

A Guide to the Brunswick County (Va.) Judgments, 1782-1971 (bulk 1806-1857)

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A Collection in the Library of Virginia
Library of Virginia
2005

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History

Processed by: Library of Virginia Staff

Title Statement

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Subtitle: Brunswick County (Va.) Judgments, 1782-1971 (bulk 1806-1857)

Author: Greg Crawford

Publication Statement

Date: © 2005 By the Library of Virginia. All rights reserved.

Publisher: Library of Virginia

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Profile Description

Creation: Machine-readable finding aid derived from Archives database, created by Greg Crawford, 05 July 2005

Language Usage: Description is in English

Revision Description

2013-11-21 Converted to schema conforming EAD by dtd2schema.vh.xsl.

Descriptive Summary

Language

English

Collector

Brunswick County (Va.) Circuit Court.

Physical Characteristics

141.6 cu. ft. (142 boxes); 13 volumes

Repository

Library of Virginia

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

There are no restrictions.

Use Restrictions

There are no restrictions.

Acquisition Information

These items came in a transfer of court papers from Brunswick County in an undated accession.

Processing Information

Prior to 2026, the judgement descriptive records were not standardized in their inclusion of contextual information or content lists. Local Records staff reviewed this record and have updated to current standards as of 2026.

Encoded by G. Crawford: 2013; updated by J. Taylor: September 2026.

Preferred Citation

Brunswick County (Va.) Judgments, 1782-1971 (bulk 1806-1857). [insert series or volume title] Local Government Records Collection, Brunswick County Court Records. The Library of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia.

Adjunct Descriptive Data

Related Material

Additional Brunswick County Records can be found on microfilm at the Library of Virginia. Consult ["A Guide to Virginia County and City Records on Microfilm."](#)

Brunswick County is one of Virginia's Lost Records Localities. Additional Brunswick Court Records may be found in the Virginia Lost Records Localities Digital Collection at the Library of Virginia. Search the [Lost Records Localities Digital Collection](#) available on Virginia Memory.

Historical Information

Context for Record Type: Judgments are identified as civil suits, often involving debt, heard by a jury on the "law" side of the court as opposed to the "chancery" (or equity) side. Should the defendant not have funds to repay the debt, the court ordered their property (including enslaved people) to be seized and sold to repay the debt owed to the plaintiff. Judgments also contain suits brought by enslaved people seeking to gain their freedom.

In judgments, an assumpsit or declaration (sometimes referred to as a narratio) lays out the plaintiff's grievance as a petition acted as a formal application to the court requesting judicial action. Judgment suits also generally included record types like subpoenas, summons, and exhibit. Judgments may also include additional documentations such as executions, bonds, and various kinds of writs.

Judgment suits make up a large quantity of a locality's records; consequently, they provide a great deal of information concerning the activities and interests of the people who lived in the locality. Since the vast majority of judgment suits relate to financial matters, they are a valuable resource in studying the economic and social history of Virginia localities and are the impotence for many chancery suits.

Locality History: Brunswick County was named for the duchy of Brunswick-Lüneburg, one of the German possessions of King George I. It was formed by statute in 1720 from Prince George County and on 31 October 1723 the boundaries of the county were ordered to be laid out. However, because of the sparse population, the county court first met in June 1732. Brunswick County was enlarged by the addition of parts of Surry and Isle of Wight counties in 1733. The county seat is Lawrenceville.

Lost Locality Notes: Most loose records prior to 1781 are missing. Pre-1781 volumes that record deeds, court orders, and wills exist.

Types of Courts

The County Court was the original colonial court of adjudication and recordation, and it was the principal tribunal for the administration of local justice. The individual justices could act on small claims matters as well as criminal matters where imminent bodily harm was a possibility, there being an appeal to the full County Court, which met monthly. This court ceased to exist in 1904 and the recordation function was transferred to the circuit court.

The Superior Court of Law was created in 1808. It met twice a year in each county, presided over by a circuit-riding General Court judge. Records were filed with the County Court. It had civil and criminal jurisdiction. The court ceased to exist in 1831.

