



Finding Aid for

**FIRESTONE FAMILY PAPERS, 1804-1991**  
**Accession 82.492**

Finding Aid Published: February 2011



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## **SUMMARY INFORMATION**

**CREATOR:** Firestone family

**TITLE:** Firestone family papers

**INCLUSIVE DATES:** 1804-1991

**QUANTITY:** 8.4 cubic feet and 4 oversize boxes

**ABSTRACT:** Personal papers, photographs, and collected materials related to family history, significant events, and travels of Harvey S. and Idabelle Firestone and their son, Harvey S. Firestone Jr. There are also materials related to the couture collection of Elizabeth Parke Firestone.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**

**ACCESS RESTRICTIONS:** The collection is open for research.

**ACQUISITION:** Donation, 1989.

**COPYRIGHT:** Copyright has been transferred to The Henry Ford.

**PREFERRED CITATION:** Item, folder, box, Accession 82.492, Firestone family papers, Benson Ford Research Center, The Henry Ford.

**PROCESSING INFORMATION:** Finding aid prepared by Beth Myerowitz, July 2010.

## BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Harvey Samuel Firestone (December 20, 1868 - February 7, 1938) was born in Columbiana, Ohio and attended local schools. He worked for the Columbus Buggy Company until starting his own company, Firestone Rubber Tire Company, to make rubber tires for carriages. In 1895 he married Idabelle Smith and they had six children: Harvey Jr., Russell Allen, Leonard, Raymond, Roger Stanley, and Elizabeth.

Firestone moved to Akron, Ohio in 1900, where he established the Firestone Tire and Rubber Company and soon was providing Henry Ford with rubber tires for his automobiles. Sales to Ford Motor Company helped put the renamed Firestone Tire and Rubber Co. at the top of the U.S. tire industry. Firestone, Ford, and Thomas Edison, prominent leaders in American industry, frequently worked and socialized together. Firestone was president of his company until retirement in 1932, when his son, Harvey Samuel Firestone Jr. replaced him.

Harvey Samuel Firestone Jr. (April 20, 1888 - June 1, 1973) was born in Chicago, Illinois, graduated from Asheville School in North Carolina, and received his B.A. from Princeton University in 1920. Initially, he took charge of the Firestone Tire and Rubber Company's steel products division, and eventually took over leadership of the company. He served as president of the Firestone Foundation, a charitable organization focusing on educational, cultural, and social programs and the arts. Firestone Tire and Rubber had its own musical radio program, *The Voice of Firestone*, where Firestone often gave weekly talks.

In 1921 Harvey Samuel Firestone, Jr. married Elizabeth Parke (November 17, 1897 - October 18, 1990), and they had four children: Elizabeth Chambers, Martha Parke, Anne Idabelle, and Harvey Samuel III. Elizabeth was a collector of paintings, porcelain, silver, and furniture, which she used to decorate the Firestone homes, Twin Oaks in Akron, Ohio, and Ocean Lawn in Newport, Rhode Island. She was known for her extraordinary collection of couture clothing, which she considered to be a decorative art.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Firestone family papers include personal papers, photographs, and collected materials related to family history, significant events, and travels of Harvey S. and Idabelle Firestone and their son, Harvey S. Firestone Jr. The bulk of the materials relate to the personal lives of Harvey S. and Elizabeth Parke Firestone and the Elizabeth Parke Firestone designer couture collection. The papers are arranged into the following series: **Family History**; **Idabelle Smith and Harvey S. Firestone**; **Elizabeth Parke and Harvey S. Firestone Jr.**; **Elizabeth Parke Firestone Couture**; and **Negatives**.

The **Family History** series, 1804-1985 (0.2 cubic foot), consists of several publications about the Firestone family, including tables of descent and a brief account of the origins of the family, beginning in 1706 with the birth of Nicholas Firestone I. Publicity and newspaper

articles related to the move in 1984 of Firestone Farm from Columbiana, Ohio to Greenfield Village in Dearborn, Michigan are included, as well as a photocopy of the original land deed signed by Thomas Jefferson.

The **Idabelle Smith and Harvey S. Firestone** series, 1913-1981 (0.2 cubic foot), includes documentation related to awards received by Mr. Firestone, photographs of events and travels, and several family portraits.

