

SOUTH CAROLINA
WILLS 1670 - 1853 OR LATER

Compiled from C.W.A.,
W.P.A. microfilms,
and original volumes.

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COUNTY AND DISTRICT FORMATION

Although counties were formed, the recording of wills, and probate of estates took place ONLY at the colonial capitol, Charles Town.

1682

CRAVEN COUNTY - from the North Carolina line southward to Seewee (Awendaw) Creek.

BERKELEY COUNTY - centered about the colonial capitol Charles Town (Charleston) extended from Seewee Creek (now Awendaw Creek) which empties into Bull Bay on the north, southward to Stono River.

COLLETON COUNTY - extended from Stono River on the north to the Combahee River on the south.

GRANVILLE COUNTY - laid out later, began at the Combahee River on the north, to the Savannah River, the Georgia line on the south.

1769 - JUDICIAL DISTRICTS FORMED

From a line running approximately 50 miles from the coast in a northeast-southwest direction, to the Atlantic Ocean, three districts were laid out:

GEORGETOWN - from the N.C. line to the Santee River on the south.

CHARLESTON - from the Santee to the Combahee River on the south.

BEAUFORT - from the Combahee to the Savannah River on the south (Georgia's border).

Northwest of this line, interior districts were:

CHERAWS - a triangle northwest of Georgetown, bounded by the North Carolina line, and on the southwest by Lynches River.

CAMDEN - west and south of Cheraws, bounded east on Lynches River, and west by Santee-Congaree-Broad River system.

NINETY - SIX - west and southwest of Camden District, extended from the N.C. line southwestward to the Savannah River at the Georgia line.

ORANGEBURG - southeast of Ninety-Six, and northwest of Beaufort and Charleston Districts, it lay between the Congaree - Cooper and Savannah Rivers.

1785 COUNTIES WERE FORMED WITHIN DISTRICTS

Estates of persons dying outside of Charleston County could now be probated outside of Charleston, although some persons dying in other counties had wills recorded in Charleston as formerly. Look in their county of residence first, then in Charleston.

Some counties named below were formed but quickly abandoned.

				Ninety-Six District	
Edgefield	Abbeville	Laurens		Spartanburg	
Union	Newberry (included	small piece of Orangeburgh)			
Greenville (1786)		Pendleton (1789)			
Camden District					
Clarendon	Claremont	Richland		Fairfield	
Chester	York	Lancaster		Kershaw (1791)	
Salem (from parts of Clarendon and Claremont in 1792)					
Cheraws District					
Marlborough	Chesterfield	Darlington			
Georgetown District					
Winyaw (abolished)		Kingston (now Horry)			
Liberty (now Marion)		Williamsburg			

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	Charleston District		
Charleston		Washington (abolished)	
Marion (abolished)		Berkeley (abolished)	
Colleton (abolished)		Bartholomew (abolished)	
	Beaufort District		
Hilton (abolished)		Lincoln (abolished)	
Granville (abolished)		Shrewsbury (abolished)	
	Orangeburg District		
Lewisburgh (abolished, recreated as Lexington 1804)			
Winton (abolished, recreated as Barnwell)			
Orange (abolished, recreated as Orangeburg)			
	Pinckney District (created 1791, abolished)		
Spartanburg	York	Union	Chester
	Washington District (created 1791, abolished)		
Greenville	Pendleton (divided 1826 into Anderson, and Pickens)		

COUNTIES WITH PRE-1853 WILLS DESTROYED

Beaufort	Chesterfield	Colleton	Georgetown
Lancaster	Lexington	Orangeburg	

CWA - WPA PROGRAMS

To provide employment, and preserve the original wills of the colony and state to 1853, a series of typescripts were made during the 1930s under the auspice of the Civil Works Administration, and its successor the Works Progress Administration. These are often referred to as the WPA typescripts. There are two series of wills typescripts - "the Charleston Wills," and "the County Wills".

