

A Guide to the Lee County (Va.) Judgments, 1860-1960

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1860-1960

A Collection in the Library of Virginia
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2010

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History

Processed by: Library of Virginia staff

Title Statement

A Guide to the Lee County (Va.) Judgments, 1860-1960

Subtitle: Lee County (Va.) Judgments, 1860-1960

Author: Bari Helms

Publication Statement

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Profile Description

Creation: Machine-readable finding aid derived from being created directly into EAD, created by Bari Helms, 28 February 2012

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

Lee County (Va.) Circuit Court

Physical Characteristics

12.15 cubic feet (27 boxes); 2 volumes

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 Lee County in 2009 under accession number 44298 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: B Helms: 2013; updated by J. Taylor: June 2026.

Preferred Citation

Lee County (Va.) Judgments, 1860-1960 [insert series or volume title]. Local Government Records Collection, Lee County Court Records. The Library of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia.

Adjunct Descriptive Data

Related Material

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

Lee County is one of Virginia's Lost Records Localities. Additional Lee County Court Records may be found in the Virginia Lost Records Localities Collection at the Library of Virginia. Search the [Lost Records Localities Database](#) found at the Library of Virginia web site.

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: Lee County was named Henry "Light Horse Harry" Lee, governor of Virginia from 1791 to 1794. It was formed from Russell County in 1792. Part of Scott County was added in 1823. Its area is 438 square miles, and the county seat is Jonesville.

Lost Locality Notes: A significant number of loose records prior to 1860 including chancery and judgments are missing. They were probably destroyed when Union forces burned the courthouse in October 1863 during the Civil War. Most volumes including deed books, will books, and order books exist because a local judge removed them from the courthouse for safekeeping before the fire occurred.

Scope and Content

Lee County (Va.) Judgments, 1860-1960, contains civil cases in which justice was administered on the strictly formulated rules of common law. The majority of the cases in this record series relate to matters of debt. The records consist of loose, unprocessed records and several volumes.

Arrangement

This collection is arranged into two series:

- Series I: Unprocessed Judgments, 1860-1960
- Series II: Judgment Volumes, 1897-1904

Contents List

Series I: Unprocessed Judgments, 1860-1960

Extent

12.15 cubic feet (27 boxes)

Physical Location Library of Virginia

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 1200670: Law Causes 1860-1955

Barcode number 1200659: Law Causes 1860-1955

Barcode number 1207635: Law Causes 1860-1960

Barcode number 0007305783: Chancery Causes Orphans; Post-1913 Chancery; Judgments 1870-1928

Barcode number 1200702: Law Causes 1880-1910

Barcode number 1200703: Law Causes 1880-1910

Barcode number 1200693: Law Causes 1880-1910

Barcode number 1200699: Law Causes 1880-1910

Barcode number 1200700: Law Causes 1880-1910

Barcode number 1200701: Law Causes 1880-1910

Barcode number 1200692: Law Causes 1880-1910

Barcode number 1200689: Law Causes 1880-1910

Barcode number 1200695: Law Causes 1880-1910

Barcode number 1200694: Law Causes 1880-1910

Barcode number 1200698: Law Causes 1880-1910

Barcode number 1200697: Law Causes 1880-1910

Barcode number 1200691: Law Causes 1880-1910

Barcode number 1200696: Law Causes 1880-1910

Barcode number 7286615: Law Causes 1880-1946

Barcode number 1200704: Law Causes 1880-1960

Barcode number 1200683: Law Causes 1880-1960

Barcode number 1046300: Old Judgments 1885-1912

Barcode number 1046301: Old Judgments 1885-1912

Barcode number 1124444: Justices' Judgments 1887-1906

Barcode number 1124439: Justices' Judgments 1907-1925

Barcode number 1046297: Old Motions for Judgments 1916-1918

Barcode number 1046288: Reports and Expenses; Judgments, Li 1921-1932

Series II: Judgment Volumes, 1897-1904

Extent

2 volumes

Physical Location State Records Center

Barcode number 1128227: Execution and Judgment Docket 1897-1899

Barcode number 1128232: Execution and Judgment Docket 1899-1904

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