

A Guide to the Papers of Lewis Preston Summers 1814-1947

Papers of Lewis Preston Summers 1814-1947
1814-1947

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Descriptive Summary

Accession number

2781

Language

English

Abstract

The Papers of Lewis Preston Summers contain correspondence concerning genealogy, Virginia history, and politics; financial and legal records; book notes and manuscripts; photographs; a Ku Klux Klan file; voter lists, diaries, and speeches.

Physical Characteristics

ca. 20,500 items (50 Hollinger boxes and thirty-three 2M Ledgers, ca. 25 linear shelf feet)

Repository

Special Collections, University of Virginia Library

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

There are no restrictions.

Use Restrictions

See the [University of Virginia Library's use policy](#).

Acquisition Information

These papers were purchased from Andrew R. Summers, New York City, by the University of Virginia Library on March 15, 1965.

Preferred Citation

Lewis Preston Summers Papers, 1814-1947, Accession #2781, Special Collections Dept., University of Virginia Library, Charlottesville, Va.

Biographical/Historical Information

Lewis Preston Summers (1868-1943) was the son of John Calhoun and Nannie Montgomery (Preston) Summers. John C. Summers was a captain of the "Monroe Invincibles", Company A, 3rd Virginia Regiment, and major and lieutenant colonel, of the 60th Virginia Infantry. His mother was the daughter of John F. Preston, of Locust Glen, Washington County. Summers graduated from the Wytheville Male Academy (1886), the University of Virginia (1890-1893) in common and statute law, studying with Professor John B. Minor, and Tulane (1894-1895) civil law. He married Annie Katherine Barbee of Giles County, in 1897, and they had Gay White, Jane Douglas, Lewis Preston, Katharine Barbee, John Grant, Andrew Rowan, and Olivia Wirt.

Summers served as a railway postal clerk, on the route between Lynchburg, Virginia, and Bristol, Tennessee, and as the Abingdon postmaster, 1890-1894. He began his legal practice in Abingdon in 1895, was commonwealth attorney for Washington County (1904-1905), collector of internal revenue, Western district of Virginia (1905-1913), and appointed U.S. district attorney, by President Harding, in 1922, and member of the Virginia State Bar Association and Presbyterian Church. He was a member of the Republican district committee from the ninth Virginia district from 1894-1904 and elected a member of the Republican State executive committee on March 1904. Summers was also the chairman of the Walnut Grove Cemetery Association, Washington County, Virginia. The land upon which this historic cemetery was located was originally owned by Robert Preston, Sr. of Walnut Grove, whose wife, Margaret Rhea Preston, and mother, Eleanor Fairman Preston, established the cemetery. Several bound volumes pertaining to Walnut Grove and the Preston family are present in this collection.

Scope and Content Information

This collection consists of the papers of Lewis Preston Summers (1868-1943), a lawyer, genealogist, member of the Republican Party, and author of Abingdon, Virginia, containing correspondence concerning genealogy, the history of Southwest Virginia, and politics, especially local politics of the ninth Virginia district, Congressman Campbell Bascom Slemple, and applicants for political positions (1870-1943); financial and legal records for the newspaper *The Virginia Republican*, owned and edited by Summers; genealogical and historical research notes; and setting copies, galleys, page proofs, and drafts, of manuscripts for his books, *Annals of Southwest Virginia* and *History of Southwest Virginia*, and the unpublished *Southwest Virginia in the World War*.

Other materials include photographs; news clippings and printed; World War I History Commission papers, kept by Summers, who was the chairman of the Washington County Virginia War History Commission, including correspondence, military service records of men serving from Southwest Virginia, arranged alphabetically, photographs of soldiers and scenes, and related material; bound volumes, especially several pertaining to the Preston family of Walnut Grove, Washington County; a file on the Ku Klux Klan (Box 22); lists of voters; memorabilia; speeches by Lewis Preston Summers; invitations; the original and typescript copy of the journal of Hugh Johnston (Box 25); land plots; and papers concerning the Walnut Grove Cemetery Association, for the preservation of the historic Walnut Grove Presbyterian Church Cemetery, four miles east of Bristol, Washington County, Virginia (Box 32).