THE CHARLESTON WILLS

From the founding of the colony until the Revolution, probate of estates took place in the colonial capitol at Charleston. Therefore the Charleston wills include persons who died anywhere in the colony.

There are likely early wills of South Carolinians which went through probate in the Prerogative Court at Canterbury, England, since jurisdiction of probates for persons who held property in more than one province or colony rested at the time with the church court at Canterbury.

The Charleston wills were separately copied and have been microfilmed by the Genealogical Society of Utah (from whom they may be purchased), and a testator index was prepared by the Charleston Free Library. Omitted from the Charleston Free Library index are names of some of the very earliest testators in the colony. These names have been added in this compilation and are cited directly to the original books.

THE COUNTY WILLS

The CWA typescripts of the county wills have now been microfilmed by the South Carolina Department of Archives and History, P.O. Box 11,669, Columbia, S.C. 29211, as MICROCOPY 9 - "South Carolina Will Transcripts, 1782-1868, with general index," 31 rolls and printed introduction. Individual rolls on microfilm, and a copy of the Introduction, can be purchased from the Department for \$15 for the film, and \$1.50 for the Introduction. A testators index, arranged by county, was prepared by the WPA and published by Martha Lou Houston.

No typescripts were made for some of the mid-1830s wills for Laurens County. These wills have been included in this compilation, citing the original record book.

Winton County, the forerunner of present Barnwell County, kept mixed records which included some wills. Most of the "Winton wills" were not found in the County Wills index; they have all been included in this compilation.

COUNTY RECORDS

Colonial wills were recorded at Charleston, and are listed under "Charleston County". Microfilm roll numbers are those assigned to S.C. Archives' microfilm publications unless otherwise noted.

* denotes **books with some wills not shown in earlier indexes.**

Roll 1 Testator Index to (County but not Charleston) Will Books

ABBEVILLE COUNTY

- *96 "The Calhoun Journal" registered pre- and post-Revolutionary probates for the 96 District. Recording dates 1781 - 1783.
- Roll 2 Volume 1, 1787-1815
- Roll 3 Volume 2, 1815-1839; Volume 3, 1839-1855.

ANDERSON COUNTY

- Roll 4 Volume 1, 1791-1834: Will Books C, A, Floating Wills
- Volume 2, 1835-1857: Will Book B, Floating Wills

BARNWELL COUNTY (also WINTON)

- Roll 5 Volume 1, 1787-1826: Will Books I (Winton), A, B
- Volume 2, 1826-1856: Will Books C, D

CHARLESTON COUNTY (and colonial wills)

- *SP Records of the Secretary of the Province, 1671-1675
- *RP Records of the Register of the Province, 1675-1696
- *GC Journal of the Grand Council of the Province 1671-1680
- *CO Court of Ordinary 1672-1692
- *WB71 Will Book 1671 - 1727
- *WB87 Volume 1, Will Book 1687-1710
- *WB92 Will Book 1692-1693
- *RB94 Record Book 1694-1704
- *MR11 Misc. Records 1711-1718
- *MR16 Misc. Records 1716-1721
- *WB20 Will Book 1720-1721
- *WB21 Will Book 1721-1722
- *MR22 Record Book 1722-1724
- *MR22 Volume 2, Misc. Records 1722-1726
- *WB24 Will Book 1724-1725
- *MR26 Misc. Records 1726-1727
- *MR27 Misc. Records 1727-1729
- *WB29 Will Book 1729-1731
- *WBG Will Book G 1729-1731
- *WB31 Will Book 1731-1733
- *WB32 Volume 3, Will Book 1732-1737
- *MR36 Misc. Records 1736-1740
- *WB36 Volume 4, Will Book 1736-1740
- *MR40 Misc. Records 1740-1747
- *WB40 Volume 5, Will Book 1740-1747
- *WB47 Volume 6, Will Book 1747-1752
- *WB52 Volume 7, Will Book 1752-1756
- *WB57 Volume 8, Will Book 1757-1760
- *MR58 Misc. Records LL 1758-1763
- *WB60 Volume 9, Will Book 1760-1767
- *WBQQ Will Book QQ 1760-1767
- *WB60 Volume 10, Will Book 1760-1767
- *MR65 Misc. Records 1765-1769
- *WBRR Volume 11, Will Book RR 1767-1771
- *WBRR Volume 12, Will Book RR 1767-1771
- *WBRR Volume 13, Will Book RR 1767-1771
- *WBSS Volume 14, Will Book SS 1771-1774
- *WBSS Volume 15, Will Book SS 1771-1774
- *WBTT Volume 16, Will Book TT 1774-1779

