

# Guide to the Hubert Bradford Vickery Papers

MS 875



compiled by Diane E. Kaplan and Bella Z. Berson

September 1999

Yale University Library  
P.O. Box 208240  
New Haven, CT 06520-8240  
(203) 432-1735  
(203) 432-7441

[beinecke.library@yale.edu](mailto:beinecke.library@yale.edu)

<http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/>

---

## Table of Contents

Collection Overview .....	3
Requesting Instructions .....	3
Administrative Information .....	4
Immediate Source of Acquisition .....	4
Conditions Governing Access .....	4
Conditions Governing Use .....	4
Preferred Citation .....	4
Biographical / Historical .....	4
Scope and Contents .....	4
Arrangement .....	4
Collection Contents .....	5
Series I: Correspondence, 1928-1977 .....	5
Series II: Writings, 1930-1973 .....	8
Series III: Project Files, 1926-1978 .....	12
Series IV: Personal Papers, 1796-1973 .....	13
Oversize, 1796-1973 .....	14
Selected Search Terms .....	15

---

## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Manuscripts and Archives  
Yale University Library  
P.O. Box 208240  
New Haven, CT 06520-8240  
(203) 432-1735  
(203) 432-7441  
beinecke.library@yale.edu  
<http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/>

**CALL NUMBER:** MS 875

**CREATOR:** Vickery, Hubert Bradford, 1893-1978

**TITLE:** Hubert Bradford Vickery papers

**DATES:** 1796-1978

**BULK DATES:** 1928-1977

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 5 linear feet

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** The papers contain correspondence, unpublished writings, and research material relating to Hubert Vickery's work as a biochemist at the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station. Because reprints and drafts of publications have not been retained, there is little documentation of his experimental results in the papers. There are, however, details of his major contributions to establish a system of notation for amino acids and also to record the histories of their discovery. The papers also contain genealogical materials, including legal and financial papers of the Bradford family of London and the Starr family of Nova Scotia, and memorabilia from the atomic tests on Bikini Island.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0875>

---

## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Manuscripts and Archives reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0875>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please go to [http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr\\_copy\\_order.html](http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr_copy_order.html). The information you will need to submit an order includes: the collection call number, collection title, series or accession number, box number, and folder number or name.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b.      box  
f.      folder

---

## Administrative Information

---

### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Jeannette Opsahl, 1979.

---

### Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

---

### Conditions Governing Use

Copyright status for collection materials is unknown. Transmission or reproduction of materials protected by U.S. Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S.C.) beyond that allowed by fair use requires the written permission of the copyright owners. Works not in the public domain cannot be commercially exploited without permission of the copyright owners. Responsibility for any use rests exclusively with the user.

---

### Preferred Citation

Hubert Bradford Vickery Papers (MS 875). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

---

## Biographical / Historical

Hubert Bradford Vickery was born in Yarmouth, Nova Scotia on February 28, 1893. He received both his B. Sc. (1915) and his M. Sc. (1918) from Dalhousie University and his Ph.D. from Yale University in 1922. He was appointed assistant biochemist, Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, 1922-1928, biochemist in charge, 1928-1963, emeritus biochemist, 1963-1978. From 1924 to 1963, he taught as a lecturer at Yale University. In 1946, he was an observer at the Bikini Island atomic bomb tests. Vickery was an active experimentalist on the organic acids and proteins in plants whose successful efforts resulted in more than 200 publications in biochemical journals. He died on September 27, 1978.

---

## Scope and Contents

The papers contain correspondence, unpublished writings, and research material relating to Hubert Vickery's work as a biochemist at the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station. Because reprints and drafts of publications have not been retained, there is little documentation of his experimental results in the papers. There are, however, details of his major contributions to establish a system of notation for amino acids and also to record the histories of their discovery. The papers also contain genealogical materials, including legal and financial papers of the Bradford family of London and the Starr family of Nova Scotia, and memorabilia from the atomic tests on Bikini Island.

---

## Arrangement

Arranged in four series: I. Correspondence. II. Writings. III. Project Files. IV. Personal Papers.

