

Supreme Court records, 1793 – 1974 (bulk 1847 –1862, 1870 – 1966)

Ontario County Records and Archives Center

Overview of the Records:

Creator:

Ontario County Court Clerk

Extent:

48 volumes, 8 indexes, 25.53 cubic feet

Arrangement:

The volumes are arranged chronologically. The boxed records are scattered, but loosely arranged by series, then chronologically.

Language:

Materials are in English.

Finding Aid by:

Marjorie Prak, August 2015

Use of Records:

Access Restrictions:

All of the public records of Ontario County are available for the use of the public. However, there may be restrictions provided by various statutes.

Available Alternate Formats:

No other form exists.

Administrative History:

The NY Supreme Court was established during British colonial rule and then continued with the 1777 Constitution. It had jurisdiction over general common law, and after the Constitution of 1846, it acquired equity jurisdiction from the abolition of Court of Chancery, where plaintiffs sought "equitable relief". After the Constitution of 1894, the Supreme Court took over cases previously heard in the Circuit Courts and the Court of Oyer and Terminer, as both of these courts were abolished as of December 31, 1895.

Scope and Content Note:

Each handwritten minutes volume contains the cases presented in the Supreme Court during the court's trial, equity, adjournment, and/or special terms. Volumes 1 through 5, representing the period of 1847 through 1888 also include the minutes form Circuit Court terms. The minute books include rules on both enumerated and non-enumerated motions.

At the beginning of each term, the name of the court, venue, date, and names of the justices presiding are listed. Each entry lists the names of the plaintiff(s), defendant(s), and attorney(s) , as well as a description of the actions or legal proceedings. Names of jurors and the witnesses are also included, if the case went to trial. Information regarding the jury's verdicts and the amount of damages awarded may also be present.

Additional information that may be in the Supreme Court minutes includes memorials of members of the Ontario County Bar, which may include a brief biographical background and life achievements.

The volumes of rough minutes include information found in the Minute Volumes. The rough minute volumes frequently have overlapping dates and there are gaps that are not covered in the collection.

There is one volume of Register of Return of Writs that provides the date of filing, names of the defendants, plaintiffs, sheriff, deputy sheriff, and attorneys, the amounts of the debt, damages, and fees, and any remarks pertaining to the writ, (the type of writ is not given).

The Clerk's Registers of Cases in the Supreme Court are volumes that document to filings and summons of court cases. They also include the amount of damages awarded, fees assessed, and a record of any payments made.

Various records pertaining to the proceedings and actions of the court are scattered through various boxes. Please consult the Detailed Description for further information.

Detailed Description:

Box - Folder	Location	Contents	Dates
<i>Minutes</i>		<i>13 volumes</i>	<i>1847 - 1966</i>
	Shelved volume	Minutes No. 1	Sep. 1847 - Nov. 1852
	Shelved volume	Minutes No. 2	Feb. 1853 - Feb. 1862
	Shelved volume	Minutes No. 4	Apr. 1870 - Oct. 1879 (in poor condition)
	Shelved volume	Minutes No. 5	Feb. 1880 - Jun. 1888 (includes index in front)
	Shelved volume	Minutes No. 6	Jul. 1888 - Oct. 1896 (includes index in front)
	Shelved volume	Minutes No. 7	Jan. 1897 - Dec. 1906 (includes index in front)
	Shelved volume	Minutes No. 8	Feb. 1907 - Oct. 1916
	Shelved volume	Minutes No. 9	Oct. 1916 Feb. 1926 (includes index in front)
	Shelved volume	Minutes No. 10	May 1926 - May 1935 (includes index in front)
	Shelved volume	Minutes No. 11	Oct. 1935 - Feb. 1947 (includes index in front)

Shelved volume	Special Term Minutes	Nov. 1943 - Nov. 1951 (includes index in front)
Shelved volume	Minutes No. 12	Feb. 1947 - Feb. 1956 (includes index in front)
Shelved volume	Minutes No. 13	Feb. 1956 - Mar. 1966 (includes index in front)

Indexes

7 indexes

Shelved volume	Index 1	undated
Shelved volume	Index 2	undated
Shelved volume	Index 3	undated
Shelved volume	Index 4	1870 - 1879
Shelved volume	Index 6	1892 -1895
Shelved volume	Index 7	1897 - 1900
Shelved volume	Index 8	1907 - 1916

Rough Minutes

25 volumes

Shelved volume	Rough Minutes: General Term Equity	Sep. 1847 - May 1849
Shelved volume	Rough Minutes: General Term Law	Sep. 1847 - May 1849
Shelved volume	Rough Minutes: Special Term Equity	Sep. 1847 - Jul. 1848
Shelved volume	Rough Minutes: Special Term Law	Sep. 1847 - Dec. 1849
Shelved volume	Rough Minutes	Apr. 1854 - Jun. 1855
Shelved volume	Rough Minutes	Aug. 1855 - Jun. 1856
Shelved volume	Rough Minutes	Aug. 1856 - Aug. 1857
Shelved volume	Rough Minutes	Nov. 1857 - Nov. 1858
Shelved volume	Rough Minutes	May 1882 - 1886
Shelved volume	Rough Minutes	May 1886 - Dec. 1888
Shelved volume	Rough Minutes	Feb. 1889 - Oct. 1895
Shelved volume	Rough Minutes	May 1895 - Oct. 1899
Shelved volume	Rough Minutes	Oct. 1895 - Feb. 1904
Shelved volume	Rough Minutes	Feb. 1904 - May 1907
Shelved volume	Rough Minutes	Oct. 1907 - Apr. 1911
Shelved volume	Rough Minutes	May 1911 - Oct. 1914
Shelved volume	Rough Minutes	Feb. 1915 - Oct. 1918
Shelved volume	Rough Minutes	Feb. 1919 - Oct. 1921
Shelved volume	Rough Minutes	Feb. 1922 - Jan. 1926
Shelved volume	Rough Minutes	Oct. 1926 - Oct. 1930
Shelved volume	Rough Minutes	May 1946 - Sep. 1948
Shelved volume	Rough Minutes	Oct. 1948 - Jan. 1951
Shelved volume	Rough Minutes	Oct. 1955 - Mar. 1959
Shelved volume	Rough Minutes	May 1956 - May 1959
Shelved volume	Rough Minutes	May 1959 - Mar. 1964

