



Guide to the William Woods Holden Papers, 1834-1929 and undated

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Summary

Collection Title:

William Woods Holden papers, 1834-1929 and undated

Creator:

Holden, W.W. (William Woods), 1818-1892; Holden, Joseph William, 1844-1875;
Holden family

Abstract:

William Woods Holden was a journalist and Republican governor of North Carolina during Reconstruction. He was the owner and editor of the North Carolina Standard newspaper from 1843 to 1860, during which time he and the paper were affiliated with the Democratic Party. He was elected governor as a Republican in 1868, but was impeached by the Democratic state legislature in 1870 for his efforts to combat the Ku Klux Klan. Collection consists of correspondence, memoirs, business papers, legal documents, poems, and other papers. Of note are depositions and other evidence gathered by Holden and his supporters of various members of the Ku Klux Klan, documenting their membership and activities during 1869-1870. Also includes Holden family papers, including scrapbooks and account books kept by Holden's wife and daughters.

Extent:

4.0 Linear Feet

Language:

English

Language:

Materials in English

Collection ID:

RL.11183

Permalink:

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

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], William Woods Holden papers, David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Duke University.

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Background

Scope and Content

The collection documents Holden's career as a journalist and politician, including his shift in party allegiance from Democrat to Republican during the Civil War. He served as the 28th and 30th governor of North Carolina.

Pre-Civil War letters deal mainly with personal and legal matters and with the Democratic convention in Charleston, S.C., 1860, and presidential election of 1860. Post-war materials concern the history of journalism in North Carolina; Holden's appointment by Andrew Johnson as provisional governor of North Carolina in 1865; his election as governor in 1868; Reconstruction policies; Ku Klux Klan activity in the state; the Kirk-Holden War; the "Ferrell Matter," a debt case in which Holden was the guarantor; Holden's impeachment as governor in 1870; his conviction by the N.C. Senate in 1871; his appointment as postmaster by Ulysses S. Grant in 1873; and life and politics in Washington during the period of Radical control. Of note are depositions and other evidence gathered by Holden and his supporters of various members of the Ku Klux Klan, documenting their membership and activities during 1869-1870.

The collection also includes Holden family papers, including scrapbooks and account books kept by Holden's wife and daughters; Holden's memoirs, recorded by his daughter Mary Holden Sherwood and edited by W.K. Boyd as part of the Trinity College Historical Society; some family photographs and materials related to the Holden homestead in Raleigh, N.C.; writings and poetry by Holden and his son, Joseph Holden; obituaries and clippings about Holden and his legacy; and other assorted personal and financial papers. Though removed from public life, Holden continued to write about public policy and government, sometimes critical of both parties, until his death in 1892.

Biographical/Historical

William Woods Holden (1818-1892) was a journalist and Republican governor of North Carolina from Raleigh (Wake Co.) N.C.. He was owner and editor of the North Carolina Standard newspaper from 1843 to 1860, during which time he was a member of the Democratic Party. He served as a N.C. delegate to the Democratic National Convention in Charleston, S.C., in 1860. As the Civil War progressed, Holden criticized the Confederate government and became a leader of the North Carolina peace movement. In May 1865 President Andrew Johnson appointed him provisional governor of North Carolina, serving until December 1865. In 1868 he ran and won as the Republican candidate for governor. In an effort to combat the Ku Klux Klan, Holden suspended habeas corpus and imposed martial law on Alamance and Caswell counties. He was impeached in 1870 by the Democratic state legislature on eight charges related to the rough

treatment of North Carolina citizens due to his efforts to combat the Ku Klux Klan. He was convicted of six of the eight charges and removed from office in 1871. Following his removal from office, Holden moved to Washington, D.C. and resumed a career in journalism. In 1873, President Ulysses S. Grant appointed him postmaster, a position he held in Raleigh until 1881.

Holden was married twice: first to Ann Augusta Young, who died in 1852 and with whom he had four children. He married Louisa Virginia Harrison, a widow with four children of her own, in 1854. He died in Raleigh in 1892.

Holden was sued by a rival newspaperman, Josiah Turner, in 1885, following Turner's arrest by Holden during his term as governor. The suit continued into the 1890s, despite Holden's being incapacitated by poor health. His wife, Louisa Virginia Holden, acted in his place and the suit was continued against her after Holden's death in 1892. Turner lost the suit in 1894.

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Arrangement

Arranged into series: Correspondence, Political Materials, Legal Materials, Memoirs, and Personal Materials.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Access Restrictions

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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.

