



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

James Wells Champney collection

Archives of American Art  
750 9th Street, NW  
Victor Building, Suite 2200  
Washington, D.C. 20001  
<https://www.aaa.si.edu/services/questions>  
<https://www.aaa.si.edu/>

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	James Wells Champney collection
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.chamjame
<b>Date:</b>	1802-1904
<b>Creator:</b>	Champney, James Wells, 1843-1903
<b>Extent:</b>	0.2 Linear feet (ca. 1000 items (on 4 microfilm reels))
<b>Language:</b>	English .

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Scrapbook on reel 266 purchased by AAA from the Corcoran Gallery of Art 1959. Reels 121-122 were lent for microfilming 1971 by the Forbes Library, Northampton, Mass. Sketchbook on reel 3766 lent for microfilming 1986 by Art Research of Cambridge, a firm specializing in consulting and research on 18th and 19th century American painting. The firm's owners, George Haich and Nicholas Kimer, purchased the sketchbook at auction.

### Location of Originals

Reels 121-122: Originals in Forbes Library, Northampton, Mass.

### Location of Originals

Reel 3766: Original in: Art Research of Cambridge, Cambridge, Mass.

### Related Materials

Also in the Archives is microfilm of Champney papers held in other repositories, including correspondence; diaries, 1861, 1865, 1866; lists of paintings, bills, and receipts (reels 121-122); and a sketchbook containing primarily figure studies and portraits in black and blue pencil and pen and ink (reel 3766). Some sketches are notated, several are dated, and one is signed "Champ" - therefore attributing the work to Champney who signed his early work in this manner. [Microfilm title: Art Research of Cambridge papers]

### Available Formats

35mm microfilm reels 121-122, 266, and 3766 available at Archives of American Art offices and through interlibrary loan.

### Restrictions

Use of original papers requires an appointment and is limited to the Archives' Washington, D.C., Research Center. Microfilmed materials must be consulted on microfilm. Contact Reference Services for more information.

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## Biographical / Historical

Painter and illustrator; New York, N.Y. Born in Boston, Mass. Genre painter of rural scenes and country home life. Studied with Edouard Frere and at the Antwerp Academy, 1868. Exhibited at the Paris Salon, 1869.

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## Scope and Contents

Correspondence; diaries; lists of paintings, bills, and receipts; sketchbook and sketches; clippings; tintype photograph; and printed material.

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## Scope and Contents

REEL 266: Pages from a scrapbook containing 14 sketches by Champney, clippings from a Lady's Home Companion, a tintype photograph of Champney and fellow painter Francis Davis Millet, and printed regulations for the 1876 Centennial Exhibition in Philadelphia.

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## Other Title

Art Research of Cambridge papers (microfilm title)

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## Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

### Subjects:

- Art, Modern -- 19th century -- United States
- Figure drawing
- Painting, American
- Portrait drawing -- 19th century

### Types of Materials:

- Sketchbooks

### Names:

- Centennial Exhibition (1876 : Philadelphia, Pa.)
- Millet, Francis Davis, 1846-1912

### Occupations:

- Illustrators
- Painters