

# Katherine Decker Memorial Collection

**Repository:**

Vedder Research Library  
90 County Route 42  
Coxsackie, NY 12051  
Tel. (518) 731-1033  
<http://www.vedderlibrary.org>

**Access Number:** None Assigned**Creators:** Allen, DuBois, and Stone Families**Extent:** 3.3 cu. ft. (10 boxes)**Languages Present:** English**Date Range:** 1725 - 1975

**Historical Note:** The Katharine Decker Memorial Collection was discovered in a home in Catskill, NY originally constructed by the DuBois family during the mid-18th century. The structure was owned by both the Dubois and later Stone families for over two centuries, and when the residence was being cleaned in preparation for sale in the mid-1960s the papers that comprise this collection were discovered. All the individuals and families represented within this collection were ancestors to the immediate family of the individual for whom the collection was named. Notable persons represented within the papers include Captain Joseph Allen and Benjamin Bellows Grant Stone, both residents of Catskill in the 19th century. Captain Allen was a sailor and merchant captain by trade and a veteran of both the American Revolution and the War of 1812. Part of this collection deals directly with his military service and the history of his former home in Jefferson Heights. Benjamin B. G. Stone was a local artist and veteran of the Civil War. Stone is a lesser known member of the second generation of Hudson River School artists, most famous for his sketches and paintings of the White Mountains although a considerable portion of his work was set in the Catskill Mountains and Greene County. For a time in the late 1860s Stone rented one of the studios at Cedar Grove in Catskill from Maria Bartow Cole, widow of renowned painter Thomas Cole. Stone was a contemporary and friend of Winslow Homer, and corresponded with many notable artists of the period including Frederick Edwin Church and Jasper Cropsey

**Summary of Contents:** The collection contains a variety of material ranging from legal records to ephemera and memorabilia. Particularly prevalent are family correspondence files concerning business transactions and daily life during the late 18th and 19th centuries. Of particular note within the correspondence materials are several letters written by James B. Greene while a prisoner of the Confederate States during the Civil

War. Land deeds, itemized lists of household goods, appointment notices and military records/documentation appear throughout the collection as well, this includes a bill of sale for Slaves purchased by a member of the DuBois family in 1795 and 1809. A formidable sampling of the works and personal papers of Benjamin Bellows Grant Stone also appear in this collection. This includes his personal diaries covering the period from c. 1855 through the late 1870s, including diaries from his service during the Civil War as a Lieutenant with the 1st Regiment Massachusetts Volunteer Heavy Artillery.

**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:** Unrestricted.

**Use Restrictions:** Researcher assumes full responsibility for conforming to current copyright laws. Duplication of print and photographic materials without express permission of Head Librarian is strictly prohibited.

**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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