

**RG21 E6 Cases of Special Interest**

BOX 1 contains miscellaneous documents dated before 1810. Among them are:

June term 1808 Criminal Appearances 1 U.S. v. Robert Bailey, "an evil disposed person and a common gambler and not minding to get his livelihood by truth or honest labour but by fraud and deceit...did keep and maintain a certain ill governed disorderly public and common gaming house...."

Criminal Appearances 2 U.S. v. John Ismenard--same charge, same form

References 48 Frederick Delius v. Richard Johns Freight and insurance charges on shipments of tobacco \$12, 850.50

December term 1808 Imparlanes 148 W.H.P. Tuckfield v. George Piercy, who uttered "these false feigned scandalous & opprobrious words... 'damned swindling rascal' ...." In this and other slander cases, that an accusation of false business dealings was worth a lawsuit gives a hint of the sketchy, shaky state of the country's financial and credit institutions in the early nineteenth century

Mathew Steele's license "to keep an ordinary"--his recognizance was 1000 pounds of tobacco

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For the following items, consult the box list.

June term 1809

*Criminal Appearances*

7 U.S. v. Robert Speeden includes a good copy of a printed grand jury presentment for keeping a "disorderly house"

December term 1809

*Civil Trials*

46 State of Maryland v. Abner Ritchie et al. Contains a five-page inventory of the estate of Alexander Doyle, including a large stock of cloth, household goods and personal belongings, worth 3701 pounds, 2 shillings 7 pence (may not have been English pounds, but some American currency in which the penny was worth 1.11 cents, and the pound \$2.66--see June 1809 Civil Appearances 103).

*References*

48 W. Warner & A. Hanna v. J. Lyon Press, type, etc. \$354.62  
59 W. O'Neale v. A. & J. Jackson Damages & repairs to house 141.65 1/3  
91 Anthony A. Lee v. William Bayly a real estate case that includes maps of certain tracts of land in the District of Columbia

June term 1815

*Civil Trials*

104 John A. Burford v. John Selby Cause of suit: "You wittingly persuading, aiding & abetting in the elopement of my wife from by bed and board & wickedly advising her to sue me

with a writ of nacerit, which has been the cause of my house, store & my business to be break up, my goods & property to be sacrificed & myself shut up in a prison....”

June term 1818

*Rough Bundle*

Grand jury letter denouncing horse racing, “a great and growing evil to the community [and an] unquestionable source of vice, and wretchedness.”

John Tayloe’s checks--written by the builder and occupant of the Octagon House (a three-story dwelling a few blocks west of the White House) in January, February and May 1816, and from April 1817 to May 1818

December term 1818

*Civil Appearances*

663 T. Oneale v. P. & B. Oneale this case involves T. Oneale’s wages for eleven months’ labor, set off against 32 weeks’ boarding, \$50 worth of clothing furnished him, and about \$27 in cash; the only case of its kind that I’ve noticed. T. Oneale is suing for the \$171 still owed him in wages.

*Civil Trials*

160 Sarah Crawford v. Samuel Turner Most of this suit is to recover the cost of Turner’s meals and bar tab, years earlier, but it also includes “Subscription to [membership in] the Washington Jockey Club for 1809” (\$10) and “Subscription to the Assemblies” for 1811 and 1812 (\$15 each)--the only entries of the kind that I’ve come across.

June term 1820

*Civil Appearances*

364	F.H. & H.W. Nicoll v. Savannah Steam Ship Co.	Rope, hardware	\$ 8274.35
431	Stephen Vail v. Savannah Steam Ship Co.	Sails, vessel	19,510.00

*Civil Trials*

1066 Jonah Thompson v. Joseph Milligan Printing, stationery \$2849.17  
(this is the Potomack & Shenandoah Navigation Lottery case)

April term 1821

*Imparlances*

260 Rosanna Harper v. Nathaniel Marden--paternity suit (Rosanna was Harriett’s mother)

261 Harriett Harper v. Nathaniel Marden--breach of promise suit

*Rough Bundle*

Arson case of Andrew Nowlan and Hugh Rork--includes depositions describing the lives of Irish laborers, presumably canal diggers

Potomac Bridge Company--grand jury presentment "for having failed, for some time past, and at the present time, to make & keep in repair a good Road from Georgetown to the Bridge across the Potomac commonly called the Little Falls Bridge, as thereby required & bound by law"

Habeas corpus of Enoch Lewis Lowe, a child custody case, the subject of which grew up to be governor of Maryland during the early 1850s

Contractors Ingle & Lindsley present their bill for \$100.89 worth of hardware at the D.C. Jail to the Judges of the Circuit Court, for settlement; an interesting letter, recounting some of the twists, turns and pitfalls of government contracting

Warrant for "John Holihon Stone cuter"--father of "a female Illegitimate child"

October term 1821

*Civil Appearances*

- 52 John Powling v. William H. Stewart "criminal conversation" a vivid narrative of sex and violence
- 155 Thomas Waide v. Elizabeth Elliot slander, asked \$1000 damages; she said he offered a forged note in payment of a debt
- 166 Horatio Smallwood v. Charles Bullock slander, asked \$2000 damages; again, about money (I think the fact that accusations of failure to pay debts resulted in slander suits asking heavy damages illustrates the precarious nature of the financial system in the early 19th century--a debtor's word had to be good because the banks, and the notes they issued, often weren't)

*Civil Trials*

- 530 William Irving v. John P. Van Ness Evidently, Irving received a letter from Van Ness while he was at Long Branch, New Jersey, and had to go to New York City to consult a lawyer; itemized list of charges includes stagecoach fare from Long Branch to Red Bank (round trip \$2) and steamboat fare from Red Bank to New York (round trip \$3.50)

*Criminal Appearances*

- 21 U.S. v. James Clements for fighting a duel
- 22 U.S. v. James Edelin for acting as second in a duel
- 23 U.S. v. George Balfour for fighting a duel
- 24 U.S. v. George F. Weaver for acting as second in a duel  
(These four appear to be the first prosecutions for duelling in the District of Columbia)
- 37 U.S. v. John Holihon "for begetting an illegitimate child" (see Rough Bundle, April 1821)

