

A Guide to the Tazewell County (Va.) Criminal Presentments and Prosecutions, circa 1800-1913 (bulk 1890-1901)

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A Collection in the Library of Virginia 1119822-1119824, 1119826-1119843, 1119846-1119848, 1119852, 1119854, 1119864-1119866, 1119872, 1119874

Library of Virginia

2008

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History

Processed by: Library of Virginia staff

Title Statement

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Subtitle: Tazewell County (Va.) Criminal Presentments and Prosecutions, circa 1800-1913 (bulk 1890-1901)

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Publication Statement

Date: © 2008 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 being created directly into EAD, created by Sam Walters, 05 May 2008

Language Usage: Description is in English

Revision Description

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

Descriptive Summary

Barcode numbers

1119822-1119824, 1119826-1119843, 1119846-1119848, 1119852, 1119854, 1119864-1119866, 1119872, 1119874

Language

English

Collector

Tazewell County (Va.) Circuit Court

Physical Characteristics

13.95 cu. ft. (31 boxes)

Location

Library of Virginia

Repository

The Library of Virginia

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

There are no restrictions.

Use Restrictions

There are no restrictions.

Acquisition Information

These items came to the Library of Virginia in shipments of court papers from Tazewell County.

Preferred Citation

Tazewell County (Va.) Criminal Presentments and Prosecutions, circa 1800-1913 (bulk 1890-1901). Local government records collection, Tazewell County Court Records. The Library of Virginia, Richmond, Va. 23219.

Adjunct Descriptive Data

Related Material

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

Additional Tazewell County criminal records may be found at the Tazewell County Courthouse and the Library of Virginia.

Historical Information

Tazewell County was named for Henry Tazewell, U.S. senator from Virginia from 1794 until his death in 1799. It was formed from Wythe and Russell Counties in 1799. Parts of Russell County were added in 1807 and 1835, parts of Washington and Wythe Counties were added in 1826, and part of Logan County (West Virginia) was added in 1834.

Scope and Content

Tazewell County (Va.) Criminal Presentments and Prosecutions, circa 1800-1913 (bulk 1890-1901) are criminal court cases and consist primarily of warrants, summons, indictments, and verdicts handed down by grand juries and other legal authorities in order to prosecute individuals who violated the penal code. These offenses ranged in severity from murder, rape, assault and battery, and larceny to tax evasion and slander. Criminal offenders and victims who appear in cases prior to the abolition of slavery in Virginia in 1865 included both free and enslaved persons.

Warrants were issued by grand juries, judges, and justices of the peace directing law enforcement officials to either arrest and imprison a person suspected of having committed a crime or to cause an individual to appear in court to answer accusations made against them. Peace warrants directing an offender to "keep the peace of the Commonwealth" or to restrain from any violent acts are commonly found in assault and battery cases.

Summons were used to call a suspected person to appear in court. A summons could also be issued to direct witnesses or victims to come before the court in order to provide evidence or information deemed pertinent to a case.

An indictment is the official, written description of the crime that an accused individual is suspected of committing, which is approved by a grand jury and presented to a court in order to begin legal proceedings. Due to this process, indictments are often referred to as "presentments."

Verdicts are the formal pronouncements made by juries on issues submitted to them by a judge or other law

enforcement official. In the case of a guilty verdict, a judge will sentence the offender. Sentences may include a fine, corporal punishment, and/or imprisonment. Coroners also submitted verdicts such as "death by suicide," "death by natural causes," etc. when determining the cause of a suspicious or sudden death.

Index Terms

Corporate Names:

Tazewell County (Va.) Circuit Court

Subjects:

African Americans -- History
Assault and battery -- Virginia -- Tazewell County
Crime -- Virginia -- Tazewell County
Criminals -- Virginia -- Tazewell County
Larceny -- Virginia -- Tazewell County
Libel and slander -- Virginia -- Tazewell County
Murder -- Virginia -- Tazewell County
Rape -- Virginia -- Tazewell County
Slaveholders -- Virginia -- Tazewell County
Slavery -- Virginia -- Tazewell County
Slaves -- Virginia -- Tazewell County
Tax evasion -- Virginia -- Tazewell County

Geographical Names:

Tazewell County (Va.) -- History

Genre and Form Terms:

Indictments -- Virginia -- Tazewell County
Summons -- Virginia -- Tazewell County
Verdicts -- Virginia -- Tazewell County
Warrants (Law) -- Virginia -- Tazewell County

Arrangement

Chronological