

A Guide to the Louisa County (Va.) Chancery Causes, 1753-1913 (bulk 1881-1913)

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A Collection in the Library of Virginia
Library of Virginia
2010

Author: Greg Crawford

History

Processed by: Callie Lou Freed, L. Jones and Field processor

Title Statement

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Subtitle: Louisa County (Va.) Chancery Causes, 1753-1913 (bulk 1881-1913)

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Publication Statement

Date: © 2010 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 Greg Crawford, 05 April 2010

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

Louisa County (Va.) Circuit Court.

Physical Characteristics

Digital images; 106.9 cubic feet (239 boxes).

Location

State Records Center

Repository

The Library of Virginia

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

Louisa County (Va.) Chancery Causes, 1753-1913, use digital images found on the [Chancery Records Index](#) available electronically at the website of the Library of Virginia.

Use Restrictions

There are no restrictions.

Acquisition Information

These records came to the Library of Virginia in a transfer of court papers from Louisa County (Va.) in 2008 under the accession number 43572 and an undated accession.

Processing Information

A portion of the records were processed in the locality by a field processor in 1997, prior to their transfer to the Library of Virginia. An additional portion was processed and indexed by Library of Virginia staff in 2003. The portion processed by Library of Virginia staff was added onto the end of the series rather than interfiled.

Digital images were generated by PTFs in 2010 through the Library of Virginia's Circuit Court Records Preservation Program.

Encoded by G. Crawford: 2010; updated by J. Taylor: July 2023.

Preferred Citation

Louisa County (Va.) Chancery Causes, 1753-1913 (bulk 1881-1913). (Cite style of suit and chancery index no.). Local government records collection, Louisa County Court Records. The Library of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia, 23219.

Adjunct Descriptive Data

Related Material

Additional Louisa County Court Records can be found on microfilm at The Library of Virginia web site. Consult ["A Guide to Virginia County and City Records on Microfilm."](#)

Post-1913 records remain at the Circuit Court Clerk's office.

See also: ["A Guide to the Louisa Milling and Manufacturing Company Cashbook and Ledgers, 1872-1878."](#) An exhibit in the Louisa County Chancery Cause 1890-020: M.P. Vaughn for etc. vs. Louisa Milling and Manufacturing Company.

See also: ["A Guide to the H.J. Parrish and Brother Account Books, 1872-1880."](#) An exhibit in the Louisa County Chancery Cause 1888-011: E.A. Saunders for etc. vs. H.J. Parrish etc.

Historical Information

Context for Record Type: Chancery Causes are cases of equity. According to Black's Law Dictionary they are "administered according to fairness as contrasted with the strictly formulated rules of common law." A judge, not a jury, determines the outcome of the case; however, the judge is basing the decision on findings compiled and documented by Commissioners. Chancery causes are useful when researching local history, genealogical information, and land or estate divisions. They are a valuable source of local, state, social, and legal history and serve as a primary source for understanding a locality's history. Chancery causes document the lived experiences of free and enslaved individuals; women; children; people living with physical disabilities or mental health struggles; people living in poverty; defunct institutions and corporate entities; or those that may not have otherwise left traditional written histories.

Locality History: Louisa County was named for Louisa, a daughter of King George II and wife of King Frederick V of Denmark. It was formed from Hanover County in 1742. The county seat is Louisa.

Scope and Content

Louisa County (Va.) Chancery Causes, 1753-1913 (bulk 1881-1913), consists of cases concerning issues of equity brought largely by residents of the county and filed in the circuit court. These cases often involve the following actions: divisions of estates or land, disputes over wills, disputes regarding contracts, debt, divorce, and business disputes. Other less prevalent issues include freedom suits, permissions to sell property, and disputes concerning trespass. Predominant documents found in these chancery causes include bills (documents the plaintiff's complaint), answers (defendant's response to the plaintiff's complaint), decrees (court's decision), depositions, affidavits, correspondence, lists of heirs, deeds, plats, wills, records involving enslaved individuals, business records or vital statistics.

Arrangement

Organized by case, of which each is assigned a unique index number comprised of the latest year found in case and a sequentially increasing 3-digit number assigned by the processor as cases for that year are found. Arranged chronologically.

Arrangement of documents follows no particular order.

Selected Suits of Interest

Since the processing of this locality, information gathering standards have changed. At this time there are no suits of interest available for this locality.