

Robertson, Wyndham, Collection

Wyndham Robertson Collection

1846-1857, 1876, 1996



Title Statement

Robertson, Wyndham, CollectionWyndham Robertson Collection, 1846-1857, 1876, 1996 Ms.2009.100

Author: Lora Settle, Graduate Assistant

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560 Drillfield Drive
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specref@vt.edu
URL: <http://spec.lib.vt.edu>



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Profile Description

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

Ms.2009.100

Unit Date

1846-1857, 1876, 1996

Language

The materials in the collection are in English.

Abstract

This collection consists of correspondence between Wyndham Robertson and John G. English, a promissory note, and a copy of *The Historical Society of Washington County, Virginia, Bulletin* with a biography of Robertson.

Extent

0.1 Cubic Feet 1 folder

Repository

Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

The collection is open for research.

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Source of Acquisition

The Wyndham Robertson Collection was purchased by Special Collections in June 2009.

Processing Information

The processing, arrangement, and description of the Wyndham Robertson Collection commenced and was completed in June 2009.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: [identification of item], [box], [folder], Wyndham Robertson Collection, Ms2009-100, Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Va.

Biographical Note

Wyndham Robertson was born near Richmond, Virginia, on January 26, 1803, to William and Elizabeth Gay (Bolling) Robertson. He studied law at the College of William and Mary and was admitted to the Richmond bar in 1824. He married Mary Trigg Smith in 1831. While Robertson worked as an attorney throughout his life, his growing political convictions and devotion to the Whig party caused him to enter state politics. In 1833, he was elected to the Council of the State. Upon Governor Littleton Waller Tazewell's resignation in 1837, Robertson served as the Governor of Virginia until the election the following year. From 1838 to 1841, he served as a member of the House of Delegates in the Virginia General Assembly. Robertson then retired temporarily from politics, partially due to poor health, and moved to his wife's home, Mary's Meadows, in Abingdon, Virginia.

Though Robertson did not hold a political office again until 1859, he continued to influence politicians through personal correspondence and meetings. With the approaching American Civil War, Robertson returned to Richmond in 1858 and joined the Virginia House of Delegates again (1859-1865). In January 1861 he presented the Anti-Coercion Resolution to the House. The resolution rejected the secession of Virginia, but declared the state's willingness to join the southern cause, if the Federal Government coerced the seceded states. Following Lincoln's call for troops a few months later, which did just that, Robertson remained loyal to the Confederate cause in Virginia throughout the Civil War. He also played a vital role in re-establishing Virginia's place in the Union after the war.

Robertson retired from politics a second time around 1865 and returned to Mary's Meadows. In 1887, he published a book entitled, *Pocahontas, Alias Matoaka, and Her Descendants Through Her Marriage at Jamestown, Virginia, in April, 1614, with John Rolfe, Gentleman*. Robertson died in Abingdon on February 11, 1888. He is buried in Chesterfield County, Virginia.

Scope and Content

The Wyndham Robertson Collection contains five letters from 1846 to 1857 written by Robertson to John G. English. English appears to have acted as a business agent for Robertson for many years. Robertson's letters reveal interests in purchasing land in Mississippi and Alabama, hiring individuals to survey the land, and making solid investments. The letters written to English concern properties in these areas. In addition to the letters, the collection contains a promissory note written in 1874 by Robertson for the amount of \$3,000 to be paid to George Palmer. The collection also contains a copy of *The Historical Society of Washington County, Virginia, Bulletin* from 1996 which features a detailed biography of Robertson.

Related Archival Materials

Pocahontas, Alias Matoaka, and Her Descendants Through Her Marriage at Jamestown, Virginia, in April, 1614, with John Rolfe, Gentleman; Including the Names of Alfriend, Archer, Bentley, Bernard, Bland, Boling, Branch, Cabell, Catlett, Cary, Dandridge, Dixon, Douglas, Duval, Eldridge, Ellett, Ferguson, Field, Fleming,

Gay, Gordon, Griffin, Grayson, Harrison, Hubard, Lewis, Logan, Markham, Meade, McRae, Murray, Page, Poythress, Randolph, Robertson, Skipwith, Stanard, Tazewel, Walke, West, Whittle, and Others

The University of Chicago Library's Hanna Holborn Gray Special Collections Research Center holds the Wyndham Robertson Papers.

The Library of Virginia's State Records Collection holds the Executive Papers of Governor Wyndham Robertson, Accession 43097.

Keywords

Local/Regional History and Appalachian South

Politicians -- United States

English, John G.

Robertson, Wyndham, 1803-1888

Rights Statement for Archival Description

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Arrangement

The collection is arranged chronologically.

Description of Subordinate Components

Correspondence

Unit Date 1846-1857

folder 1

Promissory note

Unit Date 1876

folder 1

The Historical Society of Washington County, Virginia, Bulletin

Unit Date 1996

folder 1