

**THE TRUSTEES OF RESERVATIONS  
ARCHIVES & RESEARCH CENTER**



**Guide to  
Stevens Family Collection, 1725-1960**

**SCP.MS.Coll.2**

**by Laura Kitchings**

February 2015  
Last updated: October 2016  
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Extent: 13 boxes

Other storage formats: 1 Oversize Box, 2 Oversized Broadside Folders

Linear feet: 6.75

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## **ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**

### **PROVENANCE**

Bequest of Mrs. Helen Stevens Coolidge, 1962

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### **CITE AS**

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### **RESTRICTIONS ON ACCESS**

This collection is open for research.

## **BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION**

The Stevens family were among the first settlers of North Andover, Massachusetts. Their property, Ashdale Farm in North Andover, was bequeathed to The Trustees of Reservations by Helen Stevens Coolidge in 1962, and renamed Stevens-Coolidge Place.

One of the first freeholders of Andover, Massachusetts was Farmer John Stevens (1605-1662), born in Oxfordshire, England. His fifth son, Joseph Stevens (1654-1743) was a deacon of the church and served the town in many roles, including as a constable. Captain James Stevens (1732-1793), the son of Joseph Stevens also was a farmer in North Andover, Massachusetts. He married Dorothy Fry Stevens (1691-7 May 1751).

Benjamin Stevens (1732-1793) was the son of Captain James Stevens and Dorothy Fry Stevens (1691-7 May 1751). He married Hannah Varnum (1736-1818) on 1 May 1756 in Andover, Massachusetts. She was the daughter of John and Phoebe Varnum. In addition to farming, Benjamin Stevens, also owned a blacksmith shop. He left the majority of his property in Andover to his sons James Stevens (1765-1826) and Benjamin Stevens (b. 1766). In 1807, James bought out Benjamin, who had moved to Danvers, Massachusetts. James married Elisabeth Carleton (1767-1859) on 23 June 1796 in Massachusetts.

James Stevens (1797-1861), one of the six children of James and Elisabeth Carleton Stevens, bought out his siblings' interest in Ashdale Farm, and added land to the family property. He is referred to as

James Stevens II, in the Collection. He married Lydia Gardner (1807-1882), the daughter of John Gardner (1774-1827) and Joanna Lovett Gardner (1766-1850) in Andover, Massachusetts on 23 May 1835. Their oldest son, Henry James Stevens (1837-1891) raised his family in Boston, Massachusetts, but spent summers at Ashdale Farm.

Henry James Gardner Stevens was a Harvard educated lawyer who married Helen Mead Granger, the daughter of Edward Livingston Granger (3 April 1808-1 December 1846) and Mary Williams Brown (6 February 1818-22 February 1866) on 22 September 1863. The couple had five daughters: Gertrude M. Stevens Kunhardt (1864-1914), Mary “Mollie” Sweetser Stevens Dodge (1867-1941), Georgia Lydia Stevens (1870-1946), and twins Isabella Abbott Stevens (1876-1962) and Helen Granger Stevens Coolidge (1876-1962).

Because of recurring illness, the Stevens family met with financial difficulties. Gertrude Stevens Kunhardt inherited Ashdale Farm and maintained it with her husband G. Otto Kunhardt (1859-1911). Mary “Mollie” Sweetser Stevens Dodge became the wife of the successful Cambridge lawyer Edward Sherman Dodge (1852-1934) and moved to Harvard Square in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Georgia, Lydia Stevens, a promising violinist, became a nun and taught music. Isabella Abbot Stevens went on to study nursing.

Helen Granger Stevens Coolidge took a position as a lady's companion, first to Eliza Gardner Skinner of Boston and then to Julia Gardner Coolidge of Boston and Brookline, Massachusetts, mother of her future husband. After the death of Gertrude Stevens Kunhardt, Helen Stevens Coolidge and her husband John Gardner Coolidge (4 July 1863-28 February 1936) bought out the remaining sisters' interest in Ashdale Farm. John Gardner Coolidge was the son on Joseph Randolph Coolidge (29 December 1828-9 February 1925) and Julia Gardner Coolidge (4 August 1841-6 January 1921) and married Helen in 1909. For more information on John Gardner Coolidge, see the Stevens-Coolidge Place Collection (SCP.MS.Coll.1) and the John Gardner Coolidge Collection (SCP.MS.Coll.3) at the Archives & Research Center of The Trustees of Reservations.

