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Finding Aid to the Harlow Leslie Walster Papers

Walster, Harlow Leslie, 1883-1957

Harlow Leslie Walster, Papers, 1883-1957
10 linear ft.

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OVERVIEW

Links: Finding Aid to the [Dean Harlow L. Walster Records 1924-1953](#)

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BIOGRAPHY

Harlow Leslie Walster was born on the family homestead near Spring Green, Wisconsin on April 20, 1883. He attended high school there, and worked on the family farm until he was 19. He attended the University of Wisconsin, and graduated in 1908 with a Bachelor of Science Degree, then obtained an M.A. from Harvard in 1913, and a Ph.D. from the University of Chicago in 1918. He served as Associate Professor at the University of Wisconsin until 1919, when he came to the North Dakota Agricultural College as agronomist at the North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station.

Walster married Ada Georgene Meadow, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George C. Meadows, of Ipswich, South Dakota in June, 1921. Ada received a B.A. from the University of South Dakota in 1912, and a M.A. from Columbia University in 1915. She came to the North Dakota Agricultural College in 1918 and joined the Home Economics Department. The Walsters were members of the Plymouth Congregational Church in Fargo, and served in many capacities. They had one daughter, Eunice Moe.

In 1924 Walster became Dean of the School of Agriculture, a position he held until his retirement in 1953. He was dedicated to his chosen field and contributed many publications to the profession. In 1932 he was made director of the Division of Agricultural Extension, and held the post jointly with his chief Agronomist and Dean positions. He was a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science from 1908, and a member of the American Society of Agronomy, American Society of Soil Science, and the American Soil Survey Association. He was also a life member and vice president of the Agricultural History Society of the United States, a member of the Northern Great Plains Agricultural Council, and chairman and secretary of the agricultural teaching section of the Association of Land Grant Colleges.

He was a founder of the International Congress of Soil Science and served as a consultant to the Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Department of Interior. In 1926 he acted as a consultant to the U.S. Office of Education on the congressional survey of land grant colleges.

North Dakota organizations with which he had been affiliated include the North Dakota Educational Association, North Dakota Academy of Science, North Dakota Rural Rehabilitation Corporation, the State Historical Society of North Dakota, North Dakota Research Foundation, North Dakota State Planning Board, and Soil Conservation Service. Walster was also an active Mason, and served as Junior Grand Warden from 1947-1948; Senior Grand Warden, 1948-1949; Deputy Grand Master, 1948-1950; and Grand Master, 1950-1951 of the Masonic Grand Lodge of North Dakota. In Fargo he was director of the Fargo School of Religious Education, and president of the Shiloh and Sunrise Masonic lodges, the Fargo Commons Club, and Fargo Lions. He was also a member of Phi Beta Kappa, Phi Kappa Phi, Alpha Zeta, Lambda Upsilon, Gamma Alpha, and Alpha Gamma Rho.

Mrs. Walster was also active in the community. She was President of the Fargo Fine Arts Club and the Faculty Woman's Club at the North Dakota Agricultural College. She also served as North Dakota chairperson of the Women's Action Committee for Lasting Peace, and served as Red River Valley president and National Council member of Camp Fire Council, and recording secretary of the North Dakota Federation of Women's Clubs. She had been president of the college Y.W.C.A., and 1937 chairperson of the Fargo Community Chest residential campaign. She was also a member of Kappa Alpha Phi, Phi Upsilon Omicron, Phi Kappa Phi, the Eastern Star, and the Travois Club.

Between May and August, 1941, Dean Walster was granted a leave of absence for an extensive tour of South America as a guest of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. During the tour he published a series of letters and articles on South America relating to agriculture and other topics. In 1947 he toured Central America as the guest of the United States Fruit Company, during which he visited the Pan-American School of Agriculture in Honduras.

Dr. Walster retired in July, 1953, and received the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Science from NDSU. He devoted his remaining years to writing his memoirs, and working on the accomplishments of his predecessors until his death on October 7, 1957. He was buried at Lodi, Wisconsin.

