Georgia Militia Districts census records

Descriptive Summary

Repository: Georgia Historical Society
Creator: Georgia. Court of Ordinary (Chatham County)
Title: Georgia Militia Districts census records
Dates: circa 1894
Extent: 0.2 cubic feet (2 volumes)
Identification: MS 0298

Biographical/Historical Note

The colonial Acts of 1755 and September 29, 1773 established the creation of Militia Districts in the colony of Georgia. Under these acts, the power to create and reorganize districts belonged to the Provincial Governor. In each district, the Captain of the Company would record the names of every male between the ages of 16 and 60 within the district. This enrolled the men as members of the Militia Company. In 1792, an Act of Congress established uniform Militia laws for all of the states.

Initially, Militia Districts were not numbered, but instead named after the district Captain. The Act of December 10, 1807, changed this practice, stating that all districts must be numbered. In Georgia, some districts had already been numbered, and while some of these numbers changed, others remained, leading to duplication.

While the power to establish Militia Districts originally belonged to the Provincial Governor, from 1778 to 1799 that power was transferred to the state's Governor. The Act of February 10, 1799 transferred the power to establish and change Militia Districts again, this time to the officers of the Militia in each County, subject to the approval of the Brigadier General of each county.

In 1819, the power to establish and change Militia Districts was given to the Inferior Courts of the Counties, with an 1840 amendment requiring that the Governor be notified of all changes immediately. After a shift of power and the abolishment of Inferior Courts, the creation and changing of Militia Districts in Georgia fell to the Ordinaries of each county.

Scope and Content Note

This collection consists of two volumes of census records for the 3rd and 4th Militia Districts in Chatham County, Georgia. While the volumes are undated, other census records indicate these were recorded in approximately 1894. Each volume lists the name, street address, age, and occupations, and race of male heads of household. The 4th district volume includes white males, A-M, and African American males A-Z.

Index Terms

  Census records.
  Chatham County (Ga.)
  Georgia--History--1865-
  Georgia--Militia--History--19th century.
  Georgia. Court of Ordinary (Chatham County)

Administrative Information

Custodial History
Preferred Citation
[item identification], Georgia Militia Districts census records, MS 298, Georgia Historical Society, Savannah, Georgia.

Acquisition Information
Unknown.

Restrictions

Access Restrictions
Collection is open for research.

Publication Rights
Copyright has not been assigned to the Georgia Historical Society. All requests for permission to publish or quote from manuscripts must be submitted in writing to the Division of Library and Archives. Permission for publication is given on behalf of the Georgia Historical Society as the owner of the physical items and is not intended to include or imply permission of the copyright holder, which must also be obtained by the researcher.

Sponsorship
Encoding funded by a 2012 Documenting Democracy grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission.

Container List

Volume
1  Census of male head of households, listing name, address, age, occupation, and race, undated, circa 1894

Volume
2  Census of male head of households, listing name, address, age, occupation, and race, undated, circa 1894
   Includes white males A-M and African American males, A-Z.