

# **STANTON, FRANK LEBBY, 1857-1927.**

## **Frank Leby Stanton papers, 1885-1978**

Emory University  
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### **Descriptive Summary**

**Creator:** Stanton, Frank Leby, 1857-1927.  
**Title:** Frank Leby Stanton papers, 1885-1978  
**Call Number:** Manuscript Collection No. 166  
**Extent:** 2 linear feet (5 boxes), 1 oversized papers folder (OP), 1 bound volume (BV), and 1 oversized bound volume (OBV)  
**Abstract:** Papers of Frank Leby Stanton, poet and journalist, including correspondence, writings, scrapbooks, photographs, cartoons and drawings, clippings and printed materials, biographical notes and short stories.  
**Language:** Materials entirely in English.

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### **Administrative Information**

#### **Restrictions on Access**

Unrestricted access.

#### **Terms Governing Use and Reproduction**

All requests subject to limitations noted in departmental policies on reproduction.

#### **Related Materials in Other Repositories**

Frank L. Stanton papers, Atlanta History Center.

#### **Source**

Gift, prior to 1932, with subsequent additions.

#### **Citation**

[after identification of item(s)], Frank Leby Stanton papers, Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library, Emory University.

#### **Processing**

Processed by ELE, January 1984 .

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## Collection Description

### Biographical Note

Frank Leiby Stanton (February 22, 1857-January 7, 1927) poet and journalist, was born in Charleston, South Carolina, the son of Valentine Stanton, a printer, and Rebecca Parry Stanton. After the death of his father, (ca. 1868), Stanton's formal education ended and his family moved to Savannah, Georgia, where he went to work for the *Savannah Morning News* as a printer's devil. Joel Chandler Harris began work with the *Morning News* as an associate editor in 1870 and encouraged young Stanton to write. Stanton became a reporter and feature writer for the *News*, then moved in 1887 to Smithville, Georgia, where he edited the *Smithville News*. While in Smithville, he met and married Leona Josey. They had three children, Valentine (Val), born ca. 1890, Frank Jr., born 1895, and Marcelle, born ca. 1900.

After a brief period with the Rome (Ga.) Tribune, Stanton moved to Atlanta in 1889 at the suggestion of Joel Chandler Harris, who had been on the staff of the Atlanta *Constitution* since 1876. Stanton achieved notoriety with his daily column "Just From Georgia," which began publication ca. 1890 in the *Constitution* and continued until 1926. A compilation of poems, short stories, and philosophical advice, the column was one of the first of its kind to be published in the United States. Stanton's work was also published in magazines such as the *Uncle Remus Magazine* and *The Christian Index*, but it was the syndication of "Just From Georgia" which vastly increased his popularity as the "James Whitcomb Riley of the South," and as a "scrapbook poet."

Popular poems written by Stanton and inspired by his family are "Mighty Lak a Rose," "Jest a Wearyin' for You," and "Marcelle." The first collection of his poetry, *Songs of a Day and Songs of the Soil*, was published in 1892. It was followed by *Songs of the Soil* (1894), *Comes One with a Song* (1899), *Songs from Dixie Land* (1900), *Up from Georgia*, (1902), and *Little Folks Down South* (1904). *Frank L. Stanton's Just from Georgia*, compiled by his daughter Marcelle Stanton Megahee was published in 1927, after Stanton's death in that same year. Frank Stanton is buried in Westview Cemetery, Atlanta.

**Biographical Source:** Biographical information on Stanton can be found in the *Dictionary of American Biography* (Scribner's, 1935) and in biographical clippings located in Subseries 1.4 of the collection.

### Scope and Content Note

These papers consist of materials produced by Frank L. Stanton, his family, and associates. They are divided into three main series, each titled by its originator or subject: Frank L. Stanton, Atlanta *Constitution*/Julian Harris, and Frank L. Stanton, Jr. Provenance of some items among this material is unclear and some of these specific items are mentioned in the series notes when appropriate.

The collection contains correspondence (1890-1948), handwritten and printed Stanton poems (ca. 1885-1921), scrapbooks (1895-1920, 1978), music and broadsides, photographs, cartoons and drawings, clippings and printed materials, biographical notes and short stories. Dated material bulks in the years between 1900 and 1928.

The collection's strength lies in the abundance of Stanton poetry and prose, preserved here in various stages of development. A major weakness is in the inability of Stanton's own papers to

provide a more personal view of his life. A unique feature of the collection is the inclusion of material offering a look at the less public side of Stanton from the viewpoint of fellow journalist, Julian LaRose Harris.

**Arrangement Note**

Organized into three series: (1) Frank Stanton papers, (2) Atlanta *Constitution* / Julian Larose Harris papers and (3) Frank L. Stanton, Jr. papers.

