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Stacy-Barnes Family Papers

1873-2019 (*Bulk:* 1917-1946)
4 boxes (4.75 linear ft.)
Call no.: MS 1106



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When drafted into the Army Air Corps in late December 1942, Russell Stacy (1922-2009) was an apprentice at the General Electric plant in Pittsfield, Mass., and was pursuing an engineering degree at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. Training for active duty aboard the new B-29 Superfortress, it was not until April 1944 that planes were ready for operations, at which point Staff Sgt. Stacy became the central fire control gunner on the plane "Totin" to Tokyo." As part of the 793d Squadron, 468th Bomb Group, 20th Bomber Command, he was based in Kharagpur, India, with a forward base on Chengdu, China, and took part in bombing raids throughout southeast Asia, including the first mission to bomb Japan from China in July 1944. The logistical challenges of operating from China led the Air Corps to abandon the base in Jan. 1945, at which time Stacy returned to the United States for additional training. After the war's end, he continued as a draftsman at GE, later working as an engineer in New England and Virginia for nearly forty years. Russell's father, William H. Stacey served in France during World War I, as did his mother, Mary Ellen Barnes, a Red Cross nurse.

Writing home consistently throughout the war at least once a week, Stacy left a remarkably dense and thorough record of his service. Beginning at the point of his induction, the letters provide discussions of training to become a B-29 gunner; his time in India and China; bombing raids over Japan and Sumatra, and China; and his return to the States for additional training. Well written, though somewhat lacking in detail due to censorship, the collection provides a valuable perspective on a crew members' experience in the China-Burma-India theater. Other parts of the collection detail the Stacy and Barnes family, and their war service dating back to the era of the American colonies, particularly William Stacy's service as an ambulance driver and Mary Ellen Barnes's service as a Red Cross nurse, both in World War I.

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Background on the Stacy-Barnes Family Papers



Russell Stacy, ca. 1942

For multiple generations, the Stacy and Barnes families served in the military for the United States. Beginning in the Civil War, both sides of the family had honorable veterans who fought throughout American history. George and Mary Ellen Barnes, brother and sister from Massachusetts, were sent abroad to fight in World War I. Mary, a Red Cross nurse, travelled to France to help heal wounded soldiers. William H. Stacy, also from Massachusetts, served in France as well. The Barnes and Stacy family became one soon after the conclusion of World War I. Mary Barnes and William H. Stacy married as soon as they got home from Europe after falling in love during the war. Mary and William settled in South Hadley after having their sons, Russell and Paul Stacy.

Russell was an engineering student at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and working as an apprentice at the General Electric plant in Pittsfield, Massachusetts when the bombing of Pearl Harbor occurred in December of 1941. Russell and Paul would go on to fight in World War II, particularly in the American efforts against the Japanese. Russell enlisted as an Air Force officer, trained for active duty aboard the new B-29 Superfortress, and became a central fire gun controller for the plane "Totin' to Tokyo." As part of the 793d Squadron, 468th Bomb Group, 20th Bomber Command he was based in India and served multiple missions across Asia. He began documenting his experiences through correspondence with his family back in Massachusetts. Taking on the same legacy as his parents, Russell continued to fight against the Axis Powers until V-J Day (Victory over Japan Day). Paul also wrote about his experiences fighting abroad, although fewer of his letters have been saved.

After the war, Russell continued working for General Electric, and had a long career as an engineer. He married Peggy Strong, a teacher from South Hadley, Massachusetts. Together, they had two children, Charles and Amanda Stacy. They lived in New England for the rest of their lives, compiling generations' worth of familial history. Their interest and research into their family tree resulted in documents tracing their families as early as the first settlers in the colonies.

Soon after the deaths of Mary and William Stacy, Russell and his daughter Amanda began to donate the families' World War I and World War II documents and artifacts to museums across the nation. As Mary sternly told Russell, he had to preserve everything he had during the war to teach about their experiences. The Stacys' advocated for the discussions of veterans across the World Wars, even successfully arguing in 2007 that Russell's mother deserved to have an American Flag placed by her grave each Veteran's Day. The Stacy and Barnes families took great pride in documenting their patriotic love for the United States while informing others about veterans' experiences abroad.

