



CALENDARS

of the

Proceedings in Chancery

in the reign of

Queen Elizabeth 1

from the *Originals in the Tower*

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Court of Chancery, which heard civil cases, referred to as equity suits.

Cases dealt with by the court are wide ranging and include disputes, among many other kinds, over:

- family inheritance and wills
- land and other property, including trusts and uses
- debts
- marriage settlements
- apprenticeships
- trade and bankruptcy

The Court of Chancery was an equity court, presided over by the Lord Chancellor and his deputies, as opposed to a common law court. The court was used by all walks of life, from labourers and bricklayers to peers of the realm. People turned to the court because it promised a merciful justice not bound by the strict rules of the common law courts (which included, for example, the Court of King's Bench) and were therefore able to hear more complicated problems.

The procedures followed by the Court of Chancery were quite different to those of the common law courts and involved the gathering of written pleadings and evidence.

No.	Plaintiffs	Defendants	Object of the Suit	Premises
49	Thomas Gawen	Henry Gawen	For performance of an award.	The ferme of Whytheton, held under a lease from the bishop of Winton, to part of which defendant claims title.

OPC note:

Witherington Farm, Wiltshire. Witherington existed as far back as the 11th century and is described in the Domesday Book. The present farmhouse (now a 'listed' building) was built in about 1700.