Manuscripts and Rare Books Department
Swem Library
The College of William and Mary in Virginia

Form of material and dates: 1860 [1942-1988] 1993: The personal and professional papers of Carter Lowance, former executive assistant to six governors of Virginia and onetime Executive Vice President of the College of William and Mary. Personal papers include letters from Carter Lowance to his wife, numerous newspaper clippings, over fifty speeches written and delivered by Carter Lowance, papers relating to awards he received, and letters written to his wife Elizabeth Austin Lowance after his death. Professional papers include letters, clippings, publications, and miscellaneous papers relating to former Virginia governors Lindsay T. Almond, Jr., John S. Battle, Harry F. Byrd, John N. Dalton, Mills E. Godwin, Albertis S. Harrison, Charles S. Robb, Thomas B. Stanley, William M. Tuck and former U.S. Senator Harry F. Byrd, Jr. Also included are papers relating to First Virginia Banks, Inc., the Forum Club, the Medical College of Virginia, the Middle Plantation Club, UVA Medical School, and the College of William and Mary. Professional papers related directly to the life of Carter Lowance include papers concerning his appointment as Executive Vice President of the College of William and Mary, military certificates, and papers related to his military career. (1,529 items)

Acc. no.; Number of items; Date Received; Source
1992.58; 17 November 1992; Gift of Mrs. Carter Lowance
1994.1; ca. 100 items; 14 January 1994; Gift of Mrs. Carter Lowance

Industrial shelving - back wall 01/25/00

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Microforms available:
Other remarks:
Carter Lowance Papers

Biographical Notes

1910 Born in Greenville, West Virginia
1931 Graduated with honors from Roanoke College
1931-1936 Worked as a reporter for the Roanoke Times
1936-1942 Worked as a reporter for the Associated Press
1942-1945 Army Counter Intelligence Officer with the 62nd Airborne Division. Parachuted behind enemy lines the day after D-Day
1947-1950 Chief of Staff for Virginia Governor William M. Tuck
1950-1954 Chief of Staff for Governor John Stewart Battle
1954-1958 Chief of Staff for Governor Thomas B. Stanley
1958-1962 Chief of Staff for Governor James Lindsay Almond, Jr.
1958-1962 Assistant President of the Medical College of Virginia
1962-1966 Chief of Staff for Governor Albertis S. Harrison
1966-1970 Commissioner of Administration for Governor Mills E. Godwin
1970-1974 Executive Vice President of the College of William and Mary
1974-1978 Commissioner of Administration for Governor Mills E. Godwin
1978 Retired from State Government
1982 Unveiling of the Carter Lowance portrait in the State Capitol
1989 Died of leukemia
Carter Lowance Papers

Personal Papers

Box I

Folder 1. 30 April 1860-29 December 1984 & n.d. Gibson-Lowance genealogy papers; letters dating from 1860-1865 (mostly photocopied), copy of a letter from W. F. Lowance to Mason Ira Lowance (27 November 1925), correspondence between Mr. and Mrs. Carter Lowance and family members, notes, memoranda, undated fragments of letters, photocopied photographs. 30 items.

Folder 2. 1932-1979 & n.d. Relatives of Carter Lowance, papers relating to: brief autobiographical essay of William Franklin Lowance (1932), obituaries of Mason Ira Lowance, articles written by Mason I. Lowance, Jr., undated family record of births, obituary of Mrs. Pearl Lighter Lowance. 4 items.

Folder 3. 1916 (?)-1988 & n.d. Private papers: a drawing done by Carter Lowance in grade school; results of October 1980 medical exam; letter from Jamestown-Yorktown foundation; biographical information on Mr. and Mrs. Carter Lowance; copies of Carter Lowance's resume; Christmas card lists, announcement of Salem High School Commencement exercises 1927; Valentine Card from Libby to Carter Lowance. 16 items.

Folder 4. 24 December 1942-19 February 1943 & n.d. War Letters: Letters written by Carter Lowance to his wife while he was stationed at Camp Lee in Virginia and Camp Wheeler in Georgia. 23 items.

Folder 5. 6 March 1943-30 April 1943 War Letters: Letters written by Carter Lowance to his wife while he was stationed at Camp Wheeler in Georgia, plus one letter to Carter Lowance from "FHF." 25 items.

