

The Virginia American Water Company Collection Finding Aid MS103

The Virginia American Water Company Collection (MS103)
1866-1988



Title Statement

The Virginia American Water Company Collection Finding Aid MS103

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1996

Profile Description

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Descriptive Rules: Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

MS103

Unit Date

1866-1988

Language

English .

Creator

Virginia American Water Company

Extent

7 Linear Feet 15 Boxes

Repository

Local History and Special Collections Branch, Alexandria Library

Administrative Information

Preferred Citation

[Item identification], Virginia American Water Company Collection, MS103, Alexandria Library, Local History/Special Collections, Alexandria, Va.

Biographical / Historical

The Virginia American Water Company was originally founded in 1852 as the Alexandria Water Company. The idea for a supply of clean water can be attributed to Benjamin Hallowell, who after losing three children to disease, may have realized the importance of clean water. The Alexandria Water Company was chartered by the Virginia Legislature on March 22, 1850 and Hallowell served as its first President. The company expanded in the early 1900s and again in the 1950s. In 1972, the company merged with the Old Dominion Water Corporation and the Prince William Water Company to become the Virginia American Water Company.

Content Description

The collection consists of financial records, such as account books from the 1800s; dividend payments; income tax returns from 1919-1928; company records and reports; an employee records book from the 1920s-1940; letters of correspondence; company histories; franchise map; and newspaper clippings from various newspapers in 1956-1957. Of particular interest are the 1867 property book and the book containing the "Copies of Deeds, Agreements, & Contracts" from 1853-1892. Both contain drawings and diagrams of where water pipes had been laid in Old Town.

Related Materials

Alexandria Chamber of Commerce, Box 202; Alexandria City Records, Box 19MM, Box 19UU (Water and gas pipes, 1855); Boothe Family Papers, Box 164 (Annual Reports, 1851-1879); Box 195.

Erickson, Philip M., Cdr. Alexandria Water Company Permits: The First 1000 'Pipers.' Alexandria, VA: City of Alexandria Archaeology, 1988. Hallowell, Benjamin. Autobiography of Benjamin Hallowell. Philadelphia: Friends Book Association, 1884. Swain, Perry Carpenter. "Robert Hartshorne Miller, 1798-1874, A Quaker Presence in Alexandria." Graduate Thesis, George Washington University, 1988.

Keywords

Alexandria (Va.) -- Economic conditions

Alexandria (Va.) -- History

Municipal water supply -- Virginia -- Alexandria

Arrangement

The collection is arranged in six series as follows: Series I: Correspondence, 1866-1980 Series II: Company Records, 1859-1960 Series III: Financial Records, 1852-1929 and Annual Reports, 1851-1879 Series IV: Legal Documents, 1924-1948 Series V: Company History/Photographs and Miscellaneous Items Series VI: Drawings and Sketches

Description of Subordinate Components

Series I: Correspondence

Unit Date 1866-1980

Scope and Contents

This series includes business letters, letters to employees, and other various correspondences pertaining to the early years of the Alexandria Water Company

Outgoing and incoming letters to the State Corporation Commission

Unit Date September 1919, December 1920, December 1922-January 1923

Text 1 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Circular letter to Cameron Run Pump House employees

Unit Date 1921-12

Text 1 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Worker compensation claim by Alan Cogan

Unit Date 1919-10

Text 1 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Letter of complaint by Mrs. Kate N. Taylor

Unit Date 1922-11

Text 1 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Letter regarding the company audit

Unit Date 1922-12

Text 1 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Note for D.J. Howell.

Text 1 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

Letters to and from War Department regarding soldiers bathing at Edsall Station

Unit Date 1911-06

Text 1 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

Pipe distribution in Rosemont (see also blueprint collection).