The Circuit Superior Courts of Law and Chancery, established in 1831, were the upper courts on the local level. Sessions were held twice a year in each county, presided over by a General Court judge. The counties were grouped into districts for the convenience of the judge. The court ceased to exist in 1851.

The Circuit Court was authorized by the Constitution of 1851 and established by an act of the General Assembly passed in May 1852. Courts were held twice yearly in each county, presided over by 21 judges who rode circuits in the area of their jurisdiction. The records were filed with County Court records. These courts were granted original jurisdiction concurrent with that of the County Courts, as well as appellate jurisdiction in all civil cases of more than fifty dollars and criminal cases not "expressly cognizable in some other court," including those involving loss of life.

The District Court was created in 1788. The purpose of the creation of the District Court was to alleviate congestion in the General Court which had caused unreasonable delays in the adjudication of common law cases. Virginia was divided into eighteen districts, each composed of several counties, plus the district of Kentucky. Courts were held in each district twice yearly and cases were heard from the several counties in that district. The District Court always met at the same place in each district, and its records were kept at that one location. The District Courts were abolished in 1808 and were replaced by the Superior Courts of Law.

Additional Judgment Types

Condemnations are judgments concerning the taking of private property for public use through the power of eminent domain. Most cases involve railroad or canal companies and contain maps/plats of the land in question.

Scope and Content

Brunswick County (Va.) Judgments, 1782-1971 (bulk 1806-1857), contain civil suits and criminal suits, or also known as commonwealth causes, heard in County Court, Superior Court of Law, Circuit Superior Court, and Circuit Court. The majority of civil suits in this collection relate to matters of debt. These records consist of both processed and unprocessed, loose records and several volumes.

Arrangement

This collection is arranged into three series:

- Series I: Judgments, 1782-1971
- Series II: Unprocessed Judgments, 1906-1961
- Series III: Judgment Volumes, 1789-1961

Contents List

Series I: Judgments, 1782-1971

Subseries A: District Court Judgments, 1789-1809

Extent

6 cubic feet (6 boxes)

Physical Location Library of Virginia

Scope and Content

These records are organized chronologically by year.

Barcode number 1115971: Judgments 1789-1791

Barcode number 1115970: Judgments 1792-1797

Barcode number 1115973: Judgments 1797-1799

Barcode number 1115972: Judgments 1800-1802

Barcode number 1115974: Judgments 1803-1806

Barcode number 1115975: Judgments 1806-1809

Subseries B: Judgments, 1782-1971

Extent

131.45 cubic feet (132 boxes)

Physical Location State Records Center

Scope and Content

This series consists of records from the Circuit Superior Court of Law and Chancery, the Superior Court of Law, the Circuit Court, and the County Court.

These records are organized chronologically by year then plaintiff's surname.

Barcode number 1115817: Judgments 1782-1783 A-R

Barcode number 1115816: Judgments 1783 S - 1784 W

Barcode number 1115818: Judgments 1784 W - 1785 W

Barcode number 1115819: Judgments 1786-1787 G

Barcode number 1115820: Judgments 1787 H - 1788 Y

Barcode number 1115821: Judgments 1789 A - 1790 L

Barcode number 1115823: Judgments 1790 M - 1792 C

Barcode number 1115822: Judgments 1792 D - 1794 C

Barcode number 1115825: Judgments 1794 D - 1795 P

Barcode number 1115824: Judgments 1795 S - 1797 B

Barcode number 1115827: Judgments 1797 C - 1798 M

Barcode number 1115826: Judgments 1798 N - 1800 D

Barcode number 1115805: Judgments 1800 C - 1801 B

Barcode number 1115804: Judgments 1801 D - 1802 B

Barcode number 1115807: Judgments 1802 C-R

Barcode number 1115806: Judgments 1802 S - 1803 H

Barcode number 1115808: Judgments 1803 J - 1804 F

Barcode number 1115809: Judgments 1804 D - 1805 B

Barcode number 1115810: Judgments 1805 C-Y

Barcode number 1115811: Judgments 1806 A - 1806 O

Barcode number 1115813: Judgments 1806 P - 1807 E

Barcode number 1115812: Judgments 1807 F-Y

Barcode number 1115815: Judgments 1808 A-R

Barcode number 1115814: Judgments 1808 S - 1809 H

Barcode number 1115793: Judgments 1809 L - 1810 D

Barcode number 1115976: Judgments 1809-1815

Barcode number 1115792: Judgments 1810 E-Z

Barcode number 1115795: Judgments 1811 A-W

Barcode number 1115794: Judgments 1812 A-P[no O]

