

A Guide to the Reamur C. Stearnes Papers 1830-1942

Reamur C. Stearnes Papers 1830-1942
1830-1942

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Descriptive Summary

Accession number

2547 and I835

Language

English

Physical Characteristics

This collection consists of ca. 20,000 items.

Repository

Special Collections, University of Virginia Library

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

There are no restrictions.

Use Restrictions

See the [University of Virginia Library's use policy](#).

Acquisition Information

The Reamur C. Stearnes Papers were a gift to the Library by Mrs. Reamur C. Stearnes of Hempstead, Long Island, New York, on November 12, 1946.

Preferred Citation

Reamur C. Stearnes Papers, Accession #2547 and #1835, Special Collections Dept., University of Virginia Library, Charlottesville, Va.

Biographical/Historical Information

Reamur Coleman Stearnes was born on April 8, 1866 in Dublin, Pulaski County, Virginia, the son of Dr. John Lewis and Phoebe Ann (nee McDermed) Stearnes. He won Greek and philosophy medals from the University of Richmond and was graduated in 1887 as valedictorian of his class. He married Mary Elizabeth Arnold in 1888. During the period 1888-1906, he taught mathematics and science at Allegheny Institute, Roanoke; was division superintendent of public schools for Roanoke County; practiced law at Salem; and helped organize the Cooperative Education Association and the Virginia State Teachers' Association, of which he served as president from 1901 to 1906.

Stearnes was appointed secretary to the State Board of Education in 1906. In 1913, upon the resignation of Dr. Joseph E. Eggleston, he was appointed Superintendent of Public Instruction. He was elected to the position in 1914 and served until 1918 when he lost a re-election bid. During World War I he served in various capacities for the War Camp Community Service in Atlanta, Georgia. From 1922 to 1925 he attended Columbia University, receiving an MA degree. He taught mathematics at New York University and Stony Brook School from 1925 to 1939. He also lectured on business administration and secretarial studies at Merchants and Bankers' Business and Secretarial School, New York. In 1936, at age 70, Stearnes earned a Ph.D. degree from New York University.

Stearnes was a member of the Sons of the American Revolution, Phi Delta Kappa, Phi Delta Theta, Pi Mu Epsilon, and was a thirty-third degree Mason and Grand Secretary of the Royal Arcanum Lodge. Reamur C. Stearnes died in New York City on May 25, 1946, and was buried in Dublin, Pulaski County, Virginia.

A doctoral dissertation entitled "The Life and Administration of Reamur Coleman Stearnes" by Vearl G. McBride is available in the University of Virginia Library.

Scope and Content Information

The Reamur Coleman Stearnes Papers consist chiefly of correspondence, bound volumes, financial and legal papers, reports, newspaper clippings, printed materials, photographs and memorabilia. The papers pertain to Stearnes' life and his career in public education and especially relate to his service as secretary of the Virginia State Board of Education, 1906-1913, as Superintendent of Public Instruction, 1913- 1918, and in various capacities for the War Camp Community Service, 1918-1922. Topics of interest in the correspondence pertaining to education include: textbook adoption, certification of teachers, courses of study, and his bid for re-election as Superintendent of Public Instructions. Other topics for which there is material include citizen efforts to run recreational activities in Georgia during World War I, local political campaigns, and family and personal matters, particularly his teaching, and further education at New York University.

As secretary to the State Board of Education and Superintendent of Public Instruction, Stearnes reviewed the credentials of physicians who intended to practice in Virginia to be certain they met a requirement of four years of high school. The political, social, religious and racial implications of his decisions are documented in the correspondence and related papers pertaining to the topic. Considerable information on the candidates for certification is also present.

Financial and legal papers chiefly pertain to Stearnes' business transactions, his career as a lawyer, and to the Stearnes family itself.

