

A Guide to the Alfred Dickinson Barksdale Papers

Alfred Dickinson Barksdale Papers 1905-1973
1905-1973

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Descriptive Summary

Collection Number
10230

Language
English

Collector

Mr. and Mrs. Robert H. Garbee

Repository

University of Virginia. Library. Special Collections Dept.

Alderman Library
University of Virginia
Charlottesville, Virginia 22903
USA

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

Collection is open to research.

Use Restrictions

See the [University of Virginia Library's use policy](#).

Acquisition Information

The Alfred Dickinson Barksdale papers were presented to the library by Mr. and Mrs. Robert H. Garbee, 1601 Clayton Avenue, Lynchburg, Virginia, on 8 July 1977.

Funding Note

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BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Alfred Dickinson Barksdale was born in Halifax (then Houston), Virginia, on 17 July 1892. He was educated in local schools, with the exception of one year (1907-1908) which he spent at Cluster Springs Academy in Cluster Springs, Virginia. He attended the Virginia Military Institute from 1908 to 1911, graduating with a Bachelor of Science degree after only three years. Following a year of teaching in a Halifax school, he entered the University of Virginia Law School, and received his LL.B. in 1915. He entered the practice of law in Lynchburg, Virginia, but soon left to serve as a first lieutenant in the First Virginia Infantry --known as the "Musketeers"--on the Mexican border from June 1916 to February 1917. Promoted to captain in July 1917, he served in the 116th Infantry, 29th Division, American Expeditionary Forces, and saw active service in France from June 1918 to July 1919. Following the Armistice, he attended classes at the Sorbonne, in addition to acting as a judge-advocate for his battalion. He was released from service in August 1919, and received the Distinguished Service Cross, the Croix de Guerre, and the Chevalier Legion of Honor as a result of his military performance.

Upon his return to the United States, Alfred Dickinson Barksdale resumed his legal practice in Lynchburg. He served as a Virginia state senator from 1924 to 1928, and although this was the extent of his active political career, he formed many valuable political connections, including one with Harry F. Byrd, Sr., whom he assisted in his campaign for governor. In 1938, Barksdale was named judge of the Sixth Judicial Circuit of Virginia, this being the same position which his father, William Randolph Barksdale, had filled for many years in the early 1900's. In 1940 he was appointed judge of the United States District Court for the Western District of Virginia, and served in this capacity until he retired in 1957. Following his retirement from the bench he continued to do legal work, including service on the Trial Bench and the Court of Appeals, until his death on 16 August 1972.

Judge Alfred Dickinson Barksdale married Estill Winfree Phillips in 1934, and they made their home in Lynchburg until the judge's death. Their family included Mrs. Barksdale's son from her previous marriage, William Causey Phillips, Jr., and the Barksdale's two daughters, Louisa Estill Winfree Barksdale Loyd, and Mary B. Garbee.

In addition to his legal career, Alfred Dickinson Barksdale served on the Board of Trustees of Hollins College for over thirty years, was a member of the Board of Visitors of the University of Virginia for ten years, and was a member of both the Virginia Bar Association and American Bar Association.

For further biographical information, see the typescript biography in control folder no. 10230.

Scope and Content

These papers, consisting of cat 7770 items, (12 boxes, 1 oversize folder; 5 linear shelf feet), are the personal papers of Judge Alfred Dickinson Barksdale of Lynchburg, Virginia. Most of the papers fall between the years 1938 and 1972, with some covering the earlier period of 1918-1919. These periods correspond to the years of Alfred Dickinson Barksdale's career as judge of the Sixth Judicial Circuit of Virginia and as judge of the U. S. District Court of the Western District of Virginia, and also of his military service during World War I.

The major series in the collection is that of chronologically-arranged personal correspondence, covering the years 1918-1919 and 1940-1972. This correspondence consists chiefly of personal and routine social correspondence with family members, acquaintances, and friends, many of whom were Virginia lawyers, judges, businessmen, and political figures. Prominent correspondents include Virginia senators Harry F. Byrd, Sr., and Carter Glass; Virginia governor and University of Virginia president Colgate Darden; prominent businessman, government official, and Secretary of State Edward R. Stettinius, Jr.; and speaker of the House of Representatives Sam Rayburn. A minor problem in using the correspondence is that Barksdale's nickname was "Dick," and occasionally people address him as "Richard" Barksdale.

The chronological correspondence also includes Alfred Dickinson Barksdale's World War I correspondence with his father, William Randolph Barksdale, his brother; John Barksdale, and other family members and American friends. There are also a substantial number of letters and postcards from acquaintances he made in France, including several young French women. One folder contains official correspondence concerning Barksdale's war honors.