In 1959, the State Legislature appropriated \$750,000 for a new [Agricultural Science Building](#). Construction began in 1960 and was completed in 1961. The building opened in 1961 and was dedicated as Walster Hall in 1962 in honor of H. L. Walster, Dean of the School of Agriculture from 1924 to 1953 (*Dedication of Walster Hall*, July 13, 1962).

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The Harlow Leslie Walster papers consist of correspondence during his tenure as Dean of Agriculture at the North Dakota Agricultural College; articles and speeches relating to North Dakota agriculture; correspondence, articles, diaries, and scrapbooks concerning his Latin and South American trips; and scrapbooks relating to his retirement, the history of North Dakota, and the Red River Valley.

[School of Agriculture Series](#)

The NDAC School of Agriculture Series includes correspondence, arranged alphabetically and chronologically, concerning his position as Dean. There are department reports, college committee minutes, college faculty correspondence and correspondence from the President's office. The years cover 1930 to 1935. Also included are files relating to the founding of the School of Agriculture and its purpose, a history of the Experiment Station and the Branch Stations of Dickinson, Langdon, and Williston. There are files on the Flax Institute of the United States, Farm Folk School, students, Poultry Husbandry Survey, and general correspondence from 1913 to 1957 relating to many topics.

[Subject File Series](#)

The Subject File Series, written by Walster, contains many articles, speeches, biographical sketches, and bibliographies pertaining to agriculture, education, government, culture and weather. There are many articles on water, land, and resource conservation. Crops, such as wheat, flax, corn, and clover receive special treatment, but the series also contains interesting histories of Fargo, the Missouri River Basin, Red River Valley, and the Dakotas in general. Chronologically, the series covers from pre-statehood to the 1950s.

[The Latin and South American Series](#)

The Latin and South American Series is an interesting collection of articles, correspondence, and diaries of Walster's trip to the region in 1941, and again in 1947. The topics range from his personal observations of the region, to the agriculture there and the impact of the United States on the region.

[The Manuscript Series](#)

The Manuscript Series contains published and unpublished manuscripts by Walster. *Five For the Land* is Walster's account of the accomplishments of five leading scientists in the early years of the Agricultural College, including Claire B. Waldron, Henry Luke Bolley, Edwin Fremont Ladd, John Henry Shepperd, and Lawrence Root Waldron. Another manuscript is an unpublished history of his family's homestead in Wisconsin, called the *Butternut Hollow Farm*. Another unpublished manuscript, *Milestones of Progress* is a history of flax and flax research in North Dakota. *Soils and Soil Fertility* is a manuscript published by Walster while at the University of Wisconsin.

The Scrapbook Series

The Scrapbook Series reflects Walster's interests in the early history of the region from early newspaper accounts from the 1880s, to Walster's retirement in 1953. Agriculture, Geology, his trip to South America, and articles about North Dakota in general are all covered. The series extensively covers the early history and events of the Dakotas, which he copied from early newspapers of the region.

The File Card Series

The File Card Series contains references to articles on the early history of the Dakotas, and the contributions of the many agricultural scientists employed at the Agricultural College.

BOX AND FOLDER LIST

- | | |
|-----|-----------------------------------|
| 1/1 | Historical information & Register |
| 1/2 | Biographical material |
| 1/3 | Autobiographical material |

SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURE SERIES

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| 1/4 | Agricultural History Society - Correspondence, 1953-1956 |
| 1/5 | Alumni - Correspondence, 1930-1931 |
| 1/6 | Animal husbandry reports, 1930-1931 |
| 1/7 | Job applications, 1930-1933 |
| 1/8 | Association of Land Grant Colleges and Universities |
| 1/9 | College Council meeting minutes, 1930-1933 |
| 1/10 | College faculty - Correspondence, 1930-1933 |
| 1/11 | Committee on Standings - Correspondence, 1930-1933 |
| 1/12 | County agents |
| 1/13 | College Curriculum Committee, 1929-1930 |

Experiment Station-

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| 1/14 | Annual reports, 1891-1945 |
| 1/15 | Dickinson |
| 1/16 | General articles, reports, speeches |

