



Smithsonian

National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center

Guide to the Barden Family Papers

NMAH.AC.0824

Alison Oswald

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Archives Center, National Museum of American History

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	Barden Family Papers
Date:	1842-1934
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.0824
Creator:	Barden, Henry, 1806-1871 Barden, William Wallace, 1843-1932
Extent:	3 Cubic feet (8 boxes)
Language:	English .
Summary:	Business correspondence of homeopathic physicians Henry Barden and his son, William Wallace Barden, of Penn Yan, New York and Barden Family correspondence.

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Collection purchased at auction from R.M. Smythe Company, New York, New York.

Processing Information

The collection was processed by Alison Oswald, archivist, 2018.

Preferred Citation

Barden Family Papers, 1820s-1930s, Archives Center, National Museum of American History.

Restrictions on Access

The collection is open for research.

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Biographical Note

Henry Barden (1806-1871) graduated from the College of Physicians and Surgeons, New York City, in 1833, and began practice in Benton, New York, locating finally in Penn Yan about 1840. Henry Barden married Caroline Purdy and they had two children, Helen J. (nee Barden) Van Wyck (1840-1915) and William Wallace Barden.

William Wallace Barden (1843-1932) was born in Penn Yan, New York. He graduated from Philadelphia University Homeopathic Medical College and Schools of Pharmacy, Dentistry and Chemistry in 1869.

Scope and Contents

The collection consists of business correspondence of homeopathic physicians Henry Barden and his son, William Wallace Barden, of Penn Yan, New York. The collection also contains personal correspondence to and from extended family members in New York State and the Midwest, specifically Michigan. The business correspondence contains orders for products, requests for medical advice, and testimonials from satisfied customers. Many of the order envelopes are annotated by Barden. Materials are both handwritten and typescript.

Arrangement

A rough arrangement was imposed by Sarah Markham prior to auction by R.M. Smythe Company, Inc., circa 2000. The collection is divided into two series. The contents of Series 1: Family Correspondence are arranged alphabetically by surname of the individual to whom the correspondence was addressed. Series 2: Business Correspondence is arranged chronologically. The original arrangement was retained. The letters were removed from their associated envelopes and flattened, but remain together.

Series 1: Family Correspondence, 1842-1934

Series 2: Business Correspondence, 1856-1892

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

- Alternative medicine
- Homeopathy
- Patent medicines

Types of Materials:

- Business records -- 19th century
- Business records -- 20th century
- Correspondence -- 19th century
- Correspondence -- 20th century
- Family papers
- Photographs -- 1890-1900

Container Listing

Series 1: Family Correspondence, 1842-1934

Box 1, Folder 1	Caroline Barden, 1889-1891
Box 1, Folder 2	Henry Barden, 1842-1874
Box 1, Folder 3	Henry Barden (writings), 1869
Box 1, Folder 4-5	To Helen Barden Van Wyck from Wallace W. Barden, 1888-1911
Box 1, Folder 6	James P. Barden and Wallace W. Barden, 1855-1873
Box 1, Folder 7	To Wallace Barden from Helen Barden Van Wyck, 1870-1902
Box 1, Folder 8	To Wallace Barden from various Barden cousins, 1872-1878 Notes: Includes: James P. Barden, Uncle Otis Barden, William M. Barden and M.M. Holladay.
Box 1, Folder 9	To Wallace W. Barden from Henry Barden and Caroline Barden, 1866-1870
Box 1, Folder 10	To William W. Barden from Wallace Barden, 1860-1883
Box 2, Folder 1-3	To the Barden Family about Michigan land, 1868-1885 Notes: Correspondence relates to land in Allegan County, Michigan and Otsego, Michigan belonging to the Barden family. Topics include: rent, timber cutting, and trading farms.
Box 2, Folder 4	To William W. Barden about Michigan land, 1868-1885
Box 2, Folder 5	Barden Family (miscellaneous documents), 1842-1890 Notes: Includes: correspondence with Betsy Barden, Sally Barden, Susan Barden, Henry Barden, and deeds.
Box 2, Folder 6-9	To Wallace W. Barden, 1869-1921
Box 3, Folder 1-6	To Helen Barden Van Wyck, 1884-1915 Notes: Includes photographs (Lake Colby and Saranac Lake, New York, 1896) and a small notebook.
Box 3, Folder 7	To Maria Loomis, 1862-1869
Box 3, Folder 8	To William H. "Will" Loomis from Wallace Barden, 1866-1893
Box 3, Folder 9-10	To William Loomis, 1866-1874

Box 4, Folder 1-2	To William Loomis, 1866-1874
Box 4, Folder 3-4	To William Loomis from Helen Barden Van Wyck, 1864-1887
Box 4, Folder 5	To Van Wyck Loomis, 1864-1893
Box 4, Folder 6-8	To Susan H. Pury Means and George Sherwood Means, 1880-1934 Notes: Includes index cards documenting medical services rendered.
Box 5, Folder 1	To Ceresa Sloan from William Loomis, 1870s Notes: Letters document courtship between Sloan and Loomis.

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Series 2: Business Correspondence, 1856-1892

Box 5, Folder 2	Orders, 1856-1868
Box 5, Folder 3-4	Orders, 1869-1870
Box 5, Folder 5-8	Orders, 1871-1872
Box 6, Folder 1-2	Orders, 1873
Box 6, Folder 3	Orders, 1874
Box 6, Folder 4-6	Orders, 1875
Box 6, Folder 7-8	Orders, 1876
Box 7, Folder 1	Orders, 1877
Box 7, Folder 2	Orders, 1878
Box 7, Folder 3	Orders, 1879
Box 7, Folder 4	Orders, 1881
Box 7, Folder 5	Orders, 1882
Box 7, Folder 6	Orders, 1883
Box 7, Folder 7	Orders, 1884
Box 7, Folder 8	Orders, 1888-1889
Box 7, Folder 9-11	Orders, undated
Box 7, Folder 12	Correspondence and invoices to agents (Bardens Condensed Family Medicines), 1863-1871
Box 7, Folder 13	Suppliers and shipping companies, 1870-1892
Box 7, Folder 14	Testimonials, 1863-1874
Box 8, Folder 1	Empty envelopes, 1864-1885
Box 8, Folder 2	Empty envelopes, undated

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