

A Guide to the State Records Film Collection, 1948-1986

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A Collection in the Library of Virginia 43563
Library of Virginia
2008

History

Processed by: D. Chalfant

Title Statement

A Guide to the State Records Film Collection, 1948-1986

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Profile Description

Creation: Machine-readable finding aid derived from being created directly into EAD, created by D. Chalfant, 2008

Language Usage: Description is in English

Descriptive Summary

Accession number

43563

Language

English

Creator

The Library of Virginia

Physical Characteristics

78 16mm reel [63 titles].

Location

Library of Virginia; State Records Center

Repository

Library of Virginia

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

Films produced by state agencies and select other films have been reformatted and are available via the links below. For preservation purposes, patrons may not view the original film.

Use Restrictions

Films created by private companies are under copyright. Patrons must obtain permission from the production company to reproduce or reformat these films. Costs associated with the transfer of any film titles lacking an access copy will be borne by the patron.

Acquisition Information

These materials came to the Library of Virginia in 2007 by internal transfer under accession number 43563.

Processing Information

These 16mm motion picture films have been organized into an artificial collection by format. The exact provenance of each title is unknown, but most are believed to have originated as part of the Virginia State Library Film Lending Library or the Department of Education Film Production Service. A significant, but unspecified, number of films were deaccessioned and destroyed during processing due to condition or redundancy.

Around 2016, twelve of the films in this collection were digitized and added to the the Library of Virginia YouTube channel under the State Government Collection playlist. Individual links to the digitized films can be found in the contents list.

Encoded by D. Chalfant: 2008; updated by V. Brooks, January 2026.

Preferred Citation

State Records Film Collection, 1948-1986. Accession 43563. State government records collection, The Library of Virginia, Richmond, Va. 23219.

Historical Information

This finding aid describes an artificial collection created by format. The collection has two primary sources, the Virginia State Library's(now Library of Virginia) Film Lending Library and the Department of Education's Film Production Service. The state library's film lending library was created in 1962 to provide access to Virginia public libraries to borrow "cultural and educational" motion pictures. These film could be screened by the library or by local organizations such as civic groups, scout troops, or clubs. By administrative agreement with the State Budget Office, the library lending program was prohibited from lending films to educational institutions such as day care centers, elementary or high schools, or colleges and universities in order to avoid duplicating the work of the Department of Education. The state library's collection of films was to be built "with the clientele of the public library in mind." For budgetary reasons, the Virginia State Library eliminated the film lending program in 1992. Following the cancellation of the program, some titles from the film library were transferred to the Archives Department.

In 1945, the Virginia General Assembly appropriated \$100,000 to the Board of Education for "production of motion picture films of historical sites, objects and scenes, and natural resources distinctive to Virginia" (Acts of Assembly, Extra 1945, Chapter 78, Item 13). The Superintendent of Public Instruction hired a director to establish a motion picture program. Initially, the staff explored contracting with a firm to create the film, but that was soon deemed to be too expensive. It was decided to hire a staff and purchase equipment to produce the films in-house. The staff was organized within the Education Department as the Film Production Service. In its 40 year existence as a department, the Film Production Service created 100 16mm films, numerous filmstrips, and educational slides which were distributed to primary and secondary schools and colleges and universities throughout the commonwealth. Some Film Production Service films were also acquired by school systems in other states, as well as distributed overseas with foreign language soundtracks by the Federal government.

Scope and Content

The collection consists of 16mm motion picture films created by the Virginia Department of Education's for K-12 classroom education and for documentary purposes. Films include works produced by the Virginia Department of Education as well as variety of state and national production companies. Highlights include a promotional film documenting the opening the Wise County Public Library and the Virginia Bicentennial Commission production of "The Past is Prologue." Some of the films have been digitized and are available on the Library of Virginia's YouTube channel. Click here to access these films: [State Government Records Collection](#), or see links below to specific films.

Arrangement

For descriptive purposes, the collection has been divided into two series:

- Series I: Virginia State Library Film Lending Library Films, 1950-1986, n.d.
- Series II: Virginia Department of Education Film Production Service Films, 1948-1980, n.d.

Contents List

Series I: Virginia State Film Lending Library Films, 1950-1986, n.d..

Extent

Extent: 67 16mm films, 56 titles.

Scope and Content

16mm motion picture films purchased by the Virginia State Library for its Film Lending Library.

