

Jones Memorial Library

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Template Revised 4-4-24

Finding Aid to the Robert Chambliss Light, Jr. Papers

1979-2024

Collection Number: MS2132

Creator: Robert Chambliss Light Jr.

Title: Robert Chambliss Light Jr. Papers

Dates: 1979-present

Volume of collection: 62 cubic feet

Language of materials: English

Collection summary:

Personal papers thought by the creator to “provide a representative sample of upper middle class life in Lynchburg during the time.”

Biographical note:

Born September 15, 1953, Robert Chambliss (“Cham”) Light graduated from Virginia Episcopal School in Lynchburg, Virginia in 1971, completed a B.A in Speech at the University of Virginia in 1976, and earned a J.D from the T.C. Williams School of Law at the University of Richmond in 1980. After five years in private practice, Cham spent 31 years with Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company in Lynchburg, Virginia, holding many positions in their legal department. Cham is immersed in the cultural, social, and political life of Lynchburg and the state of Virginia, serving on boards of non-profit organizations including the Library of Virginia, Jones Memorial Library, and the Free Clinic of Central Virginia. Cham is married to Edith (Edie) Miller Light. Together they have two children. Cham and Edie reside in Lynchburg, Virginia.

Collection description:

Personal papers such as invitations, thank you notes, Christmas cards, newspaper articles, travel journals, diaries, obituaries, ephemera, and documents from the creator/donor’s legal career collected “to refer to or just enjoy the memories associated with them ... that also might be of interest to other family members ... and friends.”

Arrangement:

Part of this collection was prearranged by the creator alphabetically in sheet protectors by person and topic. This order has been maintained, but the materials have been transferred to archival boxes and grouped topically. Binders in the collection have been left intact as the

creator arranged them with financial, medical, and duplicate materials removed. The remainder of the collection has been organized by archive staff according to topics: Career and Professional Involvement, Families and People, Social and Civic Engagement, Political Involvement, and Travel and Events.

Alternative formats:

There are some newspaper or magazine clippings or copies of clippings, printed photographs, DVDs and CDs within the collection.

Digitized Copies:

This collection has not been digitized. For information about obtaining digital copies please contact the Jones Memorial Library reference desk at refdesk@jmlibrary.org.

Access restrictions:

Within the collection are DVDs and photo CDs which might be difficult to access. Hard copies of these materials have not been made.

Digital materials:

None at the time of writing this finding aid 02-19-2025. This will be updated if any is digitized and published online.

Technical requirements:

DVD and CD players needed for access to some material.

Rights note:

Library patrons are responsible for proper citation of library materials.

The Library operates as a fair use educational institution. Patrons are responsible for ensuring that their use of library materials conforms with U.S. copyright laws, donor restrictions, and other applicable regulations or laws. Requests to reprint or reproduce materials, in part or in whole, must be made in writing to the library director (director@jmlibrary.org). Requests should include citations for the exact resource(s). Permission is granted on a case-by-case basis.

Preferred Citation:

“George M. Jones Library Association (Lynchburg, Va.), Finding aid to the Robert Chambliss Light, Jr. Papers.”

Works used in preparation of inventory:

Sources used to prepare biographical information about the creator and the collection have been provided by the creator/donor. These include the creator’s resume/CV, his extensive index describing the collection, his journals, and (printed) email correspondence with JML director and archivist, all of which are in the collection.

Separated materials:

Any books donated by the creator of this collection have been cataloged separately and placed in the appropriate holding code (Rare Books, Closed Stacks, etc.) with the donor listed in the source record. Six (6) cubic feet of material separated from the collection include duplicates, mail with limited context or association with Lynchburg (this has been recycled or discarded), plastic sheet protectors removed have been given away, blank note cards, legal pads, and empty folders have been placed in the library's office supplies for re-use. Medical, financial, and sensitive legal documents have been separated and returned to the creator or shredded.

Related materials:

The creator served on the boards of many non-profit organizations in the city of Lynchburg and subscribed to local publications. Jones Memorial Library holds collections from some of these and have cross-referenced them in the catalog.

Acquisition note:

This bulk of this collection was gifted to the Jones Memorial Library by Robert Chambliss Light, Jr. (Cham) in 2024, along with a deed of gift signed by Mr. Light on March 1, 2024. Accruals will be added periodically, and duly noted in the collection file and finding aid.

Processing information:

This collection was processed by the following staff at the Jones Memorial Library: Deborah Smith, Nancy Jamerson Wieland, Kim Woodford, Gwen Wells, Matthew Parker, Hannah Lambach, Ashleigh Keller, Olivia Mares, and Allie Modzelewski.

This collection was described by Gwen Wells, Archivist, in 2025.

While processing this collection certain duplicates, financial, medical, and legal materials were removed. Materials in sheet protectors in binders were left as the creator arranged them, and are stored and numbered in archival boxes. Loose materials were placed in labeled archival folders, stored in archival boxes. Some of the materials are described at the item level in container lists, others at the container level.

Container list:

A container list description by box will be kept with the first box of all collection materials and attached separately to the finding aid.

Additional information: Lists of names of people mentioned in the materials, along with subjects or keywords useful in cross-referencing are being compiled and will be included in the container lists.