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## Collection Summary

**Repository:** Archives and Special Collections Library, Vassar College Libraries

**Creator:** Sturm, Ernest

**Title:** Ernest Sturm Collection

**Dates:** 1742-1929

**Quantity:** 3 cubic feet (4 boxes, 4 volumes)

**Abstract:** Variety of rare manuscripts relating to American and European history, art and literature.

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## Biographical Note

Born in New York on August 24, 1878, Ernest Sturm was an insurance executive and collector of historic letters, documents, and books. After a grammar and preparatory school education, Sturm studied law and finance at New York University, where he received his Bachelor of Laws. Sturm served as director and president of a number of companies, including the Fire Companies Building Corporation, the American Eagle Investment Company, Atlanta and Charlotte Air Line Railway, Inc., the Shell Union Oil Company, and American Type Founders, Inc. He also served as chairman of the boards of the "America Fore" group of insurance companies, including the Continental Insurance Company, the Niagara Fire Insurance Company, the First American Fire Insurance Company, the Fidelity-Phenix Fire Insurance Company, the American Eagle Fire Insurance Company, the Maryland Insurance Company of Delaware, and the Fidelity and Casualty Company of New York. He died in 1936 at the age of 58.

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## Scope and Content Note

Includes an original typescript of Woodrow Wilson on the States and the federal government, a letter and maps relating to the battle of Gettysburg; documents and letters signed by members of George Washington's first cabinet; documents relating to the Revolutionary Battle of Harlem Heights; documents signed by Catherine the Great relating to the Russian Navy; letters and documents signed by signers of the Declaration of Independence; items signed by American naval figures; a signed card and portraits of William Tecumseh Sherman; items signed by Napoleon Bonaparte, his family and generals; photos, letters, and documents relating to the Civil War; similar items of English literary and artistic figures; a letter of Edmund Burke; a letter and photos of Robert Browning; a letter of Robert E. Lee; letters and documents signed by American Presidents; and a transcript of a poem by Robert Louis Stevenson.

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## Access and Use

### Access

This collection is open for research according to the [regulations of the Vassar College Archives and Special Collections Library](#) without any additional restrictions.

### Restrictions on Use

Permission to quote (publish) from unpublished or previously published material must be obtained as described in the [regulations of the Vassar College Archives and Special Collections Library](#).

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## Related Material

### Separated Material

- [A Qur'an was separated from the collection, catalogued as Arabic MS 11, and added to the Islamic Manuscripts Collection, December 2024.](#)
- [A Draft of the Constitution of The United States, printed in 2 columns on 4 numbered pages in New York by John McLean for John Dunlap \(Evans, American Bibliography 20817\), 1787, was separated from the collection and catalogued bibliographically, February 2025.](#)

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## Subject Headings

### Names:

- Browning, Robert, 1812-1889
- Burke, Edmund, 1729-1797
- Catherine II, Empress of Russian, 1729-1796
- Lee, Robert E. (Robert Edward). 1807-1870
- Napoleon I, Emperor of the French, 1769-1821
- Sherman, William T. (William Tecumseh), 1820-1891
- Stevenson, Robert Louis, 1850-1894
- Washington, George, 1732-1799
- Wilson, Woodrow, 1856-1924

### Subjects:

- Artists--England
- Authors, English
- Generals--France
- Presidents--United States
- State governments

### Places:

- France--History, Military
- Gettysburg, Battle of, Gettysburg, Pa., 1863
- Harlem Heights, Battle of, N.Y., 1776
- Russia. Voennyi flot
- United States, Declaration of Independence--signers
- United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865
- United States--History--Revolution, 1775-1783
- United States--Politics and government--1783-1789
- United States--Politics and government--1789-1797
- United States. Navy

### **Document Types:**

- Autographs
- Correspondence
- Maps
- Photographs
- Poems

### **VCL Categories:**

- Autographs
- Literature and Writing
- Politics

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## **Encoding Information**

Encoded by Elizabeth Clarke, August 2007.