Text 1 (box)

Container 8 (folder)

Letter to Chief Engineer from National Board of Fire Underwriters regarding cleaning of water mains (includes drawings)

Unit Date 1917, 1922

Text 1 (box)

Container 9 (folder)

Letter regarding high water pressure

Unit Date 1929-04

Text 1 (box)

Container 10 (folder)

Letter regarding water main on Duncan Avenue

Unit Date 1921-04

Text 1 (box)

Container 11 (folder)

Letter to Fairfax County regarding Belle Haven Golf Club

Unit Date 1927-04

Text 1 (box)

Container 12 (folder)

Letters regarding assessment of American Water Company properties by Commonwealth of Virginia

Unit Date 1929-06

Text 1 (box)

Container 13 (folder)

Letters of Gardner L. Boothe, company attorney

Unit Date 1948-10-1948-11

Text 1 (box)

Container 14 (folder)

Copy of letter to Robert H. Miller taken from the Autobiography of Benjamin Hallowell

Unit Date 1873-04

Text 1 (box)

Container 15 (folder)

Alexandria Water Company Centennial Story

Unit Date 1980

Text 1 (box)

Container 16 (folder)

Miscellaneous letters and correspondence

Unit Date 1920s

Text 1 (box)

Container 17 (folder)

Correspondence book

Unit Date 1866-1899

Text 2 (box)

Series II: Company Records

Unit Date 1859-1860

Scope and Contents

This series contains various company records, such as personnel records, various reports and lists, all pertaining to the running of the water company.

Personnel records

Unit Date 1920's-1940

Text 3 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

List of pipe laid

Unit Date 1851-1917

Text 3 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Rules, Regulations, and Rates**Unit Date** 1867 and November 1918**Text** 3 (box)**Container** 3 (folder)**Report of Holmes Run Storage Reservoir****Unit Date** 1904**Text** 3 (box)**Container** 4 (folder)**Supreme Court of Appeals of Virginia, Wheat v. City Council of Alexandria****Unit Date** 1982-02**Text** 3 (box)**Container** 5 (folder)**Meter lists****Unit Date** 1928-07**Text** 3 (box)**Container** 6 (folder)**Personal correspondence, possibly by Robert Miller****Unit Date** 1868**Text** 3 (box)**Container** 7 (folder)**Consumer premises data****Unit Date** 1920**Text** 3 (box)**Container** 8 (folder)**American Water Works Association, certificate of corporate membership****Unit Date** 1909**Text** 3 (box)**Container** 9 (folder)**American Water Works Association, resolution concerning effect of war conditions upon maintenance and management of water works****Unit Date** 1918-04**Text** 3 (box)**Container** 10 (folder)**Report to Virginia Board of Health****Unit Date** 1923-11**Text** 3 (box)**Container** 11 (folder)**Test by New York Water Board on mortar with sand****Text** 3 (box)**Container** 12 (folder)

Statistical report on pumping stations

Unit Date 1933

Text 3 (box)

Container 13 (folder)

Inspection report

Unit Date 1931

Text 3 (box)

Container 14 (folder)

Agreement with stockholders

Unit Date 1929-04

Text 3 (box)

Container 15 (folder)

Meeting minutes

Unit Date 1926

Text 3 (box)

Container 16 (folder)

Minutes from annual meeting of stockholders and newly elected Board of Directors

Unit Date 1927-11

Text 3 (box)

Container 17 (folder)

Location of valves

Text 3 (box)

Container 18 (folder)

Meter installation documents

Text 3 (box)

Container 19 (folder)

Report to the Honorable J.M. Hill, city council

Text 3 (box)

Container 20 (folder)

Report to stockholders

Unit Date 1925-06

Text 3 (box)

Container 21 (folder)

Proposed pipe extension

Unit Date 1923-09

Text 3 (box)

Container 22 (folder)

Drawings of properties to be plotted and properties completed

Unit Date 1920s

Text 3 (box)

Container 23 (folder)

Fire hydrants

Unit Date 1920s

Text 3 (box)

Container 24 (folder)

Advertising

Unit Date 1933, 1964

Text 3 (box)

Container 25 (folder)

Statement made by P.H. Dowdell at meeting of Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce

Unit Date 1960

Text 3 (box)

