

	OHIO GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY 611 State Route 97 W Bellville OH 44813-8813 419-886-1903 www.ogs.org	OGS FINDING AIDS When citing materials from this collection in your research, please include the following in your bibliography: Item name or title. Collection title, MSS number, box number, file number, item number (if available). Lyle H. West Archives, Ohio Genealogical Society, Bellville, Ohio.
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RCC BOXES 136-160

Title: Supreme Court Cases, 1814-1860

Location: Ohio Genealogical Society, Lyle H. West Archives, 611 SR 97 W, Bellville, Ohio, 44813

Preferred Citation: RCC Boxes 136-160 Supreme Court Cases, 1814-1860, box number, file number, item number (if available). Lyle H. West Archives, Ohio Genealogical Society, Bellville, Ohio.

Dates: 1814-1860

Creator(s): Supreme Court of Richland County (Ohio); District Court of Richland County (Ohio)

Donor(s): The estate of Dr. William R. M. Houston, Mansfield, Ohio

Administrative History: The Supreme Court of Richland County was established in August 1814 to exercise jurisdiction over lower courts in the county. They met once per year to hear cases that were originally filed in the Richland County Court of Common Pleas. The court was superseded in 1852 by the District Court.¹

Custodial History: These court records were rescued from the demolition of the Richland County Courthouse in January-April 1969² by members of the OGS and the Richland County Genealogical Society, a Chapter of OGS. They were stored along with hundreds of boxes of other court records in the home of Dr. William R. M. Houston in Mansfield, Ohio until their donation in 2012.

Scope and Content: The collection contains case filings and other records of the Supreme Court of Richland County and its successor the District Court of Richland County, from 1814 to 1860.

¹ From *Records of the Supreme Court for the County of Richland (Ohio) 1814-1828* by Thomas Stephen Neel, 2006.

² See the following newspaper articles from the *News-Journal* (Mansfield, Ohio) for additional details on the destruction of the courthouse and the records selection process: Sunday, January 21, 1968, page 15; Wednesday, January 1, 1969, page 1; Tuesday, January 21, 1969, page 11. The *News-Journal* documented the demolition until its completion on April 22, 1969.

Common case types include, but are not limited to: permissions to marry, petitions for divorce, applications for citizenship or naturalization, estate settlements (“In Chancery”), property and land disputes (“Partition”), appointment of guardians or administrators, defamation, and theft. The collection also includes other early local records such as poll books, tavern licenses, and mortgages. The majority of the cases are between private citizens or among family members. Some cases were brought by the state of Ohio or by a business (typically a bank or railroad) against a specific individual. Gaps exist due to records loss.

System of Arrangement: Original order; records were removed from original court packets and placed in folders. The court appears to have organized cases by the term in which the case was first heard, not chronological order. Each packet represented a term, such as, “September term 1825”; however, later packets were labeled broadly, with titles like “Supreme Court papers 1845-1848.”

Extent: 10.5 linear feet

Access: No access restrictions.

Physical Access: Some records are damaged and fragile.

Language: English

Provenance: Donated by Dr. William R. M. Houston’s family of Lucas, Ohio; Tucson, Arizona; and Kensington, Maryland, 2012. Additional provenance information about the court records can be found in the finding aid for MSS 330 William R. M. Houston Collection.

Processing Information: These records were processed over several years by numerous volunteers, interns, and staff members. They were re-processed in 2023 while being indexed to remove cases that were from the Court of Common Pleas—Civil Action, c. 1870s. Original court “packet” envelopes and wrappers were saved in the files. Some packets were split into multiple folders.

Additional Notes: The registers of births, deaths, and naturalizations may be records from the Court of Common Pleas and/or the Clerk’s office misfiled with the Supreme Court records, but this cannot be verified due to records loss in the county. This collection has been indexed. Index is available in the OGS Library under Richland County section. This collection is available for [copy service](#).

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Box Description:

RCC Box Number (series box number); RCC Box Number is the order in which the box appears on the shelf.

Box 136 (1): File 0: Finding aid, index, provenance; files 1-10

Box 137 (2): Files 11-19

Box 138 (3): Files 20-29

Box 139 (4): Files 30-39

Box 140 (5): Files 40-50

Box 141 (6): Files 51-63

Box 142 (7): Files 64-70

Box 143 (8): Files 71-77

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Box 154 (19): Files 184-191

Box 155 (20): Files 192-199

Box 156 (21): Files 200-207

Box 157 (22): Files 208-219

Box 158 (23): Files 220-230

Box 159 (24): Files 231-242; Start of District Court records

Box 160 (25): Files 243-253

Key Words: Richland County; court records.

Processed by: OGS Volunteers; Tom Neel, OGS Library Director, 2012-2020. Partially re-processed by Jenna Kish, OGS Archivist, 2023.

Finding aid created by: Jenna Kish, OGS Archivist, December 1, 2023.