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CHARLESTON COUNTY, continued

*WBTT Volume 17, Will Book TT 1774-1779
*WBVV Volume 18, Will Book VV 1776-1784
*WBWW Volume 19, Will Book WW 1780-1783
*WBA Volume 20, Will Book A 1783-1786
*WBA Volume 21, Will Book A 1783-1786
*WBB Volume 22, Will Book B 1786-1793
*WBB Volume 23, Will Book B 1786-1793
*WBB Volume 24, Will Book B 1786-1793
*WBC Volume 25, Will Book C 1793-1800
*WBC Volume 26, Will Book C 1793-1800
*WBC Volume 27, Will Book C 1793-1800
Volume 28, Will Book 1800-1807
Volume 29, Will Book 1800-1807
Volume 30, Will Book 1800-1807
Volume 31, Will Book 1807-1818
Volume 32, Will Book 1807-1818
Volume 33, Will Book 1807-1818
Volume 34, Will Book 1818-1826
Volume 35, Will Book 1818-1826
Volume 36, Will Book 1818-1826
Volume 37, Will Book 1826-1834
Volume 38, Will Book 1826-1834
Volume 39, Will Book 1826-1834
Volume 40, Will Book 1834-1839
Volume 41, Will Book 1834-1839
Volume 42, Will Book 1839-1845
Volume 43, Will Book 1839-1845
Volume 44, Will Book 1845-1851
Volume 45, Will Book 1845-1851
Volume 46, Will Book 1851-1856
Volume 47, Will Book 1851-1856

CHESTER COUNTY

Roll 6 Volume 1, 1789-1817: Will Books A, B, C, D, E, F1, F2
Volume 2, 1817-1839: Will Books G, H, I, J, K, L, M, N, O
Roll 7 Volume 3, 1833-1853: Will Book A1, P, Q, and unrecorded wills

DARLINGTON COUNTY

Roll 7 Volume 1, 1785-1840: Will Books 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9
Volume 2, 1838-1853: Will Book 10

EDGEFIELD COUNTY

(The book letter has been added following the page number in each citation.)
Roll 8 Book A, 1785-1818, Volume 1, and Volume 2, Inventories and Wills A
Roll 9 Book C, 1817-1835, Volume 1, and Volume 2
Roll 10 Book D, 1835-1853, Volume 1, and Volume 2

FAIRFIELD COUNTY

Roll 11 Volume 1, 1787-1819: Will Books 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
Volume 2, 1820-1839: Will Books 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 17, 18
Roll 12 Volume 3, 1840-1857: Will Book 19

GREENVILLE COUNTY

Roll 13 Volume 1, 1787-1840: Will Books A, B
Volume 2, 1840-1853: Will Book C

HORRY COUNTY

Roll 14 Volume 1, 1799-1853: Will Books A, B, C, and filed wills

KERSHAW COUNTY

Roll 14 Volume 1, 1770-1841: Will Books C, A1, and unrecorded wills
Roll 15 Volume 2, 1775-1839: Will Books N1, D, D1, C1, K, C, O, G, I, P
Volume 3, 1823-1853: Will Books L, N, A, Q

