

O'Bryan Brothers, Inc.
Part of the George Paul Clements, Jr. Collection
1865-1986

Collection Summary:

Title: O'Bryan Brother, Inc./George Paul Clements, Jr. Collection

Summary: This collection contains records and other materials related to the business, including company stockholder minutes, correspondence, photographs, ledgers, annual reports, audit reports, tax records, and instruction manuals.

Physical Description: 11.68 linear feet

Stack Location: Storage facility.

Repository: Metropolitan Government Archives of Nashville & Davidson County, 615 Church St., Nashville, TN 37219

Biographical/Historical Note: Jaby Morgan O'Bryan and Company was started in 1865 by Joseph and George O'Bryan at No.1 City Hotel Block in the public square of Nashville, Tennessee. A few years later, between 1871 - 1929 the business was managed as a partnership named The O'Bryan and Washington Partnership. The early partnership included George G. O'Bryan, James B. O'Bryan, A. H. Washington, James H. O'Bryan with special partners James W. Allen and Alex J. Porter. Between 1865 and 1920, the company dealt with wholesale dry goods and notions. A "cottage industry" employed local women to finish garment assembly in their homes. Eventually the main products became men's coats, vests, trousers and overalls; items for women and children were added later. O'Bryan Brothers "Duck Head" trademark received notoriety at the Tennessee Centennial celebration in 1897 but was officially registered in 1906 with the U. S. Patent Office. The trademark symbolized the Company's mission of sturdy men's clothing.

At his death in 1912, George G. O'Bryan's nephew, Lawrence O'Bryan became the major owner of the O'Bryan Partnership and after his death in 1921, Thomas P. Kennedy, Sr. became the major interest holder. Not until July 19, 1930 was the business incorporated and officially named "O'Bryan Selling Agency, Inc." but known in the business world as O'Bryan Brothers. In the 1950's the Company began branching out beyond Nashville to take advantage of the educational services and conferences of the American Apparel Manufacturing Association. In 1967, Robert McChesney Kennedy, son of Thomas P. Kennedy, Sr., and G. Paul Clements became major stock holders until the Company's sale in 1986.

Scope and Content: This collection contains records and other materials related to the business, including company stockholder minutes, correspondence, photographs, ledgers, annual reports, audit reports, tax records, and instruction manuals.

Restrictions:

Restrictions on Access: In library use only. Access is available by appointment during Metro Government Archives' open hours, which can be found at http://www.library.nashville.org/locations/loc_all.asp. Please inquire in advance of visiting Metro Government Archives as items are in closed stacks.

Restrictions on Use and Reproduction: This material may be protected by copyright (Title 17 U.S. Code).

Administrative Information:

Copyright: Metro Government Archives of Nashville & Davidson County retains intellectual property rights to this collection. Some restrictions may apply.

Provenance: Donated by Paul Clements.

Processing Information: Processed and arranged by Margaret McCready Cornell.

Accruals: None expected.

Detailed Description of the Collection:**Box 1: Early business records**

- **Folder 1:** Historical overview of Company (1865 - 1986)
- **Folder 2:** O'Bryan and Washington articles of partnership (1865 - 1871)
- **Folder 3:** Duck Head trademark (1899 - 1922, 1974, 1986, 2008)
- **Folder 4:** James Smith Kennedy's correspondence received (1911)
- **Folder 5:** O'Bryan family wills: James B., Mary C. and Lawrence G. (1898 - 1920)
- **Folder 6:** Sale agreement of O'Bryan stock to Thomas P. Kennedy, Sr. (1926)
- **Folder 7:** Thomas P. Kennedy's correspondence received (1928 - 1929)
- **Folders 8-9:** Receipts of Company employees (1920)
- **Folder 10:** O'Bryan Selling Agency, Inc. incorporation papers (1930 - 1932)
- **Folder 11:** O'Bryan Selling Agency, Inc. minutes of stockholder meetings (1930)
- **Folder 12:** Ledger (1886 - 1920)
- **Folder 13:** Ledger (1909 - 1935)
- **Folder 14:** Ledger (1935 - 1941)
- **Folder 15:** Annual reports and fiscal summaries (1921 - 1930)
- **Folder 16:** Tax records (1914 - 1925)

