

*The Fort Wayne Organ Company  
& the Packard Legacy*

*Volume 2: Justice -  
The Secret of Good Business*



*If there is no harmony in the factory,  
there will be none in the piano.*

**THE PACKARD PIANO CO.**

Fort Wayne  
UPRIGHT PIANOS  
PLAYER PIANOS



Indiana  
MINIATURE GRANDS  
CONCERT GRANDS

*Charles A. Robison*

*The Fort Wayne Organ Company  
& the Packard Legacy  
Volume 2: Justice -  
The Secret of Good Business*



*The Packard Interpreting Piano  
Mission Style*

*Furnished in quartered oak, either in dark mission or Stickley finish.  
Also made with electric lamps.*

*DIMENSIONS*

Height..... 4 feet, 10 inches  
Depth..... 2 feet, 6½ inches  
Length..... 5 feet, 4 inches

*If there is no harmony in the factory  
there will be none in the piano.*



*Charles A. Robison*

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## 2. The Bond Family and the Fort Wayne Organ Company

One cannot look into the history of the Fort Wayne Organ Company without soon coming into contact with the Bond family. From its very beginning in November 1871 until the company's demise in the early 1930s, members of the Bond family provided investment and leadership. In many ways, the adult lives of Stephen B. and his son Albert S. Bond paralleled the company's existence.

The Bond family arrived in Fort Wayne in the early 1840s. The family had chosen to relocate as result of the senior Bond's ill health. They came to Fort Wayne at the invitation of Mr. Darrow, a relative of Steven's wife, Adelia Darrow. They left the city, briefly moving into Wisconsin, only to return to Fort Wayne in 1846. Unfortunately, Stephen Bond, Sr. died on July 28, 1847, and Adelia was left to raise four sons. Charles D., the oldest, was fifteen; Stephen B., Jr. was thirteen; Henry W. was eleven; and Jared D. was nine.

By the following year, both the older boys were actively employed and were soon involved in financial and banking institutions. They were successful in these pursuits, and by the time of the 1870-71 Fort Wayne city directory, Charles D. Bond was listed as president of the Fort Wayne National Bank and Stephen B. Bond was associated with Allen Hamilton & Company, private bankers. Henry W. was working for Nelson DeGoff & Co., dealers in agriculture, and Jared D. was working as a cashier at the bank where his oldest brother was president.

When Isaac Packard, accompanied by Robert Keith and Henry Talbot among others, came to Fort Wayne following the great Chicago fire of October 1871, he was looking for investors in a new venture to manufacture the Packard organ. While I have no direct evidence of him seeking out Charles Bond, it would have been natural to seek out a prominent banking institution such as the Fort Wayne National Bank of which Charles was president. Without question, if Isaac could convince Charles to become invested in the new company, he would bring other significant financial leaders of the community on board as well.

Apparently Isaac was successful in convincing Charles that it would be a good business risk, and on November 20, 1871, the Fort Wayne Organ Company was officially organized. Charles Bond and Stephen Bond both became investors and were on the board of directors. Stephen was also the first treasurer of the company. Within a year, Stephen B. Bond was named president of the fledgling company while Charles remained on the board of directors.

Unfortunately, Charles D. Bond died on December 7, 1873, a short two years after the founding of the Fort Wayne Organ Company and just three months after Isaac Packard's death. His death again left a Bond widow with a family to raise, this time with six children: Charles E. Bond was the oldest at age 18, and the youngest was two.

Stephen B. Bond, Jr. already president of the Fort Wayne Organ Company, stepped into his older brother's position as president of the Fort Wayne National Bank. He held this position until his retirement in 1904. Jared D. Bond became treasurer of the organ company and served for five years in addition to working for other banking institutions.

The Fort Wayne Organ Company continued to grow and prosper under Mr. Bond's leadership, becoming a major competitor in the reed organ market. As three of his sons grew into adulthood, they also became intimately involved in the organ company's operations.

According to a ca. 1925 Bond Piano catalog, "His oldest son, Albert S., began working in the factory in 1880, Herbert W. in 1887, and Stephen Charles in 1897. All three of these sons worked at the bench and all through the factory, learning the business from the ground up."

According to his obituary in 1931, "Albert became superintendent of the factory in 1886. In 1893 he was [also] made secretary and treasurer, and in 1907, upon the death of his father,

## The Bond Family

he succeeded to the presidency of the firm and retained that position until the time of his death." According to the Fort Wayne directories, Albert became vice-president in 1906, the year before his father died, and Herbert W. Bond became the factory superintendent, a position he held until 1931 when the company was going through the process of dissolution.

Stephen Charles Bond was working as a salesman at the Packard Music House in downtown Fort Wayne at the time the company went into receivership in 1930. Prior to his being reported in this position, he was listed as "asst supt Packard (Piano) Co" from 1908 until 1926.

Other members of the extended Bond family were also associated with their relatives in various capacities. The three sons of Charles D. Bond were photographed together on January 9, 1899 (Fig. 1). They were listed as Charles E., age 43; Hugh McC., age 36; and Stephen D., age 33. In the 1899 city directory, Charles E. is listed as "asst bkpr Old National Bank" where his uncle was president. By 1906, he had become vice-president and a member of the board of directors. In addition to earlier banking duties, Charles E. had taken over for Jared D. as treasurer of the Fort Wayne Organ Company in 1879 when his uncle's term ended. Soon after he went on to serve the organ company as its secretary for over a decade.

Hugh McCulloch Bond was listed as "mgr Ft Wayne Club" where he also lived (Fig. 2). Several Bond family members were involved with this club and regularly attended community social activities held there. The youngest, Stephen D. Bond, was an action maker for the Fort Wayne Organ Company, though he is not listed in the city directory after 1899.