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LAURENS COUNTY

- Roll 16 Volume 1, 1766-1825: Will Books A, C1, D1, E
Roll 17 Volume 2, 1825-1853: Will Books F, A
(The following volumes were omitted from CWA typescripts:)
*ER Estate Records, Inventories, Appraisements 1834-1838; Roll C69
*E Wills E 1836-1839; Roll C70

MARION COUNTY

- Roll 17 Volume 1, 1796-1855: Will Books 1, 2

MARLBORO COUNTY

- Roll 18 Volume 1, 1787-1853: Will Book A

NEWBERRY COUNTY

- Roll 18 Volume 1, 1776-1814, Will Books A, B, C, D, and loose wills
Roll 19 Volume 2, 1805-1826: Will Books E, F, G, H, I, and loose wills
Volume 3, 1823-1840: Will Books L, M, N, and loose wills
Roll 20 Volume 4, 1840-1858: Will Books 1, 2, and loose wills

PICKENS COUNTY

- Roll 21 Volume 1, 1828-1862

RICHLAND COUNTY

- Roll 21 Volume 1, 1787-1853: Will Books B, C, D, E
Roll 22 Volume 2, 1787-1853: Will Books G, H, K
Roll 23 Volume 3, 1787-1853: Will Book L, part 1
Volume 4, 1787-1853: Will Book L, part 2

SPARTANBURG COUNTY

- Roll 24 Volume 1, 1787-1820: Will Books A, B
Volume 2, 1830-1835: Will Book C
Volume 3, 1840-1858: Will Book D

SUMTER COUNTY

- Roll 25 Volume 1, 1774-1849: Will Books A, AA, M, and unrecorded wills
Roll 26 Volume 2, 1823-1853: Will Books D1, D2

UNION COUNTY

- Roll 27 Volume 1, 1777-1814: Will Book A
Volume 2, 1815-1849: Will Books B, C
*C Will Book C, 1848-1868. All testators have been added to this index even though omitted in W.P.A. typescript. Page references are to the original Will Book C, not the later recopy.

WILLIAMSBURG COUNTY

- (No "A" surnames were found in the index)
Roll 28 Volume 1, 1802-1853: Will Books A, B, C, D

WINTON COUNTY

- (Some Winton wills were transcribed and listed as "Barnwell" by CWA; others though recorded were not typed or included in the "County Wills Index")
*MR Mixed Records Book Parts I, II, 1787-1791

YORK COUNTY

- Roll 29 Volume 1, 1770-1815
Roll 30 Volume 2, 1816-1839
Roll 31 Volume 3, 1840-1853

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ABBREVIATIONS

	Name	Period
96	Ninety-Six District	1775-1783
ABY	Abbeville County	1781-1855
AND	Anderson County	1791-1857
BK	Book	
BRN	Barnwell County	1787-1856
CHA	Charleston County	1670-1856
CHS	Chester County	1789-1853
CO	Court of Ordinary	1672-1692
CO.	County	
DAR	Darlington County	1785-1853
E	Will Book E, Laurens County	1836-1839
EDG	Edgefield County	1787-1853
ER	Estate Record Book, Laurens County	1834-1838
FLD	Fairfield County	1787-1857
GC	Journal of the Grand Council	1671-1680
GRN	Greenville County	1787-1853
HRY	Horry County	1799-1853
KER	Kershaw County	1770-1853
LRN	Laurens County	1766-1853
MR	Miscellaneous Records (letter or number)	
MRN	Marion County	1796-1855
MRL	Marlboro County	1787-1853
NWB	Newberry County	1776-1858
PCK	Pickens County	1828-1862
RCH	Richland County	1787-1864
RP	Register of the Province	1675-1696
SP	Journal of the Secretary of the Province	1671-1675
SPT	Spartanburg County	1787-1858
SMT	Sumter County	1774-1853
UNI	Union County	1777-1868
WIN	Winton County	1787-1791
WB	Will Book (book letter or number)	
WMS	Williamsburg County	1802-1853
YRK	York County	1770-1853