The **Elizabeth Parke and Harvey S. Firestone Jr.** series, 1808-1989 (2.8 cubic feet, 3 oversized folders, and one oversized scrapbook), contains publicity, mementos, and correspondence related to their children, homes, social events, and travels. There are numerous portraits and family photographs, and two scrapbooks that document the history of the Firestone family. A recording (16 $\frac{2}{3}$  RPM) of "Man on the Move," by Harvey Firestone, Jr., with titles in Braille, is included.

The **Elizabeth Parke Firestone Couture** series, 1921-1991 (5.2 cubic feet, 2 oversized folders, and 1 oversized scrapbook) includes publicity, photographs, and correspondence related to clothing and accessories purchased by Mrs. Firestone from designer houses such as Balenciaga and Dior. There are numerous sketches, with fabric swatches, of coats, gowns, and dresses designed for Mrs. Firestone. Correspondence and catalogs for the "The World of Balenciaga" exhibits in New York and Madrid (1973-1974), which displayed numerous contributions from Mrs. Firestone's clothing collection, are included, as well as the catalog for the Sotheby auction of Elizabeth Parke Firestone's Haute Couture Collection (1991).

The **Negatives** series, 1920-1991 (5 folders) is comprised of negatives for a limited number of photographs in the collection.

## BOX AND FOLDER LISTING

**Box no.**                      **Description**

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### FAMILY HISTORY

#### Box 1

Genealogy publications  
    "The Origins of the Firestone Family"  
    "The Firestone Family"  
    "History of the Firestone Family, 1706-1967"  
Genealogy records  
Firestone Farm, 1804, 1983-1985 (2 folders) (includes photocopy of original land deed signed by Thomas Jefferson and publicity related to move to Greenfield Village) (**see also oversize box 22**)

### IDABELLE SMITH AND HARVEY S. FIRESTONE

Awards and dedications (includes photographs of the dedication of the Harvey S. Firestone Memorial Library, Princeton University), 1949  
Events  
    25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Firestone Tire and Rubber, 1925  
    40<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary, November 20, 1935  
    70<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration, Idabelle Smith Firestone, November 10, 1949  
    Columbiana High School reunion yearbook, 1931  
    Family wedding invitations, 1938  
Photographs, 1936-1954 (**see also oversize box 23**)  
    Europe, 1913, 1920, 1922, 1928, 1936  
    New York, 1929  
Miscellaneous (includes photo of Harvey S. Firestone on wooden stand), 1941, 1981

### ELIZABETH PARKE AND HARVEY FIRESTONE JR.

#### Box 2

Awards and recognition, 1953, 1976, 1991 (includes booklet with text of the Columbia broadcast of "Fifty Years on Wheels," 1946)  
Children  
    Anne Idabelle Firestone, 1933-  
    Elizabeth Chambers Firestone, 1922-1989 (2 folders) (includes flyer for piano performance of her composition *Concertino*, Royal Albert Hall, London, September 23, 1950)  
    Harvey Firestone III, 1930-1960  
    Martha Parke Firestone, 1925 (**see also oversize box 24**)  
Correspondence, 1937-1970  
Events  
    Costume balls, 1949-1970 (2 folders) (includes invoices and photographs)  
    Invitations, 1928, 1946, 1958  
    Wedding, St. John's Church, Decatur, Illinois, June 25, 1921 (2 folders) (includes wedding gift register)

**ELIZABETH PARKE AND HARVEY S. FIRESTONE JR. (CONT.)**

**Box 3**

Furnishings

Correspondence and newspaper clipping, 1955-1958

Exhibition catalogs, 1956, 1959, 1967

Christie's catalog, 1991

*French Silver: the Elizabeth Parke Firestone Collection*, article in *Connoisseur*, 1957

Homes

Ocean Lawn, Newport, Rhode Island, 1963, 1973

West Indies (includes drawing of Cottage alterations), 1953-1955

Mementos, Elizabeth Parke Firestone (Broadway stage personalities), 1910-1911

**Box 4**

Decatur high school study requirements

Rosemary Hall, 1913

*The Songs of Ensign Stal*, by Fanrick Stals Sagner (inscribed)

Travel brochures and programs

Miscellaneous (includes valentine from Harvey S. Firestone Jr. to Elizabeth Parke Firestone), 1909-1912

Periodicals

*Realities*, special editions printed for Mrs. Harvey Samuel Firestone (p. 40, "Letter to Mr. Firestone"), 1956

*Town & Country*, 1974 (p.20, photograph of Elizabeth Parke Firestone) and

*Vogue*, 1950 (p. 142, photograph of Elizabeth Parke Firestone)

