

Stearns Family Papers

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1714-1920



Title Statement

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Profile Description

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

Ms.1989.013

Unit Date

1714-1920

Language

The materials in the collection are in English.

Abstract

The Stearns Family Papers consist of photocopies of transcripts and originals of correspondence, diaries, official documents, writings, and other genealogical documents (1714-1920) of the Stearns family, primarily of Massachusetts.

Creator

Stearns family (Mansfield, Massachusetts)

Extent

1.4 Cubic Feet 4 boxes

Repository

Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

The collection is open for research.

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Source of Acquisition

The original papers and transcripts are in the possession of Stuart H. Buck of Lynchburg, Virginia, who edited and transcribed the Stearns Family Papers. He loaned the transcripts to the Special Collections Department in January 1989. The transcripts were copied in February and March and returned to Mr. Buck in March 1989.

Processing Information

The processing, arrangement, and description of the Stearns Family Papers was completed in 1989.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: [identification of item], [box], [folder], Stearns Family Papers, Ms1989-013, Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Va.

Biographical Note

The Stearns family is descended from Isaac Stearns (1600-1671), who was born in England in 1600 and came to America in 1630. He landed in Salem, Massachusetts, and settled in nearby Watertown, where he became a town selectman. Most of the materials are concerned with the 7th Isaac Stearns (1790-1879), and his extended family and descendants. This branch of the Stearns family remained in or near Mansfield, Massachusetts, for 300 years, or seven generations, and saved thousands of papers concerning most of the family members. Materials related to their history were later edited and transcribed by Stuart H. Buck, great-grandson of the 7th Isaac, of Lynchburg, Virginia.

Scope and Content

The Stearns Family Papers consist of photocopies of transcripts and originals of correspondence, diaries, official documents, writings, and other genealogical documents (1714-1920) of the Stearns family. Several essays describing the genealogy of the family precede the transcripts of the family papers. An index to the transcripts is included. Included in the papers are the extensive American Civil War correspondence of Orange Scott Stearns (1835-1870) of the 29th Massachusetts Regiment, to his family, and the Civil War papers of Isaac Holden Stearns (1825-1897), a surgeon in the 22nd Massachusetts Infantry. The papers also include the poems of Sally Stearns (1804-1890), copies of the papers of Samuel Crocker Lovell (1840-?), and essays on the genealogy of the Stearns and other related families by Stuart H. Buck. Essays concerning specific family members are organized after the index, followed by information on Samuel Crocker Lovell, John Lee Holt, and Erie L. Ditty, Civil War soldiers.

Keywords

Civil War

United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865

United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865 -- Diaries

Rights Statement for Archival Description

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Arrangement

This collections is arranged by subject, then chronologically.

Description of Subordinate Components

Family Correspondence, Diaries, History and Genealogical Writings

Unit Date 1714-1986

"Out of the Sugar Barrels," (1985) by Stuart H. Buck. Typescript, unbound history of Isaac Stearns. Jr. (1790-1879) and family. 179 pp.

Unit Date 1790-1879

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

"Genealogical Notes on the Stearns, Buck, Caswell, Cheever, Fillebrown, Pratt, Smith, Ware family and others," by Stuart H. Buck. Typescript, unbound, 40 pp.

Unit Date n.d.

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Container 2 (folder)

Itemized list and descriptions of original Stearns and Buck family documents

Unit Date n.d.

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

"The Cheever Connection ," (1986) edited by Stuart H. Buck. Unbound transcripts of letters (1780-1825) concerning the Cheever family, with a description of the connection between the Cheevers and the Stearns. 78 pp.

Unit Date 1780-1820

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Stearns family correspondence, diaries, etc.

Unit Date 1714-1811

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Stearns family correspondence, diaries, etc.

Unit Date 1812-1830

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

Stearns family correspondence, diaries, etc.

Unit Date 1830-36

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

Stearns family correspondence, diaries, etc.

Unit Date 1836-1843

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 8 (folder)

Family Correspondence, Diaries, etc.

Unit Date 1843-1890

Stearns family correspondence, diaries, etc.

Unit Date 1843-1852

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Stearns family correspondence, diaries, etc.

Unit Date 1853-1860

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Stearns family correspondence, diaries, etc.

Unit Date 1858-1862

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Stearns family correspondence, diaries, etc.

Unit Date 1863-1870

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Stearns family correspondence, diaries, etc.

Unit Date 1866-1868

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Stearns family correspondence, diaries, etc.

Unit Date 1869-1881

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

Stearns family correspondence, diaries, etc.

Unit Date 1882-1890

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

Family Correspondence, Diaries, Indices to family papers, Proceedings, and a Poem

Unit Date 1850-1920

Stearns family correspondence, diaries, etc.

Unit Date 1891-1920

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Index to the Stearns family papers (A - Smith, Jane)

Unit Date n.d.

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Index to the Stearns family papers (Smith, Jerusha - Stearns, Nathan)

Unit Date n.d.

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Index to the Stearns family papers (Stearns, O. Scott - Wetheral, Solomon)

Unit Date n.d.

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Proceedings taken by Isaac Holden Stearns and George Frederic Stearns, secretaries (1850-55) of the Abington Society of Natural History. Includes excerpts (1851-57) from Isaac Holden Stearns' diary.

Unit Date 1850-1857

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Sally Stearns--poems

Unit Date n.d.

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

Civil War Correspondence, Regiment History, Memoirs, Photographs, Essay, and Diary

Unit Date 1825-1897

Isaac Holden Stearns (1825-97), surgeon of the 22nd Massachusetts Infantry. Correspondence (1858-64) and a copy of a history of the regiment

Unit Date 1825-1897

box-folder 4 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

"Memoirs of a Lieutenant in the Civil War," by Erie L. Ditty. Typescript, unbound memoirs with photographs of Civil War scenes

Unit Date n.d.

box-folder 4 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

"The Letters of John Lee Holt" (1829-63), edited by James A. Mumper. Published biographical essay of a Confederate soldier killed at Gettysburg during Pickett's charge

Unit Date 1829-1863

box-folder 4 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Lovell, Samuel C., 1st Lieutenant in the 4th Massachusetts Calvary, who led the escort of General Lee from the battlefield at Appomattox, Virginia in April 1865. Published descriptions and a typescript diary

Unit Date 1865

box-folder 4 (box)

Container 4 (folder)