

C Stephens, Frank Fletcher (1878-1966), Papers, 1875-1966
3599 14.7 linear feet, 8 audio tapes, 10 card files

INTRODUCTION

Papers of a University of Missouri professor and dean of students in the College of Arts and Science, 1924-1948. Correspondence, office files, committee reports, lecture notes, speeches, articles, diaries, accounts, university history, and photographs are included.

DONOR INFORMATION

The papers were donated to the University of Missouri by Frank Fletcher Stephens on 28 February 1964 (Accession No. 3556).

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES

Frank Fletcher Stephens was born August 8, 1878, the sixth of eight children born to Thomas White Stephens and Mary Elizabeth Tyler Stephens. The family lived on a farm north of Topeka, Kansas, where Frank graduated from high school in 1899. In 1900, he entered the University of Chicago where he received a Bachelor of Philosophy degree in 1904 and a Ph.M. in 1905.

While working in Chicago in 1905, Stephens married Blanche Louis Howard, a graduate of Stanford University, whose mother owned the boarding house in which he lived. The Stephenses then moved to Philadelphia, where Frank attended the University of Pennsylvania and completed his Ph.D. in history in 1907. In September of that year, Stephens became a teacher in the history department at the University of Missouri in Columbia, a position he held until he retired in 1948. From 1924 until his retirement he was dean of students in the College of Arts and Science. He died in December 1966.

Blanche Louise Howard was born May 4, 1872, the daughter of William Henry and Mary Ann Vance Howard. She taught school in Chicago before her marriage to Frank Stephens. After moving to Columbia, Missouri, she was a leader in Methodist women's work on both the local and national levels. In 1912, she was responsible for organizing a meeting at which the first speech on women's suffrage was made in Columbia. She was a leader of the Equal Suffrage League, the Columbia League of Women Voters, and numerous other civic and religious organizations until her death in 1931.

Louise Irby was born November 22, 1890, the daughter of William Henry and Anna Irby. She taught history at North Carolina College for Women before marrying Norman Maclaren Trenholme in 1923. Trenholme died in June 1925 and her son William Maclaren was born in December of that year. Louise became a history teacher at the University of Missouri and later served as acting dean of women. She married Frank Stephens in February 1933. She was active in community and church affairs in Columbia until her death in 1966.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Frank Fletcher Stephens Papers consist of correspondence, account books, diaries, and publications written by Stephens as a doctoral student and professor at the University of Missouri. The papers are arranged into nine series: **Correspondence, Diaries, Miscellaneous Papers, Publications, *History of the University of Missouri*, Missouri Methodist Church History, Miscellaneous Documents, Audio, and Note Cards.**

More complete series descriptions are located in the folder list.

FOLDER LIST

Correspondence Series

The correspondence contains letters about family, the university and other personal matters such as family finances and church activities. The series also includes correspondence of university duties, committee reports, and life in Columbia, Missouri. The papers during the years of World War I contain Stephens' certificate of Reserve Officer Training Corps, a form from the Missouri Council of Defense about students' reaction to the U.S.'s involvement in the war, and Stephens' physical examination for service. Much of the content concerns Stephens' wife Blanche and her work with war relief, Woman's Missionary Council travels, women's suffrage, and leaflets from the Conference on the Cause and Cure of War.

Many of the folders contain records of the Missouri Methodist Church and Intercollegiate Athletics rules and regulations as well as course listing and reports from the College of Arts and Science at the University of Missouri. Starting in 1941, the correspondence with Stephens' sister Carrie concerns his thoughts and other materials on student enlistment in military reserves.

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- f. 3-11 1905-1910. Study at University of Pennsylvania and life in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Diploma, University of Pennsylvania.
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- f. 61 Report of the Special Library Committee to the university faculty, 1926.

- f. 64-67 1927. Graduate School regulations; accounts of activities on Blanche's second trip to Europe.
 - f. 67 Blanche's resume; articles on war and peace.
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- f. 310-311 1964
- f. 312 1964-1965. Louise becomes ill.
- f. 313-314 1965. Frank becomes ill.
- f. 315-317 1966, n.d.

Diaries Series

The diaries of Frank Stephens cover personal accounts of family, university, life in Columbia, Missouri, and church activities. The collection also includes the diaries of Blanche Howard Stephens and Thomas White Stephens.

