

**THE TRUSTEES OF RESERVATIONS
ARCHIVES & RESEARCH CENTER**



Guide to

**Arthur S. Banks Papers Regarding Farandnear,
1900-2011**

FAN.MS.Coll.2

by Laura Kitchings

May 2015

Last updated: January 2016

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Extent: 5 boxes
Other storage formats: 1 Broadside Cabinet small folder
Linear feet: 2.2

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ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

PROVENANCE

Acquired with the bequest of Farandnear by Arthur S. Banks, 2011.

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ARTHUR S. BANKS (1926-2011)

Professor Arthur S. Banks was the third generation of his family to live at Farandnear in Shirley, Massachusetts. In 1902, Bank's grandfather, Charles Eliot Goodspeed, purchased more than three acres where he built a summer cottage as a retreat for his daughter, Miriam, who suffered from asthma. It took him and his family two days by buggy with an overnight stop in Concord to travel from their home in Wollaston, Massachusetts to Shirley, hence Goodspeed called the property "Far-and-Near." Through acquisitions of four adjacent tracks of land Goodspeed grew the property from three acres to roughly sixty acres.

Goodspeed was born in Cotuit, Massachusetts in 1867 to Elliott Freeman Goodspeed (b. 10 May 1836) and Abigail Ellen Dana Goodspeed (b. 10 April 1840). In 1898, Goodspeed opened Goodspeed's Book Shop in Boston, Massachusetts, which became a preeminent rare bookshop. At the peak of the business, there were three locations and about one hundred employees.

In 1894 Goodspeed married Leila May Pinkham (18 April 1871-1959), the daughter of George Franklin Pinkham (18 August 1832 - 21 February 1919) and Ellen Jerusha Olney Pinkham (31 July 1831-25 September 1922). The couple had three children: Margaret Goodspeed Colburn (19 December 1895- August 1983), Miriam Goodspeed Banks (13 December 1898 - 16 July 1990) and George Talbot Goodspeed (10 October 1903- 3 May 1997) who married Ivis Jenney (29 May 1906- 15 Oct 1983).

Miriam Goodspeed Banks (1898-1990) married Gordon Thaxter Banks on 1 June 1925. He was the son of Burpee A. Banks (1869-7 Nov 1952) and Jessie Adams Mears (24 October 1872-10 September 1936). Gordon and Miriam Banks had three children: Arthur Sparrow Banks (30 May 1926-25 April 2011), Barbara Banks Sequera (18 February 1928-4 March 2011), and Shirley Banks Sloane (b. 1933[?]).

Until 1939, the couple raised their children at the intersection of Center and Hazen roads in Shirley, Mass. In 1939, Goodspeed's original cottage burned down and he replaced it with a two-family house, and the Banks family moved to this new house. Both daughters eventually moved out of state and Farandnear passed to Arthur S. Banks.

Banks was a political science professor at Binghamton University in Binghamton, New York from 1968 to 1996 specializing in world politics. He earned his bachelor's degree from Cornell University, and masters and doctoral degrees from George Washington University. He is considered to be a pioneer in the use of computer data analysis for political science. He launched the *Cross-National Time-Series Data Archive* in 1968 and was the editor of the *Political Handbook of the World*. During his professional tenure he returned to Shirley in the summers.

In the 1980s and 1990s, Banks continued to grow the property through the purchase of two additional parcels of land. One property was a cranberry bog that in years past had been worked as a cooperative by a number of Shirley families. The other was a 10-acre pasture and hemlock forest that included a ravine in the Spruce Swamp Brook, locally known as "Paradise" for its isolation and scenic beauty. Banks also created a "pinetum," an arboretum of pines and coniferous trees, which contained over eighty species of conifers. This pinetum was featured in an article the spring 2001 edition of the

American Conifer Society's quarterly magazine entitled "Farandnear: A Small New England Pinetum". Members of the Society also visited the property in 2001.

After his retirement, Banks moved fulltime to Shirley, Massachusetts and became more involved with the town including acting as associate editor for the *The Shirley Volunteer*, a local newspaper.

In 1995, he donated a conservation restriction on Farandnear to The Trustees of Reservations. In 2000, he gave the property to The Trustees with a retained life estate.

Arthur S. Banks died on 25 April 2011; Farandnear consisted of eighty-nine acres with a variety of natural and landscaped areas that include wooded glades, beaver ponds and a conifer collection of more than 100 species of trees. More information is available at <http://www.thetrustees.org/places-to-visit/central-ma/farandnear.html>.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PAPERS

Arthur S. Banks Papers Regarding Farandnear focuses on the life of Arthur S. Banks at Farandnear in Shirley, Massachusetts after his retirement from Binghamton University in 1996 to his death in 2011.

