

Alden Barss fonds

Compiled by Erwin Wodarczak (1997)
Last revised August 2010



University of British Columbia Archives



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THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



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- **Catalogue entry** (UBC Library catalogue)

Fonds Description

Alden Barss fonds. – 1910-1977.

3.87 m of textual records.

255 photographs.

Biographical Sketch

Alden Forest Barss was born in New York State in 1888, and received a B.A. from the University of Rochester, a B.Sc. in agriculture from Cornell University, a masters degree in horticulture from Oregon State College, and a Ph.D. from the University of Chicago. He joined UBC's Department of Horticulture in 1918, eventually succeeding Agriculture Dean F.M. Clement as Department Head in 1940. He served as head until his retirement in 1953. Barss also served as a member of the UBC Senate from 1924 to 1930, and was involved with the Inter-Fraternity Council. He was a member of many professional and scientific societies, and he gave a number of radio presentations on agricultural issues. Barss was also an active member of St. Helen's Anglican Church in Vancouver, and also served from 1927 to 1971 on the Board of Governors of the Anglican Theological College of B.C. (later part of the Vancouver School of Theology), including twenty-five years as its secretary.

Scope and Content

The fonds consists of textual records (including correspondence, reports, minutes, and course materials), published materials, and photographs, documenting the life and career of Alden Barss. The records deal with the teaching of horticulture; the development of the Department of Horticulture, the Faculty of Agriculture, and the University; Barss' involvement with the Anglican Theological College and the Anglican Church; his professional career; and his personal life. Some records were apparently collected and arranged by Barss in the course of writing a history of the Department of Horticulture.

Notes

The original series in which the records were arranged have for the most part been maintained. However, some series were consolidated, and some physical re-arrangement was carried out to restore series which had been broken apart in the course of being transferred to the University Archives. In addition, the files in each series have been placed in alphabetical order. Most newspaper clippings have been removed.

File List available.

One file containing correspondence between Alden Barss and various students, containing recommendations for employment, is restricted.

Records of the Anglican Theological College may also be found in the archives of the Vancouver School of Theology and the Anglican Synod of British Columbia.

Other records relating to the Department of Horticulture can be found in the [Faculty of Agricultural Sciences](#) and the [Division of Plant Science](#) fonds.

All but 30 of the photographs are described and stored separately. The remaining 30 photographs are with the Horticulture - General series.

Series Descriptions

Horticulture - General series. – 1913-1965.

35 cm of textual records.

30 photographs.

The series consists of correspondence, reports, course materials, published materials (including off-print articles, clippings, and pamphlets), and photographs. The records concern general aspects of horticulture.

The photographs are pasted onto pages, and are part of a report included in the file "Geology Notes". These pages have been placed in separate envelopes, but left in the file folder.

Horticulture - Course Materials series. – 1918-1953.

21 cm of textual records.

The series consists of course outlines and other materials, written lecture notes, and published materials (including off-print articles, clippings, and pamphlets).

Horticulture - Systematic Pomology series. – 1914-1954.

14 cm of textual records.

The series consists of correspondence, course materials including written notes, and published materials (including off-print articles, clippings, and pamphlets). The records concern the growing of apples, pears, and related fruits.

Horticulture - Historical series. – 1918-1969.

34.5 cm of textual records.

10 photographs.

The series consists of correspondence, reports, course materials, published materials (including off-print articles, clippings, and pamphlets), and photographs. Some of the records may have been collected by Alden Barss in the course of writing his history of the Department of Horticulture.

The photographs are described and stored separately.

"50 Years Horticulture at UBC, 1917-1967" series. – 1917-1973.

48 cm of textual records.

ca. 150 photographs.

The series consists of correspondence, reports, course materials, published materials (including off-print articles, clippings, and pamphlets), scripts for radio presentations, and photographs. These records were presumably collected and arranged by Alden Barss in the course of writing his history of the Department of Horticulture, of which a copy is included in this series.

The photographs are described and stored separately.

Agriculture series. – 1920-1956.

22.5 cm of textual records.

The series consists of correspondence, reports, course materials, and published materials (including off-print articles, clippings, and pamphlets). The records deal in general with agriculture and the Faculty of Agriculture.

U.B.C. series. – 1918-1974.

50 cm of textual records.

ca. 50 photographs.