Arrangement

Alphabetical by title.

And You May Find It Virginia, 1977.

Barcode number 1179937, 1179965 (box)

Extent

28 minutes, 2 copies

Scope and Content

Produced/Distributed by: Colony Productions.

Behold Virginia, 1965.

Barcode number 1179940-1179941 (box)

Extent

27 minutes, 2 copies

Scope and Content

Produced/Distributed by: Commonwealth Films, Inc.

Blue Ridge Parkway, 1968.

Barcode number 1179944 (box)

Extent

30 minutes

Scope and Content

Produced/Distributed by: Walter J. Klein, Ltd.

Booker T. Washington, The Life and the Legacy, 1981.

Barcode number 1179988 (box)

Extent

30 minutes

Scope and Content

Produced/Distributed by: United States National Audiovisual Center.

Books and People, n.d..

Barcode number 1179956 (box)

Extent

14 minutes

Scope and Content

Produced/Distributed by: Unknown.

Charlie's Fame, n.d..

Barcode number 1179979 (box)

Extent

16 minutes

Scope and Content

Produced/Distributed by: MGM.

Chesapeake Borne Part I, 1986.

Barcode number 1179931 (box)

Extent

59 minutes

Scope and Content

Produced/Distributed by: National Geographic Society.

Chesapeake Borne Part II, 1986.

Barcode number 1179932,1179991 (box)

Extent

59 minutes, 2 copies

Scope and Content

Produced/Distributed by: National Geographic Society.

Chesapeake Horizons, 1983.

Barcode number 1179983 (box)

Extent

30 minutes

Scope and Content

Produced/Distributed by: Chesapeake Bay Foundation.

Documentary exploring the environmental problems of the Chesapeake Bay and the impact of these problems on the livelihoods of area residents and recreational users.

Click here to access the film: [Chesapeake Horizons](#)

Chesapeake - The Twilight Estuary, n.d..

Barcode number 1179938 (box)

Scope and Content

Produced/Distributed by: Unknown.

Clara Barton, 1978.

Barcode number 1179969 (box)

Extent

25 minutes

Scope and Content

Produced/Distributed by: Handel Film Corp.

The Common Heritage - Tennessee, n.d..

Barcode number 1179957 (box)

Extent

20 minutes

Scope and Content

Produced/Distributed by: Unknown.

Common Wealth of Women, 1984.

Barcode number 1179929 (box)

Extent

43 minutes

Scope and Content

Produced/Distributed by: Rudisill, Inc.

Documentary examining the roles of women in Virginia and their contributions to Virginia Society. Includes historical review and contemporary interviews.

Click here to access the film: [Common Wealth of Women](#)

Conway Thompson, Sculptor From Dry Bridge, 1976.

Barcode number 1179954 (box)

Extent

20 minutes

Scope and Content

Produced/Distributed by: Charlotte Schrader.

Eye of Thomas Jefferson, 1977.

Barcode number 1179981 (box)

Extent

27 minutes

Scope and Content

Produced/Distributed by: Guggenheim Productions, Inc.

George Mason, Parts 1 & 2, 1965.

Barcode number 1179974-1179975 (box)

Extent

48 minutes

Scope and Content

Produced/Distributed by: I.Q. Films.

George Washington Birthplace - A Childhood Place, 1975.

Barcode number 1179960-1179961 (box)

Extent

13 minutes, 2 copies

Scope and Content

Produced/Distributed by: United States National Audiovisual Center.

George Washington's Mount Vernon, 1973.

Barcode number 1179925 (box)

Extent

28 minutes

Scope and Content

Produced/Distributed by: Mount Vernon Ladies Association.

Governor's Conference on Expanding Public Library Service, 1971.

Barcode number 1179989 (box)

Scope and Content

Produced/Distributed by: Unknown.

Grant and Lee on the Civil War, 1977.

Barcode number 1179987 (box)

Extent

33 minutes

Scope and Content

Produced/Distributed by: Barr Films, Pasadena.

Hiking the Appalachian Trail, 1975.

Barcode number 1179970-1179971 (box)

Extent

30 minutes, 2 copies

Scope and Content

Produced/Distributed by: Walter J. Klein Co., Ltd.

Historic Garden Week in Virginia, n.d..

Barcode number 1179933 (box)

Scope and Content

Produced/Distributed by: Unknown.

The Holton Years, 1974.