Following the chronological correspondence is a section of topical correspondence and related materials, which include memoranda, newspaper clippings, notes, miscellaneous printed material, etc.. The topics include important court cases, organizations to which Alfred Dickinson Barksdale belonged, and major turning points in his career, such as his appointment to the district judgeship, and his retirement. The letters relating to Barksdale's appointment to the district judgeship are of particular interest as they shed some light on the processes of political appointments. Other folders contain material concerning Barksdale's World War I unit, Company M, and the "Musketeers," and material regarding Barksdale's associations with Hollins College and the University of Virginia. Some genealogical material is also contained in this section.

A major portion of the collection consists of speeches given by Alfred Dickinson Barksdale, with background material, correspondence, and miscellaneous items. Barksdale delivered speeches at naturalization ceremonies at Roanoke and other Virginia locations many times over a period of about twenty years. He often spoke to various University of Virginia alumni groups, women's groups, bar associations, and at various Virginia Military Institute, court, and law school functions. Some speeches are related to special functions Barksdale performed such as introducing Greer Garson and John F. Kennedy on the occasions when they spoke in Lynchburg. It should be noted that material in the chronological correspondence overlaps with both topical correspondence and speeches. This material was not transferred as Barksdale had filed it chronologically.

Alfred Dickinson Barksdale's miscellaneous papers and memorabilia consist of family, personal, and professional items. His memorabilia from World War I includes contemporary postcards from places he visited in Europe. Contained in this section, as well as in the section of oversized material, are Barksdale's certificates for awards he won and positions he held. Two folders contain listings of addresses of people with whom he was acquainted.

The printed material section contains printed items used in Alfred Dickinson Barksdale's military and professional careers, and printed memorabilia from the Virginia Military Institute and the University of Virginia. Three folders of newspaper clippings relate to important events in his life and career, including the trial of several German-American Bund leaders, convicted of violating the Selective Service Act in 1942 in New York City, at which Alfred Dickinson Barksdale served as judge.

ORGANIZATION

The papers were arranged to some extent by Judge Barksdale, and this order was preserved wherever possible, unless further organization was necessary to facilitate research. The World War I correspondence is arranged in folders according to correspondents, and chronologically within the folders. The major correspondence series is arranged chronologically. The topical correspondence and speech sections generally follow the divisions set up by Barksdale. In the speech section, the manuscript speeches precede other related materials. Within the two miscellaneous speech folders, each speech and its related material is in chronological order by the date of the speech. The miscellaneous papers and memorabilia have been divided into general categories, and are arranged in chronological order within the folders. Printed material follows the same organization. Oversize material is arranged chronologically and is listed at the end of this guide. Undated material is located at the end of its particular section or folder.

Container List/Series Description

Correspondence

Letter: Wm. R. Barksdale to Helen & Mary Barksdale

Unit Date 1905 March 5

Container Box 1

Extent

1 item

Letters: Alfred Dickinson Barksdale to William Randolph Barksdale

Unit Date 1917 Dec 25 -post 1919 Jul 5

Container Box 1

Extent

33 items

Letter: Madge N. Thomson to Wm. R. Barksdale, enclosing letter, C. C. Barksdale to Wm. R. Barksdale

Unit Date 1918 Jun 22

Container Box 1

Extent

1 item

Letters: John Barksdale to Wm. Randolph Barksdale

Unit Date 1918 Aug 14 -1919 Feb 10

Container Box 1

Extent

8 items

Letters: Family members to Alfred Dickinson Barksdale

Unit Date 1918 Sep 13 -Dec 25

Container Box 1

Extent

4 items

Letters: Misc. to Alfred Dickinson Barksdale, during WWI, from both French & American correspondents

Unit Date 1918 Oct 5 -1919 June 25

Container Box 1

Extent

23 items

Letters: Wm. R. Barksdale to Alfred Dickinson Barksdale

Unit Date 1918 Oct 10 -1919 May 2

Container Box 1

Extent

7 items

Official Corres.: inc. re Distinguished Service Cross & French Citation

Unit Date 1918 Nov 10 -1919 Oct 20

Container Box 1

Extent

4 items

Letters: Alfred Dickinson Barksdale to Fannie & Louise Barksdale

Unit Date 1918 Nov 20 -1919 Apr 22

Container Box 1

Extent

2 items

Correspondence

Unit Date 1940 Mar -1942 Dec

Container Box 1

Extent

524 items, 6 folders

Correspondence

Unit Date 1943 Jan-1947 Dec

Container Box 2

Extent

959 items, 10 folders

Correspondence

Unit Date 1948 Jan-1951 Dec

Container Box 3

Extent

991 items, 10 folders

Correspondence

Unit Date 1952 Jan-1954 Dec

Container Box 4

Extent

848 items, 10 folders

Correspondence

Unit Date 1955 Jan-1959 Dec

Container Box 5

Extent

970 items, 12 folders

Correspondence

Unit Date 1960 Jan-1963 Dec

Container Box 6

Extent

705 items, 9 folders

Correspondence

Unit Date 1964 Jan-1968 Dec

Container Box 7

Extent

889 items, 10 folders

Correspondence

Unit Date 1969 Jan-1972 Aug;n.d.

