

A Guide to the Northampton County (Va.) Judgments, 1655-1916

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A Collection in the Library of Virginia
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Author: Greg Crawford

History

Processed by: Library of Virginia staff

Title Statement

A Guide to the Northampton County (Va.) Judgments, 1655-1916

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Author: Greg Crawford

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Profile Description

Creation: Machine-readable finding aid derived from MARC record, created by Greg Crawford, 10 May 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

Northampton County (Va.) Circuit Court.

Physical Characteristics

56.9 cubic feet (126 boxes)

Location

State Records Center

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 a transfer of court papers from the circuit court of Northampton County 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 G. Crawford: 2013; updated by J. Taylor: July 2026.

Preferred Citation

Northampton County (Va.) Judgments, 1655-1916. [insert series or volume title]. Local government records collection, Northampton County Court Records. The Library of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia 23219.

Adjunct Descriptive Data

Related Material

Additional Northampton County Court 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: Northampton County was named probably for the English county, of which Obedience Robins, a prominent early resident of the Eastern Shore, was a native. The county, which originally included all of the peninsula south of Maryland and which was one of the eight shires, or counties, first enumerated in 1634, was first called Accomack. The General Assembly changed the name to Northampton County in 1643. Accomack County was created from Northampton County about 1663, but in October 1670, the General Assembly temporarily reunited the two counties as Northampton County. In November 1673, Accomack County was again separated from Northampton. The county seat is Eastville.

Scope and Content

Northampton County (Va.) Judgments, 1655-1916, consist of civil suits in which justice was administered on the strictly formulated rules of common law. The majority of the cases relate to matters of debt. These records consist of processed, loose records.

Arrangement

This collection is arranged into two series:

- Series I: Judgments, 1655-1816
- Series II: Unprocessed Judgments, 1851-1916

Contents List

Series I: Judgments, 1655-1816

Extent

55.9 cubic feet (125 boxes)

Physical Location State Records Center

Scope and Content

The series is arranged chronologically by year then month, then alphabetically by surname of plaintiff.

Barcode number 1154680: Judgments 1655-1721, 1722 circa (A-G)

Barcode number 1154681: Judgments 1722 (H-Y), 1723 (A-J)

Barcode number 1154682: Judgments 1723 (K-W), 1724 (A-N)

Barcode number 1154683: Judgments 1724 (P-V), 1725 (A-D)

Barcode number 1154684: Judgments 1725 (E-W)

Barcode number 1154685: Judgments 1726 (A-W), 1727 (A-F)

Barcode number 1154686: Judgments 1727 (G-W), 1728 (A-P)

Barcode number 1154687: Judgments 1728 (R-Y), 1729 (A-Y)

Barcode number 1154688: Judgments 1730 (A-W), 1731 (A-Y)

Barcode number 1154689: Judgments 1732-1734

Barcode number 1154690: Judgments 1735-May 1737

Barcode number 1154691: Judgments 1737 June-1739

Barcode number 1154692: Judgments 1740-June 1742

Barcode number 1154693: Judgments 1742 July-1744 July

Barcode number 1154694: Judgments 1744 Aug -1746 Aug

Barcode number 1154695: Judgments 1746 Sept-1848 Feb

Barcode number 1154696: Judgments 1748 Mar -1750 Mar

Barcode number 1154697: Judgments 1750 Apr -1751 Apr

Barcode number 1154698: Judgments 1751 May-1752 June

Barcode number 1154699: Judgments 1752 July-1753 May

Barcode number 1154700: Judgments 1753 July-1754 May

Barcode number 1154701: Judgments 1754 Apr-1754 Dec

Barcode number 1154702: Judgments 1755 Jan-1755 Sept

Barcode number 1154703: Judgments 1755 Oct-1756 June

Barcode number 1154704: Judgments 1756 July-1857 June

Barcode number 1154705: Judgments 1757 July-1757 Dec

Barcode number 1154706: Judgments 1758

Barcode number 1154707: Judgments 1759-Sept 1760

Barcode number 1154708: Judgments 1760 Oct -1761 Sept

Barcode number 1154709: Judgments 1761 Nov -1762 July

Barcode number 1154710: Judgments 1762 Sept -1763 May

Barcode number 1154711: Judgments 1763 June-1764 Apr

Barcode number 1154712: Judgments 1764 May-1764 Sept

Barcode number 1154713: Judgments 1764 Nov -1765 Feb

Barcode number 1154715: Judgments 1765 June-1765 Sept

Barcode number 1154714: Judgments 1765 Mar -1765 May

Barcode number 1154716: Judgments 1765 Oct -1766 Apr

Barcode number 1154717: Judgments 1766 May-1766 Aug

Barcode number 1154718: Judgments 1766 Sept -1767 Jan

Barcode number 1154719: Judgments 1767 Feb -1767 May

Barcode number 1154720: Judgments 1767 June-1768 Jan

Barcode number 1154721: Judgments 1768 Feb -1768 May

Barcode number 1154723: Judgments 1768 July-1768 Oct

Barcode number 1154722: Judgments 1768 May-1768 June

Barcode number 1154724: Judgments 1768 Nov -1769 Apr

Barcode number 1154725: Judgments 1769 June-1769 Oct

Barcode number 1154726: Judgments 1769 Nov -1770 Feb

Barcode number 1154728: Judgments 1770 Dec -1771 Apr

Barcode number 1154727: Judgments 1770 May-1770 Nov

Barcode number 1154729: Judgments 1771 May-1771 Oct

Barcode number 1154730: Judgments 1772

Barcode number 1154732: Judgments 1773 Aug

Barcode number 1154732: Judgments 1773 Aug

Barcode number 1154735: Judgments 1773 Dec -1774 Jan

Barcode number 1154731: Judgments 1773 Jan -1773 June

Barcode number 1154733: Judgments 1773 Sept -1773 Dec

Barcode number 1154734: Judgments 1773-1782 circa (Broken Series)

