

University of British Columbia Library Rare Books and Special Collections

Finding Aid - Farris family collection (RBSC-ARC-1760)

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Farris family collection

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Summary information

Repository:	University of British Columbia Library Rare Books and Special Collections
Title:	Farris family collection
ID:	RBSC-ARC-1760
Date:	1867-1998 (date of creation)
Physical description:	1 m of textual records and other material
Language:	English
Dates of creation, revision and deletion:	Finding aid prepared by Andréa Tarnawsky (October 2016). Finding aid updated by Andréa Tarnawsky (January 2018) to reflect an accrual to the fonds. Finding aid updated by Ashlynn Prasad (August 2019).
Note [generalNote]:	Photograph identifiers: RBSC-ARC-1760-PH-001 to RBSC-ARC-1760-PH-140. Maps that are a part of the Farris family collection have been removed and are catalogued separately. To access these items, search "Farris family collection" in the title field of the library catalogue. Only one map remains in the collection, at the recommendation of the cataloguers.

Administrative history / Biographical sketch

Note

The Farris family was considered a prominent family in the Vancouver area, producing distinguished lawyers and scholars over several generations. The patriarch, John Wallace de Beque Farris (1878–1970) was a successful lawyer in Vancouver and an active member of the Canadian Bar Association. Farris was also active in politics throughout his life, and acted as the Liberal MLA for Vancouver, the Attorney General and Minister of Labour, and was called to the Senate in 1937. Evlyn Fenwick Farris (1878-1971) was a scholar and advocate for continuing education and women's rights. She was the founder of the first University Women's Club of Vancouver, and was elected to the Senate of the University of British Columbia. These eminent positions afforded the Farris family an elevated station in their community, and the opportunity to associate with families not only in the Vancouver elite, but with other prominent Canadians.

John Wallace and Evlyn married in 1905, and had four children, Katherine Hay, Donald Fenwick, Ralph Keirstead, and John Lauchlan. The Farris family's prestige also contributed to the success of their children. Evlyn and John Wallace's son, John Lauchlan Farris (1911-1986) was well-known as the Chief Justice of British Columbia, and was a Harvard Law School graduate. After being called to the

bar in British Columbia in 1935, he had a successful legal career and became a leading litigation counsel in Vancouver. Dorothy Beatrice Farris (1912-2004), a University of British Columbia graduate, and homemaker, married John Lauchlan in 1933 and had three children, Ann, Haig, and Katherine.

Custodial history

The Farris Family collection remained in the custody of several members of the family. Some of the records in the collection were made and received by John Wallace de Beque Farris and his wife Evlyn Fenwick Keirstad Farris, but upon their passing, many of their records were passed down to their son, John Lauchlan Farris. After his passing, his son, Haig de Beque Farris, continued donating records related to not only John Wallace de Beque Farris, but all the members of the Farris family from 2008-2015.

Scope and content

The collection reflects the careers and interests of the Farris family, who were prominent members of the Vancouver elite. Their status as a family of lawyers and educated individuals often allowed them the opportunity to travel and attend noted events such as the Royal Ascot Racecourse, and encounter several distinguished individuals, such as Prime Ministers Louis St. Laurent and Pierre Trudeau, Lieutenant Governor Walter Owen, and Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh. The collection consists chiefly of correspondence, photographs, matters of estate, family history, notebooks, manuscripts, legal memorabilia, and family memorabilia of John Wallace de Beque Farris, Evlyn Keirstad Farris, John Lauchlan Farris, and Dorothy Farris.

Notes

Title notes

- **Source of title proper:** Title based on the content of the collection.

Physical condition

Some items in the textual items in the fonds are brittle and are undergoing deterioration. Some records in the fonds feature rusting inorganic materials (e.g. staples and paperclips, spiral notebook coils).

Some of the panoramic photographs are in need of conservation as well as the birth scrapbook of John Lauchlan Farris.

Immediate source of acquisition

The collection was acquired by the University of British Columbia Rare Books and Special Collections from the donor, Haig de Beque Farris, in several accessions.

Arrangement

There was no original order to the materials in the collection. All file titles were supplied by the archivist.

Restrictions on access

There are no restrictions on access

Finding aids

File list available

Accruals

Further accruals are expected.

Other notes

- **Publication status:** published
- **Level of detail:** Full
- **Status description:** Final
- **Physical description:** Includes 50 cm of textual records, 140 photographs, 2 cm of ephemera, 2 scrapbooks, 2 books, 1 audio reel, 1 medal, and 1 map.
- **Conservation:** The archivist has attempted to remove rusting inorganic materials from the fonds, but some remain.

