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Descriptive Summary

Identifier ICU.SPCL.STEPHENSONWAF

Title Stephenson, William A. F., Papers

Date circa 1905-1986

Size 9.5 linear feet (16 boxes)

Repository Special Collections Research Center
University of Chicago Library
1100 East 57th Street
Chicago, Illinois 60637 U.S.A.

Abstract William A. F. Stephenson (1904-1985) University of Chicago graduate who had a long and prominent career in the military, public service, education, politics, and business. The collection documents Stephenson’s work in FDR’s New Deal, in the Army during WWII where he served under Patton and Bradley, and in Florida’s Democratic Party.

Information on Use

Access
The collection is open for research.

Citation
When quoting material from this collection, the preferred citation is: Stephenson, William A. F., Papers, [Box #, Folder #], Special Collections Research Center, University of Chicago Library

Biographical Note
William Alexander Forsyth Stephenson was born in Chicago on September 3, 1904. He graduated from the University of Chicago in June, 1927. During his college years, he was a police reporter for the City Press, covering organized crime. After college, Stephenson worked as Assistant Chief to the 1933 Chicago World’s Fair director, Faye Cooper Cole. Once the Fair was underway Stephenson returned to the graduate program in Public Administration at the University of Chicago.

The university was heavily involved in the development of New Deal programs, and in 1933 Stephenson was employed as the first Chief of Operations of the newly formed Soil Erosion Service. In 1935 he transferred to the Dept. of the Interior as first Executive Officer of the Housing Division of PWA (Public Works Administration). After holding several positions in the Department of the Interior, Stephenson was sent to Florida to organize and supervise the Florida...
Power Corporation. While in Florida, he invented a valve that allowed refrigerating systems to function as heating systems.

In 1942, Stephenson enlisted in the US Army. He was commissioned as a Major and assigned to the School of Military Government. Shortly after graduating he was sent to Europe. He worked in the secret Nehou headquarters in Normandy, site of invasion planning, and participated actively during D-Day with the Army’s engineering division. Working on the reconstruction of France, he participated in the transfer of the French government from Algiers to Europe as well as in the Liberation of Paris.

In 1945, Stephenson returned to the U.S. and retired from the Army. He continued developing the valve he had invented, and founded the Broquinda Corporation, which focused in building cooling systems for industrial transportation machines. During the 1950s, he was active in the Democratic Party in Florida. He directed Adlai’s Stevenson presidential campaign in the state, was elected Chairman of the Democratic Party in Pinellas County, and helped to design state primary legislation.

In 1956, Stephenson ran unsuccessfully for Congress. Later that year, Stephenson designed a plan to address a shortage of male teachers in the public schools by funding graduate programs in education for qualified retired military personnel. He lobbied and gained support from both universities and the military. With the help of Senator Kennedy the program was approved and implemented with outstanding success. In 1963, Stephenson became an Assistant Dean of the Harvard University Graduate School of Education, a position that he held until 1964.

In retirement, Stephenson moved to Bat Cave, North Carolina, where he lived the rest of his life. Stephenson died in a car accident in 1985. He was the father of three daughters.

**Scope Note**

The Stephenson Papers are divided into seven series.

Series I contains paperwork, notes, correspondence, statistical charts, reviews, and drafts related the military education program designed by Stephenson. The goal of the program was to solve the deficit of qualified high school level teachers by training retired military. The law authorizing the program was presented by John F. Kennedy and approved by Congress in 1956.

Series II documents Stephenson’s work on various governmental organizations during FDR’s New Deal, including the Soil Erosion Service and the Department of Labor. The series includes correspondence between Stephenson and important New Deal figures, including Claude
Pepper and Benjamin Cohen. It also contains all correspondence pertaining different New Deal celebratory reunions.

Series III contains materials related to Stephenson’s work with the Democratic Party, including his support for Adlai Stevenson's presidential campaigns, his chairmanship of the Pinellas County Democratic Committee, and his 1956 campaign for Congress. The series also documents his work advocacy of Florida state primary legislation.

Series IV documents Stephenson’s Army service and his life and work as a military veteran. The series contains WWII military records, maps, photographs, and correspondence, including several accounts of D-Day invasion and the liberation of Paris, in which Stephenson participated. (A map of D-Day invasion strategy may be found in Series VII, Oversize.)

Series V contains materials related to Stephenson’s studies at the University of Chicago, including alumni correspondence and files related to his employment as a journalist while enrolled at the University.

Series VI contains Stephenson’s personal and business correspondence. It includes postcards, invoices, newspaper clippings and many personal records, as well as files related to the Broquinda Corporation and the Florida Power Corporation.