Series I, Correspondence, is organized into two subseries: Letters and Printouts of E-mails. The first subseries, Letters, includes Christmas cards from the family of Shirley Banks Sloane and former colleagues. There are also copies of typed letters sent by Arthur S. Banks. There are also cards received after the death of Miriam Goodspeed Banks, correspondence from the American Conifer Society relating to the 2001 Farandnear article in their quarterly journal, correspondence from the Town of Shirley Board of Water Commissioners, and thank you notes from Shirley Girl Scouts related to their visit to Farandnear.

The second subseries, Printouts of E-mails, includes printout of e-mails from Barbara Banks Sequera's son Peter, and former colleagues. There are also printouts of e-mails sent by Arthur S. Banks.

Series II, Literary Productions, includes a variety of handwritten and typewritten manuscripts by Arthur S. Banks. Subjects include the death of Miriam Goodspeed Banks, Shirley Town issues, a paragraph about a Night Blooming Cereus Manuscript, and a hand drawn garden plan.

Series III, Printed Material, includes clippings about gardens and the town of Shirley and plans for a social event commemorating the life of land conservationist Benton MacKaye. There are also materials from the golf course on the property.

Series IV, Legal Documents, consists of deeds of land purchased to expand Farandnear. The deeds date back to 1900.

Series V, Financial Documents, includes information about purchases from the American Conifer Society, including information about the 2001 visit of members to Farandnear. It also includes documents related to plantings at Farandnear.

Series VI, Library, includes signed books and material about the Shirley Water District, the Shirley Historical Society, and Flooding caused by beavers.

Series VII, Plans, consists of two plans of Farandnear, one from 1913 and the other from 1978.

Series VIII, Photographs, consists of photographs removed from correspondence and photographs of a Night Blooming Cereus.

Series IX, Media, consists of a Compact Disc with two digital photographs in a .jpg file format of a Night Blooming Cereus.

Note: Flags from the Golf Course at Farandnear and a Plaque from the American Forestry Association were removed to the object collection.

Box	Folder	Contents	Date
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Series I. Correspondence

0.50' (2 boxes)
 Dates: 1985-2011, n.d.

Series I, Correspondence, is organized into two subseries: Letters and Printouts of E-mails.

LETTERS

I	1	Letters from Arthur S. Banks	1985-1997 Aug
I	2	Letters from Arthur S. Banks	1998-2008
I	3	Letters to Arthur S. Banks	1985-1997 Sep
I	4	Letters to Arthur S. Banks	1998-2000
I	5	Letters to Arthur S. Banks	2001-2004
I	6	Letters to Arthur S. Banks	2005
I	7	Letters to Arthur S. Banks	2006 Jan-2007 Aug
I	8	Letters to Arthur S. Banks	2007 Sept-2007 Dec
I	9	Letters to Arthur S. Banks	2008 Dec-2011 Jan
I	10	Sympathy cards upon death of Miriam Banks	1990 Jul-Oct
I	11	Correspondence from the American Conifer Society	1997-2009

Includes correspondence about 2001 Farandnear article

Negatives removed to Box 3, Folder 16

I	12	Letters from Town of Shirley Board of Water Commissioners	2008-2011
I	13	Thank you notes from Shirley Girl Scouts	n.d.

PRINTOUTS OF E-MAILS

I	14	Printouts of Emails from Arthur S. Banks	1997-2000
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Box	Folder	Contents	Date
PRINTOUTS OF E-MAILS			
2	1	Printouts of Emails to Arthur S. Banks	1997 Oct-1998 Aug
2	2	Printouts of Emails to Arthur S. Banks	1998 Sept-1999 Feb
2	3	Printouts of Emails to Arthur S. Banks	1999 Mar-1999 May
2	4	Printouts of Emails to Arthur S. Banks	1999 Jun-1999 Dec
2	5	Printouts of Emails to Arthur S. Banks	2000-2006

Series II. Literary Productions

0.2' (1 box)
 Dates: 1985-2011

Series II, Literary Productions, is arranged chronologically.

LITERARY PRODUCTIONS

2	6	Typed Epitaph for Miriam Goodspeed Banks	1990
2	7	Typed Manuscripts regarding Shirley Town Issues	n.d.
2	8	Typed Manuscripts	n.d.
		Some material on Gardens and Shirley	
2	9	Night Blooming Cereus Manuscript	n.d.
		Prints removed to Box 3, Folder 15	
		Media removed to Box 3, Folder 17	
		Includes cards made from images	
2	10	Handwritten Notes	n.d.
2	11	Sketch for Fern Plantings	n.d.