Container Box 8

Extent

532 items, 8 folders

CORRESPONDENCE AND RELATED MATERIAL

re History of Co. M, 116th Infantry, Amer. Expeditionary Forces

Unit Date 1918 Nov 1 -1968 Nov 22

Container Box 8

Extent

6 items

re U. S. vs. J. E. Testerman & C. K. Lovett, U. S. District Court, Abingdon, Va. - 1942 Apr

Unit Date 1937 Nov 23 -1969 May 9

Container Box 8

Extent

40 items

re Hollins College

Unit Date 1938 Apr 28 -1959 Feb 22

Container Box 9

Extent

12 items

Recommendations of Alfred Dickinson Barksdale to the District Judgeship, incl. by Harry F. Byrd & Carter Glass

Unit Date 1939 Feb 3 -Dec 4

Container Box 9

Extent

32 items

Congratulatory letters to Alfred Dickinson Barksdale on his appointment to the U.S. District Judgeship of Western Virginia, incl. from Harry F. Byrd, Carter Glass, & Clifton Woodrum

Unit Date 1939 Dec 17 -1940 Feb 26

Container Box 9

Extent

30 items

re Congratulations to Alfred Dickinson Barksdale on his appointment to the District Judgeship

Unit Date 1940 Feb 15 -19

Container Box 9

Extent

78 items

re Memorials for John White Acree, Edley Craighill, Jr., Robt. Jones & Wm. Gerhard Suhling, III

Unit Date 1944 Oct 11 -1948 Oct 31

Container Box 9

Extent

8 items

Letters & pictures thanking Alfred Dickinson Barksdale for his Flag Day Speech to the Fourth Grade, GarlandRodes School, Lynchburg, Va.

Unit Date 1945 Jun 14

Container Box 9

Extent

17 items

Recommending Alfred Dickinson Barksdale for vacancy on the Circuit Court by the Lynchburg Bar Assoc.: incl. letters of Harry F. Byrd, & A. Willis Robertson

Unit Date 1956 Feb 8 -13

Container Box 9

Extent

7 items

w/ John H. Auer re John Miller & Mary Fry

Unit Date 1956 Apr 2 -1962 July 25

Container Box 9

Extent

19 items

re Alfred Dickinson Barksdale's retirement from the District Judgeship

Unit Date 1957 Mar 4 -June 17

Container Box 9

Extent

61 items

re Memorial for Judge Thompson

Unit Date 1960 Aug 24-Dec 21

Container Box 9

Extent

23 items

re the "Musketeers"

Unit Date 1961 Jun 24 -1966 Sep 17

Container Box 9

Extent

36 items

re Amer. Bar Assoc. Mtg.San Francisco, Ca.

Unit Date 1961 Dec 19 -1962 Aug 21

Container Box 9

Extent

49 items

re Barksdale Family History bet. Alfred Dickinson Barksdale, MarthaCraddock, & Betsy Willis

Unit Date 1971 Aug 17 -1972 Jul 24

Container Box 9

Extent

28 items

re Memorial for Alfred Dickinson Barksdale by the Va. Bar Assoc.

Unit Date 1973 Jan 3 -4

Container Box 9

Extent

2 items

SPEECHES AND RELATED MATERIAL

Miscellaneous

Unit Date 1921-1947

Container Box 10

Extent

11 items

Ms and Printed material used as reference works for speeches

Unit Date 1922-1961

Container Box 10

Extent

8 items

Printed material re Naturalization

Unit Date 1938-1942, 1955

Container Box 10

Extent

4 items

Welcoming the Class of 1940 into the Alumni of UVA, Finals Day Speech

Unit Date 1940 Jun 8

Container Box 10

Extent

15 items

re Naturalization Ceremony speeches, inc. by others than Alfred Dickinson Barksdale

Unit Date 1940-1960

Container Box 10

Extent

23 items

re Va., WWII and World Peace delivered to the Soc. of Virginians in N.Y.

