

Benjamin Stone Collection

Repository:

Vedder Research Library
90 County Route 42
Coxsackie, NY 12051
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Access Number: None Assigned**Creators:** Benjamin Bellows Grant Stone, Mary Allen Stone, and Samuel H. Lockett**Extent:** .3 cu. ft. (1 box)**Languages Present:** English**Date Range:** 1854 - 1880

Historical Note: Benjamin Bellows Grant Stone (1829 - 1906) was a minor figure in the second generation of Hudson River School artists and a resident of Catskill, NY from the late 1860s until his death in 1906. Specializing in pencil and charcoal sketches, he was a contemporary of Winslow Homer and a student of both Benjamin Champney and Jasper Cropsey. Stone first gained notoriety for his work portraying scenery in the White Mountains of New Hampshire, his teacher Benjamin Champney being one of the original members of the North Conway Colony and an admirer of the region's natural beauty. Stone was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the 14th Massachusetts Regiment of Infantry in early 1862. The unit, which was soon reorganized into the 1st Regiment Massachusetts Volunteer Heavy Artillery, spent the beginning of 1862 garrisoned around Washington, D.C. and found themselves caught up in the Union retreat from the Second Battle of Bull Run in August of that year. Lieutenant Stone was honorably discharged due to disability brought on by illness in December of 1863. After the war, he found himself renting one of the studios at Cedar Grove from Maria Bartow Cole and doing a variety of illustrating jobs for Goupil & Co. and other clients - all for very minimal fees. Benjamin Stone and his wife Mary Allen Stone eventually settled permanently in Catskill, NY where he continued his artistic pursuits doing landscapes of the Catskill Mountains and surrounding countryside. Much of his life work was found in his former home by descendants in the 1960s and donated directly to the Greene County Historical Society as part of the Katharine Decker Memorial Collection. Stone's signature evolves over the course of his career - variations including the letter S pierced vertically by a lower case "t", "B. B. G. Stone" on a corner of the work, "Bell" in one instance (being a nickname close correspondents would address him with), and in some cases on personal sketches just a brief description of the location of the study in his own handwriting on the lower right corner.

Summary of Contents: This collection contains sketch books of Benjamin Bellows Grant Stone spanning the segment of his career from 1854 through the early 1880s. One sketch book contains at least two pieces possibly done by his friend Samuel H. Lockett, another sketch book contains works by Stone's wife Mary Allen Stone.

Arrangement: No arrangement standard present, boxes are organized as presented to VRL by the donor.

Acquisition: Gift by family of subject, supporting documentation not present.

Processing Details: None available.

Publication: Collection processor information and dates unavailable, finding aid created Fall 2016 by Jonathan Palmer.

How to Access Materials: Materials are available to examine on-site at the Vedder Research Library in Coxsackie, New York during posted Library hours as found on the repository's homepage.

Access Restrictions: Restricted due to fragility of items. Photocopies Unavailable.

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Citing Material: Identification of Item, Folder, Box, Collection Name, Date Range. Vedder Research Library, Greene County Historical Society, Coxsackie NY.

Contents of Collection: Itemized list of collection provided on request when available by calling or emailing the Vedder Research Library during posted hours.

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