

A Guide to the Grayson County (Va.) Judgments, 1793-1919

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History

Processed by: unprocessed

Title Statement

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Subtitle: Grayson County (Va.) Judgments, 1793-1919

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Profile Description

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Descriptive Summary

Barcode numbers

1117699-1117804, 0007392048, 0007718502-0007718505

Language

English

Collector

Grayson County (Va.) Circuit Court.

Physical Characteristics

54.00 cu. ft. (120 boxes)

Location

Library of Virginia

Repository

The Library of Virginia

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

There are no restrictions. The collection is unprocessed but open for research.

Use Restrictions

There are no restrictions.

Acquisition Information

These items came to the Library of Virginia in a transfer of court papers from the circuit court of Grayson County.

Preferred Citation

Grayson County (Va.) Judgments, 1793-1919. Local government records collection, Grayson County Court Records. The Library of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia 23219.

Adjunct Descriptive Data

Related Material

Additional Grayson County records can be found on microfilm at the Library of Virginia. Consult ["A Guide to Virginia County and City Records on Microfilm"](#) found on the Library of Virginia's web site.

Historical Information

Grayson County was named for William Grayson, a delegate to the Continental Congress from 1784 to 1787 and one of the first two United States senators from Virginia. It was formed from Wythe County by a statute adopted on 7 November 1792. The county court first met on 21 May 1793. A portion of Patrick County was added in 1810. The county seat is Independence.

The County Court was the original colonial court of adjudication and recordation, and it was the principal tribunal for the administration of local justice. The individual justices could act on small claims matters as well as criminal matters where imminent bodily harm was a possibility, there being an appeal to the full County Court, which met monthly. This court ceased to exist in 1919 and the recordation function was transferred to the circuit court.

The Superior Court of Law was created in 1808. It met twice a year in each county, presided over by a circuit-riding General Court judge. Records were filed with the County Court. It had civil and criminal jurisdiction. The court ceased to exist in 1831.

The Circuit Superior Court of Law and Chancery, established in 1831, were the upper courts on the local level. Sessions were held twice a year in each county, presided over by a General Court judge. The counties were grouped into districts for the convenience of the judge. The court ceased to exist in 1851.

The Circuit Court was authorized by the Constitution of 1851 and established by an act of the General Assembly passed in May 1852. Courts were held twice yearly in each county, presided over by 21 judges who rode circuits in the area of their jurisdiction. The records were filed with County Court records. These courts were granted original jurisdiction concurrent with that of the County Courts, as well as appellate jurisdiction in all civil cases of more than fifty dollars and criminal cases not "expressly cognizable in some other court," including those involving loss of life.

Scope and Content

Grayson County (Va.) Judgments, 1793-1919, consist of civil suits, commonwealth causes, other court papers filed in the court such as road and bridge records, tax and fiscal records, overseers of the poor, court appointments and resignations, fiduciary records, and other court papers. Not every record type will be found in every bundle of papers. It also includes judgments filed in the Superior Court of Law, Circuit Superior Court of Law and Chancery, and Circuit Court that consist of civil suits, commonwealth causes, and other court papers.

Grayson County (Va.) Judgments, 1918-1919, includes Commonwealth Causes, Judgments, Executions, Softdrink License Applications, Tax Petitions, Bonds, Guardian Papers, and Justices Reports.

Index Terms

Corporate Names:

Grayson County (Va.) Circuit Court.

Subjects:

Civil procedure -- Virginia -- Grayson County.

Debt -- Virginia -- Grayson County.

Public records -- Virginia -- Grayson County.

Geographical Names:

Grayson County (Va.) -- History.

Genre and Form Terms:

Criminal court records -- Virginia -- Grayson County.

Judicial records -- Virginia -- Grayson County.

Local government records -- Virginia -- Grayson County.

Added Entry - Corporate Name:

Grayson County (Va.) Circuit Superior Court of Law and Chancery.

Grayson County (Va.) County Court.

Grayson County (Va.) Superior Court of Law.

Arrangement

Arranged chronologically.