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## **Administrative Information**

### **Preferred Citation**

Ernest Sturm Collection, Archives and Special Collections Library, Vassar College Libraries.

### **Processing Information**

Original listing completed circa 1997, updated in 2007.

### **Acquisition Information**

Gift of Ruth Foster Sturm, 1997.

### **Custodial History**

Collected by Ernest Sturm, father of Ruth Foster Sturm, VC 1932.

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## Series List

[Series I.](#) Woodrow Wilson (Box 1)

[Series II.](#) Gettysburg (Box 1)

[Series III.](#) Washington's First Cabinet (Box 1)

[Series IV.](#) Battle of Harlem Heights (Box 1)

[Series V.](#) Catherine the Great (1 volume)

[Series VI.](#) Signers of the Declaration of Independence (Box 3)

[Series VII.](#) The American Navy (Box 1)

[Series VIII.](#) William Tecumseh Sherman (Box 1)

[Series IX.](#) Napoleon and His Generals (Box 1)

[Series X.](#) Civil War (Box 2)

[Series XI.](#) English Literature and Art (Box 4)

[Series XII.](#) Edmund Burke (Box 4)

[Series XIII.](#) Robert Browning (Box 2)

[Series XIV.](#) Robert E. Lee (Box 2)

[Series XV.](#) **Napoleon and His Family (1 volume)**

[Series XVI.](#) **Presidents of The United States (1 volume)**

[Series XVII.](#) **Robert Louis Stevenson (1 volume)**

## Container List

### Series I. Woodrow Wilson

- Folder 1.1 The States and The Federal Government, undated [printed galleys]  
Folder 1.2 The States and The Federal Government, undated [signed typescript]

### Series II. Gettysburg

- Folder 1.3 Battle of Gettysburg Map, 1863  
Folder 1.4 Eyewitness Account of the Battle of Gettysburg, 1863  
Folder 1.5 Map of Pennsylvania Movement of Gibbons 2nd Army Corp, 1863

### Series III. Washington's First Cabinet

- Folder 1.6 Hamilton, Alexander, 1794  
Folder 1.7 Jefferson, Thomas, 1792  
Folder 1.8 Randolph, Edmond, 1794  
Folder 1.9 Washington, George — Appointment of M. de Poirey, 1790

### Series IV. Battle of Harlem Heights

- Folder 1.10 Agreement of Massachusetts Minute Men, 17--  
Folder 1.11 Hancock, John — Appointment of Josiah Hayden, 1781

- Folder  
1.12 Hayden, Josiah — account of the Battle of Harlem Heights, 1776
- Folder  
1.13 Order of the Committee of Safety On Enlistment of Men, 1775

### **Series V. Catherine the Great**

- Volume Collection of approximately 40 manuscript documents signed by Catherine, mostly relating to Russian Naval Matters, 1792-96. Bound in contemporary green velvet. Evidently removed from the Russian Royal Archive after the Revolution, 1792-1796

### **Series VI. Signers of the Declaration of Independence**

- Folder  
3.1 Adams, Samuel, 1774, 1795
- Folder  
3.2 Barlett, Josiah, 1776
- Folder  
3.3 Carroll, Charles, 1829
- Folder  
3.4 Clymer, George, 1803
- Folder  
3.5 Ellery, William, 1781
- Folder  
3.6 Franklin, Benjamin, 1777
- Folder  
3.7 Gerry, Elbridge, 1812
- Folder  
3.8 Hancock, John, 1758
- Folder  
3.9 Hart, John, 1742, 1776
- Folder  
3.10 Hopkins, Stephen, 1771
- Folder  
3.11 Hopkinson, Francis, 1790
- Folder  
3.12 Huntington, Samuel, 1780, 1789, 1793, 1812
- Folder  
3.13 Jefferson, Thomas, 1807
- Folder  
3.14 McKean, Thomas, 1768, 1780, 1816, 1849
- Folder  
3.15 Middleton, Arthur, 1762
- Folder  
3.16 Morris, Robert, 1782, 1798
- Folder  
3.17 Morton, John, 1776