Photographs of men who appear as illustrations in *History of Southwest Virginia* (see Box 26, Photographs of

Distinguished Men of Washington County & Southwest Virginia) include: Charles W. Alderson; David F. Bailey; Charles S. Bekem; Henry Bowen; Rees T. Bowen; B.F. Buchanan; John A. Buchanan; Joseph M. Butt; Joseph T. Campbell; David B. Clark; C.H. Clung; Charles B. Coale; the Rev. Lewis F. Cosby; Judge David C. Cummings; Joseph Draper; David C. Dunn; Samuel P. Edmondson; Benjamin Estill; John B. Floyd; Isaac Chapman Fowler; Colonel Abram Fulkerson; Judge F.V. Fulkerson; Andrew S. Fulton; George Graham; Robert E. Grant; James S. Greever; A.J. Huff; Francis B. Hutton; Charles H. Jennings; John W. Johnston; General William E. Jones; Judge John A. Kelly; E.S. Kendrick; Selden Longley; J.W. Mort; Fayette McMullen; John W. Price; Andrew F. Rambo; James B. Richmond; E.L. Roberts; John Roberts; John P. Sheffey; Campbell Slemper; Alexander Smyth; L.H. Snodgrass; Charles W. Steele; John C. Summers; William Terry; W.H. Tomney; Connally F. Trigg; James A. Walker; George W. Ward, Jr.

Organization

This collection is arranged in seven series:

Series I: Manuscripts of Books by Lewis Preston Summers (Boxes 1-10)

Series II: Correspondence re Genealogy (Boxes 11- 14)

Series III: Papers re *The Virginia Republican* Newspaper (Boxes 15-16)

Series IV: Political Correspondence & Related Papers (Boxes 16-25)

Series V: Research Notes & Miscellaneous Files (Boxes 25- 32)

Series VI: World War I History Commission Papers (Boxes 32-36)

Series VII: Bound Ledgers, Scrapbooks & Other Volumes (Boxes 37-50, including Ledgers & Oversize Boxes S-49 & M-18)

Contents List

Manuscripts of Books by Lewis Preston Summers

Annals of Southwest Virginia pages 1-1000 1929

Box 1

Extent 5 folders; setting copy

Annals of Southwest Virginia, pages 1001-1984 1929

Box 2

Extent 5 folders; setting copy

Annals of Southwest Virginia, Author's First Proof 1929

Box 3

Extent 5 folders; galleys

Annals of Southwest Virginia, Author's First Proof, pages 1-330 1929 Jun 29

Box 3

Extent page proof

Annals of Southwest Virginia, Author's First Proof, pages 331 to the end, including an index 1929 Jun 29

Box 4

Extent 4 folders; page proof

Annals of Southwest Virginia- Miscellaneous Court Records ca. 1929

Box 4

Extent 2 folders

Annals of Southwest Virginia- Miscellaneous Court Records ca. 1929

Box 5

Extent 6 folders

Annals of Southwest Virginia- Journal of Dr. Thomas Walker 1929

Box 6

Annals of Southwest Virginia- Botetourt County 1929

Box 6

Extent 2 folders

Annals of Southwest Virginia- Fincastle County 1929

Box 6

Annals of Southwest Virginia- Montgomery County 1929

Box 6

Annals of Southwest Virginia- Revolutionary Soldiers 1929

Box 6

Annals of Southwest Virginia- Washington County & Minutes of its County Court 1929

Box 6

Extent 2 folders

Annals of Southwest Virginia- Wythe County 1929

Box 6

Annals of Southwest Virginia- Illustrations 1929

Box 7

Extent galleys; page proofs

Annals of Southwest Virginia- Illustrations 1929

Box 7

Extent photographs

History of Southwest Virginia- Outline History of Virginia, Errata, & Introduction 1903

