

9-13-2011

Bond Family Papers (MSS 378)

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Recommended Citation

Folklife Archives, Manuscripts &, "Bond Family Papers (MSS 378)" (2011). *MSS Finding Aids*. Paper 1848.
http://digitalcommons.wku.edu/dlsc_mss_fin_aid/1848

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Descriptive Inventory

MSS 378 BOND Family Papers

1 box. 15 folders. 426 items. 1860-2007. Originals, photocopies, photographs.

2011.138.2

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Oscar Stephen Bond was born in Caneyville, Grayson County, Kentucky on 15 December 1876. As a young storekeeper in Olaton, Kentucky, he became involved in selling railroad cross ties after he accepted them from local farmers in return for merchandise. When his store burned, he moved his business to Horse Branch, then in 1898 to Vine Grove, where he formed a partnership with his two brothers, George W. Bond and James Roy Bond. Oscar also began purchasing timberland and contracting with sawmills to supply his cross tie operations.

In 1901, Bond Brothers moved to Elizabethtown, Kentucky, and in 1908 Oscar Bond incorporated the firm. Although Bond Brothers, Inc. sold ties to various railroads, the Louisville & Nashville Railroad became its principal customer. Bond moved the company's headquarters to Louisville, Kentucky, and in 1922 acquired land on which to build a wood treatment plant. He also continued to purchase large tracts of timberland.

By 1949, Bond Brothers, Inc. was the nation's largest supplier of railroad cross ties, employing 450 people and producing 3 million cross ties and 7 million board feet of switch ties per year. In addition to its 200-acre Louisville plant and another plant in Guthrie, Kentucky, the company operated branch offices in Birmingham, Alabama and Knoxville, Tennessee. Other family members joined the company, including William Clarence Bond (Oscar's son), Thomas J. Turley, Jr., (Oscar's son-in-law) and William J. Chambliss, Jr. (Oscar's brother-in-law). By 1957, the year it was sold to the H. K. Porter Company of Pittsburgh for \$5 million, Bond Brothers, Inc. employed more than 3,000 and operated 29 lumber yards, 118 tie yards, and 24 sawmills in five states. Although its principal business remained railroad cross ties, it also produced creosoted lumber, poles and fence posts. Annual sales grew from \$100,000 in 1908 to \$10 million in 1957.

Oscar Bond was also interested in farming. In 1924, he purchased the 6,000-acre Shakertown farm in Logan and Simpson counties near South Union, Kentucky. He resold part of the farm but retained 1,800 acres on which he raised cattle and mules. He also served as a director of the First Hardin National Bank in Elizabethtown, Kentucky.

Oscar Bond was the father of a son, William Clarence Bond, and two daughters, Artie S. Bond and Clara Myrtle Bond. The children's mother was Julia Anne Maddux, whom Oscar had

married in 1895. After Oscar and Julia divorced, he married Mary Virginia Baird (1891-1984) on 14 July 1925.

Oscar Stephen Bond died in Louisville, Kentucky on 2 March 1971. After his death his widow, Mary (Baird) Bond, declined both physically and mentally and became unable to manage her personal and financial affairs. Acting under power of attorney, Mary's brother-in-law, William J. Chambliss, Jr. assumed responsibility for her welfare, arranging for caregivers and managing her assets until his death in 1981. Mary (Baird) Bond died on 22 August 1984.

COLLECTION NOTE

This collection consists primarily of three parts: material (including photographs) relating to the career of Oscar S. Bond and to Bond Brothers, Inc., a company formed by Oscar S. Bond to manufacture and sell railroad cross ties and other lumber products (Folders 2-4, 15); material relating to the estate and assets of Oscar S. Bond, including his property in Logan County, Kentucky known as the Shakertown farm (Folders 5-7); and material relating to the personal and financial affairs of Oscar S. Bond's widow, Mary (Baird) Bond (Folders 7-13).

