



Finding Aid for

**RAYMOND H. LAIRD COLLECTION,
1776-1950 (bulk 1925-1950)**

Accession 1635

Finding Aid Published: May 2011



20900 Oakwood Boulevard · Dearborn, MI 48124-5029 USA
research.center@thehenryford.org · www.thehenryford.org

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: 1635

CREATOR: Laird, Raymond H., 1898-1968.

TITLE: Raymond H. Laird collection

INCLUSIVE DATES: 1776-1950

BULK DATES: 1925-1950

QUANTITY: 0.8 cubic ft., 1 oversize box, and 2 rolls

LANGUAGE: The materials are in English.

ABSTRACT: Raymond H. Laird was an engineer at Ford Motor Company and was asked by Henry Ford to gather and create Ford family genealogical records. This collection consists primarily of documents, letters and notes pertaining to the genealogy of the Ford family.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

- ACCESS RESTRICTIONS:** The collection is open for research.
- 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:** The collection was donated to The Henry Ford in 1982.
- PREFERRED CITATION:** Item, folder, box, accession 1635, Raymond H. Laird collection, Benson Ford Research Center, The Henry Ford
- PROCESSING INFORMATION:** Collection processed by staff of The Henry Ford in February 1983.
- DESCRIPTION INFORMATION:** Original collection inventory prepared by staff of The Henry Ford in 1983. Finding aid prepared and published by staff of The Henry Ford, March-May 2011.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

An engineer at Ford Motor Company, Laird worked closely with Henry Ford and was frequently asked to assume confidential business and personal assignments, one of which was to gather and create Ford family genealogical records. He was married to Emma Ford, daughter of John N. Ford and granddaughter of Henry Ford's father's cousin, William S. Ford, of Dearborn.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection consists primarily of documents, letters and notes pertaining to the genealogy of the Ford family, the cemetery where family members are buried, and the Ford family tree. Included are maps of Ireland and England relating to Ford family history. Of note is the original manuscript written by Charles Webster of Cork, Ireland describing what is thought to be the most authentic history of the family of Henry Ford. Also included are maps, postcards, snapshots, portraits, clippings, obituaries, correspondence, and reminiscences.

SUBJECT TERMS

Names, Personal and Corporate

Laird, Raymond H., 1898-1968.

Ford, Henry, 1863-1947.

Ford, William, 1826-1905.

Ford, Rebecca, 1810-1886.

Ford family

Laird family

Webster, Charles.

Geographic

Fair Haven (Mich.)

Genre and Form

Maps.

Postcards.

Photographs.

Autograph books.

Obituaries.

Quotations (texts)

Portraits.

Genealogy

CONTAINER LIST

Box no.	Description
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Box 1

Ford Genealogy-Webster (contains original handwritten manuscript in bound notebook, entitled "Notes, Topographical, Historical and Genealogical on the Ford Family" by Charles A. Webster, D.D., Rector of Blackwell, Cork, Ireland. (1925). This document has been considered the most authentic history of the family of Henry Ford.)

"Documents and Memorials of the Ford Family", 1878 (binder containing "Documents and Memorials of the Ford Family" by Francis Clare Ford, Harrison & Sons Printers to her Majesty, St Martins Lane, London, 56 pages, 1878. This document was not accepted as the true history of the Ford Family of Dearborn.)

Ford Family Tree, circa 1925 (blueprint copy, 3 x 4 feet, of early Ford Family Tree)

Ford Genealogy-Correspondence

Memo, Laird to Liebold and Campsall summarizing history of Ford Family.

Letters and memos regarding possible relationship of various people to Henry Ford. (In most cases no connection was found.)

Genealogical sheet of Elwood James Ford.

Letter, Laird to Ford R. Bryan advising type of technical skills needed at Ford Motor Company, 1941

Ford Family and History

Pages from several published histories of various Ford families.

Letters received by Laird concerning possible relationship to Ford Family.

Letters regarding history of Ford Family Tree, 1924

Poem by Mrs. Charles Richardson (Emma Ford) about the members of the William S. Ford Family, circa 1885.

Information from Charles Bateman regarding Henry Ford's father, William.