April term 1822

*Civil Appearances*

- 233 Nicholas H. Almond v. John Paskin beautiful, repetitive, formulaic language in a suit for slander

## April term 1822

*Civil Appearances*

- 233 Nicholas H. Almond v. John Paskin beautiful, repetitive, formulaic language in a suit for slander
- 308 U.S. v. John K. Smith featuring the "Accounts of John K. Smith, late Navy Agent New Orleans," short \$280,560.61

*Civil Trials*

- 794 Walter Smith v. Thomas A. Diggs \$350 advance on a tobacco crop predicted at 7 or 8 hogsheads; crop yielded 3 hogsheads (3512 lbs), worth \$202.60
- 912 Adam Young v. Washington Turnpike Company Testimony contains details about road construction--quantity and kind of rock, etc.
- 1309 The Corporation of the Roman Catholic Clergymen of Maryland v. Daniel Brent, executor of John Carroll Carroll's estate evidently still owed the Corporation \$1000 on a \$4000 land purchase

## October term 1822

*Civil Appearances*

- 418 U.S. v. Benjamin King King was master blacksmith at the Navy Yard, and this file includes some of his rates for work on vessels and ashore
- 419 U.S. v. William McKenney McKenney had contracts with the U.S. Army's Subsistence Department, to furnish "prime" pork, "fine" flour, "good" whiskey, "good" soap, "good" candles, "clean" salt, "good" vinegar and "sound" beans

*Civil Trials*

- 206 Isaiah Little v. William Rutherford file includes three copies of a plat of city lots near 6th and "Water" Streets, between N and O, S.W.

## April term 1823

*Criminal Appearances*

- 5 and 6 U.S. v. William Hilleary and Joseph Wilson, for fighting a duel
- 7 and 8 U.S. v. Perry Tyler and Rezin Vanhorn, for acting as second in a duel
- 13 U.S. v. Isaac McKeever, for acting as second in a duel (his principal was the subject of Criminal Appearance 12, the paperwork for which has not survived)

## October term 1823

*Civil Trials*

- 457 Central Bank v. John Tayloe seven folders containing Tayloe's canceled checks

*Criminal Trials*

- 3 U.S. v. Samuel Miller, for fighting a duel

December term 1824

*Imparances*

- 99 Patriotic Bank of Washington v. Eliza Clark } both of these women had signed a  
100 Patriotic Bank of Washington v. Frances Clark} promissory note for \$115.00

*Judicials*

- 138 Farmers & Mechanics Bank of Georgetown v. John P. Varnum  
  "1 carriage & Pair of horses" \$700.00  
  "2 cows" 40.00  
  "1 Picture Anthony & Cleopatra" 300.00

May term 1825

*Civil Trials*

- 316 Elias & Elliott v. McLanahan & Bogart contains "A List of Stock Holders of the  
George Town Importing & Exporting Company--27th Sept 1824" (49 names,  
including 6 women; among them Washington Bowie, Zadok B. Offutt, Samuel  
McKenney, Romulus Riggs, and other well-known ferocious litigants)

*Imparances*

- 76 John Strother v. Edward Wyer contains a piece of letterhead stationery from the  
Mansion Hotel, of which Strother was evidently the owner, bearing the motto: "By  
the help of God I will get thro."

December term 1825

*Civil Trials*

- 435 U.S. v. Patience Minchin "an authenticated transcript of the account of Mrs. Patience  
Minchin, late Contractor for furnishing the Marine Corps with shoes, exhibiting a  
balance of \$500 due from her to the United States..."

*Rough Bundle*

Miscellaneous file The Grand Jurors "do on their oaths present that the extensive system of  
gambling carried on at present, in the city of Washington and in the county, is a most  
grievous nuisance, alike destructive to the comfort & happiness of families, the morals of  
youth and the peace & good order of society."

May term 1826

*Civil Appearances*

- 1 Eleanor N. Lang v. William Lucas suit for slander ("She is a whore") brought by a  
tavernkeeper who "hath always been & yet is a true honest & chaste woman & of  
fair & unsuspected reputation"

*Civil Trials*

- 215 John Wigfield v. William Harkins      Wigfield "was bound to William Harkins-- He complains that the said Harkins hath not found & provided for him as he ought to have done, that he does not find him sufficient food and clothing, and that he does not teach him his trade, and further that he has ordered him to quit his premises." Harkins: "I have applied to the Orphans Court some months ago to get clear of him. I am now willing that the Court may release him as he has run away in Summer and comd [sic] back again in winter and is of no use to me at present."

December term 1826

*Civil Trials*

- 247 Jesse Brown v. Enrico Causici (Cansici?)      Cansici's bills at the "Indian Queen Hotel, Washington City," included, besides his board, bar tab and cigars, a "subscription for the Assembly Balls," two "season tickets for the Theatre," one "subscription to Turtle Dinner" (\$2.00--more than a day's wage for a common laborer), and several concert tickets
- 467 Samuel Moxley v. Peter Ritter      lists a pick for two dollars, "one old pick and spade" for two dollars, a shovel for \$1.25 and a spade and shovel together for \$2.37½. These prices, when a common laborer earned about a dollar a day.

*Rough Bundle*

"Duel" folder contains material about the first duel in several years to appear in court records.

"Miscellaneous" folder contains letter from C.H.W. Wharton to T. Swann, 12/9/26: "Alfred Williams was charged with having broken into the house of two free negroes, both old, a man & his wife, and of good reputation; and beating them in a very cruel manner.... Williams...stated...that he was that night--for the affair happened at night, and at a late hour too--engaged as he believed, in a combat with the Devil, and without precisely knowing where the Devil lived, fell upon these unoffending persons and made them the victims of his rage. On this testimony I thought it best to commit the man.... Since his confinement, I learn, that Williams continues to give very strong proofs of mental derangement."

May term 1827

*Civil Trials*

- 300 David Fultz v. William Brent et al.--contains a lottery ticket (first prize, \$100,000) "For erecting two Public Schoolhouses, a Penitentiary and Town Hall."

*Rough Bundle*

"Licenses" file contains a number of applications to sell liquor at the race track; the first such group of applications since the early terms, in Box 1.

