

**Cocke, Norman Atwater**

**20 Nov. 1884–4 Nov. 1974**



University. <sup>[3]</sup> Nolan Atwater Cocke, attorney and industrialist, was born in Prince George County, Va., the son of John James Cocke and grandson of Nathaniel Colley and Virginia Peterson Cocke of Aberdeen in eastern Prince George. His mother, Sarah Atwater, was a native of Cocksackie, N.Y. Cocke was reared in Petersburg, Va., where his father was an attorney. He began his education at the local schools, finishing at the Petersburg Academy. In 1905 he was graduated from the New York Law School, and from 1902 to 1906 he was a clerk in the law firm of Atwater and Cruikshank in New York City. He was licensed to practice law in New York in 1906 and in North Carolina in 1907. He became attorney in 1906 for the Southern Power Company <sup>[3]</sup> and later for its successor, the Duke Power Company <sup>[4]</sup>, continuing this association for over fifty years and making his home in Charlotte <sup>[5]</sup>. After joining the company, he conceived and directed the concern's extensive forestry and land management program. In 1927 he became a director and vice-president of Duke Power, and he was president from 1947 until his retirement on 1 Jan. 1959.

Cocke was interested in other phases of the industrial development of Piedmont North Carolina and was appointed director of the Piedmont and Northern Railway in 1927. At the time of his death he was a director of the textile concern J. P. Stevens and Company.

Cocke served as a trustee of [Converse College](#)<sup>[10]</sup> and was an original trustee of the [Morehead Scholarship Foundation](#)<sup>[11]</sup> of [The University of North Carolina](#)<sup>[12]</sup>; he was elected chairman of the Morehead trustees in 1965. A member of Christ Church, Charlotte, he was an active layman and a trustee of the [Episcopal Foundation of the Diocese of North Carolina](#).<sup>[13]</sup>

He was married on 28 Nov. 1911 to Mary Sommers Booth of Petersburg, Va., and was the father of three sons, Norman, Jr., William Booth, and John.

J. B. Boddie, *Southside Virginia Families* (1955).

Gary Trawick and Paul Wyche, *One Hundred Years, One Hundred Men* (1971).

*Who's Who in America, 1959.*

**Additional Resources:**

Cocke, Norman A. *A ten-year review of the work of the Duke endowment*<sup>[17]</sup>. Charlotte, N.C.: The Duke Endowment. 1934.

Cocke, Norman Atwater, Frank W. Rounds, and Grady Rankin (call #: NXCP87-A376). 1964. *Reminiscences of Norman Atwater Cocke and Grady Rankin* James B. Duke Project. Columbia University Libraries <http://clio.cul.columbia.edu/7018/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibld=4074086> <sup>[18]</sup>

Boddie, John Bennett. *Southside Virginia Families*, Volume 1. Genealogical Publishing Co. 2003. 154. <http://books.google.com/books?id=yrvuKfngvAC&pg=PA154&pg=PA154#v=onepage&q&f=false> <sup>[19]</sup>

Duke Endowment. *Annual Report of the Duke Endowment* 1971. 10. <http://books.google.com/books?id=Fa0KAAAIAAJ&q=%22Norman+Atwater+Cocke+%22&dq=%22Norman+Atwater+Cocke+%22&hl=en&sa=X&ei=InduUZbvJozA9QS1hlCoDg&ved=0CE8Q6AEwBQ&printsec=frontcover#v=onepage&pg=PA10> (accessed April 17, 2013).

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