Russell Stacy died in New Hampshire in May 2009. Peggy died five years later, in 2014. The Barnes and Stacy legacy is continued through the work of their children.

Scope of collection

The Stacy-Barnes Family Papers document the lives of George and Mary Ellen Barnes, as well as William, Paul, Russell, and Peggy (Strong) Stacy. Most of the collection is from the Stacys' side of the family. With the bulk of the materials documenting Russell Stacy's experiences abroad during World War II, and Mary Barnes's time as a nurse during World War I, these documents and photographs are particularly rich in revealing the lives of soldiers and veterans during the two World Wars.

Amanda (Stacy) Moore's work documenting her extended family is particularly evident in the collection. Through correspondence with various museums, Amanda

emphasized her grandmother, Mary, working to spread the word about nurses' role in wars. From the 1970s, Russell and Amantha dedicated their lives to the initiative of discussing women throughout the World Wars.

Included also are family materials related to Russell's wife Peggy Strong. Peggy, who grew up in Hadley, Massachusetts, had family papers and photographs of the family farm in town, and the Strong family was included in Russell and Peggy's genealogical research and documentation.

Inventory

Barnes family - Family genealogy project, booklets
1970

Box 1: 1
Barnes family - Family genealogy project
2006 Jun-2018 Feb 5

Box 1: 2
Barnes family - Family photographs
1924-1999

Box 1: 3
Barnes family - Misc. papers, interwar period
1918-1926 Jun

Box 1: 4
Barnes family - Newspapers
2003 May 31-2004 Nov

Box 1: 5
Barnes, George - Correspondence, re: Russell Stacy
1934 Feb 2-1939 Apr 24

Box 1: 6
Barnes, George - Correspondence
1908 May 18-1919 Mar

Box 1: 7
Barnes, George - Correspondence
1938 Mar 7-1939 Mar 18

Box 1: 8
Barnes, George - Photographs
1817-1946

Box 1: 9
Barnes, George - War correspondence
1919-1926

Box 1: 10
Barnes, George - War correspondence
1938-1945

Box 1: 11
Barnes, Mary Ellen - Birth and death records
1896 Mar 21-1967 Oct 28

Box 1: 12
Barnes, Mary Ellen - Copy of death record
1967 Oct

Box 1: 13
Barnes, Mary Ellen - Correspondence, re: draft
1917 Mar 24-1917 Nov 28

Box 1: 14
Barnes, Mary Ellen - Correspondence, re: King George V of England
1918 Apr

