

# Virginia Tech Board of Visitors Records

Records of the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors  
1873-1879, 1888-ca. 1990s, 2002, 2009, undated



## Title Statement

Virginia Tech Board of Visitors Records Records of the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors, 1873-1879, 1888-ca. 1990s, 2002, 2009, undated RG.01

**Author:** LeeAnn Jones, Student Worker, and LM Rozema, Archivist

## Publication Statement

**Publisher:** Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech

Special Collections and University Archives, University Libraries (0434)  
560 Drillfield Drive  
Newman Library, Virginia Tech  
Blacksburg, Virginia 24061  
Business Number: 540-231-6308  
specref@vt.edu  
URL: <http://spec.lib.vt.edu>



2019 (CC0 1.0)

## Profile Description

**Creation:** This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on 2026-04-08 07:01:37 -0400.

**Language Usage:** Description is written in: English, Latin script.

## Revision Description

**2025-03-07** Ella Winterling updated Existence and Location of Copies.

## Descriptive Summary

### Unit ID

RG.01

### Unit Date

1873-1879, 1888-ca. 1990s, 2002, 2009, undated

### Language

The materials in the collection are in English.

### Abstract

The Records of the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors includes unofficial minutes, correspondence, reports, Executive Committee minutes and reports, material from and about individual members of the Board, and reports to the Board of Visitors.

### Creator

Virginia Agricultural and Mechanical College and Polytechnic Institute. Board of Visitors

### Creator

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. Board of Visitors

**Creator**

Virginia Polytechnic Institute. Board of Visitors

**Creator**

Virginia Agricultural and Mechanical College. Board of Trustees

**Extent**

8.4 Cubic Feet 12 boxes

**Repository**

Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech

## Administrative Information

**Conditions Governing Access**

The collection is open for research.

**Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use**

The copyright status of this collection is unknown. Copyright restrictions may apply. Contact Special Collections and University Archives for assistance in determining the use of these materials.

Reproduction or digitization of materials for personal or research use can be requested using our reproduction/digitization form: <http://bit.ly/scuareproduction>. Reproduction or digitization of materials for publication or exhibit use can be requested using our publication/exhibition form: <http://bit.ly/scuapublication>. Please contact Special Collections and University Archives ([specref@vt.edu](mailto:specref@vt.edu) or 540-231-6308) if you need assistance with forms or to submit a completed form.

**Source of Acquisition**

The Records of the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors were transferred to Special Collections and University Archives prior to 1980. The Thomas S. Bocock Papers and General G. C. Wharton Papers were received in 1955. Additional items were transferred in multiple accruals between 2003 and 2019.

**Processing Information**

The processing, arrangement, and description of the Records of the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors was completed in 2017. The processing, arrangement, and description of additions was completed in November 2019.

**Preferred Citation**

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: [identification of item], [box], [folder], Records of the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors, RG 1, Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Va.

## Administrative History

The legislation that created Virginia Agricultural and Mechanical College (now Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University) provided for the establishment of a board of visitors as a governing body. Consisting of both appointed and ex-officio members, the board was empowered to select the president and faculty, determine salaries, handle all matters of discipline and student life, and be responsible for all property of the College.

Governor Gilbert C. Walker appointed the first board on March 19, 1872, the day he signed the bill creating the college, and the first meeting was held March 25 and 26 in Richmond. Board appointments are still made by the governor and subject to confirmation by the Virginia Senate. Since its inception, the board has been chaired by a Rector.

Various changes have occurred throughout the years concerning the composition of the board, primarily relating to number and qualifications of appointees and offices to be represented ex-officio. The first board was composed of nine appointed members, with the president of the State Agricultural Society and members of the State Board of Education serving ex-officio. The next year, the makeup was changed so only the State Superintendent of Public Instruction and the president of the Agricultural Society served ex-officio. Later, the president of the Agricultural Society was eliminated as an ex-officio member, but the State Superintendent of Public Instruction remained until 1966. The president of the Board of Agriculture and Immigration (now Consumer Services) became an ex-officio member after 1902, now being the only ex-officio member serving with thirteen appointed members. Four non-voting members have been added to represent the faculty, staff, graduate students, and undergraduate students.

## Scope and Content

The Records of the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors includes unofficial minutes, correspondence, reports, Executive Committee minutes and reports, material from and about individual members of the Board, and reports to the Board of Visitors.

