Stevens Family Collection

Creator: John Stevens III and descendants
Dates: 1699-1981
Repository: Samuel C. Williams Library, Stevens Institute of Technology
Address: 1 Castle Point on Hudson, Hoboken, NJ 07030

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Prepared by Adam Winger in 2011

Location:
Archives room; Cabinets 1-6

Collection Use:
Open for research by appointment only.

Provenance Note:
The materials that comprise this collection have been donated to Stevens Institute by members of the John Stevens family of America. Three of the principal donors are Mary Stuart Stevens (Baird), Emily Custis Lewis Stevens Tully, Basil Stevens.

Biographical Note/Historical Note:
The Stevens family perpetuated a tradition in American engineering, dating back to the early days of the Industrial Revolution. John Stevens, a colonel in the Revolutionary War, purchased from the State of New Jersey in 1784 the land included in the present-day 55-acre campus of the college. Before 1800, Col. Stevens was a pioneer in the development of the steamboat, and by 1825 he had designed the first American-built steam locomotive.

Robert Stevens, one of Col. John Stevens' sons, invented the T-rail, the form of railroad track in use today throughout the World. With his brother, Edwin, Robert built and operated profitably the first commercial railroad in the United States. Edwin, on his own, was active in the design and construction of ironclad vessels for the U.S. Navy. With another brother, John Cox Stevens, who was the first commodore of the New York Yacht Club, Edwin joined in the syndicate that built and raced the yacht "America." In 1851, that vessel defeated all the English contenders to become the first winner of the famed trophy now known as the America's Cup. When Edwin Stevens died in 1868, his will provided for the establishment of the college which bears his family name.

Series I – Historical Documents
Scope & Content Note:
This series contains historical documents spanning from 1699-1978. The series contains the indenture service agreement (1699) and Chancery Clerk appointment (1716) for John Stevens (I), the first Stevens on the American continent. The collection also contains letters and documents from Honorable John Stevens (II), Colonel John Stevens (III), John Cox Stevens, Robert Livingston Stevens, Edwin A. Stevens (I), Francis Bowes Stevens and many other family members. Boxes 1 and 2 contain letters and documents that relate or belonged to Francis Bowes Stevens, a son of Colonel John Stevens. Boxes 3 and 4 contain copies of original letters as made Mr. Eugene B. Cook, about the year 1882. There have been added certain
copies of Stevens letters found in places other than the family trunks, together with such occasional explanatory notes as appeared desirable. The letters were compiled by A.D. Turnbull, author of John Stevens an American Record, in 1926. Among the non-Stevens correspondents are William Alexander, Elias Boudinot, Aaron Burr, Robert Fulton, Thomas Jefferson, Robert R. Livingston and James Madison. Boxes 5 and 6 contain deed books and documents relating to the Hoboken Land Improvement Company. Boxes 7 and 8 contain an array of historical documents relating to the Stevens family as well as William Alexander (Lord Stirling) Elias Boudinot, Prince Murat, and Robert Stockton. Boxes 9-13 and 14 ledgers are related to the Stevens Battery. The bulk of the items are records concerning finances and selling the Stevens Battery. The records are largely untapped resource into the Stevens Battery.

Inventory:

**Box 1-Francis Bowes Stevens**
- Folder 1-John Stevens (III) Contract, Eloquence manuscript
- Folder 2- Steamboat Trials and Experiments
- Folder 3-Correspondence
- Folder 4-Family History notes
- Folder 5-John Cox Stevens manuscript
- Folder 6-Life of Robert L. Stevens manuscript
- Folder 7-Copies from Family Bible
- Folder 8-Experiments 1876
- Folder 9-Printed materials
- Folder 10-Notes on Railways and Ferryboats
- Folder 11-Handwritten notes

**Box 2-Francis Bowes Stevens-Patents**
- Folder 1-Patents, 1861-1863; 2 items
- Folder 2-Patents; 4 items
- Folder 3-Patents; 2 items
- Folder 4-Patents; 4 items
- Folder 5-Patent Specifications; 3 items
- Folder 6-Patent Specifications; 4 items
- Folder 7-Patent Specifications; 2 items

**Box 3-Stevens Family Correspondence; Copied 1897**
- Folder 1- Correspondence; 33 items
- Folder 2- Correspondence; 19 items
- Folder 3- Correspondence; 21 items
- Folder 4- Correspondence; 15 items
- Folder 5- Correspondence; 14 items
- Folder 6- Correspondence; 17 items

**Box 4-Stevens Family Correspondence; Copied 1897**
- Folder 1- Correspondence
- Folder 2- Correspondence
- Folder 3- Correspondence
- Folder 4- Correspondence
- Folder 5- Correspondence
- Folder 6- Correspondence
- Folder 7- Correspondence