Prominent correspondents include: Edwin Anderson Alderman, Paul B. Barringer, R. F. Boatwright, William Cabell Bruce, Harry F. Byrd, Sr., T. A. Cairns, Charles Corbin, Arthur Kyle Davis, George S. Denny, Murray T. Edwards, James Taylor Ellyson, W. S. Gooch, Garrard Harris, T. W. Harrison, W. E. Hatcher, Herbert Hoover, J. L. Jarman, W. H. Keister, J. P. McConnell, H. R. McIlwaine, Thomas R. Marshall, Thomas S. Martin, Mary Cooke Branch Munford, Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., Mary Newton Stanard, Claude A. Swanson, William Howard Taft, and Woodrow Wilson.

Organization

The collection is divided into nine series: I. Correspondence; II. Financial and Legal Papers; III. Superintendent of Public Instruction Papers; IV. War Camp Community Service Papers; V. Personal Education Papers; VI. Topical Files; VII. Printed Material; VIII. Bound Volumes; and IX. Over and Undersized Items, Memorabilia, etc. Folders are arranged chronologically within each series. Series I (Boxes 1-18) consists of general correspondence followed by topical correspondence. Series II (Boxes 18-25) is arranged in the same manner; boxes 23-25 contain miscellaneous receipts. Series III (Boxes 26-34) contains papers relating to his campaign efforts for re-election as Superintendent including petitions from supporters on his behalf. Boxes 29-34 contain papers regarding his role in the certification of physicians who intended to practice in Virginia provided they met a four year high school requirement; boxes 31-34 contain papers regarding textbook adoption. Series IV (Boxes 34-38) chiefly consists of correspondence, reports, and miscellaneous papers pertaining to his work for the War Camp Community Service. Series V (Boxes 38-42) contains papers relating to Stearnes' teaching career, his work towards his doctorate and his interest in education. Series VI (Boxes 43-44) consists of various topical folders. Series VII (Boxes 44-46) contains printed material such as business and calling cards, letterheads, postcards, clippings, invitations, photographs, and speeches and essays. The bound volumes in Series VIII (Boxes 46-49) were numbered and filed chronologically; loose materials in the volumes were placed in inserts, numbered, and filed together in a single folder directly after the last of the bound volumes. Item-by-item listings of the bound volumes, oversize and other disparate materials in Series IX are included in the container list.

Contents List

Series I: Correspondence

Correspondence 1890-1906 Jun

Box 1

Scope and Content

5 folders

Correspondence 1906 Jul - 1909 May

Box 2

Scope and Content

6 folders

Correspondence 1909 Jul - 1913 Jan 7

Box 3

Scope and Content

6 folders

Correspondence 1913 Jan 8 - 1914 Jan 24

Box 4

Scope and Content

6 folders

Correspondence 1914 Jan 26 - 1915 Aug

Box 5

Scope and Content

5 folders

Correspondence 1915 Sep - 1916 Sep

Box 6

Scope and Content

5 folders

Correspondence 1916 Oct - 1917 May 18

Box 7

Scope and Content

5 folders

Correspondence 1917 May 19 - Aug 10

Box 8

Scope and Content

6 folders

Correspondence 1917 Aug 11 - 1921 Feb

Box 9

Scope and Content

5 folders

Correspondence 1921 Mar - 1922

Box 10

Scope and Content

6 folders

Correspondence 1923 - 1925 Jun

Box 11

Scope and Content

6 folders

Correspondence 1925 Jul - 1929 Jun

Box 12

Scope and Content

5 folders

Correspondence 1929 Jul - 1933 Mar

Box 13

Scope and Content

7 folders

Correspondence 1933 Apr - 1936

Box 14

Scope and Content

6 folders

Correspondence 1937 - 1941, 1950

Box 15

Scope and Content

6 folders

Correspondence n.d.

Box 16

Scope and Content

2 folders

Correspondence re miscellaneous financial and legal matters 1868, 1895-1905

Box 16

Correspondence and related papers re Florida real estate 1895-1906

Box 16

Scope and Content

2 folders

Letters to R.C. Stearnes re receipts 1895-1942

Box 16

Correspondence and related papers re Royal Arcanum Lodge 1897, 1911-1938

Box 17

Scope and Content

2 folders

Correspondence and related papers - Paul Scherer 1901-1905

Box 17

Letters to R.C. Stearnes re miscellaneous legal matters 1903-1906

Box 17

Correspondence of R.C. Stearnes and T.A. Murphy 1903-1908

Box 17

Correspondence re March C. Renick 1904-1911

Box 17

Correspondence re Stearnes and Zeidler piano 1906-1909

Box 17

Correspondence between R.C. Stearnes and Claude A. Swanson 1913

Box 17

Letters of recommendation re R.C. Stearnes 1922-1938

Box 18

Letters to R.C. Stearnes from the American Trust Co. and the American National Bank 1924-1925

