

President, Office of the, Blair, James, Records

Office of the President. James Blair Records
1695-1747

Title Statement

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Profile Description

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

UA 2.01

Unit ID

/repositories/2/resources/1518

Unit Date

1695-1747

Language

English

Creator

Office of the President

Creator

Andros, Edmund, Sir, 1637-1714

Creator

Blair, James, 1656-1743

Extent

1.00 Linear Feet

Repository

Special Collections Research Center

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access:

The collection is open to all researchers. Manuscript collections and archival records may contain materials with sensitive or confidential information that is protected under federal or state right to privacy laws and regulations, such as the Virginia Public Records Act (Code of Virginia. § 42.1-76-91); and the Virginia Freedom of Information Act (Code of Virginia § 2.2-3705.5). Confidential material may include, but is not limited to, educational, medical, and personnel records. If sensitive material is found in this collection, please contact a staff member immediately. The disclosure of personally identifiable information pertaining to a living individual may have legal consequences for which the College of William and Mary assumes no responsibility.

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Acquisition Information:

Acc. 2002.073 purchased from H.P. Kraus Rare Books and Manuscripts, NY, NY.

Preferred Citation:

Office of the President, James Blair Records, Special Collections Research Center, Earl Gregg Swem Library, College of William and Mary.

Historical Note:

A list of College of William and Mary presidents is available at http://scdbwiki.swem.wm.edu/wiki/index.php/Presidents_of_the_College_of_William_and_Mary. Further information about this individual or organization may be available in the Special Collections Research Center Wiki: http://scdbwiki.swem.wm.edu/wiki/index.php/Office_of_the_President. Further information about this individual or organization may be available in the Special Collections Research Center Wiki: http://scdbwiki.swem.wm.edu/wiki/index.php/Office_of_the_President.

Scope and Contents

Acc. 1980.128 contains papers of and relating to James Blair, first president of the College of William and Mary. The collection contains two original manuscripts: a funeral bill by Blair dated 1701, and a sermon erroneously attributed to Blair dated 1747. The bulk of the collection consists of copies collected for research purposes, mostly in 1940-1941. Includes biographical material; extracts and copies from official records; copies of correspondence; sermons; notes on paintings of Blair and his wife owned by the College of William and Mary; notes on their graves.

Acc. 2002.073 contains minutes of the Council of Virginia from 1695, including a resolution of the Governor's Council drawn up by Governor Edmund Andros and signed by all the Council members documenting the differences between Rev. James Blair and Andros and announcing the suspension of Rev. Blair from the Council.

Keywords

Correspondence
Manuscripts (document genre)
College of William and Mary--History--18th century
Legal documents
Andros, Edmund, Sir, 1637-1714

Accruals:

Acc. 1980.128 acquired 11/18/1980; Acc. 2002.073 acquired 10/22/2002.

General

Other Information:

A PDF document of this inventory is available online.

Additional information may be found at

http://scrc.swem.wm.edu/findingaids/UA_1980_128%20blair,%20james.pdf

Description of Subordinate Components

Series 1: Biographical Material

Unit ID id9958

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/146090

Unit Date ca. 1701-1993

Scope and Contents

Some folders in the biographical material series are more thoroughly organized in the PDF inventory available at http://scrc.swem.wm.edu/findingaids/UA_1980_128%20blair,%20james.pdf Consult a staff member for assistance.

Published Biographies

Unit ID id9959

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/146093

Mixed materials 1 (box)

Container 1 (Folder)

The Church Review, and Ecclesiastical Register 8

Unit ID id9960

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/146106

Unit Date January 1856

Mixed Materials 1 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

The Church Review, and Ecclesiastical Register 8 (New Haven, Conn.: January 1856). Photostat of page 613, discussing James Blair's death as noted in the vestry minutes of 1743.

"Blair, James" in Dictionary of American Biography

Unit ID id9961

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/146107

Mixed Materials 1 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

Photostat of biographical sketch written by Dr. Earl Gregg Swem.

Presidents--Blair

Unit ID id9962

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/146108

Mixed Materials 1 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

Typewritten note with bibliographical references to three articles on Blair.

Reuben Elmore Stivers, "The Governor, the Commissary, and St. John Shropshire"

Unit ID id9963

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/146109

Unit Date January 1993

Mixed Materials 1 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

Reuben Elmore Stivers, "The Governor, the Commissary, and St. John Shropshire," Shropshire Journal 3 (no. 4, January 1993).

"Blair, Dames, D. D.," in Virginia Biography

Unit ID id9964

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/146110

Mixed Materials 1 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

Page 62, with continuation of biographical sketch from the next page cut out and glued on.

"James Blair, D. D.," in William B. Sprague, Annals of the American Pulpit

Unit ID id9965

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/146111

Unit Date 1859

Mixed Materials 1 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

vol. 5 (New York: Robert Carter, 1859). Pages 7-14, containing biographical sketch of Blair, and also a biographical sketch of Hugh Jones, who was a professor of mathematics at the College of William and Mary as well as a clergyman. Typed transcription of Sprague's sketch of Blair.

G. MacLarden Brydon, "James Blair, Commissary"

Unit ID id9966

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/146112

Unit Date June 1945

Mixed Materials 1 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

Historical Magazine of the Protestant Episcopal Church 14. Article and detached cover of journal.

Daniel Esten Motley, Life of Commissary James Blair, Founder of William and Mary College

Unit ID id9967

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/146113

Unit Date October 1901

Mixed Materials 1 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

Baltimore, Johns Hopkins Press, One Volume.