- 1/17 General articles, reports, speeches
- 1/18 History, 1900-1949
- 1/19 Langdon Reports, 1914-1923
- 1/20 Publications, 1891-1955
- 1/21 Research
- 1/22 Staff correspondence, 1930-1933
- 1/23 Williston Report, 1931
- 1/24 Extension Service - Correspondence, articles, 1930-1942
- 1/25 Farm Folk School - Correspondence courses
- 1/26 Farm Husbandry courses, 1932
- 1/27 Farmers' Week - Correspondence, 1932-1933
- 1/28 Flax Institute of the United States - Correspondence, 1931-1938
- 1/29 Floors of north wing, Agriculture Building - Correspondence, 1930
- 1/30 Freshmen lectures
- 1/31 Greater North Dakota Association - Correspondence, 1929-1933
- 1/32 Land Grant College Survey - Correspondence, 1930
- 1/33 Letters of recommendation, 1936
- 1/34 Library Committee - Correspondence, 1930-1931
- 1/35 President's Office - Correspondence, 1930
- 1/36 President's Office - Correspondence, 1931-1933
- 1/37 Poultry Husbandry Survey - Correspondence, 1931-1933
- 1/38 Publications Division - Correspondence, 1933
- 1/39 Registrar's Office - Correspondence, 1930-1933

School of Agriculture-

- 1/40 Biennial reports, 1924-1935
- 1/41 Department reports, 1928-1929
- 1/42 History
- 1/43 News articles, 1893
- 1/44 Correspondence relating to Walster's dismissal, 1937-1939
- 2/1 Staff- General correspondence, 1930-1933
- 2/2 Student correspondence, 1930
- 2/3 Student correspondence, 1931
- 2/4 Student correspondence, 1932-1933
- 2/5 Prospective students, 1930-1933
- 2/6 Secretary's office - Correspondence 1930-1931
- 2/7 Smith-Hughes instructors, 1923-1936
- 2/8 Speaking engagements - Correspondence, 1929-1933
- 2/9 Teacher experience
- 2/10 Universities and colleges - Correspondence, 1930-1933
- 2/11 Baker, G. J. - Correspondence, 1930
- 2/12 Barton, O. A. - Correspondence, 1930-1932
- 2/13 Brunsdale, Norman, Governor - Correspondence, 1953
- 2/14 Christensen, F. W. - Correspondence, 1927-1933

2/15 Churchill, O. O. - Correspondence, 1930-1932
 2/16 Cleveland, W. A. - Correspondence, 1930-1933
 2/17 Cook, C. C. - Correspondence, 1935-1936
 2/18 Dice, J. R. - Correspondence, 1930-1933
 2/19 Eckert, Phil S. - Correspondence, 1953
 2/20 Griswold, D. J. - Correspondence, 1930
 2/21 Jensen, Chris - Correspondence, 1931
 2/22 Jones, Edward H. - Correspondence, 1930-1936
 2/23 Kellogg, Charles E. - Correspondence, 1930-1933
 2/24 McCaul, Benjamin V. Correspondence, 1930-1932
 2/25 McColly, H. F. - Correspondence, 1930-1933
 2/26 Miller, Cap E. - Correspondence, 1930-1933
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 2/44 Solberg, Ray L. - Correspondence, 1935-1936
 2/45 Sullivan, V. M. - Correspondence, 1935-1936
 2/46 Swanson, L. A. - Correspondence, 1936
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 2/48 Thordarson, T. W. - Correspondence, 1930-1933
 2/49 Waldron, C. B. - Correspondence, 1935-1936
 2/50 Wilson, Bruce - Correspondence, 1935-1936
 2/51 Yeager, A. F. - Correspondence, 1927-1932
 2/52 Zeigler, Arthur A. - Correspondence, 1935-1936

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SUBJECT FILE SERIES

3/7 Adjustments in Living in the 20th Century
 3/8 Agricultural Adjustment Act
 3/9 Agricultural history - Articles
 3/10 Agricultural news - Bibliography from *Jamestown Sun*, 1889
 3/11 Agriculture - General articles

