



Finding Aid for

**RECORDS STORED IN 1919 SERIES, 1902-1923**

**Accession 2**

Finding Aid Published: December 2013



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## OVERVIEW

**REPOSITORY:** Benson Ford Research Center  
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20900 Oakwood Blvd  
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[www.thehenryford.org](http://www.thehenryford.org)  
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**ACCESSION NUMBER:** 2

**CREATOR:** Ford, Henry, 1863-1947

**TITLE:** Records stored in 1919 series

**INCLUSIVE DATES:** 1902-1923

**QUANTITY:** 16.8 cubic ft.

**LANGUAGE:** The materials are in English.

**ABSTRACT:** The Records Stored in 1919 series contains materials created or maintained by Ford Motor Company treasurer and secretaries. The series includes financial records, correspondence, telegrams, and architectural estimates of Ford's Fair Lane estate.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**

- ACCESS RESTRICTIONS:** The series 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:** Ford Motor Company Archives donation, 1964
- RELATED MATERIAL:** Related material held by The Henry Ford:  
- Part of the Highland Park Office records subgroup, which includes:  
- Records Moved to Engineering Laboratory in 1919 series, Accession 62
- PREFERRED CITATION:** Item, folder, box, accession 2, Records stored in 1919 series, Benson Ford Research Center, The Henry Ford
- PROCESSING INFORMATION:** Collection processed by Ford Motor Company Archives staff, January 1963
- DESCRIPTION INFORMATION:** Original collection inventory list prepared by Ford Motor Company Archives staff, January 1963.
- Finding aid prepared by Elyssa Bisoski, March 2012, and published in December 2013.
- Finding aid prepared using Describing Archives: A Content Standard (DACS) and local guidelines.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Most materials in this series were created or maintained by Ford Motor Company treasurer Frank L. Klingensmith, Henry Ford Office secretaries Ernest G. Liebold, H. R. Waddell, and assistant secretary to Henry Ford G. S. Anderson. Among the topics best represented are Fair Lane Estate, Henry Ford Estates (Fair Lane and other residences), Henry Ford Hospital, Valley Farm, Inc. home for orphaned boys, Ford's senatorial campaign, Ford's pacifist views and efforts, and the Selden Patent case. The Records Stored in 1919 series consists of five subseries. **The Architect Estimates for Fair Lane subseries**, 1914-1916, consists of estimates on labor, construction, and materials from the architectural firm of W. H. Van Tine Building Organization, Inc., along with related correspondence and invoices from them and other builders and suppliers.

The **Financial records subseries**, 1902-1918, consists of checks and vouchers, bank statements for commercial bank accounts and for personal accounts of Henry and Clara Ford, invoices, cancelled checks, receipts, and related correspondence. Some of the chief concerns covered by these materials include tractor development, shipbuilding, architects' estimates, and the boys' home Valley Farm, Inc., as well as more routine matters such as repairs to personal automobiles, legal services, club memberships, telephone bills, taxes, grocery bills, and the like. Bank statements are arranged alphabetically by either name of account or by bank name. Other materials are organized by type of material and then in rough chronological order. Among the commercial bank accounts are those for the Ford Athletic Park, or Ford Athletic Field, an athletic facility attached to the Highland Park Plant; production of the antismoking pamphlet, "The Little White Slaver"; Ford Hawaiian Quintet; and Henry Ford & Son tractor company. Included within the paid invoices for Valley Farm is a partially filled register for the institution. The Checks and Correspondence files, 1902-1906, contains a variety of materials, including correspondence with James Couzens, along with an agreement for Henry Ford's buyout of James Couzens' Ford Motor Company stock; other documents from the early days of the Ford Motor Company, including statements of company assets, dividends, and liabilities; correspondence with suppliers, dealers, and customers regarding the Model N Runabout automobile; property agreements; and miscellaneous invoices, mostly related to Ford's agricultural interests. Also included are letters from George M. Holley regarding magneto testing and development, 1905, and a letter from Frank Kulick describing a test drive of the Model K.

The **Office Correspondence of Henry Ford subseries**, 1907-1911, consists of a wide range of correspondence reflecting not just Henry Ford's varied interests and activities but also his enormous influence upon and popularity in American society of the day. Much of the correspondence is made up of letters from business acquaintances, charitable organizations, current and former Ford Motor Company or Ford personal employees, and members of the general public requesting assistance of some form, generally financial assistance, employment, or recommendations for employment. In some instances, return correspondence documents maintenance of or investigation into these cases. Other correspondence pertaining more directly to Ford's activities deals with real estate transactions; building, landscaping, construction, decorating, and furnishing for Fair Lane Estate and other Ford residences (sometimes referenced under the umbrella term "Henry Ford Estates"); building and construction for other Ford-owned properties; taxes, legal services, insurance, telephone bills, travel arrangements, and other

personal expenditures for Henry and Clara and charitable donations made on their behalf; the Good Roads movement; the acquisition and running of the Dearborn State Bank; studies of shipbuilding and shipyards dating from around the period of Ford's Eagle Boat production; lumber; and automotive equipment. The Office Correspondence subseries is arranged chronologically and then alphabetically by correspondent or topic.