Box 18

Correspondence re Stearnes Family Finances 1931-1935

Box 18

Post Cards (having substantial messages) 1891-1941

Box 18

Scope and Content

2 folders

Christmas Cards (having substantial messages) 1904-1936, n.d.

Box 18

Series II: Financial and Legal Papers

Financial and Legal Papers 1861, 1873-1899

Box 18

Financial and Legal Papers 1900-1941, n.d.

Box 19

Scope and Content

5 folders

Financial and Legal Papers: Miscellaneous 1899-1938

Box 20

Scope and Content

2 folders

Receipts of Samuel Grice 1830-1895

Box 20

Legal Papers re Goff vs. Blankenship 1854, 1886, 1890, 1902-1904

Box 20

Legal Papers re Creston Land Co., Salem Land Co., and Henry's Rheumatic Remedy 1871, 1886, 1890-1905

Box 20

Legal Papers re T.D. Crawford and the Iron Belt Building and Loan Association 1883-1906

Box 20

Acid Iron Mineral Company 1886-1903, n.d.

Box 21

Scope and Content

3 folders

Legal Papers re Real Estate 1891-1905

Box 21

Selected published records of Stearnes' court cases 1901-1906

Box 21

Legal Papers: Title to Lake Spring Land Co. Tract 1904 Aug 16

Box 22

Legal Papers re Thompson et. al. vs. Camper 1906

Box 22

Taxes 1919-1938

Box 22

Receipts re Richmond property 1922-1923

Box 22

Fenner and Beane 1927-1941

Box 22

Redman and Co. 1931-1934

Box 22

Miscellaneous Receipts 1899-1918 Jan

Box 23

Scope and Content

unfolded

Miscellaneous Receipts 1917 Nov - 1933

Box 24

Scope and Content

unfolded

Miscellaneous Receipts 1934-1944

Box 25

Scope and Content

unfolded

Series III: Superintendent of Public Instruction Papers

Correspondence of R.C. Stearnes as Superintendent of Schools, Roanoke County 1830-1861, 1905-1912

Box 26

Correspondence and related papers of R.C. Stearnes as Superintendent of Public Instruction 1913-1918, n.d.

Box 26

Scope and Content

4 folders

Correspondence re school conditions 1914

Box 27

Letters to R.C. Stearnes from School Superintendents 1914 Nov 16 - Dec 5

Box 27

Courses of study for Roanoke County Schools 1893-1894

Box 27

Annual Financial Reports Division Superintendent of Schools ca. 1913-1918

Box 27

Superintendent of Public Instruction: Weekly Activities 1914-1918

Box 27

Minutes of the Virginia State Board of Education 1914-1918

Box 27

Correspondence re campaign for Superintendent of Public Instruction 1916 Jun - Jul