Access points

- Farris, John Wallace de Beque (subject)
- Farris, Evlyn Fenwick (subject)
- Farris, John Lauchlan (subject)
- Farris, Dorothy Beatrice (subject)
- Queen Elizabeth II (subject)
- Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh (subject)
- Louis St. Laurent (subject)
- Pierre Trudeau (subject)
- Walter Owen (subject)

Series descriptions

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
RBSC-ARC-1760-1-01	File - [Personal records of John Wallace de Beque Farris]	1912-[ca. 1970]		

RBSC-ARC-1760-1-02	File - [Correspondence of John Wallace de Beque Farris]	1894–[ca. 1950]
RBSC-ARC-1760-1-03	File - [Personal records of Evlyn Farris]	1905–1997
RBSC-ARC-1760-1-04	File - [Correspondence of Evlyn Farris (1 of 3)]	[193-?]
RBSC-ARC-1760-1-05	File - [Correspondence of Evlyn Farris (2 of 3)]	1931–1942
RBSC-ARC-1760-1-06	File - [Correspondence of Evlyn Farris (3 of 3)]	1931–1947
RBSC-ARC-1760-1-07	File - [Writings of Evlyn Farris]	[19–]
RBSC-ARC-1760-1-08	File - [Personal records of John Lauchlan Farris]	1929–1979
RBSC-ARC-1760-1-09	File - [Birth Scrapbook of John Lauchlan Farris]	1911–1914
RBSC-ARC-1760-1-10	File - [Personal records of Dorothy Colledge Farris]	1931–1972
RBSC-ARC-1760-1-11	File - [Condolence Letters for John Wallace de Beque Farris]	1970
RBSC-ARC-1760-2-01	File - [Newspaper Clippings]	1930–1982
RBSC-ARC-1760-2-02	File - [Memorabilia]	1949–1970
RBSC-ARC-1760-2-03	File - [Scrapbook of Farris Trip to New York]	1949
RBSC-ARC-1760-2-04	File - Keirstead Genealogy	[ca. 1945] – 1972
RBSC-ARC-1760-2-05	File - [History of Mabel Penery French excerpt]	1986
RBSC-ARC-1760-2-06	File - A Woman of Influence: Evlyn Fenwick Farris by Sylvie McClean	1993–1996
RBSC-ARC-1760-2-07	File - [Letters of thanks to John McAlpine regarding John Lauchlan Farris Obituary]	1987
RBSC-ARC-1760-2-08	File - [Royal Proclamation about the Canadian Flag signed by Queen Elizabeth II and Prime Minister Lester B. Pearson]	1965
RBSC-ARC-1760-2-09	File - [Transcript of CBC Broadcast by Ray Daniells about Garnett Sedgewick]	[ca. 1949]
RBSC-ARC-1760-2-10	File - [Canadian Bar Association Annual Dinner transcription]	1972
RBSC-ARC-1760-2-11	File - [Letter of Resignation of Ernest Lapointe]	1940
RBSC-ARC-1760-3-01	File - [Family Photographs of John Lauchlan and Dorothy Farris (1 of 2)]	1913–1989
RBSC-ARC-1760-3-02	File - [Family Photographs of John Lauchlan and Dorothy Farris (2 of 2)]	1913–1989
RBSC-ARC-1760-3-03	File - [Family Photographs of the funeral of W.B. Farris]	[ca. 1955]
RBSC-ARC-1760-3-04	File - [Family Photographs of John Walter de Beque and Evlyn Farris (1 of 2)]	1882–1968
RBSC-ARC-1760-3-05	File - [Family Photographs of John Walter de Beque and Evlyn Farris (2 of 2)]	1882–1968

RBSC-ARC-1760-4-01	File - [Framed photographs]	1867–[before 1900]
RBSC-ARC-1760-4-02	File - [Oversize photographs]	[ca. 1920]–1974
RBSC-ARC-1760-4-03	File - Cities of Canada: reproductions from the Seagram Collection of Paintings	[1953]
RBSC-ARC-1760-5-01	File - [Correspondence between Dorothy Farris and Cecil H. Green]	1989–1998
RBSC-ARC-1760-5-02	File - [Correspondence between Mary Farris and Cecil H. Green]	1988–1995
RBSC-ARC-1760-5-03	File - [Correspondence between Ann Farris and Cecil H. Green]	1998
RBSC-ARC-1760-5-04	File - Interview with John L. Farris re: Senator Farris by David Williams, Vol. 1 and 2 (1 of 6)	1986
RBSC-ARC-1760-5-05	File - Interview with John L. Farris re: Senator Farris by David Williams, Vol. 1 and 2 (2 of 6)	1986
RBSC-ARC-1760-5-06	File - Interview with John L. Farris re: Senator Farris by David Williams, Vol. 1 and 2 (3 of 6)	1986
RBSC-ARC-1760-5-07	File - Interview with John L. Farris re: Senator Farris by David Williams, Vol. 1 and 2 (4 of 6)	1986
RBSC-ARC-1760-5-08	File - Interview with John L. Farris re: Senator Farris by David Williams, Vol. 1 and 2 (5 of 6)	1986
RBSC-ARC-1760-5-09	File - Interview with John L. Farris re: Senator Farris by David Williams, Vol. 1 and 2 (6 of 6)	1986
RBSC-ARC-1760-5-10	File - [Interview between John Walter de Beque Farris and R. Roy, 1967]	1967
RBSC-ARC-1760-5-11	File - [Dorothy Farris' 1932 UBC Yearbook, The Totem]	1932
RBSC-ARC-1760-5-12	File - [Canvas bag for war maps]	[19—]
RBSC-ARC-1760-5-13	File - [Farris family tree and timeline]	[20—]
RBSC-ARC-1760-5-14	File - [Secret War Map of Northern France]	1914-1918 or 1939-1945
RBSC-ARC-1760-6-01	File - [Scrapbook of family photographs, newspaper articles, and letters about RCAF Flight Lieutenant Wilson Colledge]	[193-?]-1947