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MS – 246: Papers of the Bond/Smith Families

Natalie M. Orga
Gettysburg College

Michelle Williams
Gettysburg College

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MS – 246: Papers of the Bond/Smith Families

Description

The collection includes over 500 letters, most of them pertaining to WWI. The majority of these letters are from Norman Bond to his mother, Elizabeth (or “Bessie”) Bond, discussing his experiences as a pilot in the 13th Aero group 2nd pursuit squadron. Norman also wrote to his mother frequently before the war during his time at Harvard University, and during his post-college tour of Europe. The collection includes many of these letters, postcards, and photographs from this time period, as well as Norman’s grades, professor correspondence, a Harvard flag, and other documents and ephemera relating to his school years. It also includes Norman’s 110 page travel diary from his European tour and photographs of his experiences during his tour and the war, as well as Norman’s dog tags. The collection contains the grades and school documents of both Norman and William Bond from the fourth grade onward, consisting of over one hundred letters and other materials. William Bond attended Brown, and a small portion of his college documents is included in the collection.

A large portion of the WWI letters are also comprised of home front love letters from Mary Gladys Benson to her future husband, DeWitt Clinton Smith, Sr. who was stationed in France at the time, fighting in WWI. The collection contains about twenty four military documents pertaining to DeWitt Smith Sr., including original field orders, secret orders, and a personal copy of Gen. Pershing’s Farewell to the Allied Expeditionary Forces. He also has a set of field orders signed by Gen. Frank Parker. When DeWitt Smith Sr. returned from the war, he and Gladys would go on to have DeWitt Smith Jr., whose childhood is extensively documented in this collection with photographs.

DeWitt Smith Jr. would go on to fight in three wars: WWII, Korea, and Vietnam. He rose to the rank of Lt. General, and became the chairman for the Racial Harmony Council. This collection includes over twenty reports on racial harmony and relations in the Army during the 1970s, both photocopied and original. Upon ending his Battalion command, DeWitt Smith Jr. received a photo album from his troops documenting his time as their general as a parting gift, including 35 original photographs with captions. This album is a part of this collection as well.

Keywords

letters, Bond family, WWII, WWI

Disciplines

Military History | United States History

**Guide to the
MS-246: Papers of the Bond / Smith Families**



**Natalie Orga '21, Michelle Williams
June 2019**

MS – 246: Papers of the Bond / Smith Families

(8 boxes, 5 cubic feet)

Location: Special Collections

Inclusive Dates: 1853 – 1976

Bulk Dates: 1910 – 1920

*Processed by Natalie Orga '21, Smith Intern; Michelle Williams, Barbara Holley Intern
June 2019*

Provenance

Special Collections purchased this collection in 2019 from Jordan Antiques & Antiquarian Books.

Biographical Note

Most of the letters in the Papers of the Bond / Smith Families are written or received by Norman, William, and Bessie Bond, as well as DeWitt Clinton Smith Jr. and his future wife, Gladys Benson. These documents are supplemented by correspondence from various other family members and friends.

Norman (b.1888) and William Bond (b.1891) were born to James (b.1856) and Elizabeth “Bessie” Bond (b.1860), née Gorton, in late 19th century Connecticut. Norman, the elder brother, was born in 1888, graduated from Harvard University in 1911, and served in the Border War, and World War I in the 13th Aero group 2nd pursuit squadron. Before his service, Norman toured Europe, where he recorded his escapades not only in his journal, but in letters to his mother, both included in this collection. Norman married Florence Brown and had Margaret Elizabeth Bond (b.1923), who would go on to marry DeWitt Clinton Smith, Jr. (b.1920), uniting the Bond, Smith, Benson, and Stotelmeyer families.

William Bond attended Brown University, and then served in Troop A of the 1st Cavalry Regiment in Arizona in the Border War, and also fought in WWI. He and his brother, Norman, were in training camp together in 1916-1917 in preparation for being sent to Europe.

Curtis and Carrie Smith, née Stotelmeyer, bore seven children, including DeWitt Clinton Smith, Sr. (b.1892) and Grayson Smith (b.1901). DeWitt Clinton Smith Sr. married Gladys Benson (b.1893), the daughter of Frank and Frances “Fannie” Benson, née Murray. The Smith couple had DeWitt Clinton Smith Jr., who went on to become a Lt. General in the Korean War, also fought in WWII and Vietnam. DeWitt Jr. married Norman Bond’s daughter, Margaret Elizabeth Bond, also called “Betty.”

