

# **John H. Stevens Collection**

**Finding aid prepared by Stewart Van Cleve**

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

James K. Hosmer Special Collections Library

1/8/2014

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository</b>	James K. Hosmer Special Collections Library
<b>Title</b>	John H. Stevens Collection
<b>Date</b>	1844-1858
<b>Extent</b>	0.21 Linear feet
<b>Language</b>	English

## Biography

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John Harrington Stevens (1820–1900) was the first non-native resident on the west side of the Mississippi River in present-day Minneapolis. He operated a ferry across the river before the construction of the first Hennepin Avenue Bridge and subsequently became a colonel in the U.S. Army. He later served in the Minnesota Legislature.

Stevens Sqaure Park is named after him, and his wood frame home, moved from its original location at the current site of the Federal Reserve building, is now a museum in Minnehaha Park.

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## Description of Collection

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The John H. Stevens collection consists of one box of hadwritten letters written by Stevens to members of his family, transcriptions of those letters, a transcribed speech delivered by Stevens to the Minneapolis Lyceum about the early history of Hennepin County, clippings containing biographical information, and correspondence between the collection's donor and Minneapolis Public Library Staff.

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Information

James K. Hosmer Special Collections Library 1/8/2014

### Donor Information

The letters were donated to the library by Louise Williams, Stevens' grand-neice, in 1955. The transcribed letters were presumably created at the library's request.

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## Controlled Access Headings

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**Geographic Name(s)**

- Minneapolis (Minn.) -- History.
- Minnesota -- History.

**Personal Name(s)**

- Stevens, John H.(John Harrington), 1820-1900

## Collection Inventory

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
<b>Biography of John H. Stevens 1856-1958</b>	1	1
<b>Controlled Access Headings</b>		
<b>Personal Name(s)</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stevens, John H.(John Harrington), 1820-1900</li> </ul>		
<b>Clippings 1879-1958</b>	<b>Box</b> 1	<b>Folder</b> 1
"He Built the First Minneapolis Dwelling" Undated		
<b>General note</b>		
Includes a reprinted photo of John H. Stevens		
<b>Controlled Access Headings</b>		
<b>Geographic Name(s)</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minneapolis (Minn.) -- Buildings, structures, etc.</li> <li>• Minneapolis (Minn.) -- History.</li> </ul>		
<b>Personal Name(s)</b>		

**Clippings**

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- Stevens, John H.(John Harrington), 1820-1900

"Colonel John H. Stevens, first Minneapolis settler on the west side of the Mississippi" Undated

**General note**

Includes a reprinted photo of John H. Stevens.

**Custodial History note**

Created as a biographical file at Minneapolis Central Library.

**Controlled Access Headings****Geographic Name(s)**

- Minneapolis (Minn.) -- History.

**Personal Name(s)**

- Stevens, John H.(John Harrington), 1820-1900

"Mrs. John H. Stevens Follows Her Husband Into the Beyond" from the Minneapolis Journal,  
"Col Stevens Only Living Daughter, Mrs. Peck, Marks Golden Wedding" from the Minneapolis  
Tribune 12/30/1937; 5/15/1902 Clippings are pasted on cardboard with one story on either side.

**General note**

Includes reprinted photo of Orma Peck, John H. Stevens' daughter, and her husband, as well as a photo of the Stevens house.

**Controlled Access Headings**

## Clippings

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### **Geographic Name(s)**

- Minneapolis (Minn.) -- History.

### **Subject(s)**

- Obituaries

"Founders of Minnesota" group photograph from the Minneapolis Journal 6/10/1934 Clipping is oversized and folded.

### **Controlled Access Headings**

### **Geographic Name(s)**

- Minnesota -- History.

### **Personal Name(s)**

- Ramsey, Alexander, 1815-1903
- Stevens, John H.(John Harrington), 1820-1900

"John Harrington Stevens" by Betty Engebretsen Winter 1958

### **General note**

Published in the Gopher Historian. Created as a biographical file at Minneapolis Central Library.

### **Controlled Access Headings**



## Speeches

**Geographic Name(s)**

- Minneapolis (Minn.) -- History.

**Personal Name(s)**

- Stevens, John H.(John Harrington), 1820-1900

Portrait of John H. Stevens 1879

**General note**

Removed from a book.