Folder 6. May 1943-24 July 1943 War Letters: Letters written by Carter Lowance to his wife while he was stationed at Camp Wheeler in Georgia. 27 items.

Folder 7. n.d. and 18 February 1944 War Letters: Letters written by Carter Lowance to his wife, presumably from Camp Wheeler in Georgia. 2 items.

Folder 8. February 1944-March [?] 1944 War Letters: Undated letters written by Carter Lowance to his wife while he was stationed in Baltimore. 5 items.
Folder 9. 20 March 1944-18 April 1944 War Letters: Letters written by Carter Lowance to his wife and her doctor while he was assigned to "Casual Attachment" plus one telegram from Carter Lowance. 6 items.

Folder 10. 21 April 1944-18 September 1944 War Letters: Letters written by Carter Lowance to his wife while he was stationed in England. Included also is one telegram. 12 items.

Folder 11. 8 October 1944-22 October 1945 War letters: Letters written by Carter Lowance to his wife while he was stationed in Europe. Included also are a telegram and letters from the office of civilian defense, the governor Colgate W. Darden, Jr., and Roanoke College. 27 items.

Folder 12. 27 November 1925-23 September 1983. Letters of personal correspondence: included are letters to and from Albertis S. Harrison, Jr., the family of Thomas B. Stanley, John Warren Cooke, Mills E. Godwin, Jr., William M. Tuck, R. Harvey Chappell, Jr., Guy Friddell, Harry F. Byrd, Jr., and Thomas N. Downing. 53 items.

Folder 13. 2 March 1984-1989. Letters of personal correspondence: included are letters to and from Charles S. Robb; Lewis F. Powell, Jr.; George W. Grayson; Albertis S. Harrison; and Harry F. Byrd, Jr. 28 items.


Folder 17. 1962-20 February 1989 & n.d. Speech material--general: includes the transcript of a speech by former Virginia Congressman Thomas N. Downing; miscellaneous newspaper clippings; miscellaneous quotations collected by Carter Lowance; an address of Albertis S. Harrison to the General Assembly; a copy of the U.S. Constitution and various other papers. 31 items.
Folder 18. 1942-April 1988 & n.d. Speech material—government and education: includes notes for speeches about Virginia politics; copies of the News Letter of the University of Virginia; editorial titled "The Secret to Doug Wilder's Success," and various other papers. 17 items.

Folder 19. 30 March 1937-1 December 1988 & n.d. Speech material—light: articles by Carter Lowance on witchcraft in Clintwood, Va., (1937); letter from Carter Lowance to his wife about army latrines; humorous speeches by Carter Lowance; various other letters and printed anecdotes and stories. 36 items.


Folder 26. 12 July 1968-25 January 1988. The Unsung Virginian Award: letters of congratulations from, among others, Thomas B. Stanley, J. Lindsay Almond, Jr., William M. Tuck and Harry F. Byrd to Carter Lowance; telegram from John S. Battle; miscellaneous papers. 16 items


Folder 29. 13 December 1979-1 December 1983. Thomas Jefferson Award for Public Service: remarks by Governor John Dalton honoring Carter Lowance; clippings; invitation to reception and dinner; correspondence regarding award reception for Anne Dobie Peebles in 1983; speech by Carter Lowance honoring Anne Dobie Peebles. 7 items.

correspondence regarding Carter Lowance's nomination for a DAR medal of honor; certificate from DAR, and letters of congratulations. 28 items.

Folder 31. June 1982-24 March 1983 & n.d. Portrait unveiling (19 July 1982): letter to participants in ceremony to unveil Carter Lowance's portrait in the State Capitol; letters of regret from among others, Thomas A. Graves, Albertis S. Harrison, and Mason Lowance, Jr.; invitations; speech by Carter Lowance; dinner menu; letters of congratulations and regret from, among others, Timothy Sullivan, Davis Paschall, Harry F. Byrd, Jr., Charles S. Robb, and Mills E. Godwin, Jr.; newspaper photographs of the portrait and of Mr. and Mrs. Lowance; program from the unveiling. 54 items.


Folder 33. 19 March 1987-31 July 1989 & n.d. The Virginia Commonwealth University's Virginia Communications Hall of Fame: letters of congratulations to Carter Lowance for his induction into the Hall of Fame on 19 March 1988; newspaper clippings; programs from award banquets 1987 and 1988 (including profile of Carter Lowance); miscellaneous letters and papers related to VCU functions. 38 items.

