Finding Aid to the John Lloyd Stephens Papers, 1795-1882

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Note
Social Sciences --Anthropology --ArchaeologyGeographical (By Place) --North America (excluding USA)
--MexicoGeographical (By Place) --Central America and Caribbean
Collection Summary

Collection Title: John Lloyd Stephens Papers,
Date (inclusive): 1795-1882
Collection Number: BANC MSS Z-Z 116
Creator: Stephens, John Lloyd, 1805-1852
Extent: Number of containers: 4 boxes and 2 oversize folders
Repository: The Bancroft Library

Physical Location: For current information on the location of these materials, please consult the Library’s online catalog.

Pt. II: Use positive microfilm only (BANC MSS Z-Z 116 FILM): Consult the Head of Public Services, The Bancroft Library, regarding use.

Languages Represented: Collection materials are in English, Spanish and Yucateca

Access
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**Preferred Citation**


**Proyecto de Alto Reformatorio de la Constitución.** Bogatá. 1852.

**Biographical Sketch**

John Lloyd Stephens was born November 28, 1805, in Shrewsbury, Monmouth County, New Jersey, the son of Benjamin Stephens and Clemence Lloyd Stephens. He received his A. B. degree from Columbia College in 1822 and his M. A. from Columbia in 1828. In 1824, he was graduated from the Tapping Reeve Law School in Litchfield, Connecticut. Between 1834 and 1836, he traveled extensively through Europe and the Near East, including Egypt, Arabia Petrea and Russia, and in 1837 and 1838, published accounts of his travels. Stephens' archaeological expeditions to Central America, Mexico and Yucatan were in 1839 and 1842. He was accompanied on both of these journeys by Frederick Catherwood, the British architect and artist. The result of these two tours was *Incidents of Travel in Central America*, which Stephens published in 1841, and *Incidents of Travel in Yucatan*, published in 1843. In 1847, Stephens became an official of the Ocean Steam Navigation Company and traveled to Germany, where he met Baron Alexander von Humboldt in Berlin. He later wrote of this meeting in *An hour with Humboldt*, which appeared in the *Living Age Magazine*. From 1848 to 1852, Stephens was engaged in building a railroad across the Isthmus of Panama and became president of the Panama Railroad Company. He died in New York City, Oct. 5, 1852, at the age of 47 - a victim of Chagas fever.

**Scope and Content**

Stephens' correspondence ranges from 1822 to 1852 and deals with his school days; his travels in Central America and Mexico; his appointment as diplomatic minister in charge of the American Legation in Guatemala during the revolution of 1838; his activities with the Panama Railroad Company, and correspondence and accounts, 1838-1839, of a venture to bring giraffes into the United States for various zoos. The miscellaneous papers include Stephens' will, legal accounts and deeds, dating from 1795 to 1882. Correspondence and legal Papers of Benjamin Stephens are also included. The collection was purchased from Dawson's Book Shop, Sept., 1948.

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**Box 1**

Incoming correspondence, A-G

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**Box 2**

Incoming correspondence, H-Q

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**Box 3**

Incoming correspondence, R-Z

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**Box 3**

Outgoing correspondence of John Lloyd Stephens

Letters to his father, 1822-1852

Miscellaneous letters to Secretary of State, various persons represented in correspondence, and others, 1828-1852 and undated.

**John Lloyd Stephens**

Land papers

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**Oversize folder 1**


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**Oversize folder 1**


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**Oversize folder 1**

Indentures between Frederick Beinhauer, Catherine Harsen, The Mayor, Aldermen and Commonality of the City of New York and Stephens. New York. Mar. 15, 1800; Nov. 2, 1813; May 19, 1816; July 1, 1825; Oct. 31, 1833; and Nov. 11, 1833.

Physical Description: (The whole: 6 pieces)

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**Oversize folder 1**

Two indentities between Peter Kemble and Anna Maria Lawson and Benjamin Pell. New York. Dec. 11, 1805 and May 15, 1810.