Box 27

**Correspondence re campaign for Superintendent of Public Instruction
1916 Aug - 1917 Aug**

Box 28

Scope and Content

2 folders

**Campaign for Superintendents of Public Instruction: Miscellaneous Papers
1916-1917**

Box 28

**Superintendent of Public Instruction: Nomination Petitions 1917 May - Jun,
n.d.**

Box 28

Scope and Content

2 folders

**Petitioners requesting RCS to be a candidate for Superintendent of Public
Instruction 1917**

Box 28

**Correspondence re Qualifying Certificates from State Board of Medical
Examiners 1910 Aug - 1915 May**

Box 29

Scope and Content

6 folders

**Correspondence re Qualifying Certificates from State Board of Medical
Examiners 1915 Jun - 1916 Sep**

Box 30

Scope and Content

60 folders

**Correspondence re Qualifying Certificates from State Board of Medical
Examiners 1916 Oct - 1918 Mar, n.d.**

Box 31

**Applications for Qualifying Certificates from State Board of Medical
Examiners 1912-1916**

Box 31

**Correspondence and related papers re purchasing of textbooks for Virginia
1909-1916, n.d.**

Box 31

Scope and Content

2 folders

Correspondence re textbooks for Virginia school libraries: A-G 1910-1916

Box 31

Correspondence re textbooks for Virginia school libraries: H-Y 1910-1916

Box 32

Scope and Content

2 folders

Correspondence and reports re preferred list of textbooks 1912-1914

Box 32

Correspondence re textbooks in Virginia 1914-1918

Box 32

Scope and Content

2 folders

**Correspondence re bids and price lists for public school library books 1917
Sep 27 - Oct 3**

Box 32

Scope and Content

3 folders

**Correspondence re bids and price lists for public school library books 1917
Oct 4 - Dec 7**

Box 33

Miscellaneous papers re textbooks 1913-1918, n.d.

Box 33

Scope and Content

2 folders

Reports to the State Board of Education re textbooks ca. 1914

Box 33

Reports re textbook sales in Virginia 1914-1915

Box 33

Miscellaneous price lists for school textbooks ca. 1914-1917

Box 33

Transcripts of testimony re Educational Publishing Co. in Virginia 1915

Box 34

Reports to State Senate of Virginia re school textbook selection 1916

Box 34

Textbook price lists n.d.

Box 34

Series IV: War Camp Community Service Papers

Correspondence re war effort campaign 1917-1918

Box 34

**Correspondence chiefly re War Camp Community Service 1917, 1920 Jan -
Nov**

Box 34

Scope and Content

3 folders

Correspondence chiefly re War Camp Community Service 1920 Dec - 1921 Dec

Box 35

Scope and Content

4 folders

Correspondence and related papers re War Camp Community Service n.d.

Box 35

War Camp Community Service: Daily Reports 1918 Mar - Jul

Box 35

War Camp Community Service: Daily Reports 1918 Aug - 1920 Dec

Box 36

Scope and Content

5 folders

War Camp Community Service Reports 1918-1920

Box 36

War Camp Community Service Reports and clippings 1921

Box 37

War Camp Community Service: Community Organizer's Weekly Reports 1919 May - 1920 Mar

Box 37

Scope and Content

3 folders

War Camp Community Service: Community Organizer's Weekly Reports 1920 Apr - 1922 Jan

Box 38

War Camp Community Service: Miscellaneous 1917-1926, n.d.

Box 38

Series V: Personal Education Papers

Letters and related papers chiefly re Virginia education 1904-1919, 1941-1942

Box 38

Class notes and related papers re New York University and other schools 1920-1924

Box 38

Scope and Content

2 folders

Class notes and related papers re New York University and other schools 1923-1938, n.d.

Box 39

Scope and Content

5 folders

Additional Papers re Columbia University and New York University 1921-1939

Box 40

Stony Brook School: Miscellaneous Student Papers ca. 1925-1929

Box 40

Phi Delta Kappa 1926-1941

Box 40

Grade Books: New York University 1927-1939

Box 40

Scope and Content

unfolded

Student Examination Books: New York University 1934-1939

Box 40

Scope and Content

unfolded

Student Examination Books: New York University 1938-1939

Box 41

Scope and Content

unfolded

Merchants and Bankers' Business School: Tests and Projects 1931

Box 41

Miscellaneous Examination Answers 1934

Box 41

Pedagogy 1887-1936, n.d.

Box 42

Scope and Content

2 folders

Papers re Education 1904-1938, n.d.

Box 42

Scope and Content

2 folders

Printed Materials re Education 1910-1917

Box 42

Scope and Content

2 folders

Series VI: Topical Files

Index cards re miscellaneous subjects ca. 1906-1918

Box 43

Miscellaneous Items 1908-1939

Box 43

Circulars and Memoranda 1913-1941, n.d.

Box 43

Elections 1915-1941, n.d.

Box 43

Sons of the American Revolution 1917-1941, n.d.

Box 43

Papers re Casto-Craneo 1930-1942

Box 43

Papers re Casto-Craneo n.d.