Historical Note

The bulk of the Bond family papers pertain to WWI, lasting from 1914-1919. During this time, the Bond brothers, Norman and William, fought in both WWI in Europe (mainly France) and the in Border War in Mexico. The United States Army, along with the Bond brothers and General John J. Pershing, was stationed along the border, fighting the revolutionary forces of Pancho Villa. DeWitt Clinton Smith Sr. also fought in WWI, stationed in France.

The collection also includes letters and documents from WWII, 1939-1945. The majority of the letters during this time period are from Mrs. Bond to her son, William. DeWitt Clinton Smith Jr. also fought in WWII, and there are letters and documents pertaining to his service in the collection. William and Norman Bond's uncle, Frank Gorton, also wrote a number of letters during this time that express his various opinions on the war and on politics.

In addition to WWII, DeWitt Clinton Smith, Jr. also fought in the Korean War (1950-1953) and Vietnam War (1955-1975), and rose to the rank of Lt. General.

Scope and Content Notes

The collection includes over 500 letters, most of them pertaining to WWI. The majority of these letters are from Norman Bond to his mother, Elizabeth (or "Bessie") Bond, discussing his experiences as a pilot in the 13th Aero group 2nd pursuit squadron. Norman also wrote to his mother frequently before the war during his time at Harvard University, and during his post-college tour of Europe. The collection includes many of these letters, postcards, and photographs from this time period, as well as Norman's grades, professor correspondence, a Harvard flag, and other documents and ephemera relating to his school years. It also includes Norman's 110 page travel diary from his European tour and photographs of his experiences during his tour and the war, as well as Norman's dog tags. The collection contains the grades and school documents of both Norman and William Bond from the fourth grade onward, consisting of over one hundred letters and other materials. William Bond attended Brown, and a small portion of his college documents is included in the collection.

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the Army during the 1970s, both photocopied and original. Upon ending his Battalion command, DeWitt Smith Jr. received a photo album from his troops documenting his time as their general as a parting gift, including 35 original photographs with captions. This album is a part of this collection as well.

Subjects

World War, 1914-1918 -- Personal narratives, American
World War, 1914-1918 -- Social conditions
World War, 1914-1918 -- Home Front
World War, 1914-1918 -- Public Opinion
World War, 1914-1918 -- United States
World War, 1914-1918 -- Western Front
Soldiers -- United States -- Correspondence
World War, 1939-1945 -- Personal narratives, American
World War, 1939-1945 -- United States
Air pilots, Military -- United States -- Correspondence
World War, 1939-1945 -- Campaigns -- Western Front
World War, 1939-1945, -- Home front
United States -- History -- 1933-1945
Love-letters -- United States
Korean War, 1950-1953, -- Photography
World War, 1939-1945 -- Photography
World War, 1914-1918 -- Photography
Border War, 1910-1919 -- Photography
Vietnam War, 1955-1975 -- Photography
Vietnam War, 1955-1975 -- Correspondence
Vietnam War, 1955-1975 -- Home Front
Vietnam War, 1955-1975 -- Public Opinion
Bond, Norman J., 1912-1913 -- Diaries
Bond, Norman J., -- Correspondence
Bond, William G., -- Correspondence
Bond, James, -- Correspondence
Bond, Elizabeth, -- Correspondence
Bond, Margaret E., -- Correspondence
Gorton, Frank, -- Correspondence
Smith, DeWitt C. Sr., -- Correspondence
Smith, DeWitt C. Jr., -- Correspondence
Benson, Gladys, -- Correspondence
Stotelmeyer, Etta, -- Correspondence
President Taft, -- Correspondence

Series Description

The Bond / Smith collection is divided into ten Series. **Series 1:** Norman Bond, **Series 2:** William Bond, **Series 3:** Mrs. James Bond "Elizabeth," **Series 4:** Mr. James Bond, **Series 5:** Etta Stotelmeyer, **Series 6:** Frank Benson, **Series 7:** Frances "Fannie" Benson, **Series 8:** DeWitt Clinton Smith Sr., **Series 9:** DeWitt Clinton Smith Jr., **Series 10:** Miscellaneous Letters, Documents, and Photographs.