**Box 5-Hoboken Land Improvement Company**
- Deed Books; 2 items
Box 6-Hoboken Land Improvement Company-Acts & Pamphlets
   Folder 1-“An Act to Incorporate the Hoboken Land and Improvement Co., 1859
   Folder 2-Legal Opinion Chancellor of New Jersey, motion for injunction, July 30, 1860
   Folder 3-Real Estate Tax Receipts; 1863-1866
   Folder 4-Declaration, U.S. Circuit Court New Jersey, City of Hoboken vs. Pennsylvania Railroad et al., October 29, 1878
   Folder 5-Bearer Bonds; 1878
   Folder 6-Legal Decision; undated
   Folder 7-Press Release, Basil Stevens, 1946
   Folder 8-Correspondence, Gilbert Chamberlain to Richard Widdicombe; 1978
   Folder 10-Proposal to convert Hoboken Land and Improvement Company building to art center, Pratt Institute, September 30, 1984
   Folder 12-Company Materials, undated
   Folder 13-Newspaper Articles
   Folder 14-Sybil's Cave, Colored Engraving; 1826
   Folder 15-Photographs & Drawings; 7 items

Box 7-Historic Primary Documents
   Folder 1-Chancery Clerk Document 1716
   Folder 2-Richard Stockton Letter 1790
   Folder 3-Archipald Alexander, Advance Work in Universities Manuscript
   Folder 4-Nicolini Family, 8 items 1807
   Folder 5-Colonel John Stevens Letters, 8 items 1792-1821
   Folder 6-Robert L Stevens letters 8 items
   Folder 7-Elias Boudinot letters; 6 items
   Folder 8-Notes & Illustrations manuscript
   Folder 9-Cursory Notes, Elisha Boudinot
   Folder 10-William Alexander document

Box 8-Historic Primary Documents
   Folder 1-Notebook, 1851
   Folder 2-State Proclamations,
   Folder 3-Prince Murat and Edwin A. Stevens (I) correspondence
   Folder 4-Edwin A. Stevens (I) Indenture and documents
   Folder 5-Edwin A. Stevens (II) documents
   Folder 6-W.W. Shippen documents
   Folder 7-Church of Holy Innocents title
   Folder 8-Newspaper clippings
   Folder 9-Newspaper clippings

Box 9-Stevens Battery Correspondence
   Folder 1-1833-1844
   Folder 2-1845-1854
   Folder 3-1854-1856
   Folder 4-1861-1870
   Folder 5-1870-1871
   Folder 6-1871-1874
   Folder 7-1874
   Folder 8-1875-1876
   Folder 9-1877
   Folder 10-1878
**Box 10-Stevens Battery Correspondence**
Folder 1-1878
Folder 2-1878
Folder 3-1878
Folder 4-1879
Folder 5-1879-1884
Folder 6-Undated

**Box 11-Stevens Battery Records**
Folder 1-Legal Agreement 1871
Folder 2-Lawsuits Martha B. Stevens vs. W.W. Shippen
Folder 3-Chancery papers; 1878
Folder 4-Account papers
Folder 5-Account papers
Folder 6-Account papers

**Box 12-Stevens Battery Payroll & Checks**
Folder 1-Payroll records
Folder 2-Payroll Records
Folder 3-Payroll Records
Folder 4-Payroll Checks
Folder 5-Payroll Checks
Folder 6-Payroll Checks

**Box 13-Printed Materials, Stevens Battery**
Folder 1-Battery History
Folder 2-Photographs
Folder 3-Images & Newspapers
Folder 4-Newspaper clippings
Folder 5-Acts concerning the Battery
Folder 6-Legal cases; 1870
Folder 7-Descriptions of Stevens Battery
Folder 8-Stevens Battery Memorial
Ledgers-Stevens Battery

**Stevens Battery Ledgers: 14 items**

**Series II – Subject Files**

**Inventory:**

**Box 14-Pamphlets**
Folder 1-John Stevens and the Introduction of Railroads in New Jersey
Folder 2-Acts of Congress relating to Steamboats; 1852
Folder 3-On the Performance of a Double-Screw Ferryboat
Folder 4-Hoboken Ferry to Barclay Street
Folder 5-Cape May Geographic Society; 1958
Folder 6-Brown in Recent Types of Ferry Steamers; 1894
Folder 7-First Steam Screw Propeller Boats by Francis B. Stevens
Folder 8-Stevens Porcupine Boiler
Folder 9-History of Steam Navigation
Folder 10-Eighth Census of the United States; 1861
Folder 11-Dedication of Hudson Square
Folder 12-Edwin A. Stevens Will
Folder 13-Castle Point & the Stevens Family by J.H. Kuntz; 1911
Folder 14-The Hull and Its Screw Propeller; 1942
Folder 15-Organization & Routine by E.A. Stevens (II); 1912
Folder 16-"Chart for Propeller" by E.A. Stevens (II)
Folder 17-Economics of Marine Reciprocating Engines
Folder 18-Wind Resistance
Folder 19-"Increase of Frictional Resistance"
Folder 20-Marine Machinery Weights
Folder 21-Treatise on Steam;
Folder 22-Guide to the Stevens Family Papers
Folder 23-page from Steamboat Days
Folder 24-Stock Certificate
Folder 25-Hudson-fulton Celebration
Folder 26-John Stevens & his Sons
Folder 27-America's first Railroads
Folder 28-Allegheny Portage Railroad
Folder 29-Camden & Amboy Railroad Accident; 1855
Folder 30-Ohio Valley Centennial;
Folder 31-Notes & Queries of America; 1858
Folder 32-Free Railroads; 1861
Folder 33-Proposition to Extinguish Exclusive Privileges; 1836
Folder 34-Documents tending to prove the Superior Advantages of Rail-ways and Steam Carriages; 1852

