

Arkansas State Archives

Arkansas Digital Archives

[Finding aids](#)

[Guides and finding aids](#)

Lowden Plantation records, 1922-1930

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalheritage.arkansas.gov/finding-aids>



Part of the [United States History Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Lowden Plantation records, Arkansas State Archives, Little Rock, Arkansas.

Use and reproduction of images held by the Arkansas State Archives without prior written permission is prohibited. For information on reproducing images held by the Arkansas State Archives, please call 501-682-6900 or email at state.archives@arkansas.gov.

Lowden Plantation records

MS.000248

**Finding aid prepared by the Arkansas State
Archives**

This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit

January 22, 2020

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Arkansas State Archives
One Capitol Mall
Little Rock, Arkansas, 72201
501-682-6900
state.archives@arkansas.gov

Table of Contents

<u>Summary Information</u>	3
<u>Biographical/Historical Note</u>	4
<u>Scope and Contents</u>	4
<u>Administrative Information</u>	5
<u>Collection Inventory</u>	6

Summary Information

Repository	Arkansas State Archives
Title	Lowden Plantation records
Date [inclusive]	1922-1930
Extent	3.7 Cubic feet 5 boxes
Language	English
Language of Materials	Materials entirely in English.

Preferred Citation

Lowden Plantation records, Arkansas State Archives, Little Rock, Arkansas.

Biographical/Historical Note

In 1909, internationally known agricultural expert and future governor of Illinois, Frank Orren Lowden, purchased a plantation of 21,000 acres at South Bend in Lincoln County, Arkansas, seven miles northeast of Gould. This enterprise, actually a number of separate "farms", stretched for more than 20 miles along the Arkansas River in Lincoln and Desha counties. Lowden considered Arkansas agricultural lands to be among the most fertile in the world. His main farm at South Bend included a large Greek revival plantation house of 20 rooms, built before 1857. Although Lowden made yearly visits to Arkansas, he employed a number of different men to oversee plantation operations in his absence. Among them was Phillip Boggs of Gould who was financial agent and bookkeeper at South Bend from 1921 to 1936. The plantation, which grew cotton exclusively, was divided into a number of separate farms: Clay Place, Lake Place, Langdon, Massey, as well as South Bend. These locations were developed into "model farms with Delco electric lights and deep well water system." Lowden built the largest country store in the South at South Bend. These ledgers begin a year after Lowden's tenure as Governor of Illinois and his failure to achieve the Republican nomination for President.

During the 1927 Arkansas River flood, the levee at South Bend broke, inundating the farms and "ruining" the entire area. This caused the white tenants to move elsewhere. Later, Boggs rented the South Bend farm and "reclaimed much of the land that the river sand had ruined."

In 1933, Lowden established a charitable trust called the Farm Foundation "to improve conditions of rural life." In 1936, he rented his land to a group from A.M.&N. College in Pine Bluff who planned to establish a cooperative "colony" for black tenants. Plans were drawn to subdivide the large farms into individual plots of 20 to 40 acres each and then sale them to "selected negro families." At the time of his death in 1943, Lowden willed the entire plantation to the Farm Foundation. In 1948, the foundation sold the land to several private investors and the Chicago Mill and Lumber Company of Greenville, Mississippi.

"L. F." = Farm Location (?) "SO B" = South Bend Farm "LG" = Langdon Farm

Russell Pierce Baker May 21, 1986

Sources: 1. WPA Folder: Lincoln County, Place File, Arkansas History Commission. 2. History of Lincoln County, Arkansas 1871-1983, p. 71. 3. Arkansas Gazette, November 20, 1919, p. 97 and 133 and March 21, 1943, p. 1 and 16 4. See also within.

Scope and Contents

These records relate to the general operations of the South Bend Plantation, and others, in Jefferson County, Arkansas. They contain tenant accounts and records of plantation expenses from 1922 to 1930,

and occasional weather and bookkeeping observations. Of special interest is the book entitled, "Cotton Season 1927."

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Arkansas State Archives 11/20/2019

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research use. The ASA possesses the material listed in this finding aid in the original format, but due to preservation concerns this collection is accessible to the public through digital formats.

Conditions Governing Use

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17-U.S. Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material. The person using this material is liable for any infringement.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Wallace F. Waits, Jr., Richardson, Texas, 1986.

Collection Inventory

	Box	Object
Ledger 01: labeled "Cash book"; daily expense and income ledger, possibly for the plantation's commissary store 1922 April 22-1929 March 31	1	1
Ledger 02: labeled "Mar 21st 24 =to= July 12 -14"; ledger with column headings [date, description], "Tenants o/c," "Gen Ledger," Cash, ""Mdse o/c" "Plant o/c," "Freight, "Int & DIS," Repair, "1st Natl Bank," and "Far Bank." 1924 March 21-1924 July 16	1	2
Ledger 03: labeled "began July 16th - 24"; Ledger with column headings: [date, description], Tenants, "Gen Ledger," Cash, "Mdse," Plant, Freight, "Int & Dis," "F.N. Bank," "Far Bank." 1924 July 16-1924 December 19	1	3
Ledger 04: labeled "No. 1"; Ledger with column headings: [date, description], Tenants, "Gen Ledger," Cash, "Mdse," Plant, Seed, cotton, "F.N. Bank," "Far Bank." 1924 December 19-1925 June 20	2	1
Ledger 05: labeled "No. 4"; Ledger with column headings: [date, description], Tenants, "Gen Ledger," Cash, "Mdse," Plant, Seed, Cotton, "F. N. Bank," and "Far Bank." Comments: contains auditor's instructions and comments and plantation manager's comments about the rain. 1926 January 9-1926 July 17	2	2
Ledger 06: labeled "No. 5"; Ledger with column headings: [date, description], Tenants, "Gen Ledger," Cash, "Mdse," Seed and Cotton.	3	2

Includes comments by the plantation manager about the drought and rain. 1926- July 19-1926 November 29

Ledger 07: labeled "No. 7"; Ledger with column headings: [date, description] Tenant, "Gen Ledger," Cash, "Mdse," Rent, Cotton, and Seed. 1927 August 23-1928 March 31	3	2
---	---	---

Ledger 08: begins "September 26, 1929"; Ledger with column headings: [date, description] Tenant, "Gen Ledger," Cash, "Mdse," Rent, Cotton, and Seed. 1929 September 26-1930 March 21	4	1
--	---	---

Ledger 09: labeled "Journal"; Journal with column headings: [date, description], "L.F.," [blank], Tenants, and [blank]. 1926 May 31-1928 April 11	4	2
---	---	---

Ledger 10: labeled "Cash Book"; Cash book with column headings: [date, description], "L.F.," "Seeds?," "So B Tenants," "Lg," "Mdse," and [blank]. 1926 May 31-1928 April 11	5	1
---	---	---

Ledger 11: labeled "Cotton season 1927" with column headings: date, [description], Cotton, Seed, Cotton, Seed, Gin, "Dr Tenants," Plantation Share, Tenant Share, "F", Weight Cotton, and Wight Seed. Farms mentioned: Clay Place, Lake Place, "Langdon," "Massey," and "So. Bend." 1927 October 17-1928 February 15	5	2
--	---	---