

**WILLIAM AUGUSTUS BOOTLE COLLECTION**  
PP0165

**Descriptive Summary**

*Creator* Bootle, William Augustus, 1902-2005

*Title* William Augustus Bootle Collection

*Accession Number* PP0165

*Physical Description* Four record center boxes of papers; three boxes of scrapbooks, framed photographs, and regalia.

*Inclusive Dates* 1930s-2000s

*Language Note* English

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**Administrative Information**

*Repository*

Mercer University Library  
Archives and Digital Initiatives  
1501 Mercer University Dr.  
Macon, Georgia 31207  
478-301-2968  
archives@mercer.edu

*Citation*

[after identification of item(s)], William Augustus Bootle Collection. Archives and Digital Initiatives, Mercer University Library, Macon, GA.

*Acquisition*

Gift of Bootle Family

*Processing note*

Inventory prepared by Laura Botts, Daniel Williams, Kathryn Wright, and others

*Restrictions on access*

Unrestricted access. All requests subject to limitations noted in departmental policies on reproduction.

*Restrictions on use*

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## **Collection Description**

### *Biographical Note*

William Augustus Bootle was born August 19, 1902, in South Carolina. At age 15, the family moved to Reidsville, Georgia, where he graduated high school as class valedictorian. By borrowing \$300 from a family friend, he was able to enter Mercer University in the fall of 1920 and successfully completed his law degree in 1925. He married Virginia Childs, an alumna of Wesleyan College, in 1928. President Calvin Coolidge appointed him United States Attorney for the Middle District of Georgia in 1929, a post he held until 1933. He then served as dean of Mercer University School of Law from 1933-1937 while also working in the law firm of Carlisle and Bootle. Under President Dwight Eisenhower, the United States Senate confirmed him to a seat on the United States Court, Middle District of Georgia, where he served from 1954 to 1981. From 1970 to 1981, he was the senior judge on the court. While on the court, he issued the rulings that desegregated the University of Georgia (1961) as well as Bibb County public schools (1970). The federal courthouse in Macon was renamed William Augustus Bootle Federal Building in 1998 in his honor, and Mercer University School of Law named an endowed chair for him in 1999. He was a loyal member of First Baptist Church of Christ in Macon and died at the age of 102 on January 25, 2005. (Based on biographical articles in the *Macon Telegraph* January 26, 2005.)

### *Scope and Content Note*

The collection is composed of four record center boxes of papers, including records of court cases, speeches, correspondence, photographs, and articles. There are also three boxes of scrapbooks, framed photographs, and regalia.

### *Subjects*

African Americans—Georgia—Macon  
Civil rights movements—Georgia—Macon  
Courts—District courts  
Courts—Law and legislation  
Mercer University  
United States—Race relations

### *Related Material*

None

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## **Container List**

Folder 1/1: Articles - Sources and Materials - History of the Law School (I)

Folder 1/2: Articles - Sources and Materials - History of the Law School (II)

Folder 1/3: Correspondence - Received

Folder 1/4: Capital Punishment Issues and Cases, US Court of Appeals, 11th Circuit, 1988

Folder 1/5: Correspondence - Received - Cards

Folder 1/6: Correspondence - Sent

Folder 1/7: Court Cases - Kinnett Dairies Inc vs. Dairymen Inc.

Folder 1/8: Court Cases - Preston Theodore King

Folder 1/9: Court Cases - Thornton et al vs. Martin et al. (I)

Folder 1/10: Court Cases - Thornton et al vs. Martin et al. (II)

Folder 1/11: Funeral, Death etc.

