



# Guide to the *Stevenson Collection*

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## *Summary of Collection*

This collection contains a variety of files related to the Stevenson/Stanoyevich and Gray families in Montclair in the 20th century. It includes an assortment of material on specific people as well as events and occurrences from both families. Through the many types of documents in these files, we are able to gain insight into both families and therefore what life was like in Montclair in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

### **Creator(s):**

Matthew Stevenson, Nanette Stevenson, Julie Stevenson, various Stevenson/Gray family members

### **Dates:**

19<sup>th</sup> century-21<sup>st</sup> century, with a majority in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century-early 21<sup>st</sup> century

### **Location:**

Clark House, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor (upstairs Library)

### **Quantity:**

10 archival boxes

One suitcase (empty)

## *Scope and Content*

The types of documents in this collection include (but are not limited to) letters, newspaper and magazine articles, photographs, cassette tapes, books, and slides. Some of the documents were created as late as 2018, but the majority was created in the 1950s-2000s. It is made up of mostly original archival material with a few photocopies of newspaper articles, marriage certificates, death certificates, and magazine articles. The documents pertain to the Stevenson/Stanoyevich family and Gray lines, all of whom lived in Montclair for at least a time. The majority of the records refer to family genealogy, relate to important times in family member's histories (weddings, births, etc.), or are materials written by family members (books, articles, letters, etc.). This collection is limited primarily to people.

## *History of the Stevenson Family*

The Stevenson family comes from two lines: the Grays and the Stevensons/Stanoyevichs. The Grays originated in Ireland, first coming to the New York City area in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. The Gray line in Montclair (David Beggs, Helen Gray, and Shirley) began ca. 1927 at 7 Oxford St. The Stevenson line goes as far back as Pennsylvania in 1817. The Stevensons eventually move to Essex Fells by 1929. The Stanoyevichs start with Milivoy Stanoyevich, born in Serbia in 1882 and moving to America in 1908. Milivoy marries Beatrice Stevenson in 1918, having Nikolai in 1919. They live at 110 Midland Ave, Montclair. Nikolai was a professor of Slavonic languages at Columbia University and the University of California at Berkley. Beatrice would dedicate part of her life to the Students' International Union of the [Institute of World Affairs](#). During World War II, Nikolai changes his name from Stanoyevich to Stevenson. It is with the marriage of Nikolai Stevenson and Shirley Gray that the two lines converge in 1951. Nikolai and Shirley have three children: Matthew (the donor of the Stevenson Collection), Nannette, and Julie. While Nikolai and Shirley were both graduates of Montclair High School and had family in the area, they do not live in Montclair once they marry, instead deciding to move to New York. Nikolai went on to co-found the Association for Macular Diseases and serve as its president for thirty years.

## *Arrangement Note*

The files in this collection are arranged by subject. The staff and volunteers responsible for the processing of this collection felt that this was the most sensible arrangement because the materials are intended for frequent access. This collection has been entered by file folder into the PastPerfect database. Corresponding accession numbers are listed on each folder.

## Container List

This is an inventory of the collection. It includes box number and box contents.

Key: **Bolded items** in the Box Contents column indicate hanging folder names, while items dashed (-) underneath bolded items refer to the folders names within that hanging folder.

<b>Box Number</b>	<b>Box Contents</b>
Box 1 Archival Materials 2019.002.001	<b>Stevenson Family</b> ( <i>general hanging folder</i> ) -General Mills ( <i>folder within</i> ) -General Stevenson -Harriet Mills -W.W. Stevenson -Beatrice <b>Milivoy Stanoyevich</b> <b>Gray Family</b> -David Beggs Gray -Helen S. Gray -Hester Gray Phreaner <b>Nikolai Stevenson</b> <b>Shirley Gray</b> <b>Stevenson Children</b> <b>Miscellaneous</b>
Box 2 Photographs Stevenson/Gray Families 2019.002.002	<b>Stevenson Family</b> <b>Gray Family</b> <b>Milivoy Stanoyevich</b> <b>Nikolai Stevenson</b> <b>Shirley Gray</b> <b>Stevenson Children</b> <b>Miscellaneous</b>
Box 3 Photographs Unknown/Misc 2019.002.003	<b>19th Century</b> <b>Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century</b> <b>1950s to current day</b>
Box 4 Cassettes/Video Tapes/CDs 2019.002.004	<b>Video Tapes</b> -WWII related <b>CDs</b> <b>Cassettes</b> -interviews, WWII related, lectures
Box 5 Object Box 2019.002.005	-military pins  -yearbook, titled "O.N.S. '08". <i>State Normal School, Class of '08</i> , Helen E. Slusser as a student, 1908