Box List

Box 1

1-0 Finding Aid and Family Tree

Series 1 Norman Bond

- 1-1 Letters – to Norman Bond, from Stephen Bond
- 1-2 Letters – to Norman Bond, from Mrs. James Bond "Elizabeth Gorton"
- 1-3 Letters – to Norman Bond, from Frank Gorton
- 1-4 Letters – to Norman Bond, from Schlieben
- 1-5 Letters – to Norman Bond, from Hal
- 1-6 Letters – to Norman Bond, from "Grandmother"
- 1-7 Letters – to Norman Bond, from William Bond
- 1-8 Letters – to Norman Bond, from Eliza
- 1-9 Letters – to Norman Bond, from "Aunt Maude"
- 1-10 Letters – to Norman Bond, from Mrs. Stephen Bond "Anna"
- 1-11 Letters – to Norman Bond, from Mrs. G. E. Diehm "Abbie"
- 1-12 Letters – to Norman Bond, from Margaret Elizabeth Bond "Betty"
- 1-13 Letters – to Norman Bond, from James Taylor
- 1-14 Letters – to Norman Bond, Misc.
- 1-15 Documents – Norman Bond, Personal
- 1-16 Documents – Norman Bond, War
- 1-17 Documents – Norman Bond, School
- 1-18 Documents – Norman Bond, Journal and Training Manual
- 1-19 Photographs – Norman Bond
- 8-4 Memorabilia – Harvard Flag

Box 2

Series 2 William Bond

- 2-1 Letters – to William Bond, from Mrs. James Bond "Elizabeth"
- 2-2 Letters – to William Bond, from "Eem"
- 2-3 Letters – to William Bond, from Norman Bond
- 2-4 Letters – to William Bond, from Anne Bond
- 2-5 Letters – to William Bond, from Frank Gorton
- 2-6 Letters – to William Bond, from Rosannah Bond

- 2-7 Letters – to William Bond, from Mrs. Stephen Bond “Anna”
- 2-8 Letters – to William Bond, from Margaret Elizabeth Bond “Betty”
- 2-9 Letters – to William Bond, from “Nuchie”
- 2-10 Letters – to William Bond, Misc.
- 2-11 Documents – William Bond, War
- 2-12 Documents – William Bond, School

Box 3

Series 3 Mrs. James Bond “Elizabeth”

- 3-1 Letters – to Mrs. James Bond “Elizabeth,” from Bessie
- 3-2 Letters – to Mrs. James Bond “Elizabeth,” from Millie Gorton
- 3-3 Letters – to Mrs. James Bond “Elizabeth,” from Sara
- 3-4 Letters – to Mrs. James Bond “Elizabeth,” from Anne Minos
- 3-5 Letters – to Mrs. James Bond “Elizabeth,” from Schmitzenheimer Esq.
- 3-6 Letters – to Mrs. James Bond “Elizabeth,” from Elizabeth Gorton
- 3-7 Letters – to Mrs. James Bond “Elizabeth,” from Charlie and Flo
- 3-8 Letters – to Mrs. James Bond “Elizabeth,” from Arnold Barrett
- 3-9 Letters – to Mrs. James Bond “Elizabeth,” from Mary
- 3-10 Letters – to Mrs. James Bond “Elizabeth,” from Frank Gorton
- 3-11 Letters – to Mrs. James Bond “Elizabeth,” from Norman Bond
- 3-12 Letters – to Mrs. James Bond “Elizabeth,” from Frances “Fannie” Benson
- 3-13 Letters – to Mrs. James Bond “Elizabeth,” from William Bond
- 3-14 Documents – Mrs. James Bond “Elizabeth,” Personal
- 3-15 Documents – Mrs. James Bond “Elizabeth,” School; Norman and William

Box 4

Series 4 Mr. James Bond

- 4-1 Letters – to Mr. James Bond, from “Aunt Margaret”
- 4-2 Letters – to Mr. James Bond, from N.W.B.
- 4-3 Letters – to Mr. James Bond, from Stephen and Anna Bond
- 4-4 Letters – to Mr. James Bond, from Jean Moody
- 4-5 Letters – to Mr. James Bond, from Norman Bond
- 4-6 Letters – to Mr. James Bond, from Frank Gorton
- 4-7 Letters – to Mr. James Bond, from Henry Bond
- 4-8 Letters – to Mr. James Bond, from Maggie Moody
- 4-9 Letters – to Mr. James Bond, from D.P.H.
- 4-10 Letters – to Mr. James Bond, from Stephen Bond
- 4-11 Letters – to Mr. James Bond, Misc.
- 4-12 Documents – Mr. James Bond, Personal
- 4-13 Documents – Mr. James Bond, School; Norman and William
- 4-14 Documents – Mr. and Mrs. James Bond, Events and Announcements

