



Finding Aid for

FORD R. (FORD RICHARDSON) BRYAN PAPERS, 1935-2004
Accession 1527

Finding Aid Published: January 2011



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SUMMARY INFORMATION

Creator: Bryan, Ford R. (Ford Richardson), 1912- 2004

Title: Ford R. (Ford Richardson) Bryan papers

Inclusive Dates: 1935-2004

Size: 5.2 cubic ft.

Restrictions: The papers are open for research.

Abstract: Spectrochemical analyst at the Ford Motor Company; author of numerous texts on the Ford Motor Company and Ford family. Material includes technical papers, research papers, photographs, correspondence, articles, and notes.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Acquisition: Donations, 1980 and 2001

Accession Number: 1527

Preferred Citation: Item, folder, box, accession 1527, Ford R. Bryan papers, Benson Ford Research Center, The Henry Ford

Processing Information: Finding aid prepared by Kathy Steiner, 2003; updated by Stephanie Chontos, 2005

HISTORY

Ford R. (Ford Richardson) Bryan, born in Crystal, Michigan, earned a degree in Natural and Physical Science from Eastern Michigan University in 1934 and a Master of Science from the University of Michigan before joining the Ford Motor Company in 1941. A prolific writer, Bryan published dozens of technical papers on optical spectroscopy during his thirty-three years as a spectrochemical analyst for the company. After retiring from Ford in 1974, he became a volunteer at The Henry Ford, where he began to research family history (Bryan's great-great-grandfather, Samuel Ford, was brother to Henry Ford's grandfather, John Ford). Over the next twenty-three years Bryan became a highly regarded historian of Ford Motor Company, Henry Ford, and the Ford family, writing numerous articles and eight Ford related books.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The papers are comprised of four series. The **Biographical series**, 1943-2004 (0.4 linear ft.) includes reminiscences, personal memorabilia, tributes to Bryan, photographs, and genealogical materials relating to the Richardson and Bryan families. The **Ford Scientific Laboratory series**, 1934-1974 (1.2 cubic ft.), contains copies of Bryan published papers, photographs of scientific apparatus and the process of spectrography (some predating his employment); management proposals from 1954 to 1965; copies of minutes of staff meetings from the years 1951, 1954 and 1957; a history of early spectrography at the Ford Motor Company; a floor plan of the laboratory; and a 1982 Ford Old Timers directory. The **Research Material for Books series**, 1974-2001 (2 cubic ft.), holds papers created and collected by Bryan while researching the following books: *The Fords of Dearborn*; *Henry's Lieutenants*; and *Clara, Mrs. Henry Ford*. The series is rich with correspondence, photographs, handwritten and typewritten notes, Bryan authored articles, photocopied documents, and genealogical resources (including material on The Henry Ford Ancestral Site in Ireland). The **General Research series** (1.6 cubic ft.) is comprised of research material on a broad range of Ford Motor Company and Ford family related subjects. Topics include Henry Ford's friendship with Thomas Edison, various Ford family residences, soybean and fuel research, and Fred Waring's orchestra which performed at the opening of the Ford Rotunda in 1936.

BOX AND FOLDER LISTING

Box no. Description

Box 1

FORD BRYAN BIOGRAPHICAL

Bryan, Ellen Juntunen
 General
 Recipe Box
Bryan Family
 Columbiaville, MI, ca. 1920
 Genealogy
 Photographs
 Troy, MI, ca. 1920
Bryan, Ford R.,
 Biography
 “My Ten Years at the Rouge”
 Obituaries

Box 2

 Personal
 Troy Schools
 Volunteer
The Contributor, 1999 Annual Report, “The Making of a Leader”
Ford-Richardson Family, Photographs
Richardson Family, Photographs
William Clay Ford Community Quarterback Award

FORD SCIENTIFIC LABORATORY

Miscellaneous Items
“Perspectives”
Staff Meeting Minutes
“Under Dr. Andrew A. Kucher” by Ford R. Bryan.

Box 3

Binders
 Optical Spectroscopy, Scientific Laboratory 1951-1974
 Optical Spectroscopy I
 Optical Spectroscopy II

Box 4

Ford Motor Company Spectroscopy
 Analysis of magnesium alloys using photomultiplier Tubes, 1945
 Commercial Direct Reading Spectrometer, 1951

Box 4 (cont.)

Ford Motor Company Spectroscopy (cont.)
Geiger-Muller Counting Equipment, Phosphorus in Cast Iron,
1947
Early Analytical Spectrography at the Rouge, 1935-1945
Experimental Grating Spectrometer, 1942-48
Experimental Sample Molds, Glass, Metal, Plastic, 1951
Manufacturing Research Department, 1947
Microspectroscopy of metals, 1946
Reference spectra taken on experimental grating spectrometer.
1948
Scrap Analysis, 1946
Spectrographs, F.M.C.
Management Proposals
Old-Timers Club Directory, 1982
Retired Management Directory, 1998
Retirement Photos, 1974

Box 5

RESEARCH MATERIAL FOR BOOKS

Ballinascarthy Museum Plans, 1990
Bryan, Ford R., "The Fords of Dearborn an Illustrated History"
Buttimer Correspondence
Ford Family Genealogy, Ireland
Dan Holland Correspondences
General
Kilmalooda Church
Kilnagross Photos
Lisselan Estate
Ford Family Genealogy, Misc.
Ford, Henry, Family
"Dearborn's Early Henry Ford and His Oxen"
Madame Estate
Misc. Notes
Fuels, Benzol
Ruddiman, Mary Catherine, Correspondences with Ford Bryan

Box 6

Henry's Lieutenants Research
Introduction and Contents
Avery, Clarence W.
Bacon, Irving W.
Bennett, Harry H.
Black, Fred. L.
Boyer, Robert A.
Cameron, William J.

