



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 |
|------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|---|
| 35 | Thomas Grafton | William Grafton | Personal matters | A promise made by defendant, to convey plaintiff in tail all the defendant's lands in England; but mentions no particular place, except that defendant was seised in fee of lands in the city of New Sarum. |