Container 26 (folder)

Materials pertaining to Fairfax County

Unit Date 1967-1972

Text 3 (box)

Container 27 (folder)

Property Book

Unit Date 1867

Text 4 (box)

Extent contains drawings of pipes laid

Existence and Location of Copies

photocopy available in vertical file

Copies of Deeds, Agreements & Controls

Unit Date 1853

Text 5 (box)

Existence and Location of Copies

photocopy available in vertical file

Series III: Financial Records and Annual Reports

Unit Date 1851-1929

Scope and Contents

This series contains documents such as income tax returns, account books, a dividend book, and other various financial documents as well as the annual reports from the President and Board of Directors to the stockholders.

Annual Information Return

Unit Date 1921-1929

Text 6 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Receipts

Unit Date 1865-1902, 1926

Text 6 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Income Tax Returns**Unit Date** 1919-1928**Text** 6 (box)**Container** 3 (folder)**Dividend Summary****Unit Date** 1855-02-1929-01**Text** 6 (box)**Container** 4 (folder)**Appraisal Summary****Unit Date** 1906-11**Text** 6 (box)**Container** 5 (folder)**Income Statement****Unit Date** 1923**Text** 6 (box)**Container** 6 (folder)**Income Statement****Unit Date** 1924**Text** 6 (box)**Container** 7 (folder)**Income Statement****Unit Date** 1925**Text** 6 (box)**Container** 8 (folder)**Income Statement****Unit Date** 1926**Text** 6 (box)**Container** 9 (folder)**Income Statement****Unit Date** 1927**Text** 6 (box)**Container** 10 (folder)**Income Statement****Unit Date** 1928**Text** 6 (box)**Container** 11 (folder)**Income Statement****Unit Date** 1929**Text** 6 (box)**Container** 12 (folder)

Prepaid insurance**Unit Date** 1924, 1928**Text** 6 (box)**Container** 13 (folder)**Flat rate delinquents****Unit Date** 1929-04**Text** 6 (box)**Container** 14 (folder)**Taxes****Unit Date** 1928-01-1929-06**Text** 6 (box)**Container** 15 (folder)**Tax reports to State Corporation Division****Unit Date** 1950s**Text** 7 (box)**Container** 1 (folder)**List of dividend payments on stock of Domestic and Resident Corporation****Unit Date** 1923-1927**Text** 7 (box)**Container** 2 (folder)**Materials in transit****Unit Date** 1927**Text** 7 (box)**Container** 3 (folder)**Salaries, Inventory, Certificates and Canceled Certificates****Unit Date** 1929**Text** 7 (box)**Container** 4 (folder)**Miscellaneous financial documents****Unit Date** 1920s**Text** 7 (box)**Container** 5 (folder)**Inventory of filtration plant****Unit Date** 1928-07**Text** 7 (box)**Container** 6 (folder)**Annual Reports****Unit Date** 1851-1870**Text** 7 (box)**Container** 7 (folder)

Annual Reports**Unit Date** 1870-1879**Text** 7 (box)**Container** 8 (folder)**Account Book****Unit Date** 1850-1862**Text** 8 (box)**Container** 1 (folder)**Account Book (Abstract of Water Rents Received)****Unit Date** 1852-1855**Text** 8 (box)**Container** 2 (folder)**Account Book****Unit Date** 1862-1865**Text** 8 (box)**Container** 3 (folder)**Dividend Payment Book****Unit Date** 1855-1887**Text** 8 (box)**Container** 4 (folder)**Unused account book****Text** 8 (box)**Container** 5 (folder)**Account Books****Unit Date** 1929-1937**Text** 9 (box)**Container** 1 (folder)**Series IV: Legal Documents****Unit Date** 1924-1948**Scope and Contents**

This series contains copies of contracts, deeds, and other legal agreements involving the water company.

