

Archivist Notes from Justice Court Docket Books

The dockets were every name indexed by Judy Henderson 2005 – 2007. The notes were created as she indexed the individual dockets. All names were transcribed as written. An [] indicates an educated guess for the name. Please see the corresponding excel spreadsheets for more information.

Title Justices' Court Docket / H. Brashear / Nov. 21 1865, to Oct. 31 1866, / and / Record of Acknowledgements. / Jun. 30 1874 , to Jun. 29 1875, / Dist Clerk
Justice H. Brashear
Dates 1865, 11/21 – 1875, 06/29 Volume ID JCD01_Brashear

1. Pages are very old and fragile and are placed in Mylar for protection.
2. The bound side of the pages is torn and in some cases the words are missing.
3. Where there are multiple dockets on the same page without numbers, the dockets are identified by page number than an “a”, “b,” etc to identify the order.
4. Some areas are unreadable or lack information.
5. County Clerk entries 173 and 174 are duplicated. There are no page numbers to distinguish them. One page has entries numbered 172, 173, 174. The following page has entries number 173, 174, 175.
6. County Clerk entries 141-149 are non-existent.
7. There are two county clerk entries numbered 268 and 269. One page reads 268, 269, 268. The following page reads 269, 270, 271.
8. Entry number 282 does not exist.
9. The page with part of entry 289 and all of 290 and 291 are missing.
10. Entries between 306 and 319 have been skipped.

Title Justice’s Court Docket / Feb. 11 1867, to Nov. 16 1869
Justice Unknown, J.P.; J. G. Tracey ex-officio J. P.; Leonhardt, Gd. L., J. P.
Dates 1867, 0211 – 1869, 11/16 Volume ID JCD02_Unknown, etal.

1. This docket is in poor condition. It is to be read only after using the index.
2. Cases 1 through 9 are numbered. Beginning with case 10 on page 18, the cases are not numbered.
3. When there is more than one case on a page and are not numbered separated, the cases are numbered first by the page and the sequentially by the letters “a”, “b”, etc.
4. Page 46 mentions Hon. W. B. Reeves as JP for the case of Mary Atkins vs. James Rush. Later in the minutes, he is listed as dead.
5. Both pages 115 and 116 have case number 108. However, they have different names for defendant and plaintiff.
6. The pages for case numbers 109 and 110 have been cut. About the top one fourth of the page is missing; therefore, there are no page numbers given.
7. Toward the end of the book, the page numbers are not necessarily sequential, but the case numbers are.
8. Page numbers are not in order and may be repeated.

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Title Justices' Court Docket / T. J. Ewing, J. P. / Mar 5, 1868 to Jan. 20, 1870.
Justice T. J. Ewing
Dates 1868, 03/05 – 1870, 01/20 Volume ID JCD03_Ewing

1. The spelling and handwriting in the docket of Thos. J. Ewing indicates a limited education. Words have been spelled as he wrote them. For example, he writes the word “some” for the word “sum” and “sents” for “cents.” The words have been copied as he spelled them.
2. Where there are two cases with the same number on the same page, the first one is “a” and the second one is “b.”
3. The beginning of the volume contains the accounts for a printing or publishing business. Please see the notes about additional records contained in the JP Dockets.

Observations of the Ledger in front of JCD03_Ewing

1. There is an index in the front alphabetized by the first letter of the last name with page references. This was a common practice in the early 1800s since accounts were not logically.¹
2. Page numbers refer to both the left-hand side of the book which is the debt [Dr] and the right-hand side of the book which is the credit [Cr].²
3. The names of the individuals are written across the two pages. Generally the first name is on the left-hand side and the last name is on the right-hand side. Business names are also spread across the two pages.
4. Most entries are debit only with a very few corresponding credit entries.
5. Types of entries
 - a. Pub. Law Card 17
 - b. Law Card 2 sq. 17
 - c. Subscription Law Card 17
 - d. Dental Card 2 sq., 17
 - e. Printing Dental Cards
 - f. Medical Card 17
 - g. Subscription Medical Card 17
 - h. Advertising Railroad Restaurant
 - i. Notice of City Hearse
 - j. Adv. Of “A. Blum & Bro.” double column 5 8 qrs. 17
 - k. Adv. “New Establishment” 4 sq 17
 - l. Jordan Farmer’s sub.
 - m. Dr. Bains Sub. J. E. Fulshear’s Sub
 - n. Publishing Citation, Blum & Bro. vs. Joel A. T.
 - o. Balance due on transferring note of T. H. Rundell
 - p. Odd Fellows Ball Tickets
 - q. Jas. W. Wade’s subscription
 - r. Note on Capt. R. Jones
 - s. Adv. 100,000 Brick for sale