The series consists of correspondence, reports, minutes, published materials, and photographs. The records deal primarily with the areas of University administration in which Barss was involved, including Senate, the Inter-Fraternity Council, the Department of University Extension, the building of Brock Hall, and campus development and maintenance. Also included are some administrative records of the Department of Horticulture.

The photographs are described and stored separately.

Anglican Theological College series. – 1910-1971.

39 cm of textual records.

The series consists of correspondence, reports, minutes, and published materials. The records document Alden Barss' involvement with the Anglican Theological College of B.C.

St. Helen's - Historical series. – 1910-1960.

39 cm of textual records.

The series consists of correspondence, reports, minutes, financial records, and published materials. The records document Barss' involvement with St. Helen's Anglican Church in Vancouver, and with the Anglican Church in general.

Personal / Alphabetical Files series. – 1918-1977.

84 cm of textual records.

The series consists of correspondence, published materials, and one photograph. The records document Barss' various interests including horticulture, religion, and Ireland and Britain, as well as some of his personal and family relationships.

File List

Box 1

HORTICULTURE - GENERAL

- 1-1 Abstracts of papers - miscellaneous 1951
- 1-2 Arboretums and Botanical Gardens, UBC 1940-50
- 1-3 Liberty Hyde Bailey 1913-54
- 1-4 B.C. Fruit Growers Association 1923-39
- 1-5 Bulbs 1949-52
- 1-6 Data [Fruit Growth and Disease Experiments] 1949-51
- 1-7 Departments of Agriculture - newsletters 1946-48
- 1-8 Fruiting Habits of Fruit Plants and Pruning Fruit Trees 1921-45
- 1-9 Fruiting Habits of Fruit Plants and Pruning Fruit Trees 1941-55
- 1-10 Fruit - articles 1917-65

Box 2

- 2-1 Fruit - articles 1925-49
- 2-2 Geology Notes [ca. 1928] [includes photographs pasted into pages of report]
- 2-3 H.E.P.P. [Horticulturalists, Entomologists, and Plant Pathologists] - Correspondence 1921-33
- 2-4 H.E.P.P. - Correspondence 1947-50
- 2-5 H.E.P.P. - Correspondence 1951
- 2-6 H.E.P.P. - Correspondence 1952-54
- 2-7 H.E.P.P. - Correspondence 1958-60
- 2-8 H.E.P.P. Conferences - Miscellaneous 1922-65
- 2-9 H.E.P.P. - 30th Annual Convention - President's Address [by A.F. Barss] 1951
- 2-10 Northwest Association of H.E. and P.P. - Programs 1922-60
- 2-11 History and Literature [n.d.]
- 2-12 Holly 1942-47
- 2-13 Horticulturalists - short biographies [ca. 1948]

Box 3

- 3-1 Horticulture - Miscellaneous 1917-75
- 3-2 Mushrooms [ca. 1943]

- 3-3 Northwest Fertilizer Conference of Horticulturalists - Reports 1932-43
- 3-4 Plant Anatomy [n.d.]
- 3-5 Societies - American Pomological Society 1920-52
- 3-6 Variety Testing and HEPP Committee 1937-40
- 3-7 Western Horticulturalists - Correspondence 1919-20

HORTICULTURE - COURSE MATERIALS

- 3-8 [Horticulture 317 and Horticulture 319 course materials] [n.d.]
- 3-9 Hort. 418 and Grape Variety Descriptions / Refractometer tests 1946

Box 4

- 4-1 Hort. 418 - Peach Varieties, Apricots, Almonds 1936-51
- 4-2 Hort. 418 - Cherries 1942-53
- 4-3 Hort. 418 - Drupes (descriptive terms) / Shapes, etc., Apples and Pears 1946-48
- 4-4/5 Hort. 418 - Classification - Keys to Trees (fruit and nut) and Small Fruits 1918-47
- 4-6 Hort. 418 or 419 - Names of plants 1937-54

Box 5

- 5-1 Hort. 418 or 419 - Names of plants 1942-49
- 5-2 Hort. 419 - Start of course 1937-53
- 5-3 Hort. 419 - Misc. 1936-48

HORTICULTURE - SYSTEMATIC POMOLOGY

- 5-4 Lecture Outlines / Test for Colour-Blindness 1920-53
- 5-5 Misc. 1942-51
- 5-6 Orchard Fruits, esp. Apples 1914-25