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Co.	Bk.	Page	Last Name, First Name	Co.	Bk.	Page	Last Name, First Name
NWB	4	57	CHALMERS, THOMAS B.	CHA	31	24	CHAPMAN, SAMUEL
CHA	WBC	248	CHALMERS, WILLIAM	CHA	7	213	CHAPMAN, SARAH
NWB	3	1	CHALMERS, WM., SR.	CHA	28	9	CHAPMAN, SARAH
CHA	21	822	CHAMBERLAIN, HUBBARD	CHA	43	615	CHAPMAN, THOMAS
CHA	31	378	CHAMBERLAYN, ESTHER	DAR	2	185	CHAPMAN, WILEY
CHA	31	378	CHAMBERLAYNE, ESTHER	CHA	1	33	CHAPMAN, WILLIAM
CHA	3	35	CHAMBERLIN, JOB	SPT	3	350	CHAPMAN, WILLIAM
ABY	2	173	CHAMBERS, BENJAMIN	CHA	17	580	CHAPMAN, WILLIAM
SPT	1	8	CHAMBERS, EDMOND	NWB	3	20	CHAPMAN, WILLIAM, SR
YRK	2	213	CHAMBERS, ELIZABETH	FLD	3	73	CHAPMAN, WILLIAM, SR
CHA	1	90	CHAMBERS, HENRY	CHA	24	1099	CHAPPELL, REBECCA
YRK	1	319	CHAMBERS, JAMES	KER	1	34	CHAPPELL, HENRY
CHA	9	265	CHAMBERS, JAMES	EDG	1	102C	CHAPPELL, HENRY
ABY	1	78	CHAMBERS, JOHN	RCH	2	59	CHAPPELL, HICKS MAJC
YRK	2	178	CHAMBERS, JOHN	AND	1	116	CHAPPELL, JESSE
YRK	3	324	CHAMBERS, JOHN	NWB	4	204	CHAPPELL, JOHN
CHA	CO	219	CHAMBERS, JOHN	FLD	3	72	CHAPPELL, JOHN T.
YRK	2	523	CHAMBERS, SAMUEL	FLD	2	6	CHAPPELL, LABAN, SR.
NWB	2	17	CHAMBERS, THOROGOOD	RCH	1	55	CHAPPELL, ROBERT
YRK	2	62	CHAMBERS, WILLIAM	NWB	2	26	CHAPPELL, THOMAS
YRK	2	525	CHAMBERS, WILLIAM	KER	2	4	CHAPPELL, ELIZABETH
CHA	23	594	CHAMBERS, WILLIAM	CHA	3	345	CHARDON, ISAAC
CHA	26	422	CHAMBERS, WILLIAM	CHA	32	579	CHARLES, ANDREW
SPT	3	318	CHAMBLIN, JAMES	LRN	1	98	CHARLES, JOHN
CHA	6	474	CHAMPIGNIÉ, PETER	GRN	2	181	CHARLES, JOHN
KER	2	12	CHAMPION, JACOB	CHA	4	160	CHARNOCK, JOHN
KER	1	53	CHAMPION, JOHN LLOYD	CHA	28	106	CHARTIER, JEAN JACQL
YRK	1	185	CHAMPION, RICHARD	BRN	1	113	CHASE, PELEG WOOD
YRK	2	2	CHAMPION, WILLIAM	AND	1	56	CHASTAIN, JOHN
CHA	33	1290	CHAMPNEYS, AMARINTHIA	ABY	2	301	CHASTAIN, JOHN
CHA	6	515	CHAMPNEYS, JOHN	CHA	31	184	CHATALAIN, MARI LOUI
CHA	34	332	CHAMPNEYS, JOHN	CHA	31	184	CHATELAIN, MARI LOIS
CHA	WB47	431	CHAMPNEYS, JOHN	ABY	2	288	CHATHAM, RICHARD
