

Commission of Soldiers' Orphan Schools State Documents

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Pennsylvania Department of Education, Bureau of the State Library

Forum Building
607 South Drive
Harrisburg, PA, 17120

Summary Information

Repository: Pennsylvania Department of Education, Bureau of the State Library

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Title: Commission of Soldiers' Orphan Schools State Documents

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Date: 1867 - 1920's

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Materials:

Scope and Contents

The Commission (earlier - Department) of Soldiers' Orphan Schools was charged with administering the soldiers' orphan schools of the Commonwealth, including admissions, discharges, upkeep of accommodations, rules, regulations, and educational staff. The then-Department was created with the intention to care for orphans left in Pennsylvania from the American Civil War, both boys and girls, from ages four to sixteen, and later expanded to later war veterans' children.

The publications of the Commission of Soldiers' Orphan Schools contain annual reports. Selected topics from these publications include yearly agency happenings and statistics.

Biographical / Historical

The Department of Soldiers' Orphan School was created in 1867 after the Civil War left a crisis of fatherless children in Pennsylvania. An act on May 27, 1871 designated the Superintendent of Public Instruction as the Superintendent of the Department of Soldiers' Orphan Schools. In May 1889, the agency designation was changed from that of a department to a commission, still tasked with administration of the schools, homes, and institutions of soldiers' orphans. In the 1920s, the Commission was likely phased out of use, with educational duties likely passed to the Department of Public Instruction.

Legacy Agency Names and Related Agencies

Department of Soldiers' Orphan Schools (former agency name); Department of Public Instruction (related agency)

Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Controlled Access Headings

- Orphans - Education
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