After the death of husband, Helen Stevens Coolidge continued to maintain and expand Ashdale Farm. Aside from her horticultural pursuits, she raised livestock and oversaw the dairy, which she continued to do until 1961. Helen bequeathed Ashdale Farm, later renamed Stevens- Coolidge Place, to The Trustees of Reservations upon her death in 1962.

## **DESCRIPTION OF THE PAPERS**

The Stevens Family Collection focuses on the lives of the Stevens family at Ashdale Farm in North Andover, Massachusetts. The papers span the years 1725 to 1958. The bulk of the material is from the 19th Century. The papers are organized into eight series: Correspondence, Diaries, Printed Material, Legal Documents, Financial Material, Literary Productions, Photographic Material, and Plans.

Series I, Correspondence, contains one letter to John McLean from James Stevens regarding letters and petitions from the town of Andover remonstrating against the establishment of a second office in the town.

Series II, Diaries, is organized into two subseries: Diaries and Sketches. The first subseries, Diaries, consists of Exercise Books, Household Books, Autograph Books, and other and other handwritten manuscript books from the Stevens and Granger families.

The second subseries, Sketches, consists of one perspective garden sketch.

Series III, Printed Material, includes a certificate appointing James Stevens, II to position of Post Master at North Andover, Massachusetts and the Harvard University Diploma for Henry James Stevens.

Series IV, Legal Documents, includes documents relating to the transfer of property.

Series V, Financial Documents, includes household account books.

Series VI. Literary Productions, is organized into six subseries: Children's Books, Family Books, Garden Books, Photography Books, Town Books, and Magazines. The first subseries, Children's Books, consists of books intended for children, many are inscribed to members of the Stevens family.

The second subseries, Family Books, includes Genealogical information relating to the Granger family.

The third subseries, Garden Books, consists of books and magazines related to gardening.

The fourth subseries, Photography Books, consists of one 1897 book on photography.

The fifth subseries, Town Books, consists of a program for a fair and a town report.

The sixth subseries, Magazines, consists of copies of *Godey's Lady's Book and Magazine* and *St. Nicholas Illustrated Magazine for Girls and Boys*. The magazines are listed in a separate appendix.

Series VII, Photographic Material, includes a Carte-de-Visite Album.

Series VIII, Plans, consists of one book of maps and an 1892 Plan of Land.

Box	Folder	Contents	Date
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## Series I. Correspondence

0.1'

1 Oversized Folder

Date: 1825

Series I, Correspondence, contains one letter to James Stevens.

### CORRESPONDENCE

Handwritten Letter	1825 Mar 29
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From John McLean to James Stevens regarding letters and petitions from the town of Andover remonstrating against the establishment of a second office in the town.

Stored in Oversize Box 14, Folder 1

## Series II. Diaries

0.9' (3 boxes)

Dates: 1831-1942, n.d.

Series II, Diaries is divided into two subseries: Diaries and Sketches. The first subseries is arranged chronologically.

### DIARIES

1	1	M.W. Brown Diary	1831-1836
		Includes notes from unidentified individuals	
1	2	Mary W. Granger Household Book	1833
		Includes printed household guidelines Includes recipes	
1	3	Henry James Stevens Diary	1856-1857
1	4	Helen M. Granger Autograph book	1857

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Contents</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>DIARIES</b>			
1	5	Helen M. Granger Autograph book	1861
1	6	Helen Stevens Coolidge Standard Diary	1942
2	1	Helen M. Granger Exercise Book	n.d.
		Includes hand-written compositions	
2	2	Material Removed from Helen M. Granger Exercise Book	n.d.
2	3	Cursive Composition Book	n.d.
2	4	Address Book	n.d.
2	5	Address Book with Box	n.d.
2	6	Materials removed from Address Book with Box	n.d.
2	7	H.P. Stevens Recipe Book	n.d.
2	8	Materials Removed from [H.R?] Stevens Recipe Book	n.d.
3	1	Poetry Scrapbook	n.d.
		Inscribed "Gertrude L. Kunhardt my sister H.S. Coolidge"	
3	2	Mary W. Granger Household Book	n.d.
		Includes printed household guidelines Includes recipes	

Box	Folder	Contents	Date
<b>SKETCHES</b>			
3	3	Sketch of Garden  In Perspective  20 x 22 cm  Colored diagram of entry with walkway “In Perspective” and “The Gate”	n.d.