Barcode number 1115797: Judgments 1812 O - 1813 E

Barcode number 1115796: Judgments 1813 F-W

Barcode number 1115799: Judgments 1814 A - 1815 K

Barcode number 1115798: Judgments 1815 M - 1816 R

Barcode number 1115801: Judgments 1816 S - 1817 Y

Barcode number 1115977: Judgments 1816-1817

Barcode number 1115800: Judgments 1817 W - 1818 T

Barcode number 1115979: Judgments 1818

Barcode number 1115803: Judgments 1818 U - 1819 O

Barcode number 1115802: Judgments 1819 P - 1820 H

Barcode number 1115978: Judgments 1819-1820

Barcode number 1115828: Judgments 1820 J-Y

Barcode number 1115980: Judgments 1820

Barcode number 1115981: Judgments 1820-1821

Barcode number 1115829: Judgments 1821 A-T

Barcode number 1115830: Judgments 1821 V - 1822 P

Barcode number 1115831: Judgments 1822 P - 1823 J

Barcode number 1115983: Judgments 1822

Barcode number 1115833: Judgments 1823 H - 1824 F

Barcode number 1115982: Judgments 1823-1824

Barcode number 1115832: Judgments 1824 G - 1825 C

Barcode number 1115985: Judgments 1824-1825

Barcode number 1115835: Judgments 1825 D - 1826 S

Barcode number 1115834: Judgments 1826 T - 1827 R

Barcode number 1115984: Judgments 1826-1827

Barcode number 1115837: Judgments 1827 S - 1828 L

Barcode number 1115986: Judgments 1827-1828

Barcode number 1115836: Judgments 1828 M - 1829 L

Barcode number 1115987: Judgments 1828-1829

Barcode number 1115838: Judgments 1829 M - 1831 C

Barcode number 1115989: Judgments 1830-1831

Barcode number 1115839: Judgments 1831 D - 1834 Z

Barcode number 1115988: Judgments 1832-1833

Barcode number 1115991: Judgments 1834-1836

Barcode number 1115840: Judgments 1835 A - 1838 W

Barcode number 1115990: Judgments 1837-1838

Barcode number 1115841: Judgments 1839 A - 1842 W

Barcode number 1115993: Judgments 1839-1840

Barcode number 1115992: Judgments 1841-1842

Barcode number 1115995: Judgments 1842-1843

Barcode number 1115842: Judgments 1843 A - 1847 W

Barcode number 1115994: Judgments 1843-1844

Barcode number 1122818: Copies Judgments Granted in Other C 1844-1890

Barcode number 1115996: Judgments 1845-1848

Barcode number 1115843: Judgments 1848 A - 1856 Z

Barcode number 1115997: Judgments 1848-1852

Barcode number 1115999: Judgments 1852-1857

Barcode number 1115845: Judgments 1857 A - 1866 C

Barcode number 1115998: Judgments 1858-1861

Barcode number 1116001: Judgments 1861-1866

Barcode number 1115844: Judgments 1866 D - 1870 W

Barcode number 1116000: Judgments 1866-1867

Barcode number 1116002: Judgments 1868

Barcode number 1116003: Judgments 1869-1870

Barcode number 1115847: Judgments 1871 A - 1876 C

Barcode number 1116004: Judgments 1871-1875

Barcode number 1116005: Judgments 1875-1878

Barcode number 1115846: Judgments 1876 D - 1881 W

Barcode number 1115737: Judgments 1878-1883

Barcode number 1115848: Judgments 1882 A - 1886 W

Barcode number 1115736: Judgments 1884-1888

Barcode number 1115849: Judgments 1887 A - 1890 J

Barcode number 1115738: Judgments 1889-1893

Barcode number 1115851: Judgments 1890 K - 1892 W

Barcode number 1115850: Judgments 1893 A - 1895 W

Barcode number 1115739: Judgments 1894-1899

Barcode number 1044491: Justices' Judgments 1895-1923

Barcode number 1115853: Judgments 1896 A-W - 1901 A-W

Barcode number 1115741: Judgments 1900-1904

Barcode number 1115852: Judgments 1902 A-W - 1904 Jan

Barcode number 1115740: Judgments 1905-1906