## Related Archival Materials

The majority of material from this body, including the official minutes, are housed in the Records Management office. Permission for access should be obtained through the Virginia Tech Office of the President or the Secretary to the Board of Visitors.

Digital copies of some of the official records are available on the Board of Visitors website.

An index to Board of Visitors' official minutes from 1898 through 1959 that are held by Records Management is available in the Special Collections and University Archives reference collection. (This index does not include the 1910 official minutes in this collection.)

See also the Records of Radford College, the Women's Division of Virginia Polytechnic Institute, RG 24.

## Keywords

Faculty and staff

University Archives

University History

Record Group 1 - Board of Visitors

Virginia Agricultural and Mechanical College. Board of Trustees

Virginia Agricultural and Mechanical College and Polytechnic Institute. Board of Visitors

Virginia Polytechnic Institute. Board of Visitors

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. Board of Visitors

Bocock, Thomas S., 1815-1891

Wharton, Gabriel C. (Gabriel Colvin), 1824-1906

Radford College

## Existence and Location of Copies

Contact Special Collections and University Archives for a digital copy of the Board of Visitors Official Minutes, 1910, and for the reports from Radford College to the Board of Visitors, 1960-1962.

Copies of official minutes held by Records Management are also available from Special Collections and University Archives.

Some of this collection has been digitized and is available online.

## Rights Statement for Archival Description

The guide to the Records of the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors by Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech, is licensed under a CC0 (<https://creativecommons.org/share-your-work/public-domain/cc0/>).

## Arrangement

This collection is divided by material type and RG subgroup number. Each subgroup is divided by RG subgroup number and chronologically.

Record Group Subgroups

- RG 1 - Student and Personnel Records
- RG 1/1 - Official Minutes
- RG 1/2 - Unofficial Minutes, Correspondence, and Supporting Materials
- RG 1/3 - Committees of the Board - Executive Committee
- RG 1/4 - Individual Members of the Board
- RG 1/5 - Administration and Governance Structure
- RG 1/7 - Annual Reports

## Description of Subordinate Components

**RG 1 - Student and Personnel Records**

**Unit ID** RG 1

**Unit Date** 1891-1908, 1910-1917, 1974

**Grade Book**

**Unit Date** 1901-1904

**box** 1

**Grade Book cover**

**Unit Date** 1904-1907

**box** 2

**Grade Sheet, Anderson C.W. - Waddell, J.A.**

**Unit Date** 1891-1901

**box** 3

**Grade book**

**Unit Date** 1904-1907

**box** 4

**Grade Sheets**

**Unit Date** 1904-1908

**box** 5

**Grade Sheets**

**Unit Date** 1904-1908

**box** 6

**Payroll**

**Unit Date** 1910-1917

**box** 9

**Personnel listings microfilm reel**

**Unit Date** 1974-06-07

**box** 2

**RG 1/1 - Official Minutes**

**Unit ID** RG 1/1

**Unit Date** 1910, 1979

**Official Minutes**

**Unit Date** 1910

**box** 2

**Official Minutes**

**Unit Date** 1979

**box-folder** 7 (box)

**Container** 1 (folder)

**RG 1/2 - Unofficial Minutes, Correspondence, and Supporting Materials**

**Unit ID** RG 1/2

**Unit Date** 1888-1911, 1945, 1970-1978

**Unofficial Minutes, Correspondence, Supporting Material**

**Unit Date** 1888-1911

**box-folder** 7 (box)

**Container** 2-3 (folder)

**Treasurer's Correspondence to BOV**

**Unit Date** 1945

**box-folder** 7 (box)

**Container** 4 (folder)

**General**

Includes Statement of Account from Planters Bank and Trust Co. as Trustee of VPI under Agreement Dated Dec. 29, 1927 covering Period Dec. 29, 1943-Dec.29, 1944

**Unofficial Minutes, Correspondence, Supporting Material**

**Unit Date** 1970-1978

**box-folder** 7 (box)

**Container** 5 (folder)

**RG 1/3 - Committees of the Board - Executive Committee**

**Unit ID** RG 1/3

**Unit Date** 1877-1879, 1896-1933, 1960-1961, 1968

**Language** English.

**Administrative History**

The Executive Committee also served as Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station Board of Control.

**Scope and Content**

The two volumes of Executive Committee minutes contain mostly handwritten minutes from 1896-1933 and documents pertaining to the Experiment Station. Volume 1 covers 19 February 1896 to 18 January 1907. Volume 1 contains some loose items, including: notes of meeting of April 2, 1906; papers relating to cattle quarantine regulations; a request of J.G. Ferneybough, State Veterinarian, to appear before the Executive Committee, and a typed page of College Estimates for 1906/07.