## **Description of Series**

Series 1: Frank L. Stanton papers, 1885-1978

Subseries 1.1: Correspondence and related papers, 1890-1948

Subseries 1.2: Writings

Subseries 1.3: Photographs, drawings, and illustrations

Subseries 1.4: Clippings and printed material

Series 2: Atlanta Constitution / Julian Larose Harris papers, 1894-1928; 1948

Series 3: Frank L. Stanton, Jr. papers, 1909-1931

**Series 1****Frank L. Stanton papers, 1885-1978****Boxes 1-4, OP 1-4, BV1, OBV 1****Scope and Content Note**

This series includes material about Stanton collected or generated by either Stanton or his family. The series includes correspondence, writings, photographs, and printed material.

Correspondence (Subseries 1.1), which dates from 1890 to 1948, bulks between 1920 and 1928. Personal correspondence includes letters exchanged between Stanton and his family and friends. General and business correspondence includes that from publishers, a copyright form, a permission notice and "fan" letters, many of which include poems offered for publication. Family correspondence (those letters to and from family member excluding Stanton) includes a letter to Mrs. Stanton describing the Roycroft Shop and Inn of Aurora, New York, and many messages of sympathy from Stanton's admirers written at the time of the poet's death. Correspondents include Atlantans Clark Howell Warren Akin Candler, Samuel White Small, and Mildred (Woolley) Seydell and authors Charles William Hubner, William Nathaniel Harben, and James Whitcomb Riley. Each group of letters is filed chronologically.

Subseries 1.2 includes both Stanton's unpublished drafts and published writings. These are handwritten or typed drafts, newspaper proofs, published news columns put into scrapbooks, published sheet music, broadsides, the bulk of which date from ca. 1890-1920. The "Just From Georgia" scrapbook was compiled by a fan in Portland, Maine. The "Strathmore" scrapbook was compiled by Stanton and is a gathering of his columns and poems ca. 1915-1920. Poem drafts are filed in alphabetical order and are listed in an appendix after the container list.

The third subseries (1.3) is comprised of photographs, illustrations and drawings. The majority are images of Stanton. Original drawings are by Lewis C. Gregg and Vance Cotter. One drawing of Stanton and one drawing of his "Just From Georgia" character, Brother Dickey, (both by Gregg, 1903) were originally in the possession of Julian L. Harris who donated them to Emory University.

Most clippings and printed materials (Subseries 1.4) are biographical in nature. Includes are clippings concerning Leona and Marcelle Stanton and information on various Stanton homes. Also found here are an advertisement for the Frank Stanton Jr. Organization promoting the merits of Stanton's "Poem a Day" to newspapers across the nation, programs for functions at which Leona Stanton read her husband's work, and an article about the gift of the Stanton papers to Emory University. Two publications about Frank Stanton are also included, one edited by another Georgia poet laureate Wightman F. Melton, who was related to Stanton by marriage.

**Arrangement Note**

Organized into four subseries: (1.1) Correspondence, (1.2) Writings, (1.3) Photographs, illustrations and drawings, and (1.4) Clippings and printed material.

**Subseries 1.1**  
**Correspondence and related papers, 1890-1948**  
**Box 1**

| <b>Box</b> | <b>Folder</b> | <b>Content</b>  |
|------------|---------------|---|
| 1          | 1             | Personal correspondence: 1890-1919  |
| 1          | 2             | Personal correspondence: 1920-1926, no date   |
| 1          | 3             | Personal correspondence: 1921, 1923, n.d. - Christmas and New Year's greeting cards |
| 1          | 4             | General and business correspondence (and related papers): 1891-1923                 |
| 1          | 5             | General and business correspondence (and related papers): 1924-Feb 1925             |
| 1          | 6             | General and business correspondence (and related papers): March-December 1925       |
| 1          | 7             | General and business correspondence (and related papers): 1926                      |
| 1          | 8             | General and business correspondence (and related papers): no date                   |
| 1          | 9             | Family correspondence and related papers: 1904-1906                                 |
| 1          | 10            | Family correspondence and related papers: January-April 1927                        |
| 1          | 11            | Family correspondence and related papers: 1928-1948                                 |
| 1          | 12            | Family correspondence and related papers: no date                                   |

