

EARLY COUNTY COURT JUDICIAL CASES ARE NOW AVAILABLE



As part of a massive collection processing project, early court case files found in the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions (County Court) records are now available for researchers. These loose records cover cases heard by the Court either collectively gathered in session in Jonesborough or individually by the justices of the peace, who composed the court.

From its' formation in February 1778 until into the 1950s, County Court had both an administrative and a judicial function. Records of both civil and criminal cases are in this collection. Among the many types of cases handled were debt, bastardies, survey and land disputes, probate issues, theft, assaults, trespass, slander, broken covenants, etc. Among the types of documents found in the files are bonds, depositions, judgements, summonses, warrants, etc. Case files are arranged chronologically by year and then alphabetically by the title of the case, using the plaintiff's surname first. The cases processed to date cover from 1778 through 1825.

"This had been a massive undertaking involving two years of work on the part of archive volunteers Betty Jane Hylton, Janette Guinn, and Georgia Greer," County Archivist Ned Irwin noted. "It will be treasure trove for family and local historians."

The guide listing these cases is found on our webpage at the following url:
<https://wctnarchives.org/record-groups/>.

NOTE: This is an ongoing project. Twenty-five record center boxes of records dating from 1826-1950 are yet to be processed. As these records are completed, the online guide to the collection will be updated.

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