

**The New York Public Library
Humanities and Social Sciences Library
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Stedman Shumway Hanks genealogical research papers
1801-1962
MssCol 18126

**Cynthia Tobar
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Summary

- Main entry:** Hanks, Stedman Shumway, 1889-1979
- Title:** Stedman Shumway Hanks genealogical research papers, 1801-1962
- Size:** 3 linear feet (16 volumes, 1 box)
- Source:** Gift of the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society, 2008.
- Abstract:** Stedman Shumway Hanks was an aviation engineer and genealogist. Hanks was best known for patenting "flight strips," auxiliary landing areas for aircraft alongside public highways, advocating for their development and implementation in various parts of the country in the 1930s. This collection consists of twelve volumes and other family papers containing correspondence, photographs, genealogical charts, clippings, printed material, wills and other family papers compiled by Hanks in the course of his genealogical research on the Hanks, Johnston, Shumway, and allied families.
- Access:** Advance notice required. Apply at <http://nypl.org/mssref>
- Preferred citation:** Stedman Shumway Hanks genealogical research papers, Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library.

Provenance note

This collection was donated to the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society by Stedman Shumway Hanks, 1941-1962.

Related materials note

Stedman Shumway Hanks papers, 1889-1968, bulk (1950s-1960s); MssCol 1306
Manuscripts and Archives Division; New York Public Library.
Papers concerning Seacroft Kennels

Shumway Hanks Papers (MS Am 2547). Houghton Library, Harvard University, Boston, Mass..

Biographical note

Stedman Shumway Hanks (1889-1979) was an airport engineer, construction executive, banker, author, and United States Air Force Colonel. He was born on July 17, 1889 in Manchester, Massachusetts, to Charles Stedman Hanks (1856-1908) and Clarina Bartow Shumway (1857-1925). His father established Seacroft Kennels in 1890 in Massachusetts, being the first dog-breeder in the United States to bring the Russian born Wolf-Hounds, later named Borzoi, from the Czar's kennels. Colonel Hanks kept the kennels his father had operated in existence and was active in Borzoi fanciers' activities, but his involvement in the kennel was limited. His education began at attended the Groton School, received his undergraduate degree from Harvard College in 1912, and an M.A. from Columbia University in 1946. Col. Hanks was married to Marjory Hancock Hanks, his first wife, in 1919 with whom he had a son, Roger Stedman Hanks (1921-1999). They were later divorced and Hanks remarried Helen Chappell in 1952.

An accomplished aviation engineer, Colonel Hanks was best known for patenting "flight strips," auxiliary landing areas for aircraft alongside public highways in various parts of the country, in 1936 and helped gain the Congressional authorization necessary for its construction throughout the country. In civilian life, Hanks served in several posts with the Department of State, was associated with the American International Corporation, and the president of Stedman Hanks & Co., a consulting firm.

As a fervent advocate for air transportation, Hanks founded and served as president of American Airports Corporation and was the executive director of the Massachusetts Aeronautics Commission, working to promote aviation in the state. Hanks was a renowned expert on aviation and foreign policy and wrote various noteworthy books and articles on the subject. His publications include: Flight strips - bargain airports (1945), Flight strips for civilian use (1944), and Frontiers are not borders; a brief account of a journey to meet and understand the peoples of the world (1955). Hanks applied this same dedication for aviation towards researching his family's history, compiling a vast archive of genealogical research and materials into bound volumes, separating them into different collections which he later dispersed to several libraries (see Related Materials note).

Hanks died in Manhattan, New York, at the age of 89, on May 23, 1979.

Sources:

- Col. Stedman S. Hanks, Airport Engineer, Writer. New York Times [New York, N.Y.], May 26, 1979.

Scope and content note

The Stedman Shumway Hanks Family History Scrapbooks and Papers is comprised of sixteen bound volumes and other family papers containing correspondence, photographs, genealogical charts, clippings, printed material, wills, copies of land deeds, and other family papers compiled by Col. Hanks in the course of his genealogical research on the Hanks, Johnston, Shumway, and allied families.

