



# Guide to the George Frederick Holmes Papers, 1767-1960

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This collection guide was produced in **2011**.

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

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Durham 27708

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## Summary

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**Collection Title:**

George Frederick Holmes papers, 1767-1960

**Creator:**

Holmes, George Frederick, 1820-1897

**Abstract:**

Scholar, educator, and author of Charlottesville (Albemarle Co.), Virginia. Correspondence, notes, diaries, and literary works of George Frederick Holmes. Also contains correspondence of William Howard Perkinson, educator and son-in-law of Holmes; and of Joseph Henry Herndon Holmes and Mary Ann Pemberton Holmes, parents of George Frederick Holmes. Early papers of Joseph and Mary Holmes concern their life in Demerara, British Guyana, where Joseph Holmes was a barrister, and include legal papers, poems, and a genealogy. The papers of their son, George Frederick, a professor at the University of Virginia, include correspondence, diaries, articles, literary works, and notes, and relate to his interests in philology, grammar, history, political science and economics, and to Southern colleges and universities. The papers of William Howard Perkinson are confined to a few records of his work as a professor of Latin and Greek at the University of Virginia, a few business papers, and records of the administration of his father-in-law's estate.

**Extent:**

3.6 Linear Feet  
586 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.00564

**Permalink:**

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

### **Preferred Citation**

[Identification of item], George Frederick Holmes Papers, David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Duke University.

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## **Background**

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### **Scope and Content**

Collection includes correspondence, notes, diaries, and literary works of George Frederick Holmes (1820-1897), scholar, educator, author; and correspondence of William Howard Perkinson (1861-1898), educator and son-in-law of Holmes; and of Joseph Henry Herndon Holmes (1794-1831) and Mary Ann (Pemberton) Holmes (1790-ca. 1862), father and mother of George Frederick Holmes. The papers of Joseph Henry Herndon Holmes, barrister of Demerara, British Guiana, consist of treatises on contracts and exchange of money, fragments of poetry, poems, his will, and pictures. Among the papers of Mary Ann (Pemberton) Holmes are the following: a brief record of her life in Demerara with interesting comments on the people and the country, family history and genealogy, personal letters, epitaphs, and verses of Stephen Pemberton written while attending Oriel College, Oxford, England.

The papers of George Frederick Holmes are chiefly concerned with family affairs, including financial troubles, and accounts from his wife, Eliza Lavalette (Floyd) Holmes, of the unsatisfactory performance of Negro servants; accounts of Holmes's connection with educational institutions, notably Richmond College, Virginia, College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, Virginia, the University of Mississippi, Oxford, and the University of Virginia, Charlottesville. The correspondence throws considerable light on dissensions in the Board of Visitors at the College of William and Mary in 1848. The collection consists of Holmes's correspondence with leading literary figures and educators of the South; notes and works on almost every phase of philology, grammar, history, political science, and economics; notes for lectures; articles and manuscripts for books and periodicals; lists of students; examination questions; and diaries which cover a great part of the period from 1856 to 1891. The collection includes a letter book, 1834-1874, containing contemporary copies of letters, in Holmes's hand, of many notable figures, among whom are E. E. Bellinger, Auguste Comte, J. D. B. DeBow, Thos. R. Dew, R. T. W. Duke, Wm. H. Ellet, Geo. Fitzhugh, John B. Floyd, Wm. Harper, R. R. Howison, R. W. Hughes, D. F. Jamison, Wm. S. Lewis, Francis Lieber, P. N. Lynch, Jno. McClintock, Cornelius Mathews, W. E. Martin, B. B. Minor, W. G. Minor, T. V. Moore, J. D. Munford,

Edw. Nicholson, Wm. Ogilby, Cotesworth Pinckney, J. D. Pope, Wm. C. Preston, Jas. Ryder, W. G. Simms, R. W. Singleton, A. G. Summer, Jno. R. Thompson, Jas. H. Thornwell, Samuel Tyler, and D. K. Whitaker.

Papers of William Howard Perkinson are confined to a few records of his work as professor of Latin and Greek at the University of Virginia, a few business papers, and records of the administration of the estate of George Frederick Holmes. Some of Perkinson's letters to his wife give glimpses of the management of the university and of his work. M. Schele De Vere and W. Gordon McCabe, as well as a number of scholars in England, were among Perkinson's correspondents.

[Description taken from the Guide to the Cataloged Collections in the Manuscript Department of the William R. Perkins Library, Duke University (1980)]

### **Biographical/Historical**

George Frederick Holmes was a University of Virginia faculty member, an early sociologist, and an ante-bellum writer who defended the institution of slavery. He fully described this position in his textbook, *The Science of Society*, published in 1883.

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## **Administrative Information**

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### **Publication Statement**

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URL: <http://library.duke.edu/rubenstein/>

### **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 George Frederick Holmes Papers were received by the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library as a purchase from 1948-1995.

## Processing Information

Processed by Rubenstein Library staff

Encoded by Elizabeth Dunn and Carrie Mills, May 2011

Accession(s) described in this finding aid: 48-1119, 48-1322, 48-1656, 48-2370, 56-219, 64-112, 72-62, 12-9-77, and 95-108

Materials may not have been ordered and described beyond their original condition.

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## Names and Subjects

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- Guyana -- Social life and customs
- Scholars -- Correspondence
- Universities and colleges -- Southern States
- University of Virginia -- Faculty
- Holmes family

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## Collection Inventory

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### George Frederick Holmes Papers, 1767-1960

Physical Description: 9 boxes

**Scope and Contents note**

Box 7 also contains notes and correspondence by Mary Anne Holmes, Joseph H. H. Holmes, and Stephen Pemberton.