Box 7

Extent 2 folders

History of Southwest Virginia- Chapters 1-6 Fincastle County 1903

Box 7

Extent 5 folders

History of Southwest Virginia- Chapters 6 The Revolution through Chapter 9 1903

Box 8

Extent 6 folders

History of Southwest Virginia- Chapter 10 & Boundaries of Washington County 1903

Box 9

Extent 3 folders

History of Southwest Virginia, numbered with blue pencil, incomplete ca. 1903

Box 9

Extent 3 folders

History of Southwest Virginia- Miscellaneous Drafts [pre 1903]

Box 10

Extent 3 folders

Southwest Virginia in World War- Unpublished & Incomplete Typescript ca. 1947

Box 10

Correspondence re Genealogy

Correspondence re the Genealogy and History of Southwest Virginia 1901-1929 Sep

Box 11

Extent 6 folders

Correspondence re the Genealogy and History of Southwest Virginia 1929 Oct-1931 Dec

Box 12

Extent 6 folders

Correspondence re the Genealogy and History of Southwest Virginia 1932-1938

Box 13

Extent 7 folders

Correspondence re the Genealogy and History of Southwest Virginia 1939-1943, n.d.

Box 14

Extent 7 folders

Papers re The Virginia Republican Newspaper

Financial & Legal Papers - The Virginia Republican 1901-1916

Box 15

Extent 7 folders

Financial & Legal Papers - The Virginia Republican 1922-1926, 1938-1942, n.d.

Box 16

Extent 3 folders

Financial & Legal Papers - The Virginia Republican- Account Book 1907-1912

Box 16

Political Correspondence & Related Papers

Ballots ca. 1914-1936

Box 16

Correspondence 1901-1905 Mar

Box 16

Extent 3 folders

Correspondence 1905 Apr-Nov

Box 17

Extent 8 folders

Correspondence 1906-1910

Box 18

Extent 6 folders

Correspondence 1911-1913

Box 19

Extent 7 folders

Correspondence 1914-1916

Box 20

Extent 7 folders

Correspondence 1917-1943, n.d.

Box 21

Extent 9 folders

County Republican Committee Members ca. 1913-1922

Box 22

Finances ca. 1905-1924

Box 22

Ku Klux Klan 1924

Box 22

Lists of Candidates and Delegates ca. 1905-1917

Box 22

Lists of Voters 1904, 1907-1920

Box 22

Extent 5 folders

Lists of Voters 1918-1923, n.d.

Box 23

Extent 5 folders

Lists of Voters of Washington County 1910

Box 23

Extent 1 of 5 folders

Lists of Voters of Washington County 1910

Box 24

Extent 4 folders

Minutes of Meetins & Reports ca. 1885-1939

Box 24

Miscellaneous & Memorabilia ca, 1904-1913

Box 24

News clippings & Press Releases ca. 1904-1924

Box 24

Precinct Poll Books ca. 1914-1917

Box 25

Proxies for Meetings of the Republican County Committee 1912-1914

Box 25

Speaking Appointments n.d.

Box 25

Voter Registration Forms ca. 1906-1915

Box 25

Voting Tallies ca. 1849-1916

Box 25

Research Notes & Miscellaneous Files

Historical Societies - Papers & Certificates of Membership 1921-1944

Box 25

Invitations 1915-1938, n.d.

Box 25

Journal of Hugh Johnston & Typescripts of Extracts from his Diary 1866-1867

Box 25

Letter of Thomas White, Cross Roads, Maryland, to Richard White, Abingdon, Virginia 1814 Nov 15

Box 25

Miscellaneous Papers ca. 1909-1938

Box 25

News clippings re Genealogy & History 1901-1943

Box 25

Photographs ca. 1890-1915

Box 26

Photographs of "Distinguished Men of Washington County & Southwest Virginia" [ca. 1903]

Box 26

Postcards n.d.

Box 26

Research Notes n.d.

Box 26

Research Notes re Abingdon, Virginia 1930-1946, n.d.

Box 26

Extent 2 folders

Research Notes re Acts of the House of Burgesses n.d.

Box 27

Research Notes re the Battle of Kings Mountain ca. 1938

Box 27

Research Notes re Biographies 1903, n.d.

Box 27

Extent 2 folders

Research Notes re Bristol, Virginia n.d.

Box 27

Research Notes re Civil War n.d.