## Collection Contents

### Series I: Correspondence, 1928-1977

The correspondence is primarily professional in nature. The letters are arranged alphabetically by name of the individual, professional organization, or journal. Vickery's major contribution to the establishment of nomenclature for amino acids is documented in the correspondence with the National Research Council Division of Chemistry and Chemical Technology, Committee on Nomenclature. Correspondence in Series III, Project Files, also traces Vickery's work on the nomenclature and the history of amino acids. The *Plant Physiology*, the *Journal of Biological Chemistry*, the *Biochemical Preparations* and the *Journal of the American Chemical Society* correspondence documents Vickery's efforts as a reviewer as well as a contributor to the journals.

b. 1, f. 1	A	1929, 1965-1970
b. 1, f. 2	American Academy of Arts and Science	1971-1973
b. 1, f. 3	American Association for the Advancement of Science	1950
b. 1, f. 4	American Chemical Society. Committee on Nomenclature	1960-1968
b. 1, f. 5	American Society of Plant Physiologists	1954-1959
b. 1, f. 6	<i>Analytical Biochemistry</i> English	1962-1975
b. 1, f. 7	<i>Analytical Chemistry</i> English	1948-1950
b. 1, f. 8	<i>Annual Review of Plant Physiology</i> English	1972
b. 1, f. 9	B	1935, 1942-1977
b. 1, f. 10	Bade, Maria	1962-1975
b. 1, f. 11	Becker, Stanley L.	1967-1975
b. 1, f. 12-13	<i>Biochemical Preparations</i> English	1945-1968
b. 1, f. 14	C	1931, 1973-1975
b. 1, f. 15	Cahn, R. S.	1951-1956
b. 1, f. 16	Chibnall, A. Charles	1963-1977
b. 1, f. 17	<i>Citric Acid Cycle</i> English	1967
b. 1, f. 18	Cohn, Waldo E.	1963-1976
b. 1, f. 19-20	Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station	1955-1973
b. 2, f. 21	D	1932, 1964-1973
b. 2, f. 22	Dalhousie University	1965-1973

b. 2, f. 23	<i>Dictionary of Scientific Biography</i> English	1967
b. 2, f. 24	E	1965-1975
b. 2, f. 25	<i>Encyclopedia of Chemical Technology</i> English	1952-1953
b. 2, f. 26	F	1929-1976
b. 2, f. 27	G	1968-1975
b. 2, f. 28	H	1947-1975
b. 2, f. 29	Hanson, Kenneth R.	1960-1965
b. 2, f. 30	Hirschmann, Hans	1964-1967
b. 2, f. 31	I	1955-1975
b. 2, f. 32	Ihde, Aaron J.	1960-1971
b. 2, f. 33	<i>Industrial and Engineering Chemistry</i> English	1950
b. 2, f. 34	J	1950-1957
b. 2, f. 35	<i>Journal of Agricultural and Food Chemistry</i> English	1957-1960
b. 2, f. 36-37	<i>Journal of Biological Chemistry</i> English	1932-1972
b. 2, f. 38-39	<i>Journal of the American Chemical Society</i> English	1950-1972
b. 2, f. 40	<i>Journal of the History of Medicine and Allied Sciences</i> English	1967
b. 2, f. 41	K	1965-1973
b. 2, f. 42	L	1966-1974
b. 2, f. 43	M	1928, 1965-1977
b. 2, f. 44	N	1966-1975
	National Academy of Sciences	
b. 3, f. 45	General	1959-1973
b. 3, f. 46	<i>Biographical Memoirs</i> [William Mansfield Clark] English	1964-1967
b. 3, f. 47-54	National Research Council. Division of Chemistry and Chemical Technology. Committee on Nomenclature	1948-1952
b. 3, f. 55	National Science Foundation	1970-1974

b. 3, f. 56	O	1926-1975
b. 3, f. 57	P	1956-1975
b. 4, f. 58	Palmer, James K.	1964-1973
b. 4, f. 59-61	<i>Plant Physiology</i>	1953-1972
b. 4, f. 62	R	1965-1975
b. 4, f. 63	Royal Commission for the Exhibition of 1851	1929-1977
b. 4, f. 64	S	1930-1974
b. 4, f. 65	<i>Science</i>	1962-1970
b. 4, f. 66	Steward, F. C.	1962-1970
b. 4, f. 67	T, U, V	1956-1976
b. 4, f. 68	W, Y, Z, unidentified	1939, 1966-1977
b. 4, f. 69	W. B. Saunders Company	1950

**Series II: Writings, 1930-1973**

This series is composed of drafts and notes for invited lectures, papers presented at professional meetings, reports, unpublished papers, and a 1964 autobiographical essay. The papers are arranged chronologically. Reprints and draft copies of Vickery's many published papers have not been retained. Bibliographic listings of Vickery's publications are filed in Series IV. George W. Pucher, a co-worker at the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, is mentioned as co-author on several papers.

