Frank Winthrop Stetson Papers

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2017
Descriptive Summary
Title: Frank Winthrop Stetson Papers
Dates: 1857-1963
Collection Number: 2017_16
Creator/Collector: Stetson, Frank Winthrop
Extent: 12 archives boxes; 5 linear feet.
Repository: Sherman Library and Gardens
Corona del Mar, California 92625
Abstract: The collection contains the personal, business and family papers of Frank Winthrop Stetson. This includes correspondence related to his education at UC Berkeley, his surveying work in San Jacinto, CA, his agricultural pursuits in Hemet, and his involvement with various local civic and social organizations.
Language of Material: English
Access
This collection is open for research.
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Preferred Citation
Frank Winthrop Stetson Papers. Sherman Library and Gardens
Acquisition Information
The collection was donated to the Sherman Library by Horace Parker, 1970-1974.
Biography
Frank Winthrop Stetson (1877-1963) was born in Watertown, Massachusetts, to Charles Thomas (1847-1935) and Lillie F. Hall Stetson (1855-1930). He moved to California in 1899 and studied engineering at the University of California, Berkeley, graduating in 1902. He moved to Hemet, in Riverside County, California, in 1902, and the remainder of his family moved to Hemet from Boston later that same year. Frank pursued surveying and engineering work, and he served as city engineer for Hemet from the time of the city’s incorporation in 1910 until he retired in 1959. He also served as city engineer for San Jacinto and as a member of the San Jacinto Planning Commission. He also pursued agricultural interests in Hemet, growing potatoes, citrus and other crops for sale on the family’s Samoset Ranch. Stetson was also active in the Hemet Odd Fellows Lodge, the Comfort Rebakah Lodge of Hemet, and the Star encampment I.O.O.F. of Riverside.
Scope and Content of Collection
The collection contains the personal, business and family papers of Frank Winthrop Stetson. This includes correspondence related to his education at UC Berkeley, his surveying work, his agricultural pursuits in Hemet, and his involvement with various local civic and social organizations. The family correspondence, which includes some of the oldest materials in the collection, includes not only letters between Frank W. Stetson and his immediate family but also letters sent to his parents by other extended Stetson and Hall family members over several years’ time. The largest amount of family correspondence is addressed to Frank’s mother, Lillie F. Hall Stetson (1855-1930), and it includes letters from both family members and friends.
Arranged alphabetically, much of the correspondence addressed to Frank W. Stetson appears to be responses to his inquiries about various publications, instruments, tools, agricultural products and real estate. Of note in the collection is correspondence from the Hemet Land and Water Companies, for whom Stetson did some early surveying work, and letters from various Southern California nurseries, wholesalers and agricultural cooperatives (including Loeb, Fleishman & Co. and several area fruit exchanges affiliated with Sunkist) related to Stetson’s activities as a grower of potatoes and citrus. Correspondence and advertisements from several publishers and magazines, including Engineering News, Doubleday, Page & Co., Out West, Dodd, Mead & Co., and the offices of John Wanamaker, reflect Stetson’s interest in reading not only contemporary literature but also in acquiring books regarding engineering and agriculture.
Other interesting items in the collection include minutes from meetings of the Commonwealth Club of California from the late 1940s and early 1950s. A large assortment of ephemera, including receipts, programs for theatrical and musical productions, invitations, and printed brochures regarding various schools in both California and Massachusetts, demonstrate not only the day-to-day lives of the Stetson family but also the social and economic worlds of Southern California and the Boston area during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Four small artifacts, primarily
buttons and ribbons from different events and organizations, are in envelopes at the end of the collection.

1. **Correspondence to Frank Winthrop Stetson (Boxes 1-3)**
   The correspondence is arranged alphabetically by name. Small groups or single letters from individuals or businesses are filed alphabetically in folders identified by the first letter of the filing name (i.e., “A,” “B,” “C,” etc.), and larger numbers of letters from a single correspondent are filed separately in their own folder. Correspondents for whom a last name does not appear are filed under the first letter of their first name. In some cases, ephemeral items such as clippings, receipts or brochures accompany correspondence with which they were originally sent.

2. **Agricultural correspondence to Frank Winthrop Stetson (Box 4)**
   This series is arranged similarly to the one described above.

3. **Stetson family correspondence (Boxes 5-9)**
   This series is arranged in alphabetical order by addressee, then by alphabetically by author.