Parke Rouse, Jr., "James Blair of Virginia"

Unit ID id9968

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/146114

Unit Date June 1974

Mixed Materials 1 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

Historical Magazine of the Protestant Episcopal Church 43, Article and detached cover of journal.

Parke Rouse, Jr., "A Scottish Cleric in America"

Unit ID id9969

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/146115

Unit Date September 30, 1971

Mixed Materials 1 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

Country Life 150. Article and table of contents page, and photocopies of article.

Research Work

Unit ID id9970

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/146094

Unit Date 1929-1969

Mixed materials 1 (box)

Container 2 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

Bulk from 1940-1941. Correspondence and notes, primarily of library staff, documenting efforts to research Blair's life and noting errors in published biographies.

Excerpts from primary sources

Unit ID id9971

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/146095

Unit Date 1941

Mixed materials 1 (box)

Container 3 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

Transcriptions or excerpts quoting from official records, private correspondence (neither to nor from Blair), and contemporary published works that mention Blair.

Correspondence (copies)

Unit ID id9972

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/146096

Mixed materials 1 (box)

Container 4 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

Photocopies and transcriptions of correspondence to and from James Blair.

Other documents (copies)

Unit ID id9973

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/146097

Mixed materials 1 (box)

Container 5 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

Photostats relating to James Blair joining the University of Edinburgh Library. Photostat of the title page of the book which Blair presented to the Edinburgh Library on becoming a member of it; photostat of Blair's signature on joining the Edinburgh University Library; photostat of the agreement he signed. Copy of Blair's commission as commissary. Photocopy of commission, transcription of commission, translation of commission from Latin, bibliographic citations. A Vindication of Sr. Edmond Andros, 1697. Photocopy of a document by William Byrd. Papers relating to a dispute between Blair and Governor Nicholson, 1704-1705. Photocopies of two documents. Papers relating to a dispute over money owed to Blair by the College, 1719-1721.

Papers Relating to an Affidavit Made by his Reverence James Blair... against Francis Nicholson

Unit ID id9974

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/146098

Unit Date 1942

Mixed materials 1 (box)

Container 6 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

Photostat and photocopy of the published pamphlet Papers Relating to an Affidavit... (London: 1727), made in 1942 from the volume owned by the John Carter Brown Library; photocopy of handwritten document entitled A Defence of Mr. Blair; and a Confutation of an Anonymous [sic] Pamphlet, Lately

Sermons

Unit ID id9975

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/146099

Unit Date 1729-1761

Mixed materials 1 (box)

Container 7 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

Brief extracts from two sermons preached in Bruton Church by Blair, taken from W. A. R. Goodwin's Historical Sketch of Bruton Church; Photostat of title page of James Blair, Our Saviour's Divine Sermon on the Mount...to which is Prefix'd a Paraphrase on the Whole Sermon of the Mount... (London: second edition, 1740) and Photostat of Blair's Paraphrase on Our Saviour's Sermon on the Mount (1729); photocopy of Danish edition of Our Saviour's Divine Sermon on the Mount (Copenhagen, 1761?). Both the English and the Danish editions of Blair's book are in the Rare Book collections of Swem Library, College of William and Mary.

Miscellaneous Materials

Unit ID id180033

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/146100

Unit Date 1961 and undated

Mixed materials 1 (box)

Container 8 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

Bibliographic citation for Blair's death notice in Scot's Magazine (July 1743); page 643 of The Gentleman's Magazine (August 1743) with Blair listed under Deaths; brochure entitled Merely to Survive Is Not Enough, comparing Dr. Woodbridge's building a fallout shelter for his neighborhood in 1961 with Dr. Blair's creation of the College of William and Mary; photographic copy of signature, James Blair President.

Series 2: Original Documents

Unit ID id9976

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/146091

Unit Date 1695-1747

An account of Mr. Adam's funeral charges

Unit ID id9977

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/146101

Unit Date 6 June 1701

Mixed materials 1 (box)

Container 9 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

Itemized bill for funeral expenses.

Sermon

Unit ID id9978

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/146102

Unit Date 22 March 1747

Mixed materials 1 (box)

Container 10 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

Handwritten sermon said to be by James Blair, along with correspondence giving reasons why James Blair was probably not the author.

Council of Virginia Resolution

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/267613

Unit Date 1695

Mixed Materials UA Vault Box 1 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Language English

Scope and Contents

Resolution of the Governor's Council drawn up by Governor Edmund Andros and signed by all the Council members documenting the differences between Rev. James Blair and Andros and announcing the suspension of Rev. Blair from the Council.

Series 3: Images

Unit ID id9979

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/146092

Unit Date 1931-1968

James Blair Portraits

Unit ID id9980

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/146103

Unit Date 1968

Mixed materials 1 (box)

Container 11 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

Inventory of portraits of James Blair owned by the college, completed in 1968; notes miniature owned by Virginia Historical Society; photostat of silhouette; copy of published reproduction of college-owned portrait.

Photographs of a 1705 portrait of Blair's wife

Unit ID id9981

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/146104

Unit Date undated

Mixed materials 1 (box)

Container 12 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

Three photographs of an oil painting by J. Hargreaves, in London, 1705, of Sarah Harrison, wife of James Blair. Portrait owned by the college.

Graves of Sarah and James Blair

Unit ID id9982

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/146105

Unit Date March 15, 1931

Mixed materials 1 (box)

Container 13 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

Notes on inscriptions on the graves of James Blair and Sarah Harrison Blair; page from "Notable Trees of Virginia," Bulletin of the Virginia Polytechnic Institute 24 (March 15, 1931) illustrated with a photograph of the sycamore tree that separates the two graves; drawing of the tree and Mrs. Blair's damaged gravestone.