

Guide to the Russell Sturgis, Jr., Family Papers

MS 2046



compiled by Christine Connolly

December 2016

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Manuscripts and Archives
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CALL NUMBER: MS 2046

CREATOR: Sturgis, Russell, 1836-1909

TITLE: Russell Sturgis, Jr., papers

DATES: 1808-circa 1940

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 3.67 linear feet (6 boxes)

LANGUAGE: The materials are in English.

SUMMARY: The papers primarily document the personal and family life of Russell Sturgis, Jr., and include little documentation of his professional career as an architect except for clippings of articles, reviews, and obituaries contained in a scrapbook. The bulk of the collection consists of family correspondence, including letters, dated 1863-1864, written by Sturgis' brother, Appleton, while serving in the Union army, and early writings from Sturgis' college years. There are also sketchbooks of landscape and architectural drawings from European trips taken by Sturgis, dated 1858-1883, as well as a small number of family photographs.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.2046>

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Manuscripts and Archives reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.2046>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please go to http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr_copy_order.html. The information you will need to submit an order includes: the collection call number, collection title, series or accession number, box number, and folder number or name.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Alexander Finley and Beatrice Sturgis Bartlett, 2016.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

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Preferred Citation

Russell Sturgis, Jr., Family Papers (MS 2046). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

Biographical / Historical

Russell Sturgis, Jr. (1836-1909), the son of Russell (1804-1873) and Margaret Dawes Appleton Sturgis, was born in Chantilly, Baltimore County, Delaware. He was the oldest of four children, with two brothers, Appleton and Edward, and a sister, Kate. The family's primary residence was in New York City, where Russell, Jr., graduated from the Free Academy of New York (now the City College of New York) in 1856. He studied architecture under Leopold Eidlitz and then, in 1858, travelled to Europe, where he spent some time studying in Munich. After returning to America in 1862, he married Sarah Maria Barney, daughter of Danford N. Barney, in 1864. They had seven children: Margaret (Mrs. Hector W. Thomas), Danford N. B. (a twin brother of Danford died at birth), Beatrice Cynthia Barney (Mrs. Philip Golden Bartlett), Sarah B., and twins Lyman B. (Van) and Edward B. Sturgis was an architect who designed buildings across the eastern part of the country, with the majority in New York state and Connecticut. These included four buildings at Yale: Farnham Hall (1868), Durfee Hall (1870), Battell Chapel (1872-73), and Lawrance Hall (1884). While not unsuccessful as an architect, he was more well-known as a commentator on architecture and art. He was a prolific author of articles published in the popular press and in professional journals. In addition to editing *Dictionary of Architecture and Building* and a revision of Wilhelm Lübke's *Outline of the History of Art*, he was the author of several volumes, including *European Architecture: A Historical Study*, *How to Judge Architecture*, and *A History of Architecture*. He was active in many professional and artistic organizations, including the American Institute of Architects and the Metropolitan Museum of Art. He received an honorary degree from Yale in 1872 and served as the Chair of Architecture and the Arts of Design at City College from 1878-to-1880, when ill health led him to retire from his professorship and to curtail his architectural practice. He continued write and lecture on art and architecture until shortly before his death on February 11, 1909 in New York City.

Scope and Contents

The papers primarily document the personal and family life of Russell Sturgis, Jr., and include little documentation of his professional career as an architect except for clippings of articles, reviews, and

obituaries contained in a scrapbook. The bulk of the collection consists of family correspondence, including letters, dated 1863-1864, written by Sturgis' brother, Appleton, while serving in the Union army, and early writings from Sturgis' college years. There are also sketchbooks of landscape and architectural drawings from European trips taken by Sturgis, dated 1858-1883, as well as a small number of family photographs.

Arrangement

The materials are arranged according to document type.