Folder 1/12: Masonic Materials

Folder 1/13: Magazines with articles of interest

Folder 1/14: Miscellaneous

Folder 1/15: Newspaper Articles - Concerning Bootle

Folder 1/16: Newspaper Articles - Miscellaneous

Folder 2/1: Notes

Folder 2/2: Notes (II)

Folder 2/3: Papers

Folder 2/4: Photos

Folder 2/5: Prayers

Folder 2/6: Programs

Folder 2/7: Retirement - First & Second

Folder 2/8: Speeches

Folder 2/9: Speeches - for Mercer

Folder 2/10: Speeches - by others - attributed

Folder 2/11: Speeches - by others - attributed (II)

Folder 2/12: Speeches - by others - Rufus Carrollton Harris

Folder 2/13: Speeches - by others - unattributed

Folder 3/1: Speeches - Sources and Materials - The Constitution and the Church

Folder 3/2: Speeches - Sources and Materials - Gettysburg Address

Folder 3/3: Speeches - Sources and Materials - Ideological origins of the American Revolution

Folder 3/4: Speeches - Sources and Materials - Law and Beauty; the Constitution

Folder 3/5: Speeches - Sources and Materials - Natural Law vs. Positive Law

Folder 3/6: Speeches - Sources and Materials - The pursuit of happiness

Folder 3/7: Speeches - Sources and Materials - Rufus C. Harris

Folder 3/8: Speeches - Sources and Materials - What did Columbus discover?

Folder 3/9: Southern Life Insurance Co.

Folder 3/10: University of Georgia Ruling - Court Proceedings

Folder 3/11: University of Georgia Ruling- Correspondence concerning court case and newspaper articles

Folder 3/12: University of Georgia Ruling - Correspondence - Favorable

Folder 3/13: University of Georgia Ruling- Correspondence - Favorable - with newspaper clippings

Folder 3/14: University of Georgia Ruling- Correspondence - Unfavorable

Folder 3/15: University of Georgia Ruling- Correspondence - Unfavorable - w/ newspaper clippings

Folder 3/16: University of Georgia Ruling – Notes

Folder 3/17: Speeches for family (duplicates to be returned to family if requested)

Folder 3/18: Biographical file

- Folder 4/1: Book: *A Short History of Latham (UK)*, by Maureen Miller (?), ca. 1982 (with enclosed letter and newspaper clipping)
- Folder 4/2: Book: *History of Macon and Central Georgia*, by John C. Butler, 1960 reprint
- Folder 4/3: Book (boxed): *Southern History of the War*, by E.A. Pollard, 1866
- Folder 4/4: Certificate: W. A. Bootle, State Bar of Georgia, Fifty Years of Service, 1982
- Folder 4/5: Certificate: W. A. Bootle, United States District Judge, Middle District of Georgia, (with enclosed government identification card), 1978
- Folder 4/6: Certificate (framed): W. A. Bootle, Phi Alpha Delta membership, W.H. Fish chapter, 1968
- Folder 4/7: Honorary degree: W. A. Bootle, Mercer University, Doctor of Laws, 1982
- Folder 4/8: Hymnal (shape-note): *Gleanings of Praise*, by Beazley, Good, et al, ca. 1905
- Folder 4/9: Pin (framed): Master Mercerian
- Folder 4/10: Plaque: W. A. Bootle, Boss of the Year, Macon Legal Secretaries Association, 1970
- Folder 4/11: Plaque: W. A. Bootle, in appreciation of Mercer Law School leadership, Law Day, 1996
- Folder 4/12: Plaque: W. A. Bootle, Master Mercerian, Half Century Club, 1981
- Folder 4/13: Plaque: W. A. Bootle, Mercer University Press, Scholar's Library membership, 1992-93
- Folder 4/14: Plaque: W. A. Bootle, Potentate, Al Sihah, 1949
- Folder 4/15: Resolution (rolled): W. A. Bootle, Walter F. George Foundation, 1999
- Folder 4/16: Songbook (lyrics): compiled by Virginia Bootle
- Folder 4/17: Songbook (lyrics): Fifth Circuit Judicial Conference
- Folder 4/18: Videotape (VHS): W. A. Bootle funeral service, 2005
- Folder 5/1: Framed bird hunting photograph
- Folder 5/2: Photograph album: bird hunting
- Folder 5/3: Photograph album: family photographs

Folder 5/4: Scrapbook: photographs and miscellaneous items

Folder 6/1: Judicial robe

Folder 7/1: Mercer University academic regalia

Folder 7/2: United States flag