

Sturgis Library Archives

Stephen Smith Records MS. 41

Extent: 1 folder in multifold box

Biographical Note: Stephen Smith is known as the creator of the roll top desk. He was Born 1805 in Barnstable, Ma of James and Bethiel (Ryder) Smith. At the age of eleven his mother died and he apprenticed with a cabinetmaker in Sandwich. He started his career by creating cabinets for clocks then branched out into bank, church and office furniture. His place of business is listed as being on 49 Cornhill in Boston. Smith passed away in 1875.

For more information see the Stephen Smith paper at The University of Michigan William L. Clements Library: <http://quod.lib.umich.edu/cgi/f/findaid/findaid-idx?c=clementsmss;idno=umich-wcl-M-2329smi>. A printout of the finding aid for these papers, which includes a more extensive biographical sketch, is included in the Sturgis Library's Smith records. See below in *Item List*.

Scope and Content Note: The collection consists of correspondence, business records, genealogy notes and a handwritten biography of Stephen Smith that helps to add a lot of detail about his early life with his parents and siblings. Also of interest is an auction catalog (published after his death) that lists the contents of his business.

Access: Unrestricted. Credit Sturgis Library Archives for publication purposes.

Acquisition: Unknown

Processed by: Stephen Robert Lovell Farrar, 2006. Updated by Lucy Loomis, 2008.

Item List

1. William L. Clements Library, University of Michigan finding aid for their Stephen Smith papers
2. Correspondence with Jonathan Chapman and Josiah Adams
3. Account Records
4. Auction Catalog
5. Genealogy notes/ Baker & Smith Family
6. "Stephen Smith and the Rolltop Desk" (incomplete), handwritten
7. Photo of Smith Chair
8. Envelope from Smith Company