

Rockingham (VA) Chancery Records

Records Group Summary

Title	Rockingham (VA) Chancery Records
Reference Code	Cha
Inclusive Dates	1766-1950
Document Creator	Rockingham County Circuit Court; Rockingham County Chancery Court
Extent	183 boxes; 22 bound books; 92 linear feet
Language	English
Location	Rockingham County Circuit Court Clerk's Office
Bio/Historical Note	<p>Chancery Records are records pertaining to chancery causes. Chancery causes are cases of equity. According to Black's Law Dictionary they are "administered according to fairness as contrasted with the strictly formulated rules of common law." A judge, not a jury, determines the outcome of the case. They typically deal with cases relating to divisions of estates or land, disputes over wills, divorces, debt, and business disputes. Chancery causes were heard and judged in Chancery Court, which was established in 1831 replacing the Superior Court of Law. In 1851 the Circuit Court replaced Chancery Court, however chancery causes continued to be heard on the local level. The chancery court's functions are distinct from those of common law courts, which can order money damages to be paid, and where jury trials are available. The division between chancery and equity courts is partly based on the old English legal system. However, the original reason for the division between courts, which was so that law courts could follow statutory rules and equity courts could rule on issues of fairness, has been mostly lost. Chancery courts still exist in a few U.S. states today (check with the individual court for an exact list of what types of cases it hears). In other states, chancery court functions have been merged into the regular law courts' activities.</p>

Scope and Content	<p>The Chancery Records unit house various documents relating to the Chancery Court in Rockingham County from the 19th century to the mid 20th century. However, a majority of the records date between 1910 and 1930. A large portion of this collection consists of the individual causes brought before the judge, along with their supporting documentation. Causes are arranged chronologically, and alphabetically by plaintiff last name. In most cases, the individual documents can be found: a "true bill" (plaintiff's complaint), answers (defendant's response), decrees (court's decision), depositions, affidavits, correspondence, lists of heirs, deeds, wills, slave records, business records or vital statistics, among other items. In addition to Chancery causes, the Chancery records contains Chancery Rule Books, Chancery Court Dockets, and Chancery Order books. Rule Books contain the records of the session of Court where complainant(s) began the process to have a suit heard. The Court Docket offers a brief record of court proceeding, and the Order books served as a synopsis of all matters brought before the court when it was in session. Because of the wealth of information these documents provide, genealogist and researchers will find them to be of great use.</p>
Arrangement	<p>This unit is arranged into two series: Chancery Causes and Chancery Books. The Chancery Causes are arranged chronologically based on the year the case was filed, and alphabetically based on the last name of the plaintiff. If the plaintiff is a business or corporation, the first letter in the name of the business is used. Because the original order had been lost, the archivist felt this was the most logical and user friendly way to arrange the records. Additionally, it should be made clear that a large portion of Chancery Causes for Rockingham county prior to 1900 are housed by the Library of Virginia and are accessible through their online index here: https://www.virginiamemory.com/collections/chancery/ All bound volumes are grouped according to same original purpose and arranged chronologically.</p>
Processing Information	<p>From 2015-2019 the archive was largely run by student volunteers untrained in archival arrangement and description. As a result, the records had been stored without clear organization. Any underlying system already in place was unclear.</p>

Contents					
Series I: Chancery Causes	1766-1950				
Series Identifier	Cha001				
Year	Box	Location: Shelving Unit A & B			
18th Century	001	002_002_002*			
1805-1817	002	002_002_002			
1818-1869	003	002_002_002			
1870-1889	004	002_002_002			
1890-1894	005	002_003_002			
1895-1896	006	002_003_002			
1897	007	002_003_002			
1898	008	002_003_002			
1899 (A-S)	009	002_003_002			
1899 (T-Z)	010	002_003_002			
1900 (A-P)	011	002_001_003			
1900 (R-Z)	012	002_001_003			
1901	013	002_001_003			
1902	014	002_001_003			
1903	015	002_001_003			
1904 (A-S)	016	002_001_003			
1904 (T-Z)	017	002_002_003			
1905 (A-P)	018	002_002_003			
1905 (Q-Z)	019	002_002_003			
1906 (A-R)	020	002_002_003			
1906 (S-Z)	021	002_002_003			
1907 (A-H)	022	002_002_003			
1907 (I-Z)	023	002_003_003			
1908 (A-H)	024	002_003_003			