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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 Woods Holden papers were acquired by the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library as a gift and purchase, between 1933 and 1975.

Processing Information

Processed by Meghan Lyon, April 2016. Finding aid written by RL Staff, Katrina Martin, and Meghan Lyon, April 2016.

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Names and Subjects

- Governors -- North Carolina
- North Carolina -- Politics and government -- 1865-1950
- Presidents -- United States -- Election -- 1860
- Reconstruction (U.S. history, 1865-1877) -- North Carolina
- North Carolina -- History
- Holden, W.W. (William Woods), 1818-1892
- Grant, Ulysses S. (Ulysses Simpson), 1822-1885
- Johnson, Andrew
- Ku Klux Klan (1915-) -- North Carolina
- Democratic Party (U.S.)
- Holden, Joseph William, 1844-1875

- Holden family

Collection Inventory

Correspondence, 1850-1929 and undated

Letters, 1850-1878	Box 1
Physical Description: 7 folders	
Holden's Duplicating Letterbook, 1878	Box 1
Physical Description: 1 item	
Scope and Contents	
Re: Holden's Postmaster duties, Raleigh, N.C.	
Letters, 1880-1929 and undated	Box 1
Physical Description: 4 folders	

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Political Materials, 1865-1891

Andrew Johnson's Proclamation of Amnesty for Holden, 1865	Box 2
Holden's appointment and proclamations as N.C. Provisional Governor, 1865	Box 2
Freedmen's Bureau miscellany, 1868	Box 2
North Carolina Governor election materials: party tickets, election certificate, convention notes, etc., 1868	Box 2
Booklet with Holden's impeachment proceedings, 1870, 1891	Box 2
Scope and Contents	
Booklet with printed account of Holden's impeachment from 1870, with annotations from 1891.	
Ulysses S. Grant's nomination of Holden as Postmaster, Raleigh, 1873	Box 2

Scope and Contents

Certificate is in two pieces.

N.C. Republican Convention proclamation
denouncing Holden, 1881 Box 2

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Legal Materials, 1834-1871

General papers, 1834-1893 Box 2

Physical Description: 2 folders

Ku Klux Klan depositions, evidence, and other
materials from the Kirk-Holden War, 1869-1871 Box 2

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Memoirs, 1911 and undated

Holden's memoirs in the handwriting of Mary
Holden Sherwood, undated Box 2

Typescript of Holden's memoirs, edited by W.K.
Boyd, 1911 Box 2

Manuscript of Holden's memoirs, edited by W.K.
Boyd, 1911 Box 2

Physical Description: 2 folders

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Personal Materials, 1838-1916 and undated

William Woods Holden editorials/prose drafts
and copies, 1850-1875 Box 3

William Woods Holden poetry/manuscripts
drafts and copies, 1838-1920 Box 3

William Woods Holden poems/hymns printed
versions, 1870s-1880s Box 3

William Woods Holden scrapbook of clippings and published writings, 1880-1886	Box 3
Clippings re: William Woods Holden, 1850s-1900s Physical Description: 2 folders	Box 3
Joseph Holden poetry, etc.: printed versions, 1867	Box 3
Joseph Holden poetry/manuscripts: drafts, 1875 and undated	Box 3
Charles C. Holden teaching vacancies, 1890s	Box 3
Assorted souvenir photographs, undated	Box 3
William Woods Holden Raleigh homestead: photographs, auction/sale, etc., 1900s	Box 3
Family photographs and portraits, undated	Box 3
Sunday School and church memberships, etc., 1863-1887 and undated	Box 3
Historical Sketch of Edenton Street Methodist Church Sunday School, by S.F. Iden, 1912	Box 3
Financial papers, receipts, other family finances, 1850s-1890s	Box 4
Louisa Virginia Holden account book, 1894-1896	Box 4
Calling cards, undated	Box 4
Scrapbook with William Woods Holden obituaries, 1892	Box 4
L. Holden's commonplace book, undated	Box 4
Mary Holden Sherwood's scrapbook, 1909	Box 4
Lulu Holden's printed materials: Sweet Songs of Old (undated) and He Giveth His Beloved Sleep (1880)	Box 4

Miscellaneous printed materials, 1869-1916 and undated	Box 4
Louisa Holden's scrapbook, 1843	Box 5
N.C. Standard, Raleigh, newspaper index, 1858-1864	Box 6

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