Box 2: Early business records

- **Folders 18-19:** Tax records (1924 - 1933)
- **Folder 20:** Storm loss settlement (1933 - 1935)
- **Folders 21-22:** Middle Tennessee Garment Co. Inc. stock certificates (1936 - 1937)
- **Folder 23:** Tip-Top Overall Co.'s released mortgage (1937 - 1938)
- **Folders 24-25:** Lebanon Garment Co. (1936 - 1940)
- **Folder 26:** Building lease at 126 10th Avenue South, Nashville, TN (1937 - 1942)
- **Folder 27:** Audit report (1947)

Box 3: Later financial and legal records

- **Folders 1-6:** Audit reports (1968 – 1985)

Box 4: Later financial and legal records

- **Folder 7:** Check stubs (1972 – 1984)
- **Folder 8:** Ledger and financial daily report (1985 – 1986)
- **Folder 9:** Financial statements for interim period (1986)

Box 5: Later financial and legal records

- **Folder 10:** By-laws (n.d.)
- **Folder 11:** Corporate change to records (1967 – 1969)
- **Folder 12:** Company insurance (1963 – 1968)
- **Folder 13:** Overview of O’Bryan Brothers (1982 – 1986)
- **Folder 14:** Stock purchase agreements and collateral (1981 – 1987)
- **Folder 15:** Sale of O’Bryan Brothers, Inc. to O’Bryan Brothers of Delaware, Inc. (1985 – 1986)

Box 6: Accounts of O’Bryan Brothers

Folders 1-9: Sears Roebuck and Company (1961 – 1974)

Box 7: Accounts of O’Bryan Brothers

- **Folders 10-11:** Defense Supply Agency (1961 – 1978)
- **Folder 12:** Defense Contract Administrative Services (1963 – 1966)
- **Folder 13:** Montgomery Ward and Company (1963 – 1968)
- **Folder 14:** J. C. Penny (1963 – 1972)
- **Folder 15:** Shane Manufacturing Company (1963 – 1975)
- **Folders 16-17:** B. Oppenheim and Company – Sweet Orr (1966 – 1972)

Box 8: Accounts of O’Bryan Brothers

- **Folders 18-21:** B. Oppenheim and Company – Sweet Orr (1968 – 1976)
- **Folder 22:** Troutman Shirt Company (1967 – 1968)
- **Folder 23:** Levi Strauss and Company (1968)
- **Folder 24:** Hayes Garment Company (1969)
- **Folder 25:** H. D. Lee (1972 – 1974)
- **Folders 26-27:** Madewell Mfg. Company (1972 – 1979)

Box 9: Accounts of O’Bryan Brothers

- **Folder 28:** Madewell Mfg. Company (1972 – 1979)
- **Folder 29:** Lyons Garment Sales Company (1976 – 1981)
- **Folder 30:** UFO Contemporary Trousers, Inc. (1977 – 1980)
- **Folder 31:** Fresh Pants, Inc. (1977 – 1978)
- **Folder 32:** Mimi Loverde Inc. – “The cigarette jean” (1978 – 1979)
- **Folder 33:** Oshkosh B’Gosh (1980)

- **Folder 34:** Petit Bateau (1980)
- **Folder 35:** P.O.S.H., Ltd (1980)
- **Folder 36:** Rifle Industries (1980)
- **Folders 37-38:** San Francisco Riding Gear (1980 - 1981)
- **Folder 39:** Accounts summary (1983 - 1986)
- **Folders 40-43:** Suppliers accounts (1964 - 1971, 1986)

Box 10: Investments of the O'Bryan Brothers

- **Folders 1-10:** Right-On, Inc. (1972 - 1978)

Box 11

- **Folders 11-14:** K & C Partnerships (1971 - 1974, 1978)
- **Folders 15-21:** Marxman Industries (1960 - 1966, 1972 - 1981)

Box 12: Personnel and training

- **Folder 1a:** Newspaper clippings on personnel (1968 - 1988)
- **Folder 1b:** O'Bryan Brothers Employees Pension Trust (1945)
- **Folder 2:** Employee insurance (1969 - 1970)
- **Folder 3:** Collective bargaining agreements - United Garment Workers of America (1969 - 1976)
- **Folder 4:** Employee testing (1951 - 1955)
- **Folder 5-6:** Quality control (1964 - 1966)
- **Folder 7:** Training status reports (1972 - 1975)