1908 (I-M)	025	002_003_003			
1908 (N-O)	026	002_003_003			
1908 (R-Z)	027	002_003_003			
1909 (A-B)	028	002_003_003			
1909 (B continued)	029	002_001_004			
1909 (C-D)	030	002_001_004			
1909 (E-K)	031	002_001_004			
1909 (L-R)	032	002_001_004			
1909 (S-Z)	033	002_001_004			
1910 (A-R)	034	002_001_004			
1910 (S-Z)	035	002_002_004			
1911 (A-Ham)	036	002_002_004			
1911 (Har-Hoo)	037	002_002_004			
1911 (I-Z)	038	002_002_004			
1912 (A-H)	039	002_002_004			
1912 (I-L)	040	002_002_004			
1912 (M-Z)	041	002_003_004			
1913 (A-H)	042	002_003_004			
1913 (M-Z)	043	002_003_004			
1914 (A-Bi)	044	002_003_004			
1914 (Bl-Br)	045	002_003_004			
1914 (C)	046	002_003_004			
1914 (D-E)	047	002_001_005			
1914 (F-G)	048	002_001_005			
1914 (Han-Hoo)	049	002_001_005			
1914 (Hoy-K)	050	002_001_005			
1914 (L-Mi)	051	002_001_005			
1914 (Mo-O)	052	002_003_005			
1914 (P-Roc)	053	002_003_005			
1914 (Roll)	054	002_003_005			
1914 (Rols-Sel)	055	002_003_005			

1914 (Sna-Vaw)	056	002_001_006			
1914 (Ve-Z)	057	002_001_006			
1915 (A-Be)	058	002_001_006			
1915 (Bi-Br)	059	002_001_006			
1915 (Bu-By)	060	002_001_006			
1915 (C)	061	002_001_006			
1915 (D-Ham)	062	002_002_006			
1915 (Harp-Mas)	063	002_002_006			
1915 (Mar-Mcg)	064	002_002_006			
1915 (Mo-N)	065	002_003_006			
1915 (O-Rit)	066	002_003_006			
1915 (Rol-Sne)	067	002_003_006			
1915 (Sou-Tut)	068	002_003_006			
1915 (V-Z)	069	002_003_006			
1916 (A-Baz)	070	003_001_001			
1916 (Be-Bl)	071	003_001_001			
1916 (Bl-Bow)	072	003_001_001			
1916 (Bro-C)	073	003_001_001			
1916 (D-G)	074	003_001_001			
1916 (H-K)	075	003_002_001			
1916 (L-M)	076	003_002_001			
1916 (N-P)	077	003_002_001			
1916 (Q-R)	078	003_002_001			
1916 (Ry-Sho)	079	003_002_001			
1916 (Shu-Sw)	080	003_002_001			
1916 (T-Win)	081	003_003_001			
1916 (Wis-Z)	082	003_003_001			
1917 (A-Bro)	083	003_001_002			
1917 (Bu-D)	084	003_001_002			
1917 (E-Hes)	085	003_001_002			
1917 (Hig-Hut)	086	003_001_002			

1917 (I-Lam)	087	003_002_002			
1917 (Lea-Mcc)	088	003_002_002			
1917 (Mi-Peo)	089	003_002_002			
1917 (R-Sha)	090	003_002_002			
1917 (Shi-Sut)	091	003_003_002			
1917 (T-V)	092	003_003_002			
1917 (W-Z)	093	003_003_002			
1918 (A-C)	094	003_003_002			
1918 (D-E)	095	003_001_003			
1918 (F-Ga)	096	003_001_003			
1918 (Gar-Hud)	097	003_001_003			
1918 (Huf-Hul)	098	003_001_003			
1918 (Kis-Lee)	099	003_001_003			
1918 (Li-Lon)	100	003_002_003			
1918 (M-Sch)	101	003_002_003			
1918 (Se-Tan)	102	003_002_003			
1918 (Te-W)	103	003_003_003			
1918 (X-Z)	104	003_003_003			
1919 (A-C)	105	003_003_003			
1919 (D-E)	106	003_003_003			
1919 (F-Har)	107	003_003_003			
1919 (Har-K)	108	003_001_004			
1919 (La)	109	003_001_004			
1919 (Lee-Lo)	110	003_001_004			
1919 (M-N)	111	003_001_004			
1919 (P)	112	003_001_004			
1919 (Q-R)	113	003_003_004			
1919 (Si-Sp)	114	003_003_004			
1919 (Str-To)	115	003_003_004			
1919 (Tra-Z)	116	003_003_004			
1920 (A-Bo)	117	003_003_004			