¹ Densmore, Christopher. “Understanding and Using Early Nineteenth Century Account Books.” The Midwestern Archivist. Vol. V, No. 1, 1980, pp 5-19.

² Ibid.

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- t. Subscription 17
 - u. Adv. Drug Store
 - v. Adv. ¼ column for 6 months
 - w. Adv. Of Stove
 - x. Adv. 1 sqr 8 times
 - y. Adv. "Insurance Co.' 4 sq. 3 times
 - z. Publishing Charter for Richmond Insurance Company
 - aa. Adv. "Steamer Lucy Gurims
 - bb. Printing Circulars
 - cc. Adv. call for convention
 - dd. Adv. New Goods
 - ee. Printing Funeral Notice
 - ff. Adv. "I cannot live without money"
 - gg. Pub. Trustee Notice in regard to Bohms & Collins Goods 5 sqrs 2 insertions
 - hh. Adv. Adm Notice for Elizabeth Hodge
 - ii. Adv. Losh note made by Fisher
 - jj. Notice of Richmond Academy
 - kk. Odd Fellows adv. For one year.
 - ll. Adv. 3000 Head of Sheep
 - mm. Marton Lodge Masonry, adv. For 1 year.
 - nn. Adv. Carriage making
 - oo. Printing Bill Heads
 - pp. Adv. Lost Land Warrant
 - qq. Adv. Sale of residence
 - rr. Adv. Election Notice (Foster, Geo. P., J. Chief Justice)
 - ss. Publishing Sheriff's Sale of Jones & Robinson's goods
 - tt. Publishing administrator's Notice of appointment
 - uu. Announcing name for office
 - vv. Share Election Tickets
 - ww. Pub. "To the Public"
 - xx. Publishing citation "B. W. Bell vs. D. McD. Lindsay 7 sqrs 4 insertions
 - yy. Publishing notice of hearse for sale
6. Names of individuals enter in ledger book
- a. Atkins, B. F.
 - b. Buckley & Kendalls
 - c. Blum & Bro.
 - d. Buckley & Kyle
 - e. Bell, B. W.
 - f. Carlisle, E. H.
 - g. Cathey, G. M. & Z.
 - h. Davis, A. W. (Sheriff)
 - i. Foster, Geo. P.
 - j. Harcourt & Robson
 - k. Hodges, John
 - l. Holt, John T.
 - m. Jones, Emmett
 - n. Jones, Capt. R.

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- o. Kendall, Wm. E. & C. H.
- p. Kerr, Alexander
- q. Kyle, Henry (agent)
- r. Moore, T. Feland
- s. McGill, Dr. C. H.
- t. Mayblum, N.
- u. Marshall, J. P.
- v. Morton Lodge
- w. Nevins, Dr. A. D.
- x. Odd Fellows
- y. Peters, Oliver H.
- z. Pilant, E. F.
- aa. Pierpont, Wm.
- bb. Smith, Wm. Fox
- cc. Sherrard, Dr. Z. L.
- dd. Schoffter, Henry
- ee. Sullivan, James L.
- ff. Thompson, Hiram M.
- gg. Willis, T. H.
- hh. Williamson, M. B.
- ii. West, Mrs.
- jj. Williamson, Shannon

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|---------|---|-----------|--------------|
| Title | Justice Court Docket / July 31 1846 to Mar 1 1851 / W. B. Reeves, J. P. | | |
| Justice | W. B. Reeves | | |
| Dates | 1846, 07/31 – 1853, 12/27 | Volume ID | JCD04_Reeves |

1. After case 75, there are several blank pages, marked-out pages. The rest of 1847, all of 1848, 1849, 1850, and part of 1851 are missing.
2. Case 564 initially marked out and rewritten on the following page.
3. Page 580 does not exist.
4. Cases from 566 to 667 are missing.
5. Case 686 refers to page 616 which does not exist.
6. Case numbers may also refer to page numbers as indicated by the JP.
7. Where there is more than one case per page, the cases are assigned an alpha number.
8. Case number 910 ends the chronological sequence of cases.
9. Case numbers 523 and following are placed at the end of the book following number 910.

