

A Guide to the Virginia Superior Court of Chancery (Williamsburg District). Records, 1827

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Author: Greg Crawford

History

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Descriptive Summary

Accession number

41008

Language

English

Collector

Robert Alonzo Brock

Physical Characteristics

Miscellaneous reel 4607

Repository

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

Collection is open to research.

Use Restrictions

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Acquisition Information

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Adjunct Descriptive Data

Related Material

See the [Lost Records Localities Digital Collection](#) available at Virginia Memory.

For more information and a listing of lost records localities see [Lost Records research note](#).

Location of Originals

Originals are located at the Henry E. Huntington Library, San Marino, California.

Historical Information

The Superior Courts of Chancery were created in 1802 to handle chancery matters initially handled by the High Court of Chancery. The state was divided into three chancery districts and cases from the counties composing the district were tried in a fixed location within each district. The records were kept in that location. Five additional districts were created before the court was supplanted by local Circuit Superior Courts of Law and Chancery in 1831. This court was sometimes called District Court of Chancery

Williamsburg Superior Court of Chancery included: Accomack, Charles City, Elizabeth City, Essex, Gloucester, Isle of Wight, James City, King and Queen, Lancaster, Mathews, Middlesex, Nansemond, New Kent, Norfolk, Northampton, Northumberland, Princess Anne, Richmond, Southampton, Surry, Sussex, Warwick, Westmoreland, and York Counties.

James City County was recognized in 1634 as an original shire. Williamsburg was founded in 1699 and declared a "city incorporate" by a royal charter in 1722, although its actual status was that of a borough. Beginning in 1770, the courts of James City County and Williamsburg shared a common courthouse. During the Civil War, the records of both localities were transferred to Richmond for safekeeping, but were destroyed by fire there on April 3, 1865. The records of the superior court of chancery for the Williamsburg district were destroyed by a courthouse fire in April 1911.

Scope and Content

Records, 1827, of the Superior Court of Chancery for the Williamsburg District consist of a copy of the chancery cause, Thomas Morgan and others versus Benjamin W. Ladd and others. Exhibits found in the chancery cause include the will of John Atkinson of Charles City County as well as the inventory and appraisal of his estate.

Access Terms

Corporate Name

Virginia. Superior Court of Chancery (Williamsburg District.)

Subject Terms

Equity--Virginia.

Public records--Virginia.

Geographic Terms

Williamsburg (Va.)--History--19th century.

Record Type

Courts of chancery--Virginia.

Judicial records--Virginia.

Added Entry - Personal Name

Brock, R. A. (Robert Alonzo), 1839-1914, collector.

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