## May term 1827

*Civil Trials*

- 300 David Fultz v. William Brent et al.--contains a lottery ticket (first prize, \$100,000) "For erecting two Public Schoolhouses, a Penitentiary and Town Hall.")

*Rough Bundle*

"Licenses" file contains a number of applications to sell liquor at the race track; the first such group of applications since the early terms, in Box 1.

## December term 1827

*Civil Trials*

- 78 William Pancoast v. Tench Ringgold file contains three copies of a map (one copy in much better shape than the other two) of a map drawn in several colors that seems to show the original bounds of St. Elizabeth, an estate on "the East Branch of the Potowmack" (Anacostia) dating from 1734

*Appeals*

- 13 John P. Denney v. Nicholas L. Queen case arose from an agreement to board an Indian delegation at Queen's hotel; the Indians decided to stay elsewhere, and Queen was out \$43.00

*Judicials*

- 108 Union Bank of Georgetown v. Robert Getty--includes a set of encyclopedias worth \$300, and "one mantle time peace" worth \$40.00
- 292 Richard C. Woolworth v. Robert Heyworth et al.--includes "three eight day clocks with mahogany cases" (\$50 each) and "two mantle time pieces (eight days)" (\$50 each)

## May term 1828

*Civil Trials*

- 255 David Beach v. Corporation of Washington contains 8 tickets for National Lottery
- 256 Robert R. Troup v. Corporation of Washington contains 5 tickets for National Lottery
- 257 Joseph Bussard v. Corporation of Washington contains 1 ticket for National Lottery

*Appeals*

- 15 John B. Gaudemar [?] v. William Brown includes 22 days work @ 62½ cents and "a pint of whiskey a day during the same period" @ 6 1/4 cents; Gaudemar (the name is spelled three different ways) cleaned privies for \$1.25.
- 18 John Wright v. George D. Avery contains "Plat of the upper end of Georgetown," showing Bridge, College, First, Fish, Mill and Prospect Streets, and a square marked "College," dated June 25, 1827. The plat has no north point, and although there is still a Prospect Street in Georgetown, it doesn't bear the relation to the oldest buildings on the university campus that "College" does to the Prospect Street on the plat.

*Rough Bundle*

"Complaints" file      Grand Jury finds "that the practice of unlawful gaming has increased, is increasing & ought to be diminished; that the evil cannot be abated until the act of playing at unlawful games shall be made penal"--asks for legislation "to the end that such penalties may be enacted against the frequenters & players at gaming tables, as will effectually suppress an evil so demoralizing to society & so ruinous to its victims."

December term 1828

*Criminal Appearances*

- 16    U.S. v. John D. Green et al., who did "unlawfully combine, conspire, and associate together under the name and title of the Association of Journeyman Shoe makers or Cord winders of the city of Washington for the purpose of preventing masters from instructing apprentice boys without the consent of said association; and to prevent any Journeyman Shoemaker from working for any employer except upon such terms & conditions as the said association may prescribe...."
- 63    U.S. v. Thomas Gardiner    "for an assault and battery committed on a Winnebago Indian"
- 79    U.S. v. Thomas Delany      same case--docket numbers 77, 78 and 80 name others accused (all found not guilty), but the paper work has not survived

May term 1829

*Recognizances*

- 53    U.S. v. Anthony S. Martin      child support case

December term 1829

*Civil Appearances*

472-484    Chesapeake & Ohio Canal Co. v. Robert Keyworth, O.B. Brown, E.G. Handy, George Milbourn, John Eschback, Nathan Eaton, H. Langley, G.W. Dawson, D.D. Arden, Thomas Brown, T.H. Beall, James Kennedy and John Coburn--these files contain one sheet, marked "copy," and printed by the C & O Canal Company. The docket book notes that all these cases are "motions for judgment." The only one missing in the series is number 475, George Milbourn.

*Civil Trials*

- 45    Levy Court of Washington County v. Tench Ringgold--contains lists of fines and other punishments imposed during previous sessions of the court
- 351    Harrison Grey v. Corporation of Washington      } each file contains a couple of
- 353    William McGlinsey v. Corporation of Washington    } dozen National Lottery tickets
- 373    John C. Lang v. Corporation of Washington--contains a handful of lottery tickets



- 387 J. Matthew v. W. Hayman & W.C. Lipscomb contains two certificates of naturalization, Pennsylvania and Maryland, both dated 1793, for "James Redman Gentleman...of Wotton Under Edge, in Gloucester Shire, in England...."

May term 1830

*Civil Appearances*

- 415, 416 Chesapeake & Ohio Canal Co. v. Charles W. Boteler, Archibald Cheshire.  
 421-433 C & O Canal Co. v. James A. Magruder, Joseph Forrest, James Corcoran, Samuel Moxley, Jacob Carter, Robert Brook, William Good, Isaac Bartlett, Henry Gaither, Charles Dean, John D. Clark, John D. Scott, James Wharton and George C. Washington.  
 435 C & O Canal Co. v. Thomas Corcoran. As in previous session, all "motions for judgment."

*Civil Trials*

- 122 U.S. v. Tench Ringgold expenses of his contract to carry the mail between Newport, Virginia, and Philadelphia, 1811-1813  
 253 James Thomas et al. V. Joel Crittenden includes a survey of the southwest corner of West and Congress Streets in Georgetown. The bend in Congress Street suggests that this may be what is now the intersection of M and Wisconsin.  
 278 G.P. Maxwell & G.C. Grammar v. John McLeod includes a certificate for Maxwell's two shares (\$50 each) "for the establishment of an institution for Female Education, and the erection of a suitable building for a Female Seminary, to be placed under the direction of John McLeod, principal of the Central Academy...."