Box 1: 15
Barnes, Mary Ellen - Dance card
1918 Sep 13

Box 1: 16
Barnes, Mary Ellen - Draft (Copies)
1917

Box 1: 17
Barnes, Mary Ellen - Draft Papers
1917

Box 1: 18
Barnes, Mary Ellen - Morning Prayer
1917 May 10

Box 1: 19
Barnes, Mary Ellen - Newspaper article
2007 Aug 31

Box 1: 20
Barnes, Mary Ellen - Obituary
1967 Oct

Box 1: 21
Barnes, Mary Ellen - Photographs
1917 Mar 25/1959 May 10

Box 1: 22
Barnes, Mary Ellen - Photographs
ca.1920-1930

Box 1: 23
Barnes, Mary Ellen - Photographs
1921-1961

Box 1: 24
Barnes, Mary Ellen - Portrait
1920

Box 3: 1
Stacy family - Charles Roscoe Stacy birth certificate
1951 Jun 14

Box 1: 25
Stacy family - Correspondence, re: Holiday
1940 Jun 16-1944

Box 1: 26
Stacy family - Correspondence, re: missing soldier
1946 Mar 12

Box 1: 27
Stacy family - Duplicate papers
1918 Apr-2009 May

Box 1: 28
Stacy family - Ernie's Story by Ernest Brundage
1999 Sep

Box 1: 29
Stacy family - Family genealogy papers
1996 Mar 7-2019 Nov 15

Box 1: 30
Stacy family - Home record book
1937-1945

Box 1: 31
Stacy family - Inter-war period
1939 Apr
Box 1: 32
Stacy family - Local business cards
ca.1950-2000
Box 1: 33
Stacy family - Map of South Hadley
1873
Box 1: 34
Stacy family - Misc. documents, re: marriage
1995 Aug-2005 Apr 21
Box 1: 35
Stacy family - Newspapers, re: Ernest Brundage, Russell Stacy
1944 Sep 21-2008 Dec 11
Box 1: 36
Stacy family - Newspapers
1925-1943 Oct 2
Box 1: 37
Stacy family - Photographs
1922-1952
Box 1: 38
Stacy family - Photographs (Crowninshields)
ca.1938-1950
Box 1: 39
Stacy family - Photographs (extended family)
1921-2000
Box 1: 40
Stacy family - Photographs (extended family)
1942-1972 Apr
Box 1: 41
Stacy family - Photographs (negatives)
ca.1920
Box 1: 42
Stacy family - Photographs, UMass tree
ca.2019
Box 1: 43
Stacy family - Photographs
1922-1948
Box 1: 44
Stacy family - Photographs
1937-1959
Box 1: 45
Stacy family - Scrapbook
ca.1922-2000
Box 1: 46
Stacy family - 'Sweetheart USA' handkerchief
1943 Jan 5
Box 1: 47
Stacy family - Welcome home pin and American flag for Holyoke soldiers
ca.1910-1940
Box 1: 48
Moore, Amantha Stacy - Correspondence
2003 Nov 3-2007 Sep 9
Box 1: 49
Moore, Amantha Stacy - Smithsonian Museum Correspondence
1973 Sep 12
Box 1: 50
Stacy, Paul - War writings
1997 Oct 26
Box 1: 51
Stacy, Peggy - Funeral
2014
Box 1: 52
Stacy, Peggy - Misc. documents, re: life achievements
1931-1967 Nov
Box 1: 53
Stacy, Peggy - Newsclippings, re: School
1938 Oct 28-1978 Oct 26
Box 1: 54
Stacy, Peggy - Photographs (youth)
1923-1950
Box 1: 55
Stacy, Peggy - Photographs (adulthood)
1970-1983
Box 1: 56
Stacy, Peggy - Strong shoe polish
undated
Box 4: 1
Stacy, Peggy - Strong family genealogy project, re: Florida newspapers
1921 Dec 26-1993 Dec 16
Box 1: 57
Stacy, Peggy - Strong family genealogy project, re: Strongs in Florida
2009 May 17
Box 1: 58
Stacy, Peggy - Strong family genealogy project
2000 July 11-2008 Jan 27
Box 1: 59
Stacy, Peggy - Strong family in the newspaper
1950-2000 Apr 21
Box 1: 60
Stacy, Peggy - Strong family papers
ca.1955 Sep-2000
Box 1: 61
Stacy, Peggy - Strong family photographs
1896-2004
Box 1: 62
Stacy, Peggy - Strong-Abbot family newsclippings
1928 Nov 30-1995 May 28
Box 1: 63
Stacy, Peggy - Strong-Abbot family papers
1895 Jan-2000 Mar 28
Box 1: 64

Stacy, Peggy - Teaching degrees
1940-1978 Jun
Box 1: 65
Stacy, Peggy - Teaching papers
1989 May-1998
Box 1: 66
Stacy, Russell - (WWII) Personal bag
ca.1940
Box 1: 67
Stacy, Russell - 58th Bomb Wing Association Reunion
2007 Sep 26-2007 Sep 30
Box 1: 68
Stacy, Russell - Air medals
ca.1950
Box 4: 2
Stacy, Russell - Aviator glasses
1942-1945
Box 4: 3
Stacy, Russell - Birth certificate
1922 Feb-1924 Aug
Box 1: 69
Stacy, Russell - Correspondence, re: email
2006 Oct 4
Box 1: 70
Stacy, Russell - Correspondence, re: Mary Ellen Barnes Veteran Records
2004 Mar 29-2007 Nov 23
Box 1: 71
Stacy, Russell - Correspondence
1940 July 1
Box 1: 72
Stacy, Russell - Correspondence
1938 May 18-1955 Dec 17
Box 1: 73
Stacy, Russell - Correspondence
1945 Oct 4-2008 Aug 29
Box 1: 74
Stacy, Russell - Draft papers
1942 Dec-1945 Oct
Box 1: 75
Stacy, Russell - DVDs
ca.2006
Box 4: 4

1. Digitized version of Mary Ellen Barnes Stacy's WWII scrapbook (see box 1:46); 2. Discussion of community read of "Wars End" led by Russell Stacy; and 3. Russell Stacy recounting memories of WWII to his family, 2006 Feb 19.