Family, circa 1902-1978 (3 folders)

Friends and acquaintances (includes autographed photo of Harvey S. Firestone Jr. and Lyndon Johnson, 1961)

Portraits (3 folders) (**see also oversize box 22**), 1918, 1927, 1930s, 1960

**Box 5**

Stationery (1 folder and 13 envelopes)

**Box 6**

Travel

California, 1939

Cuba, 1923

Europe and Liberia, 1935

Europe and South Africa, 1936

Europe

1928 (2 folders)

1929

1932

1933

1946

**ELIZABETH PARKE AND HARVEY FIRESTONE JR. (CONT.)**

Travel(cont.)

Europe (cont.)

1947

1949

1950 (3 folders)

1951

**Box 7**

1953

1954

1955 (6 folders)

1956

1957

1958

1959

1960

1961

1962

1963

1967

1968, 1969, 1971, 1972

**Box 8**

Address book, 1956-1961

Miscellaneous, 1952

Far East, 1928

Latin America, 1952

Liberia (**see also oversize box 22**)

1927-1928 (includes photographs of Harvey S. and Idabelle Firestone)

1937 (includes photographs Idabelle Firestone)

Miami, Florida, 1967-1972

New York, 1935, 1939 (World's Fair)

Notre Dame, 1935

Rio de Janeiro, 1930

Miscellaneous

Brochures, 1936-1938

Calendar, 1947

Coal orders, 1937

European purchases, circa 1947-1959 (includes customs documentation and shipping invoices)

Estate tax calculations and cancelled check, Elizabeth Parke Firestone, 1951, 1972

Firestone Tire and Rubber Co. publications and advertisement, 1989

Insurance and storage, circa 1953, 1973

Investment information, 1934

**ELIZABETH PARKE AND HARVEY FIRESTONE JR. (CONT.)**

Miscellaneous

- "Man on the Move," by Harvey Firestone, Jr., (recordings for the blind, with titles in Braille, 1968
- Skin and hair care, 1967-1978 (Elizabeth Parke Firestone correspondence)
- Telephone bill, 1988

**ELIZABETH PARKE FIRESTONE COUTURE**

**Box 9**

- Buttons, 1952-1955
- Coats and Dresses (correspondence, sketches, and swatches)
  - Balenciaga
    - 1949-1951 (2 folders)
    - 1952
    - 1953 (2 folders)
    - 1954 (3 folders)

**Box 10**

- 1955 (2 folders)
- 1956 (2 folders)
- 1957
- 1958
- 1960-1964 (includes one undated sketch)
- Bergdorf Goodman, 1963-1988

**Box 11**

- Bob Bugnand
  - 1956-1959
  - 1960-1970 (includes photographs and a newspaper clipping)
  - 1971
  - 1972 (**see also oversize box 22**)
  - 1973-1977 (includes a newspaper clipping)
  - Undated
- Dior
  - 1946-1952
  - 1953-1954 (3 folders)

**Box 12**

- 1953-1954 (5 folders)
- 1955 (2 folders)

**Box 13**

- 1955 (1 folder)
- 1956 (5 folders)
- 1957 (1 folders)

**ELIZABETH PARKE FIRESTONE COUTURE (CONT.)**

Coats and Dresses (cont.)

Dior (cont.)

**Box 14**

1957 (4 folders)  
1958 (includes a newspaper clipping)  
1959-1963  
1964

**Box 15**

Undated, (2 folders) (circa 1957-1962?)  
Jacques Fath, 1947-1957  
Coats and Dresses (cont.) (correspondence, sketches, and swatches)  
Mainbocher, 1938-1953  
Carrie Munn, 1943-1949  
Jean Patou, 1933-1964  
Sak's Fifth Avenue, 1949-1974  
Miscellaneous  
    Clothing houses, 1937-1978  
    Swatches (unidentified)  
Fabrics, circa 1964-1979

**Box 16**

Footwear (correspondence, sketches, and swatches)  
    Delicata, 1950-1972  
    Midwest, 1968-1972  
    Natalini, 1970-1990 (2 folders)  
    Miscellaneous, 1949-1988  
Furs (correspondence, statements, storage agreements)  
    A Charsky, 1936-1954  
    Engle and Fetzer, 1937-1943  
    Fabrizio, 1980-1988  
    Jaekel, 1926-1939  
    A Polsky, 1935-1958  
    Reiss and Fabrizio, 1969-1980 (2 folders)  
    Revillon, 1938-1955  
    Rothstein, 1959-1989  
    Sak's Fifth Avenue, 1958

**Box 17**

Miscellaneous, 1925-1986 (includes insurance information and one photograph)  
Gloves, 1940-1969  
Hats, 1954-1957  
Jewelry  
    Cartier, 1946-1990  
    Jolie Gabor, 1952

**ELIZABETH PARKE FIRESTONE COUTURE (CONT.)**

Jewelry (cont.)