December term 1830

*Civil Appearances*

- 205 Andrew Jackson, President of the United States v. John Dean \$20,000 debt  
 569-593 C & O Canal Co. v. Henry Gaither; A.M. Lamb; John Waters; Richard Crossley; James Corcoran; J.D. Clarke; James Belt; Isaac Bartlett; Joseph & C.J. Nourse; John Hoover; James, Thomas & William Corcoran; James Kennedy; William Good; Jacob Carter, Jr.; George King of Charles; Joel Crittenden; Samuel Moxley; Allen Scott; W.R. Spalding; D.M. Wilson; John McCutchin; H.S. Gardner; T.L. Thruston; F.X. Kennedy; F.G. Blackford

- 611 Daniel D. Arden v. Corporation of Washington contains 73 National Lottery tickets

*Civil Trials*

- 70 J. McClintic v. John & James Williams file contains drawings for a patent bedstead

*Criminal Trials*

- 20 U.S. v. Benjamin Jenninger bigamy--was married to a woman in Philadelphia

*Judicials*

C & O Canal Co. cases--Robert Keyworth, 345, 364; Nathan Eaton, 347; Hezekiah Langley, 348; G.W. Dawson, 349; George Milburn, 360, 383; Samuel Burch, 382

May term 1831

*Civil Appearances*

78 Andrew Jackson, President of the United States v. John Dean \$20,000 debt  
 C & O Canal Co. cases--349-351 Robert Keyworth, C.W. Boteler, J.H. Lowrey  
 353-360 Samuel Holtzman, Patrick Delany, N.L. Queen, O.B. Brown, Jonathan Philips,  
 Samuel Burch, John Barcroft, Nelson Davidson  
 362-365 H.C. Neale, E.G. Handy, John McDuell, William Archer  
 367 John Coburn

*Civil Trials*

68-77 Suits against the Potomac Company by Jacob Mumma, Daniel Piper, Jacob Thomas, Jacob Graff, John Hartman, Peter Myers, Robert Smith, Michael Speart, Jacob Hendrick, Christian Tarbee  
 142 John Stuart v. Anthony C. Casenove deposition of Edward Hayney begins with the question, "Were you coming up the Potomac the night that the Brig Alexandria run down the Schooner Blacksmith?" The file also contains a map of part of the Potomac near Wicomico, where the collision occurred. One of the vessels was apparently carrying 1212½ bushels of wheat, worth \$1939.20.

In the May term of 1831, several suits came to trial, brought by the United States government against former clerks and others who had been entrusted with public money. Files that include account statements are:

- 98 U.S. v. Thomas Fillebrown (secretary to the Naval Commissioners)
- 112 U.S. v. George McDaniels ("special agent" of the Navy Department)
- 133, 134 U.S. v. Administrators of Thomas Dougherty (clerk)
- 149 U.S. v. Joseph Nourse (clerk, Treasury Department)
- 181 U.S. v. George S. Watkins (special messenger to the U.S. Minister at London)

*Civil Trials*

215 Andrew Jackson, President of the United States v. John W. Simonton seems to be related to Jackson's case against John Dean, involving a \$20,000 debt (December term 1830, Civil Appearances 205; May term 1831, Civil Appearances 78)  
 325 G.W. Young et al. v. Eastern Bridge Co. "Your Memorialists residing on the South side of the Eastern Branch and depending mainly for the support of themselves and families on the Market at Washington for the sale of the produce of their Gardens and Farms will be excluded from said Market by the high toll now exacted of them for crossing the Eastern Branch Bridges."

*Judicials*

175-190, 211, 212 C & O Canal Co. v. James Corcoran (2 cases), Samuel Moxley (2), Robert Brook (2), William Good (2), Isaac Bartlett (2), Henry Gaither, J.D. Clark (2), J.D. Scott, A.M. Lamb, Jacob Carter, W.H. Spalding (2)

242-245 C & O Canal Co. v. D.M. Wilson, H.S. Gardner, F.X. Kennedy, F.G. Blackford

December term 1831

*Civil Appearances*

105 Andrew Jackson, President of the United States v. John Dean \$20,000 debt

*Civil Trials*

386 Thomas Jones v. John Dixon petition for release from indenture--contains terms of apprenticeship; obligations of master and of apprentice

387 James Smith v. John Dickson petition for release from indenture

390 William P. Little v. Corporation of Washington has to do with his lottery tickets

395 Samuel Silloway v. Corporation of Washington has to do with his lottery tickets

*Criminal Appearances*

74, 76 U.S. v. Hiram J. Emerson contempt, in that he assaulted Samuel A. Childs in the courthouse, during a "conversation...upon the subject of a suit instituted in this Court by sundry slaves against [Emerson] and others for the recovery of their freedom." "I gave him the lie," Emerson testified, and the assault followed. This case illustrates the manners of the planters.

*Criminal Trials*

2-19 U.S. v. Henry T. Bayne forgery charges--eventually dismissed, according to the docket book, but the book lists the names of more than 150 witnesses to be called. "To speak plain the only way for you to act is for you to give out trying more about a new trial dont let them slipary lawyers rule you any longer"--advice to Henry Bayne from John Bayne, April 1831

21, 22 U.S. v. August and Joseph LaFontaine move to quash indictment for assault and battery; the LaFontaines were personal servants of a Swedish diplomat, and therefore the U.S. Supreme Court had original jurisdiction in the case

May term 1832

*Civil Appearances*

498 C & O Canal Co. v. E. Pittman & W.S. Laurie

601-610 C & O Canal Co. v. Ezekiel Young, Cary Seldon, H.M. Morfit, Reuben Burdine, L.H. Machen, Matthias Jeffers, William Duncan, James Druet, Andrew Noerr, Samuel Ditty

616-620 C & O Canal Co. v. William Good, Thomas Turner, Brooke Mackall, Richard Burgess

- 624 A. Heartt v. Corporation of Washington another lottery case  
 625 C & O Canal Co. v. Tench Ringgold

*Civil Trials*

- 116 F.C. Clopp v. R. Bracket & M.S. Wines includes a petition from Philadelphia's Court of Common Pleas, signed by more than 230 of Reuben Bracket's creditors  
 123 Reuben Bracket v. C & O Canal Co. includes itemized bills for more than \$10,000 worth of excavation and stonemasonry on the canal  
 124 J.B. Emery et al. v. B. Ford & F. Chapman another C & O Canal case  
 125 B. Ford & F. Chapman v. J.B. Emery et al. another C & O Canal case  
 128 J. Melvin v. B. Ford & F. Chapman itemized bill for \$474.65 worth of canal work  
 156 J. Petten v. B. Ford & F. Chapman itemized bill for \$1910.00 worth of canal work  
 190 Asher P. Osborn v. C & O Canal Co. itemized bill for \$10,300.95 worth of canal work  
 211 Charles E. Mix v. Samuel Goodrich itemized bill for \$3808.42 ½ worth of canal work  
 315 E. Wathers & J. Underwood v. C & O Canal Co. no itemized bill  
 316 J.S. Morrell v. C & O Canal Co. no itemized bill