Volume 2 encompasses 17 April 1907 to 5 October 1933. Volume 2 has some typed items.

**BOV Executive Committee Reports**

**Unit Date** 1877-1879

**box-folder** 7 (box)

**Container** 6 (folder)

**BOV Executive Committee Minutes**

**Unit Date** 1896-02-19-1907-01-17

**box** 8

**BOV Executive Committee Minutes**

**Unit Date** 1907-04-17-1933-10-05

**box** 11

**Report to the Board of Visitors' Executive Committee**

**Unit Date** 1960-1961

**box-folder** 7 (box)

**Container** 7 (folder)

**BOV Committees****Unit Date** 1968**box-folder** 7 (box)**Container** 8 (folder)**RG 1/4 - Individual Board Members****Unit ID** RG 1/4**Unit Date** 1873-1877, 1920, 1949-ca. 1990s, 2002, 2009, undated**RG 1/4 - Individual Board Members (General Information)****Board of Visitors oath of office for J. Thompson Brown, J. B. Watkins, Robert Beverley, and Meade Ferguson****Unit Date** 1920-10-08**box-folder** 12 (box)**Container** 1 (folder)**Information about rector photographs in Torgersen Hall****Unit Date** 1949-1962, 2002, 2009, undated**Photocopies of photos and newspaper clippings****Unit Date** 1949-1962, undated**box-folder** 12 (box)**Container** 2 (folder)**Research files about rector photos****Unit Date** 2002, 2009**box-folder** 12 (box)**Container** 3 (folder)**Photographs and negatives of rectors****Unit Date** undated**box-folder** 12 (box)**Container** 4 (folder)**Eberwine CD****Unit Date** undated**box-folder** 12 (box)**Container** 5 (folder)**Member cards****Unit Date** ca. 1950s-1990s**Member cards****Unit Date** ca. 1950s-1980s**box-folder** 12 (box)**Container** 6 (folder)

**Member cards****Unit Date** ca. 1980s-1990s**box-folder** 12 (box)**Container** 7 (folder)**General Note**

These cards were removed from a binder during processing.

**Member cards****Unit Date** ca. 1980s-1990s**box-folder** 12 (box)**Container** 8 (folder)**General Note**

These cards were removed from a binder during processing.

**Newspaper Clippings on Individual Members****Unit Date** 1967-1969**Unit Date** 1970-1974**Unit Date** 1979**box-folder** 7 (box)**Container** 9 (folder)**RG 1/4/1 - Thomas S. Bocock****Unit ID** RG 1/4/1**Unit Date** 1873-1876**box-folder** 7 (box)**Container** 10 (folder)**Biographical Note**

Thomas S. Bocock was a member of Board of Visitors, 1873-1875.

Thomas Salem Bocock (1815-1891) was a lawyer and politician. He served in the Virginia House of Delegates from 1842 through 1844 and the U.S. House of Representatives from 1847 until 1861. As an owner of enslaved persons, he supported the Confederacy during the American Civil War, even serving in the Confederate House of Representatives from 1861 through 1865. After the war, Bocock served on the Virginia Agricultural and Mechanical College's Board of Visitors from 1873 through 1875, and he was elected to the Virginia House of Delegates from 1877 through 1879.

**Scope and Content**

This collection consists of fifteen letters and papers, 1874-1876, received by Bocock in his capacity as a member of the Board, including two letters from C.L.C. Minor, President of VAMC; one letter from G.D. Thomas, Secretary of the Board; an injunction against Henry S. Branson, brickmaker; a printed application with testimonials for position of Farmer from W.F. Pattullio; handwritten application for position of Farmer from Philip Withers, with nine letters of reference.

**RG 1/4/2 - General G. C. Wharton****Unit ID** RG 1/4/2**Unit Date** 1874-1877**box-folder** 7 (box)**Container** 11 (folder)**Biographical Note**

General G. C. Wharton was a member of Board of Visitors, 1874-1877, and served as the Board's Rector, 1875-1877.

