Although these early reports, with few exceptions, are now seldom cited in practical work, their historical value can hardly be overestimated. Reports that are almost worthless as judicial records often throw valuable side-lights upon early practice and procedure; not infrequently they supply interesting illustrations of the social life of the time.

VAN VECHTEN VEEDER
from the article “English Reports 1292-1865,” as printed in the Harvard Law Review (1901-1902)
ENGLISH NOMINATIVE REPORTS

Until now, the *English Reports* was the go-to source for researching English case law from the Middle Ages to 1865. These reports were a consolidation of law reports on a variety of cases—often, multiple reports would be written on a single case, and multiple editions would be published of each of these reports. In the English Reports, one edition—frequently, a later edition—of each nominative was selected for inclusion.

However, HeinOnline's English Nominatives brings together a far more comprehensive and complete compendium of English case law by identifying for the first time every edition of every printing of the nominatives that comprise the English Reports.

This collection stands as the most comprehensive database for English case law, boasting millions of pages. While the database is still growing, our editors are actively working to include every identified report, aiming to establish the first complete collection of English nominative reports. Spanning over 300 years from 1585 to 1899, the collection encompasses more than 250 reporters, including renowned figures like Plowden, Coke, and Dyer, alongside lesser-known contributors. Additionally, it offers a wealth of supplementary materials, such as:

- More than 250 other nominatives and law reports outside of those included in the English Reports
- Editions of the nominative reports published in the United States and Ireland, which often contain notes or commentaries by authors in those countries
- Year Books, which are volumes of court reports that preceded the nominatives and date back to 1220
- Books, digests, and other related works, including indexes, law compilations, handbooks, and more
- Legal newspapers, often containing much more timely reports of cases as compared to the nominatives, which frequently took years or decades to be printed
- A collection of relevant scholarly articles

CHART VIEW

To make it easier to view all of the reports identified in this collection, we've created a chart that allows searchers to view a comprehensive list of reports by each reporter. Citation abbreviations, series, and time periods are listed for further context.

Click on a reporter's name to view all of their works, or the title to view all editions of the work.

Eventually, as we continue to add to the collection, all titles will be hyperlinked and full-text searchable in HeinOnline.
IRISH NOMINATIVE REPORTS

Most Irish court reports were published between 1766 and 1859. Unlike in England and America, Irish reporters were mainly only focused on one court at a time. Between 1866 and 1894, the Irish reports were published into two series: the Irish Reports, Common Law Series, and the Irish Reports, Equity Series. These reports were then merged into one publication following the Supreme Court of Judicature (Ireland) Act of 1877, which eliminated the separation between common law and equity. The reports became the Irish Reports in 1894 and have been publishing as such since.

HeinOnline’s collection of Irish Law Reports consists of nominatives covering cases dating pre-1894, as well as:

• A subcollection of law reports, which are compilations of notes on cases
• A subcollection of books, digests, and other related works, such as notes, periodicals, treatises, and more

Key titles within this collection include:

• **Irish Chancery Reports**: These reports focus on cases heard in the Court of Chancery in Ireland, which dealt with equity and trust matters. The decisions of the Court of Chancery had a significant impact on property law and equitable remedies in Ireland.
• **Irish Common Law Reports**: These reports helped establish precedents and principles within the Irish common law system and cover a wide range of topics, including criminal law, property law, contract law, and more. Reports cover cases from the Courts of the Queen’s Bench, the Court of Common Pleas, the Court of Exchequer, and the Court of Criminal Appeal.
• **Irish Law Reports**: Containing cases from the Courts of the Queen’s Bench, Common Pleas, and Exchequer of Pleas from 1839 to 1852, these cases shed light on social, political, and economic issues of the time and provide an enlightening overview of common law decisions.
• **Irish Equity Reports**: These reports, from the High Court of Chancery, the Rolls Court, and the Equity Exchequer, pertain to matters of equity and trust. Equity was a branch of law that developed alongside the common law system and focused on fairness, justice, and the application of principles in conscience.

AMERICAN NOMINATIVE REPORTS

During America’s colonial days, its early court decisions relied upon the precedent set by England, the mother country. The first volume of American decisions was published after the American Revolution and closely followed the example set by English reporters.

Nominative reports were the standard for state and federal court reporting in the United States until the U.S. Supreme Court hired an official reporter in 1817, and official reporters were hired at the state and federal level over the following years.

Nominatives in this collection span from 1789 to 1907. Key reporters featured in this collection include:

• John Cadwaladar
• William Cranch
• A.J. Dallas
• Richard Peters
• Benjamin C. Howard
• John William Wallace
• And many more

FEDERAL CASES

This database includes the entire set of *Federal Cases*, a compilation of decisions from the United States circuit and district courts spanning from the nation’s first court cases in 1789 until the publication of the Federal Reporter in 1880, which was to become the repository of all U.S. federal court decisions.

These decisions, compiled by various reporters and compiled into a single set, are arranged alphabetically by case title and numbered consecutively from books one through 30. The *Federal Cases* include more than 20,000 cases, including all available lower federal case law. Also included is the *Index to Books 1-30*, with tables that cross-reference the citation of the original report to the federal case number assigned to each, allowing researchers to easily access each case.

The collection and compilation of the reports took immense time and effort. Now, the *Federal Cases*, alongside the *Federal Reporter*, create a comprehensive collection of all lower level U.S. federal court decisions, an invaluable resource for studying legal precedent and changes in jurisdiction throughout the history of the nation.
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