**Papers**

Sketch and genealogy	Box 1
Correspondence and papers, 1815-1901 and undated	Box 1
Works, 1845-1853	Box 1
Works, 1860-1876, 1880-1887	Box 2
Notes, 1885-1887	Box 2
Notes on political economy	Box 3
<b>Physical Description:</b> 4 folders	
Works and papers on "The Science of Society," 1889	Box 3
<b>Physical Description:</b> 3 folders	
Works and papers, 1889-1891 and undated	Box 4
Works and papers, undated	Box 5
Notes, undated	Box 5
Notes, undated	Box 6
Notebooks	Box 6
Notes, undated	Box 7
Newspaper clippings	Box 7
Photographs	Box 7

**Bound manuscript volumes**

Diary, 1872	Volume S:1793
Diary, 1873	Volume S:1794
Diary, 1874	Volume S:1795

Diary, 1881	Volume S:1796
Diary, 1884	Volume S:1797
Diary, 1885	Volume S:1798
Diary, 1887	Volume S:1799
Diary, 1891	Volume S:1800
Articles for Biblical Cyclopeda I., 1878	Volume S:1783
Articles for Biblical Cyclopeda II., 1878	Volume S:1784
Excerpts regarding famous men, 1876	Volume S:1804
Memoranda for Lives of the Governors of Virginia, 1853 (Richmond, VA)	Volume S:1813
Notes on Economics, 1892	Volume S:1814
Notes on Greek History, undated	Volume S:1818
Notes on Oratory and Eloquence, 1878	Volume S:1820
Notes on Oratory and Eloquence, 1878	Volume S:1821
Notes on Oratory and Eloquence, 1878	Volume S:1822
Notes on Oratory and Eloquence, University of Virginia, 1888	Volume S:1823
"Population": a Crochet, 1887	Volume S:1824
Notes on Rhetoric, University of Virginia, 1882	Volume S:1825
Notes on Shakespeare, undated	Volume S:1826
Notes on Sociology, 1892	Volume S:1827
Notes for King Arthur and the Romances of the Round Table II., undated	Volume S:1828
"Notes on the Romances of the Round Table I.", 1882	Volume S:1829
"Notes on the Romances of the Round Table II.", 1882	Volume S:1830

"Notes on the Romances of the Round Table III", 1882	Volume S:1831
Notes of the Social Sciences, University of Virginia, 1882	Volume S:1834
Notes on the Social Sciences II, 1882	Volume S:1835
Notes on Turkey, University of Virginia, 1878	Volume S:1841
Songs and Poems, 1851-1879, 1912	Volume M:1310
Notes on British Guiana, 1823 (Demarara, British Guiana)	Volume F:1318
Account Book, 1847-1857 (Richmond, VA)	Volume F:1781
Adversaria: According to Locke's Method, 1840 (Columbia, SC)	Volume M:1782
Class Rolls in Political Economy and History, University of Virginia, 1884-1894	Volume L:1785
Class Roll in Political Economy, University of Virginia, 1894-1897	Volume L:1786
Comments on Books and Authors, 1846-1850 (Richmond, VA)	Volume F:1787
Comments on Books and Writers, 1846-1850 (Richmond, VA)	Volume F:1788
Critical and Analytical Notices of Books, 1841 (Charleston, SC)	Volume F:1789
Day Book, 1884-1894	Volume F:1790
Diary, Agricultural and War, 1856-1864	Volume F:1791
Diary, 1864-1865; also Miscellaneous Notes, 1841-1852	Volume L:1792
"An Elementary Grammar of the English Language for the use of Schools", 1867	Volume L:1801
Excerpts from Various Books, 1850 (Richmond, VA)	Volume F:1802

Excerpts from Various Books, University of Virginia, 1852-1888	Volume F:1803
Historical Bibliographies, University of Virginia, 1890	Volume L:1805
Index Rerum, 1846	Volume M:1806
Inquiries on Various Subjects, 1841 (Walterboro, SC)	Volume M:1807
Letterbook, 1835-1874 (online item available) <b>Digital Object:</b> <a href="#">Letterbook, 1835-1874</a>	Volume M:1808
Lists of Students, University of Virginia, 1857-1871	Volume L:1809
List of Students in History and Literature, 1859-1871	Volume M:1810
Lists of Students, University of Virginia, 1871-1877	Volume L:1811
Lists of Students, University of Virginia, 1875-1884	Volume L:1812
Notes on English Language and Literature, University of Virginia, 1857-1860	Volume M:1815
Notes on English Language and Literature, University of Virginia, 1859	Volume M:1816
Notes on the English Language, University of Virginia, 1872	Volume L:1817
Notes on Law and History, 1845-1882 (Orangeburgh, SC and Charlottesville, VA)	Volume F:1819
Notes on Social Sciences, University of Virginia, 1857	Volume M:1832
Notes on Social Sciences, University of Virginia, 1871	Volume L:1833
Notes of the Social Sciences, University of Virginia, 1882	Volume L:1836

Notes on the Social Sciences, University of Virginia, 1883	Volume L:1837
Notes of the Social Sciences, 1888	Volume L:1838
Notes on the Social Sciences, University of Virginia, 1894	Volume L:1839
Notes on Theology, 1845-1865 (Orangeburgh, SC)	Volume M:1840
Miscellaneous Notes, 1840 (Decatur, GA)	Volume M:1842
Articles, Public Addresses, and Occasional Comments, 1837-1857 (Orangeburg, SC)	Volume M:1843
Science of Society, University of Virginia, 1882	Volume L:2009
Notebook, 1846 (Richmond, Henrico Co., VA)	Volume M:5959

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