Barcode number 1179923,1179977 (box)

Extent

29 minutes, 2 copies

Scope and Content

Produced/Distributed by: Commonwealth Films, Inc.

Documentary examining the administration of Virginia Governor Linwood Holton.

Click here to access the film: [Holton Years](#)

James Monroe - The Man and the Doctrine, 1972.

Barcode number 1179945 (box)

Extent

30 minutes

Scope and Content

Produced/Distributed by: Handel Film Corp.

Jamestown, 1975.

Barcode number 1179962 (box)

Extent

14 minutes

Scope and Content

Produced/Distributed by: United States National Audiovisual Center.

Jefferson's Monticello, 1969.

Barcode number 1179949-1179951 (box)

Extent

25 minutes, 3 copies

Scope and Content

Produced/Distributed by: Films Incorporated.

John Marshall, Parts 1 & 2, 1965.

Barcode number 1179958-1179959 (box)

Extent

48 minutes

Scope and Content

Produced/Distributed by: I.Q. Films.

Last Chance, 1979.

Barcode number 1179972 (box)

Extent

28 minutes

Scope and Content

Produced/Distributed by: Bullfrog Films, Inc.

Lee, the Virginian, 1962.

Barcode number 1179982 (box)

Extent

27 minutes

Scope and Content

Produced/Distributed by: McGraw-Hill Films.

Making Books, n.d..

Barcode number 0007400486 (box)

Extent

11 minutes

Scope and Content

Produced/Distributed by: Encyclopaedia Britannica Films.

Mount Vernon in Virginia, 1950.

Barcode number 1179952 (box)

Extent

22 minutes

Scope and Content

Produced/Distributed by: McGraw-Hill Films.

Mr. Jefferson's Legacy, 1976.

Barcode number 1179997 (box)

Extent

29 minutes

Scope and Content

Produced/Distributed by: Guggenheim Productions, Inc.

Oaksie, n.d..

Barcode number 1179968 (box)

Scope and Content

Produced/Distributed by: Unknown.

On the Road Virginia, n.d..

Barcode number 1179980 (box)

Scope and Content

Produced/Distributed by: Unknown.

Opportunity Unlimited, n.d..**Scope and Content**

Produced/Distributed by: Unknown.

Parkway Promise, Part 1 & 2, n.d..

Barcode number 1179948, 1179996 (box)

Extent

28 minutes

Scope and Content

Produced/Distributed by: Mirage Productions.

The Resolve of Patrick Henry, 1956.

Barcode number 1179946 (box)

Extent

27 minutes

Scope and Content

Produced/Distributed by: McGraw-Hill Films.

Richmond Remembers 200 Years, 1980.

Barcode number 1179964 (box)

Extent

30 minutes

Scope and Content

Produced/Distributed by: United Virginia Bank.

Documentary highlighting 200 years of Richmond, Virginia, history. Includes dramatizations and is narrated by Earl Hamner.

Click here to access the film: [Richmond Remembers 200 Years film](#)

Surrender At Appomattox, Part 2, 1972.

Barcode number 1179927 (box)

Extent

52 minutes

Scope and Content

Produced/Distributed by: Guggenheim Productions, Inc.

These States 1 - The New England States, 1975.

Barcode number 1179936 (box)

Extent

30 minutes

Scope and Content

Produced/Distributed by: Macmillan Films, Inc.

These States 2 - The Middle Atlantic States, 1975.

Barcode number 1179935 (box)

Extent

30 minutes

Scope and Content

Produced/Distributed by: Macmillan Films, Inc.

These States 3 - The Southern States, 1975.

Barcode number 1179934 (box)

Extent

30 minutes

Scope and Content

Produced/Distributed by: Macmillan Films, Inc.

Tom Savage - Boy of Early Virginia, 1958.

Barcode number 1179966 (box)

Extent

22 minutes

Scope and Content

Produced/Distributed by: Encyclopedia Britannica Corp.

The True Story of the Civil War, 1956.

Barcode number 1179984 (box)

Extent

33 minutes

Scope and Content

Produced/Distributed by: McGraw-Hill Films.

U.S. Grant - I Remember Appomattox, 1976.

Barcode number 1179978 (box)

Extent

17 minutes

Scope and Content

Produced/Distributed by: Coronet Films.

United States Geography - The Upper South, n.d..

Barcode number 1179930 (box)

Extent

26 minutes

Scope and Content

Produced/Distributed by: National Geographic Society.