103G:1 Document granting Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company the right to construct and maintain lines**Unit Date** 1917-04**Text** 10 (box)**Container** 1 (folder)**Agreement with Washington Railway Company****Unit Date** 1924**Text** 10 (box)**Container** 2 (folder)**Contract towards development of "Wilmar" subdivision**

Unit Date 1924
Text 10 (box)
Container 3 (folder)

Contract with St. Agnes School of Arlington
Unit Date 1926
Text 10 (box)
Container 4 (folder)

Contract for payment of meter rentals
Text 10 (box)
Container 5 (folder)

Documents regarding Occoquan Company and Washington Railway and Electric Company
Unit Date 1902, 1946-1947
Text 10 (box)
Container 6 (folder)

Deed regarding purchase of Occoquan Company
Unit Date 1948
Text 10 (box)
Container 7 (folder)

Certificate of Amendment of Charter
Unit Date 1948
Text 10 (box)
Container 8 (folder)

Agreement with Fidelity-Philadelphia Trust Company
Unit Date 1948
Text 10 (box)
Container 9 (folder)

Deeds with Potomac Electric Power Company
Unit Date 1948
Text 10 (box)
Container 10 (folder)

Documents about dissolution of Occoquan Company
Unit Date 1948
Text 10 (box)
Container 11 (folder)

Materials regarding Virginia Water Company
Unit Date 1948
Text 10 (box)
Container 12 (folder)

Documents filed with State Corporation Commission regarding Virginia Water Company and Occoquan Company

Unit Date 1948

Text 10 (box)

Container 13 (folder)

Series V: Company History/Photographs and Miscellaneous Items

Scope and Contents

This series contains two histories written about the Alexandria Water Company, as well as some photocopied photographs of various reservoirs and pump stations, and miscellaneous materials.

History of the Alexandria Water Company, 2 reports

Unit Date 1959-1988

Mixed Materials 11 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Photographs of St. Elmo's Reservoir, Cameron Run Station, and Taylor's Run

Unit Date 1927-1944

Mixed Materials 11 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Miscellaneous materials pertaining to City of Alexandria

Mixed Materials 11 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

News clippings

Unit Date 1956-01-1956-12

Mixed Materials 11 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

News clippings

Unit Date 1957-01-1957-12

Mixed Materials 11 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Franchise map

Unit Date 1966

Mixed Materials 11 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

Miscellaneous Company records and documents

Mixed Materials 11 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

Photos #1-5

Graphic Materials 15 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Photos #6-11

Graphic Materials 15 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Photos #12-13**Graphic Materials** 15 (box)**Container** 3 (folder)**Photos #14-26****Graphic Materials** 15 (box)**Container** 4 (folder)**Photos #27-31****Graphic Materials** 15 (box)**Container** 5 (folder)**Photos #32-45****Graphic Materials** 15 (box)**Container** 6 (folder)**Photos #46-48****Graphic Materials** 15 (box)**Container** 7 (folder)**Photos #49-64****Graphic Materials** 15 (box)**Container** 8 (folder)**Photos #65-70****Graphic Materials** 15 (box)**Container** 9 (folder)**Photos #71-79****Graphic Materials** 15 (box)**Container** 10 (folder)**Photos #80-108****Graphic Materials** 15 (box)**Container** 11 (folder)**Photos #109-161****Graphic Materials** 15 (box)**Container** 12 (folder)**file****Graphic Materials** 15 (box)**Container** 13 (folder)**Series VI: Drawings and Sketches****Scope and Contents**

This series contains engineer's sketches and drawings of property and pipelines

Engineer's sketches of streets, pipe layout, and equipment

Unit Date 1920

Text 12 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Engineer's sketches

Text 12 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Engineer's sketches

Text 12 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Large drawings and blueprints; oversized documents

Text 13 (box)

Virginia American Water Company - xerox of photographs found in photograph collection

Text 14 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Annual Report for Virginia Water Company

Unit Date 1952

Text 14 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Depreciation of account files

Unit Date 1920-12

Text 14 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Appraisal and depreciation of company plants

Unit Date 1906-11

Text 14 (box)

Container 4 (folder)