

FOUND IN THE ARCHIVES

Fairfax Circuit Court Historic Records Center



Greetings! This is the first installment of “Found in the Archives,” where the Fairfax Circuit Court Historic Records Center will highlight interesting and unique documents in our custody.

October is American Archives Month, and the Fairfax Circuit Court Historic Records Center is participating by focusing on the conservation and preservation of records in our custody.

Preserving and conserving the court’s records is nothing new. Our minute books contain many references to county clerks sending ledgers away for repair and rebinding, as well as ordering new ledgers and supplies for proper and accurate record-keeping.

In 1894, F. W. Richardson, Clerk of the Circuit Court from 1880 until 1935, sent 35 volumes (ledgers) to Richmond, Virginia, for rebinding, as ordered by the court. The work was performed by Everett Waddey Company, “Manufacturing Stationers, Printers, Electrotypers, Bookbinders, and Blank-Book Makers.”

ALL ACCOUNTS MUST BE SETTLED MONTHLY BY CASH OR NOTE.

Richmond, Va., March 30 1894

Fairfax Co

F. W. Richardson Clerk

Bought of **EVERETT WADDEY CO.,**  
 Manufacturing Stationers, Printers, Electrotypers, Bookbinders and Blank-Book Makers,  
 Office and Salesroom, No. 1105 Main Street,  
 Telephone 310. Factory, Nos. 1 to 3 So. Eleventh Street.

Rebinding 35 Vol.	15225
Express	675
	15900

Please receipt return

Corrected Bill

EVERETT WADDEY CO. PAID FEB 4 1894

The original accounting below details the individual steps taken to prepare the ledgers for shipping, delivery, and return.

Fairfax County, Va. To

1894  
Mch.

H. W. Richardson. Co. CLK.

Cash paid W. J. Thompson for  
work + material to make box in which  
to pack Record books to send to  
Richmond, Va., to be re-bound,  
per order of court. \$ 4.00

" 27 Cash paid five men to load books  
on Sisson's wagon. .50

" " Paid Sisson to haul to Station. .50

" " Paid Express on Books to Richmond. 5.00

Paid E. Wadley Co. for  
binding them + return express. 159.00

Paid Sisson to haul from Station .75

" 5 men to unload books. .50

\$ 170.25

Vouchers enclosed.

Sworn to before me this 16th  
day of April 1894

D. H. Christian

Fairfax County VA

To

F. W. Richardson, Co. Clk.

Cash paid W. L. Thompson for work & material to make box in which to pack Record books to Send to Richmond, Va to be re-bound. per order of court . . . . . \$ 4.00

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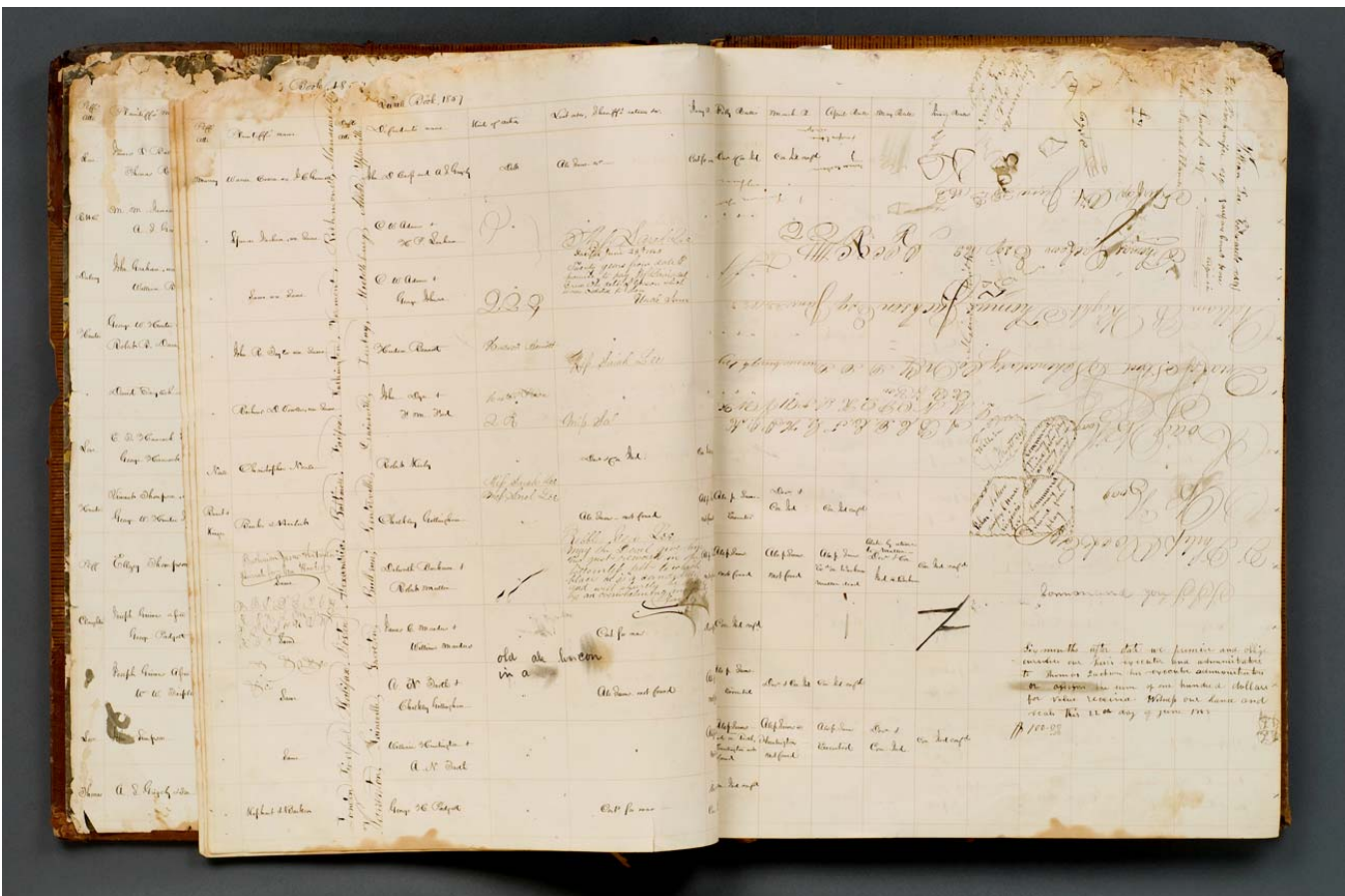
Sworn to before me this 16th day of April 1894.