Physical Description: (The whole: 2 pieces)

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**Oversize folder 1**


Physical Description: (The whole: 2 pieces)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oversize folder 1 B</td>
<td>Deed of release of Vaughan Lloyd and Sarah Lyon Lloyd for Robert Dickey. Woolich, Kent, Great Britain. June 1, 1809.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oversize folder 1 B</td>
<td>Indentures between John Cruger and John L. Stephens. New York. Mar. 1, 1834; Nov. 1, 1836; Sept. 15, 1838; Mar. 10, 1843. Physical Description: (The whole: 4 pieces)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oversize folder 1 B</td>
<td>Indentures between Benjamin Stephens and John L. Stephens. July 21, 1834; Apr. 13, 1847; May 31, 1849; and Oct. 1, 1851. New York. Physical Description: (The whole: 4 pieces)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oversize folder 1 B</td>
<td>Indenture between John Rosenberg and John L. Stephens. New York. May 1, 1845. Physical Description: (The whole: 2 pieces)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oversize folder 1 B</td>
<td>Map of 5250 89/100 acres of land in Township 6, Range 1, Morris Reserve, Allegany County, New York.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oversize folder 1 B</td>
<td>Manuscripts and notes Scope and Content Note Description of pyramids; manuscripts in Yucateca, Spanish and English; miscellaneous. One document removed to Oversize folder 2 A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oversize folder 2 A</td>
<td>Manuscript and notes in Spanish and Yucateca</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Agreements, etc. Scope and Content Note Legal agreements on land; several re Panama Railroad Company; one concerns renting of Nile Boat.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Accounts and legal papers Scope and Content Note Includes miscellaneous bills and tax notices; various accounts of the giraffe venture; canceled checks; Stephens' will.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Miscellaneous
Scope and Content Note
Includes covers for letters; Stephens family genealogy.

Letters to Mrs. Lloyd and Clemence Lloyd Stephens
Benson, Egbert, 1746-1833
Letter, May 23, 1808. To Mrs. Lloyd re decision in law suit against General Lloyd.
Hendrickson, Charles John
7 letters, 1815-1824. To his mother, Mary Hendrickson (sister of Clemence Lloyd Stephens, John Lloyd Stephens' mother).
   Physical Description: Photostats.

Ridgeway, Helena

Letters to Benjamin Stephens (with little or no relationship to John Lloyd Stephens or his affairs).

Letters from Benjamin Stephens, 1850-1854
Scope and Content Note
Includes 7 letters to John Lloyd Stephens, one letter to John Murray.

Benjamin Stephens
Scope and Content Note
Accounts and legal papers

Adams, John T.
Anderson, C. E.
   Letter, July 24, 1851.
Arosemena, Domingo
   Letter, May 1850.
Arosemena, Justo, 1819-1894
   Letter, June 11, 1851.
Arosemena, Mariano
   Letter, Sept. 15, 1849.
Arosemena, Pablo
   Letter, May 31, 1851.
Arrutin, Murad
   Letter, Apr. 18, 1840.
Aspinwall, George W.
   4 letters, 1859-1850.
Aspinwall, William H., 1807-1875
   33 letters, 1849-1862. One addressed to E. M. Willett, Stephens' brother-in-law.
   Several relate to Stephens' estate.
Bake E. D.
   Letter, Jan. 9, 1850.
Baldwin, James S.
   2 letters, Aug. 26 & 27, 1851.
Baranda, Pedro Sainz de, 1787-1845
   Letter, Apr. 20, 1842.
Baring Brothers Company
   Letter, Mar. 16, 1890.
Barnum, Phineas Taylor, 1810-1891

Bartlett, Edwin
Letter, Oct. 11, 1849.

Bascom, Ansel
Letter, May 13, 1847.

Belmont, Auguste, 1816-1890
2 letters, Apr.-July 1851. As Austrian Consul General.

Bennett, John A.
2 letters, June 28, 1850.

Bernhisel, John Milton, 1799-1881
Letter, Nov. 20, 1850.

Blair, James
2 letters, July, Aug. 1849.

Borland, M. W.
Letter, May 24, 1852.

Bowly, Daniel
Letter, July 7, 1852.

Bradley, H. W.
Letter, Mar. 30, 1850.

Brewster, S.
2 letters, 1850-1851.

British Residents
Draft of a petition, Apr. 2, 1838. Addressed to William Wall, British vice consul, complaining of action of Carrera’s troops and requesting to remain British subjects.

[Guatemala]
Brotherhood of the Monastery of Mt. Sinai

Brown, A.
Letter, n.d.

Brown, Ezekiel
Letter, Feb. 28, 1850.

Burwell, D.
Letter, Jan. 18, 1847.

Carrera, Rafael, 1814-1865
2 letters, 1838. As President of Guatemala.

Casserly, Eugene, 1822-1883
Letter, Sept. 6, 1850.

Catherwood, Frederick, 1799-1854
18 letters, 1839-1852.

Center, A. J.
4 letters, Apr.-Aug. 1852. As Vice-President of Panama Rail Road Company.

Champomier, J. L.
4 letters, July-Sept. 1831.

Chappell, E.

Chatfield, Frederick
3 letters, 1840-1851.