Folder 3.18	Paca, William, 1776
Folder 3.19	Paine, Robert Treat, 1757
Folder 3.20	Rodney, Caesar, 1775, 1777
Folder 3.21	Rush, Benjamin, 1786, 1794, 1810
Folder 3.22	Rutledge, Edward, 1782
Folder 3.23	Sherman, Roger, 1786
Folder 3.24	Smith, James, 1782
Folder 3.25	Walton, George, 1785
Folder 3.26	Whipple, William, 1778
Folder 3.27	Williams, William, 1776
Folder 3.28	Wolcott, Oliver, 1775
Folder 3.29	Wythe, George, 1803

### **Series VII. The American Navy**

Folder 1.14	Angus, Samuel, 1813
Folder 1.15	Bainbridge, William, 1819
Folder 1.16	Biddle, James, undated
Folder 1.17	Broom, C. R., 1816
Folder 1.18	Coutler, Mifflin, 1831
Folder 1.19	Crane, William M., 1827
Folder 1.20	Decatur, Mrs. Stephen, 1824
Folder 1.21	Elliott, Jesse D., 1813, 1827
Folder 1.22	Farragut, Admiral D.G., 1863
Folder 1.23	Harrison, Joseph, 1807

Folder 1.24	Hull, Isaac, 1818, 1829, 1835
Folder 1.25	List of Stores, 1812
Folder 1.26	Morris, J., 1819
Folder 1.27	Petition Signed by 42 Members Of Crew of Guerriere, 1815
Folder 1.28	Porter, D., 187-, undated
Folder 1.29	Rodgers, John, 1822
Folder 1.30	Rogers, John, 1812
Folder 1.31	Shubrick, E.B., 1823
Folder 1.32	Smith, Hon. R., 1808
Folder 1.33	Warrington, Lewis, 1838, 1842
Folder 1.34	Worden, John L., 1840

### **Series VIII. William Tecumseh Sherman**

Folder 1.34	William Tecumseh Sherman, undated
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### **Series IX. Napoleon and His Generals**

Folder 1.36	Abrantes, D. — Duchess, 1845
Folder 1.37	d'Anglas, Boissy, 1818
Folder 1.38	Bailly, Jean Sylvain - Mayor of Paris, 1789
Folder 1.39	Berthier, Louis Alexandre - Marshal, 1810
Folder 1.40	Bertrand, Henry Gratien - General, undated
Folder 1.41	Beurnomville, Pierre - Marshal, undated
Folder 1.42	Bonaparte, Napoleon, undated
Folder 1.43	Bourbon, Louis de, undated
Folder 1.44	Bourgeois, R.- In Battle of Waterloo, undated



Folder 1.45	Chaptal, 1808
Folder 1.46	Chenier, C.H., undated
Folder 1.47	Clary, Julia Marie — Queen of Spain, Wife of Joseph Bonaparte, 1813
Folder 1.48	Damme, Dominique Joseph Van — General, 1813
Folder 1.49	Desaix, Louis Charles Antoine — General, 1792
Folder 1.50	Destouches, Philippe Nericault, 1834
Folder 1.51	Fonquier, Tinville, 1793
Folder 1.52	Gouvion, Saint Cyr — General, 1817
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Folder 1.54	Lauriston, Jacques Alexandre — Marquis-General, 1808
Folder 1.55	Malherbe, Francois de, undated
Folder 1.56	Montesquieu, Marquis A.P. — General, 1796
Folder 1.57	Montholon, Charles Tristan — General, undated
Folder 1.58	Murat, Joachim — King of Naples, Cavalry Commander, undated
Folder 1.59	Phillippe, Louis — Duke de Chartres, 1848
Folder 1.60	Segur, 1782
Folder 1.61	Unidentified, undated
Folder 1.62	Walewska, Count Andrew — Son of Napoleon, undated

### Series X. Civil War

Folder 2.1	Angur, C. C., 1865
Folder 2.2	Army Pass, 1861, 1865
Folder 2.3	Banks, N. P., 18--
Folder 2.4	Barlow, F. S., 1865

