AUGUSTUS OCTAVIUS BACON  
1839 – 1914  
Senator/Donor of Baconsfield Park

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE:

Personal:
- Born October 20, 1839, Bryan County, Georgia
- 1860, began law practice in Atlanta.
- Joined Confederate Army.
- Married Sarah Virginia Lamar, April 19, 1864.
- Practiced law in Macon, Georgia, 1866.
- Died Feb. 14, 1914, in Washington, D.C.
- Bequeathed his farm to Macon to become a park (Baconsfield).
- Because his will stipulated that the park be used by white citizens only, it became the subject of two U.S. Supreme Court cases.

Education:
- BA, University of Georgia, 1859.
- LLB, University of Georgia, 1860.

Career (Political):
- Elected to Georgia House of Representatives in 1870; served for 12 years.
- Five times was elected Speaker of the House.
- United States Senator, 1895-1914.

(Sources: Dictionary of Georgia Biography, CT230 .D53 1983; and The Macon Telegraph, April 24, 1999, p. 10A)

SCOPE AND CONTENTS NOTE:

The A.O. Bacon Papers contains one letter (1864) and three diaries (1853, 1861, and 1868). The collection may have been received through Dr. Spencer King.

SERIES 1  CORRESPONDENCE
SERIES 2  DIARIES
SERIES 1  CORRESPONDENCE  
Box 1  
1 1  Letter dated March 20, 1864, from Bacon to “Mother,” describing recent illness, travels for business, and anticipated trip home.

SERIES 2  DIARIES  
BOX 1  
1 2  Diary (January 15, 1853 – March 21, 1853). Describes daily life in Tuskegee, Alabama, including family, school, church, etc.

1 3  Diary (August – November, 1861). Written while Bacon was serving as Adjutant of the 9th Georgia Infantry Regiment, the diary gives a detailed account of the movements of the Regiment from August-November. Written mainly while Bacon served in Virginia, the diary describes life as a soldier; the aftermath of the first battle at Bull Run (Manassas) including a description of the hospital and battlefield with a hand-drawn sketch; and comments on the actions of Generals Robert Patterson, Joseph Johnston, and Pierre Beauregard.

1 4  Diary (June – December, 1868). Recounts his travels from Macon, Georgia to New York to attend the Democratic National Convention. Traveled through Atlanta, Nashville, Louisville, Cincinnati, and Pittsburgh, describing what he saw and relating it to events of recent war. Gives account of Democratic National Convention, July, 1868. Late July 1868 – December 1868, covers political events both state and national, including presidential election. Last entry: handwritten transcript of a speech he delivered at Covington, GA on September 5, 1868.