

# A Guide to the Henry County (Va.) Commonwealth Causes, 1856-1859

Henry County (Va.) Commonwealth Causes, 1856-1859  
1856-1859



A Collection in the Library of Virginia 0007302236  
Library of Virginia  
2009

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## History

**Processed by:** Dale Dulaney

## Title Statement

A Guide to the Henry County (Va.) Commonwealth Causes, 1856-1859

**Subtitle:** Henry County (Va.) Commonwealth Causes, 1856-1859

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## Publication Statement

**Date:** © 2009 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 MARC record, created by Sarah Nerney, 16 November 2011

**Language Usage:** Description is in English

## Revision Description

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

## Descriptive Summary

**Barcode number**

0007302236

**Language**

English

**Collector**

Henry County (Va.) Circuit Court.

**Physical Characteristics**

.15 cu. ft. (1 box)

**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 transfers of court papers from Henry County.

**Preferred Citation**

Henry County (Va.) Commonwealth Causes, 1856-1859. Local government records collection, Henry County Court Records. The Library of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia 23219.

## Adjunct Descriptive Data

### Related Material

Additional commonwealth causes may be located in the Henry County (Va.) Judgments located at the Library of Virginia.

## Historical Information

Henry County was named for Patrick Henry, revolutionary leader and the first governor of the commonwealth of Virginia. It was formed from Pittsylvania County in 1776.

Courts of Oyer and Terminer (hear and determine) are English in origin. In Virginia, they were convened to try slaves who committed capital offenses, persons accused of committing capital offenses at sea, and other special situations concerning capital offenses. The law establishing the oyer and terminer commission in Virginia has its origins in an act of assembly passed in April 1692 and amended several times in the decades afterwards. The law detailed the procedure for a slave brought to trial for a capital offense. A slave was denied the right to a jury trial that white men and women had.

## Scope and Content

Henry County (Va.) Commonwealth Causes, 1856-1859, consist of five commonwealth causes against slaves and a free negro for crimes including assault with the intent to maim, malicious stabbing, aid and abet a poisoning, and rape. All of the suits include extensive testimony and some deponents are slaves.

## Index Terms

**Corporate Names:**

Henry County (Va.). Circuit Court.

**Subjects:**

African Americans -- History.

Crime -- Virginia -- Henry County.

Free African Americans -- Virginia -- Henry County.

Slaveholders -- Virginia -- Henry County.

Slaves -- Virginia -- Henry County.

**Geographical Names:**

Henry County (Va.) -- History -- 19th century.

## **Genre and Form Terms:**

Criminal court records -- Virginia -- Henry County.

Local government records -- Virginia -- Henry County.

## **Added Entry - Corporate Name:**

Henry County (Va.) Court of Oyer and Terminer.

## **Arrangement**

Chronological by end date.

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