The **Telegrams subseries**, 1916-1919, consists of telegrams to and from Henry Ford Office personnel regarding Henry Ford's personal, commercial, and political pursuits. While largely routine in nature, concerning travel arrangements, declinations of speaking engagements, and other similar details, some telegrams impart more substantive information, particularly those regarding preparations for the Peace Ship voyage and European peace conference and Ford's pacifist views. Other telegrams have to do with Henry Ford's early tractor experimentation and the startup and earliest operations of Henry Ford and Son Tractor Company. Most of the telegrams are between E. G. Liebold and G. S. Anderson or to Gaston Plantiff, a Ford branch manager charged with Peace Ship arrangements. Some telegrams are signed by Henry Ford rather than one of his representatives; most of these are longer and written in full prose style and generally concern his pacifist views. There is also a small number of telegrams from Edsel Ford to his father, between Henry Ford and John Burroughs, and between Henry Ford and Thomas Edison regarding the arrangement of visits. Some of the correspondence, both telegrams and letters, between Liebold and his agents is written in a secret code devised by Liebold. A partial key to this code exists, a copy of which can be found in folder 1, box 1.

The **Miscellaneous subseries**, 1910-1923, consists of records pertaining to Valley Farm, Henry Ford's senatorial campaign (although other materials in the series refer to this campaign as well), Detroit General Hospital and Henry Ford Hospital, and tractor development, as well as bound periodicals of Engineering Magazine containing the series of articles "Ford Methods and the Ford Shops" written by Horace Arnold and Fay Faurote, and numerous letters from a mental patient in Chicago appealing for millions of dollars. Also present is a miscellany of unsorted letters from the public and acquaintances, clippings, business cards, event programs, and notes. Materials from the Ford senatorial campaign include correspondence regarding campaign arrangements such as ballot proofs, campaign literature, and an index of campaign payments and donations by Michigan county. Selden Patent Suit files relate to Ford's challenge of George Selden's automobile patent and include Ford's lawyers' opinions as early as 1903, opinions on the case and similar cases, and correspondence regarding the settlement of the suit, 1912-1913. The Valley Farm materials consist primarily of records and case files for the boys residing there and a small amount of material regarding the property lease. Most of the tractor-related records consist of invoices from tractor manufacturers, parts suppliers, and foundries and related financial correspondence. Hospital records pertain to Henry Ford's support of Detroit General Hospital in the years prior to its acquisition by Ford and transformation to Henry Ford Hospital.

## ARRANGEMENT

### Highland Park Office records subgroup

- Records Moved to Engineering Laboratory in 1919 series (Accession 62)
- Records Stored in 1919 series, 1902-1923 (Accession 2)
  - Architect Estimates for Fair Lane subseries, 1914-1916
  - Financial records subseries, 1902-1918
  - Miscellaneous subseries, 1910-1923
  - Office Correspondence of Henry Ford subseries, 1907-1911
  - Telegrams subseries, 1916-1919

## SUBJECT TERMS

### Names, Personal and Corporate

Ford, Henry, 1863-1947

Anderson, Gary S.

Burroughs, John, 1837-1921

Campsall, Frank Charles, 1884-1946

Edison, Thomas A. (Thomas Alva), 1847-1931

Ford, Clara Bryant, 1866-1950

Ford, Edsel, 1893-1943

Ford, Henry, 1863-1947--Employees

Ford, Henry, 1863-1947--Homes and haunts

Klingensmith, Frank L.

Liebold, Ernest Gustav, 1884-1956

Plantiff, Gaston, 1874-1934

Selden, George Baldwin, 1846-1922

Waddell, H. R.

Dearborn State Bank

Ford Hawaiians

Ford Motor Company

Ford Motor Company--Employees

Ford Motor Company--Executives

Ford Motor Company--Finance

Ford Motor Company. Office of Henry Ford

Ford Motor Company--Presidents

Ford Motor Company--Trials, litigation, etc

Henry Ford & Son, Inc.

Henry Ford Hospital

Oscar II (Ship)

Sialia (Ship)

Fair Lane (Dearborn, Mich.)

Valley Farm, Inc.

W. H. Van Tine Building Organization, Inc.

Names, Personal and Corporate continued

Henry Ford Peace Expedition, 1915-1916

Neutral Conference for Continuous Meditation 1916

Subjects

Automobile industry and trade

Automobiles--Patents

Buildings--Michigan--Dearborn

Ford automobile

Ford Model N automobile

Industrialists--Michigan--Dearborn

Pacifism

Patent infringement

Peace movements--United States

Shipbuilding

Tractors

World War, 1914-1918

Geographic

Dearborn, Mich.

