

# COLLECTIONS IN THE CLASSROOM

George A. Ainslee, Chief Fire Department, 1875



## ERA

Late 19th century

## THEMES

Jobs, Firefighters, Community Helpers

## CITATION INFORMATION

George D. Rust Photograph Collection, V.56.201.09/PHC0019. The Valentine.

## ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

1. How do firefighters dress differently today?
2. How are their uniforms the same?

## CONTEXT

This is an early photograph of George A. Ainslee the Chief of the Richmond Fire Department from 1875. Firefighting and fire protection has always been an important job for community helpers in Richmond and in 1819 the city had three volunteer firefighting organizations. Homeowners were required by law to own a bucket, which individuals employed in “bucket brigades” formed when alerted by alarm bells. Firefighters began getting paid for their hard and dangerous work in the late 19th century and are still important members of our community today.

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