

A Guide to the Opinions of the Attorney General Relating to Land Matters, 1791-1859

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1791-1859

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Descriptive Summary

Accession Number

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Language

English

Creator

Virginia. Office of the Attorney General

Extent

.1 cu. ft. (2 folders)

Repository

The Library of Virginia

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

There are no restrictions.

Use Restrictions

There are no restrictions.

Acquisition Information

Accession LOI 7 transferred by the Secretary of the Commonwealth, 1948.

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Virginia. Office of the Attorney General. Opinions of the Attorney General relating to land matters from the Virginia Land Office, 1791-1859. Accession Land Office inventory entry no. 7, State government records collection, The Library of Virginia, Archives Branch, Richmond, VA 23219.

Historical Information

The act which established the Land Office passed the General Assembly on 22 June 1779. The register was the head of the Office and was appointed by joint ballot of both houses of the legislature.

Scope and Content

The files in this series contain opinions from the attorney general in answer to questions relating to the award of military bounty land and in reply to requests from the register for answers to questions relating to various types of land problems.

Index Terms

Innes, James, 1754-1798.
Marshall, John, 1755-1835.
Nicholas, Philip Norborne, 1775?-1849.
Robertson, John W., 1787-1873.
Bocock, W. P. (Willis Perry), 1806-1887.
Lyons, James, 1801-1882.
Price, William, d. 1808.
Davis, Edward C.
Blagrove, Charles, d. 1814.
Pendleton, William G. (William Garland), 1788-1839.
Seldon, William.
Parker, Stafford H.
Leigh, B. W. (Benjamin Watkins), 1781-1849.
Hylton, Daniel L.
Brooke, George, 1728-1782.
Dew, Samuel, 1733-1810.
Mays, Fletcher H., 1802-1880.
Hobson, Nicholas.
Spencer, William.
Rogers, John.
Crawford, John.
Stockwell, Henry.
Caldwell, James.
Walkin, James.
Brambles, John.
Elliott, George.
Wood, Jonathan.

Corporate Names:

Virginia. Land Office

Subjects:

Attorneys general's opinions -- Virginia.
Bounties, Military -- Virginia.
Land grants -- Virginia.
Right of property -- Virginia.

Genre and Form Terms:

Legal instruments.
State government records.

Arrangement

This collection is arranged into the following series:

- Series I. Opinions of the Attorney General Relating to Land Matters, 1791-1859

Arranged by subject and chronologically.

Contents List

Opinions of the Attorney General Relating to Land Matters, 1791-1859.

Extent

Extent: 2 folders.

Opinions. Attorney General relating to military matters, 1807-1857.

Scope and Content

This file contains opinions from the attorney general in answer to questions relating to the award of military bounty land. These were issued in 1807, 1809-1810, 1831, 1834-1835, and 1857. Many of the cases involved the heirs of deceased claimants and their rights in claiming military bounty land. Specific cases referred to include those of Nicholas Hobson, William Spencer, Col. George Brooke, and Capt. John Rogers. Other opinions were given in regard to the land bounty for chaplains, surgeons, and surgeons mates; the service requirements for non-commissioned officers under the Act of 1779; whether land warrants should be considered as real or personal estate; and what date should be considered the end of the war for purposes of determining land claims. Correspondents in this file include Registers of the land office William Price, Edward C. Davis, Charles Blagrove, William Seldon, and Stafford H. Parker; Attorneys General Phillip Norborne Nicholas, John Robertson, and James Lyons; Richmond lawyer Benjamin W. Leigh; and Daniel L. Hylton, Clerk of the Council.

Opinions. Attorney General relating to land affairs, 1791-1859.

Scope and Content

The second file contains opinions presented by the attorney general in reply to requests from the register for answers to questions relating to various types of land problems. These opinions were given in the years 1791, 1794-1796, 1798, 1801, 1803, 1806, 1811-1812, 1814-1815, 1823, 1826, 1828, 1830, 1842, 1852, and 1859. The opinions given related to the receiving of surveys and issuing of grants; caveats attached to warrants; surveys lodged in the late secretary's office; and title investigations and resurveying. Some specific cases referred to include those of John Crawford, Henry Stockwell, James Caldwell, James Walkin, John Brambles, George Elliott, Jonathan Wood, Samuel Dew, and Fletcher H. Mays. Correspondents in this file include John Marshall, John W. Robertson, William Price, James Innes, Philip Norborne Nicholas, W. P. Bocock, and William Pendleton.

The final item is a letter from Virginia's congressional delegation to Jacob Thompson, Secretary of the Interior, objecting to a recent policy decision regarding the Scrip Act of 1852. The decision was contrary to opinions given by the Virginia attorney general and under which the commonwealth had been operating. The delegation complained that the given construction constituted a virtual repeal of the act; in the letter, they transcribed much of the act and analyzed the language and interpretation.