Letter regarding land in Saginaw County located by John Ford, Henry Ford's grandfather, in 1855.

Ford Cemetery

Plat of Ford Cemetery (multiple copies)

Names and addresses of descendents of Samuel Ford and Nancy Smith.

Notice of meeting of heirs to Ford Cemetery, 1947

Manuscript, "I Worked for Mr. Ford" by Raymond H. Laird

Drafts (1 handwritten, 1 typewritten, 1 typewritten final draft)

Map of Dearborn (Mich.) (Xerographic copy; annotated by R.H Laird)

Clipping picturing Ford farms (Xerographic of clipping from Detroit Free Press, 01 June 1930)

Manuscript, "Meditations", Poems by Raymond H. Laird (Includes typewritten version, obituary, and memorial service for R.H. Laird)

Box 2

Autograph Book belonging to Isa Ketchum of Dearborn (Mich.), 1882
Map, Ordnance Survey 10-Mile Map of Great Britain
Postcards, Black and White photographs, sent to Mr. and Mrs. James K. Laird
Postcards, Color Photoengravings, etc. (James K. Laird family)
Postal card greetings, Christmas cards, Birthday cards (James K. Laird family)
Ephemera (James K. Laird family)
Photographs, Snapshots (James K. Laird family)
Photographic negatives, Snapshots (James K. Laird family - World War I)
Photographs, Tintype and Cartes-de-Visite (subject of tintype is unidentified; Susan Ford and Rebecca Ford are subjects of Cartes-de-Visite)
Copy photographs of Raymond Laird
Portrait photographs of Mrs. John N. Ford (Mary Hutton)
Photograph of unknown woman, circa 1865 (Possibly Mary Litogot)
Booklet, "Achievement Edition on Ford Products & National Defense Work", Dearborn Press, October 1941
Booklets, "A Chronicle of the Automotive Industry in America 1893-1946", Eaton Mfg. Co., 1946; "A Chronicle of the Automotive Industry in America 1903-1947", Eaton Mfg. Co., 1948.
Commemorative Booklets, "Thirty-Five Years with Ford", 1912-1947. (List of 35-year employees of Ford Motor Company); "Thirty-Five Years with Ford", 1913-1948.
Detroit News story, "Ford Revives Dying Dances", story and photos regarding old-fashioned dances, August 2, 1925; "Lovett Hall Opens with Old_Fashioned Dancing party" in The Herald, vol. IV, no. 21 (Nov. 12, 1937); Invitation to a Class in Old Fashioned Dancing - from Mr. and Mrs. Henry Ford to Mr. and Mrs. R.H Laird
Booklets
 "Progress on Welding at Willow Run", Ford Motor Company, 14 January 1943
 "Summary of Ford Welding Proposals", 4 January 1944

OVERSIZE

Box 3

Ford Family Tree, Rebecca Jennings-William Ford (blueprint copy with poor definition)
Ford Family Tree, Nancy Ford-Thomas Flaherty Branch (2 copies: 1 original drawing on onion skin paper and 1 blueprint copy)
Ford Family Tree, Nancy Ford-Robert Mason-David Spence Branch (blueprint copy)
Mechanical drawings by Raymond Laird
 Hydraulic turbine (1 original drawing and 2 blueprint copies)
 Unidentified drawing (1 original drawing)
Map, of southwestern Ireland showing location of Ford Homestead
Map, detailed, 4 mile per inch, of Devonshire, England
Map, detailed, 4 mile per inch, of Sommerset, England
Map, detailed, 880 feet per inch, of Raddinton, England
Newspaper story of Mr. and Mrs. William Ford of Caledonia, Michigan (Photostat copies)

Roll 1

Map, large of Cork County, Ireland (dimensions: 3x5 feet)

Map, detailed, 880 feet per inch, 6 inches per mile, of area around Madame Estate and Chrohane, Ireland, 1902 edition (copy negatives, made 15 December 1983) (0-6413/0-6414) (Catalog number 82.120.2)

Roll 2

Mechanical drawings by Raymond Laird (drawings of clamps to hold bicycle to rear bumper of automobile)