### Series III. Printed Material

0.1' (1 box)  
3 Oversized Folders  
Dates: 1827-1960, n.d.

Series III, Printed Material, is organized chronologically.

#### PRINTED MATERIAL

		Certificate appointing James Stevens II to position of Post Master at North Andover, Massachusetts  Signed September 15, 1827, registered September 25, 1827  Stored in Oversize Box 14, Folder 2	1827 Sept
		Henry James Stevens Harvard College Diploma  Stored in Small Broadside Cabinet 2, Drawer M, Folder 1	1857
3	4	Harvard College Class of 1857  Commencement Dinner Program	1866 Jul 18

Box	Folder	Contents	Date
<b>PRINTED MATERIAL</b>			
3	5	Newspaper clippings regarding local crimes	1953
3	6	<i>Pilot</i> Newspaper Clipping	1960 May 5
3	7	Invitation	n.d.
		To meet Lady Randolph Churchill and the Staff of The American Hospital Ship “Maine” at The Gardens Cape Town, South Africa	
		Cardboard sign	n.d.
		Directional arrow under “Mrs. John Coolidge” and above “Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts”	
		Stored in Oversized Box 14, Folder 3	
		North Shore Garden Club Sign	n.d.
		Stored in Broadside Cabinet 2, Drawer M 2 Copies	



Box	Folder	Contents	Date
<b>Series IV. Legal Documents</b>			
0.3' (1 Oversized Box)			
Dates: 1725-1917, n.d.			
Series IV, Legal Documents is arranged chronologically.			
		Hand-written, water-stained, land transfer	1725 Jun 1
		From Josiah Johnson to James Stevens for "tract of land...in Andover"	
		Stored in: Oversized Box 14, Folder 4	
		Hand-written description of land perimeters and transfer	1730 Jun 25
		From Dan Appleton to various Stevens, including Timothy Stevens, and "2 <sup>nd</sup> generation daughters of original Johnson"	
		Stored in: Oversized Box 14, Folder 5	
		Partly hand-written bill of sale from Samuel Lesions (?)	1744 Oct 25
		From Samuel Lesions (?) "in Consideration of the sum of five pounds" to Peter Negro	
		Stored in: Oversized Box 14, Folder 6	
		Hand-written Deed	1756
		Between James Stevens and Benjamin Stevens Dated July 30, 1756 registered December 6, 1756	
		Stored in: Oversized Box 14, Folder 7	

Box	Folder	Contents	Date
<b>LEGAL DOCUMENTS</b>			
		Hand-written inventory	1769
		<p>Values of Captain James Stevens estate</p> <p>with 1769 penciled underneath name.</p> <p>Stored in BSD Small Cabinet 2, Drawer M Folder 2</p>	
		Partly hand-written Deed	1823 Oct 25
		<p>For piece of woodland from Moses Parker to James Stevens II</p> <p>Stored in: Oversized Box 14, Folder 8</p>	
		Partly hand-written deed	1825 Feb 5
		<p>For “a lot of land ... in Salem” from Thorndike Deland to James Stevens 3rd</p> <p>Stored in: Oversized Box 14, Folder 9</p>	
		Hand-written Deed	1828 Dec 4
		<p>From Varnum Stevens (1798-1869) to James Stevens II</p> <p>Stored in Oversized Box 14, Folder 10</p>	
		Partly hand-written Indenture	1835 Feb 13
		<p>For tracts of land between John Stevens and James Stevens II</p> <p>Stored in Oversized Box 14, Folder 11</p>	

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Contents</b>	<b>Date</b>
		<b>LEGAL DOCUMENTS</b>	
		Partly hand-written transfer of property	1846 Apr 25
		From Jacob Perry to James Stevens, II, consisting of a piece of woodland in Andover, Massachusetts	
		Stored In Oversized Box 14, Folder 12	
		French Passport a L'Etranger for Rome, Italy,	1917 Mar 20
		For Madame Girault	
		Stored in Oversized Box 14, Folder 13	

## **Series V. Financial Documents**

0.75' (2 boxes)  
Dates: 1818-1917, n.d.

Series V, Financial Documents, includes household account books.