- f. 318 1898-1899
- f. 319 1906-1913. Notes on 1906 visit to Boston, Massachusetts; and “notes kept by Frank in August 1913 on steamship Olympic.”
- f. 320 1913-1931. Blanche’s diaries for 1913 and 1924-1931. Thomas White Stephens’ diaries for 1913 and 1914.
- f. 321 1932-1935
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- f. 337 Boone County National Bank passbooks, 1918, 1924
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- f. 339 Blanche Howard Stephens’s Christmas gift record, 1905-1929
- f. 340-341 Master’s thesis by Frank Fletcher Stephens: “Lord Claredon’s Colonial Policy.”
- f. 342-344 Class Notes. Notes taken by Stephens in various classes at the University of Chicago and University of Pennsylvania, most from courses taught by J. Franklin Jameson.
- f. 345-369 Stephens’ lecture notes on diplomatic and U.S. social history taught at the University of Missouri.
 - f. 345-350 “Diplomatic History of the U.S.”
 - f. 351-362 “Social History of the U.S.”
 - f. 363-367 “American Social History.”
 - f. 368 Lecture titled “Notable Absentees.”
 - f. 369 Lecture titled “U.S. Constitutional History.”

Publications Series

This series contains Stephens' doctoral thesis and other historical articles written by Stephens, as well as publications by others.

- f. 370 Doctoral thesis: *The Transitional Period, 1788-1789, in the Government of the United States.*
- f. 371 *Santa Fe Trade and Santa Fe Trail*, by Alonzo Wetmore, with notes by Stephens.
- f. 372 University of Missouri *Bulletin*, "The Monroe Doctrine, Its Origin, Development and Recent Interpretation," by Stephens.
- f. 373 *Missouri Historical Review*, "Missouri and the Santa Fe Trade," by Stephens.
- f. 374 *Genealogy of Thomas White Stephens and his wife Mary Elizabeth Tyler, and of their Collateral Relatives*, by Stephens, and other genealogical notes.
- f. 375-380 Miscellaneous publications by others
 - f. 375 "Syllabus of the Background and Issues of the World War," by Norman Maclaren Trenholme
 - f. 376 "What is History?" by Edward P. Cheney; "The Teaching of American History," by Andrew C. McLaughlin
 - f. 377 "Portrait of a Historian, Edward Potts Cheyney," edited by William E. Lingelbach
 - f. 378-380 Miscellaneous pamphlets and speeches

***History of the University of Missouri* Series**

The majority of the series contains multiple versions of chapters from *History of the University of Missouri*. Chapter order and the book index can be used to locate material in this section of the collection.

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 - f. 433-435 Chapter 15
 - f. 436-439 Chapter 16
 - f. 440-442 Version designated by Stephens as "proof copy before being cut," chapter 1

- f. 443-451 A “near final” version, chapters 7-10
- f. 452-460 Version of chapters 1-9 showing some editing
- f. 461-465 Version designated “old” by Stephens, chapters 7-9
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- f. 510 Notes from the Rollins collection.
- f. 511 Answers to questions from early faculty and administrators.
- f. 512-513 Recollections of Herbert Reese.
- f. 514-515 Notes from Missouri laws.
- f. 516 Typescript of Chapter II, “James Sidney Rollins of Missouri, A Political Biography,” a thesis by James Madison Wood, Jr.
- f. 517 Index to notes arranged by subject outline; Notes on: Academic dress; Administration-Grading systems; Agriculture; Alumni; Arts and Science.
- f. 518 Notes on: Campus-Buildings; Campus-Grounds; Commencements.
- f. 519-520 Notes on: Curators, Board of
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- f. 522 Notes on: Faculty; Graduate School.
- f. 523 Notes on: Journalism; Library
- f. 524 Notes on: Medical School; Military Department.
- f. 525 Notes on: Music
- f. 526-527 Notes on: Persons
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- f. 529 Notes on: Students-By-Laws; Students--Pranks.
- f. 530 Notes on: Students--Holidays; Students--Programs of Study
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- f. 532 Notes on: University--Finances
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- f. 542 Miscellaneous notes and papers, Committee on Educational Policy.
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Missouri Methodist Church History Series

- f. 544-551 Materials used in writing the history of the Missouri Methodist Church, 1965.
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Audio Series

- a.t. 1-7 Conversation with Isador Loeb, 1950
 a.t. 8 Interview with Leslie Cowan

Note Cards Series

- c.f. 1-9 Notes on the history of the University of Missouri
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