Unit Date 1943 Dec 10

Container Box 10

Extent

32 items

re "The Practical Application of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure" delivered to the Judicial Section, Va. State Bar Assoc.

Unit Date 1946 Sep 17

Container Box 10

Extent

13 items

Misc.**Unit Date** 1950-1966**Container** Box 10**Extent**

13 items

re Brotherhood, delivered over Radio as Chairman of Brotherhood Week in Lynchburg, Va.**Unit Date** 1951 Feb 18 -25**Container** Box 11**Extent**

28 items

re Court System and Jury Service delivered to Women's Clubs of Lynchburg, Roanoke, and Halifax, Va.**Unit Date** 1951 Feb 23;1955 Dec 13;1955 Feb 11**Container** Box 11**Extent**

5 items

Intro. of Sen. John F. Kennedy to a Lynchburg, Va. audience**Unit Date** ca 1956 -1957**Container** Box 11**Extent**

1 item

Remarks at dedication of new Court House at Abingdon, Va.**Unit Date** 1960 May 26**Container** Box 11**Extent**

55 items

Welcoming the Class of 1917 into the Thomas Jefferson Society**Unit Date** 1967 May 5**Container** Box 11**Extent**

11 items

MISCELLANEOUS PAPERS AND MEMORABILIA

Barksdale Family, biographical and genealogical material

Unit Date ca [1893], 1925 -1972

Container Box 11

Extent

14 items

WWI incl. re Crox de Guerre & Distinguished Service Cross

Unit Date ca 1919, [1927]

Container Box 11

Extent

17 items

Professional

Unit Date ca 1940 -1956

Container Box 11

Extent

19 items

Addresses

Unit Date 1941-1967 , n.d.

Container Box 11

Extent

83 items

re Barksdale & Uva Board of Visitors

Unit Date 1947 -1956

Container Box 11

Extent

3 items

Passenger lists from Legal Conferences, w/Names & Addresses

Unit Date 1952 -1957

Container Box 11

Extent

4 items

Certificates

Unit Date 1954 -1969

Container Box 11

Extent

4 items

Personal

Unit Date 1965 Jun 9, n.d.

Container Box 11

Extent

5 items

PRINTED MATERIAL

Manuals, Biographies and Journal of the General Assembly of Virginia

Unit Date 1897-1946

Container Box 11

Extent

6 items

Newspaper Clipping re William Randolph Barksdale

Unit Date 1907 Jun 25

Container Box 11

Extent

1 item

Newspaper Clippings re WWI

Unit Date 1918 Dec 19 -1919 Jul 12

Container Box 11

Extent

7 items

General Orders, War Dept. and Infantry Drill Regulations (Provisional) American Expeditionary Forces

Unit Date 1918-1919

Container Box 12

Extent

2 items

Newspaper Clippings

Unit Date 1936 Oct 11-1970 Oct 22

Container Box 12

Extent

69 items

Misc.

Unit Date 1940-1955

Container Box 12

Extent

11 items

Alfred Dickinson Barksdale's introduction of Greer Garson at Lynchburg Bond Sale, in The Iron Worker

Unit Date 1942 Sep, Dec

Container Box 12

Extent

2 items

Misc.

Unit Date 1962 -1972

Container Box 12

Extent

8 items

OVERSIZE MATERIAL

Bachelor of Science Degree awarded to Barksdale by the Virginia Military Institute, 21 June 1911

Container Oversize (Box)

Extent

Diploma

appointing Barksdale a First Lieutenant (Virginia) in the National Guard, 5 August 1717

Container Oversize (Box)

Extent

Certificate

awarding the Croix de Guerre to Barksdale, 9 December 1924

Container Oversize (Box)

Extent

Certificate

awarding the Distinguished Service Cross to Barksdale,

Unit Date 10 December 1924

Extent

Certificate

appointing Barksdale United States District Judge, Western District of Virginia, 19 December 1939

Container Oversize (Box)

Extent

Certificate

appointing Barksdale United States District Judge, Western District of Virginia, 5 February 1940

Container Oversize (Box)

Extent

Certificate

Barter Theater Award Luncheon for Henry Fonda, 4 May 1948

Container Oversize (Box)

Extent

Photograph

appointing Barksdale to the Board of Visitors of the University of Virginia, 1946-1948, 1948-1952, 1952-1956

Container Oversize (Box)

Extent

Certificates

commissioning Barksdale a Kentucky Colonel, 8 May 1961

Container Oversize (Box)

Extent

Certificate

"The Hung Jury" by J. T. Brett

Container Oversize (Box)

Extent

Print

"Rules for Judicial Conduct" by Sir Matthew Hale, Kt.

Container Oversize (Box)

Extent

Poster