Agriculture in North Dakota-

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 3/13 General articles, speeches
 3/14 Alfalfa - Articles, radio addresses
 3/15 "Alpha Zeta Cup" speech
 3/16 America - Americans
 3/17 Arbor Day
 3/18 Australia
 3/19 Automobiles in North Dakota
 3/20 The Story of the Badlands
 3/21 Barton, Orva Avery - Biography (1876-1954)
 3/22 Beans
 3/23 Bees and Honey
 3/24 *Bismarck Daily Tribune* - Excepts, 1885-1910
 3/25 *The Bison* (College Publications)
 3/26 *The Bison Furrows* (College Publication)
 3/27 Bolley, Henry L. - Bibliography
 3/28 Bonanza farms
 3/29 Booklist
 3/30 Book reviews
 3/31 Bradbury, John, (1768-1823) - Biography, naturalist
 3/32 Brome Grass
 3/33 Buckwheat
 3/34 Cereal diseases - Articles
 3/35 Cereal investigations - Articles
 3/36 Chemistry in agriculture - Articles
 3/37 Chernozem

3/38	Christianity and Agriculture
3/39	Citizenship – Articles
3/40	A City
3/41	Climate - Bibliography, 1990-1901, Articles
3/42	"Climbing Higher" speech
3/43	Coal in North Dakota
3/44	The Colorado Beetle
3/45	Commencement addresses
3/46	Commission on Country Life
3/47	Congregationalism - Articles
3/48	Conservation - Articles, bibliographies, speeches
3/49	The Consumer
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Corn-	
3/51	General articles, data
3/52	North Dakota articles, radio addresses
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3/54	Origin of Corn
3/55	Crop statistics - North Dakota
3/56	Crops - Articles, radio addresses
3/57	Crops - Score cards
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3/59	Dairying - Articles
3/60	<i>Dakota Farmer</i> - Contributions of staff to (bibliography)
3/61	Dams - Articles
3/62	Darwin, Charles - Biography
3/63	Drought of the 1930s - Articles
4/1	Durum wheat - Articles, statistics
4/2	Easter
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4/4	Economics - Articles
4/5	Education - Articles
4/6	Elk River Farm (Larimore)
4/7	Fairs - Articles
4/8	Farm income - Articles
4/9	Farm machinery - Articles
4/10	Farms and farmers - Articles
4/11	Social Phases of Farm Tenancy, by E. A. Wilson
4/12	Federal field stations in North Dakota
4/13	Fertilizers - Articles
4/14	A North Dakota Primer in Field Husbandry
4/15	Finances - Articles
4/16	The First Frost

Flax-

- 4/17 General articles
- 4/18 General articles

Flax Institute of the United States - Articles,

- 4/19 newspaper clippings
- 4/20 Flax seed, oil Articles
- 4/21 Floods and Flood Control of the Mississippi River
- 4/22 Flour mills in North Dakota
- 4/23 Food - Articles
- 4/24 Forage crops - Articles
- 4/25 Founding Fathers of Fargo
- 4/26 4-H clubs in North Dakota
- 4/27 Franklin, Benjamin - Biography
- 4/28 Friends of the Land Society
- 4/29 Glacial Lake Agassiz
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- 4/31 Government - Articles
- 4/32 Gunny Sacks and Burlap Bags - Radio sketch
- 4/33 Heart River Irrigation Project reports, 1945
- 4/34 On History
- 4/35 Horticulture Report, 1928
- 4/36 Inflation - Articles, pamphlets
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- 4/38 Irrigation - Newspaper clippings
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- 4/40 Land - Articles
- 4/41 Land classification - Articles
- 4/42 Land utilization - Articles
- 4/43 Lewis and Clark in North Dakota
- 4/44 Lewis, Sinclair
- 4/45 "The Linnean Society" speech
- 4/46 Lisbon Yesterday and Tomorrow (North Dakota)
- 4/47 Livestock - Articles
- 4/48 "Looking Forward in Agriculture" speech
- 4/49 The Lowly Leek
- 4/50 MacDonald, Daniel F. - Biography of early settler
- 4/51 My Impressions of Manitoba
- 4/52 Masonic articles, speeches
- 4/53 "Man of Science" speech

