

A Guide to the Warren County (Va.) Judgments, 1836-1969

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A Collection in the Library of Virginia
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History

Processed by: Library of Virginia Staff

Title Statement

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Subtitle: Warren County (Va.) Judgments, 1836-1969

Author: Louise Jones

Publication Statement

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Profile Description

Creation: Machine-readable finding aid derived from being created directly into EAD, created by Louise Jones, 30 August 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

Creator

Warren County (Va.) Circuit Court

Extent

16 cu. ft. (16 boxes) 7 volumes

Location

State Records Center-Archives Annex, 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 Warren County in accession Number 37019 in 1999 as well as under 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 L. Jones: 2013; updated by J. Taylor: April 2026.

Preferred Citation

Warren County (Va.) Judgments, 1836-1969 [series or volume title]. Local government records collection, Warren County Court Records. The Library of Virginia, Richmond, Va. 23219.

Adjunct Descriptive Data

Related Material

Additional Warren 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

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: Warren County was named for Joseph Warren, of Massachusetts, the Revolutionary patriot who sent Paul Revere and William Dawes on their famous rides and who was killed at the Battle of Bunker Hill. The county was formed from Shenandoah and Frederick Counties in 1836. The county seat is Front Royal.

Types of Courts

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 1904 and the recordation function was transferred to the circuit court.

Scope and Content

Warren County (Va.) Judgments, 1836-1969 contains civil cases in which justice was administered on the strictly formulated rules of common law. The majority of these cases in this record series relate to matters of debt. The records consist of various levels of processed loose records and volumes.

Arrangement

This collection is arranged into two series:

- Series I: Unprocessed Judgments, 1836-1969
- Series II: Judgment Volumes, 1843-1916

Contents List

Series I: Unprocessed Judgments, 1843-1916

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.

Subseries A: County Court Judgments, 1836-1904

Extent

13 cubic feet (13 boxes)

Physical Location State Records Center

Barcode number 1134510: County Court Judgments 1836-1839

Barcode number 1134509: County Court Judgments 1839-1842

Barcode number 1134506: County Court Judgments 1842-1844

Barcode number 1134508: County Court Judgments 1845-1848

Barcode number 1134507: County Court Judgments and Miscellaneous Files 1849-1853

Barcode number 1134502: County Court Judgments 1854, 1856-1895

Barcode number 1134512: County Court Judgments 1856-1858

Barcode number 1134514: County Court Judgments 1858, 1868-1871

Barcode number 1134515: County Court Judgments 1859-1869

Barcode number 1134505: County Court Judgments 1879-1893

Barcode number 1134519: County Court Judgments 1880-1895

Barcode number 1134513: County Court Judgments 1881-1899

Barcode number 1134348: County Court Judgments 1883-1904 circa

Subseries B: Unidentified Court Judgments, 1836-1969

Extent

1.9 cubic feet (3 boxes)

Scope and Content

These records either belong to a court which has not been identified or the records belong to multiple courts which were combined at some point in time.

Barcode number 1176237: Judgments and Commonwealth Causes 1836-1910

Barcode number 1176238: Judgments 1840-1879

Barcode number 1013641: Abstracts of Judgments(1941-60), Ow 1914-1969

Series II: Judgment Volumes, 1843-1916

Subseries A: County Court Judgment Volumes, 1843-1887

Extent

2 volumes

Physical Location State Records Center

Barcode number 1096472: Record of Judgment 1843-1877

Barcode number 1096473: Record of Judgment 1880-1887

Subseries B: Unidentified Court Judgment Volumes, 1843-1916

Extent

5 volumes

Physical Location State Records Center

Scope and Content

The court in which these volumes were used have not been identified.

Barcode number 1096470: Judgment Lien Docket 1843-1845

Barcode number 1096469: Judgment Lien Docket 1875-1877

Barcode number 1096474: Judgment Lien Docket 1877-1895

Barcode number 1096475: Judgment Lien Docket 1893-1913

Barcode number 1096476: Judgment Lien Docket 1913-1916