Folder 2 contains biographical and historical data on Oscar S. Bond, his farm at Shakertown, and Bond Brothers, Inc. Included are two school papers written by Bond's nephew, William J. Chambliss III, which provide some detail about the company's operations and the process of manufacturing railroad cross ties. Also included is brief correspondence relating to the deaths of Oscar Bond's son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. William Clarence Bond, in a car accident in 1959. (Although not specifically identified, what appear to be photos relating to this accident are in Folder 15).

Folder 3 contains a 1917 contract and related correspondence between Bond Brothers, Inc. and the Louisville & Nashville Railroad for the supply of cross ties.

Folder 4 contains the 1925 marriage certificate of Oscar Bond and Mary V. Baird, issued at Anderson, Missouri.

Folders 5 and 6 contain correspondence and financial information relating to the estate of Oscar S. Bond. Much of the correspondence is between the estate's executor, Citizens Fidelity Bank & Trust Company, and Bond's brother-in-law, William J. Chambliss, Jr., who was overseeing matters on behalf of his widow, Mary (Baird) Bond.

Folder 7 contains correspondence and documentation relating to the 1971 sale of Oscar S. Bond's farm (the "Shakertown farm") by his estate and Mary (Baird) Bond. Included are a plat of the farm; a typescript of an 1860 contract between the Shakers and the Louisville & Nashville Railroad regarding the establishment of a depot at South Union; and a brief memo by William J. Chambliss III providing background on Bond's purchase and use of the farm.

Folder 8 contains a 1969 power of attorney of Mary (Baird) Bond to William J. Chambliss, Jr., a draft will for Mary (Baird) Bond, and related correspondence.

Folder 9 contains personal and real property tax bills of Mary (Baird) Bond.

Folder 10 contains correspondence relating to the personal affairs (financial, insurance, taxation, farm tenancies, caregivers) of Mary (Baird) Bond. Much of the correspondence is between attorneys or creditors and William J. Chambliss, Jr. who acted on Mrs. Bond's behalf as she grew less competent to manage her affairs.

Folder 11 includes correspondence relating to the contemplated sale of the Oscar S. Bond farm in 1966, but most of the contents relate to the 1971 sale of the Baird family farm in Barren County, Kentucky by Mary (Baird) Bond.

Folder 12 contains records and correspondence relating to the banking affairs of Mary (Baird) Bond. The correspondence is mostly between various banks in Elizabethtown, Cave City, or Glasgow, Kentucky and William J. Chambliss, Jr., acting on Mrs. Bond's behalf.

Folder 13 contains worksheets and other data relating to the tax liability of Mary (Baird) Bond.

Folder 14 contains correspondence and documents relating to the tax liability of William J. Chambliss, Jr. arising out of a payment to him for services rendered to Oscar S. Bond.

Folder 15 contains copies of photos of Oscar and Mary (Baird) Bond and members of the Bond family, as well as photos pertaining to the operations, officers and employees of Bond Brothers, Inc. Included are numerous photos of cross tie yards and loading equipment. Originals of these photos have been transferred to the Kentucky Library.

SHELF LIST

BOX 1	Bond Family Papers	1860-2007	426 items
Folder 1	Inventory		1 item
Folder 2	History of Bond Brothers, Inc.; Oscar S. Bond biographical information	1947-2007	18 items
Folder 3	Bond Brothers contract for supply of ties to Louisville & Nashville Railroad	1917	5 items
Folder 4	Oscar S. Bond and Mary (Baird) Bond – Marriage certificate	1925	1 item
Folder 5	Mary (Baird) Bond – Correspondence and records of Oscar S. Bond estate	1971-1973	61 items
Folder 6	Oscar S. Bond – Estate settlement	1968-1971	8 items
Folder 7	Oscar S. Bond estate and Mary (Baird) Bond – sale of Shakertown farm and related documents	1860-1971	11 items
Folder 8	Mary (Baird) Bond – Will and power of attorney	1969	6 items
Folder 9	Mary (Baird) Bond – Personal and real property tax bills	1963-1974	46 items
Folder 10	Mary (Baird) Bond – Correspondence relating to personal and financial affairs	1965-1975	69 items