Box 6

- 6-1 Plant Patents 1942-54
- 6-2 Pears 1925-45
- 6-3 Pomes - Apples, Pears, Quince 1914-42

- 6-4 Studies in Systematic Pomology, UBC 1953
- 6-5 Tree Characters - Small Fruit Plants, Blueberry Plants 1948

HORTICULTURE - HISTORICAL

- 6-6 Agriculture - misc. articles and news clippings 1918-45
- 6-7 A.I.C. [Agricultural Institute of Canada] and B.C.I.A. [B.C. Institute of Agrologists] / Agrologists' Act 1920-69

Box 7

- 7-1 B.C. Fruit Growers' Association - Scholarships 1944-55
- 7-2 B.C. Fruit Growers' Association - Correspondence 1936-44
- 7-3 High school correspondence course in fruit-growing - papers and exercises [n.d.]
- 7-4/5 High school correspondence course in agriculture - papers and exercises [n.d.]
- 7-6 Horticulture History - History of Canning 1948
- 7-7 Horticultural shows and misc. exhibitions 1922-27
- 7-8 Insect Morphology, General Entomology - courses 1921

Box 8

- 8-1 Landscape Architecture courses 1926-44
- 8-2 Minutes for 1965 Convention Cttee., A.I.C. write-ups and addresses 1964-65
- 8-3 Plant Registration 1922-37
- 8-4 Provincial Hort. Organization, and other meetings 1926-44
- 8-5 Speeches/ Addresses on Agriculture in B.C. 1929-33
- 8-6 "Statistics" - notebook [n.d.]
- 8-7 Studies and Reports on Fruit and Geographical Areas 1925-49

Box 9

- 9-1 UBC - misc. 1920-53
- 9-2 Vocational correspondence course in fruit-growing - lessons 1958
- 9-3 "50 Yrs. History of Agriculture" - Copy 2 [ca. 1967]

"50 YEARS HORTICULTURE AT UBC, 1917-1967"

- 9-4 Botany 313 - notebook 1928
- 9-5 Campus Development - reports / Class Trees 1919-45
- 9-6 [F.M. Clement, items by] 1917-44
- 9-7 Correspondence, UBC 1918-40
- 9-8 Correspondence, UBC 1919-52

Box 10

- 10-1 Correspondence, meetings, writings re. 50th Anniversary 1966-67
- 10-2 Faculty members, items by and about 1927-67
- 10-3 Fraternities and Sororities / Senate Committee 1921-36
- 10-4 Horticulture Dept. re. new building 1925-30
- 10-5 Horticulture UBC - senior essays, correspondence. and research 1917-50
- 10-6 Howell Harris - memo, items for "Hort. 50 Yrs." 1919-67
- 10-7 Night School - Amateur Gardening / Short Courses 1919-53

Box 11

- 11-1 Obituaries and Tributes 1940-72
- 11-2 Parties, dinners, openings, invitations 1940-72
- 11-3 [Personal correspondence and newsletters] 1917-73
- 11-4 Prizes awarded to UBC Dairy / Flower Shows and Exhibitions 1920-68
- 11-5 Publications about U.B.C. 1919-65
- 11-6 Publications about U.B.C. 1925-52

Box 12

- 12-1 Radio Talks, articles, etc. by A.F. Barss 1926-1953 [2 folders]
- 12-2 Short Course 1918-53
- 12-3 Short Courses for Returned Soldiers 1918-21
- 12-4 [Sketch of A.F. Barss, with accompanying letter] 22 March 1944
- 12-5 Students, Agriculture and Horticulture 1921-52 [photos removed]

Box 13

- 13-1 Vegetable Trials / Studies 1931-53
- 13-2 25th Anniversary of UBC Extension 1934-44
- 13-3 "50 Yrs. Hort. at UBC" by A.F. Barss 1967

AGRICULTURE

- 13-4 BCIA and AIC - Newsletters 1946-65
- 13-5 Botany and General Studies of Plants 1916-25
- 13-6 Citrus 1934-46
- 13-7 CSTA [Canadian Society of Technical Agriculturalists] - Educational policies 1925-31
- 13-8 CSTA - Historical Material (miscellaneous) 1920-26
- 13-9 CSTA - Letters 1920-29

Box 14

- 14-1 CSTA - Pamphlets 1920-41
- 14-2 CSTA - Programs 1921-31
- 14-3 CSTA - Reports 1922-31
- 14-4 Dept. of Education - Vocational correspondence course - Agriculture [n.d]
- 14-5 Fruit Growing and Marketing as a Business 1941-42
- 14-6 Dr. Lucas - Correspondence 1954-56
- 14-7 Olives [n.d.]
- 14-8 Plant Introduction, National Arboretum 1949-53

Box 15

U.B.C.