Figure 1: Charles D. Bond's three sons: Charles E. seated left, Hugh M. seated right, Stephen D. standing.

Image Provided by the Allen County-Fort Wayne Historical Society.



Figure 2: Postcard postmarked 1911.

## The Packard Piano

Figure 2: Benson Music House ca. 1928 - Packard piano flag flying proudly.



Figure 3: RPPC 1910 postmark.



## The Packard Piano: Early Presentation Catalog 1896

With the introduction of their first piano in late 1895 receiving rave reviews, Packard moved quickly to expand their lineup. This early presentation catalog has all the appearance of being their first major offering.

The catalog measures 9 1/2 by 12 inches and is bound by a red cord. The print is in dark red while the illustrations are muted black. The cover is beige with embossed printing and the pages are spacious in their layout (Fig. 4). While only showing three case styles, the last page indicates that more and larger are on the way!

This particular catalog was acquired with two inserted flyers showing new offerings for the 1897 market, the new Packard mentioned on the last page.

Figure 4: 1896 Catalog



# A CATALOG of Packard Pianos

WITH SOME  
ILLUSTRATIONS  
IN  
COLORS

THE  
Packard  
Piano  
Company  
FORT WAYNE, INDIANA



162



Style N  
Made in handselected figured Mahogany and Walnut  
case  
Height, 4 ft. 7 in. Depth, 2 ft. 1 in. Length, 5 ft. 6 in.



Style A A  
Made in handselected figured Walnut and Mahogany  
case  
Height, 4 ft. 3 in. Depth, 2 ft. 1 in. Length, 5 ft. 6 in.

163

## World War I: Changing Tides

### Packard's Support of the United States War Efforts

Curtis A. Fox was born March 17, 1890, in Bluffton, Indiana.<sup>2</sup> By the time he was a young man, he was living in Fort Wayne, Indiana, and working as a helper in The Packard Piano Company in 1913.<sup>3</sup> Just a year later he was listed as a cabinetmaker. He continued to work as a cabinetmaker until 1923<sup>4</sup> following which time he moved away from Fort Wayne.

As with many of the employees of The Packard Piano Company, he was registered for the draft and was a member of the Indiana State Militia (Fig. 5)<sup>5</sup> while working in the factory. He was either allowed to make a propeller clock or received one in recognition for his service in the company's war efforts (Fig. 6).

Figure 5. Curtis A. Fox, ca. 1917.



Figure 6. Airplane propeller clock manufactured in The Packard Piano Co.



<sup>2</sup> 1918 Draft Registration, Fort Wayne, Indiana.

<sup>3</sup> Fort Wayne City Directory, 1913.

<sup>4</sup> Fort Wayne City Directories.

<sup>5</sup> Information and photos provided by grandson Tad Boxell, Gresham, Oregon.

## World War I: Changing Tides

In 1919, a Mrs. Taylor contacted Albert S. Bond, president of The Packard Piano Company, requesting information on the company's participation in the war effort. Mr. Bond responded with a letter dated December 10, 1919 (Fig. 7). Attached to the letter was a description of the company's war service (Fig. 8). This correspondence is a concise overview of the company working under United States government contracts during World War I.

Figure 7. Cover letter December 10, 1919.<sup>6</sup>

New York Office  
Black & White Photo Studio  
120 West 42nd Street  
New York City

Chicago Office  
Black & White Photo Studio  
209 South Third Street  
Chicago, Ill.

**The Packard Piano Company**  
The Packard Piano  
Fort Wayne, Indiana Dec. 10, 1919.  
Established 1871

Mrs. Sam R. Taylor,  
300-L Peoples Trust Building,  
Fort Wayne, Ind.

Dear Mrs. Taylor:-

We are enclosing herewith the article for which you have been so patiently waiting.

We do not know whether it covers the matter or not. We hope it does but if not, kindly let us know.

Yours very truly,

THE PACKARD PIANO CO.

*Albert S. Bond*  
PRESIDENT.

ASE/EM.

If there is No Harmony in the Factory, there will be None in the Piano  
Copyright

<sup>6</sup> Letter images provided by the Allen County-Fort Wayne Historical Society.



*F*INE pianos such as Packard are works of art. They can be made only by men who are master piano-makers, who take the artist's pride in their work, and who are inspired to produce the finest pianos possible. Such are the men in the Packard piano. To them, the making of fine pianos is the highest interpretation of art—an expression of the music that is in their hearts and souls.

As your fingers touch the Packard keyboard, you sense at once that the ambitions of these men have been entirely fulfilled. You rejoice at the glorious sound that fills the air. You delight in the delicate balance of the action, the rhythmic roundness of the tone, the sheer architectural beauty of the piano itself. You feel that never before have you attained true expression of music. And you are glad that men who are artists have been encouraged to make pianos.

There are grand, upright and player models of Packard Pianos, in several styles and sizes. You will find among them the piano you long to possess. A pictured brochure will gladly be sent postpaid.

THE PACKARD PIANO COMPANY  
FORT WAYNE, INDIANA  
1920-1921

# Packard Pianos

"IF THERE IS NO HARMONY IN THE FACTORY  
THERE WILL BE NONE IN THE PIANO"



DEDICATED TO  
MISS VELMA OHNEC,  
Queen of the Carnival,  
Fort Wayne, Ind., Oct. 4 to 7, 1919.

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## PACKARD CARNIVAL.

MARCH AND TWO-STEP.

RUD. KNAUER.



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