

Stevens Family Collection

Creator: John Stevens III and descendants

Dates: 1699-1981

Repository: Samuel C. Williams Library, Stevens Institute of Technology

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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Series I – Historical Documents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This series contains historical documents spanning from 1699-1978.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 9- Historic Survey and Preservation Proposal, Columbia University, May 3, 1978
- Folder 10- Proposal to convert Hoboken Land and Improvement Company building to art center, Pratt Institute, September 30, 1984
- Folder 11- Manuscript, "The Early History of Hoboken," Richard F. Stevens, undated
- 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-Archibald 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-Paroll 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