Box	Folder	Contents	Date
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Series III. Printed Material

0.1' (1 box)

Dates: 1985-2011

Series III, Printed Material, is arranged chronologically.

PRINTED MATERIAL

2	12	Newspaper Clippings regarding Shirley	1980-1997
2	13	Newspaper Clippings regarding Shirley	1998-2000
2	14	Newspaper Clippings regarding Plants and Trees	1996, n.d.
2	15	Benton MacKaye Pilgrimage Planning Documents	1998
2	16	Golf Course Materials	n.d.

Series IV. Legal Documents

0.1' (1 box)

Dates: 1900-2011

Series IV, Legal Documents, is arranged chronologically.

LEGAL DOCUMENTS

2	17	Deeds	1900-1933
2	18	Deeds	1965-1980
2	19	Deeds	1982-2000, n.d.

Series V. Financial Documents

0.4' (2 boxes)

Dates: 1985-2011

Series V, Financial Documents, is arranged alphabetically by organization.

FINANCIAL DOCUMENTS

2	20-21	American Conifer Society	1997-2011
		Purchases and Membership Includes information relating to the 2001 visit of members to Farandnear	

Box	Folder	Contents	Date
FINANCIAL DOCUMENTS			
2	22	Bartlett Tree Experts	1992-2000
2	23	Bartlett Tree Experts	2001-2009
		Includes soil analysis reports	
2	24	Bethlehem Nursery	2004
3	1	Forest Farm	2000-2002
3	2	Forest Farm	2003-2009
3	3	Gardens Alive	2001, n.d.
3	4	Precision Wildlife Services	2010
3	5	St. Lawrence Nurseries Includes list of trees to be labeled	2001-2004, n.d.
3	6	Stanley and Son Nursery Inc.	2001-2009
3	7	Town of Shirley	1984-1986
		Property Tax	
3	8	Land Appraisal	1982

Series VI. Library

0.5' (2 boxes)

Dates: 1916-2011, n.d.

Series VI, Library, is arranged chronologically.

LIBRARY

3	<i>Songs of the Heart</i>	1916
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By Ellen J. Pinkham

Box	Folder	Contents	Date
LIBRARY			
3		<i>Dahl's Boston</i>	1946
		Cartoons by Francis W. Dahl Text by Charles W. Morton	
		2 Copies	
3	9	Materials Removed from <i>Dahl's Boston</i>	[?] May 19
4		<i>Expedition Nine: A Return to a Region</i>	1969
4	1	By Benton MacKaye	
		Poem removed from <i>Expedition Nine</i>	1969
4	2	Shirley Meeting House Material	1981-2009
4	3	Shirley Historical Society	1996-2011
4	4	Shirley Water District Materials	1996-1998, n.d.
4	5	Materials regarding Beaver Caused Flooding	n.d.

Series VII. Plans

0.2' (2 oversized folders)

Dates: 1913, 1978

Series VII, Plans, is arranged chronologically.

PLANS

Hand drawn Plan 1913 Oct 15

Plan of land located in the northly part of Shirley
Surveyed by S.M. Parker Oct. 15, 1873
Re plotted by G.M. Crawford 1913 Oct 15

Stored in: Oversize, Broadside Cabinet.
Small Folders. Bsd 1

Box	Folder	Contents	Date
		PLANS	
		Black line Print	
		Land in Shirley Mass. owned By Edward H. Leeming et ux	1978 Nov 29
		William R. Bingham Assoc. Reg. Engineers & Surveyors Plan 11-C-362	
		Stored in: Oversize, Broadside Cabinet. Small Folders. Bsd 1	

Series VIII. Photographs

0.1' (1 box)

Dates: 1994-2011, n.d.

Series VIII, Photographs, is arranged chronologically.

PHOTOGRAPHS

4	6-7	Photographs Removed from Correspondence 2 Folders	1994-2011
4	8	Prints removed from Night Blooming Cereus Folder	n.d.
4	9	Negatives removed from American Conifer Society Correspondence	n.d.

Series IX. Media

0.1' (1 box)

Dates: n.d.

Series IX, Media, consists of one Compact Disc.

MEDIA

4	10	CD-R removed from Night Blooming Cereus Folder	n.d.
		Two images on a compact disk	

Box	Folder	Contents	Date
BROADSIDE CABINET. SMALL FOLDERS			
BSD	I	Hand Drawn Plan Plan of land located in the northly part of Shirley Surveyed by S.M. Parker Oct. 15, 1873 Re plotted by G.M. Crawford 1913 Oct 15	1913 Oct 15
BSD	I	Black line Print Land in Shirley Mass. owned By Edward H. Leeming et ux William R. Bingham Assoc. Reg. Engineers & Surveyors Plan 11-C-362	1978 Nov 29