

William Dawson Family Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2016

Contact information: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact>

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm75017996>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms016021>

Prepared by Manuscript Division Staff

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2016

Collection Summary

Title: William Dawson Family Papers

Span Dates: 1728-1775

ID No.: MSS17996

Creator: Dawson, William, 1705?-1752

Extent: 200 items

Extent: 2 containers

Extent: .4 linear feet

Extent: 1 microfilm reel

Language: Collection material in English

Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

LC Catalog record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm75017996>

Summary: Anglican clergyman, college president, and public official of Virginia. Correspondence, financial and administrative records, certificates, commissions, ecclesiastical papers, sermons, addresses, poetry, and other material concerning the ecclesiastical affairs of the Anglican Church in Virginia, administrative matters of the College of William and Mary, and professional and social affairs of William Dawson and his brother, Thomas Dawson, also a clergyman and college president.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

People

Bacon, Thomas, approximately 1700-1768--Correspondence.
Bearcroft, Philip, 1697-1761--Correspondence.
Blair, John, 1687-1771--Correspondence.
Broughton, Thomas, -1737--Correspondence.
Conway, Edwin, 1681 or 1682-1763--Correspondence.
Davies, Samuel, 1723-1761--Correspondence.
Dawson family.
Dawson, Thomas, 1715-1760. Thomas Dawson papers.
Dawson, William, 1705?-1752.
Dinwiddie, Robert, 1693-1770--Correspondence.
Dodd, Benjamin, -1765--Correspondence.
Fothergill, George, 1705-1760--Correspondence.
Gibson, Edmund, 1669-1748--Correspondence.
Gooch, Rebecca Staunton--Correspondence.
Gooch, William, Sir, 1681-1751--Correspondence.
Henry, Patrick, -1777--Correspondence.
Henry, Patrick, 1736-1799--Correspondence.
Ludwell, Philip, approximately 1660-approximately 1704--Correspondence.
Potter, John, 1673 or 1674-1747--Correspondence.
Scott, James (Anglican clergyman)--Correspondence.
White, Alexander, 1738-1804--Correspondence.
Wilson, Thomas, 1703-1784--Correspondence.

Organizations

Church of England--Virginia.
College of William & Mary.

Subjects

American poetry.
Sermons, American.

Universities and colleges--Virginia--Williamsburg.

Places

Virginia--Church history.

Virginia--Politics and government--To 1775.

Titles

Dawson family papers

William Dawson papers

Occupations

Clergy.

College presidents.

Public officials--Virginia.

Provenance

The family papers of William Dawson, Anglican clergyman, college president, and public official of Virginia, were purchased by the Library of Congress in 1917.

Processing History

The Dawson Family Papers were bound after being obtained in 1917. The collection was microfilmed in 1975, and the finding aid was created in 2016.

Related Material

Related material in the Library includes a photostatic copy of a letter from James Maury to Thomas Dawson, October 10, 1759, in a file of Thomas Dawson Correspondence in the Miscellaneous Manuscripts Collection of the Manuscript Division.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of William Dawson family is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of William Dawson family are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number or reel number, William Dawson Family Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

William Dawson was an Anglican clergyman, a commissary of the Bishop of London, and a member of the Virginia Governor's Council. A graduate of Queen's College at Oxford University, he was the second president of the College of William and Mary, 1743-1752. Dawson died on July 20, 1752. His brother, Thomas Dawson, served as fourth president of the College of William and Mary, 1755-1760.

Scope and Content Note

The family papers of William Dawson (1705[?]-1752) span the years 1728-1775. William Dawson was an Anglican clergyman in Virginia who served as second president of the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia, 1743-1752. The collection consists of correspondence, financial and administrative records, certificates, commissions, ecclesiastical papers, sermons, addresses, poetry, and other material concerning the ecclesiastical affairs of the Anglican Church in Virginia and administrative matters of the College of William and Mary. Included are papers of William's brother, Thomas Dawson, also an Anglican clergyman, commissary of Virginia, and the fourth president of the College of William and Mary, 1755-1760.

Correspondents include Thomas Bacon, Philip Bearcroft, John Blair, Thomas Broughton, Edwin Conway, Samuel Davies, Robert Dinwiddie, Benjamin Dodd, George Fothergill, Edmund Gibson, Rebecca Staunton Gooch, Sir William Gooch, Patrick Henry (died 1777), Patrick Henry (1736-1799), Philip Ludwell, John Potter, James Scott, Alexander White, and Thomas Wilson.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged chronologically in bound volumes.

Container List

Microfilm shelf no. 16,471

Container	Contents
BOX 1 REEL 1	Vol. 1, 1728-1753, Sept. 12
BOX 2 REEL 1	Vol. 2, 1753, Oct. 30-1775