Box 27

Research Notes re Churches & Religion ca. 1887-1943

Box 27

Research Notes re Court Records 1937-1938, n.d.

Box 27

Research Notes re Education 1865, 1903, n.d.

Box 28

Research Notes re Executives of Virginia, Representatives, Senators, & Local Officers and Officials n.d.

Box 28

Research Notes re Genealogy 1914-1943, n.d.

Box 28

Extent 2 folders

Research Notes re the Judiciary 1909, 1941, n.d.

Box 28

Research Notes re Lawyers of Southwest Virginia n.d.

Box 28

Research Notes re the Local Board for Washington County and Bristol, Virginia, in World War I 1917-1918, n.d.

Box 29

Research Notes re Marriages n.d.

Box 29

Research Notes re Masonic Lodge, Abingdon n.d.

Box 29

Research Notes re Military Officers & Soldiers 1901, n.d.

Box 29

Research Notes re Miscellaneous 1903, n.d.

Box 29

Extent 2 folders

Research Notes re Revolutionary Records 1897, 1901, n.d.

Box 29

Research Notes re Speeches by Andrew Moore 1938

Box 30

Research Notes re Tennessee n.d.

Box 30

Research Notes re Transcripts of Letters concerning Southwest Virginia n.d.

Box 30

Extent 2 folders

Research Notes re Virginia Members of the House of Representatives 1901-1936, n.d.

Box 30

Research Notes re Washington County 1901, n.d.

Box 30

Speeches by Lewis Preston Summers 1916-1943, n.d.

Box 30

Speeches by Lewis Preston Summers 1938-1941, n.d.

Box 31

Speeches by Others 1905, 1923

Box 31

Subscription & Address Lists 1902-1931, n.d.

Box 31

Extent 3 folders

Walnut Grove Cemetary Association 1929-1943, n.d.

Box 32

World War I History Commission Papers

Correspondence ca. 1919-1942, n.d.

Box 32

Extent 3 folders

Military Service Records A-B ca. 1917-1922

Box 32

Extent 2 folders

Military Service Records C-J ca. 1917-1930

Box 33

Extent 9 folders

Military Service Records K-V ca. 1917-1931

Box 34

Extent 10 folders

Military Service Records W ca. 1921-1922

Box 35

Papers & Related Material n.d.

Box 35

Photographs of World War I Soldiers & Scenes ca. 1916-1925

Box 35

Typescripts of Letters from Soldiers to their families during World War I ca. 1918-1919

Box 35

Southwest Virginia in the World War by Lewis Preston Summers 1931

Box 36

Scope and Content

Bound Typescript with photographs, post cards, and news clippings bound in

Bound Ledgers, Scrapbooks & Other Volumes

Invoice Book of Robert Preston 1794-1806

Box 37

Daybook 1796

Box 37

Walnut Grove Daybook 1800-1807

Box 37

Walnut Grove Ledger, belonging to Robert Preston, with index 1802-1803

Box 38

Daybook 1805-1832

Box 38

Invoice Book belonging to Robert Preston 1816-1824

Box 38

Walnut Grove Daybook, belonging to Robert Preston 1819-1825

Box 38

Elizabethton Daybooks 1819-1820

Box 39

Extent 2 volumes

Cashbook belonging to John C. Summers 1877-1878

Box 40

Key & Box Book 1893-1894

Box 40

Ledger ca. 1894

Box 40

Extent foldered

Scrapbook of News clippings, belonging to Lewis Preston Summers ca. 1897-1918

Box 40

"Registered Voters with Politics & Address 9th Virginia District" 1904

Box 41

Subscription Receipt Book 1923-1924

Box 41

Freight Receipt Book ca. 1903-1904

Box 42

Virginia Press, Circulation Department Record Book 1904-1905

Box 42

Rental Contracts & Correspondence re History & Genealogy ca. 1909-1928

Box 43

Records re Building belonging to Lewis Preston Summers, including Correspondence, Contracts, Receipts & Purchases 1875-1912

Box 43

Records re Building belonging to Lewis Preston Summers, including Correspondence, Contracts, Receipts & Purchases 1909-1911

