

# Sykes, George Letter and Ephemera

George Sykes Letter and Ephemera

1844 February-March

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## Title Statement

Sykes, George Letter and Ephemera Guide to the George Sykes Letter and Ephemera SC 00005

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## Publication Statement

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## Profile Description

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## Descriptive Summary

**Unit ID**

SC 00005

**Unit ID**

/repositories/2/resources/1877

**Unit Date**

1844 February-March

**Language**

English

**Extent**

0.01 Linear Feet

**Repository**

Special Collections Research Center

## Administrative Information

### **Conditions Governing Access:**

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### **Acquisition Information:**

Mss. Acc. 2014.234 was received by Special Collections in 2014 and was made possible by the Clarice Garrison Quasi Fund.

### **Processing Information:**

Accessioned and minimally described by Tim Eklund, SCRC staff, in February 2015.

### **Preferred Citation:**

George Sykes Letter and Ephemera, Special Collections Research Center, Swem Library, College of William and Mary.

## **Administrative History:**

George Sykes was born in Sykesville, New Jersey in 1802 and served as a Democrat from New Jersey in the United States House of Representatives from 1843-1847. Sykes later served in the New Jersey General Assembly from 1877-1879 and died in 1880.

## **Scope and Contents**

This collection consists of an account of the USS Princeton disaster, handwritten by United States Congressman George Sykes and sent as a letter to his sister. The first-hand account describes the lead-up to the disaster, the explosion itself that killed six people, including the Secretary of State, President John Tyler's enslaved servant, and the father of Tyler's fiancée, and the aftermath and funeral. Also included are Sykes' official invitation to the event that led to the disaster, and a newspaper clipping giving another witness' account.

## **Related Materials:**

Clement M. Butler Papers (Mss. Acc. 1997.38), Tyler Family Papers, Group A-H Additions (Acc. 2013.289).

## **Keywords**

Clippings (information artifacts)  
Invitations  
Letters (correspondence)  
United States. Navy--History--19th century  
Princeton (Frigate)  
Tyler family

## **Description of Subordinate Components**

### **George Sykes Letter and Ephemera, 1844**

**Unit ID** id321228

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/164968

**Mixed Materials** Small Collections Box 1 (Box)

**Container** 1 (folder)