D. M. Chichester

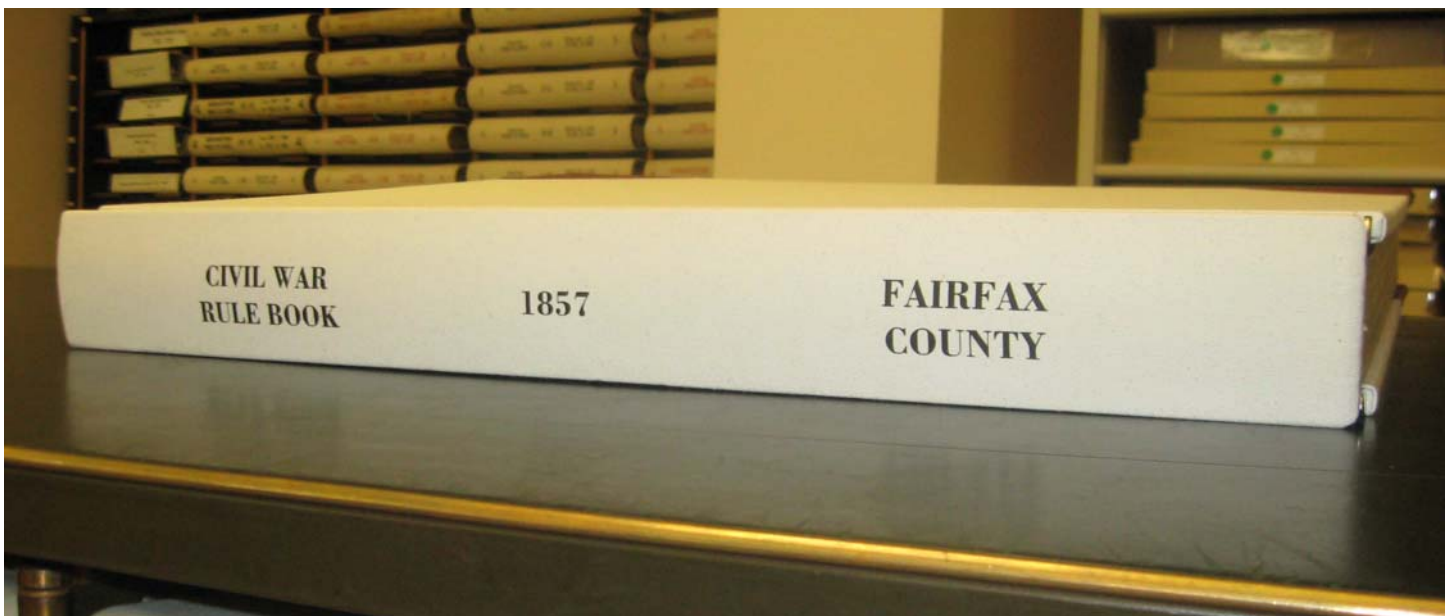
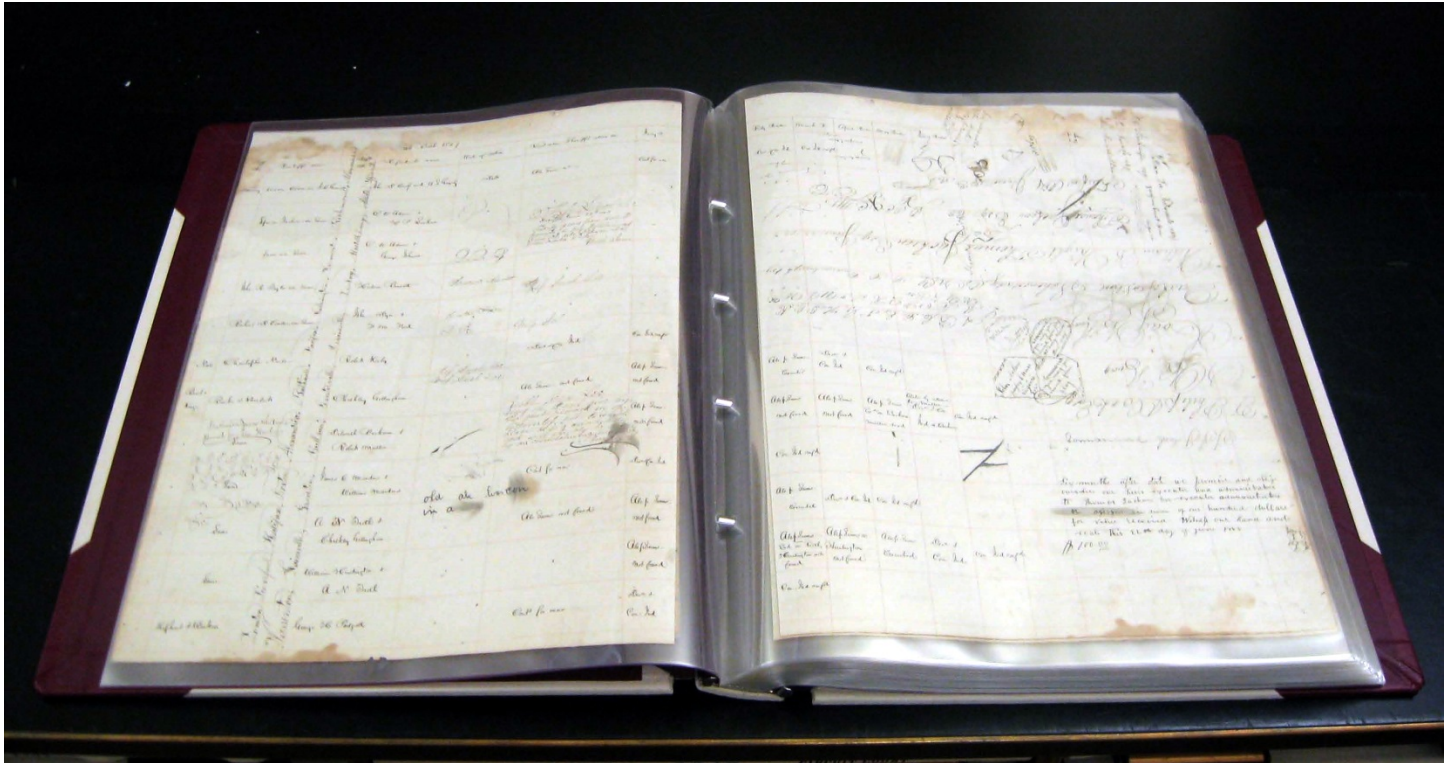
In May 2014, the Historic Records Center had eight volumes sent to a conservation center in North Carolina for rebinding and repair. Some of the ledgers had water, insect, and mold damage. Due to the unique nature of these records, it was necessary to have conservation work done in order to help make these records last for a very long time.

Below, you can see the water and mold damage to the Civil War Rule Book from 1857. This ledger was used to record transactions that took place within the court, but what makes this ledger particularly interesting is that during the Union occupation of the court house, soldiers used its pages to doodle and practice their handwriting.

As you can see below, the pages were creased and insects had chewed the corners.



After a few months of cleaning, repair, and rebinding, the Civil War Rule Book and other ledgers were returned in August 2014. As you can see in the picture below, the pages were cleaned, dried flat, and Japanese conservation tissue was applied to the damaged corners to protect the edges. Each individual page was encapsulated in protective Mylar, and the book can now lay flat.



With the ledgers stabilized, they can be enjoyed by the public for many more years!

For more information, please visit the Fairfax Circuit Court Historic Records Center website:

[http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/courts/circuit/historical\\_records.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/courts/circuit/historical_records.htm)