

## Sara Yorke Stevenson Papers

Sara Yorke Stevenson (1847-1921), archeologist, Egyptologist, civic leader, newspaper editor and columnist, was one of the principal founders of what is now called the University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archeology and Anthropology; In 1894 she became the first woman to receive an honorary degree from Penn. Stevenson served as Curator of the Egyptian and Mediterranean Section and member of the Museum's governing board from 1890 to 1905, but she resigned in 1905—apparently over the Board's handling of disputes about Hermann Hilprecht, Curator of the Babylonian Section. Founder and first president of the Equal Franchise Society, co-founder and two-term president of the Civic Club (a women's group pushing for reform and civic improvement), chair of the French War Relief Committee of the Emergency Aid of Pennsylvania, Stevenson played a leadership role in many of Philadelphia's "good causes." For more than a decade she was also literary editor and columnist for the Philadelphia *Public Ledger*, writing under the pen names "Peggy Shippen" and "Sallie Wistar."

These papers (1.8 cubic feet), removed in 2006 from a home once lived in by Stevenson's friend Frances Anne Wister (1874-1956), cover the full range of Stevenson's interests. Highlights include her newspaper clippings and comments on the Hilprecht dispute, copies of hundreds of letters to her from her good friend William Pepper, Jr. (1898; provost at Penn, civic leader), and letters to her from many other Philadelphia notables.

Donation of David Prince Estate

### *Folder List*

Box 1

Miscellaneous Philadelphia Institutions

Pictorial Arts, including Art Alliance

Civic Club of Philadelphia

1112 Spruce Street, Where Papers Were Found

Women's Suffrage (including Equal Franchise Society) and Women's Equality

Shakespeare Tercentenary and Statue

World War I, folder 1 of 2: Women's Division for National Preparedness *and* National League for Women's Service

World War I, folder 2 of 2: Women's Division for Nation Preparedness *and* National League for Woman's Service

Box 2

Newspaper and Magazine Clippings on Hilprecht Controversy, folder 1 of 2

Newspaper and Magazine Clippings on Hilprecht Controversy, folder 2 of 2

Two Photographs: one of Woman, Husband and Child (possibly family of Sara Yorke Stevenson), one of child (possibly Sara Yorke Stevenson's son, William)

Sara Yorke Stevenson, draft of memorial address or essay for William Pepper (first pages missing)

Sara Yorke Stevenson, draft of what may be history of University Museum (later pages missing; this draft may be related to memorial address or essay for William Pepper)

Francis Thorpe to Sara Yorke Stevenson, 3 ALS: undated; June 5, 1900; July 25, 1900 *with* Sara Yorke Stevenson to Francis Thorpe, undated draft

Notes by Sara York Stevenson on statue of William Pepper

Possibly a cover sheet and summary by Sara Yorke Stevenson for copies of her letters to William Pepper

Possible imaginative writings by Sara Yorke Stephenson: story of Bridget Cleary of Cloneen, Tipperary, Ireland and other pieces.

William Pepper to Sara Yorke Stevenson, copies of his letters written in 1895 (folder 1 of 2)

William Pepper to Sara Yorke Stevenson, copies of his letters written in 1895 (folder 2 of 2)

William Pepper to Sara Yorke Stevenson, copies of his letters written in 1896

William Pepper to Sara Yorke Stevenson, copies of his letters written in 1897

William Pepper to Sara Yorke Stevenson, copies of his letters written in 1898

Letter from Talcott Williams to Sara Yorke Stevenson, July 28, 1898, expressing condolences on death of William Pepper

Box 3

Harvard Notebook for English "A" (1919 – 1920) for Owen J. Wister, son of novelist Owen Wister and Mary Channing Wister

Mexican Affairs

Children of Owen Wister. Includes publications from St. Paul's (New Hampshire), Springside School (Chestnut Hill, Philadelphia, PA), and Montgomery School (Wynnewood, PA)

Correspondence and Other Items Related to Archaeology

Miscellaneous Writings and Correspondence