**Related Resources**

The following related resources are located in the Department of Special Collections:

http://www.lib.uchicago.edu/e/scrc/findingaids/topics.php

**Subject Headings**

- Stephenson, William A. F.
- Pepper, Claude, 1900-1989
- Stevenson, Adlai E. (Adlai Ewing), 1900-1965
- Democratic Party (Fla.)
- New Deal, 1933-1939
- World War II, 1939-1945

**INVENTORY**

**Series I: Military Teaching Program**

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   Education Bill I, House Bill 1204, 1955
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   Reports, brochures and correspondence with Pentagon, 1951-1957
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   Lobbying, correspondence, 1956-1958
Box 1
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   Education Bill II, correspondence, preliminary studies of Education Bill, 1957-1959
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Folder 1
   Teaching veterans, correspondence, 1960
Box 2
Folder 2
   Retired Military Teaching, correspondence with universities that implemented the program, 1963
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Folder 3
   Teaching Officers, correspondence with U.S. Air Force, brochures, invoices, 1963-1964
Box 2
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   Retired Military, advertisements, correspondence, 1969-1974

Series II: New Deal

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   U.S. Department of Labor: Wage and Hour Department, correspondence, 1939-1940
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   Helms, Douglas (historian of the Soil Conservation Service), correspondence, manuscripts, 1951-1983
Box 2
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   U.S. Department of Agriculture, correspondence, 1971-1973
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Folder 12
   Kudzu Growing, correspondence, newspaper clippings, circa 1977
Box 2
Folder 13
   Cohen Benjamin Honorary Degree, correspondence, 1977-1983

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Folder 1-2
   50th Anniversary New Deal Dinner Party, correspondence, programs, invitations, guest lists, handbook “The Faces of the New Deal”, invoices, 1983

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   50th Anniversary Soil and Water Movement, correspondence, 1985

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   Allen, Robert, McCamy, James, Frank Jerome N., Merriam, Charles E., correspondence, 1935-1941

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   Corcoran, Thomas, correspondence, 1978-1982

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Folder 7
   Crawford, Kenneth, Miller Lee G., correspondence, photograph, 1949-1979

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   Foley, Edward, correspondence, 1948-1949

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Folder 10
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Box 3
Folder 14-16
   Pepper, Claude, correspondence, 1954-1982

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Series III: Democratic Party

Subseries 1: Campaigns

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Radio Programs Local, radio programs and advertisement scripts supporting Adlai Stevenson’s campaign, 1952

Box 4
Folder 3-4
Volunteers for Stevenson, correspondence concerning volunteers for Adlai Stevenson’s presidential campaign, 1952-1953

Box 4
Folder 5
Democratic Executive Committee, Pinellas County, election of chair, files, 1954

Box 4
Folder 6
Non Partisan Filing of Candidates, legal paperwork, manuscripts, circa 1955

Box 4
Folder 7
Convention of Delegates 1956, correspondence, invoices, lists, 1955-1956

Box 4
Folder 8
Volunteers for Stevenson, correspondence, invoices, name tag, 1956

Box 4
Folder 9
Stevenson Adlai, Florida Campaign, correspondence, 1956-1960

Box 4
Folder 10-11
Speeches, manuscripts, correspondence, newspaper clippings, circa 1956

Box 4
Folder 12
Volunteers for Stevenson-Kefauver, correspondence concerning 1956 campaign, 1956

Box 4
Folder 13
Stephenson for Congress, correspondence concerning Stephenson’s campaign for congress, 1956

Box 5
Folder 1-2
Stevenson for President, Adlai Stevenson’s campaign for the Presidency material, including the organization of Stevenson’s campaign in Florida, correspondence, speeches, telegrams, 1956.

Box 5
Folder 3
Know Your Candidates, newspaper clippings from the Petersburg Times column of the same name, 1956

Box 5
Folder 4
Pinellas Executive Committee, manuscripts, circa 1957

Box 5
Folder 5
Democratic Executive committee, correspondence, 1958

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Folder 6
1968 Campaign, correspondence, 1968-1969

Box 5
Folder 7
Butler, Paul M, correspondence with Paul Butler chairman of the National Democratic Committee, 1955-1957

Box 5
Folder 8
Kefauver, Estes, correspondence with the office, 1954-1956

Box 5
Folder 9
Raskin, H.B., correspondence with Hy Raskin chairman of the National Democratic Committee, 1952-1955

Box 5
Folder 10
Tubby, Roger, Press Director Adlai Stevenson’s Campaign, correspondence, 1955 -1956

Box 5
Folder 11
National Democratic Party, loose correspondence, 1939-1977

Subseries 2: Florida State Election Laws

Box 5
Folder 12
Platform, manuscript of Stephenson’s on 1st district matters, undated