Folder 34. 1 October 1988-13 July 1989 & n.d. The Virginia Cultural Laureate Society: letters, clippings, and programs mainly related to Carter Lowance's recognition in 1988 as a Virginia Cultural Laureate. 27 items.


Folder 36. 23 May 1977-5 August 1987 & n.d. Salem High School 50th Reunion: photos; personal letters; miscellaneous notes and invitations; newspaper clippings; list of Class of 1927's addresses; program of 50th reunion, notes on graduates of Jefferson High School in 1925. 25 items.
Box II.

Folder 1. 9 June 1925-1985. Certificates—general, non-military: Honors certificate from the Public Schools of Salem, Virginia, 1925; certificates from Roanoke College; certificates of Merit from the Virginia Press Association; certificates of appointment from the Commonwealth of Virginia; certificate of appointment to the Civil War Centennial Committee for the city of Richmond; other miscellaneous certificates. 14 items.

Folder 2. 29 November 1945-15 July 1980. Certificates—military: 1945 separation qualification record and certificate of service; U.S. Army and National Guard appointments; appointments as Aide-de-Camp to Governors Tuck, Almond, and Godwin, certificate of Award from the United Daughters of the Confederacy; other miscellaneous certificates. 24 items.

Folder 3. 17 October 1944 & 1989. War memorabilia: souvenir newspaper dated 17 October 1944 chronicling the Allied campaign in Holland; souvenir illustrated booklet about the Normandy landings. 3 items.

Folder 4. n.d. Photographs: included is a photo of Mrs. Carter Lowance, Paul Verkuil, Tim Sullivan, and Former Governor Mills E. Godwin. 5 items.

Folder 5. 10 June 1973-20 September 1989 & n.d. Financial Papers: living wills of Mr. and Mrs. Carter Lowance; miscellaneous financial papers. 9 items.

Folder 6. 8 June 1944-30 October 1988 & n.d. Writings of Carter Lowance: 1941 article about "Tom, Dick and Harry Byrd" from Richmond Times-Dispatch; article written in Holland in October 1944; 1982 editorial from the Virginia Gazette; 1988 editorial from the Daily Press and attached letter; brief essay about WWII experience; essay entitled "A Meditation" from the Roanoke College Quarterly, June 1931; essay entitled "The Governor of Virginia" from the University of Virginia News Letter, 15 February 1960; article about witchcraft in Dickenson County, Virginia, 1937. 8 items.


Folder 9. 20 November 1989. Papers from the Bruton Parish Memorial Service in memory of Carter Lowance, including a transcript of the eulogy given by Dr. Mason Lowance. 3 items.

Folder 11. 1944-1988. Miscellaneous: bulletins from St. John's Church, Roanoke Virginia, 1944; article in the University of Virginia News Letter: "Virginia General Assembly: Then and Now;" article about Thomas Jefferson's gravestone at the University of Missouri; letter of retirement from Paul M. Booth to Governor Linwood Holton; commemorative booklet from the 139th Anniversary of the Virginia Military Institute, essay from Parade magazine, 29 June 1980: "Freedom: Our Most Precious National Treasure;" information about the Virginia Coat of Arms; excerpt from K. Baedeker's 1874 "Italy Handbook for Travellers;" excerpt from final argument in the defense of Oliver North (5 July 1989); excerpt from J. Edgar Hoover's Masters of Deceit: The Story of Communism and How to Fight it; various other clippings and papers. 30 items.

Professional Papers


Folder 14. 12 December 1969-10 April 1974. Appointment as Executive Vice-President of the College: newsletter of the William and Mary faculty announcing the appointment of Carter Lowance; press release; Flat Hat articles announcing restructuring; Flat Hat interview with Carter Lowance; letter from Thomas A. Graves announcing continuation of contract; correspondence between Carter Lowance and Davis Paschall regarding original 1969 appointment; March 1970 Alumni Gazette with article about appointment; organizational chart of the College. 9 items.

