



Guide to the Charles L. Abernethy Sr. papers, 1713-1972, bulk 1907-1959

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David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library

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Summary

Collection Title:

Charles L. Abernethy Sr. papers, 1713-1972, 1907-1959

Abstract:

Charles L. Abernethy, Sr. (1872-1955) was a Democratic Congressman representing eastern North Carolina from 1922-1935. His professional papers consist chiefly of correspondence and records from his law practice and legal cases, with smaller amounts of writings and speeches, financial papers, printed materials, diaries, and some personal papers, including early deeds. There is also a large group of photographs, photo albums, and clippings scrapbooks chiefly documenting Abernethy's political career. One album from 1907 contains postcards of Beaufort, N.C.; another contains photographs of a three-month Congressional trip to Alaska, 1923, and includes images of President and Mrs. Harding and a diary transcript of the trip. Other items include some papers of his son, Charles Laban Abernethy, Jr., also a lawyer, and a volume of his poetry.

Extent:

85 Linear Feet (160 boxes; 2 oversize folders)

Language:

English .

Collection ID:

RL.11844

Permalink:

<https://idn.duke.edu/ark:/87924/m17p4v>

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Charles L. Abernethy, Sr. papers, David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Duke University.

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Background

Scope and Content

The collection principally comprises a large series of correspondence and legal records accumulated by North Carolina lawyer and politician Charles L.

Abernethy, Sr. during his tenure as U.S. Congressman. There are papers relating to the senior Abernethy's law practice and business dealings in Beaufort and New Bern, N.C. (including legal papers concerning land development in Carteret County, Cape Lookout, and Horse Island maintained by both father and son).

Other materials include deeds and other early papers, political speeches, newspaper clippings and scrapbooks of Abernethy's political career, a diary, and the Abernethy coat-of-arms. There are also papers assembled by Abernethy's son, Charles L. Abernethy, Jr., a lawyer in his father's firm, and a volume of his poetry.

A large group of photographs and albums includes a photograph album containing snapshots the elder Abernethy took during a congressional trip to Alaska for three months of 1923 (including photographs of President and Mrs. Harding), as well as a typescript of his diary from the trip; and an album containing postcards of Beaufort, N.C. in 1907, featuring a celebration of either the 200th anniversary of the town's founding or the opening of passenger and rail service to the town (or both).

Biographical/Historical

Charles Laban Abernethy, Sr., was born in Burke County, North Carolina in 1872. Educated at UNC-Chapel Hill, he practiced law in Beaufort and New Bern, N.C., then was elected as a Democratic U.S. Congressman representing eastern N.C., serving from 1922 to 1935. He became known especially for his efforts to establish the Intracoastal Waterway in N.C. Charles Laban Abernethy, Jr., his son (1899-1968), was also a lawyer. In the early 20th century, the family resided in Beaufort, then moved to New Bern around 1913. The senior Abernethy suffered from mental illness late in life, and was committed to state institutions. His son became his legal guardian until the elder's death in 1955.

[Sources: Wikipedia, NCPedia, accessed May 2020]

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Arrangement

Arranged in the following five series: Correspondence; Writings and Speeches; Law Practice and Legal Papers; Financial; Printed Materials and Other Papers; and Photographs, Albums, and Scrapbooks.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Access Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

Use Restrictions

The copyright interests in this collection have not been transferred to Duke University. For more information, consult the copyright section of the Regulations and Procedures of the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library.

Acquisition Information

The Charles L. Abernethy Sr. papers were acquired by the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library as a gift in 1970 and 1983.

Processing Information

Collection was given core-level processing by library staff.

Collection guide created from inventory by Paula Jeannet, May 2020.

This collection guide was created or updated with information provided by donors or external parties, and box or file lists have not been verified by Rubenstein Library staff. Errors may be present and can be reported to AskRL@duke.edu.

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Related Materials

Related Material

Related collection: [Charles Laban Abernethy, Jr. papers, 1842-1970](#), East Carolina University, J. Y. Joyner Library, Greenville, North Carolina.

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Names and Subjects

- Lawyers -- North Carolina -- Correspondence
- Legislators -- North Carolina
- Legislators -- United States
- Politicians -- North Carolina -- Correspondence
- Beaufort (N.C.) -- Photographs
- Carteret County (N.C.) -- History
- Craven County (N.C.) -- History
- New Bern (N.C.) -- History
- North Carolina -- Politics and government -- 1865-1950
- Black-and-white photographs
- Diaries
- Photograph albums
- Postcard albums
- Scrapbooks

Collection Inventory

Correspondence, 1915-1959 and undated

Physical Description: 98 boxes

Papers, various printed materials, unsorted	Box 1
1915-1916	Box 2
1917-1922	Box 3
1923 January-February	Box 4

1923 1918, January-March, not weeded	Box 5
1918, 1925	Box 6
1925-1930's, miscellaneous papers with various dates	Box 7
1926	Box 8
1927, July-August	Box 9
1927, September-October	Box 10
1927, 1928	Box 11
1920 July-December, weeded, 1928, January	Box 12
1921 January-August, weeded	Box 13
1921-1922 November, weeded	Box 14
1922 and undated	Box 15
Clippings, weeded	Box 15
Financial	Box 15
Printed materials	Box 15
Voter lists	Box 15
1915 and 1917 April-December, not weeded	Box 16
1924, 1927 January-March	Box 17
1927	Box 18
1927 November-December	Box 19
1927 December 15-31, 1928 February	Box 20
1928 March	Box 21
1928 April-May	Box 22
1928 June-July	Box 23
1928 August-October 16	Box 24