Collection Contents

General		
b. 1, f. 1	Biographical notes by Mrs. Russell Sturgis	After 1860
b. 6, f. 2	Citations (photocopies)	1891-1896
Diaries		
b. 1, f. 2	Margaret Sturgis Thomas reference diary	1897-1911
b. 1, f. 3	Russell Sturgis	1852-1855
b. 1, f. 4	Notebook Russell Sturgis recorded synopses of letters sent during his European travels. There are also loose pages of notes from his time in Italy.	1859-1860
b. 1, f. 5	Notes on vocal lessons and a copy of Clionian Society of New York Free Academy constitution	Circa 1851
b. 1, f. 6	Obituary notices for Sturgis	1909 February
b. 1, f. 7	Passport	1859-1860
Photographs		
b. 1, f. 8	Family	Circa 1850-mid 20th century
b. 1, f. 9	Sarah M. Barney Sturgis, age 21	Circa 1858
b. 5	Triptych of family portraits A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at beinecke.library@yale.edu to request access to the digital copy.	Circa 1850-circa 1880
b. 6, f. 1	Scrapbook	1897-1910
Sketchbooks		
b. 1, f. 10	Compiled sketches of architectural detail and decorative items	1859-1895
b. 1, f. 11	French village life and landscapes	1883
b. 1, f. 12	Italian architectural detail	1860
Correspondence		1808-1907
b. 2, f. 1-17	General Much of this correspondence details family life of the Sturgis children. There are also letters from Appleton Sturgis describing his service in the Union Army, 1863-1864.	1808-1907, undated
b. 3, f. 1	A., E. D.	1851-1852
b. 3, f. 2	Cuyler, M. M.	1860-1861

b. 3, f. 3	From children	1873-1874
b. 3, f. 4	To children while living abroad	1883, 1887
b. 3, f. 5	From family while travelling east from Montpelier	1881 February-March
b. 3, f. 6	Sturgis, Catherine	1856-1862
	Writings	1848-1867
	These documents are arranged in chronological order.	
b. 4, f. 1	Compositions written at N. Thayer's school	1848-1851
b. 4, f. 2	Essays, New York Free Academy, class DC (freshman)	1852-1853
b. 4, f. 3	"Macauley As a Poet," for the Clionian Society English	1854 March 17
b. 4, f. 4	"The Loss of the Arctic," for the Clionian Society English	1854 October 20
b. 4, f. 5	Article contributed to <i>Clionian Magazine</i>	1854-1855
b. 4, f. 6	Essays, New York Free Academy, junior class	1854-1855
b. 4, f. 7	"The Russian War," poem for <i>Clionian Magazine</i> English	1854-1855
b. 4, f. 8	"The People's Art," speech delivered at New York Free Academy Junior Exhibition English	1855 February 16
b. 4, f. 9	Commencement oration (various versions)	1856 July 22
b. 4, f. 10	Poems and fragments	1856, undated
b. 4, f. 11	Untitled	1865-1867, undated
b. 4, f. 12	Early attempts at fiction	Undated
	Painter Family	1900
	The original documents were written by Thomas Painter in 1836. Included in the biographical material is information on Thomas Painter's service during the Revolutionary War, first in the militia and later in the navy. There is also significant information on his maritime career before and after the war. The versions in this collection are manuscript copies made by his granddaughter, Alice Bartlett, in 1900. There are also some loose pages of genealogical information concerning the Painter family. The material became part of the Sturgis family records through Philip Golden Bartlett, brother of Alice Bartlett and husband of Russell Sturgis' daughter Beatrice.	
b. 4, f. 13	"History of the Painter Family in the Parish of West Haven, and Also of the Parish Itself Up to the Year 1836"	
b. 4, f. 13	"History of the Life and Family of Thomas Painter"	

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Subjects

Architecture -- Notebooks, sketchbooks, etc.

Geographic Names

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

Names

Sturgis, Russell, 1836-1909

Families

Sturges family

Contributors

Sturgis, Russell, 1836-1909

Painter, Thomas, 1760-1847