Additional Note
As British Chargé d'affaires.

Chauncey, Henry, 1795-
10 letters, Mar.-June 1851. One of three main partners in Panama Rail Road Company (Aspinwall and Stephens other two).

Church, John B.
5 letters, 1837-1851. One letter addressed to David Greig, attorney.
Coit(?), H. A.
   2 letters, July 11 & 14, n.d.
Collamer, Jacob, 1791-1865
Conner, Edward
   Letter, July 20, 1849.
Crosswell, Edwin, 1797-1871
   Letter, Apr. 15, 1852.
Cruger, John Church
   2 letters, Sept. 19, 1851.
Curtis, Edmund
   2 letters, May 7 & 8, 1852.
D’Autremont, Charles
   Letter, Aug. 5, 1850.
Davidge, William H.
   2 letters, 1849-1850.
Davosen, Lucius
   Letter, n.d.
Dickinson, Daniel Stevens, 1800-1866
   Letter, Mar. 10, 1852.
Douglas, Stephen Arnold, 1813-1861
   2 letters, Aug.-Dec., 1850.
Duer, William Alexander, 1780-1858
   Letter, Dec. 1851.
Dunlop, A.
   Letter, Jan. 5, 1851.
Echeverria, Miguel
   Letter, Dec. 10, 1839.
Fisher, George
   2 letters, July-Aug. 1850.
Fountain, E. J.
Fray, Ellis
   Letter, May 8, 1848.
Froncoso, Santiago
   2 letters, June-Oct. 1850.
Gaitan, J. M.
   Letter, n.d.
Gerolt, Friedrich Carl Joseph, Baron von
   Letter, Sept. 12, 1850. Introducing George Steenke. With mention of a bust of Baron von Humboldt that Steenke is bringing with him.
Gidding, James
   Letter, Jan., 1852.
Gliddon, George Robins, 1809-1857
   7 letters, 1838-1841. Mostly addressed to Francis Griffin; primarily concerning giraffe venture.
Gliddon, John
   6 letters, 1838-1839. Mostly addressed to Francis Griffin; primarily concerning the giraffe venture.
Gonzalez, Domingo
   2 letters, Nov.-Dec. 1840.
Goodin, Joseph
   3 letters, Mar.-May, 1851.
Gordon, William
   Letter, July 20, 1850.
Goss, E. H.
   Letter, Feb. 24, 1853.
Green, Edmund B.
  Letter, Mar. 25, 1852.
Griffin, Francis
  4 letters, 1850-1851.
Guerrero, Maximo
  2 letters, Apr. 4, 1840.
Gutierrez, Clemente
  Letter, Mar. 25, 1852.
Gutierrez, J. Posada
  3 letters, Apr.-July 1852.
Hamilton, Alexander, 1786-1875
  Letter, Nov. 13, 1849.
Hamilton, Philip, 1802-1884
  Letter, May, 1851.
Halsted, Mina B.
Harper & Brothers., Publishers
Harris, A.
  Letter, Dec. 4, 1850.
Herran, Pedro Alcántara, 1800-1872
  6 letters, 1848-1850.
Hitchins & Company
  Letter, May 18, 1852.
Hobart, D.
  Letter, n.d.
Hodel, Edouard
  Letter, Aug. 31, 1852. Concerning the railroad project at Chagres. In French.
Howe, Chester
  Letter, Nov. 15, 1850.
Howland, G. G.
  Letter, Sept. 16, 1851.
Hughes, George Wurtz, 1806-1870
  5 letters, 1849-1850.
Huith & Lewis
  Letter, Apr. 5, 1851.
Humboldt, Alexander Freiherr von, 1769-1859
Hurtado, Carmen D. de
  2 letters, Nov.-Dec. 1850.
Irving, Pierre P.
  Letter, Sept. 17, 1849.
Jelin, John A.
  Letter, July 9, 1851.
Jewett, E. R.
  Letter, Aug. 30, 1850.
Julien & Cantine
  Letter, Aug. 27, 1851.
Kemble, Gouverneur, 1786-1875
  8 letters, 1849-1852.
Kemble, W.
  Letter, Oct. 3, 1838. To Francis Griffin, concerning giraffe venture.
Kendrick, William P.
  Letter, Oct. 12, 1835.
King, Emily
  Letter, n.d.
King, Gelveston(?) P.  
Letter, May 14, 1852.

Langdon, Richard F.  
Letter, Jan. 31, 1850.

Laurence, Abbott  
Letter, Jan. 29, 1851.

Laurence, C. H.  
Letter, Mar. 22, 1852.

