

# Frank F. Wesbrook fonds

Compiled by Christopher Hives (1999)  
Last revised October 2010



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# Fonds Description

**Frank F. Wesbrook fonds.** – 1891-1918.

13 cm of textual records.

29 photographs.

## Biographical Sketch

Frank Fairchild Wesbrook, the first president of the University of British Columbia, was born in Brant County, Ontario on July 12, 1868. In 1887, he graduated from the University of Manitoba, and the following year received a master's degree from the same institution. Wesbrook received his M.D. from McGill University in 1890. Subsequently, he spent a year at the Rotunda Hospital, Dublin and in 1892, he was elected John Walker student in pathology at Cambridge. He was appointed Professor of Bacteriology at the University of Minnesota in 1895 and in 1906 he became the first full-time Dean of Medicine there. While at the University of Minnesota, his chief field of work was in bacteriology relating to public health.

In 1913, he accepted the post of President of the nascent UBC. He guided the University through the first difficult years, hiring a staff and striving to make the University successful. The boom that had lasted for a decade in B.C. collapsed with the outbreak of war in 1914. Work on the new campus – begun at Point Grey to replace the Fairview campus used by UBC's predecessor McGill University College of B.C. – was suspended for several years. As a consequence, when the University of British Columbia began operations in 1915 it had to do so in the less than adequate facilities at Fairview. As well as his University activities, President Wesbrook was commanding officer of the Officers' Training Corps at UBC. He helped establish the Vancouver Institute, toured the Province examining its resources, and was active in the Patriotic Fund Drive in the Autumn, 1915. Failing health forced him to take a long break in early 1918. He died on 20 October, 1918.

## Scope and Content

The fonds consists of diaries, photographs, articles, speeches and reports, and miscellaneous material, all of which document Frank F. Wesbrook's personal and professional activities.

## Notes

File list available.

Photographs are available as part of the digitized [Historical Photograph Collection](#) under the collection number 37.1.

Records relating to Wesbrook's administrative activities at UBC can be found in the [President's Office fonds](#) (contact the University Archives for further information)

For additional biographical information see William C. Gibson, *Wesbrook and His University* (1973).

# File List

## Diaries (1891, 1914-1918)

The series consists of diaries that provide information primarily about Wesbrook's appointments between April 1914 and February 1918.

### Box 1

- 1-1 1891 (Winnipeg)
- 1-2 April - July 1914
- 1-3 August - November 1914
- 1-4 December 1914 - March 1915
- 1-5 April - July 1915
- 1-6 August - November 1915
- 1-7 December 1915 - April 1916
- 1-8 May - August 1916
- 1-9 September - December 1916
- 1-10 January - June 1917
- 1-11 March - August 1917
- 1-12 August - November 1917
- 1-13 December 1917 - February 1918

### Articles/Speeches/Reports by FFW

- 1-14 "Pancreatitis" FFW (1904/05)  
"Report to the Board of Regents" Health and Sanitary Committee (1910)  
"The Provincial University in Canadian Development" Science (February 20, 1914)
- 1-15 Farmers' Institute Convention speech (March 1916)  
Preface for the first "Annual" (1916)  
"The Physician of To-Morrow" Science (October 27, 1916)  
"The Education of the Physician of Tomorrow"  
The Medical Sentinel (February 1918)

## Miscellaneous

- 1-16 Telegram from H.E. Young to Wesbrook offering UBC Presidency (23 January 1913) and Wesbrook's reply (23 February 1913)
- 1-17 Wesbrook's design for UBC crest and a list of possible mottos (n.d.)
- 1-18 Printed program - "To Meet Professor Virchow" (March 20, 1893) Cambridge Correspondence re: Position at the University of Minnesota (1895) Report - Campus Extension [Minnesota] (1908)
- 1-19 Certificate appointing Wesbrook to Minnesota State Board of Health (11 January 1896)
- 1-20 Statement of Appreciation to Wesbrook from the staff of the Minnesota Board of Health Laboratories (1913?)  
"Wesbrook Appointed Dean 1906 - Resigns in 1913" - Undated portion of publication pertaining to FFW
- 1-21 Incoming correspondence re. tuberculin tests in animals (1917)
- 1-22 Wesbrook's Certificate of American Citizenship (November 6, 1902)
- 1-23 Wesbrook's certificate of readmission to British nationality (October 27, 1914)
- 1-24 Programme for Graduation Banquet (29 April 1917)
- 1-25 Wesbrook cartoon from Vancouver "World" (9 January 1917)
- 1-26 Bureau of Social Research Report - Gov'ts. of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta (1916)

## Photographs

The series consists of photographs of F.F. Wesbrook (1890-1916), family members and other associates. These photographs are available as part of the digitized [Historical Photograph Collection](#) under the collection number 37.1.