

The Declaration of Independence engravingMS.0526.Oversized

The Declaration of Independence engraving
circa 1833-1843

Title Statement

The Declaration of Independence engravingMS.0526.Oversized

Publication Statement

Publisher: Virginia Military Institute Archives

VMI Archives
Preston Library
Lexington, VA 24450
Business Number: 540-464-7516
archives@vmi.edu
URL: <http://www.vmi.edu/archives>

Profile Description

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Language Usage: Description is written in: Undetermined, Code for undetermined script script.

Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

MS.0526.Oversized

Unit ID

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Unit Date

circa 1833-1843

Language

English .

Creator

Stone, William James, 1798-1865

Extent

1 items

Extent

37.5 inches by 32.5 inches; engraver's imprint at bottom left, "W.J. Stone Sc. Washn." (upper and lower case as shown); document affixed to linen backing

Physical Location

Oversized case 10, drawer 5

Repository

Virginia Military Institute Archives

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

There are no restrictions.

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Immediate Source of Acquisition

Acquired in 1941 via the great-granddaughter of the engraver William J. Stone.

Preferred Citation

The Declaration of Independence engraving, circa 1833-1843. MS 0526. VMI Archives, Virginia Military Institute, Lexington, Virginia.

Biographical / Historical

William James Stone (1798-1865), engraver, lithographer, and sculptor, was born in London, England and was brought to the United States as a child in 1804. After studying engraving under Peter Maverick in New York, he established a firm in Washington, D.C. in 1815 where he did a significant amount of work for the federal government. He is best known for his 1823 copper plate engraving of the Declaration of Independence. All subsequent exact facsimiles of the Declaration descend from the Stone plate. The original Stone plate is now preserved in the National Archives.

Subsequent to 1823, Stone made additional printings from his plate, altering the location of the engraver's imprint. The item owned by VMI is an example from one of these subsequent printings (circa 1833-1843) and was held until 1941 by a descendant of the engraver.

Scope and Contents

This collection consists of one engraving of the Declaration of Independence by William J. Stone. It dates from around the time of the Stone's second printing (circa 1833), and was one of his personal copies. Stone's engravings show both the text and the signatures in facsimile, which are very close in appearance to the original.

Keywords

Broadsides (notices)

Declaration of Independence (United States)

Engravings (prints)