Leeds, J. William  
Will, June 20, 1735(?)

Leslie, Frank, 1821-1880  
See Barnum, Phineas Taylor

Liot, W. B.  
2 letters, Apr.-June 1852.

Lippincott, Benjamin L.  
5 letters, 1849-1855.

Livingston, C.  
Letter, July 11, 1850.

Livingston, Schuyler  
Letter, May 13, 1851.

Lopez, General  
Letter, June 5, 1850.

Lord, Daniel  
Letter, Nov. 28, 1822.

Ludewig, Hermann Ernst, 1809-1856  
Letter, Aug. 8, 1850.

Ludlow, George W.  
8 letters, 1829-1851.

Lyman & Marsh  
Letter, May 14, 1839.

McGeachy, E.  
2 letters, 1849.

McVickar, John, 1787-1868  
Letter, June 21, 1849.

Mathew, George W.  
9 letters, 1850-1852.

Maury, Mathew Fontaine, 1806-1873  
Letter, Dec, 20, 1847.

Medina, Crisanto  
2 letters, Jan.-Mar., 1850.

Merrill, Arthur  

Miles & Wilson  
2 letters, 1845-1847.

Morales, Luis  
Receipt, Apr. 14, 1840.

Morton, H.  

Morton, Samuel George, 1799-1851  

Mosquera, Tomas Cipriano de, 1798-1878  
4 letters, 1850-1851.

Muñez Concepción Garcia  
8 receipts, Jan.-Feb., 1840. Addressed to Henry Savage.

Murray, John  
3 letters, 1826-1854.

Nelson, W.
4 letters, 1849-1850.

New Jersey Historical Society
    Letter, Jan. 21, 1850.

Obaldia, Jose de
    3 letters, Sept.-Nov., 1850.

Oelrichs, Herman

O’Leary, Florencia
    4 letters, 1850-1852.

Otis, James W.
    Letter, Sept. 18, 1851.

Opais, V.
    Letter, Apr. 5, 1840.

Palmer, Aaron H.
    4 letters, 1838. 3 letters to Mehemet Ali, one letter to George Gilddon; primarily concerning giraffe venture.

Paredes, Victoriano de Diego
    10 letters, 1850. One letter to Benjamin Stephens.

Patterson, Robert, 1792-1881
    Letter, July 20, 1850.

Patterson, Robert L.
    Letter, May 28, 1850.

Pérez Juan Pio, 1798-1859
    Letter, Apr. 14, 1842.

Perry, William
    Letter, Apr. 16, 1851.

Philomathean Society
    Letter, Nov. 5, 1849.

Potter, Reuben M.
    Letter, Mar. 23, 1839.

Prescott, William Hickling, 1796-1859
    Letter, Nov. 12, 1849. Introducing a Mr. Goff.

Preston, Francis M.
    2 letters, May-July 1851.

Putnam, George Palmer, 1814-1872

Quezada, Manuel Moro
    Letter, Mar. 31, 1850.

Rawson, Abel
    2 letters, July 24 & Nov. 17, 1845.

Rivas, Concepcion Tejada de
    2 letters, Apr. 12-17, 1850.

Rivas, Rafael
    3 letters, 1849-1851.

Rockwell, John Arnold, 1803-1861
    3 letters, 1849-1851.

Rodriguez, Jose
    Description of Xul, Feb. 2, 1842.

Ruggles, Cadwalader
    Letter, July 18, 1851.

Ruggles, Samuel Bulkley, 1800-1881

Ruiz, Enrique
    Letter, Oct. 1, 1840.

Samper, J. M.
    Letter, Oct. 8, 1850.