*Criminal Appearances*

- 76 U.S. v. Morgan A. Heard tried to kill Thomas D. Arnold, M.C., on May 14, 1832; presentment mentions walking cane, pistol "loaded with gun powder and divers leaden balls"

November term 1832

*Criminal Appearances*

- 80 U.S. v. John M. Farrar "for permitting loud & uproarious noise with Drums Trumpets & other instruments in his house, repeatedly & particularly on the night of 4th Decem inst, to the annoyance of persons attending the Theatre and to the injury of Joseph Jefferson the manager" (was this the Joseph Jefferson who created the stage role of Rip Van Winkle, and continued to play it well into the 1870s?)  
 94 U.S. v. Hon. James Blair (representative from South Carolina) "for firing a Pistol at William S. Palmer during his performance on the Stage at the Washington Theatre on the evening of the third of January Inst" (accompanying letter claims that Blair was "deranged" by prescribed laudanum)  
 106 U.S. v. Hon. James Blair "did...cruelly beat, main, [and] wound" Duff Green

*Imparlances*

- 541 John Hill v. Corporation of Washington another lottery case, with many tickets

*Judicials*

C & O Canal Co. cases v. Henry Gaither (199, 231); Matthias Jeffers (237); Samuel Ditty (237); S.A. Childs (238); John Barcraft, Joel Wright and Thomas Fillebrown (239); Reuben Burdine (240)

March term 1833

*Civil Appearances*

172 C & O Canal Co. v. George C. Washington involves \$270 debt + interest

*Civil Trials*

113 Asher P. Osborn v. Charles LeBarn a bill for \$8654.58, "To improvements and preparations in the quarries near the mouth of Monococy [sic] for the service of procuring Stone for building an Aqueduct across the Monococy on the line of the Chesapeake & Ohio Canal...." includes blacksmithing, \$1529.00; 386 days' hire of an ox team, \$594.00; 71 kegs powder, \$284.00; and other items

*Criminal Appearances*

- 42 U.S. v. C & O Canal Co. "for obstructing the highway over Rock Creek near the paper mill"
- 97 U.S. v. William Plympton "a common cheat and swindler...obtaining & procuring from sundry persons money, goods, notes of hand, endorsements, obligations, &c &c, with intent to cheat, swindle & defraud the persons with whom he dealt...." (see the rash of tradesmen's suits against Plympton this term)

*Appeals*

1-15 suits brought by different parties against John Boyle, "treasurer of the late Association of Civil and Religious Liberty"

*Imparlances*

535-578 C & O Canal Co. v. some three dozen of the usual people it sued--see docket book

*Judicials*

147 C & O Canal Co. v. Tench Ringgold \$275 damages

September term 1833

*Criminal Appearances*

- 102 U.S. v. George W. Gray & Cecilia Gray his wife "for keeping a house of ill fame, commonly called a whore house, on F Street, near the Methodist meeting house"
- 103 U.S. v. Lucy Tyler same offense, no location
- 117 U.S. v. Ann Sims, Mrs. Wurtz & Mary Wurtz same offence, "on Pennsylvania Avenue"
- 121 U.S. v. Sally McDaniel, Patty Pallison & Kell Simpson same offense, "between Pennsylvania Avenue & Tiber Creek, near 14th Street"
- 144 U.S. v. Matilda Thomas same offense, "in the 1st Ward"
- 145 U.S. v. Susan Webster same offense, "in the 1st Ward"
- 146 U.S. v. Henrietta & Harriet Jurdine same offense, "in the 3rd Ward"

November term 1833

*Civil Appearances*

- 708 U.S. v. Mary Wertz } "house of ill fame" case  
 709 U.S. v. Mary Wertz, Jr. (!) } same offense  
 710 U.S. v. Michael Shanks } same offense  
 711 U.S. v. Ann Harper, Rosanna Harper & Daniel Rhea  
 712 U.S. v. same defendants  
 713 U.S. v. Elizabeth Rhea attempting to bribe witnesses in William Erskine trial  
 714 U.S. v. Daniel Rhea  
 715 U.S. v. Daniel Rhea perjury  
 716 U.S. v. Joseph Harper  
 717 U.S. v. Rosanna Harper  
 718 U.S. v. William Erskine perjury  
 719 U.S. v. Rosanna Harper  
 720 U.S. v. Daniel Rhea

(cases with no charges listed evidently have to do with defendants' having guaranteed the bond of those defendants charged with perjury, bribery and so on)

756-807 C & O Canal Co. v. fifty-two of the usual people it sued--see docket book

*Civil Trials*

- 560 William Jewell v. Robert C. Burchell about a runaway apprentice; file includes a handbill offering \$10 reward

*Criminal Appearances*

- 68 U.S. v. Negroes Ann Johnson & Hannah Contee keeping a house of ill fame  
 69 U.S. v. Mary Windham same charge  
 70 U.S. v. Mrs. Cole same charge  
 71 U.S. v. Ann Smith same charge  
 72 U.S. v. Negress Christiana Williams same charge  
 78 U.S. v. William Green libel--his words, "There is neither mercy nor justice for colored people in this district," were intended "to injure, oppress, aggrieve & vilify the good name fame credit & reputation of the Magistrates & constables of Washington County"--file contains a copy of *Gneius of Universal Emancipation* for June 1833.  
 80 U.S. v. Negro Matilda Butler keeping a house of ill fame

*Criminal Trials*

- 4 U.S. v. Morgan A. Herd or Heard shooting at Thomas D. Arnold--Herd's doctor diagnosed "mental derangement" (see May term 1832, Criminal Appearances 76)  
 20 U.S. v. Eliza Warner & Eliza Warner the Younger keeping a house of ill fame

*Judicials*

162 C & O Canal Co. v. George C. Washington

297-301 C & O Canal Co. v. Matthias Jeffers, Philip Mauro, William Otis, George Milburn and William Archer

