

Document-8.2.4-Vision humaniste; affaire «personnes»

The “A” photographs represents an artificial collection of photographs selected for their potential interest to researchers of the Provincial Archives of Alberta’s photographic collection. The “A” photographs are an amalgamation of nearly 1000 distinct fonds that covers the province’s entire geographic area. The original photographs remain in the vaults with their original donation, but reference prints provide easy access to these images in the Reading Room, with a selection of the photographs from the collection searchable in the HeRMIS database, <https://hermis.alberta.ca/paa/Search.aspx>.

The photographs in this collection range in date from the late 1880s to 1981 and are of industry, agriculture, cities, towns, landscapes, transportation, prominent Albertans, First Nations people, and buildings.

The accession PR1993.0435 is part of Bowker family fonds (PR0339).

Marjorie Bowker was born in 1916 in Prince Edward Island and at an early age moved with her family to Wetaskiwin. She graduated in 1939 from the University of Alberta with degrees in Arts and Law and was admitted to the bar in 1940. She married Wilbur Bowker in 1940, a lawyer whose practice she carried on while he was absent on active service during World War II.

In 1965 she was appointed to a government committee studying adoption and child welfare in Alberta, the recommendations from which resulted in sweeping changes in child welfare legislation. For 12 years (1965-1977) she served as the first woman appointed on the Board of Governors of the University of Alberta Hospital. She served later during three years as Alberta Chairman of the Canadian Paraplegic Association. In 1968 she received an honorary degree of Doctor of Laws from the Ewha Women's University in Seoul. In 1966 she was appointed a Judge of the Family and Juvenile Court of Alberta and held this position for 17 years. In 1972 she was instrumental in establishing, in the Family Court of Edmonton, a Marriage Conciliation Service which was aimed at reducing divorce and which became a model for other courts in Canada, as well as in Australia.

She retired from her judicial position in 1983 but continued to be involved in numerous volunteer activities in the areas of health and social services. Three of her books on the Canadian constitution and free trade were national best sellers. In 1990, at the same time as her husband but for different reasons, she was awarded the Order of Canada and in 1991 she received an Honorary Doctor degree from Athabasca University. She died August 23, 2006.

Wilbur Bowker was born in 1910 in Ponoka where his parents settled after coming from Quebec in 1906. Wilbur Bowker studied law at the University of Alberta, University of Minnesota and Yale Law School. From 1934 to 1946 he was an associate in the Milner Steer Law firm in Edmonton. He served in the Canadian army from 1942 to 1945 and was promoted to Captain in 1944. He left the army in 1945 at the request of the University of Alberta to teach in the Faculty of Law. He was appointed to the University of Alberta in Edmonton in 1946 and

became Dean of Law in 1948. He developed programs and expanded this Faculty. In 1968 he retired as Dean to assume the position of Director of the Alberta Institute of Law Research and Reform which was affiliated with the University of Alberta. He continued to teach throughout all these years at the University of Alberta. In 1975 he retired and was made Professor Emeritus and Director Emeritus of this Institute. He served on numerous committees and remained on the Board of the Institute until 1984.

With the financial support of the Alberta Law Foundation, he undertook the massive endeavour of chronicling Alberta's legal history. His articles and speeches were published in 1989 in a volume of almost 800 pages. In 1981 the Attorney General's building in Edmonton was renamed after him. In 1990 he was awarded the Order of Canada. He passed away in 1999.

For a complete description of the Bowker family fonds, please visit our web site:
<https://hermis.alberta.ca/paa/Details.aspx?ObjectID=PR0339&dv=True&deptID=1>.