



Finding Aid for

**HENRY AND CLARA FORD FINANCIAL RECORDS SERIES, 1912-1946
(BULK 1919-1942)**

Accession 254

Finding Aid Published: March 2012



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OVERVIEW

REPOSITORY: Benson Ford Research Center
The Henry Ford
20900 Oakwood Blvd
Dearborn, MI 48124-5029
www.thehenryford.org
research.center@thehenryford.org

ACCESSION NUMBER: 254

CREATOR: Ford, Henry, 1863-1947

TITLE: Henry and Clara Ford financial records series

INCLUSIVE DATES: 1912-1946

BULK DATES: 1919-1942

QUANTITY: 33.2 cubic ft. and 27 microfilm reels

LANGUAGE: The materials are in English.

ABSTRACT: The Henry and Clara Ford Financial records series is made up of various financial records documenting Henry and Clara's personal finances and Henry's non-Ford activities

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

ACCESS RESTRICTIONS: The series is open for research. Microfilm can be viewed in the Reading Room. Please consult with Reading Room staff.

COPYRIGHT: Copyright has been transferred to The Henry Ford by the donor. Copyright for some items in the collection may still be held by their respective creator(s).

ACQUISITION: Ford Motor Company Archives donation, 1964.

RELATED MATERIAL: Related material held by The Henry Ford:
Forms part of the Financial records subgroup, which includes:

- Accession 260, which includes multiple subseries of the Disbursing Vouchers and Remittances series, as well as the Statements series
- Accession 790, the Remittances, Henry Ford Office subseries, part of the Disbursing Vouchers and Remittances series.

PREFERRED CITATION: Item, folder, box, accession 254, Henry and Clara Ford financial records series, Benson Ford Research Center, The Henry Ford

PROCESSING INFORMATION: Collection processed by Ford Motor Company Archives staff, date unknown

DESCRIPTION INFORMATION: Original collection inventory list prepared by Ford Motor Company Archives staff, date unknown.

Finding aid prepared by Elyssa Bisoski, March 2012, and published in March 2012.

Finding aid prepared using Describing Archives: A Content Standard (DACS) and local guidelines.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Henry and Clara Ford Financial records series is made up of various financial records documenting Henry and Clara's personal finances and Henry's non-Ford activities. Much of the Fords' financial dealings covered by these records were managed by the Fords' secretaries Ernest Liebold, Frank Campsall, H. R. Waddell, and Leslie J. Thompson. The records are organized primarily by type of material (bank statements, checks, etc.). Organization within these sections is generally either alphabetical by creditor name or chronological. A collection inventory lists material type and date, with sparse mention of specific creditors or account holders. The records consist mainly of bank statements, bank deposit books, and cancelled checks of Henry and Clara Ford; vouchers, checks, invoices, and credit memos for various Henry Ford accounts, including numerous special accounts, filed alphabetically; and contractors' agreements for construction on the Fair Lane Estate.

The bank statements, bank books, and to some extent cancelled checks are routine in nature and do not provide in-depth information about Henry and Clara's financial affairs. The vouchers, invoices, and credit memos, though lacking in organization and context, offer a more detailed view of the Fords' interests and activities. There are also cancelled invoices and credit memos from 1919 to 1932. Included in the cancelled checks are payments to the Fords' agent at their Fort Myers, Florida, winter residence, 1922-1923, and to architect and construction manager W. H. Van Tine for work on the Fair Lane Estate and its service buildings, 1914. Best represented within the vouchers, invoices, and credit memos are construction and operating costs for Fair Lane Estate; expenditures on food and supplies for the Dearborn Country Club; and Henry and Clara Ford's personal living expenses.

A small sampling of the other numerous concerns covered by the vouchers, invoices, and credit memos are labor and materials at various Henry Ford Farms, including Macon Farms and Snell Farm; Village Industries operating expenses, including those at Sharon Mills in Manchester, Michigan; Dearborn Water Works expenses; supplies, wages, and operating expenses for Valley Farm, Inc., a home for orphaned boys in Dearborn; maintenance expenses and slip fees for the yacht Sialia; antiques purchases and restoration, including travel expenses, labor, supplies, and materials; other expenses for purchases and work on Greenfield Village (then called the "Antique Village"), Henry Ford Museum, and the Wayside Inn; expense reports and correspondence with European purchasing agent Herbert Frederick Morton concerning his acquisition of Rose Cottage in Gloucestershire, England, on Henry's behalf (it later became the Cotswold Cottage at Greenfield Village); work on Ford Athletic Park (also called Ford Athletic Field); acquisition of dance music for Henry's old-fashioned dances; and touring expenses for the Ford Hawaiian Quintet, a ukulele band that performed for Ford Motor Company functions across the Midwest. Small amounts of correspondence are occasionally included with the invoices.