Folder 15. 2 August 1949-11 April 1972 & n.d. Battle, Governor John S.: voting records from 1949; inaugural program from January 19, 1950; Battle's inaugural address; article on Battle from Richmond Times-Dispatch; profile of Mrs. John S. Battle; press releases; copy of remarks made by Battle at 1954 Democratic National Convention; copy of Virginia from February 1954 containing an article by Carter Lowance; clippings, anecdotes, photographs of Battle. 22 items.
Folder 16. 1 February 1926-8 January 1930. Byrd, Governor Harry F.: published addresses and communications, including 1926 inaugural address (marked "very valuable"); and an address about "Virginia's Business Government" delivered 11 January 1928 (marked valuable--only copy). 12 items.


Folder 18. 11 November 1975-December 1982. Byrd, Senator Harry F. Jr.: correspondence between Carter Lowance and Thomas Byrd; copy of speech given 7 June 1982 reaffirming non-candidacy to Senate in 1982; correspondence with Mr. and Mrs. Carter Lowance; programs from banquet saluting Harry F. Byrd's 35 years of public service; typed dedication from Carter Lowance; Byrd's final letter to constituents. 10 items.


Folder 20. 7 November 1978-27 May 1989 & n.d. First Virginia Banks, Inc: newspaper clippings; letters to and from members of the board; speech by Carter Lowance; news release; 1981 annual report. 27 items.


Folder 22. 15 January 1966-14 October 1988 & n.d. Godwin, Governor Mills E., Jr.: invitation to Godwin's 1966 inauguration; speech prepared by Carter Lowance nominating Godwin for President of the United States; foreword written by Carter Lowance for the book The Godwin Years; copy of Godwin's address to the General Assembly 14 January 1970; programs from banquets, honoring Godwin; newspaper articles; speeches delivered by Godwin commemorative program from the unveiling of the Harry Flood Byrd Memorial Statue; typed biography of Godwin; correspondence between Godwin and Carter Lowance; family biographies of Godwin; correspondence regarding DAR award; photographs of the Byrd statue; typed essay "A Virginian's Creed;" correspondence and memoranda relating to strategy for 1974 election. 49 items.

Folder 23. January 1966-January 1974. Godwin, Governor Mills E., Jr.: Publications with articles about Godwin; included are The Virginia Record
inaugural commemorative editions (1966-1974); and 1966 and 1969 copies of the Commonwealth. 4 items.

Folder 24. 17 October 1973-25 October 1988 & n.d. Godwin papers; donation to William and Mary's Swem Library: correspondence Carter Lowance, Thomas A. Graves, Nancy Marshall, Gordon Brooks, Mills E. Godwin, Margaret Cook and others regarding the Godwin papers. Included also are copies of Godwin's Deed of Gift and a copy of the biographical preface to the Godwin papers at Swem Library. 19 items.

Folder 25. 1960-1983. Governors of Virginia: undated speeches (by Wm. M. Tuck?); newspaper clippings; speeches by Mills E. Godwin and Carter Lowance; letter to Carter Lowance from James T. Tucker; magazine article about government; speech by Carter Lowance; article by Carter Lowance about the office of Governor of Virginia; miscellaneous papers. 13 items.

Box III

Folder 1. 1949-1981. Invitations: special invitation to Carter Lowance for a reception held by President and Mrs. Truman at the National Gallery of Art, 1949; invitation to 1981 inauguration of President Reagan, invitation from Governor and Mrs. John Dalton to Mr. and Mrs. Carter Lowance for the dedication of the North Garden at the Governor's Mansion. 4 items.


Folder 3. June 1980-25 April 1984 & n.d. Middle Plantation Club: historical summary and membership booklet; officer and committee list; roster of members; letters to and from Carter Lowance; undated speech (by Carter Lowance?); newspaper clipping about Edward West. 7 items.

Folder 4. 9 May 1942-8 June 1986 & n.d. Military papers of Carter Lowance: including awards and certificates; official papers; and a short guide to Great Britain issued by the War and Navy Departments. 74 items.


Folder 6. 20 August 1987-22 October 1989. Resumes, personal letters, and letters of recommendation: letter and resume from Martha Harrell to Carter Lowance; letter and resume from Idajane Ross; letter from H.H. Sandige, Jr.; letters concerning applications to William and Mary. 6 items.

Folder 7. 10 January 1978-8 February 1978. Retirement letters: personal letters expressing congratulations and regret at the retirement of Carter Lowance; also included are copies of an editorial about Carter Lowance from 12 January 1978. 20 items.


from Robb to Carter Lowance; invitations to inaugural ceremonies; copy of the Virginia Record; inaugural commemorative edition from January; clippings from inauguration (February 1982); 3 reports on Virginia higher education; summary of Virginia election returns, 1928-1948; roster of 1981 cabinet selection Advisory Committee. 13 items.

