

A Guide to the Virginia Attorney General's correspondence and letter books, 1898-1920

A Guide to the Virginia Attorney General's correspondence and letter books, 1898-1920
1898-1920

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Descriptive Summary

Accession Number

44018

Language

English

Creator

Virginia. Office of the Attorney General

Extent

8.25 cu. ft. (24 boxes) and 16 volumes

Repository

The Library of Virginia

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

There are no restrictions.

Use Restrictions

There are no restrictions.

Acquisition Information

Original transfer information is unavailable. This collection was retroactively accessioned.

Preferred Citation

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Historical Information

The Office of the Attorney General originated in medieval England. While representing the king in his courts, the Attorney General gradually assumed the role of legal advisor to the government and all its agencies. In Virginia, the first Attorney General was commissioned in 1643. The Declaration of Independence in 1776 ended the Attorney General's connection with royal authority, but the state constitution adopted that year continued the office under the auspices of the General Assembly. The constitution adopted in 1851 provided for the popular election of the Attorney General, rendering him independent of all three branches of government. The Attorney General is elected to a four-year term in office and is eligible for reelection.

Scope and Content

Contains incoming correspondence files and outgoing letter books from the administrations of Attorneys General Andrew J. Montague, William A. Anderson, and Samuel W. Williams.

Arrangement

This collection is arranged into two series:

- Series I. Correspondence files, 1898-1920
- Series II. Letter books, 1898-1910

Contents List

Series I. Correspondence files, 1898-1920.

Boxes 1-24. (box)

Extent

Extent: 8.25 cu. ft. (24 boxes)

Scope and Content

Contains mostly incoming letters to the Virginia Attorney General, as well as a limited number of outgoing letters. The correspondence files span the administrations of Attorneys General, Andrew J. Montague (1898-1902), William A. Anderson (1902-1910), Samuel W. Williams (1910-1914), John G. Pollard (1914-1918), and John R. Saunders (1918-1934). Very little of the correspondence dates from the Pollard and Saunders administrations. The correspondence is comprised of requests for official opinions on a variety of legal matters including voting rights, property disputes, and criminal prosecution. Some communication between the Attorney General, the Governor, Commonwealth's Attorneys, and other state agency officials can be found here. However, most of the correspondence is in the form of letters from private lawyers and citizens with specific questions about various aspects of Virginia law. Located at the end of this collection are folders of cancelled checks, miscellaneous documents and subject files. Several notable subject files relate to a state case against the Jamestown Jockey Club for illegal gambling on horse races.

Arrangement

Arranged chronologically by year, and then by letter of the alphabet. However, there is no particular arrangement of the correspondence within the folder or folders for each letter.