Gabriel Colvin Wharton was born in Culpeper County, Virginia on July 23, 1824. After graduating from Virginia Military Institute in 1847, Wharton became a civil engineer, working in Arizona and elsewhere. At the outbreak of the Civil War, Wharton was appointed a major within the 45th Virginia Infantry. Soon after, he was promoted to colonel, commanding the 51st Virginia Infantry. In July 1863, Wharton was promoted to brigadier general, commanding a brigade guarding southwestern Virginia railroads and

participating in the battles of New Market and Cold Harbor, among others. Wharton married Nannie Radford in 1863; following the war, the couple made their home in Radford, Virginia. Wharton resumed his civil engineering career and was instrumental in building a railroad in the New River Valley. He was a member on the Virginia Agricultural and Mechanical College's Board of Visitors from 1874 through 1877, serving as the Rector from 1875-1877. Gabriel Wharton died in Radford in 1906.

### **Scope and Content**

The collection contains twenty-seven letters, 1874-1878, either addressed to him or forwarded to him. Correspondents include: Charles Martin, C.L.C. Minor, Dr. Harvey Black, John W.C. Davis, C.H. Mellen, V.E. Shepherd, and W.R. Boggs.

### **Related Materials**

See the Gabriel C. Wharton Correspondence, Ms2009-012, also at Virginia Tech Special Collections and University Archives.

## **RG 1/5 - Administration and Governance Structure**

**Unit ID** RG 1/5

**Unit Date** 1934, 1967

### **Proceedings of The Hearing Before The Committee of The Board of Visitors**

**Unit Date** 1934-08-13

**box-folder** 7 (box)

**Container** 12 (folder)

### **BOV Administration and Governance**

**Unit Date** 1967

**Unit Date** 1970

**box-folder** 7 (box)

**Container** 13 (folder)

## **RG 1/7 - Annual Reports**

**Unit ID** RG 1/7

**Unit Date** 1898-1955, 1959-1962, 1974-1975, 1978-1979

### **Radford College, Women's Division of VPI, Report to the BOV**

**Unit Date** 1960-1962

#### **Radford College, Women's Division of VPI, Report to the BOV**

**Unit Date** 1960

**box-folder** 10 (box)

**Container** 1 (folder)

#### **Radford College, Women's Division of VPI, Report to the BOV**

**Unit Date** 1961

**box-folder** 10 (box)

**Container** 2 (folder)

#### **Radford College, Women's Division of VPI, Report to the BOV**

**Unit Date** 1962

**box-folder** 10 (box)

**Container** 3 (folder)

**Special Report to the BOV of Radford College on cost of operating auxiliary enterprises**

**Unit Date** 1961-08-08

**box-folder** 10 (box)

**Container** 4 (folder)

**Board of Visitors reports microfilm reel 500**

**Unit Date** 1898-08-04-1936-06-08

**box** 2

**Board of Visitors reports microfilm reel 501**

**Unit Date** 1936-07-29-1955-11-22

**box** 2

**Reports - President to the BOV**

**Unit Date** 1910

**box-folder** 7 (box)

**Container** 14 (folder)

**Treasurer's Reports to BOV**

**Unit Date** 1920-1921

**Unit Date** 1936-1937

**Unit Date** 1941-1942

**Unit Date** 1943-1944

**box-folder** 7 (box)

**Container** 15 (folder)

**Annual Report of the BOV**

**Unit Date** 1959-1960

**box-folder** 7 (box)

**Container** 16 (folder)

**Report of the Administration to the BOV**

**Unit Date** 1960

**box-folder** 7 (box)

**Container** 17 (folder)

**Annual Report of the BOV**

**Unit Date** 1960-1961

**box-folder** 7 (box)

**Container** 18 (folder)

**Report to the BOV**

**Unit Date** 1961-02-14

**box-folder** 7 (box)

**Container** 19 (folder)

**Report to the BOV**

**Unit Date** 1961-05-08

**box-folder** 7 (box)

**Container** 20 (folder)

**Report to the BOV**

**Unit Date** 1961-08-08

**box-folder** 7 (box)

**Container** 21 (folder)

**Report to the BOV**

**Unit Date** 1961-10-31

**box-folder** 7 (box)

**Container** 22 (folder)

**Annual Report of the BOV**

**Unit Date** 1961-1962

**box-folder** 7 (box)

**Container** 23 (folder)

**Report of the Administration to the BOV**

**Unit Date** 1962

**box-folder** 7 (box)

**Container** 24-25 (folder)

**Annual Report**

**Unit Date** 1974-1975

**box-folder** 7 (box)

**Container** 26 (folder)

**Annual Report**

**Unit Date** 1978-1979

**box-folder** 7 (box)

**Container** 27 (folder)