1928 October 17-November	Box 25
1928 December-1929 January	Box 26
1929 February-March	Box 27
1929 April-May	Box 28
1929 June, July	Box 29
1929 August-September 30	Box 30
1929 September-October 20	Box 31
1929 October 21-November	Box 32
1929 December and undated	Box 33
1930 January	Box 34
1930 February	Box 35
1930 March-April	Box 36
1930 April-May	Box 37
1930 June-July	Box 38
1930 August-October 20	Box 39
1930 October 21-November	Box 40
1930 December-1931 January 15	Box 41
1931 January-March 10	Box 42
1931 March 11-31	Box 43
1931 April	Box 44
1931 May	Box 45
1931 June	Box 46
1931 October-November	Box 47
1931 December	Box 48

1931 July	Box 49
1931 August-September 15	Box 50
1931 September 16-October 15	Box 52
1932 January 1-19	Box 53
1932 January 20-31	Box 54
1932 February 1-14	Box 55
1932 February 15-24	Box 56
1932 February 25-March 9	Box 57
1932 March 10-22	Box 58
1932 March 23-April 5	Box 59
1932 April 6-22	Box 60
1932 April 23-May 15	Box 61
1932 May 16-31	Box 62
1932 June	Box 63
1932 July	Box 64
1932 August	Box 65
1932 September	Box 66
1932 October	Box 67
1932 November	Box 68
1932 December 1-12	Box 69
1932 December 13-1933 January 7	Box 70
1933 January 8-17	Box 71
1933 January 18- February 10	Box 72
1933 February 11-28	Box 73

1933 March 1-20	Box 74
1933 March 21- April 10	Box 75
1933 April 11-May	Box 76
1933 June-July	Box 77
1933 August-September 10	Box 78
1933 September 11-30	Box 79
1933 October	Box 80
1933 November	Box 81
1933 December	Box 82
1934 January 1-24	Box 83
1934 January 25-February	Box 84
1934 February-March 5	Box 85
1934 March 6-31	Box 86
1934 April	Box 87
1934 May 1-17	Box 88
1934 May 18-June	Box 89
1934 July-August	Box 90
1934 September-November	Box 91
1934 December-1935	Box 92
1936	Box 93
1937-1939	Box 94
1940-1949	Box 95
1950-1956	Box 96
1957-1959 and other papers	Box 97

Correspondence and other papers: Cape Lookout Land Company	Box 98
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Writings and Speeches, circa 1920s-1930s

Physical Description: 3 boxes

Addresses and writings	Box 99
Addresses and writings	Box 100
Addresses and writings	Box 101

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Law Practice and Legal Papers, 1915-1935 and undated

Physical Description: 34 boxes

Law practice: Sloan affairs, Blackburn estate, Van Kemper vs. Latham, Trustee	Box 102
Law practice, some Sloan affairs	Box 103
Legal matters	Box 104
Legal matters	Box 105
Ye Olde Colony Inn legal matters	Box 106
Ye Olde Colony Inn legal matters, personal legal Å Abernethy vs. Carter, 1915	Box 107
Sloan affairs	Box 108
Earl S. Sloan affairs, 1918-1934	Box 109
Sloan Affairs, legal papers	Box 110
Sloan affairs, Named folders A-B, 1930-1933	Box 111
Named folders B-C	Box 112
Named folders C-E	Box 113

Named folders E-H	Box 114
Named folders H	Box 115
Named folders H	Box 116
Law practice	Box 117
Law practice	Box 118
Law practice	Box 119
Law practice	Box 120
Law practice	Box 121
Law practice	Box 122
Law practice and legal matters	Box 123
Law practice - Wright estate and undated print materials, 1929-1935	Box 124
Law practice	Box 125
Law practice	Box 126
Law practice	Box 127
Law practice - Hackburn estate, Van Kemper vs. Latham, Trustee	Box 128
Law practice	Box 129
Law practice	Box 130
Law practice	Box 131
Law practice	Box 132
Law practice - Kentucky-Cumberland Oil Company	Box 133
Law Practice, legal practice; Bennett vs. Bennett, Bennett vs. Swell. Bennett vs. Western Union Telegraph	Box 134
Law practice	Box 135

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Financial, circa 1910s-1950s

Physical Description: 5 boxes

Financial papers	Box 136
Financial papers	Box 137
Financial papers	Box 138
Financial papers	Box 139
Financial papers	Box 142

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Printed Materials and Other Papers, 1713-1972

Physical Description: 11 boxes

School papers, printed matter, invitations and calling cards, and other items	Box 140
Law practice, political	Box 141
Political campaign (1 volume), 1952	Box 143
Clippings	Box 144
Clippings	Box 145
Miscellaneous	Box 146
Miscellaneous, personal insurance	Box 147
Printed materials	Box 148
Clippings of Abernethy vs. Carter, 1915	Box 149
Miscellaneous, deeds	Box 150
Miscellaneous, personal, biographical, clippings, printed material, 1920s	Box 151
Oversize papers	Oversize-folder 1

Processing Information:

Content not verified.

Oversize papers

Oversize-folder 2

Processing Information:

Content not verified.

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Photographs, Albums, and Scrapbooks, circa 1907-1940s

Physical Description: 9 boxes

Scrapbooks	Box 152
Miscellaneous	Box 153
Photograph albums, including Alaska trip and Beaufort albums, circa 1907-1923	Box 154
Photographs: Family	Box 155
Photographs: Alaska trip, 1923; Panama, Rocky Mountains	Box 156
Family papers, miscellaneous	Box 157
Scrapbooks	Box 158
Scrapbooks	Box 159
Scrapbooks	Box 160

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