Also included in the series are Ford Investment Plan records for Henry Ford employees (including accounts for farm manager Ray Dahlinger and dancing instructor Benjamin Lovett), 1920-1942, and Dearborn Country Club employees, circa 1926-1928. The employee investment plan records are split between this accession and another accession, Accession 286. Additionally, there is a check register for Henry Ford & Son tractor company, 1918-1920, and two oversized ledgers, one for accounts payable on Henry Ford Special Accounts, 1927, and the other a ledger

of contractors' accounts for Hamilton & Rossville Hydraulic Company and Fair Lane estate service buildings, 1919-1925. Among the contractors are Dearborn Realty and Construction Company and Henry Ford Construction Department. The accounts include descriptions of construction work.

SUBJECT TERMS

Names, Personal and Corporate

Ford, Henry, 1863-1947
Ford, Clara Bryant, 1866-1950
Campsall, Frank Charles, 1884-1946
Ford, Henry, 1863-1947--Employees
Ford, Henry, 1863-1947--Homes and haunts
Liebold, Ernest Gustav, 1884-1956
Morton, Herbert Frederick, 1890-1966
Thompson, Leslie J.
Waddell, H.R.
Cotswold Cottage (Dearborn, Mich.)
Dearborn Country Club (Dearborn, Mich.)
Dearborn Realty and Construction Company
Dearborn Water Works
Detroit, Toledo, and Ironton Railroad
Edison Institute Schools
Ford Hawaiians
Ford Motor Company
Ford Motor Company--Employees
Ford Motor Company. Office of Henry Ford.
Ford Village Industries
Henry Ford (Organization). Henry Ford Museum
Henry Ford & Son, Inc.
Henry Ford Construction Department
Henry Ford Farms
Sialia (Ship)
Valley Farms, Inc.
Fair Lane (Dearborn, Mich.)
Wayside Inn (Sudbury, Mass.)

Subjects

Antiques
Automobile industry and trade
Buildings--Michigan--Dearborn
Historic buildings
Historic sites--Conservation and restoration
Industrialists--Michigan--Dearborn

SUBJECT TERMS continued:

Geographic

Dearborn (Mich.)

Richmond Hill (Ga.)

Fort Myers (Fla.)

Genre or Form

Bank statements

Financial records

Ledgers

Microforms

CONTAINER LIST

Box no.	Description
Box 1	Bank statements Henry Ford accounts Personal
Box 2	Secretary A-M
Box 3	M-Z
Box 4	Investment and time
Box 5	Henry and Clara Ford, joint accounts A-F
Box 6	F-M
Box 7	N-Z
Box 8	Clara J. Ford accounts A-M
Box 9	N-Z
Box 10-13	Checks, 1913-1933 Secretary account
Box 14-15	Miscellaneous accounts (interfiled in one sequence)
Box 15	Architect's checks, Fair Lane, 1914

Box 16

Fort Myers agents' checks, 1922-1933

Box 17-19

Bank deposit books, 1917-1943
Henry Ford

Box 20

Clara Ford
Interest statements - Henry Ford accounts, April - December 1919

Box 21-24

Vouchers, checks and invoices for special accounts, 1912-1919

Box 25 and 26

Vouchers (including invoices grouped by check number)
1921

Box 27

1921-1922

Box 28

1922

Box 29

1922-1923

Box 30 and 31

1923

Box 32 and 33

1924

Box 34-38

1925

Box 39

1925-1926

Box 40-45

1926

Box 46

1926-1927

Box 47-51

1927

Box 52-57

1928

Box 58-62

1929

Box 63-71

1935

Box 71-73

Cancelled invoices and credit memos, 1919-1932

Box 74

Henry Ford invoices, 1921-1926 (scattered)

Henry Ford Estate contractor's agreements and construction orders, 1919-1920

Henry Ford residence purchase orders

Box 75-76

Ford investment plan records, 1920-1942

Henry Ford employees

Receipt books

Box 77

Checks to employees

Box 78-80

Accounts of individuals

Box 80

Dearborn Country Club employees' individual accounts

Box 81

Henry Ford & Son check register

Box 82

Bound volumes

Ledger of accounts for contractors' vouchers for the Hamilton and Rossville

Hydraulic Company and the Fair Lane service buildings

Box 83

Ledger, accounts payable, 1927 (Henry Ford special accounts)