Box 13: Personnel and training

- **Folder 8:** Individual training status reports (1972 - 1975)
- **Folder 9:** Weekly absence reports (1970 - 1977)
- **Folder 10:** Weekly hires and terminations (1973 - 1977)
- **Folder 11:** Operation description - H. D. Lee Co. (1967)
- **Folder 12:** Training manuals (1973 - 1974)

Box 14: Company reports on production and cost

- **Folders 1-5:** Cost calculations (1959 - 1988)
- **Folders 6-9:** Comparative statements of profit and loss (1975 - 1985)
- **Folder 10:** Study on cutting costs (1961 - 1964)

Box 15 : Company reports on production and cost

- Production and cost (1961 - 1967)

Box 16 : Company reports on production and cost

- Production and cost (1967 - 1973)

Box 17 : Company reports on production and cost

- **Folder 11:** Survey and report on business (1963 - 1965)

- **Folder 12:** Report – “Analysis of Sales by Category” (1957 – 1964)
- **Folder 13:** Survey by Kurt Salmon Associates (1963 – 1967)
- **Folder 14:** Statistical report (1968 – 1969)
- **Folder 15:** Survey by Summerour and Associates, Inc. (1967)

Box 18

- **Folders 16-21:** Reports on business by Summerour and Associates (1967 – 1972)

Box 19: Affiliation with American Apparel Manufacturer’s Association (AAMA)

- **Folders 1-2:** Technical Advisory Committee conferences of AAMA (1950 – 1979)
- **Folders 3-6:** Financial and operating ratio reports (1962 – 1974)

Box 20: Affiliation with AAMA

- **Folders 7-11:** Technical Advisory Committee reports (1969 – 1976)

Box 21 – 23: Affiliation with AAMA

- **Manuals of AAMA** (1964 – 1974)

Box 24: Production of O’Bryan Brothers – use of materials

- **Folder 12:** Thread consumption charts (1955 – 1961 – 1967)
- **Folder 13:** Price list and samples (1963 – 1966)
- **Folder 14:** Standards of measurement for boys’ apparel (1961)
- **Folder 15:** Marker system for cutting fabric (1963 – 1969, 1982)
- **Folder 16:** Apparel management (1961 – 1963)

Box 24 (cont.): Printed resources related to apparel production

- **Folder 17:** Article “Scientific Price Management” by A. Rucker (1940)
- **Folder 18:** Catalogs of competitive companies (1958 – 1960)
- **Folder 19:** Newspaper clippings of clothes production (1961 – 1964)
- **Folder 20:** Pamphlets on apparel business (1964 – 1970)
- **Folder 21:** Advertising – “The Creative Department” (1983 – 1984)
- **Folder 22:** Air conditioner system (1966)

Box 25: Business records of G. Paul Clements

- **Folder 23:** Award from American Apparel Manufacturer’s Association (1965, 1977)
- **Folder 24:** Community involvement – United Givers Fund (1970 – 1971)
- **Folder 25:** Trips to Scotland (1975 – 1979)
- **Folder 26:** Photographs of GPC and golf (1969 – 1974)
- **Folders 27-29:** Correspondence (1958 – 1978)
- **Folders 30-31:** Travel expenses,1(961 – 1970)

Box 26: Business records of G. Paul Clements

- **Folders 10-11:** Travel expenses (1970, 1983), Personal calendars (1973 – 1979)

Box 27: Business records of G. Paul Clements

- Personal calendars (1980 - 1987)

Box 28 : Business records of G. Paul Clements

- Personal calendars (1988)
- Phone directories (1980 - 1988)

Oversize drawer:

- **Item #1:** O'Bryan Brothers' tax records (1910-1929) 2 files
- **Item #2:** *American Fabrics*, "Stretch" - Magazine article (1964)
- **Item #3:** Architectural plan of Marxman Industries, Inc., Hazelhurst, MS (1974)
- **Item #4:** Architectural plan of Right-On Inc., McLemoresville, TN (1974)