Clerk's Registers of Cases**6 volumes**

Shelved volume	Register	Jun. 1840 - Jan. 1873
Shelved volume	Register	Jan. 1852 - Jun. 1856 (index in front)
Shelved volume	Register	Jan. 1857 - Jul. 1862
Shelved volume	Register	Mar. 1872 - Oct. 1900 (includes separate index pages stuck in front)
Shelved volume	Register	Jun. 1879 - 1897
Shelved volume	Register	Mar. 1900 - Oct. 1905

Individual Case Records**3 volumes**

Shelved volume	Edward H. Morse et al. against The Bank of Ontario	1869 - 1871
Shelved volume	Lehigh Valley Railway Company Supreme Court Records	1940
Shelved volume	Testimony of The People of NYS vs. Earl H. Austin Case	June

Other Records**1 volume, 1 index**

Shelved volume	Index to Supreme Court Rules	undated (index to unknown volume)
Shelved volume	Register of Return of Writs	1821 - 1849

Boxed Records**25.53 cubic feet**

11494	AM01-149	0.23 cubic feet	1823, 18030, 1835, 1848 - 1849, 1861 - 1864
11300	AM01-164	1.00 cubic feet	1885 - 1898
11264	AM01-180	0.30 cubic feet	1835, 1836, 1840, 1847 - 1849
11304	AM01-192	0.15 cubic feet	1818, circa 1840 - 1870, 1878, 1897, 1925, 1928
11287	AM01-200	1.00 cubic feet / People vs. Lehigh Valley Railroad	circa 1835 - 1840
11270	AM01-204	0.50 cubic feet	Unprocessed records
11283	AM01-206	1.00 cubic feet	1920
14022	AM01-226	0.14 cubic feet	circa 1819 - 1848
11301	AM01-231	0.10 cubic feet	circa 1840 - 1849
11302	AM01-232	1.00 cubic feet	1892, 1893, 1896 - 1900, 1904
26458	AM02-003	1.00 cubic feet	1908 - 1910
26457	AM02-083	1.00 cubic feet	1900 - 1907
11167	AM08-183	1.00 cubic feet	1919 - 1969
11487	AM18-145	0.02 cubic feet	1858
18719	AM21-019	0.25 cubic feet	Undated
19181	AM21-020	0.50 cubic feet	circa 1877 - 1886

19083	AM21-033	0.08 cubic feet	1841, 1842
18728*	AM21-050	1.00 cubic feet	circa 1814 - 1890
18730	AM21-059	0.33 cubic feet	circa 1818 - 1878
21529	AM21-069	0.33 cubic feet	Undated
19212	AM21-071	0.34 cubic feet	1974
19204	AM21-078	0.50 cubic feet	circa 1872 - 1889
19301	AM21-079	0.01 cubic feet	1867 – 1869
19312	AM21-084	0.50 cubic feet	Undated
19215	AM21-085	0.25 cubic feet	circa 1815 - 1925
19262	AM21-097	0.90 cubic feet	1859 - 1868
21531	AM21-110	0.16	1900 - 1953
19346	AM21-111	1.00 cubic feet	circa 1818 - 1851
19365	AM21-112	0.80	1882 - 1892
19393	AM21-114	0.50 cubic feet	circa 1856 - 1873
19395	AM21-123	0.96	1853 - 1873
19415	AM21-127	0.50 cubic feet	circa 1793 - 1859
19812	AM21-141	1.00 cubic feet	circa 1900
19813	AM21-142	0.06 cubic feet	1847, 1848
19855	AM21-152	1.00 cubic feet	Undated
19876	AM21-154	1.00 cubic feet	Undated
20001	AM21-177	0.50 cubic feet	1896 - 1901
19975	AM21-178	0.25 cubic feet	1810, 1820 - 1830, 1848 - 1857, 1870 - 1883
18848	AM21-180	0.20 cubic feet	Undated
19480	AM21-182	1.00 cubic feet	circa 1859 - 1890
19823	AM24-117	0.33 cubic feet	Undated
28481*	AR09-009	1.00 cubic feet	
28695*	AR09-010	1.00 cubic feet	
28696*	AR09-011	1.00 cubic feet	circa 1877 - 1887
TBD	Box on Table	0.19 cubic feet (0.05 cubic feet Bench Warrants & 0.14 cubic feet Miscellaneous records)	1830, 1831, 1889, 1896, 1897, 1899, 1900, n.d.

* indicates sorted box