Barcode number 1154736: Judgments 1774 Mar -1774 June

Barcode number 1154737: Judgments 1774-1778 (A-J by Plaintiff)

Barcode number 1154738: Judgments 1774-1778 (K-U by Plaintiff)

Barcode number 1154739: Judgments 1779

Barcode number 1154740: Judgments 1780

Barcode number 1154741: Judgments 1782-May 1783

Barcode number 1154742: Judgments 1783 June-1783 Dec

Barcode number 1154765: Judgments 1784 Aug -1795 Mar

Barcode number 1154745: Judgments 1784 Dec

Barcode number 1154743: Judgments 1784 Jan -1784 Dec

Barcode number 1154744: Judgments 1784 July-1784 Nov

Barcode number 1154746: Judgments 1785 Jan -1785 Mar

Barcode number 1154747: Judgments 1785 May-1785 Aug

Barcode number 1154748: Judgments 1785 Sept -1786 Jan

Barcode number 1168334: Judgments 1786 Feb-1786 June

Barcode number 1168335: Judgments 1786 July-1786 Oct

Barcode number 1154751: Judgments 1786 Nov-1787 Mar

Barcode number 1154752: Judgments 1787 Apr-1787 July

Barcode number 1154753: Judgments 1787 Aug-1787 Oct

Barcode number 1154754: Judgments 1787 Nov -1788 June

Barcode number 1154755: Judgments 1788 July-1788 Oct

Barcode number 1154756: Judgments 1788 Nov -1789 Apr

Barcode number 1154757: Judgments 1789 May-1789 Aug

Barcode number 1154758: Judgments 1789 Sept -1790 May

Barcode number 1154759: Judgments 1790 June-1791 Feb

Barcode number 1154760: Judgments 1791 Mar -1791 Aug

Barcode number 1154761: Judgments 1791 Sept -1792 May

Barcode number 1154762: Judgments 1792 June-1792 Dec

Barcode number 1154763: Judgments 1793 Jan -1793 Aug

Barcode number 1154764: Judgments 1793 Sept -1794 July

Barcode number 1154767: Judgments 1795 June-1795 Dec

Barcode number 1154766: Judgments 1795 Mar -1795 May

Barcode number 1154769: Judgments 1796 Aug -1797 Apr

Barcode number 1154768: Judgments 1796 Jan -1796 July

Barcode number 1154770: Judgments 1797 May-1797 Sept

Barcode number 1154771: Judgments 1797 Oct -1798 June

Barcode number 1154772: Judgments 1798 July-1798 Dec

Barcode number 1154773: Judgments 1799 Jan -1799 May

Barcode number 1154774: Judgments 1799 June-1799 Aug

Barcode number 1154775: Judgments 1799 Sept -1799 Dec

Barcode number 1168276: Judgments 1800 Jan-1800 June

Barcode number 1168277: Judgments 1800 June-1800 Dec

Barcode number 1168279: Judgments 1801 Aug-1802 Feb

Barcode number 1168278: Judgments 1801 Feb-1801 July

Barcode number 1168281: Judgments 1802 July-1802 Dec

Barcode number 1168280: Judgments 1802 Mar-1802 June

Barcode number 1168282: Judgments 1803 Jan-1803 May

Barcode number 1168283: Judgments 1803 June-1803 Aug

Barcode number 1168284: Judgments 1803 Sept-1804 May

Barcode number 1168285: Judgments 1804 June-1804 Aug

Barcode number 1168286: Judgments 1804 Sept-1804 Dec

Barcode number 1168289: Judgments 1805 Dec-1806 May

Barcode number 1168287: Judgments 1805 Jan -1805 June

Barcode number 1168287: Judgments 1805 Jan-1805 June

Barcode number 1168288: Judgments 1805 July-1805 Nov

Barcode number 1168290: Judgments 1806 June-1806 Sept

Barcode number 1168291: Judgments 1806 Oct-1807 Feb

Barcode number 1168293: Judgments 1807 June-1807 Sept

Barcode number 1168292: Judgments 1807 Mar-1807 May

Barcode number 1168294: Judgments 1807 Oct-1808 Jan

Barcode number 1168295: Judgments 1808 May-1808 Oct

Barcode number 1168296: Judgments 1808 Nov-1809 Mar

Barcode number 1168297: Judgments 1809 Apr-1809 Oct

Barcode number 1168298: Judgments 1809 Nov-1810 May

Barcode number 1168299: Judgments 1810 June-1810 Dec

Barcode number 1168300: Judgments 1811 Jan-1811 June

Barcode number 1168301: Judgments 1811 July-1811 Dec

Barcode number 1168302: Judgments 1812 Jan-1812 Aug

Barcode number 1168303: Judgments 1812 Sept-1812 Dec

Barcode number 1168304: Judgments and fragile documents 1813 Jan-1816 Aug

Series II: Unprocessed Judgments, 1851-1916

Extent

1 cubic foot (1 box)

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 1049811: Executions and Abstract of Judgment 1851-1916