Box 44

Astor Lodge 1931-1939

Box 44

Stearnes Memorial ca. 1931

Box 44

Guardian Guardianship n.d.

Box 44

Series VII: Printed Material, Writings and Photographs

Business and Calling Cards 1890-1940

Box 44

Letterheads 1896-1920

Box 44

Speeches and Essays 1897-1918

Box 44

Miscellaneous Invitations and Postcards 1902-1941

Box 45

Newspaper Clippings 1906-1938

Box 45

Membership cards of R.C. Stearnes 1909-1944

Box 45

Printed Material 1904-1922, 1924-1941

Box 45

Scope and Content

2 folders

Photographs (w/negatives) ca. 1890-1941

Box 45

Photographs: Proof Sheets ca. 1890-1941

Box 45

Photographs and Prints ca. 1890-1941

Box 46

Series VIII: Bound Volumes

Memoranda book, "Notes on titles to School No. 11 in Central District" ca. 1891

Box 46

Memoranda book of R.C. Stearnes re miscellaneous legal matters ca. 1895

Box 46

Register of notes re deeds and legal matters ca. 1895

Box 46

Memoranda book of R.C. Stearnes re deeds and legal matters ca. 1895

Box 46

Register of deeds and legal matters ca. 1899

Box 46

Register of R.C. Stearnes re legal matters ca. 1900

Box 46

Register of deeds and legal matters 1905

Box 47

Ledger of R.C. Stearnes for a Business Education Course 1915-1917, 1922

Box 47

Journal of R.C. Stearnes for a Business Education Course 1915-1917, 1922

Box 47

Scrapbook of R.C. Stearnes' campaign for re-election as Superintendent of Public Instruction 1916-1920

Box 47

Journal of R.C. Stearnes for a Business Education course 1920

Box 47

Journal of R.C. Stearnes for a Business Education course 1920

Box 47

Notebook ca. 1921

Box 48

Notebook of R.C. Stearnes re mathematics and education ca. 1922-1925

Box 48

Class Roll Books, New York University 1929-1939

Box 48

Scope and Content

14 volumes

Class Role Books of R.C. Stearnes, Washington Heights School 1929-1939

Box 48

Scope and Content

6 volumes

Class Roll Books of R.C. Stearnes 1930-1932, n.d.

Box 48

Scope and Content

3 volumes

Class Roll Books of R.C. Stearnes, Merchants and Bankers' School 1932-1938

Box 48

Scope and Content

4 volumes

Mathematics Notebook 1932-1934

Box 48

Mathematics Nnotebook 1936

Box 49

Latin notebook n.d.

Box 49

Civics notebook, New York University n.d.

Box 49

Papers pulled from volumes 6, 7, 8, 10, 13, and 35 1893-1912, 1922, 1931

Box 49

Series IX: Over and Undersized Items, Memorabilia, etc.

Oversized Items

"Tenth Annual July Fourth Community Picnic..." 1920

Blueprints, revised plans of Roselawn, Henrico County, Virginia 1921 Mar 15

Map of a part of the Salem Improvement Company's property at Salem, Virginia n.d.

Map of property owned by Salem Club Land Co. n.d.

Map of the Riverside Land Company's property at Salem, Virginia n.d.

Map of the Washington Heights, property of the Washington Club Land Co., Roanoke, Virginia n.d.

Ledgers

I. Scrapbook of R.C. Stearnes 1912-1920

II. Scrapbook of R.C. Stearnes 1909, 1913-1917

III. Scrapbook of R.C. Stearnes 1913-1918

A. Record of results of examinations of applications for licenses to teach 1892-1896

B. Record of results of examinations of applications for licenses to teach 1897-1902

C. Record of results of examinations of applications for licenses to teach 1903-1905

Memorabilia

Scope and Content

Chiefly consists of ca. 42 pins and ribbons from various meetings, organizations and conventions; also included is a miniature bale of cotton from Savannah, Georgia

Money

2 pieces of C.S.A. fractional currency 1862

Scope and Content

25 cents - County of Goochland; 50 cents - County of Goochland

1 Virginia Treasury Note 1862