1898 S-Y.

Box 1

Folder 1

1899 A.

Box 1

Folder 2

1899 B.

Box 1

Folder 3

1899 B.

Box 1

Folder 4

1899 C.

Box 1

Folder 5

1899 C.

Box 1

Folder 6

1899 D.

Box 1

Folder 7

1899 E.

Box 1

Folder 8

1899 F.

Box 1

Folder 9

1899 G.

Box 1

Folder 10

1899 G.

Box 1

Folder 11

1899 H.

Box 1

Folder 12

1899 H.

Box 1

Folder 13

1899 I-J.

Box 1

Folder 14

1899 K-L.

Box 1

Folder 15

1899 M.

Box 1

Folder 16

1899 M.

Box 1

Folder 17

1899 N-O.

Box 1

Folder 18

1899 P.

Box 1

Folder 19

1899 R.

Box 1

Folder 20

1899 S.

Box 2

Folder 1

1899 S.

Box 2

Folder 2

1899 T-V.

Box 2

Folder 3

1899 W.

Box 2

Folder 4

1899 W.

Box 2

Folder 5

1899 Y.

Box 2

Folder 6

1900 A.

Box 2

Folder 7

1900 B.

Box 2

Folder 8

1900 B.

Box 2

Folder 9

1900 B.

Box 2

Folder 10

1900 C.

Box 2

Folder 11

1900 C.

Box 2

Folder 12

1900 D.

Box 2

Folder 13

1900 E.

Box 2

Folder 14

1900 F.

Box 2

Folder 15

1900 G.

Box 2

Folder 16

1900 H.

Box 2

Folder 17

1900 H.

Box 2

Folder 18

1900 I-J.

Box 2

Folder 19

1900 K.

Box 2

Folder 20

1900 L.

Box 3

Folder 1

1900 M.

Box 3

Folder 2

1900 M.

Box 3

Folder 3

1900 N.

Box 3

Folder 4

1900 O.

Box 3

Folder 5

1900 P.

Box 3

Folder 6

1900 Q.

Box 3

Folder 7

1900 R.

Box 3

Folder 8

1900 R.

Box 3

Folder 9

1900 S.

Box 3

Folder 10

1900 S.

Box 3

Folder 11

1900 T-V.

Box 3

Folder 12

1900 W.

Box 3

Folder 13

1900 W.

Box 3

Folder 14

1900 Y-Z.

Box 3

Folder 15

1901 A.

Box 3

Folder 16

1901 B.

Box 3

Folder 17

1901 B.

Box 3

Folder 18

1901 C.

Box 3

Folder 19

1901 C.

Box 3

Folder 20

1901 D.

Box 3

Folder 21

1901 E.

Box 3

Folder 22

1901 F.

Box 4

Folder 1

1901 G.

Box 4

Folder 2

1901 H.

Box 4

Folder 3

1901 I-J.

Box 4

Folder 4

1901 K.

Box 4

Folder 5

1901 L.

Box 4

Folder 6

1901 M.

Box 4

Folder 7

1901 M.

Box 4

Folder 8

1901 N-O.

Box 4

Folder 9

1901 P.

Box 4

Folder 10

1901 Q-R.

Box 4

Folder 11

1901 S.

Box 4

Folder 12

1901 T-V.

Box 4

Folder 13

1901 W.

Box 4

Folder 14

1901 Y.

Box 4

Folder 15

1902 A.

Box 4

Folder 16

1902 B.
Box 4
Folder 17

1902 B.
Box 4
Folder 18

1902 B.
Box 4
Folder 19

1902 C.
Box 4
Folder 20

1902 C.
Box 4
Folder 21

1902 C.
Box 4
Folder 22

1902 C.
Box 4
Folder 23

1902 D.
Box 5
Folder 1

1902 D.
Box 5
Folder 2

1902 E.
Box 5
Folder 3

1902 F.
Box 5
Folder 4

1902 G.
Box 5
Folder 5

1902 G.
Box 5
Folder 6

1902 H.

Box 5

Folder 7

1902 H.

Box 5

Folder 8

1902 I-J.

Box 5

Folder 9

1902 K.

Box 5

Folder 10

1902 L.

Box 5

Folder 11

1902 L.

Box 5

Folder 12

1902 M.

Box 5

Folder 13

1902 M.

Box 5

Folder 14

1902 M.

Box 5

Folder 15

1902 N.

Box 5

Folder 16

1902 O.

Box 5

Folder 17

1902 P.

Box 5

Folder 18

1902 P.

Box 5

Folder 19

1902 Q-R.

Box 6

Folder 1

1902 S.

Box 6

Folder 2

1902 S.

Box 6

Folder 3

1902 T.

Box 6

Folder 4

1902 W.

Box 6

Folder 5

1902 W.

Box 6

Folder 6

1902 V.

Box 6

Folder 7

1902 Y-Z.

Box 6

Folder 8

1903 A.

Box 6

Folder 9

1903 B.

Box 6

Folder 10

1903 B.

Box 6

Folder 11

1903 B.

Box 6

Folder 12

1903 C.

Box 6

Folder 13

1903 C.
Box 6
Folder 14

1903 C.
Box 6
Folder 15

1903 C.
Box 6
Folder 16

1903 D.
Box 6
Folder 17

1903 E.
Box 6
Folder 18

1903 F.
Box 7
Folder 1

1903 G.
Box 7
Folder 2

1903 G.
Box 7
Folder 3

1903 H.
Box 7
Folder 4

1903 H.
Box 7
Folder 5

1903 J.
Box 7
Folder 6

1903 K.
Box 7
Folder 7

1903 L.
Box 7
Folder 8

1903 M.

Box 7

Folder 9

1903 M.

Box 7

Folder 10

1903 M.

Box 7

Folder 11

1903 N-O.

Box 7

Folder 12

1903 P.

Box 7

Folder 13

1903 P.

Box 7

Folder 14

1903 Q.

Box 7

Folder 15

1903 R.

Box 7

Folder 16

1903 S.

Box 7

Folder 17

1903 S.

Box 7

Folder 18

1903 T.

Box 8

Folder 1

1903 V.

Box 8

Folder 2

1903 W.

Box 8

Folder 3

1903 W.

Box 8

Folder 4

1903 W.

Box 8

Folder 5

1903 Y-Z.

Box 8

Folder 6

1904 A.

Box 8

Folder 7

1904 A.

Box 8

Folder 8

1904 B.

Box 8

Folder 9

1904 B.

Box 8

Folder 10

1904 B.

Box 8

Folder 11

1904 B.

Box 8

Folder 12

1904 B.

Box 8

Folder 13

1904 C.

Box 8

Folder 14

1904 C.

Box 8

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1904 C.