- 15-1 Academic Certificate for Teachers of Agriculture 1933-35
- 15-2 Brock Memorial Building - Committee on Administration 1940-43
- 15-3 Brock Memorial Building - Permanent Memorial Committee 1936-40
- 15-4 Campus Development 1941-44
- 15-5 Campus Maintenance 1935-36
- 15-6 Campus Maintenance 1936-38
- 15-7 Campus Maintenance and Estimates 1944-50

Box 16

- 16-1 Diploma in Horticulture 1946-52
- 16-2 Faculty Council / Use of Brock Hall / Clean-Up-Campus Committee 1940-43
- 16-3 Farm Mechanics / Agric. Engineering 1939-46
- 16-4 Fraternity 1925-74

- 16-5 Horticultural [Dept.] Estimates / Research Projects / Work of the Horticulture Dept. 1921-29
- 16-6 Horticulture Dept. 1929-35
- 16-7 Horticulture Dept. 1936-38

Box 17

- 17-1 Horticulture Dept. - Plant Nutrition and Raspberry Research 1938-45
- 17-2 [Horticulture Department] 1941-44
- 17-3 Horticulture Dept. - Reports 1923-36
- 17-4 Hort. Report and Estimates 1946-50
- 17-5 Hort. File List / Dept. of Agric. Economics / Aggie Christmas Party 1918-26
- 17-6 Inter-Fraternity Council 1932-35

Box 18

- 18-1 Inter-Fraternity Council 1934-36
- 18-2 Memorial Book / Junior Colleges 1927-55
- 18-3 Seed Growers' Short Courses 1945-46
- 18-4 UBC - memos, meetings, notes 1921-67
- 18-5 UBC Aggies 1926-58 [photographs removed]
- 18-6 UBC Classes of 1923 and 24 - 50th Reunion 1973-74
- 18-7 UBC Convocation Founders / Alumni Assoc. 1954-56
- 18-8 UBC Department of University Extension - Reports 1946
- 18-9 University Committee Royal Tour / Limitations of Admission to Students / Convocation and Courses 1938-39

Box 19

ANGLICAN THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE

- 19-1 ATC Board Minutes 1918-29
- 19-2 ATC Board Minutes 1930-59
- 19-3 ATC Board of Governors (Secretary's Copy) 1938-45
- 19-4 Board Meetings 1964-69
- 19-5 [Board and Committee reports] ATC Current File 1953-66

Box 20

- 20-1 [Board and Committee reports] ATC Misc. 1963-68
- 20-2 [Board and Committee] Meetings and reports 1967-70
- 20-3 Board of Governors - correspondence 1928-57
- 20-4 ATC "Bulletin" 1921-45
- 20-5 ATC By-Laws and Constitution
- 20-6 ATC Chapel Design [includes drawings] 1964
- 20-7 ATC - Commission of Enquiry 1952
- 20-8 [Constitutional matters] ATC Notes on various subjects / Misc. material 1945-63
- 20-9 [Executive Committee] ATC Current File 1959-60

Box 21

- 21-1 [Executive Committee] ATC Current File 1960-64
- 21-2 ATC Final Financial Statement to June 30, 1971 and Exec. Cttee. Minutes 1971
- 21-3 ATC Finance Committee Reports 1944-59
- 21-4 [Historical documents, general] ATC Stationery (misc. - historical/personal interest) 1940-60
- 21-5 ATC Historical Misc. 1963-70
- 21-6 ATC Historical/Personal - Misc. 1941-59
- 21-7 ATC Honorary Degrees (Historical) / Apts. of Committee / Approved Regulations April 26th, 1955 1943-55
- 21-8 Latimer Hall, first minutes / 1st and 2nd Annual Report, ATC 1910-14
- 21-9 Memorial Cttee. / Library Cttee. / Board of Patrons 1952-65