Folder 10. 1975-1981. Sigma Phi Epsilon: 75th Anniversary issue of the Sigma Phi Epsilon Journal; correspondence between Carter Lowance and director of fraternity; programs and invitations; 1981 membership directory. 9 items.

Folder 11. 3 April 1957-10 November 1988 & n.d. Stanley, Governor Thomas B.: programs from dinners held by Governor Stanley; article about the Stanley mansion; correspondence between Carter Lowance and Anne (Stanley) Chatham, daughter of Governor Stanley. 8 items.

Folder 12. 1984-24 May 1989 & n.d. Swem Library: roster of the Board of Directors of the Friends of the Earl Gregg Swem Library; business papers of the Board; letters to and from Carter Lowance concerning the affairs of the Board. 15 items.

Folder 13. 24 June 1948-23 April 1988 & n.d. Tuck, Governor William M.: newspaper clippings; speeches; personal letters between Tuck and Carter Lowance; an article about Tuck; collections of newspaper articles; copies of The Commonwealth and Virginia with articles about Tuck; and a copy of the eulogy given in honor of Tuck on the floor of the State Senate February 28, 1984; photographs of Tuck; satirical booklet entitled "Virginia and What the Tucks Have Done for Her and to Her." 39 items.

Folder 14. 1975-1989 & n.d. University of Virginia Medical School Foundation: UVA Medical Alumni News; correspondence between Governor Robb and Carter Lowance; business letters of the Foundation; booklet which chronicles the origin and early days of the University of Virginia Medical Alumni Association; listing of the Foundation trustees. 12 items.

Folder 15. 1928-1967. Virginia Constitution, proposed amendments to: 30 page statement of proposed amendments and explanations; a 12-page statement of the vote cast for members of the constitutional convention, 5 March 1956; statements of votes on proposed constitutional amendments (1945-1966). 18 items.

Folder 16. September-October 1956. Virginia 350th Anniversary Commemorative Tour of Europe (1956): list of passengers on the M.V. Noordam; invitation to a banquet in London; list of trip members;
commemorative booklets; official roster; map of England; passenger list of S.S. America. 9 items.

Folder 17. Virginia Trade Mission to Europe (1967): notes on audience with King Gustof VI; Adolf in Stockholm; list of members and guests on trip; program from 20th Anniversary Commemorative dinner; map of travels. 4 items.


Folder 20. 24 September 1971-1 July 1989. William and Mary papers: speeches from 1970 by Carter Lowance; program from Davis Y. Paschall Testimonial Dinner; programs from inauguration and honorary dinner for Thomas A. Graves; roster of 1974 Board of Visitors; published address by Graves on the history of William and Mary; correspondence between Graves and Carter Lowance; letter to Governor Robb supporting appointment of Carter Lowance to Board of Visitors; subsequent correspondence between Governor Robb and Carter Lowance; letters regarding the Verkuil appointment; letter from Carter Lowance to Governor Harrison supporting the appointment of Tim Sullivan as Dean of the Law school; clippings about the college's drive to raise $150 million for 1993; booklet about the Chancellor's badge and chain of office; 1977 Charter Day commemorative booklet. 1988 Insider's Case statement. 40 items.

Medium Oversize Files

1931-1988 & n.d. Certificates, citations, and diplomas of Carter Lowance; also included are a copy of Life magazine from July 1962; a photograph of the house in Roanoke where Carter Lowance grew up; and a photo of an aircraft carrier. 27 items.

Artifacts

3 December 1942 Pocket prayer book given to Carter Lowance from his mother, 3 December 1942. 1 item (A1)

1956 Alternate medal from the 1956 Democratic National Convention; also included are a small colored pin with the motto "sic semper tyrannis" and a rifle pin. 3 items (A2).

[1988] Virginia Communications Hall of Fame medal. 1 item. (A4).


[n.d.] Sigma Phi Epsilon Founders Club Medal. 1 item. (A6)

[n.d.] Roanoke College medal. 1 item. (A7)

[n.d.] DAR medal (?) and an antitank medal from the U. S. Army. 2 items. (A8)