

Within Series I there are several letters relating to real estate showing that Bird was involved both in buying and selling various plots of land. The majority of the real estate correspondence involved properties on Market Street and a tract of land in Dauphin County, which may have served as a source of lead and coal.

The series ends with a folder holding a printed circular letter calling for a meeting of merchants to be held at the Merchants' Coffee House on January 22, 1828. The document was re-used to tally payments made by a list of people, but their relationship to the merchants' meeting is unknown.

The collection contains very few items of personal correspondence. The most outstanding examples are a letter from William C. Brownlee (1784-1860) who ran a classical academy in Basking Ridge, NJ, attended by Bird's sons John and Joseph, and a letter sent from England by John Bird to his mother. The letter, dated October 13, 1828, is an appeal to her to convince Charles Bird to let him marry the object of his affections, a girl from Birmingham. He wrote:

You have before this experienced the sensations of love and must acknowledge that when the affections of the heart is unalterably fixed upon a person and for all hopes to be blighted by a father withholding his consent it is enough to make these persons miserable for life ... if your consents are not given content yourselves with seeing me single for life.

In his letter, Bird also described the political atmosphere in Britain, mentioning that the English fleet had been sent to prevent the Russians from blockading the Dardanelles, and that English troops were being sent to Ireland to attend to Catholic/Protestant disturbances. The Reverend Brownlee wrote a letter of condolence to Charles Bird upon the death of his wife, describing the event's impact on the boys, and also mentioned their progress in school. A few of the business letters include bits of personal information. For example, Joseph Lyon mentioned that Bird's wife was uneasy when he was away, and a letter from the Baltimore firm Neff & Bird ended, "Your son Henry has a fine daughter!"

Series II, Financial Documents (1800-1837) is divided into seven subseries: Accounts; Invoices; Legal Fees; Notes; Personal Expenses; Shipping Records; and Miscellaneous Receipts. Within the Accounts section, there is a "List of Balances Due to Charles Bird" dated 1824, which is an alphabetical list showing Bird's clients to be local merchants in addition to several in Ohio, Kentucky, Alabama, and Mississippi. The Invoices subseries holds priced lists of goods both bought and sold by Charles Bird, and is divided into two sections: Customers and Vendors. The latter covers hardware items as well as dry goods that were primarily purchased from Philadelphia purveyors, including the local auctioneer Tristram B. Freeman. Several of the invoices are marked "in barter." Two firms with which Bird had many transactions were Harvey & Worth, and Charles and Joseph Pleasants; their invoices describe objects ranging