

RICHMOND COUNTY PAPERS
STATEN ISLAND PAPERS

A Special Collection in
The Archives and Library of

THE STATEN ISLAND MUSEUM
75 Stuyvesant Place, Staten Island, New York 10301

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PROVENANCE:

The Institute owns various non-serial groups of records which are private papers issued to individuals by governmental agencies relating to business dealings with such agencies. These collections were gathered by various founders and members of the Institute and deposited with the Institute because of interest in the particular areas covered by these papers. The earliest accession number is 320 and the latest is 73-20.

HISTORICAL NOTE:

The documents ranged between the 17th and the 20th centuries covering the period of English rule in the late 17th century when town officers known as supervisors were elected by the freeholders of the four divisions of Richmond County. During the years of the American Revolution, supervisors were elected each year. However, the county was under British Martial Law and they were very little occupied. After November 25, 1783, known as Evacuation Day, the local government was reconstructed.

Pursuant to an order from the council held at New York Town Clerk, Supervisor, Assessor, Constable, Collector, Commissioner of Roads, Overseers of Highways and other officials were chosen and elected. Later Overseers of the Poor were added to the list of town officers. The town clerk was elected by the people for the first time in 1822.

The first villages—Edgewater, New Brighton, and Port Richmond—were incorporated in 1866. In 1870, the Staten Island Improvement Commission—a committee of 100 comparatively well-known men—was chosen which rendered its report the following year.

In 1870, Staten Island was made a separate police district under the control of three commissioners, appointed by the county Judge and five Supervisors.

Tottenville was reincorporated in 1894. A bill creating a commission to inquire into the expediency of consolidation was presented in 1889 and made law in 1890. The bill for a popular vote was enacted in 1894 and the bill creating the Greater New York became a law on May 11, 1896. George Cromwell, the Republican candidate for Borough President, was elected and took office on January 1, 1898 as the first President of the Borough of Richmond.

Thereafter, the government of Staten Island affairs was responsible to the Municipal Government of the City of New York.

SCOPE & CONTENT:

Supervisor's papers from 1766 to 1823 and variously from 1837 to 1874 are on file, as are various Court records (1763-1877), Justices of the Peace papers (1706-1896), Police and District Attorney papers (1775-1818, 1852-1875), County Coroners' records (1875), Inquest records, 1787, 1879; treasurer and taxation papers 1785 variously to 1883. A fairly complete file on the Staten Island Poor House exists (1768, 1829-1883). This group of records also holds records on Roads, Streets, and Highway; Postal; Town censuses; School Tax Records; Board of Health and Vital Statistics, and

various town records. Two copies of the Staten Island Improvement Commission's report by Olmsted are also stored herein.

After the consolidation, the Staten Island Records hold the inventories of Country and Borough Archives; Borough President Reports 1902-1960; Streets and Roads name changes and Commissioner of Highway notices; Post Office reports; Richmond Borough Census for 1930, 1940; reports on Rapid Transit and a file on the proposed Subway Tunnel for Staten Island (1908-1925).

The collection comprises 12 cubic feet and dates from 1766-1979.

Jim Finn, Arranger
Gail Schneider, Archivist

RICHMOND COUNTY PAPERS

Box Inventories:

60.Rcr:sp Box 1/2	bound copies	Proceedings of the Board of Supervisors	1877 1878 1883
60.Rcr:sp Box 2/2	bound copies	Proceedings of the Board of Supervisors	1884 1889 1897
59.Rsib Box 1/5	1-2 2 bd. vols	INVENTORY County & Borough Archives	1940, 1942
Box 2/5	Folders 1-6	Reports: George Cromwell, Borough President	1902-1907
Box 3/5	Folders 7-8 9-12 13-17	George Cromwell Calvin D. Van Name, Borough President John A. Lynch, Borough President	1908-1912 1914-1921 1922-1924
Box 4/5	Folders 18-19 20-21 22-28 30-31 32	John A. Lynch John A. Lynch Joseph A. Palma, Borough President Cornelius A. Hall, Borough President Edward B. Baker, Borough President	1925-1928 1930-1931 1937-1945 1948-1951 1952
Box 5/5	Folders 33 34-38 39 40-42	Edward G. Baker Albert V. Maniscalco, Borough President Anthony R. Gaeta, Borough President Streets & Roads, name changes	1954-1960 1954-1960 1979 1909-1937
Box 1/5	bound volume	Supervisor's Book, annotated Photostats	1766-1801

Box 2/5	bound volume	Supervisor's Book, annotated Photostats	1801-1823
Box 3/5	Folders		
	1-5	Fourth of July Celebration Addresses	1792-1858
	6-17	Supervisors' Papers	1837-1874, n.d.
	18	Bi-partisan Anti-democratic corruption appeal	1893
	19-39	Court Records	1766-1877
Box 4/5	Folders		
	40-44	Justices of the Peace	1706-1896
	45-52	District Attorney, Dept of Police, Jail, Coroner's and Inquests	1775-1879
	53-58	Treasurer's reports	1785-1897
	59-64	Taxation	1789-1883
	65-74	Poor House	1768-1879
	75-87	Roads, Streets, Highways	1691-1890
	88	Postal	1849
	89	Census: Castleton	1896-1897
Box 5/5	Folders		
	90-96	School Tax Records	1813-1895
	97	Board of Health	1873
	98-100	SI Improvement Commission	1870-1871
	101-123	Town Records	1768-1935
	124	Consolidation	1898