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|---------|--|-----------|--------------|
| Title | Justice Court Docket / Mar. 26 1859 to Nov. 12 1861. / W. B. Reeves, J. P. | | |
| Justice | W. B. Reeves | | |
| Dates | 1859, 03/26 – 1863, 01/22 | Volume ID | JCD05_Reeves |

1. Docket numbers are not always by page. Some are multiple docket numbers on the same

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- page.
2. When there are multiple dockets with the same number, they have been designated as “a” and “b”, etc.
 3. Reeves does not often name the sheriff, but simply refers to him by his title “Sheriff.” If named at all, the sheriff is listed under costs.
 4. Occasionally, there is a sheriff from another county. If so, he is so noted under the sheriff column.
 5. There are 2 cases that are designated as Precinct 4.
 6. In the back of the book, pages 1-9 and several other unnumbered pages contains financial records for individuals.
 7. Also in the back of the book are several cases that are not dated, numbered, and are otherwise missing information.
 8. Pages 1 through 27 are Mercantile Records
 9. JP Docket begins after the Mercantile Records and begins numbering with case 1.

Title Justice Court Docket / M. F. De Bajligethy, J. P. / Aug. 27, 1866 to Feb. 19, 1868.
Justice M. F. De Bajligethy
Dates 1866, 08/27 – 1868, 02/19 Volume ID JCD06_De Bajligethy

1. Both this docket and the one for Precinct 1, W. B. Reeves, J. P. are records of cases, i.e., minutes or journals.
 - a. Although the cases are in numerical order, especially De Bajligethy, the dates are not. They can be from 1861 to 1868 to 1867 in sequential docket numbers.
 - b. The dates relate to the date of the original action not the date of the settlement.
 - c. Many of the cases have several continuances.
 - d. Several of the cases are not settled and transferred to the successor Justice Hanna.
2. Pages numbered 381-384 are missing.
3. De Bajligethy minutes are very well organized. Each item – names, date, lawyers, etc., are basically in the same place and same order. It makes it very easy to index.
4. Case 401 – These minutes are long enough that they needed an extra page. Someone glued the second page on to the top of page 401 rather than use a second page in the book.
5. Pages 406 & 407 are glued together
6. Pages 424 & 425 are glued together.
7. Pages 441 – 446 are glued together.
8. Pages 461 – 464 are missing.
9. Pages 467 – 478 are missing.
10. Pages 481 - 482 are missing.
11. Pages 483 – 486 are glued together.

Title Justice Court Docket / G. W. Capron, J. P.
Justice G. W. Capron, J. P.
Dates 1860, 08/27 – 1861, 11/19; 1872 Volume ID JCD08_Capron

1. The JP Court Docket for G. W. Capron has its own index at the beginning of the book in

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numerical order by the case number. This list has not been recopied since it is a duplication of the index created on Excel.

2. Page 25 contains a list of cash lent on August 1, 1857.
3. Case No. 14. – The abbreviation “Sci Fa” is the Latin phrase “scire Facias.” Definition: A writ requiring the party against which it is issued to appear and show cause why a judicial record should not be enforced, repealed, or annulled.
4. Where a sheriff is mentioned but no name given, the phrase “Sheriff of X County” is used to distinguish from the office of the constable.
5. Cases 171 and 172 between W. R. Wilson and R. W. Dowling appear to be duplicates.
6. Where G. W. Capron’s name is missing from the index is where he did not sign the docket.
7. Page 200 is titled Houston August 8, 1857 and is a list of cash left on deposit from Sept 16 to March 1.
8. Page 201 is titled August 8th, 1857 and is a list of cash withdrawals from August 12 to January 20.
9. Page 213 is a continuation of case 180. There is no new information not represented in the original case.
10. Page 223, July 10, 1872. Sale of property by bid for default on payment.

