

# A Guide to the Staunton (Va.) Judgments, circa 1807-1930

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A Collection in the Library of Virginia  
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## History

**Processed by:** Library of Virginia Staff

## Title Statement

A Guide to the Staunton (Va.) Judgments, circa 1807-1930

**Subtitle:** Staunton (Va.) Judgments, circa 1807-1930

**Author:** Sam Walters

## Publication Statement

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## Profile Description

**Creation:** Machine-readable finding aid derived from MARC record, created by Sam Walters, 3 July 2013

**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

Staunton (Va.) Circuit Court

### Extent

15.55 cubic feet (35 boxes) 3 volumes

### Location

Library of Virginia

### Repository

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 a shipment of court papers from the city of Staunton in 2007 under accession number 43238 as well as 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 S. Walters: 2013; updated by J. Taylor: May 2026.

## Preferred Citation

Staunton (Va.) Judgments, 1807-1930 [insert series or volume title]. Local government records collection, Staunton Court Records. The Library of Virginia, Richmond, Va. 23219.

# Adjunct Descriptive Data

## Related Material

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

## 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:** Staunton, in Augusta County, was named, according to most authorities, for Rebecca Staunton, wife of Sir William Gooch, lieutenant governor of Virginia from 1727 to 1749. Staunton was laid out in 1748 at the site of the Augusta County courthouse and was established as a town in 1761. It was incorporated as a town in 1801 and as a city in 1871.

### Types of Courts

The Staunton Hustings Court was established in 1802 upon Staunton being granted its own municipal court, separate from Augusta County, to record deeds, probate wills, handle all criminal and civil law cases for the town of Staunton. Beginning in the early 20th century, it was also referred to as the Corporation Court. The Hustings Court was formally abolished in 1973 under Virginia's Court Reorganization Act with the Circuit Court acting as the sole judicial body for the city of Staunton.

## Scope and Content

Staunton (Va.) Judgments, 1807-1930, contain unprocessed civil cases in which justice was administered on the strictly formulated rules of common law. The majority of cases in this record series relate to matters of debt. This collection may include other record series such Commonwealth Causes, Bonds/Commissions/Oaths, Road and Bridge Records, etc.

## Arrangement

This collection is arranged into two series:

- Series I: Unprocessed Judgments, 1807-1930
- Series II: Judgment Volumes, 1850-1905

## Contents List

### Series I: Unprocessed Judgments, 1807-1930

#### Extent

15.55 cubic feet (35 boxes)

**Physical Location** State Records Center

#### 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 1177506: Judgments 1807-1812**

**Barcode number 7887899: Judgments 1811-1881**

**Barcode number 1177525: Judgments 1812-1817**

**Barcode number 1177510: Judgments 1821-1825**

**Barcode number 1177515: Judgments 1826-1830**

**Barcode number 1177512: Judgments 1831-1835**

**Barcode number 1177499: Judgments 1835-1850**

**Barcode number 1177500: Judgments 1851-1856**

**Barcode number 1177501: Judgments 1851-1856**

**Barcode number 1177533: Judgments 1860-1869**

**Barcode number 1177504: Judgments 1870-1874**

**Barcode number 1177513: Judgments 1874-1875**

**Barcode number 1177535: Judgments 1876-1878**

**Barcode number 1177534: Judgments 1877-1913 circa**

**Barcode number 1177519: Judgments 1877-1913 circa**

**Barcode number 1177536: Judgments 1878-1883**

**Barcode number 1177537: Judgments 1878-1910**

**Barcode number 1177517: Judgments 1880-1910 circa**

**Barcode number 1177532: Judgments 1880-1913 circa**

**Barcode number 1177530: Judgments 1880-1913 circa**

**Barcode number 1177530: Judgments 1880-1913 circa**

**Barcode number 1177522: Judgments 1880-1913 circa**

**Barcode number 1177531: Judgments 1880-1913 circa**

**Barcode number 1177527: Judgments 1880-1913 circa**

**Barcode number 1177508: Judgments 1880-1913 circa**

**Barcode number 1177516: Judgments 1880-1913 circa**

**Barcode number 1177503: Judgments 1880-1913 circa**

**Barcode number 1177529: Judgments 1880-1913 circa**

**Barcode number 1177514: Judgments 1880-1913 circa**

**Barcode number 1177505: Judgments 1880-1913 circa**

**Barcode number 1177511: Judgments 1880-1914 circa**

**Barcode number 1177526: Judgments 1880-1930 circa**

**Barcode number 1177498: Judgments 1884-1886**

**Barcode number 1177518: Judgments 1899-1901**

**Barcode number 1177528: Judgments 1902-1913 circa**

**Barcode number 1180990: Judgments 1907**

## **Series II: Judgment Volumes, 1850-1905**

### **Extent**

3 volumes

**Physical Location** State Records Center

### **Scope and Content**

The judgment volumes were used to record liens on property placed during case proceedings in Staunton's Hustings Court.

**Barcode number 1090215: Judgment Lien Docket 1850-1874**

**Barcode number 1090214: Judgment Lien Docket 1874-1883**

**Barcode number 1090213: Judgment Lien Docket 1883-1905**