Stacy, Russell - Family genealogy project
2005 Sep 26-2009 Mar 25
Box 1: 76
Stacy, Russell - Fez hat
undated
Box 4: 5
Stacy, Russell - Funeral speeches
2009 May 23
Box 1: 77
Stacy, Russell - Lamson Farm Commission
1996 Feb 15
Box 1: 78
Stacy, Russell - Legal-size army papers
1945 Oct 9
Box 3: 2
Stacy, Russell - Marriage certificate, land deed (XL)
1945 Aug 13-1949 Dec 19
Box 3: 3
Stacy, Russell - Misc. documents, re: education, employment, living accommodations
1940-1953
Box 1: 79
Stacy, Russell - Misc. WWII research
2008 May 21
Box 1: 80
Stacy, Russell - New England Air Museum
2003 July 17-2007 Nov 11
Box 1: 81
Stacy, Russell - New England Air Museum
2005 Aug 15-2008 Nov 9
Box 1: 82
Stacy, Russell - Newspaper (post-war)
1946 July 12
Box 1: 83
Stacy, Russell - Newspaper clippings (copies)
1945 Feb 26-1979 Jan 16
Box 1: 84
Stacy, Russell - Newspaper, re: comrades
1942 May 14-2002 Feb 23
Box 1: 85
Stacy, Russell - Newspaper
1945 Mar 3
Box 1: 86
Stacy, Russell - Newspapers, re: public appearances
2000 Jan 16-2014 Jan 14
Box 1: 87
Stacy, Russell - Obituaries
2009 May 14-2009 May 28
Box 1: 88
Stacy, Russell - Photographs (bulky)
ca.1922-1940
Box 1: 89
Stacy, Russell - Photographs (war)
1942 Feb-1943 Aug
Box 1: 90
Stacy, Russell - Photographs (war)
1943 Aug
Box 1: 91
Stacy, Russell - Photographs (war)

1943-1951
Box 1: 92
Stacy, Russell - Post-war life, photographs
1998-2008
Box 1: 93
Stacy, Russell - Post-war life
1998 Nov 11-2014 Jan 11
Box 1: 94
Stacy, Russell - Recorded message to Peggy
ca.1940
Box 1: 95
Stacy, Russell - Report card
1934-1935
Box 1: 96
Stacy, Russell - Service Papers
1942-1953
Box 1: 97
Stacy, Russell - VHS
ca.1990
Box 2: 55
Stacy, Russell - VHS
1999 Mar 18
Box 2: 56
Stacy, Russell - Village School Memorial Day presentation
1997 May 30-1997 Jun 2
Box 1: 98
Stacy, Russell - War correspondence, re: grandparents
1943
Box 2: 1
Stacy, Russell - War correspondence, re: grandparents
1944
Box 2: 2
Stacy, Russell - War correspondence, re: grandparents
1945
Box 2: 3
Stacy, Russell - War correspondence, re: Mary Barnes
1941 Oct-1942 Jan 3
Box 2: 4
Stacy, Russell - War correspondence
1938 May-1944 Sep 3
Box 2: 5
Stacy, Russell - War correspondence
1942-1945 Aug
Box 2: 6
Stacy, Russell - War correspondence
1943 Jan
Box 2: 7
Stacy, Russell - War correspondence
1943 Feb
Box 2: 8
Stacy, Russell - War correspondence
1943 Mar
Box 2: 9
Stacy, Russell - War correspondence
1943 Apr
Box 2: 10
Stacy, Russell - War correspondence
1943 May
Box 2: 11
Stacy, Russell - War correspondence
1943 Jun
Box 2: 12
Stacy, Russell - War correspondence
1943 July
Box 2: 13
Stacy, Russell - War correspondence
1943 Aug
Box 2: 14
Stacy, Russell - War correspondence
1943 Sep
Box 2: 15
Stacy, Russell - War correspondence
1943 Oct-1943 Nov
Box 2: 16
Stacy, Russell - War correspondence
1943 Dec-1944 Jan
Box 2: 17
Stacy, Russell - War correspondence
1944 Feb
Box 2: 18
Stacy, Russell - War correspondence
1944 Mar
Box 2: 19
Stacy, Russell - War correspondence
1944 Apr
Box 2: 20
Stacy, Russell - War correspondence
1944 Mar-1944 May
Box 2: 21
Stacy, Russell - War correspondence
1944 Jun
Box 2: 22
Stacy, Russell - War correspondence
1944 July
Box 2: 23
Stacy, Russell - War correspondence
1944 Aug
Box 2: 24
Stacy, Russell - War correspondence
1944 Sep
Box 2: 25-26
Stacy, Russell - War correspondence
1944 Oct