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| Title | Justice Court Docket / Oct. 5 1861 to May. 10 1867. / G. W. Capron, J. P. | | |
| Justice | G. W. Capron, J. P.; J. Castanie, J. P.; O. F. Zink, J. P. | | |
| Dates | 1861, 10/05 – 1867, 05/10 | Volume ID | JCD09_Capron |

1. Case numbers 285 and 286 are identical.
2. O. F. Zink Docket pages 145 & 146 are missing.
3. Book contains Notarial records for 1865-1866. Notary unknown.
4. Book contains Notarial records of Robt. H. Hanna for May 1869.
5. Book contains the follow forms
 - a. Simple Deed of Sale with vendor lien
 - b. Simple Deed of Sale for cash
 - c. Deed of Trust, Planter’s Oath
 - d. Prove a Deed by a Witness
 - e. Deed or Agreement of Partition
 - f. General form of Attorney to be Sent abroad
 - g. General Power of Attorney-American Form
 - h. Affidavit in Judicial attachment
 - i. Writ in Judicial attachments
 - j. Affidavit in original Attachment with observations on attachments
 - k. Warrant of Arrest, Affidavits
 - l. Warrant against an accessory or accomplice
 - m. Search Warrant
 - n. Mittimus
 - o. Warrant in an Affray
 - p. Mittimus for want of Sureties
 - q. Recognizance in Criminal Cases
 - r. Bail Bond to the Sheriff
 - s. Recognizance by Witnesses

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- t. Mittimus by a Coroner
- u. Inquisition by a Coroner
- v. Inquisition upon a drowned man
- w. Warrant against a person Suspected for fight a duel
- x. Recognizance in dwelling
- y. Recognizance without Sureties
- z. Lease
- aa. Affidavit for Cotton Weighing

Title [Justice Court Docket / W. B. Reeves, J. P. with City of Houston Financial Records 1840 - 1853]
Justice W. B. Reeves, T. J. Ewing
Dates 1856, 08/22 - 1860, 11/21 Volume ID JCD10_Reeves

1. Page 66 is actually 2 pages back to back. Page 66 #1 is designated as "a" & "b" while page 66 #2 is designated as "c" & "d."
2. When the name of the sheriff is not given in the records, the words "Sheriff of Harris Co." are used to designate who brought the action to the court. This is to distinguish between the sheriff's office and the constable's office or between the sheriff's office of Harris County and the sheriff's office of other counties.
3. 1857, Page 116 has attached hand written notes from Smalley and Coulter.
4. Note: the early 1858 cases are dated in 1857 because of the date of writ.
5. JP case 130b states "In Justice Court Beat No. 4." This is the only indication of which Justice Court this book might refer to.
6. Pages 132-134 are missing.
7. There are no pages from 146-155.
8. Beginning at page 155, Thomas J. Ewing is the J. P. and he numbers the individual cases, beginning at 2, and eventually eliminates the page numbers.
9. On pages 158 and 159 the case numbers for Thomas J. Ewing are not in correct numerical order.
10. On pages 161 and 162 case numbers 13, 14, and 15 are missing. However, on the transcription list they are included in brackets [].
11. Spelling errors for the dockets of Thomas J. Ewing are copied as they are written in the docket.
12. Page 168 Thomas J. Ewing case # 26 has been written over as #27. Case #26 has been omitted.
13. Page 170 Thomas J. Ewing case #31 is omitted.
14. Thomas J. Ewing cases that have the same number or that have two cases on the same page with only one case number are listed as "a" and "b".
15. The date Thomas J. Ewing case [#41c] appears to be out of line with the preceding and following cases. It has a date of 1860 where the surrounding cases are 1859.
16. Thomas J. Ewing case #43 is omitted.
17. Thomas J. Ewing case #66 is omitted.
18. Case number #89 is omitted.
19. Cases #119 to #124 are missing