Folder 11	Mary (Baird) Bond – Sale of farm in Barren County, Kentucky	1966-1973	37 items
Folder 12	Mary (Baird) Bond – Bank records and correspondence regarding banking	1971-1973	40 items
Folder 13	Mary (Baird) Bond – Tax worksheets and data	1971-1977	8 items
Folder 14	William J. Chambliss, Jr. – Payment for services to Oscar S. Bond	1971	6 items
Folder 15	Photographs of Bond family and operations and personnel of Bond Brothers, Inc.	1895-2007, n.d.	109 items

BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD

MSS BOND Family Papers 1860-2007
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Correspondence and records relating primarily to the assets and estates of Oscar Stephen Bond and his wife Mary (Baird) Bond of Louisville, Kentucky. Includes family photos. Also included are historical data and photos relating to Bond Brothers, Inc. of Louisville, Kentucky, a manufacturer and supplier of railroad cross ties and other lumber products.

1 box. 15 folders. 426 items. Originals, photocopies, photographs.

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SUBJECT ANALYTICS

Ballenger, Jeanette, d. 1959 – Relating to B1,F2
 Banks and banking – Barren County – Relating to B1,F12
 Banks and banking – Hardin County – Relating to B1,F12
 Bond Brothers, Incorporated (Louisville, KY) – Photos B1,F15
 Bond Brothers, Incorporated (Louisville, KY) – Relating to B1,F2,3
 Bond, “Bud” – Photos B1,F15
 Bond family
 Bond family – Photos B1,F15
 Bond, Mary Virginia (Baird), 1891-1984 – Correspondence B1,F5,10,12
 Bond, Mary Virginia (Baird), 1891-1984 – Photos B1,F15
 Bond, Mary Virginia (Baird), 1891-1984 – Relating to B1,F4-13
 Bond, Oscar Stephen, 1876-1971 – Letters to B1,F2,11

Bond, Oscar Stephen, 1876-1971 – Photos B1,F15
 Bond, Oscar Stephen, 1876-1971 – Relating to B1,F2,4-7
 Bond, William Clarence, 1895-1959 – Photos B1,F15
 Bond, William Clarence, 1895-1959 – Relating to B1,F2
 Bond, Jessie May (Parker), 1898-1959 – Photos B1,F15
 Bond, Jessie May (Parker), 1898-1959 – Relating to B1,F2
 Chambliss, Landon Baird, b. 1921 – Relating to B1,F10
 Chambliss, William Jones, Jr., 1899-1981 – Correspondence B1,F5-8,10-14
 Chambliss, William Jones, Jr., 1899-1981 – Photos B1,F15
 Chambliss, William Jones, Jr., 1899-1981 – Relating to B1,F2
 Chambliss, William Jones III, 1923-2011 – Correspondence B1,F2
 Estates – Jefferson County, 1971 B1,F5-7
 Farms and farming – Barren County B1,F11
 Farms and farming – Logan County B1,F7
 Income tax, 1971-1977 B1,F13
 Louisville & Nashville Railroad – Relating to B1,F3,7
 Pearce, Clare (Bond), d. 1985 – Correspondence B1,F2
 Power of attorney – Jefferson County, 1969 B1,F8
 Railroad stations – South Union, 1860 B1,F7
 Railroads – Construction and engineering – Relating to B1,F2,3,15
 Redford, Charlie Carroll, 1861-1944 – Photo B1,F15
 Shakers (South Union, KY) – Relating to B1,F2,7
 Taxation – Jefferson County, 1963-1974 B1,F9
 Traffic accidents – Adair County, 1959 – Relating to B1,F2,15
 Turley, Artie S. (Bond), 1897-1985 – Letters to B1,F5,6
 Turley, Artie S. (Bond), 1897-1985 – Relating to B1,F5
 Turley, Thomas Jefferson, Jr. – Letter to B1,F6
 Turley, Thomas Jefferson, Jr. – Photos B1,F15
 Wills – Jefferson County, 1969 B1,F6,8

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