b. 5, f. 1	"Some Aspects of the Chemistry of Green Leaf Cells" English	1930
b. 5, f. 2	Stephen Hales Prize [acceptance speech]	1932
b. 5, f. 3	"Protein Metabolism of Tobacco Leaves" [read at meeting of American Society of Plant Physiologists] English	1933
b. 5, f. 4	"Recent Ideas of Protein Structure" [lecture at Columbia University] English	1933
b. 5, f. 5	"The Effect of Heavy Fertilization with Ammonia on the Glutamine Content of Beets" [read at meeting of American Society of Plant Physiologists] English	1934
b. 5, f. 6	"On Glutamine" [in collaboration with George W. Pucher and Harold E. Clark] English	1935
b. 5, f. 7	"Protein Chemistry in Relationship to Cell Physiology" [lecture at New Jersey Experiment Station] English	1935
b. 5, f. 8	"Proteins" [lecture at Middletown, CT] English	1935
b. 5, f. 9	"The Biochemistry of the Amides in Plants" [lecture, Rochester section of American Chemical Society] English	1937
b. 5, f. 10	"Preparation of the Basic Amino Acids" [contribution to Dunn's <i>Biochemical Preparations</i> ] English	1937
b. 5, f. 11	Report to R. H. Manske of the study of roots of <i>Corydalis ochotensis</i> Turcz	1937
b. 5, f. 12	"Amide Metabolism in Green Plants" [Sigma Xi lecture] English	1938
b. 5, f. 13	"Protein Metabolism in Leaves" [lecture for Pre-medical Club, Wesleyan University] English	1938
b. 5, f. 14	"The Construction and Use of the Widmark Extractors for Liquid Extractions" [with George W. Pucher], [194-] English	
b. 5, f. 15	"A New Method for the Determination of Glutamine in Plant Tissue" [with George W. Pucher], [194-] English	



b. 5, f. 16	"The Influence of Samuel W. Johnson on the Chemistry of Proteins" [lecture, Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station] English	1940
b. 5, f. 17	"Liebig and the Chemistry of Proteins" [lecture] English	1940
b. 5, f. 18	"The Work of Thomas B. Osborne" [lecture, Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station] English	1940
b. 5, f. 19	"End Products of Nitrogen Metabolism in Plants" [paper, Society of Biological Chemists] English	1941
b. 5, f. 20	"Liebig and Proteins" [read before New England Association of Chemistry Teachers] English	1941
b. 5, f. 21	"Plant Proteins" [read at Chemistry Department Seminar, Stanford University] English	1941
b. 5, f. 22	"The Origin of the Word Protein" [correspondence, notes] English	1941-1953
b. 5, f. 23	<i>The Chemistry of the Amino Acids</i> [book review]	1944
b. 5, f. 24	"The Proportion of Histidine Yielded by Human and Bovine Serum Albumin and Fibrin" [report] English	1944
b. 5, f. 25	"The Proteins of Soy Beans" [report to National Research Council] English	1944
b. 5, f. 26	"Suggested Program for Research on Soy Bean Protein" English	1944
b. 5, f. 27	"The Atomic Bomb Tests at Bikini" [notes, correspondence] English	1946-1947
b. 5, f. 28	"L-Asparagine Monohydrate" [with George W. Pucher] English	1946-1947
b. 5, f. 29	"The Relationship of the Sheffield Scientific School to Agriculture" [address at centennial celebration] English	1947
b. 5, f. 30	"The Metabolism of Organic Acids in Plant Leaves" [lecture at Northwestern University] English	1948
b. 6, f. 31	"Organic Acids of Leaves" [seminar] English	1948
b. 6, f. 32	"Perspectives and Personalities in Protein Chemistry" [lecture] English	1948
b. 6, f. 33	<i>Proteins and Amino Acids in Nutrition</i> [book review]	1948

b. 6, f. 34-35	"The Personalities of Protein Research" English	1949
b. 6, f. 36	"The Early Work of Osborne and Mendel in Nutrition" [lecture] English	1950
b. 6, f. 37	"Chemical Changes in Connecticut Shade Grown Tobacco During Curing and Fermentation" [lecture] English	1951
b. 6, f. 38	"The Metabolism of Organic Acids in Plant Leaves" [lecture for the National Research Council] English	1951
b. 6, f. 39	Symposium on Nitrogen Metabolism in Plants [remarks as chairman]	1952
b. 6, f. 40	<i>The Chemical Structure of Proteins</i> [book review]	1954
b. 6, f. 41	"A Statistical Method for the Collection of Identical Samples of Plant leaves" [correspondence] English	1956-1973
b. 6, f. 42	"The Origin of the Word Protein" [lecture] English	1957
b. 6, f. 43	"The Significance of Organic Acids in the Tobacco Leaf" [lecture] English	1957
b. 6, f. 44	"The Significance of Organic Acids in Tobacco Leaf" [paper] English	1957
b. 6, f. 45	"Crassulacean Malic Acid" [lecture ] English	1958
b. 6, f. 46	"The History of Phosphotungstic Acid as a Reagent in Amino Acid Chemistry" [lecture] English	1961
b. 6, f. 47	"The Metabolism of Glutamic Acid in the Tobacco Leaf" [lecture] English	1963
b. 6, f. 48-50	"Autobiographical Notes" English	1964
b. 6, f. 51	"The Origin of the Experiment Station Idea" English	1968
b. 6, f. 52	<i>Principles of Biochemistry</i> [book review]	1968
b. 6, f. 53	"How Crops Grow" [lecture] English	1969
b. 6, f. 54	"The Origin of The Connecticut Experimental Station" English	1969-1970
b. 6, f. 55	"Samuel W. Johnson, Father of Agricultural Science in America" [lecture] English	1970

