The Virginia Law Reporters Before 1880

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The Virginia Law Reporters
Before 1880

Edited by
W. Hamilton Bryson

University Press of Virginia
Charlottesville
For a long time I wondered who were the Virginia legal authorities. A cursory investigation of the eighteenth- and nineteenth-century Virginia law reports bear their own names, included the highest political and legal visibility. Figures like Jefferson and George Wythe, as well as popularly known. My curiosity having been aroused, I compiled a series of biographical sketches of the Virginia law reporters whose publications are cited by their own names. This volume brings together the common interest in law reporting a coherent account of the first law professor in America, a Prager, States, a United States attorney general, a Supreme Court justice, many Virginia judges, legal scholars, court a poet. These sketches are arranged according to the official series of Virginia Reports with the miscellaneous reports following in alphabetical order.

I would like to conclude this preface with an expression of the generosity of the Faculty Publishers of the University of Richmond for the publication of this book.
For a long time I wondered who or what was meant by Gratt., Hen. & M., Gilm., and the other references to the older Virginia legal authorities. A cursory investigation revealed that the eighteenth- and nineteenth-century law reporters, whose reports bear their own names, include in their number men of the highest political and legal visibility, such as Thomas Jefferson and George Wythe, as well as persons who are very little known. My curiosity having been aroused, I organized this series of biographical sketches of the Virginia law reporters whose publications are cited by their own names, according to the older custom. This volume brings together through their common interest in law reporting a colonial attorney general, the first law professor in America, a president of the United States, a United States attorney general, a United States Supreme Court justice, many Virginia and federal politicians, Virginia judges, legal scholars, court clerks, a preacher, and a poet. These sketches are arranged according to the order of the official series of Virginia Reports with those of the compilers of the miscellaneous reports following in chronological order.

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W. H. B.