Of note are volume 1, containing extensive research related to Nancy Hanks, mother of Abraham Lincoln; and volume 6, which is comprised of photographs, clippings, maps, correspondence, telegrams, membership cards, and printed material, ca.1920s-1950s, relating to Hanks' own military career as an aviation engineer, particularly documenting his development of the "flight strip," auxiliary landing areas for aircraft alongside public highways.

Other items of interest include Volume 3, which contains correspondence, photographs, report cards, and ephemera, 1920s-1940s, documenting his son Roger Stedman Hanks' (1921-1999) own military training and career as an aviation cadet as well as genealogical notes on other Hanks family members such as Benjamin Hanks, Jr. (1702-1746) and Horace Hanks (b.1780). Volume 5 features genealogical research notes on the Hanks, Shumway, Johnston, and other allied families by Susan Cotton Tufts, a noted genealogist who had published articles on the Hanks family.

Originally bound in a sixteen volume set entitled the "Seacroft Volumes," the remaining twelve scrapbooks have been rehoused and boxed respecting their original order. There are also some loose family papers consisting of ancestral charts, bible records, and a 1835 remembrance book belong to Emily Hanks. There is very little documentation pertaining to the Seacroft Kennels in this collection.

Arrangement note

The Stedman Shumway Hanks genealogical research papers are organized in the following series:

Series I. Family papers, 1835-1845, undated

Series II. Genealogical research scrapbooks, 1740-1962, undated

Series descriptions and container list

Series I. Family papers, 1835-1968

Includes a family bible record, an ancestral chart, and a remembrance book that belonged to Emily Hanks. Also contains genealogical chart entitled "Matincock catalogue, Exhibit 'A,' showing how the Hanks family is related to the Bartow, Shumway, Hale, and Chappell families," a consolidated index entitled "Hanks family records;" and birth, marriage, and death records of Hanks family members.

<u>Box</u>	<u>Fol</u>	
1	1	Hanks family ancestral chart and consolidated index, 1968, undated
	2	Hanks family bible record, 1845, undated
	3	Remembrance book, Emily Hanks, ca.1835

Series II. Genealogical research scrapbooks, 1740-1962

This series is comprised of twelve bound scrapbooks containing original family documents such as correspondence, photographs, clippings, maps, and genealogical research notes on the Hanks, Shumway, and Johnston families. Of particular note are volume 1, which contains family documents, correspondence to Colonel Hanks, and a manuscript of "Nancy Hanks: The Story of Abraham Lincoln" by Caroline Hanks Hitchcock; volume 4, which focuses on the life and career of Roger Stedman Hanks (1921-1999); and volumes 6 and 7, which document Col. Hanks' development and implementation of the "flight strip" along the Pan American Highway and in Puerto Rico; his military service; and his civilian career.

<u>Box</u>	<u>Vol</u>	
2	1	Hanks Family, 1820-1947, undated
	2	Shumway Family Papers, 1801-1934, undated
3	3	Johnston Family Papers, 1867-1940, undated
	4	Roger Stedman Hanks III, 1908-1947, undated
4	5	Stedman Shumway Hanks genealogy photographs, 1740-1946
	6	Stedman Shumway Hanks Powers of Attorney Pan American Flight Strips, 1924-1950, undated
5	7	Stedman Shumway Hanks correspondence, 1949-1950, undated
	8	Notes by Susan Cotton Tufts on Case, Hale, Hanks, Johnston, Sage, Shumway, White, and Wright families, 1931-1954, undated
	9	Hanks family, 1665-1920
6	10	Hanks Family Papers, 1921-1956, undated
	11	Hanks family, undated
	12	Hanks family (also Chappell, Johnston, etc.), undated
7	13	Hanks Family Papers, Negatives of family documents, ca. 1920s-1962, undated
	14	Hanks Family Papers, Negatives of family documents, ca. 1920s-1962, undated
	15	Hanks Family Papers, Donations and exhibits, 1959-1962, undated
8	16	Hanks Family Papers, Correspondence A-Z and Who's Who, 1958-1962, undated