Genre or Form

Bank statements

Ciphers

Financial records

Photographs

Publications

## CONTAINER LIST

<b>Box no.</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>Box 1</b>	<b>ARCHITECT ESTIMATES FOR FAIR LANE</b> Architect estimates #1-5, April-May, 1914
<b>Box 2</b>	Architect estimates # 6-10, June-July, 1914
<b>Box 3</b>	Architect estimates #11-15, August-October, 1914
<b>Box 4</b>	Architect estimates #16-20, October-December, 1914
<b>Box 5</b>	Architect estimates #21-25, December 1914 - February 1915
<b>Box 6</b>	Architect estimates #26-32, March-June, 1915
<b>Box 7</b>	Architect estimates #33-37, June-August, 1915
<b>Box 8</b>	Architect estimates #38-43, August-November, 1915
<b>Box 9</b>	Architect estimates #44-50, November 1915 - February 1916
<b>Box 10</b>	Architect estimates #51-62, February 1916 - November 1916 (receipted invoices and correspondence)
<b>Box 11</b>	Checks and vouchers, sub-contracts on Henry Ford at Dearborn, August 1914 - March 1916
<b>Box 12</b>	<b>FINANCIAL RECORDS</b> Commercial bank accounts - alphabetical by name Athletic Park, 1915 Bank Building, 1915 Cigarette Booklet, 1917 Continental and Commercial, 1918



Corn Exchange, 1917  
Dearborn State - H. Ford Special  
Dearborn State, 1918  
Detroit Savings Bank, 1918  
Dime Savings Bank - Henry and Clara Ford, 1916-1917  
First State Bank, 1918  
First and Old Detroit National Bank, 1917  
Ford Hawaiian Quintet, 1916-1917  
Highland Park State Bank  
    Henry and Clara (joint), 1914-1919  
    H.O.F. Fund, 1915-1918  
Liberty National Bank, 1916-1917  
Merchants National Bank, 1917-1918

**Box 13**

National Bank of Commerce  
    Check #1-3400, 1908-1913

**Box 14**

    Check #8400-10140, 1917-1919  
National City Bank  
    1914-1917

**Box 15**

    1917-1918  
Peninsular State Bank, 1917  
Peoples State Bank, 1917-1918  
Snell Farm, 1913-1917  
Tractor account  
Vouchers insurance account, 1915-1916  
Wayne County & Home Savings Bank, 1917-1918  
Miscellaneous checks, 1906-1915  
Statements and cancelled vouchers, 1913-1916

**Box 16**

Paid invoices (Valley Farm) #1-500, 1912-1914

**Box 17**

Paid invoices #1950-2600, 1911-1912

**Box 18**

Paid invoices #2601-3450, 1912-1913

**Box 19**

Henry Ford Estates recap sheets for architect estimates #1-62, March 31, 1914-  
November 27, 1916

**Box 20**

**MISCELLANEOUS**

Senatorial campaign correspondence, re-proof ballots, 1918

**Box 21**

Senatorial campaign correspondence, re-proof ballots, 1918

**Box 22**

Cancelled checks - Dearborn State Bank

#336-2099 - architect estimates 13-17, September 1914 - January 1916

#263-799 - no estimates indicated, August 1914 - January 1916

**Box 23**

Records of boys at Valley Farm

Con Lorimer

Jerome Heytens

Jesse Bollinger

George E. Brady

Maurice Smit

Herbert Smit

Leslie J. Harris

Walter J. Fink

Louis Brady

Robert E. Collins

Thomas E. Collins

Irving Stilson

Helen M. Smit

Old hospital records, 1913-1914

Selden patent suit, July 26, 1912

Senatorial campaign index of payments

**Box 24 and 25**

\$3,000,000 appeal from William A. Foster, patient 51 - Ward 54 at Cook County  
Hospital

**Box 26**

Tractor Bills, 1910 (listed alphabetically by vendor)

Tractor correspondence and papers, 1910

**Box 27**

**OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE OF HENRY FORD**

General correspondence

1907 - June 1908

- Box 28** July - December, 1908
- Box 29** January - March, 1909
- Box 30** March - June, 1909
- Box 31** July - December, 1909
- Box 32** January - May, 1910
- Box 33** June - October, 1910
- Box 34** October 1910 - February 1911
- Box 35** March - December, 1911
- Box 36** Receipts and invoices, 1910-1911
- Box 37** Checks and correspondence, 1905-1906
- Box 38** Miscellaneous correspondence, circa 1914
- Box 39**  
**TELEGRAMS**  
Telegrams - outgoing  
1916
- Box 40** 1917
- Box 41** 1918
- Box 42** 1919