March term 1834

*Civil Appearances*

290-299 U.S. v. Ann Harper, Rosanna Harper, Daniel Rhea, Elizabeth Rhea, Joseph Harper and William Erskine--bawdy house cases and perjury cases growing out of them

602-637 C & O Canal Co. cases--see docket book

*Civil Trials*

153 William Greer v. Francis P. Blair a printer's bill of \$3151.74½ cents; Greer was the printer of *The Globe*, Blair its editor

*Criminal Appearances*

20 U.S. v. Daniel Ray attempting to bribe a witness--this is the same Daniel Rhea in the civil appearances above (I came across a case, some time ago, in which one of the litigants had his name spelled three different ways on only two pieces of paper)

34-45 U.S. v. John Phagan only the arrest warrants survive from these cases, but see related cases

149-156 U.S. v. John Phagan forgery, for falsifying accounts while he was U.S. Indian agent to the Seminoles in October 1832; the docket book also lists Phagan as the subject of Criminal Appearances 104 and 128-138 in the September term of 1833, for which the paperwork has not survived, and Criminal Appearances 54-65 in the November term of 1833, but these are just arrest warrants).

*Criminal Trials*

- |    |                                      |   |
|----|--------------------------------------|---|
| 3  | U.S. v. C & O Canal Co.              | “for obstructing the high way over Rock Creek, near the paper mill, and rendering the same difficult and dangerous to pass” |
| 5  | U.S. v. William H. Watkins           | “sending a challenge to a duel” (\$1 fine)  |
| 6  | U.S. v. Thomas Miller                | “bearing a challenge to a duel” (\$1 fine)  |
| 12 | U.S. v. Negro Jemiima Stevens        | “keeping a house of ill fame”   |
| 13 | U.S. v. Margaret & Catherine Stevens | “keeping a house of ill fame”   |
| 14 | U.S. v. Teresa Luxon & Sarah Johnson | “keeping a house of ill fame”   |
| 17 | U.S. v. Sally McDowell               | “keeping a house of ill fame”   |
| 18 | U.S. v. Mary Gardiner                | “keeping a house of ill fame”   |
| 20 | U.S. v. Negro Christian Williams     | “keeping a house of ill fame”   |

November term 1834

*Civil Appearances*

- 109 C & O Canal Co. v. William Strider just an arrest warrant  
 422 C & O Canal Co. v. John Mason involves a debt of \$2847.50  
 994, 998-1014, 1027-1029 more C & O Canal Co. cases

*Civil Trials*

- 1 U.S. v. Negro William Wormsley "an agent for procuring subscribers and for circulating among the free negroes & slaves...a seditious & mischievous newspaper...'The Liberator,' the tendency of which is to inflame & excite the said free negroes & slaves to insurrection and rebellion against the white population...."  
 166, 167, 168 Robert Oliver v. Susan Decatur suit for debt; ownership of Decatur House  
 459 Ann Barrett v. Samuel McPherson petition for an apprentice's discharge from indenture  
 462 William Green v. L.L. Near printer's bill for the *Examiner* \$1847.18

*Judicials*

- 34-43, 209, 242-265, 279-283, 286, 295, 298, 300-302 C & O Canal Co. cases

March term 1835

*Civil Appearances*

- 458 C & O Canal Co. v. Eliza Davidson

*Civil Trials*

- 66 Joseph Jefferson v. John M. Farrar Farrar evidently "broke into the house and premises ...known as the 'Washington Theatre,' and made a great noise & disturbance therein," causing \$100 worth of damage to the theatre  
 123 Edward Ingle et al. v. William Gunton contains a printed copy of "An act to incorporate the Washington, Alexandria, and George Town Steam Packet Company"

*Judicials*

- 63-67 C & O Canal Co. cases

*Rough Bundle*

Railroad riots--German immigrants' testimony about events relating to Criminal Appearances 97, 98 and 99 (March term 1835).

November term 1835

*Civil Appearances*

- 235, 581, 582, 617, 620, 624, 626 C & O Canal Co. cases

*Civil Trials*

- 27 J. Washington & J. Brent v. Peter Force list of delinquent subscribers to *National Journal*--how much they owed, and for how long  
 200 Chilly McIntosh v. David Brearly concerning some annuity money owed the Lower Creek Indians since January 1829



*Criminal Appearances*

- 7-18 U.S. v. John Phagan                      forgery cases (see March term 1834)  
 The gaming cases show that, besides the usual faro banks that had been turning up since the earliest terms of court, seven defendants were running an operation called a sweat cloth; one, a U.S.A. table; and another, a rose in bloom.  
 115, 120 U.S. v. Matilda Penn              a prostitute accused of doping three of her customers with Spanish fly and "Cow Itch"  
 126 U.S. v. James Williams              a severe case of child neglect

*Recognizances*

- 77 U.S. v. J.B. Hutton et al.              distribution abolitionist literature; file contains a copy of *The Anti-Slavery Record* for February 1835 (vol. 1, no. 2)

*Imparlances*

- 419-423 these are among the first cases in which the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad is a litigant

*Judicials*

- C & O Canal cases--184-189, 191, 193-195, 197, 199-210, 212, 216

March term 1836

*Civil Appearances*

- 267 J. Gunter v. W.S. Cooley & J. Drew--a suit for \$1000 "cash advanced by the Plaintiff to defray the expenses of a delegation to Washington" (Cherokee Indians)

*Civil Trials*

- 71, 72 U.S. v. Samuel Hamilton                      orphan-wardship cases  
 147-152 U.S. v. John Barcroft, William Digges              orphan-wardship cases  
 230 S. Heinecke v. W. Rawlings & C. Longdon              apprenticeship case

*Criminal Appearances*

- 167 U.S. v. Madison Jeffers, county constable "guilty of a violation of the privileges of his Britannic Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary," removed from office  
 190-195 U.S. v. Leonard Ashton and U.S. v. John Dudeney, two constables accused of assault and battery on John Wilson and J.A. Mounts; last two cases directed officers to show cause why they should not be dismissed                      not guilty, all cases  
 312 J.F. Callan v. A. Sumner & S. Clark              mainsail of sloop *Fanny*, appraised value \$150, "torn all to pieces" by an improperly raised drawbridge

November term 1836

*Civil Trials*

- 18 U.S. v. Clement T. Coote                      assault on a constable

*Criminal Appearances*

- 59 U.S. v. Henry H. White arson, setting fire to the Treasury Building 10 yrs penitentiary  
[58, U.S. v. Robert H. White for the same crime, is missing]
- 143, 144, 145, 147, 168 U.S. v. John Williams practicing medicine without a license

*Recognizances*

- 57 U.S. v. Thomas Thompson paternity suit--"a male illegitimate child, begotten on the  
body of Caroline Johnson, a free Mulatto woman...."