Box 15-Pamphlets
Folder 1-John Stevens and his sons; 1892
Folder 2-Biographical Sketches
Folder 3-A Family of Engineers
Folder 4-Railroad History; 1982
Folder 5- Schooner Yacht America
Folder 6-Mary Stevens Baird Recollections
Folder 7-Ladies of Castle Stevens
Folder 8- Stevens Family, Vision Spirit & romance
Folder 9-Hoboken Ferry to Barclay Street
Folder 10-Documents tending to prove the Superior Advantages of Rail-ways and Steam Carriages; 1936
Folder 11-Steam Screw propeller boats

Box 16-Duplicate Pamphlets
Duplicate Pamphlets from box 14-15

Box 17-Article Reprints
50 folders of reprinted articles

Box 18-Americas Cup
Folder 1-Pictures; 3 items
Folder 2-London Illustrated News, August 1851; 2 items
Folder 3-Printed Sheets; Facts about the America
Folder 4-Brochures;
Folder 5-Brochures; 4 items
Folder 6-Article Prints
Folder 7-Article Prints
Folder 8-Article Prints
**Box 19-Stevens Steamboats**
- Folder 1-Newspaper Clippings
- Folder 2-Article Prints
- Folder 3-Correspondence concerning steamboat history

**Box 20-Stevens Locomotives & Railroads**
- Folder 1-Correspondence with librarians
- Folder 2-Correspondence with librarians
- Folder 3-Newspaper clippings
- Folder 4-Article Prints

**Box 21-Mary Stevens Baird Interviews & Transcripts**
- Interview Tapes; 3 items
- Folder 1-photographs; 6 items
- Folder 2-Interview transcripts
- Folder 3-Interview transcript;
- Folder 4-Interview transcript; December 1974
- Folder 5-Edited interview transcript
- Folder 6-Edited interview transcript
- Folder 7-Edited interview transcript

**Box 22-Mary Stevens Baird interview transcripts**
- Mary Stevens Baird interview; 9 items
- Folder 1-Edited Interview transcript

**Box 23-Mary Stevens Baird Recollections**
- Mary Stevens Baird Recollections; 2 items
- Cox, Lewis, Washington Families photocopy
- Folder 1-Edited interview transcript

**Box 24-The Stevens Family: Vision, Spirit & Romance by P.S. Stevens Collins**
- The Stevens Family: Vision, Spirit & Romance by P.S. Stevens Collins; 3 copies

**Box 25-Church of Holy Innocents Documents**
- Binder 1-History files
- Binder 2-History files

**Box 26-Church of Holy Innocents Documents**
- Binders-history files; 6 items
- Bicentennial comes to Hoboken; 2 copies

**Box 27-Stevens Family Reunion**
- Binder-Planning documents
- Binder-Thank you letters

**Box 28-Stevens Family Reunion**
- Folder 1-Invitation list
- Folder 2-Newspaper clippings

**Box 29-Post Card Telegrams**
- Binder-Letters written by Richard Stevens 1913-1917 to his 3rd daughter Dorothy Pintard Stevens

**Box 30-Stevens Family & Hoboken**
- Folder 1-Copies of newspaper clippings
- Folder 2-Recipient list to Emily & James Tully Scholarship
Folder 3-Scrapbook photocopies
Folder 4-Scrapbook photocopies
Folder 5-Hoboken & Stevens family scrapbook
Folder 6-Newspaper clippings
Folder 7-Newspaper clippings

**Box 31-Stevens Family Genealogy**
Folder 1-Unprocessed
Folder 2-Unprocessed
Folder 3-Unprocessed
Binder-Unprocessed

**Box 32-Stevens Family Genealogy**
Folder 1-Unprocessed
Folder 2-Unprocessed

**Box 33-Stevens Family Genealogy**
Folder 1-Unprocessed
Folder 2-Unprocessed
Folder 3-Unprocessed