Sandar & Company
Letter, Sept. 28, 1850.
Sanchez, Ramón Leon
  2 letters, Mar. 29, 1850.
Savage, Henry
  Letter, June 25, 1849.
Sellers, George E.
  Letter, Sept. 2, 1851.
Shields, James, 1810-1879
Sinclair, William C.
  Letter, Dec. 16, 1843.
Slater, Eli
Slater, John L.
  Letter, Dec. 6, 1836.
Smith, Buckingham, 1810-1871
  Letter, Sept. 17, 1852.
Smith, David
  Letter, Sept. 13, 1850.
Smith, H. G.
  Letter, n.d.
Spies, Francis
  9 letters, 1851-1852.
Steipel, G.
  4 letters, July-Dec. 1850.
Stephens, Amelia Ann
  Letter, May 31, 1850.
Stephens, Benjamin Franklin
  2 letters, 1850-1851.
Stephens, J. Pratt
  2 letters, 1850-1852.
Strong, George Washington, 1783-1855
  Letter, May 10, 1852.
Swain, Samuel
  3 letters, 1849-1851.
Sylvester, John W.
  Letter, June 26, 1851.
Tewksbury, B. F.
  Letter, April 24, 1852.
Tilden, Samuel Jones, 1814-1866
  2 letters, 1849-1850.
Totten, George Muirson, 1809-1884
  4 letters, June-Dec. 1850.
Tracy, H.
  Letter, April 25, 1848.
U.S. Dept. of State
  Letter, Apr. 27, 1844. To Francis Griffin, closing account of John Glidden, Edward Stubbs, agent.
Van Alen, James H.
  Letter, n.d.
Van Buren, John Dash, 1811-1885
  2 letters, 1850-1851.
Vanderpoel, J.
  2 letters, July 26 & Aug. 5, 1851.
Vour(?), William H.
Wales, Brogton (?)
Weber, George
  Letter, May 4, 1851. In French.
Whipple, John Adams, 1822-
  Letter, July 30, 1851.
Whiting, J. L. & Adams
  Letter, Jan. 28, 1847. Regarding purchase of a lot in Detroit.
Winthrop, William
  Letter, Oct. 31, 1850.
Wright, Elin & Company
  2 letters, 1848. Addressed to John Salmon and J. L. Phillips, introducing John L.
  Stephens.
Yriarte, Juan B. de
  Letter, Jan. 24, 1850.
Zachrisson, Ernest
  6 letters, 1850-1851.

Ainslie, R.
  Letter, Sept. 28, n.d.
Ambler, C. C.
  2 letters, 1849-1853.
Battles, John P.
  Letter, July 19, 1852.
Beardsley, J.
  Letter, Aug. 31, 1852.
Beebe & Hallett
  Letter, July 8, 1852.
Benallack, P.
  2 letters, 1848-1849.
Bostwick, John H.
  2 letters, Nov. 15 & 20, 1816.
Brown, John L.
  Letter, July 12, 1822.
Daugherty, Charles
  7 letters, 1847-1851. Includes one to Ezra Denison.
Dawson, Abel
  Letter, Dec. 12, 1844.
Dean, E.
  2 letters, 1834-1841.
Denston, Charles
  Letter, July 25, 1833.
Douglass, R. H.
  Apr. 10, 1840. Containing copy of letter, Apr. 2, 1840, from McMain, Ellmaker and
  Ash to George Douglass.
Freeman, M. H.
  Letter, Oct. 25, 1847.
Hanlon, T.
  2 letters, May 29 & Sept. 29, 1854.
Hartshorne, J. M.
  Letter, Dec. 16, 1833. Addressed to his uncle.
Janeway & Company
  Letter, Oct. 28, 1853.
Lines, C. L.
  Letter, Aug. 17, 1875.
McMain, Ellmaker & Ash
  Letter, Apr. 11, 1840.
Parmly, E.
  Letter, Nov. 16, 1841.
Peck, George H.
  6 letters, Apr.-Nov. 1842.
Rawson, A.
  Letter, Mar. 29, 1852.
Ridgeway, Caleb
  Letter, Aug. 5, 1849. Addressed to his uncle.
Riley, John
  Letter, Nov. 14, 1853.
Roosevelt, Cornelius Van Schaik, 1794-1871
  Letter, July 23, 1846.
Saint Luke’s Hospital
Slocumb, Clemence
  Letter, July 19, 1850. To her uncle.
Smith, Elias L.
  Letter, Sept. 13, 1854.
Stephens, Ann
  Letter, Apr. 19, 1832. To her brother.
Stephens, Clemence
  Letter, Sept. 4, 1814. To her husband.
Sullivan, R. B.
  Letter, Aug. 3, 1833.
Swain, Samuel, Jr.
  3 letters, 1834-1851.
Taylor, Edward
  Letter, July 21, 1852. Addressed to his uncle.
Thomson, William A.
  Letter, n.d.
Throckmorton, Edmond
  4 letters, 1838-1850.
Tucker, Joseph
  2 letters, Apr.-June 1851.
Vrooman, Adam
  Letter, Sept. 18, 1841.
Wells & Bushnell
  Letter, Aug. 21, 1834.
Whiting & Adams
  6 letters, 1846-1851.
Willet, Edward M.
  Letter, Sept. 7, 1854. To his father-in-law.
Winkle, J. S.
  Letter, Feb. 17, 1816.
Wolcott, Benjamin
  2 letters, 1845-1855.
Wood, J. S.
  Letter, Apr. 5, 1842.