



# Guide to the William Johnston Cocke Papers, 1682-1977, bulk 1900-1960

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This collection guide was produced in .

This PDF version was created on **April 2, 2026**.

David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library

103 Perkins Library, Duke University

Durham 27708-0185

919-660-5822

[askRL@duke.edu](mailto:askRL@duke.edu)

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## Summary

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**Collection Title:**

William Johnston Cocke papers, 1682-1977, bulk 1900-1960

**Creator:**

Cocke, William Johnston, 1904-

**Abstract:**

Rhodes scholar and lawyer of Asheville, N.C. Collection is divided into the following categories: Correspondence (1815-1969, some transcribed); Writings (1682-1965); Speeches (1896-1965); Miscellany (ca. 1908); Clippings (1792-1975); Printed materials (1865-1977); Volumes (1886-1954); Pictures, late 19th and early 20th centuries; and an Alphabetical file (1787-1977), arranged by topic. Most of the material spans the years 1900-1960. Included are personal correspondence and materials relating to Cocke's political and civic interests; family correspondence and photographs; clippings; and scrapbooks. Cocke's many correspondents include Sam Ervin, B. Everett Jordan, and Terry Sanford. Correspondence topics include the Democratic Party; life as an American law student in England; English law compared to American law; and travels in Europe. Some letters refer to Thomas Wolfe, whom Cocke knew.

**Extent:**

6.4 Linear Feet  
2121 Items

**Physical Location:**

For current information on the location of these materials, please consult the Library's online catalog.

**Language:**

English

**Language:**

Material in English

**Collection ID:**

RL.00240

**Permalink:**

<http://library.duke.edu/rubenstein/findingaids/cockewilliam/>

**Preferred Citation**

[Identification of item], William Johnston Cocke Papers, David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Duke University

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## Background

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### Scope and Content

Collection reflects the varied interests of Cocke. It is divided into the following categories: correspondence (1815-1969, some transcribed); writings (1682-1965); speeches (1896-1965); miscellany (ca. 1908); clippings (1792-1975); printed materials (1865-1977); volumes (1886-1954); pictures, late 19th and early 20th centuries; and an alphabetical file (1787-1977), arranged by topic. The collection covers a wide variety of topics and time periods, but most of the material has dates in the span 1900-1960. Included are personal correspondence and materials relating to Cocke's political and civic interests. His many correspondents include Sam Ervin, B. Everett Jordan, and Terry Sanford. Correspondence topics include the Democratic Party; life as an American law student in England; English law compared to American law; travels in Europe; Thomas Wolfe, whom Cocke knew; publishing efforts; and a meeting with Lady Astor and the future King Edward VII. Other items include family letters; manuscripts by Cocke's mother, Nola, including "My Reminiscences of the Sixties (1861-1865)" about the Reconstruction era in Tenn.; clippings regarding a proposed N.C. constitution amendment requiring a literacy test for voter registrants in the 1860s; speeches by William Cocke, Sr., mayor of Asheville, N.C.; a guardian's account book later turned into a scrapbook; a large campaign scrapbook for Senate candidate Alton Asa Lennon; Cocke-Dilworth family photographs and many albumen prints of Europe. Topics in the alphabetical file include civic clubs; United World Federalists, Inc.; the attempt to establish the state of Franklin in what is now western N.C.; legal cases regarding horse stealing, a slave sale, and other topics; court reform in N.C. and the Bell Committee; and the Commission on International Cooperation under the N.C. Dept. of Conservation and Development.

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Statement

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### **Access Restrictions**

Collection is open for research.

Researchers must register and agree to copyright and privacy laws before using this collection.

All or portions of this collection may be housed off-site in Duke University's Library Service Center. The library may require up to 48 hours to retrieve these materials for research use.

Please contact Research Services staff before visiting the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library to use this collection.

### **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 William Johnston Cocke Papers were received by the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library as a part of the Flowers Collection in 1977.

