

A Guide to the Dinwiddie County (Va.) Archives and Historical Documents, 1752-2014

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A Collection in the Library of Virginia Dinwiddie County (Va.) Archives and Historical Documents, 1752-2643-2014-1759

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Profile Description

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Descriptive Summary

Collection Number

Dinwiddie County (Va.) Archives and Historical Documents, 1752-2643-2014-1759

Language

English

Collector

Dinwiddie County (Va.) Circuit Court.

Physical Characteristics

Digital images.

Location

Dinwiddie County Circuit Court.

Repository

Dinwiddie County Circuit Court

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

There are no restrictions.

Use Restrictions

There are no restrictions.

Acquisition Information

Digital images were generated by the Dinwiddie County Circuit Court.

Preferred Citation

Dinwiddie County (Va.) Archives and Historical Documents, 1752-2014. Local government records collection, Dinwiddie County Court Records. Dinwiddie County Circuit Court, Dinwiddie, Virginia.

Adjunct Descriptive Data

Related Material

Additional Dinwiddie County Court Records can be found on microfilm at The Library of Virginia. See [A Guide to Virginia County and City Records on Microfilm](#)

digital images of Dinwiddie County Chancery Causes, 1844-1932, are available on the Library of Virginia's [the Chancery Records Index](#).

See the [Lost Records Localities Digital Collection](#) available at Virginia Memory.

For more information and a listing of lost records localities see [Lost Records research note](#).

Historical Information

Dinwiddie County was named for Robert Dinwiddie, lieutenant governor of Virginia from 1751 to 1758. The county was formed from Prince George County in 1752.

The bulk of court records prior to 1865 were stolen, mutilated, and/or destroyed by Union troops who ransacked the courthouse during the last months of the Civil War. Post-1830 volumes such as deed books, will books, chancery order books, and marriage registers exist.

Scope and Content

[Dinwiddie County \(Va.\) Archives and Historical Documents, 1752-2014](#), include the following: Land Tax Records, 1752-1820; Land Tax Books, 1782-1875; Real Estate Tax Sales, 1886-1931; Land Tax Records, 2014; a surveyor's plat book, 1752-1865; Works Progress Administration Historical Inventory; Board of Supervisors' Books, 1870-2004; Book of Fiduciaries, 1871-1904; Order Books, 1789-1791 and 1863-1866; Historical Indexes, 1830-2010, and data compiled from various Dinwiddie County court records, 1752-1865.

[Land Tax Records, 1752-1820](#), was compiled by Thomas P Hughes, Jr. and Jewel B Standefer. They studied the Land Tax Records, Grants, Patents that were preserved at the Library of Virginia. Their compilation includes the original land grants for Dinwiddie County, the real property owner's name, acreage owned, how/who property was acquired, and date of ownership.

[Land Tax Books, 1782-1875](#), were converted by the Clerk's Office from microfilm into a pdf format for each year. These records are especially helpful when searching the land records prior to 1833. Prior to 1833 the deeds and land records were destroyed and this is the only record of land owners in the county.

[Real Estate Tax Sales, 1886-1931](#), is a list of taxes sales for the County of Dinwiddie.

[Land Tax Records, 2014](#), from the Commissioner of Revenue for 2014 include Real Estate Book, Land Use Book, Mineral Book, Public Service Personal Property Book, and Public Service Real Estate Book.

[Surveyor's plat book, 1752-1865](#), contains plats and property owners from 1752 to 1865. The index for the Book was completed in 1972 by Sallie E Hargrave Short and Priscilla M Godfrey.

[Works Progress Administration Historical Inventory](#) was originally organized in 1935 as part of the Federal Writers Project, the Historical Records Survey (HRS) document resources for research into American History. It later became a unit of the Research and Records Program in 1939. The HRS was responsible for creating the soundex indexes of the federal census which genealogists today have come to rely so heavily on. The HRS also compiled indexes of vital statistics, cemetery interments, school records, military records, maps, newspapers, and the list went on and on. Microfilms of these indexes were later made by other organizations.

[Board of Supervisors' Books, 1870-2004](#), were conserved for future generations and electronically formatted

in 2012 by the Clerk of the Circuit Court and the Board of Supervisors. The Circuit Court kept the minute books from 1870 to 1960. After 1960 the Code of Virginia changed and the books are now kept with the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors. The books contain minutes from each board meeting during this time. In addition to the books kept in the Circuit Court Clerk's Office (1870-1960), the Clerk's Office in conjunction with the Clerk of the Board has digitally converted the board books from 1960 to 2004 and are made available on Dinwiddie County Circuit Court web site. The original books from this time are kept with the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors.

[Book of Fiduciaries, 1871-1904](#), was conserved for future generations and electronically formatted in 2014 by the Clerk of the Circuit Court and the Board of Supervisors. This is a record of every personal representative, guardian, curator, or committee authorized to act as such. The books includes the fiduciaries' name, estate's name, bond amount and security, date of orders and inventories if required.

[Order Books, 1789-1791 and 1863-1866](#), record various court proceedings and orders associated within the date range. The Clerk's Office is working to get more court order books conserved and will post online as the come available. Order Book, 1789-1791 is the oldest book in the office and was returned around 1913 to Dinwiddie. It was lifted by a Federal Solider during the Civil War. Roman Number Page II has a more information concerning the history of the book.

[Historical Indexes, 1830-2010](#), contain a wealth of names from files and cases located in the Dinwiddie Circuit Court that date from 1830 to 2010. The indexes include Marriage Indexes 1863 to 2000, Wills and Fiduciaries Index 1830 to 2007, Devises and Heirs Index 1929 to 2003, Criminal Index 1920 to 2004, Plat Index 1910 to 2010, and Chancery Index 1950 to 1984

[Data compiled from various Dinwiddie County court records, 1752-1865](#), such as account books, deed books, presonal correspondence, plat book, and personal property tax rolls.

Index Terms

Corporate Names:

Dinwiddie County (Va.) Board of Supervisors.
Dinwiddie County (Va.) Circuit Court.

Subjects:

African Americans--History.
Business enterprises--Virginia--Dinwiddie County.
Estates (Law)--Virginia--Dinwiddie County.
Taxes--Virginia--Dinwiddie County.

Geographical Names:

Dinwiddie County (Va.)--History.
Dinwiddie County (Va.)--Genealogy.

Genre and Form Terms:

Judicial records--Virginia--Dinwiddie County.
Land records--Virginia--Dinwiddie County.
Local government records--Virginia--Dinwiddie County.
Plats--Virginia--Dinwiddie County.

Arrangement

Organized by record type. Arranged chronologically.