CHA	17	503	CHANDLER, ELIZABETH	CHA	22	124	CHAUVET, PAUL
WMS	1	373	CHANDLER, HANNAH	CHA	3	153	CHAUVIN, ISAAC
CHA	6	257	CHANDLER, ISAAC	BRN	2	3	CHAVOUS, ELISHA
NWB	1	76	CHANDLER, JAMES	CHA	37	190	CHAZAL, JOHN P.
ABY	1	369	CHANDLER, JESSE	EDG	1	221D	CHEATHAM, JOHN
NWB	2	68	CHANDLER, JESSE	ABY	2	210	CHEATHAM, JOHN L.
RCH	2	106	CHANDLER, JESSE, SR.	ABY	3	50	CHEATHAM, PETER
GRN	1	33	CHANDLER, JOEL	ABY	1	598	CHEATHAM, ROBERT
DAR	1	5	CHANDLER, JOHN	ABY	2	214	CHEATHAM, ROBERT
LRN	1	79	CHANDLER, JOHN	ABY	2	214	CHEATHAM, THOMAS
CHA	5	562	CHANDLER, PHILIP	CHA	16	40	CHEAVES, WILLIAM
CHA	16	309	CHANDLER, ROBERT	LRN	2	189	CHEEK, ELLIS
SMT	1	45	CHANDLER, SAMUEL	LRN	E	24	CHEEK, ELLIS
SMT	1	78	CHANDLER, THOMAS	LRN	2	234	CHEEK, WILLIS
GRN	1	5	CHANDLER, WILLIAM	LRN	2	186	CHEEK, WILLIS D.
CHA	42	34	CHANET, ANTHONY	CHA	9	89	CHEESBOROUGH, ELIZAE
ABY	2	232	CHANEY, NATHAN	CHA	5	470	CHEESMAN, ELIZABETH
CHA	28	289	CHANLER, ISAAC	CHA	28	379	CHEEVERS, RICHARD HC
CHA	45	639	CHAPEAU, JEAN BAPTISTE	CHA	11	242	CHENEY, DAVID
CHA	12	356	CHAPLIN, BENJAMIN	CHS	1	13	CHERRY, GEORGE
CHA	18	147	CHAPLIN, JOHN, JR.	MRL	1	36	CHERRY, GEORGE
CHA	12	342	CHAPLIN, SARAH	KER	2	3	CHERRY, JACOB
CHA	34	404	CHAPLIN, WILLIAM	BRN	2	110	CHERRY, JESSEE
NWB	1	65	CHAPMAN, ABRAHAM	CHS	2	1	CHERRY, JOHN
CHA	25	231	CHAPMAN, CHARLES	YRK	2	537	CHERRY, PETER
CHA	23	779	CHAPMAN, DEWS	CHS	1	16	CHERRY, ROBERT
CHA	23	779	CHAPMAN, DIVES	CHS	2	3	CHESHOLM, SUPREY
CHA	27	677	CHAPMAN, DWES	SPT	2	136	CHESNEY, HESTER
SPT	3	402	CHAPMAN, ELIZABETH	YRK	1	478	CHESNEY, NANCY
RCH	2	9	CHAPMAN, GERSHAM	SPT	1	87	CHESNEY, RICHARD
NWB	2	26	CHAPMAN, GILES, SR.	SPT	3	370	CHESNEY, THOMAS
DAR	1	24	CHAPMAN, HENRY	KER	3	152	CHESNUT, ELLEN
CHA	12	661	CHAPMAN, JOHN	CHS	2	77	CHESNUT, JAMES
RCH	2	244	CHAPMAN, JOHN WILLIAM	KER	1	257	CHESNUT, JOHN
SPT	3	387	CHAPMAN, JOHN, SR.	KER	3	9	CHESNUT, JOHN
NWB	4	95	CHAPMAN, MARY	CHS	1	2	CHESTNUT, DAVID
CHA	25	228	CHAPMAN, MARY	CHS	3	10	CHESTNUT, DAVID