Box 8

Folder 16

1904 C.

Box 8

Folder 17

1904 D.

Box 9

Folder 1

1904 E.

Box 9

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1904 F.

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Folder 3

1904 G.

Box 9

Folder 4

1904 G.

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Folder 5

1904 G.

Box 9

Folder 6

1904 H.

Box 9

Folder 7

1904 H.

Box 9

Folder 8

1904 H.

Box 9

Folder 9

1904 I.

Box 9

Folder 10

1904 J.

Box 9

Folder 11

1904 J.

Box 9

Folder 12

1904 K.

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Folder 13

1904 L.

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Folder 14

1904 L.

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Folder 15

1904 M.

Box 9

Folder 16

1904 M.

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Folder 17

1904 M.

Box 10

Folder 1

1904 M.

Box 10

Folder 2

1904 N.

Box 10

Folder 3

1904 O.

Box 10

Folder 4

1904 P.

Box 10

Folder 5

1904 P.

Box 10

Folder 6

1904 Q.

Box 10

Folder 7

1904 R.

Box 10

Folder 8

1904 R.

Box 10

Folder 9

1904 S.

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Folder 10

1904 S.

Box 10

Folder 11

1904 T.

Box 10

Folder 12

1904 T.

Box 10

Folder 13

1904 U-V.

Box 10

Folder 14

1904 W.

Box 10

Folder 15

1904 W.

Box 10

Folder 16

1904 W.

Box 10

Folder 17

1904 W.

Box 10

Folder 18

1904 Y.

Box 10

Folder 19

1905 A.

Box 11

Folder 1

1905 A.

Box 11

Folder 2

1905 B.

Box 11

Folder 3

1905 B.

Box 11

Folder 4

1905 B.

Box 11

Folder 5

1905 C.

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1905 C.

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1905 C.

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1905 D.

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1905 E.

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1905 F.

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1905 G.

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1905 G.

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1905 H.

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1905 H.

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1905 I.

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1905 J.

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Box 12

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1905 L.

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1905 T.

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1905 T.

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Folder 17

1905 U-V.

Box 13

Folder 1

1905 W.

Box 13

Folder 2

1905 W.

Box 13

Folder 3

1905 W.

Box 13

Folder 4

1905 Y.

Box 13

Folder 5

1906 A.

Box 13

Folder 6

1906 B.
Box 13
Folder 7

1906 B.
Box 13
Folder 8

1906 B.
Box 13
Folder 9

1906 C.
Box 13
Folder 10

1906 C.
Box 13
Folder 11

1906 C.
Box 13
Folder 12

1906 C.
Box 13
Folder 13

1906 D.
Box 13
Folder 14

1906 E.
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1906 E.
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1906 F.
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1906 P.

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1906 S.

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1906 S.

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1906 S.

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1906 S.

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Folder 6

1906 T.

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1906 U-V.

Box 15

Folder 8

1906 W.

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Folder 9

1906 W.

Box 15

Folder 10

1906 W.

Box 15

Folder 11

1906 Y-Z; unknown.

Box 15

Folder 12

1907 A.

Box 15

Folder 13

1907 B.

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1907 B.

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1907 B.

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1907 B.

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1907 C.

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1907 C.

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1907 P.

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1907 Q-R.

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1907 S.

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1907 S.

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Folder 15

1907 S.

Box 17

Folder 16

1970 T.

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Folder 17

1907 T.

Box 17

Folder 18

1907 V.

Box 18

Folder 1

1907 W.

Box 18

Folder 2

1907 W.

Box 18

Folder 3

1907 W.

Box 18

Folder 4

1907 W.

Box 18

Folder 5

1907 Y-Z.

Box 18

Folder 6

1908 A.

Box 18

Folder 7

1908 B.

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1908 B.

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1908 B.

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1908 H.

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1908 H.

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1908 H.

Box 19

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1908 I-J.

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1908 K.

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1908 L.

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1908 M.

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1908 M.

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1908 N.