b. 6, f. 56	"The Contribution of Carl Wilhelm Scheele to Protein Chemistry" English	1972
b. 6, f. 57	"d-Isocitric Acid" English	undated

**Series III: Project Files, 1926-1978**

This series is composed of correspondence and notes that are organized by topic and that relate to Vickery's scholarly endeavors. The series contains detailed information on Vickery's efforts to revise the nomenclature for amino acids in 1961. It also documents his abiding interest in the history of the discovery of amino acids. The Connecticut Agricultural Experimental Station files include ideas for research as well as notes on possible publications. The Yale University folder contains materials relating to the lecture courses Vickery taught from 1924 to 1963, including some examination questions.

Amino acids		
b. 7, f. 1	General	1928, undated
b. 7, f. 2-7	Nomenclature	1970-1978
b. 7, f. 8	Anderson, Rudolph John	1962
b. 7, f. 9-10	Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station [research problems for investigation]	1929-1961, undated
<i>"The History of the Discovery of Amino Acids II"</i>		
b. 7, f. 11	Correspondence	1970-1973
b. 7, f. 12	Notes	1971
b. 8, f. 13	Notes	1971
b. 8, f. 14	"Schultze, E.'s Anticipations of What Were Later Discoveries of Others in Protein Chemistry" [notes] English	1937-1943
b. 8, f. 15	Yale University [course materials]	1926-1959
b. 8, f. 16	Miscellaneous	undated

**Series IV: Personal Papers, 1796-1973**

This series includes memorabilia, photographs, and materials relating to Vickery's family. Genealogical information about Vickery's forbears, including the Bradford and Starr families, and clippings about family and friends in Nova Scotia are included. The memorabilia is composed of souvenirs collected by Vickery as an observer of Operation Crossroads, the nuclear bomb detonation at Bikini Atoll in 1946. Photographs include a few images of Vickery, as well as portraits of professional colleagues and pictures from Operation Crossroads.

b. 9, f. 1	Bibliography	1922-1971
b. 9, f. 2	Clippings	1932-1973, undated
b. 9, f. 3	Family estate papers, 1796-1841 See also: <a href="#">Oversize, folder 1.</a> See also: Oversize folder 1	undated
Genealogical materials		
b. 9, f. 4	Charts See also: <a href="#">Oversize, folder 2.</a>	1903-1963, undated
b. 9, f. 5	Correspondence	1904-1964, undated
b. 9, f. 6	Printed matter	1914- 1964, undated
Memorabilia		
b. 10, f. 7	General See also: <a href="#">Oversize, folder 3.</a>	1937-1972
b. 10, f. 8-9	Bikini Atoll observation See also: <a href="#">Oversize, folder 4.</a>	1946
b. 10, f. 10	Honorary degree [at Sheffield centennial celebration]	1947
Photographs		
b. 10, f. 11	General	1915-1965, undated
b. 10, f. 12-14	Bikini atomic bomb tests See also: <a href="#">Oversize, folder 5.</a>	1946

**Oversize, 1796-1973**

b. 11, f. 1	Family papers, 1796	1832
b. 11, f. 2	Genealogical charts	1940, undated
	Memorabilia	
b. 11, f. 3	General	1969
b. 11, f. 4	Bikini Island atom bomb tests See also: <a href="#">Oversize, folder 5.</a>	1946
b. 11, f. 5	Photographs	1946

## **Selected Search Terms**

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

### **Subjects**

Amino acids -- Nomenclature  
Biochemistry  
Botanical chemistry  
Operation Crossroads, Marshall Islands, 1946  
Plant physiology

### **Occupations**

Biochemists

### **Names**

Bradford, George Adams  
Vickery, Hubert Bradford, 1893-1978

### **Families**

Bradford family  
Starr family

### **Corporate Body**

Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station