Box 22

- 22-1 [Theological Education] ATC Misc. Reports / Board of Governors / Ecumenical Theological Centre 1953-70
- 22-2 H.R. Trumpour Memorial Library / Memorials / Board of Patrons 1945-52
- 22-3 Dr. Woodhouse as Principal / subsequent material 1953-59

ST. HELEN'S - HISTORICAL

- 22-4/6 Cash Book - General Account 1921-29
- 22-7 Cash and Ledger book 1930-32

Box 23

- 23-1 Cash Book - St. Helen's Sunday School 1922-41
- 23-2 Cash Book - St. Helen's Sunday School 1943-60
- 23-3 Church Committee Meetings - Records and Minutes 1926-32
- 23-4 Church Committee Meetings - Records and Minutes 1933-39
- 23-5 [Church Committee Meetings] Records and Minutes 1939-48
- 23-6 [Correspondence] Old Letters, etc. 1920-23
- 23-7 Correspondence, General 1922-48

Box 24

- 24-1 Financial 1920-39
- 24-2 "Junior Bible" lessons and Bible Study booklets [n.d.]
- 24-3 List of Members and Financial Statements 1921-40
- 24-4 "Minutes of the Early Years..." 1913-26
- 24-5 Newsletters 1926-36
- 24-6 [Newsletters] Leaflets 1936-47
- 24-7 Proficiency/Attendance, Awards / St. Helen's Sunday School 1931-42

Box 25

- 25-1 Secretary's File 1939-48
- 25-2 Sunday School Register / Financial Records 1914-30

PERSONAL / ALPHABETICAL FILES

- 25-3 Church magazines, parish news, etc. 1923-60
- 25-4 Autumn Leaves - poems by Roger Cross [ca. 1973]
- 25-5 Autumn Leaves - poems by Roger Cross [ca. 1977]
- 25-6/7 Bible Society 1958-70

Box 26

- 26-1 Bible Society - minutes, reports 1958-74
- 26-2 Bible Society - financial 1962-73
- 26-3 Canadian Society for Horticultural Science
- 26-4 Christ Church Cathedral - correspondence and leaflets
- 26-5 Church and Religion - Reports and Talks 1960-63

26-6 Dr. Fred Clement

Box 27

27-1 Charles Colman 1952-76
27-2 Council of Churches 1958-71
27-3 Courses 1946-53
27-4 Current Letters 1945-78
27-5 D.A. McGregor and his writings [ca. 1970]
27-6 Dougall & Gibson - Property 1936-53
27-7 Education Material 1926-49
27-8 Misc. F: Faculty of Agriculture, Faculty Assn., Faculty Club 1920-73

Box 28

28-1 Games - Entertainment [n.d.]
28-2 Greeting Cards [n.d.]
28-3 Rev. David Hawkins 1971-73
28-4 "H" misc.: Hodgins Family / Hearing aids 1932-63
28-5 Hornby and Nancy Jear, Christmas cards / Kinley 1953-72
28-6 Interesting Letters, etc. 1936-52
28-7 [Ireland] - Correspondence, personal, with relatives in Ireland 1955-61
28-8 [Ireland] - "Travelog" and notes on vacation [ca. 1963]

Box 29

29-1 [Ireland] - Visit, correspondence and information 1963
29-2 [Ireland] - Britain, misc. [ca. 1963]
29-3 Lewis, Raymond 1960-65
29-4 Mail - misc. 1960-77
29-5 "Old Country Trip" - Odds and Ends from Summer 1924

Box 30

30-1 [Dick Palmer] Dick's Old Country Trip, 1932 1924-53
30-2 Personal correspondence 1918-42
30-3 Misc. personal correspondence - religious 1969-73
30-4 V. Barney Robinson 1921-39
30-5 St. Helen's, re. fire 1971-73
30-6 "The Scallop Shell" 1961-62

- 30-7 Short Articles suggesting topics for radio / Radio talks on Horticulture 1925-41
- 30-8 Students and Recommendations 1921-66 [restricted]

Box 31

- 31-1 UBC - Books to Library / Spiritual Values Committee 1945-60
- 31-2 Vancouver Institute 1934-52
- 31-3 Widdowson 1939-69
- 31-4 Dr. Woodhouse 1959-64
- 31-5 Woodhouse 1969-72