March term 1837

*Civil Appearances*

- 7 William L. Brent v. Peter Hagner "a memorial...to the Congress of the United  
States asking payment for certain Buildings occupied by the American Troops &  
destroyed by the British during the last war."

November term 1837

*Criminal Appearances*

- 69 U.S. v. William Levis stealing two \$5 banknotes 1 ½ yrs penitentiary  
Levis was accused after the owner of the notes consulted a fortune teller

March term 1838

*Criminal Appearances*

- 90 U.S. v. Sally Saunders stealing 49½ yds cotton worth \$4.50 nol pros
- 101 U.S. v. Sally Saunders stealing 28 yds calico worth \$3.36 nol pros
- 102 U.S. v. Sally Saunders stealing 64 ½ yds calico worth \$7.41 nol pros

*Criminal Appearances 90, 101 and 102 are accompanied by a certificate from a Dr. Causin, attesting that "the defendant's mind is at times 'erratic'." The docket book notes, CRAZY. This is the first insanity defense that I can recall seeing.*

*Criminal Trials*

- 22 U.S. v. Richard H. White arson--burning the Treasury Building not guilty

November term 1838

*Appeals*

- 26 Corporation of Washington v. John Lynch "did...own Harbor or keep a female of the  
Dogg kind in Washington city...without having a license therefor"
- 30 Corporation of Washington v. Peter Cazenove operating "a wood and coal yard"  
without a license
- 31 Corporation of Washington v. Elkanah Waters same offense
- 32 Corporation of Washington v. Ulysses Ward "a lumber and wood yard"
- 33 Corporation of Washington v. Walter Warder "a wood and coal yard"

March term 1839

*Civil Trials*

185 N. Barber &amp; I Beers v. M. Hewes questions about horses' health, buying horses, etc.

*Rough Bundle*Habeas corpus served on Archibald Henderson, Marine commandant, to release a  
Marine Bandsman from articles of indenture

March term 1840

*Civil Trials*89-93 Samuel H. Smith v. Charles E. Eckel, Seth J. Todd, John Addison, James L. Addison and  
Josiah T. Polk—all cases having to do with funds contributed towards construction of the  
Washington Monument

282 John D. Emack v. George Croghan lottery tickets \$ 596.00

*Appeals*1 Mason L. Weems v. Hugh Leddy George Washington's biographer appeals a  
judgment against him in the amount of \$1.27

November term 1840

*Civil Trials*113 Pollard Webb v. William Smith operations of the Piedmont Stage & Lottery Office,  
September 1833-August 1834 \$787.45

153 U.S. v. Peter Force mail contracts, 1825-1829 \$10,693.24

March term 1841

*Civil Trials*

113 U.S. v. James Thomas mail contract \$46,543.53

229 J.C. & R. Buchanan v. Samuel Colt, "of Patterson in the State of New Jersey"  
brandy, wine 104.88

November term 1841

*Civil Trials*

122 Boyden, Coleman &amp; Stetson v. Samuel Colt board, washing \$ 118.09

433 Philip R. Fendall v. American Colonization Society a former officer of  
the Society sues for \$446.92, "for services rendered"

March term 1842

*Civil Trials*

75 C.H. Tavener v. A. Hunter "one red buffalow cow &amp; calf" (appraised) \$ 35.00

405 Levi Davis v. Ebenezer Blackiston petition to declare Blackiston a pauper

406 Frederick Cudlipp v. John Cudlipp } petitions to declare the

409 John M. Keeton v. Sarah Turner } defendants paupers and lunatics

**All three defendants, when they lost the above cases, were lodged in the city jail**

November term 1842

*Rough Bundle*

Memorial resolution for Francis Scott Key

## March term 1843

*Civil Trials*

- 245 J.P. & J. McCormick v. S. Burch includes a claim of William P. Zantzinger, Purser USN, against the United States for \$16,879.19. This may be connected with Civil Trials 446 (U.S. v. William P. Zantzinger), 447 (U.S. v. William J. McCormick and 448 (U.S. v. John R. Nourse).
- 415 Ex parte Mary Ellen Walker "a pauper Lunatic...mischevious and dangerous ...committed to the County Jail"

## March term 1845

*Civil Trials*

- 359 Bank of the Metropolis v. David A. Hall } both men were securities for "a  
 360 Bank of the Metropolis v. Charles Cookendorfer } certain Daniel Webster," in the  
 amounts of \$2000 and \$3000,  
 respectively

## October term 1846

*Judicials*

- 19, 20 Robinson & Walker v. Dolly P. Madison  
 "Financial difficulties...clouded her last days." Dumas Malone, *DAB* VI:182

## October term 1847

*Civil Trials*

- 215 Daniel Wolfe v. John Withers includes specifications for construction of building at NW corner of 3<sup>rd</sup> Street & Pennsylvania Avenue
- 279 Salmon Strong v. William H. Gunnell data about artillery gun carriages (42 pdr & 32 pdr barbette, 32 pdr & 24 pdr casemate, and field)

## March term 1848

*Civil Trials*

- 63 George W. Parke v. John Ross a suit involving \$1,464,476.47½ worth of subsistence and transportation for Cherokee Indians during their removal from Georgia
- 488 Ex parte John Nugent examination of John Nugent regarding the *New York Herald's* publishing parts of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo

## March term 1849

*Civil Trials*

- 21 Owen Roberts v. Charles Wilkes two cases arising out of Wilkes' behavior while he  
 22 Philip Baab v. Charles Wilkes commanded a naval scientific expedition

October term 1849

*Civil Applications*

197 Mary A. Purcell v. John H. Summers a breach of promise suit “she submitted herself to his desires and was carnally known by him to wit at the County aforesaid and became pregnant and quick with child by him, & was afterwards delivered of a child then & there begotten by him....”

