



## CALENDARS

of the

Proceedings in Chancery

in the reign of

## Queen Elizabeth 1

from the *Originals in the Tower*

Vol. 1

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.

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<i>No.</i>	<i>Plaintiffs</i>	<i>Defendants</i>	<i>Object of the Suit</i>	<i>Premises</i>
35	John Godwyn	Wm. Godwyn and Edw. Harrys.	To quiet plaintiff in possession	A message and land in Stanley, in the parish of Chippenham, held of Sir Edw. Baynton knight, of his manor of Stanley, for the lives of plaintiff's father, plaintiff, and defendant.