

University of British Columbia Library Rare Books and Special Collections

Finding Aid - Alvey family collection (RBSC-ARC-1861)

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Alvey family collection

Table of contents

Summary information	3
Administrative history / Biographical sketch	3
Scope and content	4
Arrangement	4
Notes	4
Access points	4
Series descriptions	5

Summary information

Repository:	University of British Columbia Library Rare Books and Special Collections
Title:	Alvey family collection
Reference code:	RBSC-ARC-1861
Date:	1942–2022 (date of creation)
Physical description:	8 cm of textual records 20 photographs
Language:	English
Dates of creation, revision and deletion:	Collection arranged and described by Elizabeth Robertson in December 2023.
Note [sourcesDescription]:	Information was derived from documents within the collection and information supplied by the donor.

Administrative history / Biographical sketch

Note

The Alvey family emigrated from Stralsund, Germany to the United States in the late 1870s. Frederick Alvey (d. 1920) and Sophia Alvey (née Ott, d. 1925) had two children together: William James Alvey (1881-1920) and Ernest Alvey (1883-1974).

William James Alvey served in the United States Army, having enlisted in 1897 and served in the Spanish-American war and the Philippine-American war. En route home to Detroit, he travelled through Seattle, where he worked as a motorman on a cable car, then at the Seattle Police Department. In Seattle he met Eva L. Berneche (1885-1956), a descendant of French Canadians who came west during the gold rush era. William and Eva had two children: Melvin Gerard Alvey (1902-1964) and A. Alexis Alvey (1903-1996). Following the death of her husband, Eva (Richards) worked as a nurse and teacher in Wainwright, Alaska; she published a memoir of her time in the arctic, *Arctic Mood: A Narrative of Arctic Adventures* (1949).

Melvin Alvey was a lifelong seafarer, and had a long career as a coast guard, stationed at several locations in the Pacific northwest. Together with his wife Edna M. Huntley, he had three children: William Jerard Alvey (b. 1924), Charlene Alvey, and Huntley Darnell Alvey.

A. Alexis Alvey was born in Seattle and attended McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario. She led a distinguished career with the Women's Royal Canadian Naval Service (W.R.C.N.S.) during the Second World War, having been selected as one of first class of that body, and she served as an officer on several naval bases across Canada.

Ernest Alvey was a seaman in the United States Navy, and served in the Spanish-American war. He later worked as an upholsterer, and retired as a Master Craftsman at General Motors. He married Aileen Casey

(1884-1971), an Irish immigrant, and had a son, Maurice Francis Alvey (1903-1985). Maurice married Margaret E. Turban (b. 1911) and had two children: Robert Maurice Alvey (b. 1962) and Maureen Katharine Alvey (b. 1946).

Scope and content

The collection reflects the genealogical interests of its collector, Robert Alvey, with a particular focus on the life of his first cousin once removed, A. Alexis Alvey, and on the movements and history of various Alvey family members. The collection consists mainly of correspondence between Robert Alvey and A. Alexis Alvey; other types of materials in the collection include photographs of Alvey family members, correspondence, newspaper clippings, reproductions of historical military certificates, and a miniature book created by Eva Louise Alvey Richards.

Notes

Title notes

Immediate source of acquisition

The collection was acquired by the University of British Columbia Rare Books and Special Collections from the collector, Robert Alvey.

Arrangement

The order of the materials in this collection reflects the arrangement imposed by the collector. Where adjacent documents have a clear connection in their creator or subject, these have been grouped together into a single file. All titles have been supplied by the archivist, with support from information supplied by the donor.

Other notes

- **Publication status:** published
-

Access points

- Family and personal life (subject)
- Military (subject)
- Women (subject)