*Civil Trials*

29 U.S. v. J.J.S., E. & F. Hasler a suit involving “correspondence upon Weight & Measures, Coast Survey,” mathematical instruments and “papers relating to Coast Survey”  
 214 Samuel Dinsman v. Charles Wilkes see March term 1849, Civil Trials 21 and 22

*Imparlanances*

238 Jane Scott v. Adaline Simpson “one small red buffalo cow,” appraised value \$12.00

*Rough Bundle*

- A list of constables—“I have noted 106 that have deceased, moved out of the District, have been dismissed by the Court or ceased to do business as a constable.... Many perosns have sought, and obtained the appointment of constable, who soon discovered that the business did not suit them, and returned to other employment without resigning. I do not consider the reliable constabulary force of this county at this time to exceed twenty-five men....”
- Three proposals for heating the courtroom
- Case of John W. Speakes, “lunatic pauper”

March term 1850

*Rough Bundle*

Henry May’s citation for “contemptuous language and for other gross, wanton & contemptuous language, acts and conduct...the said Henry May’s name to be struck from the Rolls of the attornies of this Court”

October term 1850

*Civil Trials*

30 James C. Barry v. Samuel Colt debt of \$100 for “use & occupation of his barn...on the bank of the anacostia” in 1845, when Colt “used & occupied it with divers combustibile & inflammable matter used in the blowing up of a vessel in the said river anacostia....”  
 125 Kosciusko Armstrong v. John F. Ennis related cases having  
 128 Lewis Johnson v. Richard S. Coxe to do with the will  
 129 Wladislaus Wankeiwicz v. Richard S. Coxe of Thaddeus Kosciuszko

October term 1851

*Civil Trials*

332 Charles B. McCluskey v. Corporation of the City of Washington  
 “For...preparing plans specifications estimates...in relation to...the improvement of the City Hall....”  
 \$670.85

March term 1852

*Civil Trials*

- 134 William Easby v. T. Carberry, G. Watterson & William A. Bradley  
"200 perches of Stone delivered near the monument" \$350.00
- 291 Matilda Semmes v. O.M. Linthicum et al. } public
- 292 Margaret Smith v. O.M. Linthicum et al. } sanitation cases  
"there hath always been since the erection of said dwelling houses, a...sewer or drain passing through the lot of the plaintiff...into the lot of the said defendants, and under the privies aforesaid..., intended to convey the filth and refuse from the privy of the said plaintiff through the lot aforesaid of said defendants to a public sewer of said town of Georgetown...."
- 310 S. Frost & C.J. Wallace v. Philip Barton Key clothing \$ 76.50  
Philip Barton Key was shot across the street from the White House a few years later by Congressman Daniel Sickles of New York, whose counsel, Edwin Stanton, presented the first successful defense on the grounds of temporary insanity

October term 1852

*Civil Trials*

- 381 Ralph Taylor and wife v. J.C. McGuire petition for freedom  
McGuire was administrator of Dolly Madison's estate

*Appeals*

- 36 Job Corson v. Corporation of Washington file includes "An Act Restricting the Speed of Steamboats" (8 mph), passed February 7, 1852

October term 1853

*Civil Trials*

- 188 Sarah Stewart v. J.C. McGuire petition for freedom  
McGuire was administrator of Dolly Madison's estate

October term 1854

*Civil Trials*

- 54 John Flemming v. Henry D. Gunnell medical bill \$ 71.50  
the bill was for 143 "operation of Galvanism" @ 50 cents each
- 107 Edwin D. Willard v. William H. Winder board @ \$1.50/day 144.30  
an early bill from Willard's Hotel
- 190 John F. Burgin v. John J. Greenhough plows, sewing machines, stoves 98.00  
specifies "Singer sewing machines"—early use of brand name
- 528 Hayward, Bartlett & Co. v. Thomas Lawson installation of a furnace 166.26

March term 1856

*Civil Trials*

- 105 Philip Gormley v. Bartlett Smith "hauling 15,664 perches of gneiss rock for the extension of the U.S. Capitol" \$9760.97
- 843 Frank Dynes v. Jonah D. Hoover arising from Dynes' court martial for desertion from U.S.S. *Independence*, September 1854

## March term 1857

*Civil Trials*

- 77 Richard Burgess v. John C. Fremont one printed form is the sole documentation in this series for this suit against the Republican presidential candidate of 1856; see also October 1857, Civil Appearances 134
- 365 D. Carroll v. E.B.C. Thompson & W.G.W. White includes plats of the block bounded by B, 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Streets and Maryland Avenue, SW

*Imparlanances*

- 143 Robert Beale v. Cyrus H. McCormick as with *Burgess v. Fremont* (above), there is no hint of what this case was about

## October term 1858

*Civil Trials*

- 994 U.S. v. Richard H. Trunnell dismissal of a D.C. constable

## October term 1860

*Appeals*

- 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52 and 54 all appealed twenty-dollar fines—charge: “did run a wagon for hire and gain in the city of Washington without having obtained a license to do so.” Evidently an attempt to license draymen.

## January term 1861

*Civil Trials*

- 469 Terence Corrigan v. Samuel Brick Brick evidently owed Corrigan wages for Corrigan’s service as “watchman at the new Gas house”—lawsuits involving gasfitters’ bills had been appearing in civil court since the mid-1850s (October term 1855, Appeals 29), as Washington residents started lighting with gas.

## January term 1862

*Civil Trials*

- 286 Charles Gautier v. Montgomery Blair between July 1857 and March 1858, Thomas Hart Benton ran a tab for \$210.76 worth of cakes, pastries, preserved fruit and syrups at the French Restaurant and Ladies’ Saloon; the proprietor had to sue Benton’s executor, Montgomery Blair (Lincoln’s postmaster) for the amount
- 1101 Zephaniah Jones v. Ann R. Dermott—labor and building materials for “the Avenue House,” 7<sup>th</sup> and Pennsylvania at Central Market—either the site of the Archives Building, or the Federal Trade Commission, across the street \$39,864.28