Box 44

Extent 2 volumes

Letterbook of Lewis Preston Summers with recommendations for U.S. Attorney (1904) and Nomination as Governor of Virginia (1909) 1904 & 1909

Box 45

Letterbook of Lewis Preston Summers re Politics & Personal Affairs 1905-1909

Box 45

Letterbook of Lewis Preston Summers re Politics, History & Genealogy/Political Scrapbook/ and Records re Buildings belonging to Lewis Preston Summers ca. 1893-1915

Box 46

Scrapbook of News clippings ca. 1880-1904

Box 46

Letterbook of Lewis Preston Summers re Politics, History & Genealogy ca. 1906-1911

Box 47

Letterbook of Lewis Preston Summers re Politics, History & Genealogy ca. 1916-1928

Box 47

Letterbook of Lewis Preston Summers re Politics, History & Genealogy, with index ca. 1909-1929

Box 48

Extent 1 bound volume

Letterbook of Lewis Preston Summers re Politics, History & Genealogy, with index ca. 1909-1929

Box 48

Extent folders 1-2 of 3

Letterbook of Lewis Preston Summers re Politics, History & Genealogy, with index ca. 1909-1929

Box 49

Extent folder 3 of 3

Ledger with index, belonging to Lewis Preston Summers ca. 1908-1919

Box 49

Financial Records of the "Adopted Sons & Daughters of Zion" ca. 1911-1915

Box 49

Abingdon Publishing Company Ledger, with index ca. 1923-1925

Box 50

List of Revolutionary Soldiers from Southwest Virginia, compiled by Lewis Preston Summers n.d.

Box 50

Walnut Grove Ledger, with partial index 1804-1805

Walnut Grove Ledger 1806-1811

Walnut Grove Journal 1811-1819

Ledger belonging to Robert Preston 1813-1825

Ledger for merchandise 1823-1826

Blountville Daybook 1824-1825

Ledger for merchandise 1838-1846

Extent damaged

Scrapbook ca. 1864-1930

Minutes Book of the Republican Congressional District Committee 9th Virginia District; also a political scrapbook 1883-1912

Letter book of Correspondence re Summers' History of Southwest Virginia

1903-1905

List of Voters in Giles County - Pearisburg & Walkers Creek Districts 1903-1908

List of Voters in Russell County - New Garden, Castlewood, & Copper Creek Districts ca. 1903-1908

List of Voters in Washington County - Abingdon District ca. 1904

List of Voters in Washington County - Abingdon District ca. 1908-1913

List of Voters in Washington County - Glade Spring District ca. 1904

List of Voters in Washington County - Glade Spring & Holston Districts 1904-1910

List of Voters in Washington County - Goodson District 1902-1910

List of Voters in Washington County - Goodson District ca. 1912-1918

List of Voters in Washington County - Holston District ca. 1906-1911

List of Voters in Washington County - Holston District ca. 1912-1918

List of Voters in Washington County - Kinderhook District ca. 1908-1913

List of Voters in Washington County - Kinderhook District ca. 1912-1918

List of Voters in Washington County - North Fork District ca. 1908-1913

List of Voters in Washington County - North Fork District ca. 1912-1918

List of Voters in Washington County - North Fork, Goodson, & Kinderhook Districts ca. 1903-1908

List of Voters in Washington County - North Fork, Goodson, & Kinderhook Districts 1919-1925

List of Voters in Washington County - North Fork, Goodson, & Kinderhook Districts ca. 1923-1929

List of Voters in Washington County - Saltville District 1904,1912-1918

List of Voters in Washington County - Saltville District 1908-1913

List of Voters in Washington County - Saltville, North Fork, & Abingdon Districts 1919-1925

Guest Register Book for the Hotel Dagmar, Abingdon, Virginia ca. 1912-1913

[Voter Register?] (mostly empty) n.d.

List of Voters in Goodson, North Fork, Abingdon, and Kinderhook, Washington County ca. 1907-1925

Oversize S-49 (Box)

Extent 2 volumes

2 Unidentified Plats n.d.

Oversize M-18 (Box)

Special Collections, University of Virginia Library