### **FINANCIAL DOCUMENTS**

4	1	Account Book of James Gardner	1818-1880
		Started by John Gardner	
		Used 1859- 1860 as a notebook by Mrs. James Stevens	
4	2	Granger Household Accounts	1837 Jul -1853 Dec
		Embossed: M.W. Granger. 1837 with insert stating Granger Household Accts 1837 with entries starting July 22, 1837 up to December 20, 1853	

Box	Folder	Contents	Date
<b>FINANCIAL DOCUMENTS</b>			
4	3	Materials Removed from Granger Household Accounts Auditors Report for the town of Andover 1847  35x37  Stored in Large Broadside Cabinet 4, Drawer M, Large Broadside Cabinet Folder 2	n.d.
4	4	Bill for Henry James Stevens payment to Harvard College  Bill from Harvard College for the second term ending July 18, 1855 for Mr. H. J. Stevens & with other expenses noted on back of bill	1855
4	5	Paris account book	1917

## Series VI. Literary Productions

3' (7 boxes)

Dates: 1841-1960, n.d.

Series VI, Literary Productions, is organized into the following subseries: Children's Books, Family Books, Garden Books, Photography Books, Town Books, Pamphlets, and Magazines. The magazines are listed in a separate appendix.

### CHILDREN'S BOOKS

5	1	<i>Abroad</i>  Crane, Thos. and Ellen Houghton. Belfast, Inscription "Helen G. Stevens from Mr. Foster X-mas 1882"  New York & London: Marcus Ward & Co.	n.d.
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Box	Folder	Contents	Date
<b>CHILDREN'S BOOKS</b>			
5	2	<i>Aunt Effie's Rhymes for Little Children Set to Music.</i>  Crampton, T. London and New York  George Routledge and Sons  Inscribed "A.B.G."	n.d.
5	3	<i>Fairy Tales Told Again.</i>  Dore', Gustave. London, Paris & New York: Cassell, Petter & Galpin,  Inscribed "from Gertie and Holly April 3, 1881"	n.d.
5	4	<i>A Hey Diddle Diddle Picture Book.</i>  Randolph, Caldecott. London & New York:  George Routledge & Sons  Inscribed "Helen G. Stevens from Mr. Foster 1883"	n.d.
5	5	<i>London Town</i>  London, Belfast & New York: Marcus Ward & Co.,  Inscribed "H .L. Stevens"	n.d.
5	6	<i>Papa's Little Daughters</i>  Brine, Mrs. Mary D. New York, London & Paris:  J. J. Little & Co.  Inscribed "Isabel April 2 <sup>nd</sup> '85 G.M.L."	1882
6	1	<i>Picture Book</i>  Caldecott, R. London and New York:  George Routledge & Sons	n.d.

Box	Folder	Contents	Date
<b>CHILDREN'S BOOKS</b>			
6	2	<i>Pretty Peggy</i>  Illustrated by Rosina Emmet  Inscribed "Helen from Frank K. Christmas 1880"	n.d.
6	3	<i>Under the Window</i>  Greenaway, Kate - New York: McLoughlin Bros.	n.d.
<b>FAMILY BOOKS</b>			
6	4	<i>Portraits of the Class of 1857: Taken at Graduation and in Later Life.</i>  Harvard College Boston: The Heliotype Printing Company  Includes Henry James Stevens	1897
<b>FAMILY BOOKS</b>			
7	1	<i>Launcelot Granger: A Genealogical History</i>  by James N. Granger. Inside cover signed by James H. Granger states an edition of 350 copies has been issued & this volume is #70 of that edition – July 1, 1893.	1893
7	2	Materials removed from <i>Launcelot Granger: A Genealogical History</i>  Includes hand-written sheets dated Oct 4, 1869 listing genealogical information for Simon Granger copied from the family Bible	1869