Box 2: 27
Stacy, Russell - War correspondence
1944 Nov
Box 2: 28
Stacy, Russell - War correspondence
1945 Jan
Box 2: 29
Stacy, Russell - War correspondence
1945 Feb
Box 2: 30
Stacy, Russell - War correspondence
1945 Mar
Box 2: 31
Stacy, Russell - War correspondence
1945 Apr-1945 May
Box 2: 32
Stacy, Russell - War correspondence
1945 Jun
Box 2: 33
Stacy, Russell - War correspondence
1945 July
Box 2: 34
Stacy, Russell - War correspondence
1945 Aug
Box 2: 35
Stacy, Russell - War correspondence
1945 Sep
Box 2: 36
Stacy, Russell - War correspondence
1945 Oct-1945 Nov
Box 2: 37
Stacy, Russell - WWII artifacts
ca.1940
Box 2: 38
Stacy, Russell - WWII artifacts
1942-1945
Box 2: 39
Stacy, Russell - WWII briefcase
1942-1945
Box 4: 6
Stacy, Russell - WWII research, re: Japan
2008 May 21-2008 May 22
Box 2: 40
Stacy, Russell - WWII serving documents
1942-1945
Box 2: 41
Stacy, William H. - Correspondence
1917 May 15-1917 July 11
Box 2: 42
Stacy, William H. - Curls
ca.1890
Box 4: 7
Stacy, William H. - Draft papers
1917 Jun 12-1917 Nov 8
Box 2: 43
Stacy, William H. - Leather photo wallet
ca.1917
Box 2: 44
Stacy, William H. - Misc. paper, re: accomplishments
1918
Box 2: 45
Stacy, William H. - News of death
1973 July 13
Box 2: 46
Stacy, William H. - Newsclippings (copies)
ca.Mar 1
Box 2: 47
Stacy, William H. - Photograph copies (youth)
ca.1903
Box 2: 48
Stacy, William H. - Photographs (war)
1916 Apr 6-1917 Nov
Box 2: 49
Stacy, William H. - Photographs (war, youth)
ca.1894-1917 Nov
Box 2: 50
Stacy, William H. - Planner
1968
Box 2: 51
Stacy, William H. - Post-war life
1918 Mar-1973 July
Box 2: 52
Stacy, William H. - Pre-war papers
1914 Jun 26
Box 2: 53
Stacy, William H. - War service
1919 May 10
Box 2: 54

Administrative information

Access

The collection is open for research.

Provenance

Gift of Amantha Moore, 2019-2020.

Processing Information

Processed by Charlotte Murtishaw, 2020; and Claire Gagnon, 2022.

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English

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Search terms**Subjects**

- American Red Cross. Programs and Services
- Barnes, Mary Ellen
- Genealogy
- United States. Air Force--Airmen
- United States. Air Force--History
- United States. Air Force--Medals, badges, decorations, etc.
- United States. Army. Bombardment Group, 468th
- Women in war
- World War, 1914-1918
- World War, 1939-1945
- World War, 1939-1945 -- India

Contributors

- Moore, Amantha. [main entry]

Genres and formats

- Correspondence

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