

Rockingham (VA) Shenandoah National Park records		
Collection Summary		
Title	Shenandoah National Park Condemnation records	
Collection Reference Code	SNP	
Inclusive Dates	1925-1939	
Document Creator	Rockingham County Circuit Court; Rockingham County Chancery Court	
Extent	16 binders	
Genre/Format	Court records	
Language	English	
Location	Rockingham County Circuit Court Clerk's Office	
Access and Restrictions	This work has been identified as being free of known restrictions under copyright law, including all related and neighboring rights.	
Bio/Historical Note	The federal government’s power of eminent domain has long been used in the United States to acquire property for public use. Eminent domain "appertains to every independent government. It requires no constitutional recognition; it is an attribute of sovereignty.” However, the Fifth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution stipulates: “nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation.” Thus, whenever the United States acquires a property through eminent domain, it has a constitutional responsibility to compensate the property owner. The needs of a growing population for more and updated modes of transportation triggered many additional acquisitions in the early decades of the century, for constructing railroads or maintaining navigable waters. The 1930s brought a flurry of land acquisition case in support of New Deal policies that aimed to resettle impoverished farmers, build large-scale irrigation projects, and establish new national parks. Condemnation was used to acquire lands for the Shenandoah, Mammoth Cave, and Great Smoky Mountains National Parks (https://perma.cc/GKA4-GYKS). The Shenandoah National Park Condemnation Records relate the the creation of Skyline Drive in the Blue Ridge Mountains. To establish the park, the government moved many families off these lands.	
Scope and Content	Researchers can expect to find all original court case documents including petitions, affidavits, court transcripts, and court orders, as well as additional material such as correspondences (between local authorities and government officials as well as letters from families to be moved), newspaper clippings, maps of the park, deed for each tract and financial records.	
Arrangement	This collection is arranged into three separate series. The first series consists of all court records created pertaining to the eminent domain case "The State Commission on Conservation and Development of the State of Virginia v. Cassandra Lawson Atkins et als and 52, 561 acres more or less, of land in Rockingham County, VA."	
Index Terms		
Geographic Name	Shenandoah National Park (Va.), Shenandoah National Park (Va.)--History, Local, Rockingham County (Va.)--History, Rockingham County (Va.)--Genealogy.	
Subject	Skyline Drive (Va.), Skyline Drive (Va.)--History, Skyline Drive (Va.)--Maps, Condemnation of land, Mountain people -- Blue Ridge Mountains -- Social life and customs	
Processing Information	The Shenandoah National Park Records were procced in 2015 by James Madison University graduate student Tristan Nelson. They had long been housed in the Circuit Court of Rockingham County, and unfortunately they were found without any clear organization or original order. It was determined that the easiest arrangement would be to file all records alphabetically by claimant.	
Contents		
Series I	Condemnation Case records (SNP_001)	Location
	Instances (by Surname)	
Binder I	Alexander-Breeden, Norah	M.001_001_001
Binder II	Breeden, Ra.-Dean, Ro.	M.001_001_002
Binder III	Dean, Sa.-Fogle, Earl C	M.001_001_003
Binder IV	Foltz, Vernon-Helbert, Jt.	M.001_001_004
Binder V	Hensley Graveyard-Hinkle, Jw.	M.001_001_005
Binder VI	Hokins, Eb.- Lam, Ec.	M.001_001_006
Binder VII	Lam, Elmer-Meadows, Es.	M.001_001_007
Binder VIII	Meadows, Jw.-Mundy	M.001_001_008
Binder IX	Naylor-Shifflett, Ah.	M.001_001_009
Binder X	Shifflett, Al.-Shuller, James	M.001_001_010
Binder XI	Sipe, Ed.-Williams, He.	M.001_001_011
Binder XII	Williams, Ja.-Yost, Jacob	M.001_001_012
Series II	Miscellaneous records (SNP_002)	Location
	Instances (by date)	
Binder XIII	March 28, 1930-November 20, 1931	M.001_001_013
Binder XIV	January 16, 1932-December 10, 1932	M.001_001_014
Binder XV	January 8, 1933-August 15, 1933	M.001_001_015
Binder XVI	August 16, 1933-March 8, 1939	M.001_001_016
Series III	Skyline Drive Deed Books	Location
Deed Book I	Official Legal Petition	M.001_001_015
Deed Book II	Tracts and plats	M.001_001_016