Missouri River Basin Memoranda-

- 4/54 Pp. 1-108
- 4/55 Pp. 109-205

4/56	Missouri River Basin Program - Articles
4/57	Missouri River Basin Climate - Bibliography
4/58	Missouri River diversion
4/59	Missouri River history - Articles, bibliography
4/60	Missouri Basin Inter-Agency Committee
4/61	Missouri River irrigation - Articles, newspaper articles
4/62	Navigation on the Missouri River - Significant dates
4/63	"This Thing Called Morale" speech
4/64	Political Consequences of Economic Planning - Article
4/65	National Resources Board - Article
4/66	"The New Deal and Agriculture" speech
4/67	New Salem Holstein Breeding Circuit - Articles, programs
4/68	North Dakota - General articles, speeches
4/69	North Dakota's Agricultural Progress, 1933-1953
4/70	North Dakota - Reflections
4/71	<i>North Dakota Stock and Home</i> - Bibliography, 1907-1909
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 5/54 Soybeans - Articles, data
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 5/56 Stewardship
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University of Chicago, Walster's notebooks-

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 6/16 Veterinary science - Articles
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 6/22 Water - Articles, bibliography, speeches
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Will, George F. (1884-1955)-

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LATIN AND SOUTH AMERICA SERIES

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6/38 Chilean diary
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South America-

6/41 Articles, radio addresses
6/42 Articles, radio addresses
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6/44 South American diary
6/45 Peru
6/46 Walster, Mrs. Mary (mother) - Letters from South America

SCRAPBOOK SERIES

Scrapbooks-

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7/2 2 - Correspondence, 1953
7/3 3 - Retirement
7/4 4 - Geology
7/5 5 - Articles about N.D. agriculture from *The Cultivator and Country Gentlemen*
7/6 Red River Valley history, by Roy Johnson newspaper clippings
7/7 Red River Valley history, by Roy Johnson newspaper clippings
7/8 10 - North Dakota history
7/9 11 - Red River Valley history, circa 1849-1889
7/10 12 - North Dakota history, circa 1853-1917s
7/11 13 - Farm periodicals - Articles on agriculture
7/12 14 - North Dakota history, agricultural data
7/13 15 - Bismarck Tribune - Articles, 1906-1935; crop census, 1890-1954
7/14 16 - Fargo Argus, 1879-1895 - Articles
7/15 17 - Fargo Argus, 1883 - Articles

- 7/16 18 - News articles from various North Dakota newspapers, 1893-1910
- 7/17 19 - News articles from various North Dakota newspapers, 1893-1955
- 7/18 20 - South American trip - Articles, correspondence
- 7/19 21 - Postage Stamps - United States & International
- 7/20 22 - Handwritten Notes [probably taken from daily journal
or daily calendar] - 1920, 1935, 1936, 1942, 1945

MANUSCRIPT SERIES

- 8/1 *Butternut Hollow Farm* - Unpublished manuscript
Five For the Land-
- 8/2 Introduction, Chapter 1 - Claire B. Waldron
- 8/3 Chapter 2, Henry Luke Bolley, pp. 1-102
- 8/4 Chapter 2, Henry Luke Bolley, pp. 103-189
- 8/5 Chapter 3, Edwin Fremont Ladd
- 8/6 Chapter 4, John Henry Shepperd
- 8/7 Chapter 5, Lawrence R. Waldron
- 8/8 Unused material
- 8/9 *Milestones of Progress...* - Unpublished manuscript
- 8/10 *Men and Machines In the North Dakota Small Grain Harvest*
- 8/11 *Soils and Soil Fertility*

NOTEBOOKS AND NOTE CARD SERIES

Notebooks - An extensive number of topics

Notecards - Bibliography of N.D.A.C. scientists and their contributions to publications

North Dakota history - A variety of topics

Walster's diplomas