



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

Charles Walter Stetson papers

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>	Charles Walter Stetson papers
<b>Date:</b>	1879-1974
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.stetchar
<b>Creator:</b>	Stetson, Charles Walter, 1858-1911
<b>Extent:</b>	1.8 Linear feet ((on 4 microfilm reels))
<b>Language:</b>	English .

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Material on reels 3211 and portions of 3212 originally lent for microfilming 1983 by David Goodale, an art historian who studied Stetson. These papers were subsequently donated 1986 by Goodale's daughter, Shelley Luckenbach upon her father's death. Remaining material on reel 3212 and all material on reel 3213 donated 1983 by Dorothea Stetson Chamberlin and Walter Chamberlin, grandchildren of Stetson. Photographs on reel 3646 transferred to AAA by National Museum of American Art via director, Charles Eldredge, 1985.

### Available Formats

35mm microfilm reels 3211-3213 and 3646 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; California and Rome, Italy. Born in Rhode Island. His daughter, Katharine Beecher Stetson, a painter and sculptor also, married Frank Tolles Chamberlin.

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## Scope and Contents

Letters; sketchbooks; photographs and cyanotypes; scrapbook; writings, novelettes, and poetry by Stetson; biographical information; and printed material.

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## Scope and Contents

REELS 3211-3213: 9 letters, 1912, written by Stetson's widow to Edward B. Knight containing transcribed entries from Stetson's journal; a notebook, 1881-1908, "Opera," containing Stetson's notes on his paintings; novelettes and poetry by Stetson and his first wife, Charlotte Perkins Gilman; an autobiography by his daughter, Katharine Stetson Chamberlin; an unpublished manuscript by David Goodale on Stetson; 15 sketchbooks; a scrapbook containing etchings; three sketches by Frank Tolles Chamberlin and a brief biography of him; photographs of Stetson, his daughter, Katharine, and his paintings.

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## Scope and Contents

Also included are 734 photographs, including some cyanotypes, of Stetson, his family and friends, works of art, models, animals, buildings, children, landscapes, ships, and many other subjects; and clippings.

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## Scope and Contents

REEL 3646: 5 photographs, ca. 1880-1899, of Stetson, his second wife, Grace, his daughter, and interior and exterior views of his studio. [Also filmed on reels 3590 and 3612.]

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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:

Artists' studios -- Photographs  
Painting, Modern -- 19th century -- United States

Types of Materials:

Sketchbooks

Names:

Chamberlin, F. Tolles (Frank Tolles), 1873-1961  
Gilman, Charlotte Perkins, 1860-1935  
Goodale, David  
Knight, Edward B.  
Stetson, Katharine Beecher, 1885-1979 or 81

Occupations:

Painters