Series descriptions

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
RBSC-ARC-1861-1-01	File - [Partial transcripts of letters between Eva Richards and Margaret Porter]	[Approx. 2022]		
RBSC-ARC-1861-1-02	File - [Copy of letter promotion of William Alvey to corporal Troop C]	[Before 2023]		
RBSC-ARC-1861-1-03	File - [Copy of William Alvey certificate of discharge from U.S. Cavalry]	[Before 2023]		
RBSC-ARC-1861-1-04	File - [photographs of Alvey family members]	[Before 2023]		
RBSC-ARC-1861-1-04-PH-01	Item - [photograph of A. Alexis Alvey ca. 1907]	[Before 2023]		
RBSC-ARC-1861-1-04-PH-02	Item - [photograph of William Alvey (lower front left) Seattle Police ca. 1910]	[Before 2023]		
RBSC-ARC-1861-1-04-PH-03	Item - [photograph of William Alvey ca. 1912]	[Before 2023]		
RBSC-ARC-1861-1-04-PH-04	Item - [photograph of A. Alexis and Melvin Alvey ca. 1913]	[Before 2023]		
RBSC-ARC-1861-1-05	File - [Reproductions of records of the Seattle Minute Men, 1917-1918]	[Before 2023]		
RBSC-ARC-1861-1-06	File - [Reproduction of A. Alexis Alvey newspaper feature with Girl Scouts Troop 1]	1980s?		
RBSC-ARC-1861-PH-05	Item - Amelia Alexis Alvey - WWII circa 1943	[Before 2023]		
RBSC-ARC-1861-PH-06	Item - Amelia Alexis Alvey WWII	[Before 2023]		
RBSC-ARC-1861-PH-07	Item - Amelia Alexis Alvey - WWII	[Before 2023]		
RBSC-ARC-1861-1-07	File - [Newspaper clippings]	1922 and 1943		
RBSC-ARC-1861-1-08	File - [Letters from Eva (Alvey) Richards to Margaret Porter]	1943		
RBSC-ARC-1861-1-08-PH-08	Item - [Photograph of Eva Richards with handwritten note to Virginia]	January 30, 1942		
RBSC-ARC-1861-PH-09	Item - Amelia Alexis Alvey circa 1950	[Before 2023]		
RBSC-ARC-1861-1-09	File - [Eva Richards obituary, Seattle Times]	November 15, 1956		
RBSC-ARC-1861-1-10	File - [Correspondence between A. Alexis Alvey, Robert Alvey, and Suzanne Alvey]	1977-1982		
RBSC-ARC-1861-PH-10	Item - [Amelia Alexis Alvey seated at desk, University of Washington Library]	1966		
RBSC-ARC-1861-1-11	File - [Letter from Huntley Alvey to Robert Alvey]	February 3, 1983		
RBSC-ARC-1861-1-12	File - [Letters from A. Alexis Alvey to Robert and Suzanne Alvey]	1983		
RBSC-ARC-1861-1-13	File - [Letter from Robert Alvey to Huntley Alvey]	June 22, 1983		

RBSC-ARC-1861-1-14	File - [Correspondence from A. Alexis Alvey to Robert and Suzanne Alvey]	1983-1985
RBSC-ARC-1861-1-15	File - [Letter from Huntley Alvey to Robert and Suzanne Alvey]	1985
RBSC-ARC-1861-1-16	File - [Correspondence from A. Alexis Alvey to Robert and Suzanne Alvey]	1987-1988
RBSC-ARC-1861-1-17	File - [Correspondence between A. Alexis Alvey and Krista DeWitt]	[After July 30, 1988]
RBSC-ARC-1861-1-18	File - [Correspondence from A. Alexis Alvey to Robert Alvey]	1988
RBSC-ARC-1861-PH-11	Item - Alexis - Summer '88	August 1988
RBSC-ARC-1861-PH-12	Item - Alexis - Banquet night at the WRCNS Reunion Aug. 25-28 '88 - Winnipeg	Summer 1988
RBSC-ARC-1861-1-19	File - [Correspondence between A. Alexis Alvey and Robert Alvey]	August- November 1988
RBSC-ARC-1861-1-20	File - [Letter from Robert Alvey to Charlene Hill]	November 18, 1988
RBSC-ARC-1861-1-21	File - [Christmas card from A. Alexis Alvey to Robert and Suzanne Alvey]	December 1988
RBSC-ARC-1861-1-22	File - [Letter from A. Alexis Alvey to Robert Alvey]	September 23, 1989
RBSC-ARC-1861-PH-13	Item - Alexis - 20th year of retirement	1989
RBSC-ARC-1861-PH-14	Item - Alexis on her 20th anniversary of retirement	March 1, 1989
RBSC-ARC-1861-PH-15	Item - Alexis in patches jacket	June 1990
RBSC-ARC-1861-PH-16	Item - Alexis - at home wearing patches jacket	June 1990
RBSC-ARC-1861-1-23	File - [Correspondence from A. Alexis Alvey to Robert Alvey and family]	1990-1991
RBSC-ARC-1861-1-24	File - [Letter from A. Alexis Alvey to Alexis Alvey]	April 23, 1991
RBSC-ARC-1861-PH-17	Item - The Alvey family tree in Alexis Alvey's apt.	1991?
RBSC-ARC-1861-PH-18	Item - SPD Chief Fitzimons and Alexis	June 26, 1991
RBSC-ARC-1861-PH-19	Item - Alexis and Chief of Police (Seattle) Parick Fitzimons	June 23, 1990
RBSC-ARC-1861-1-25	File - [Correspondence between A. Alexis Alvey and Robert and Suzanne Alvey]	1991-1992
RBSC-ARC-1861-PH-20	Item - [Photograph of oil painting of A. Alexis Alvey painted by Robert Genn]	[1992?]
RBSC-ARC-1861-1-26	File - [Letter from Robert Alvey to cousins]	June 1, 1994
RBSC-ARC-1861-1-27	File - [Correspondence from A. Alexis Alvey to Robert Alvey and family]	1994
RBSC-ARC-1861-1-28	File - [Correspondence from Charlene Alvey Hill to Robert Alvey]	1994
RBSC-ARC-1861-1-29	File - [Letter from A. Alexis Alvey to Alexis Alvey]	April 25, 1996

RBSC-ARC-1861-1-30	File - Blue Rime	[1930s]
RBSC-ARC-1861-1-31	File - [Correspondence from Charlene Alvey Hill to Robert Alvey]	2000?
RBSC-ARC-1861-1-32	File - [Charlene Alvey Hill obituary]	2017?