### **Processing Information**

Processed by Rubenstein Library Staff

Encoded by Ted Holt, November 2009

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## **Names and Subjects**

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- Albumen prints
- Scrapbooks
- United States -- Politics and government -- 20th century

- Photographs
- North Carolina -- History
- Tennessee -- History
- North Carolina -- Politics and government
- Asheville (N.C.) -- History
- Reconstruction (U.S. history, 1865-1877) -- Tennessee
- Lawyers -- North Carolina -- Correspondence
- Cocks, William Johnston, 1904-
- Cocks family
- Democratic Party (U.S.) -- History
- Cocks, William Johnston, 1904-
- Ervin, Sam J. (Sam James), 1896-1985
- Dilworth family
- Sanford, Terry
- Jordan, B. Everett (Benjamin Everett)
- Lennon, Alton Asa

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## Collection Inventory

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### Correspondence Series, 1815-1969 and undated

Physical Description: 2 boxes

1815-1928	Box 1
1929-1969 and undated	Box 2

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### Writings Series, 1682-1965 and undated

Physical Description: 3 boxes

Clark, William Bell, 1960	Box 3
Cocks, Nola (Dilworth), undated	Box 3
Cocks, Nola (Dilworth), 1930 and undated	Box 4
Cocks, William Johnston, 1949-1965 and undated	Box 5
Dilworth, Sarah E. J. (Broyles), 1861-1868	Box 5
Duncombe, Giles, 1682	Box 5

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### **Speeches Series, 1896-1965 and undated**

**Physical Description:** 1 box

Speeches and other engagement files Box 6

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### **Miscellany Series, circa 1908**

**Physical Description:** 1 box

Various papers Box 6

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### **Clippings Series, 1792-1975 and undated**

**Physical Description:** 1 box

Clippings files Box 7

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### **Printed Material Series, 1865-1977 and undated**

**Physical Description:** 1 box

Other printed materials Box 8

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### **Volumes Series, ca. 1886-1954**

**Physical Description:** 2 boxes

Nola (Dilworth) Cocke, ca. 1886 Box 8

William Johnston Cocke scrapbook, 1898-1910 Box 8

Alton Asa Lennon scrapbook, 1954 Box 15

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## Photographs Series, late 19th and early 20th centuries

**Physical Description:** 2 boxes

Miscellany, late 19th and early 20th centuries	Box 9
People, late 19th and early 20th centuries	Box 9
Belgium, England, Ireland, late 19th century	Box 9
France, late 19th century	Box 9
Germany, late 19th century	Box 9
Italy, late 19th century	Box 10
Scotland and Switzerland, late 19th century	Box 10

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## Alphabetical Files Series, 1785-1975 and undated

**Physical Description:** 4 boxes

Asheville and Buncombe county, 1929-1964 and undated	Box 11
Burton Grant, 1808-1967	Box 11
"Chucky Jack, " 1956	Box 11
Court calendar reform, 1954-1957	Box 12
Cour cases, 1933-1952	Box 12
Court reform, 1954-1961	Box 12
Democratic National Committee, 1953	Box 13
Democratic Party, local and national campaign, election miscellany, 1904-1970	Box 13
East Tennessee Historical Society, 1955-1957	Box 13
International relations, 1948-1972	Box 13
McCarthy, Joseph Raymond, 1954	Box 13

Masonic certificates, 1883-1885	Box 13
National Trust for Historic Preservation in the the United States, 1953-1956	Box 14
North Carolina and Buncombe County Bar Associations, 1909-1965	Box 14
Recreational information, 1939-1948	Box 14
St. Mary's Catholic Church, Asheville, N.C., 1961	Box 14
Sanford, Terry, 1961-1963	Box 14
Sanford campaign, 1972	Box 14
State of Franklin, 1785-1975	Box 14
Tennessee legal papers, 1787-1793	Box 14
Trauma and cancer, 1928	Box 14
United World Federalists, Inc., 1948-1958	Box 14
Webb, Edwin Yates, 1955	Box 14
Western North Carolina Historical Association, 1954-1961	Box 14
The Wilderness Trail, undated	Box 14
Wills, 1895-1905	Box 14
Women's Clubs, 1899-1941	Box 14
Vance, Zebulon Baird, 1868-1943	Box 14
Young Democratic Clubs of America, 1936-1961	Box 14
Zeb Vance Debating Society, 1946-1966	Box 14

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## Oversize Material, 1865-1890

**Physical Description:** 1 folder

Presidential pardon, 1865 Nov.

Box 14 > Folder 1

Passport, 1890

Box 14

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