Commissioners.

Scope and Content	Rockingham County (Va.) Board of School Commissioners Records, 1835-1840, contain treasurer's accounts, school reports, school bonds, and abstracts of school masters documenting the disbursement of the county's allotment, from the state's Literary Fund, for the education of indigent children. The Treasurer's accounts, 1835-1840, record the amount of money drawn from the State Literary Fund, money paid to each schoolmaster, the number of children taught, number of days taught, price of school for each day and student, and money spent on books and slates. The School Reports record the schools operating in the thirteen districts in Rockingham County. The reports also indicate the estimated number of poor children who qualified to attend the schools, number of students who attend school, the names of the schoolmasters and schoolmistresses teaching in the schools, salaries paid to the teachers, and the books used. School Bonds list the amount of money the treasurer of the School Commissioners of Rockingham County owe to the President and Director of the Literary Fund.
Arrangement	Documents are arranged into four series; school reports 1835-1838, school treasurers accounts 1835-1839, Abstracts of School Masters 1835-1840, and School Bonds 1834-1836. Sometime during the 1970s the records were taken to the Library of Virginia for adequate archival preservation. These documents were recently transferred back to the circuit court and upon their arrival had no apparent arrangement. The archivist arranged them according to the principle of <i>respect des fonds</i> and <i>provenance</i> , meaning the records were identified as organic collections accumulated by the Rockingham County Board of School Commissioners and should not be separated. Additionally, the series reflect the administrative units that fell under the Board.
Index Terms	
Subject	Government aid to education--Virginia. Poor children--Virginia. Public Schools--Virginia. Teachers--Virginia. Literary Fund (Va.). School reports--Virginia. Schools--records and correspondence--Virginia.
Geographic Name	Local, Rockingham County (Va.)--History--19th century. Rockingham County (Va.)--Genealogy.

Contents			
Series I	School Reports		Location
Box 1	Folder Title	Year	C.005_002_002
	School Commissioners of Rockingham County	1835	
	School Commissioners of Rockingham County	1836	
	School Commissioners of Rockingham County	1837	
	School Commissioners of Rockingham County	1838	
Series II	Treasures Accounts		
Box 1	Folder Title	Year	C.005_002_002
	John Brown, Treasurer	1835	
	John Brown, Treasurer	1836	
	John Brown, Treasurer	1837	
	John Brown, Treasurer	1838	
	John Brown, Treasurer	1839	
Series III	Abstract of School Masters		
Box 1	Folder Title	Year	C.005_002_002
	School Commissioners of Rockingham County	1835	

	School Commissioners of Rockingham County	1837	
	School Commissioners of Rockingham County	1838	
	School Commissioners of Rockingham County	1839	
	School Commissioners of Rockingham County	1840	
Series IV	School Bonds		
Box I	Folder Title	Year	C.005 002 002
	School Commissioners of Rockingham County (1834)	1834	
	School Commissioners of Rockingham County (1835)	1835	
	School Commissioners of Rockingham County (1836)	1836	
	School Commissioners of Rockingham County (1836)	1836	