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Folder 15

1908 O.

Box 19

Folder 16

1908 P.

Box 20

Folder 1

1908 P.

Box 20

Folder 2

1908 R.

Box 20

Folder 3

1908 R.

Box 20

Folder 4

1908 S.

Box 20

Folder 5

1908 S.

Box 20

Folder 6

1908 S.

Box 20

Folder 7

1908 T.

Box 20

Folder 8

1908 T.

Box 20

Folder 9

1908 T.

Box 20

Folder 10

1908 W.

Box 20

Folder 11

1908 W.

Box 20

Folder 12

1908 W.

Box 20

Folder 13

1908 W.

Box 20

Folder 14

1908 Y-Z.

Box 20

Folder 15

1909 A.

Box 21

Folder 1

1909 B.

Box 21

Folder 2

1909 B.

Box 21

Folder 3

1909 B.

Box 21

Folder 4

1909 C.

Box 21

Folder 5

1909 C.

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1909 D.

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1909 D.

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1909 E.

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1909 E.

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1909 G.

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1909 H.

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Folder 14

1909 H.

Box 21

Folder 15

1909 J.
Box 21
Folder 16

1909 K.
Box 21
Folder 17

1909 L.
Box 22
Folder 1

1909 L.
Box 22
Folder 2

1909 M.
Box 22
Folder 3

1909 M.
Box 22
Folder 4

1909 M.
Box 22
Folder 5

1909 N.
Box 22
Folder 6

1909 O.
Box 22
Folder 7

1909 P.
Box 22
Folder 8

1909 P.
Box 22
Folder 9

1909 R.
Box 22
Folder 10

1909 S.
Box 22
Folder 11

1909 S.

Box 22

Folder 12

1909 S.

Box 22

Folder 13

1909 T.

Box 22

Folder 14

1909 T.

Box 22

Folder 15

1909 U-V.

Box 22

Folder 16

1909 W.

Box 23

Folder 1

1909 W.

Box 23

Folder 2

1909 W.

Box 23

Folder 3

1909 W.

Box 23

Folder 4

1909 Y.

Box 23

Folder 5

1910 B.

Box 23

Folder 6

1910 D-E.

Box 23

Folder 7

1910 H-L.

Box 23

Folder 8

1910 M.

Box 23

Folder 9

1910 O-S.

Box 23

Folder 10

1910 T-W.

Box 23

Folder 11

1911.

Box 23

Folder 12

1912.

Box 23

Folder 13

1913 A-C.

Box 23

Folder 14

1913 D-H.

Box 23

Folder 15

1913 K-L.

Box 23

Folder 16

1913 M-R.

Box 23

Folder 17

1913 S.

Box 23

Folder 18

1913 T.

Box 23

Folder 19

1913 W-Y.

Box 23

Folder 20

Cancelled checks, 1911-1912.

Box 23

Folder 21

Commonwealth vs Jamestown Jockey Club, 1911.

Box 24

Folder 1

Commonwealth vs Jamestown Jockey Club, 1912-1916.

Box 24

Folder 2

Commonwealth vs Jamestown Jockey Club (court papers), 1911.

Box 24

Folder 3

Commonwealth vs Jamestown Jockey Club (court papers), 1911.

Box 24

Folder 4

Commonwealth vs Jamestown Jockey Club (court papers), 1911.

Box 24

Folder 5

Miscellaneous documents and opinions, 1902-1912; undated.

Box 23

Folder 22

Portrait of Mrs. Elvira B. Taylor, 1917-1920.

Box 24

Folder 6

W.H. Robertson, Special Commissioner vs Commonwealth, 1919-1920.

Box 24

Folder 7

Series II. Letter books (outgoing), 1898-1910.

Extent

Extent: 16 volumes.

Scope and Content

Letter books contain only outgoing correspondence written by the Attorney General. The books span the administrations of Attorneys General Andrew J. Montague (1898-1902) and William A. Anderson (1902-1910). Most of the letters answer questions posed by citizens and government entities regarding topics such as the Code of Virginia, the validity of taxes and local ordinances, and constitutional law. Some letters also pertain to specific court cases.

Arrangement

Arranged chronologically.

1898 January-November.

1898 November-1900 April.

1900 April-1901 December.

1902 January-August.

1902 August-1903 April.

1903 April-November.

1903 November-1904 June.

1904 June-1905 March.

1905 March-September.

1905 September-1906 April.

1906 April-November.

1906 November-1907 July.

1907 July-1908 April.

1908 April-1909 February.

1909 February-1910 January.

1910 January-March.