Insurance

Firestone Park, 1941-1975 (3 folders)  
Inventories, 1953-1981  
Lloyd's of London, 1960  
Losses, 1953-1989  
Minet, 1976-1982 (1 folder)

**Box 18**

Minet, 1976-1982 (3 folders)  
Marchal, 1944-1976 (2 folders)  
Richter's, 1948-1972 (2 folders)  
Tiffany, 1921-1972  
Trabent and Hoffer, 1945-1972  
Van Cleef and Arpels, 1954-1967  
Vendura, 1946-1985

**Box 19**

Harry Winston

Appraisals, 1943-1989  
Brochures, circa 1948 and 1970  
Correspondence, circa 1946-1986 (2 folders)  
Invoices, circa 1936-1977 (3 folders)  
Magazine articles and newspaper clippings, circa 1940-1985  
Photographs and sketches (**see also oversize box 22**), 1988

**Box 20**

Miscellaneous, 1932-1984  
Leather goods, 1952-1994 (2 folders)  
Lingerie (correspondence and swatches)  
Contenseaux, 1964-1981 (2 folders)  
Fearless, 1928-1961 (includes one photograph)  
Hanes, 1969-1971  
Leron, 1942-1978  
Maloof, 1941-1951  
Miscellaneous, 1937-1982  
Slacks, circa 1947-1976 (includes newspaper clippings about the marriage of Martha Firestone and William Clay Ford and Jacqueline Onassis)  
Swimwear, correspondence 1968-1971  
Miscellaneous  
Auction, December 17, 1991 (auction of Elizabeth Parke Firestone's Couture Collection at Sotheby's)  
Appraisals

**ELIZABETH PARKE FIRESTONE COUTURE**

Miscellaneous

Auction, December 17, 1991

**Box 21**

Catalogs and photographs, 1991

Correspondence, 1991

Couture showings (invitations and announcements), 1971-1972

Donations

Newport Preservation Society

Ohio State University (2 folders), 1980-1989

Exhibition: *The World of Balenciaga*, New York and Madrid, 1973, 1974

Costume sketch, 1970 (worn by Elizabeth Parke Firestone at Plaza Hotel)

**NEGATIVES**

Harvey S. and Idabelle Smith Firestone travel (Europe, 1920, 1922 and New York, 1929)

Harvey S. and Elizabeth Parke Firestone Jr.

Events (costume balls, 1956, 1957, 1959)

Portraits

Travel (includes Cuba, 1923; Europe and Liberia, 1935; Europe and South Africa, 1936; Europe, 1932, 1933, 1950; Liberia, 1928)

Elizabeth Parke Firestone Couture auction, December 17, 1991

**OVERSIZE**

**Box 22 (oversize)**

**FAMILY HISTORY**

Firestone Foundation, 1963, 1972 (photographs of meetings at Firestone Foundation House)

**ELIZABETH PARKE AND HARVEY S. FIRESTONE JR.**

Portraits

Elizabeth Parke Firestone, 1929

Harvey S. Firestone Jr., 1962

Mr. and Mrs. Harvey S. Firestone Jr. and Elizabeth, 1937

Travel

1936

**ELIZABETH PARKE FIRESTONE COUTURE**

Coats and Dresses, Bob Bugnand, 1972

Jewelry, Harry Winston, Sketches

**OVERSIZE (CONT.)**

**Box 23 (oversize)**

**IDABELLE SMITH AND HARVEY S. FIRESTONE**

Portraits (3 folders) (includes portrait of Elizabeth Idabelle Firestone, 1938)  
Travel, California, 1915

**Box 24 (oversize)**

**ELIZABETH PARKE AND HARVEY S. FIRESTONE JR.**

Martha Parke Firestone wedding scrapbook, 1948

**Box 25 (oversize)**

Photograph Albums, 1808-1927 (2 volumes)