Folder 2.5	Blunt, Jas. G., 1866
Folder 2.6	Burnside, A. E., 1869
Folder 2.7	Butler, B. F., 1862
Folder 2.8	Cameron, Simon, 1885
Folder 2.9	Casey, Gen'l. Silas, 1865
Folder 2.10	Cass, Lewis, 1859
Folder 2.11	Chase, Salmon P., 1864
Folder 2.12	Cox, J. D., 1864
Folder 2.13	Curtis, S. R., 1865
Folder 2.14	Dent, F. T., 1866
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Folder 2.16	Grant, Ulysses S., 1863
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Folder 2.22	Howard, O. O., 1866
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Folder 2.24	Johnson, R. W., 1863
Folder 2.25	Lincoln, Abraham, 1862
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Folder 2.27	Lyon, N., 1861
Folder 2.28	Marcy, R. B., 1862

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2.29 Martindale, J. H., 1863

Folder  
2.30 McClellan, George B., 1864

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2.31 Order for Cask Ale, 1865

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2.32 Paine, Charles J., 1866

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2.34 Rosencrans, W. S., 1862

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2.42 Stanton, Edwin M., 1864

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2.43 Sykes, G. D., 1864

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2.44 Thomas, G., 1866

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2.45 Townsend, E. D., 1867

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2.46 Vanderveer, William, 1865

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2.47 Wheaton, Frank, 18--

### **Series XI. English Literature and Art**

Folder  
4.1 The Barber's Shop Ad, undated

Folder  
4.2 Blackstone, W., 1766

Folder  
4.3 Burke, Edmund, 1787

- Folder 4.4 Canning, George, 1820
- Folder 4.5 Coledon, 1865
- Folder 4.6 Collingwood, 1807
- Folder 4.7 Cornwills, Barry, undated
- Folder 4.8 Desaike, Edward, undated
- Folder 4.9 Dickens, Charles, 1870
- Folder 4.10 Edgeworth, Maria, undated
- Folder 4.11 Eliot, George, 1858, 1861
- Folder 4.12 Gortchakof, Prince Peter, undated
- Folder 4.13 Grattar, Henry, 1793
- Folder 4.14 Hook, Theodore, 1856
- Folder 4.15 Hume-Jones, Philip, 1899
- Folder 4.16 Irving, Washington, undated
- Folder 4.17 James, G. V. R., 1851
- Folder 4.18 Johnson, Samuel, 1782
- Folder 4.19 Key, Francis Scott, undated
- Folder 4.20 Kipling, Rudyard, undated
- Folder 4.21 Knowles, Shendac, 1834
- Folder 4.22 Landsar, Sir Edwin, 1869
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- Folder 4.26 Lerch, Mark, 1864
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Folder 4.31	Martin, Theodore, undated
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Folder 4.37	Pitt, William, 1770, 1771
Folder 4.38	Pluyfair, Lyon, undated
Folder 4.39	Proctor, R. W., 1855
Folder 4.40	Rapell, J. H., undated
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Folder 4.48	Tennyson, Alfred, undated
Folder 4.49	Terquem, P. N., 1885
Folder 4.50	Thackeray, William M., undated
Folder 4.51	Turner, 18--

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4.51 Unidentified, 1840

### **Series XII. Edmund Burke**

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4.53 Burke, Edmund, 1772

### **Series XIII. Robert Browning**

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2.48 Robert Browning Letter, 1878

Folder  
2.49 Browning Family Photographs, undated

### **Series XIV. Robert E. Lee**

Folder  
2.50 Robert E. Lee, 1854

### **Series XV. Napoleon and His Family**

Volume Album containing approximately 10 letters and documents signed by Napoleon Bonaparte and members of the imperial family, including the Empress Josephine and Empress Mari-Louise, 1787?-1816?

### **Series XVI. Presidents of The United States**

Volume Album containing letters and documents signed by every United States president from George Washington through Franklin D. Roosevelt, 1796-1929

### **Series XVII. Robert Louis Stevenson**

Volume Autograph transcript signed of his poem, "To H.F. Brown," 18--

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