4. **Manuscript items and subject files (Box 10)**

5. **Ephemera (Boxes 11-12)**

**Indexing Terms**
- Agriculture – California – Hemet.
- Agriculture – California, Southern.
- City engineers – California – Riverside County.
- Real property – California – Riverside County.
- Surveying – California – Riverside County.
- Stetson, Lillie F. Hall
- Stetson
- Riverside County (Calif.).
- Hemet (Calif.).
- Massachusetts.
- Engineer
- Surveyor

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**Correspondence to France Winthrop Stetson**

- Box 1
- Folder 1  A 1898-1922
- Folder 2  Adolf Frese Optical Co. (Los Angeles, Calif.) 1902-1907
- Folder 3  Alexander, Marguerite [folder 1 of 2] 1944-1948
- Folder 5  B 1898-1948
- Folder 6  The Benjamin-Dixon Co. (Port Huron, Mich.) 1906
- Folder 7  C 1894-1922
- Folder 8  Colman, William T. 1900-1904
- Folder 9  Comfort Rebekah Lodge #293, I.O.O.F. (Hemet, Calif.) 1917-1951
- Folder 10  D 1899-1949
- Folder 11  Dodd, Mead & Company (Chicago, Ill.) 1903-1904
- Folder 12  Doubleday Page & Co. (New York, N.Y.) 1904-1905
- Folder 13  E 1899-1919
- Folder 14  Engineering News (New York, N.Y.) 1906-1907
- Folder 15  Engineering Record (New York, N.Y.) 1907, n.d.
- Folder 16  F 1899-1918
- Folder 17  Foster, Frank A. 1895-1907
- Folder 18  G 1899-1948
- Folder 19  Gibson, R.H. 1919
- Box 2
- Folder 1  H 1897-1945
Folder 2  Hemet Land and Water Companies 1895-1913
Folder 3  I 1898-1919
Folder 5  International Order of Odd Fellows (I.O.O.F.) Lodge #190 (Hemet, Calif.) 1907-1951, n.d.
Folder 6  J 1899-1931
Folder 7  K 1899-1919
Folder 8  L 1898-1948
Folder 9  M 1894-1951
Folder 10  Mc/Mac 1896-1914
Folder 11  Miracle Pressed Stone Company (Minneapolis, Minn.) 1906-1907
Folder 12  Moore's Subscription Agency (Brockport, N.Y.) 1906-1907
Folder 13  Murphy, G.A. 1901-1906
Folder 14  N 1899-1951
Folder 15  O 1901-1933
Folder 16  Ostrander, W.M. 1903-1906
Folder 17  The Outlook (New York, N.Y.) 1904-1905
Folder 18  Out West Co. (Los Angeles, Calif.) 1904
Folder 19  The Outlook (New York, N.Y.) 1904-1905
Folder 20  Owen, Nancy C. (Miller) 1945-1949
Folder 21  P 1901-1949
Folder 22  Pacific Coast Home Supply Ass’n. (Los Angeles, Calif.) 1904
Folder 23  The Pierce Cycle Company (Oakland, Calif.) 1907
Folder 24  The Protective Savings Mutual Building and Loan Association (Los Angeles, Calif.) 1902-1903
Folder 25  Public Opinion [magazine] 1904-1905
Box 3
Folder 1  R 1900-1919
Folder 2  Riverside Bazaar Company (Riverside, Calif.) 1904-1906
Folder 3  Riverside County (Calif.) 1903-1951
Folder 4  Riverside County (Calif.). Surveyor 1906-1951
Folder 5  S 1898-1950
Folder 6  Sun Advertising Bureau (Chicago, Ill.) 1900, n.d.
Folder 7  T 1898-1930, n.d.
Folder 8  U 1902-1904
Folder 9  United States. Civil Service Commission 1898
Folder 10  V 1906
Folder 11  W 1899-1951
Folder 12  Wanamaker, John 1901-1904
Folder 13  Wm. H. Hoegee Co. (Los Angeles, Calif.) 1902
Folder 14  Young Men’s Christian Association 1898-1910
Folder 15  Letters from Frank Winthrop Stetson to various persons 1898-1931
Folder 16  Fragments
Folder 17  Unidentified correspondents
Folder 18  Empty envelopes

Agricultural Correspondence to France Winthrop Stetson

Box 4
Folder 1  A-G 1902-1918
Folder 2  The Chase Nursery Company (Riverside, Calif.) 1902-1905
Folder 3  Ennis-Brown Company (Sacramento, Calif.) 1903-1904
Folder 4  Fancher Creek Nurseries (Fresno, Calif.) 1901-1907
Folder 5  Germain Seed and Plant Co. (Los Angeles, Calif.) 1903-1906
Folder 6  H-O 1899-1924
Folder 7  Hemet Orange Growers’ Association (Hemet, Calif.) 1919
Folder 8  Keystone Produce Co. (Los Angeles, Calif.) 1903
Folder 9  Kirkman Nurseries (Fresno, Calif.) 1907
Folder 10  Loeb, Fleishman & Co. (Los Angeles, Calif.) [folder 1 of 2] 1904

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<td>Artifact: Ribbon &amp; button from Southern California W.C.T.U. 48th annual convention 1928</td>
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<td>Folder 0</td>
<td>Artifact: Ribbon &amp; button from American Institute of Mining and Metallurgical Engineers regional meeting 1932</td>
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<td>Folder 0</td>
<td>Ribbon: Native Sons of the Golden West 1888</td>
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<td>Folder</td>
<td>Button: University of California Extension School, Citriculture, Orange 1927</td>
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