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Folder 13
The Brookings Institution includes a copy of the book Specifications for a Model State Presidential Primary Law by David T. Paul, correspondence, 1955

Box 6
Folder 1-4
Florida Primary Act 1955, correspondence, news clippings, includes a copy of Florida State Election Law, includes a brief Biography of Stephenson, manuscripts, 1955-1978

Box 6
Folder 5
Primary Returns, newspaper clippings concerning Florida State Primary, 1956
Series IV: World War II

Subseries 1: War Files

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Folder 7
Biographical Material related to Stephenson and Lewis H. Weinstein, 1940-1983

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World War II Files, correspondence, military records, maps, photographs, brochures, 1942-1977

Box 7
Folder 1-2
World War II files, military records, military health records, immunization records, correspondence, 1942-1952

Box 7
Folder 3
World War II files, military records, military health records, immunization records, correspondence, includes two letter of presentation, includes an invitation from the Dutch Ministry of War, 1942-1952

Box 7
Folder 4
Occupation Zones WWII, COSSAC Military records, 1944

Box 7
Folder 5
3rd Army, map, correspondence, 1944

Box 7
Folder 6-7
"Battle Experiences," periodic bulletin prepared by the Combat Lessons Branch of the G-3 U.S. Army Headquarters, 1944-1945

Box 7
Folder 8
Liberation of Paris, military records, correspondence, brief account of the liberation by Weinstein Lewis, includes a WWII map of Paris, brief account of the liberation by Stephenson, 1944-1984

Subseries 2: Post-War Files

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Photographs, correspondence, 1921-1984
• Includes photograph of Wm. A. F. Stephenson with Lewis Weinstein and Jacques Chirac (Mayor of Paris), 1984, photograph of Stephenson’s Hyde Park High School class, 19211921, Polaroid photograph of an unknown man, 1981

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Folder 10
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Box 7
Folder 11
Late Reserve, military records, invoices, correspondence, 1959-1962

Box 8
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Box 8
Folder 4
Is Paris Burning? Correspondence, newspaper clippings, manuscripts, 1958-1977

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Folder 5-6
12th Army Group, Eagles, correspondence, brochures, invoices, forms, 1954-1972

Box 8
Folder 7
U.S. Army School, Europe, Department of Intelligence, Symposium on Collateral Activities, conferences schedules, brochures, school maps, correspondence, 1961-1962

Box 8
Folder 8
Patton’s Hunt, correspondence inquiring for any concerning media material on General Patton’s speeches, 1977-1984

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Folder 9
Barnett, Lloyd, Fitzmaurice, James, Hinton, Coleman, biographical data and military records, 1981

Box 8
Folder 10
Bradley, Omar N. General, correspondence, 1967-170

Box 8
Folder 11
Bradley, Omar N. General, correspondence, military records, 1945-1980

Box 9
Folder 1
McCormack, James, Major General correspondence, 1949-1956

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Folder 2-3
Trippett, Frank, correspondence, 1968-1982

Box 9
Folder 4
Weinstein, Lewis H., correspondence, 1955-1984

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Folder 5
Weinstein, Lewis H., Memoirs, correspondence, manuscripts, 1984

Box 9
Folder 6-7
Weinstein Lewis H, correspondence, 1970-1984

**Series V: University of Chicago**

- **Box 9**
  - **Folder 8**
    - The University of Chicago Alumni Foundation, correspondence, 1927-1979

- **Box 9**
  - **Folder 9**
    - First Annual Publications Reunion, correspondence concerning University of Chicago former Editors and Top Staff members of Student Publications reunion, 1955

- **Box 9**
  - **Folder 10**
    - Beta Theta Pi, personal files, 1956-1984

- **Box 9**
  - **Folder 11 - 12**
    - Hyde Park High School, correspondence, includes correspondence with Mulroy, Thomas, Mayer, Howard, Anderson, Charles, and Osgood Cornelius (among others), 1957-1984

- **Box 9**
  - **Folder 13**
    - University of Chicago Class of 1927 Alumni, correspondence, 1967-1984

- **Box 10**
  - **Folder 1 - 2**
    - Chicago Alumni Reunion Class of 1927, correspondence, brochures, hand programs, invitations, 1976 - 1983

- **Box 10**
  - **Folder 3**
    - University of Chicago Class of 1927, photograph, correspondence, 1977

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    - Babcock, Richard F., correspondence, 1952 -1953

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  - **Folder 6**
    - Baker, Robert, correspondence, 1954-1955

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  - **Folder 7**
    - Barnard, Harry, correspondence, includes correspondence with Barnard, Ruth, 1980-1984