Box 6 (cont.)

RESEARCH MATERIAL FOR BOOKS (CONT.)

Henry's Lieutenants Research (cont.)

Campsall, Frank
Couzens, James
Cutler, Edward J.
Craig, Burt J.
Dahlinger, Raymond J.
Ebling, George
Farkas, Eugene J.
Galamb, Joseph
Johannson, Carl E.
Kahn, Albert
Kanzler, Ernest
Knudsen, Williams

Box 7

Laird, Raymond
Liebold, Ernest G.
Longley, Clifford
Lovett, Benjamin B.
McCarroll, R.H.
McClure, Roy D.
Marquis, Samuel S.
Martin, Peter E.
Mayo, William B.
O'Hern, Patrick and Margaret
Perry, Percival L.D.
Prunk, Grace, Interview
Searle, Frederick E.
Simonds, William S.
Simpson, Howard W.
Smith, Roscoe M.
Sorensen, Charles E.
Stout, William B.
Wibel, A.M.
Wills, C. Harold
Appendix I
Appendix II

Box 8

Clara Ford Research
1880-1925 (5 folders)

Box 9

RESEARCH MATERIAL FOR BOOKS (cont.)

Clara Ford Research (cont.)
1925-1935 (2 folders)
1935, 1940, 1945
1945-1954 and undated (3 folders)
Bryant Family Genealogy
Ford, Clara, Financial
Shops

Box 10

GENERAL RESEARCH

199 Ships
Automobile Reconditioning
Automobiles, FMC, Model A, Safety Glass
Artisan Cooperative Industries (James Humberstone)
Artisan Guild (James Humberstone)
Ballet, Ford Sponsored, 1940 in New York
Bismark (Henry Clawson)
Booth, John Wilkes
Boreham Estate
Boston, Edison Historic District
Broadhearth Foundry
Bryan County History
Bryant Family
Bungalow
Buses
Chemurgy
Curtis, A. W. (Assistant to George Washington Carver)
Edison, Thomas and Mina
Edison/Ford Everglades
Edison/Ford Winter Homes
Edison Museum, Port Huron, Michigan
Evergreen (Scotch Settlement) Cemetery
Evergreen Cemetery
Farming "Old Fashioned Harvesting"
Ford, Clara, Prayer Book

Box 11

Ford, Benson
Ford, George (1811-1861) & Ford, George (1845-1925)
Ford, Henry
Family
Henry's Great Grandmother Rebecca
Patrick Ahren, Henry Ford and Fairlane
Uncle (1830-1901)

Box 11 (cont.)

GENERAL RESEARCH (cont.)

Ford, Henry
 Fordismus
 Fuels, Henry Ford's Interest in
 Gleason Family
 Henry's Stash of Gemstones
 Kansas City, Mexico & Orient Railroad
 Maybury Family
 Residences
 Fair Lane
 General
 Building of Fairlane
 Origin of Name
 Water Rights
 Fort Myers Residence
 General
 Edison-Ford Gala, 2000

Box 12

 Richmond Hill Residence
 General
 Henry Ford Statue, 1999
 Richmond Hill Guide
Ford, Nancy (Flagherty)
Ford, Rebecca Jennings
Ford, Samuel
Ford, Steven J.
Ford Cemetery
Ford Commisary
Ford Farms
Ford Investment Certificates
Ford Motor Company, Detroit Piquette Plant (2 folders)
Ford Motor Company, Hamilton Plant
Ford Motor Company Scientific Laboratory
Fordite
Fordson Truck

GENERAL RESEARCH (cont.)

Box 13

Harrison Farm Notes
Hospital
 Henry Ford, Detroit
 Brazil, Rio
Humberstone, James A.
Ireland, Ballinascarthy
 General (2 folders)
 Ford Millennium Project
 Kilnagross Church Collection Basket
Lincoln Memorial University
Long, Leslie Dr., Death, 2000
Marion Island
Martin, David (Chaplain)
Maybury-Ford Connection
Mines, Iron & Coal
O'Hern, Patrick and Margaret
Prunk, Grace, Interview, 1987

Box 14

Redford Plantation
Rubber Plantation
Soybeans (2 folders)
Redford Pioneer Cemetery
Smoot, Tom Jr. Correspondence
Spectroscopy at Ford Motor Company
Valley Farm
Waring, Fred (includes photograph of Fred Waring's Orchestra, Ford
 Broadcast during Rotunda dedication, May 16, 1936 on CD; and a
 Fred Waring Orchestra booklet)
Woodbridge Park Zoo