

A Guide to the Brunswick County (Va.) District Court Records, 1789-1809

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History

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Title Statement

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Profile Description

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Descriptive Summary

Barcode numbers

1115970-1115975, 0007573138

Language

English

Collector

Brunswick County (Va.) Circuit Court

Physical Characteristics

6.35 cu. ft. (7 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 Brunswick County.

Preferred Citation

Brunswick County (Va.) District Court Records, 1789-1809. Local government records collection, Brunswick County Court Records. The Library of Virginia, Richmond, Va.

Adjunct Descriptive Data

Related Material

Additional Brunswick 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](#).

Historical Information

Brunswick County was named for the duchy of Brunswick-Luneburg, one of the German possessions of King George I. It was formed by statute in 1720 from Prince George County and on 31 October 1723 the boundaries of the county were ordered to be laid out, but, because of the sparse population, the county court first met in June 1732. Brunswick County was enlarged by the addition of parts of Surry and Isle of Wight Counties in 1733. The county seat is Lawrenceville.

The District Court was created in 1788. The purpose of the creation of the District Court was to alleviate congestion in the General Court which had caused unreasonable delays in the adjudication of common law cases. Virginia was divided into eighteen districts, each composed of several counties, plus the district of Kentucky. Courts were held in each district twice yearly and cases were heard from the several counties in that district. The District Court always met at the same place in each district, and its records were kept at that one location. The District Courts were abolished in 1809 and were replaced by the Superior Courts of Law.

The District Court at Brunswick County included the following localities: Brunswick, Greenville, Lunenburg, and Mecklenburg counties.

Scope and Content

Brunswick County (Va.) District Court Records, 1789-1809, consist of civil suits and commonwealth causes that were heard in the District Court of Brunswick County. The majority of cases in this record series relate to matters of debt. Documents commonly found in civil suits include declarations or narrations that explain the plaintiff's complaint, executions, affidavits, and depositions. Suits may include exhibits such as wills, plats, deeds, indentures, estate inventories, and business records. Names of slaves are commonly found in the District Court records. Additional types of suits heard by the District Court include land ejectment suits and petitions for freedom made by slaves.

Index Terms

Corporate Names:

Brunswick County (Va.) Circuit Court

Subjects:

African Americans -- History
Civil procedure -- Virginia -- Brunswick County
Crime -- Virginia -- Brunswick County
Debt -- Virginia -- Brunswick County
Estates (Law) -- Virginia -- Brunswick County
Right of property -- Virginia -- Brunswick County
Slaveholders -- Virginia -- Brunswick County
Slaves -- Virginia -- Brunswick County

Geographical Names:

Brunswick County (Va.) -- History
Greensville County (Va.) -- History
Lunenburg County (Va.) -- History
Mecklenburg County (Va.) -- History

Genre and Form Terms:

Affidavits -- Virginia -- Brunswick County
Business records -- Virginia -- Brunswick County
Deeds -- Virginia -- Brunswick County
Decisions -- Virginia -- Brunswick County
Depositions -- Virginia -- Brunswick County
Judicial records -- Virginia -- Brunswick County
Local government records -- Virginia -- Brunswick County
Petitions -- Virginia -- Brunswick County
Plats -- Virginia -- Brunswick County
Wills -- Virginia -- Brunswick County

Added Entry - Corporate Name:

Brunswick County (Va.) District Court