Barcode number 1115743: Judgments 1906-1908

Barcode number 1115744: Judgments 1908-1909

Barcode number 1115745: Judgments 1910-1911

Barcode number 1115746: Judgments 1912

Barcode number 1115747: Judgments 1913-1914

Barcode number 1140067: Judgments 1914-1915

Barcode number 1140068: Judgments 1916

Barcode number 1115748: Judgments 1916-1917

Barcode number 1115749: Judgments 1917-1919

Barcode number 1115750: Judgments 1920-1921

Barcode number 1115752: Judgments 1921

Barcode number 1115751: Judgments 1921-1923

Barcode number 1115755: Judgments 1923-1924

Barcode number 1115754: Judgments 1924-1925

Barcode number 1044492: Justices' Judgments 1924-1927

Barcode number 1115757: Judgments 1925-1926

Barcode number 1115756: Judgments 1926-1927

Barcode number 1044493: Justices' Judgments 1926-1928

Barcode number 1115760: Judgments 1927-1928

Barcode number 1115759: Judgments 1928-1929

Barcode number 1044494: Justices' Judgments 1928-1934

Barcode number 1115762: Judgments 1929-1930

Barcode number 1115764: Judgments 1930-1931

Barcode number 1115769: Judgments 1931-1933

Barcode number 1115767: Judgments 1933-1935

Barcode number 1044495: Justices' Judgments 1933-1941

Barcode number 1115771: Judgments 1935-1937

Barcode number 1115772: Judgments 1937-1939

Barcode number 1115777: Judgments 1939-1941

Barcode number 1115776: Judgments 1942-1945

Barcode number 1115781: Judgments 1946-1971 [bulk 1946-1947]

Barcode number 1115742: Judgments: Blandsford's Admx v. Southern Railroad Co. undated

Series II: Unprocessed Judgments, 1906-1961

Extent

1.8 cubic feet (4 boxes)

Physical Location Library of Virginia

Scope and Content

All records in this record series are unprocessed and remain tri-folded within their original bundles; the bundles also include other court records, such as commonwealth causes, road and bridge records, tax and fiscal records, Overseers of the Poor, etc. Not all record types will be found in every bundle of papers. The contents of the boxes are not arranged in any particular order and dates may overlap between boxes. Some records may be fragile.

Barcode number 1044499: Warrants of Arrest (Judgments), 192 1921-1936

Barcode number 1044497: Judgments Entered on Judgment Lien 1921-1922

Barcode number 1044667: Board Papers, Correspondence, Resolutions, 1906-40^Judgments, 1904-61 1906-1961

Barcode number 1140950: Plats and Surveys; Judgments (Condemnations) undated

Series III: Judgment Volumes, 1789-1961

Extent

13 volumes

Physical Location State Records Center

Barcode number 1103063: Judgment Book 1789-1792

Barcode number 1103059: Letter Book [Office Judgments] 1814-1822

Barcode number 1102935: Office Judgments 1831-1857

Barcode number 1103076: Office Judgments 1840-1855

Barcode number 1103066: Judgment Docket 1843-1847, 1866-1886

Barcode number 1044668: Papers, 1906-1940^Judgments, 1904-1 1904-1961

Barcode number 1044669: Papers, 1906-1940^Judgments, 1904-1 1904-1961

Barcode number 1103280: Judgment and Execution Book 1906-1909

Barcode number 1103068: Judgment and Execution Book 1910-1915

Barcode number 1103252: Judgment and Execution Book 1913-1915

Barcode number 1103264: Judgment and Execution Book 1915-1916

Barcode number 1103279: Judgment and Execution Book 1916-1918

Barcode number 1103263: Judgment and Execution Book 1922-1926

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