

**The New York Public Library
Humanities and Social Sciences Library
Manuscripts and Archives Division**

**Standish Backus Family Papers
1800-1942
MssCol 18073**

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Table of Contents

Summary	iii
Provenance note	iv
Biographical note	v
Scope and content note	vi
Arrangement note	vi
Series descriptions and container list	1
SERIES I. FAMILY HISTORY AND GENEALOGY RESEARCH, 1930-1942	1
SERIES II. FAMILY DOCUMENTS, 1800-CIRCA 1890	1
SERIES III. PHOTOGRAPH ALBUMS, 1862, UNDATED	1

Summary

- Main entry:** Backus, Standish, 1875-1943.
- Title:** Standish Backus family papers, 1800-1942
- Size:** 1.08 linear feet (1 box, 5 volumes)
- Source:** Gift of the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society, 2008.
- Abstract:** Standish Backus (1875-1943) was a corporate lawyer and president of the Burroughs Adding Machine Company from 1920 to 1943. The collection is composed of correspondence concerning his genealogical research on the Standish, Backus, Curtis, Boyer and other families as well as the data and family documents he assembled including letters, deeds, printed ephemera, photograph albums, ancestral charts, and family crests. Also present is an illustrated European travel journal kept by Standish Backus, 1890-1891.
- Access:** Apply in the Special Collections Office for admission to the Manuscripts and Archives Division.
- Preferred citation:** Standish Backus Family Papers, Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library.
- Special formats** Diaries, ephemera, genealogies, photographs, photograph albums

Provenance note

This collection was originally donated to the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society by Virginia Vanocur, daughter of Standish Backus, in 1994.

Biographical note

Standish Backus (1875-1943) was a corporate lawyer and president of the Burroughs Adding Machine Company from 1920 to 1943. He was born in Detroit, Michigan on January 12, 1875, the only son of Charles Kellogg Backus and Eva (Standish) Backus, a descendant of Myles Standish. He married Lotta E. Boyer, daughter of Joseph Boyer, his predecessor as president of Burroughs, on January 16, 1907. Backus was a member of several clubs, including the Grolier Club of New York City and the Olympia Skating Club of Detroit. He died of a heart attack on July 14, 1943 in White Plains, New York.

Scope and content note

The collection consists of correspondence concerning Backus's genealogical research on the Standish, Backus, and related families as well as the data and family documents he assembled. The documents include letters from John Dana Standish, Backus' maternal grandfather, to his future wife Emma Darrow, deeds for land purchased by Samuel Standish, Backus' maternal grandfather, a military appointment for Cyrus Backus, his paternal grandfather, the draft of an essay written by his father, Charles Kellogg Backus, entitled "The Trees in the Church," and his own travel journal kept during a trip to Europe in 1890. Four family photograph albums contain 19th century carte-de-visite and tintype portraits.

Arrangement note

The Standish Backus Family Papers are organized in the following series:

Series I. Family history and genealogy research, 1930-1942

Series II. Family documents, 1800-circa 1890

Series III. Photograph albums, 1862, undated

Series descriptions and container list

Series I. Family history and genealogy research, 1930-1942

<u>Box</u>	<u>Fol</u>	
1	1	Correspondence, 1931-1942
	2	Genealogical data on Backus, Standish, and allied families, circa 1930-1940 Includes ancestral charts, family crests, typescripts and printed matter.
	3	Boyer family, circa 1930-1940 (Family of Mrs. Standish Backus (Lotta E. Boyer))

Series II. Family documents, 1800-circa 1890

	4	Backus, Cyrus (1812-1886) (Paternal grandfather of Standish Backus)
	4	Invitations to balls, 1834-1835
	4	Appointment as surgeon's mate, 1835
	4	Carte-de-visite portrait, circa 1860
		Backus, Charles Kellogg (1843-1894) (Father of Standish Backus)
	5	Letter from U.S. Legation at Paris, 1891
	6	"The Trees in the Church", ca. 1890 (Draft of essay)
	7	<i>The Wye Tour</i> . Ross [Eng.] : W. Hill, [1884?] (With notes and annotations by CKB, circa 1890)
<u>Vol</u>	1	Backus, Standish (1875-1943). European travel journal, 1890-1891 With pen-and-ink illustrations
<u>Box</u>	<u>Fol</u>	
1	8	Standish, John Dana (1817-1884) (Maternal grandfather of Standish Backus) Letters to Emma Lee Darrow, 1840-1841, n.d. (Courtship letters to his future wife)
	9	Invoice for furniture purchased from Samuel Standish, Jr., 1841
	9	Letter from James Bennett Hunt, 1846
	9	Deed for cemetery plot, 1869
	9	Receipt for cemetery lot maintenance, 1885
X-14		Deeds, 1800-1801, 1808, 1836 Lands purchased by Samuel Standish and Charles Kellogg in Washington County and Cayuga County, New York

Series III. Photograph albums, 1862, undated

<u>Vol</u>	2	Backus, undated The album contains one tintype and approximately 45 carte-de-visite photographs of men and women. 27 are identified by name.
	3	Mary E. Backus, 1862 Album containing 50 carte-de-visite photographs. 19 images are identified. Included are group portraits of members of the Chi Psi fraternity. Mary E. Backus was the maternal aunt of Standish Backus.
	4	Eva Standish, undated Album containing approximately 75 carte-de-visite photographs. Most are identified by name on the mount. In addition, there are ten photographs of paintings, sculpture, and views. Eva Standish was the mother of Standish Backus.
	5	Unidentified album, undated Album containing two tintypes and 21 carte-de-visite photographs. Six are identified on the mount.