Victory at Yorktown, 1975.

Barcode number 1179947 (box)

Extent

13 minutes

Scope and Content

Produced/Distributed by: United States National Audiovisual Center.

Virginia's Flying Colors, n.d..

Barcode number 1179995 (box)

Extent

27 minutes

Scope and Content

Produced/Distributed by: Virginia Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries.

Documentary taking a look at the many species of birds that make Virginia their home.

Click here to access the film: [Virginia's Flying Colors](#)

Virginia: The Pursuit of Happiness, 1975.

Barcode number 1179926 (box)

Scope and Content

Produced/Distributed by: Unknown.

Presented in Commemoration of Our Nation's Bicentennial to the Commonwealth of Virginia by First and Merchants Corporation, April 28 1975

Virginia: The Past As Prologue, 1973.

Barcode number 1179942-1179943 (box)

Extent

28 minutes, 2 copies

Scope and Content

Produced/Distributed by: Virginia Independence Bicentennial Commission.

Wise County Public Library, 1960.

Barcode number 1183193, 1179924 (box)

Extent

10 minutes, 2 copies

Scope and Content

Produced/Distributed by: Virginia State Library.

Wolf Trap, 1975.**Extent**

minutes

Scope and Content

Produced/Distributed by:

Wolf Trap, 1975.

Barcode number 1179973 (box)

Extent

28 minutes

Scope and Content

Produced/Distributed by: United States National Audiovisual Center.

Yorktown, 1983.

Barcode number 1179967 (box)

Extent

30 minutes

Scope and Content

Produced/Distributed by: Phoenix Films, Inc.

Series II: Virginia Department of Education Film Production Service Films, 1948-1980, n.d..

Extent

Extent: 11 16mm films, 7 titles.

Scope and Content

16mm motion picture films produced and distributed by the Department of Education's Film Production Service for classroom use.

Arrangement

Alphabetical by title.

Character of Lee, 1962.

Barcode number 1179963, 1179992 (box)

Extent

16 minutes, 2 copies

Scope and Content

Produced/Distributed by: Virginia Department of Education Film Production Service.

Documentary examining the life of General Robert E. Lee and his contributions to the Civil War and restoration efforts.

Click here to access the film: [Character of Lee](#)

Jamestown, A Place of Beginnings, 1958.

Barcode number 1179994 (box)

Extent

21 minutes

Scope and Content

Produced/Distributed by: Virginia Department of Education Film Production Service.

Documentary examining the history of Jamestown from its beginnings in 1607 as the first permanent English settlement in America through its 90 years of prominence. Include dramatization of events.

Click here to access the film: [Jamestown, A Place of Beginnings](#)

Jefferson of Monticello, 1948.

Barcode number 1183195 (box)

Extent

18 minutes

Scope and Content

Produced/Distributed by: Virginia Department of Education Film Production Service.

Dramatization of the life and contributions of Thomas Jefferson as seen through Jefferson's eyes as he recalls events and visits historical landmarks.

Click here to access the film: [Jefferson of Monticello](#)

Manassas to Appomattox, 1965.

Barcode number 1179955, 1179986, 1179999 (box)

Extent

30 minutes, 3 copies

Scope and Content

Produced/Distributed by: Virginia Department of Education Film Production Service.

Documentary exploring the role of Virginia in the Civil War.

Click here to access the film: [Manassas to Appomattox](#)

Pony Penning on Chincoteague, 1955.

Barcode number 7653698 (box)

Extent

24 minutes

Scope and Content

Produced/Distributed by: Virginia Department of Education Film Production Service.

Documentary about the Chincoteague Pony Penning Day, which began in 1924 when the Chincoteague Volunteer Fire Company first rounded up ponies on Assateague Island to auction off in order to raise money for fire equipment.

Click here to access the film: [Pony Penning on Chincoteague](#)

Stonewall Jackson's Way, n.d..

Barcode number 1179953, 1179993 (box)

Scope and Content

Produced/Distributed by: Virginia Department of Education Film Production Service.

Virginia's General Assembly, 1980.

Barcode number 1183194 (box)

Extent

14 minutes

Scope and Content

Produced/Distributed by: Virginia Department of Education Film Production Service.

Documentary examining the history and functions of the Virginia General Assembly. Narrated by Speaker of the House John Warren Cooke.

Click here to access the film: [Virginia's General Assembly](#)