**Controlled Access Headings****Personal Name(s)**

- Stevens, John H.(John Harrington), 1820-1900

Speeches 1856	Box	Folder
Stevens, John H.(John Harrington), 1820-1900 Transcript of John H. Stevens' speech on the early history of Hennepin County at the Minneapolis Lyceum 1856	1	2
<b>General note</b> John H. Stevens gives his recollections and impressions of Lewis [sic] Hennepin, St. Anthony Falls, Native Americans, life at Fort Snelling, early immigrants, Lake Calhoun, Lake Harriet, Lake		

## Correspondence

Minnetonka, missionaries, early Minneapolis churches, and other early settlers. The transcript includes advertisements from territorial lawyers and businessmen.

### Controlled Access Headings

#### Geographic Name(s)

- Calhoun, Lake (Minn.)
- Fort Snelling (Minn.)
- Harriet, Lake (Minn.)
- Minneapolis (Minn.) -- History.
- Minnetonka, Lake (Minn.)
- Saint Anthony Falls (Minn.)

#### Subject(s)

- Congregational churches -- Minnesota -- Minneapolis.
- Indians of North America -- Mississippi River Valley.
- Preaching to non-church-affiliated people -- Minnesota -- Minneapolis

### Correspondence

Donation Information 1955	Box	Folder
	1	3

Mailing envelope with text Undated

#### General note

Evelope has a note from Louise Williams that explains the letters she donated were originally written for her family members.

## Letters from John H. Stevens

Letter from Louise Williams to Glenn Lewis (Minneapolis Public Library) 9/15/1955

Letter from Louise Williams to Carl Vitz (Minneapolis Public Library) 9/8/1955

Letter from Glenn Lewis (Minneapolis Public Library) to Louise Williams 9/12/1955

### Scope and Contents note

The letter thanks Williams for the donation of four letters written by John. H Stevens.

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
<b>Stevens, John H.(John Harrington), 1820-1900 Letters from John H. Stevens 1844-1865</b>	1	4

### Arrangement note

Original letters are followed by a typewritten transcript of their content.

Stevens, John H.(John Harrington), 1820-1900 Letter to Gardner Stevens, Jr. from John H. Stevens, January 11th, 1844 1/11/1844

### Controlled Access Headings

#### Subject(s)

- Scarletina
- Smallpox

Stevens, John H.(John Harrington), 1820-1900 Transcript of letter to Gardner Stevens, Jr. from John H. Stevens, January 11th, 1844 Undated

Letters from John H. Stevens

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**Controlled Access Headings**

**Subject(s)**

- Scarlatina
- Smallpox

Stevens, John H.(John Harrington), 1820-1900 Letter to Gardner Stevens, Sr. from John H. Stevens, March 17th, 1844 3/17/1844

**Controlled Access Headings**

**Subject(s)**

- Influenza.
- River steamers -- Mississippi River.

Transcript of letter to Gardner Stevens, Sr. from John H. Stevens, March 17th, 1844 Undated

**Controlled Access Headings**

**Personal Name(s)**

- Stevens, John H.(John Harrington), 1820-1900

**Subject(s)**

- Influenza.

Letters from John H. Stevens

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- River steamers -- Mississippi River.

Letter to Relief Spofford from John H. Stevens, August 27th, 1848 8/27/1848

**Controlled Access Headings**

**Subject(s)**

- Gifts.

Transcript of letter to Relief Spofford from John H. Stevens, August 27th, 1848 Undated

**Controlled Access Headings**

**Subject(s)**

- Gifts.

Stevens, John H.(John Harrington), 1820-1900 Letter to Gardner Stevens, Jr. from John H. Stevens, February 20th, 1858 2/20/1858

**Controlled Access Headings**

**Subject(s)**

- Legislators -- Minnesota -- Anecdotes

Transcript of letter to Gardner Stevens, Jr. from John H. Stevens, February 20th, 1858.

Letters from John H. Stevens

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**Controlled Access Headings**

**Subject(s)**

- Legislators -- Minnesota -- Anecdotes

Stevens, John H.(John Harrington), 1820-1900 Letter to Mr. Furguson from John H. Stevens, October 20th, 1865 10/20/1865

**Controlled Access Headings**

**Subject(s)**

- Commercial correspondence