	<p>-folder containing two pamphlets: Almanack, 1847; "Dea. John Burnap and Descendants," 1876, signed by Mary Putnam Slusser, 1876</p> <p>-"The Bride's Book"- Nikolai and Shirley Stevenson</p> <p>-two International Certificates of Vaccination for Nikolai Stevenson, ca. 1961-1977</p> <p>-Research Institute of America, Inc. Associate Member card holder with "United States Marine Corps Motor Vehicle Operator's Permit" ca. 1944</p> <p>-Autographs book, inside front cover marked "Hessie Gray, Sept. 4, 1879"</p> <p>-funeral book for D.B. Gray, 1963. Poem with image of ship on the cover</p> <p>-copy of <i>American Heritage</i>, October-November 1985 with article "Four Months on the Front Line" by Nikolai Stevenson</p> <p>-three boxes of slides</p>
<p>Box 6 Books 2019.002.006</p>	<p>-<i>The Reflector</i>, 1931 Ferndale High School, Johnstown, PA.</p> <p>-<i>Letters of Transit: Essays on Travel, History, Politics, and Family Life Abroad</i>, Matthew Stevenson, 2001</p> <p>-<i>Mentioned in Dispatches</i>, Matthew Stevenson, 2005</p> <p>-<i>Whistle-Stopping America</i>, Matthew Stevenson, 2013</p> <p>-<i>Reading the Rails</i>, Matthew Stevenson, 2016</p> <p>-<i>Appalachia Spring</i>, Matthew Stevenson, 2018</p> <p>-<i>Socio-Anthropometry</i>, Beatrice Stevenson, 1916</p> <p>-<i>Early Jugoslav Literature</i>, Milivoy Stanoyevich, 1922</p> <p>-<i>Tolstoy's Theory of Social Reform</i>, Milivoy Stanoyevich, 1926</p>
<p>Box 7 Scrapbooks 2019.002.007</p>	<p>- "Early Mom Scrapbooks"- Shirley Gray</p> <p>-various, undated photographs</p> <p>-scrapbook filled with newspaper/magazine clippings</p>

	<p>-2 scrapbooks titled "Photographs"- images of Milivoy Stanoyevich</p> <p>-"Big Gray Album"</p>
<p>Box 8 Framed Photographs 2019.002.008</p>	<p>-Bahmie (Beatrice) as a toddler</p> <p>-Bahmie's brother (Will)</p> <p>-Various unidentified framed photographs, ca. 19<sup>th</sup>-early 20<sup>th</sup> century</p>
<p>Box 9 Scrapbooks 2019.002.009</p>	<p>-Old Gray Scrapbook</p> <p>-Gray Album</p> <p>-Bahmie Photo Album</p> <p>-Early Gray Album Photos</p>
<p>Box 10 Oversized Items 2019.002.010</p>	<p>-University of Vermont certificate, BA in Philosophy, Shirley Gray</p> <p>-Selective Service System, Certificate of Appreciation, Shirley Gray</p> <p>-MHS Diploma, Shirley Gray, 1936</p> <p>-University of the State of New York, Certificate for Social Work, Shirley Gray, 1968</p> <p>-yearbook, <i>Amphitheatre 1936</i></p> <p>-copy of <i>MHQ: The Quarterly Journal of Military History</i>, Vol. 11, No. 2, Winter 1999, with article "Personal Perspectives on Peleliu" by Matthew Stevenson</p> <p>-New York State Normal and Training School diploma, Helen S. Slusser, 1908</p>
<p>Binder Photo History 2019.002.011</p>	<p>-"Edward and Esther (Galbraith) Gray Family Photo History, Edward and Elizabeth (Beggs) Gray Family Photo History, Hugh and Hester (Peacock) Beggs Family Photo History."</p>
<p>Box 11 WWII 2019.002.012</p>	<p>-Montclair: Nikolai Stevenson WWII</p> <p>-Montclair WWII</p> <p>-Nikolai Stevenson</p> <p>-Peleliu</p> <p>-USMC</p> <p>-Media</p>

For more information or to view any of these documents, please email [mail@montclairhistory.org](mailto:mail@montclairhistory.org) or call 973-744-1796.