- **Box 10**
  - **Folder 8**
    - BE CENTER, correspondence, 1980-1985

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  - **Folder 9**
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   Bendetsen, Karl E., correspondence, 1950-1976

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Folder 11
   Blair, William, correspondence, 1952-1957

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   Correspondence, regarding military education legislation and Kennedy assassination, 1960-1964
   • Correspondents include John F. Kennedy, Claude Pepper, Adlai Stevenson

Box 10
Folder 14
   Bledsoe, Jerry, correspondence, 1979-1982

Box 10
Folder 15
   The Broquinda Polarcar, brief history, correspondence, 1952-1958

Box 10
Folder 16
   The Broquinda Polarmobile, pictures of Polarmobile Models, brochures, 1947

Box 10
Folder 17
   Bryant, Farris, correspondence 1953-1955

Box 11
Folder 1
   Burnett, Carol, correspondence, 1980

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Folder 2
   Campus Unrest, manuscripts, correspondence, 1969

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Folder 3
   Charles E. Kettering Foundation, correspondence, 1960-1961

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Folder 4
   Chicago Tribune, correspondence, 1977

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Folder 5
   Cisler, Walker, correspondence, 1950-1953

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   Cochran, Alexander, correspondence, 1984

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   Collins, Frank, correspondence, 1978
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  Collins, Le Roy, correspondence, 1954-1956
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  Curriculum Vitae, correspondence, 1960
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  Diaries, circa 1940-1945
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  David, Thomas E., correspondence, 1954-1956
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Folder 2  
  De Roos, Peter, correspondence, 1968-1974
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  Dimock, Marshall, correspondence, 1984
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  Dinsdale, David A., correspondence, manuscripts, 1982 - 1984
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  Douglas, Paul H., correspondence, 1955
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  Dungan, Ralph, correspondence, 1959 -1961
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  Eisenhower, Milt, correspondence, 1951-1952
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  Farrell, Jim, correspondence, photocopies, newspaper clippings, 1975-1982
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Federal Communications Commission, correspondence, 1953
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Florida Power, correspondence and manuscripts, 1940-1952
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Box 12
Folder 15
Glenn, John, correspondence, 1983
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Folder 16
Goodwin, George, correspondence, manuscripts, 1948-1982
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Graduate School Application, statement of purpose, writing sample, 1964
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Hancock Theodore includes correspondence with the painter Theodore Hancock, hand program for art exhibition, brochures, 1968
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Harris, Joan Coker, correspondence, 1966-1967
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Hebb, Maurice E., correspondence, 1983
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Parce Mead, correspondence, 1977
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Parkinsonism Harvard, correspondence, 1980-1984
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Folder 20
Perry John, correspondence, 1959-1983
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Folder 1-3  
  Perry John, correspondence, 1952 - 1957

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Folder 4-5  
  Public Letters, correspondence, newspaper clippings, 1971-1984

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Folder 6  
  Pussey, Nathan M., President of Harvard University, correspondence, 1963

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  Redman, Mac, correspondence, 1949-1954

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  Admiral Rickover Hyman, correspondence, news clippings, 1953-1982

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  Rocky Broad River Pollution, correspondence with the Department of Water Resources, 1966

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  Rosenthal, Robert, correspondence, 1975-1983

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  Sikes Robert, correspondence with the congressman Robert Skies, 1955 - 1956

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  Southern Electrical Exchange, personal files, 1964

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Folder 14  
  Stevers, Martin D., Meekins, Roger P., Laughlin, Larry F., correspondence, 1967-1975

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Folder 15  
  Strauss, Michael W., Thompson, Wolfsohn, Joel D., correspondence, 1950-1954

Box 15

Folder 1  
  Switzerland and the Cold War, criticism by Stephenson of C.I.A. secret plan, 1962

Box 15

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  Vanderbilt University, correspondence, 1980-1982

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  1977 Vanderbilt University Class of 1927 Reunion, correspondence, hand programs, name tag, manuscripts, 1977-1983
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The Maria Vegh Wyatt Trust, correspondence, map, 1980.
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Personal Files, correspondence, 1944-1970.
Box 15
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Personal Files, correspondence, newspaper clippings, circa 1945-1983
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Folder 9
Personal Files, correspondence, invoices, manuscripts, 1952-1984
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Folder 10
PhD. Application Inquiries, correspondence, 1956
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Folder 12
Personal Files, correspondence, news clippings, 1956
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Folder 13
Personal Files, correspondence, news clippings, 1956-1960
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Box 15
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Folder 2
Personal Files, includes correspondence concerning retired Captain Scott Severance, invoices, 1964 -1969

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Folder 10
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   Manuscript, undated

Series VII: Oversize Files

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   D-Day map, 1943