1920 (Bo-Br)	118	003_001_005			
1920 (Bu-E)	119	003_001_005			
1920 (F-K)	120	003_001_005			
1920 (L-M)	121	003_001_005			
1920 (N-Sh)	122	003_001_005			
1920 (Si-Z)	123	003_002_005			
1921 (A-D)	124	003_002_005			
1921 (E-L)	125	003_002_005			
1921 (I-P)	126	003_002_005			
1921 (Q-S)	127	003_002_005			
1921 (T-We)	128	003_002_005			
1921 (Wi-Z)	129	003_003_005			
1922 (A-Ba)	130	003_003_005			
1922 (Be-F)	131	003_003_005			
1922 (G-K)	132	003_003_005			
1922 (L-P)	133	003_001_006			
1922 (R-S)	134	003_001_006			
1922 (T-Z)	135	003_001_006			
1923 (A-Be)	136	003_001_006			
1923 (Br-C)	137	003_001_006			
1923 (D-G)	138	003_001_006			
1923 (H-L)	139	003_002_006			
1923 (M-P)	140	003_002_006			
1923 (R-S)	141	003_002_006			
1923 (T-Z)	142	003_002_006			
1924 (A-B)	143	003_002_006			
1924 (C-G)	144	003_002_006			
1924 (H)	145	003_003_006			
1924 (I-K)	146	003_003_006			
1924 (L-M)	147	003_003_006			
1924 (N-R)	148	003_003_006			

1924 (S)	149	003_003_006			
1924 (T-Z)	150	003_003_006			
1925 (A-E)	151	004_001_001			
1925 (F-M)	152	004_001_001			
1925 (N-S)	153	004_001_001			
1925 (T-Z)	154	004_001_001			
1926 (A-C)	155	004_001_001			
1926 (D-H)	156	004_002_001			
1926 (I-M)	157	004_002_001			
1926 (N-R)	158	004_002_001			
1926 (S-Z)	159	004_002_001			
1927 (A-Em)	160	004_003_001			
1927 (Ey-H)	161	004_003_001			
1927 (I-Pan)	162	004_003_001			
1927 (Pen-S)	163	004_003_001			
1927 (T-Z)	164	004_003_001			
1928 (A-M)	165	004_001_002			
1928 (N-Z)	166	004_001_002			
1929 (A-M)	167	004_001_002			
1929 (N-Z)	168	004_001_002			
1930 (A-Hir)	169	004_002_002			
1930 (Hoo-Hop)	170	004_002_002			
1930 (J-P)	171	004_002_002			
1930 (Q-Sho)	172	004_002_002			
1930 (St-Z)	173	004_002_002			
1936 (A-N)	174	004_003_002			
1936 (O-Z)	175	004_003_002			
1937 (A-G)	176	004_003_002			
1937 (H-Z)	177	004_003_002			
1939 (A-R)	178	004_001_003			
1939 (S-Z)	179	004_001_003			

1940 (A-H)	180	004_001_003			
1940 (I-Z)	181	004_001_003			
1941 (A-N)	182	004_002_003			
1941 (O-Z)	183	004_002_003			
Series II: Bound Volumes (Cha002)	Date	Location			
Chancery Rule Book	1813-1820	E.001_001_007			
	1827-1834**				
	1831-1849	E.001_001_008			
	1881-1896	E.001_001_011			
	1896-1907	E.001_001_009			
	1907-1914	E.001_001_010			
Chancery Court Docket	1805-1837	E.001_001_001			
	1831-1864	E.001_001_002			
	1832-1864	E.001_001_003			
	1850-1858	E.001_001_004			
	1871-1878	E.001_001_000			
Chancery Order Book	1819-1824	E.001_001_016			
	1820-1831	E.001_002_006			
	1831-1850	E.001_001_014			
	1831-1850	E.001_001_015			
	1831-1868	E.001_001_013			

Chancery Appeals Book	1809-1832	E.001_001_005			
	1833-1864	E.001_001_006			
Chancery Executions Books	1831-1871	E.001_001_012			
Chancery Memorandum Books	1904-1919	E.001_002_007			
	1919-1940	E.001_002_008			
	1941-1950	E.001_002_009			
*Bay_Column_Row					
**temporarily unavailable, undergoing conservation treatment					