Box	Folder	Contents	Date
<b>FAMILY BOOKS</b>			
7	3	Henry Stevens Bible and Prayer Book	n.d.
		Book with insert stating “Bible and Prayer Book Henry Stevens from his mother” and with closure embossed Lydia G. Stevens. Book contains “The Holy Bible” published 1834  6 ¾ x 12 ½ cm	
<b>GARDEN BOOKS</b>			
8	1	<i>Better Plants</i>	1922
		Wyomissing: Wyomissing Nurseries Co.	
8	2	<i>A Handbook of Conservation</i>	1936
		Salem: Society for the Preservation of the Landscape Features of Essex County, Massachusetts, and the Peabody Museum, Salem, Massachusetts,	
<b>GARDEN BOOKS</b>			
8	3	<i>The National Horticultural Magazine</i>	1935
		American Horticultural Society. Baltimore	1925
8	4	<i>Massachusetts Audubon</i>	1958
		Boston: Massachusetts Audubon Society,	
8	5	<i>Nature and Art: Poems and Pictures from the Best Authors and Artists</i>	1887
		Estes, Louise Reid. Boston: Estes and Lauriat	
8	6	<i>New Illustrated Encyclopedia of Gardening</i>	1960
		Everett, T. H. New York: Greystone Press	

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Contents</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>PHOTOGRAPHY BOOKS</b>			
8	7	<i>Photography in a Nutshell</i> Hawes, H.P. London: Liffe & Son	1897
<b>TOWN BOOKS</b>			
8	8	<i>Essex County Fair Official Program</i> Essex Agricultural Society. Topsfield: Essex Agricultural Society	1936
8	9	<i>1958 Officer's Report of the Receipts and Expenditures</i> Town of North Andover. Boston: Spalding-Moss Company	1958
<b>PAMPHLETS</b>			
8	10	<i>Apostolical Succession Sermon</i> By Reverend A.C.A. Hall, M.A.	1886
8	11	<i>Reasonable Faith</i> By Reverend A.C.A. Hall, M.A.	1889
<b>PAMPHLETS</b>			
8	12	<i>The Bible in What Sense the Word of God"</i> By Reverend A.C.A. Hall, M.A.	1897
9-12		Magazines Listed in the Magazine Appendix	1841-1890



Box	Folder	Contents	Date
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**Series VII. Photographic Material**

0.2' (2 folders)

Dates: n.d.

Series VII, Photographic Material, includes one Carte-de-Visite Album.

**PHOTOGRAPHIC MATERIAL**

13	1	Carte-de-Visite	n.d.
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Image of woman sitting in a chair

Back of photograph labeled "Photographed by  
Black & Batchelder, Boston"

13	2	Carte-de-Visite Album	n.d.
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Includes 5 ½cm x 9 cm images

Some pages marked X.15

Album has decorative brass clasps

Box	Folder	Contents	Date
<b>Series VIII. Maps and Plans</b>			
0'2" (2 folders)			
Dates: 1892			
Series VII, Maps and Plans, includes one book of maps and a land plan of the Estate of H.J. Stevens.			

### MAPS AND PLANS

13	3	<i>Maps of England &amp; Wales</i>	n.d.
		G.O. Kunhardt written on front cover	
		"1895" written on back cover	
		<i>Plan of the Estate of H.J. Stevens Known as Cuba Woodland and Woodchuck Meadow North Andover, Mass.</i>	1892 Dec
		R.A. Hale Civil Engineer	
		Stored in Large Broadside Cabinet 4, Drawer M Folder 2	

### OVERSIZED MATERIAL

14	1	Handwritten Letter	1825 Mar 29
14	2	Certificate appointing James Stevens 2 <sup>nd</sup> to position of Post Master at North Andover, Massachusetts	1827 Sep
14	3	Cardboard sign	n.d.
		Directional arrow under "Mrs. John Coolidge" and above "Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts"	
		Stored in Oversized Box 14, Folder 3	

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Contents</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>OVERSIZED MATERIAL</b>			
14	4	Hand-written, water-stained, land transfer	1725 Jun 1
14	5	Hand-written description of land perimeters and transfer	1730 Jun 25
14	6	Partly hand-written bill of sale from Samuel Lesions (?)	1744 Oct 25
14	7	Hand-written Deed	1756
14	8	Partly hand-written Deed	1823 Oct 25
14	9	Partly hand-written deed	1825 Feb 5
14	10	Hand-written Deed	1828 Dec 4
14	11	Partly hand-written Indenture	1835 Feb 13
14	12	Partly hand-written transfer of property	1846 Apr 25
14	13	French Passport a L'Etranger for Rome, Italy,	1917 Mar 20
BSD	1	Printed Signs	n.d.
BSD	1	Henry James Stevens Harvard College Diploma	1857
BSD	1	Hand-written inventory	1769
BSD	2	Plan of the Estate of H.J. Stevens	1892 Dec
BSD	2	Auditors Report for the town of Andover	1847