Box 5

Series 5 Etta Stotelmeyer

- 5-1 Letters – to Etta Stotelmeyer, from Rexford
- 5-2 Letters – to Etta Stotelmeyer, from Carrie Smith
- 5-3 Letters – to Etta Stotelmeyer, from DeWitt Smith, Sr.
- 5-4 Letters – to Etta Stotelmeyer, from Grayson Smith
- 5-5 Letters – to Etta Stotelmeyer, from DeWitt Clinton Stotelmeyer
- 5-6 Letters – to Etta Stotelmeyer, from George and Mary Stotelmeyer
- 5-7 Letters – to Etta Stotelmeyer, from Irma M. Stotelmeyer
- 5-8 Letters – to Etta Stotelmeyer, from Elias Stotelmeyer
- 5-9 Documents – Etta Stotelmeyer, Misc.

Series 6 Frank Benson

- 5-10 Letters – to Frank Benson, from Frances “Fannie” Benson
- 5-11 Letters – to Frank Benson, from Murray Benson
- 5-12 Letters – to Frank Benson, from Nevell Greenaway
- 5-13 Letters – to Frank Benson, Misc.

Series 7 Frances “Fannie” Benson

- 5-14 Letters – to Frances “Fannie” Benson, from Ella Fisher
- 5-15 Letters – to Frances “Fannie” Benson, from Frank Benson
- 5-16 Letters – to Frances “Fannie” Benson, from Murray Benson
- 5-17 Letters – to Frances “Fannie” Benson, from President and Mrs. Taft

Box 6

Series 8 DeWitt Clinton Smith, Sr.

- 6-1 Letters – to DeWitt Clinton Smith, Sr., from Elizabeth Benson
- 6-2 Letters – to DeWitt Clinton Smith, Sr., from Frances “Fannie” Benson
- 6-3 Letters – to DeWitt Clinton Smith, Sr., from Gladys Benson
- 6-4 Letters – to DeWitt Clinton Smith, Sr., from Helen
- 6-5 Letters – to DeWitt Clinton Smith, Sr., from John Pershing
- 6-6 Letters – to DeWitt Clinton Smith, Sr., Misc.
- 6-7 Documents – DeWitt Clinton Smith, Sr., Misc.

Box 7

Series 9 DeWitt Clinton Smith, Jr.

- 7-1 Letters – to DeWitt Clinton Smith, Jr., from James Collins
- 7-2 Letters – to DeWitt Clinton Smith, Jr., from Gladys Benson
- 7-3 Documents – to DeWitt Clinton Smith, Jr., Racial Harmony Council
- 7-4 Documents – to DeWitt Clinton Smith, Jr., Misc.
- 7-5 Photographs – DeWitt Clinton Smith, Jr., Baby, Childhood, Teen, and War Photo Packets
- 8-2 Photo Box 1 – DeWitt Clinton Smith, Jr., Baby and Childhood Photographs
- 8-1 Photo Box 2 – DeWitt Clinton Smith Jr., War Photographs

Series 10 Miscellaneous

- 7-6 Letters – to Mrs. Stephen Bond “Anna”
- 7-7 Letters – to Mrs. B.L. Armstrong
- 7-8 Letters – Misc. Letters
- 7-9 Documents – Emma Douglas, Misc.
- 7-10 Documents – DeWitt Clinton Stotelmeyer, Misc.
- 7-11 Documents – Personal
- 7-12 Documents – War
- 7-13 Documents – School
- 7-14 Documents – Church
- 7-15 Documents – News and Advertisements
- 7-16 Documents – Maps
- 7-17 Photographs
- 8-3 Photo Box 3 – Misc.

Box 8

Series 9 DeWitt Clinton Smith Jr.

- 8-1 Photo Box 1 – DeWitt Clinton Smith, Jr. Baby and Childhood Photographs
- 8-2 Photo Box 2 – DeWitt Clinton Smith, Jr. War Photographs

Series 10 Miscellaneous

- 8-3 Photo Box 3 – Misc.

Series 1 Norman Bond

- 8-4 Memorabilia – Harvard Flag

Related Collections

World War I, World War II, Korean War, Vietnam War

For more information about the Bond/Smith Family Papers

(Possible places for more research)