**Subseries 1.2****Writings****Boxes 2-4, OP1, BV1, OBV1****Poems: Handwritten drafts, ca. 1885-ca 1925**

| <b>Box</b> | <b>Folder</b> | <b>Content</b>             |
|------------|---------------|----------------------------|
| 2          | 1             | At the Farewell Door       |
| 2          | 2             | At the Home Door           |
| 2          | 3             | A Boy Over There, ca. 1918 |
| 2          | 4             | The Cunjer man             |
| 2          | 5             | A Contented Citizen        |
| 2          | 6             | Dad Speaks, 1918           |
| 2          | 7             | Dear One Asleep            |
| 2          | 8             | The Devils' Dancing Lesson |
| 2          | 9             | Earth's Sweetest Song      |
| 2          | 10            | Eugene Field               |
| 2          | 11            | First to Fall              |
| 2          | 12            | The Flight of the Innocent |
| 2          | 13            | Fo'th July                 |
| 2          | 14            | Georgia Land               |
| 2          | 15            | Georgia Land               |
| 2          | 16            | Georgia Land               |
| 2          | 17            | A Happy Land Song          |
| 2          | 18            | Hard Times in Georgy       |
| 2          | 19            | His Honey                  |
| 2          | 20            | The Humble Brother         |
| 2          | 21            | I Dunno!                   |
| 2          | 22            | I Know a Girl              |
| 2          | 23            | In the Fall of Her Hair    |
| 2          | 24            | The Jordan Road            |
| 2          | 25            | Joy and Trouble            |
| 2          | 26            | The Joyland of the Fair    |
| 2          | 27            | A Letter for Santa Claus   |
| 2          | 28            | De Long Time Hypocrite Man |
| 2          | 29            | Little Bit of a Fellow     |
| 2          | 30            | The Little Fellows         |
| 2          | 31            | Love of Gold               |
| 2          | 32            | The Lynching Bee           |
| 2          | 33            | [McKinley's Death]         |
| 2          | 34            | A Missionary Hymn          |

|   |    |                                     |
|---|----|-------------------------------------|
| 2 | 35 | Mister Black Crow                   |
| 2 | 36 | On a Lonesome Road at Night         |
| 2 | 37 | On Rainy Days                       |
| 2 | 38 | Presence Sweet                      |
| 2 | 39 | The Rattlesnake's Invitation        |
| 2 | 40 | The Right Way                       |
| 2 | 41 | Robert Loveman                      |
| 2 | 42 | Rockaby                             |
| 2 | 43 | Rose of Home                        |
| 2 | 44 | A Rose of a Battlefield             |
| 2 | 45 | Satan and the Banjo                 |
| 2 | 46 | Shadow of a Dream                   |
| 2 | 47 | This World                          |
| 2 | 48 | Time to Give                        |
| 2 | 49 | Time's Up!                          |
| 2 | 50 | Twilight, and Stars, and Loneliness |
| 2 | 51 | A Watermelon Song                   |
| 2 | 52 | When the Lad Writes Home, ca. 1918  |
| 2 | 53 | Where She Hath Been                 |

### Handwritten and typed drafts

|     |       |   |
|-----|-------|---|
| 2   | 54-62 | Handwritten drafts: short stories, n.d.   |
| 2   | 63-65 | Handwritten drafts: "Just From Georgia" - Brother Dickey, n.d.                          |
| 2   | 66-74 | Handwritten drafts: "Just From Georgia" - Miscellaneous, n.d.                           |
| 2   | 75-78 | Handwritten drafts: Untitled poems and articles, n.d.                                   |
| 2   | 79    | Handwritten drafts: Miscellaneous, n.d.   |
| 2   | 80    | Typed drafts, n.d.  |
| 3   | 1-5   | Proofs: "Poem a Day," May 1920-Mar 1921   |
| 3   | 6     | "Poem a Day" publication lists, 27 Dec 1920-21 Oct 1921                                 |
| 3   | 7     | Proofs - <i>Atlanta Constitution</i> editorials, n.d.                                   |
| 3   | 8     | Two poems written upon the birth and death of Robert Lowry Block, 1916<br>(photocopies) |
| OPI | -     | "Poem a Day": Proofs; "Sunbeams from the South": Proofs, ca. 1920                       |

### Scrapbooks, sheet music, and broadsides

|   |    |  |
|---|----|--|
| 3 | 9  | Loose scrapbook pages, ca. 1895  |
| 3 | 10 | Loose scrapbook items, ca. 1895-1918   |
| 3 | 11 | Sheet music, ca. 1921 (words by Frank L. Stanton, music by Nan Bagby Stephens): "Hymn to Mother"/"My Dearie" |

- 3 12 Sheet music, ca. 1921 (words by Frank L. Stanton, music by Nan Bagby Stephens): "Morning Song"/"Plantation Ditty"/"Little Tin Horn"
- 3 13 Sheet music, ca. 1921 (words by Frank L. Stanton, music by Nan Bagby Stephens): "When the Little Boy Ran Away"
- 3 14 Broadside: "Pretty Good World," 1910
- 3 15 Broadside: "Going Home," ca. 1926
- 3 16 Broadside: "Marcelle," ca. 1905
- BV1 Scrapbook: "Just From Georgia" compiled by Mary L. Watson, ca.1900 [includes illustrations by E.W. Kimble]
- 3 17 Scrapbook: Compiled by Frank L. Stanton ("Strathmore"), ca. 1915-1920
- OBV1 Scrapbook: compiled by Marcelle Stanton Megahee, 1978

**Subseries 1.3**  
**Photographs, drawings, and illustrations**  
**Box 4, OP1**

| <b>Box</b> | <b>Folder</b> | <b>Content</b>   |
|------------|---------------|--|
| 4          | 1             | Stanton - photographs and published illustrations, ca. 1900-1905 [includes photographic reproduction of original Lewis Gregg pen and ink sketch in OP1]  |
| 4          | 2             | Pen and ink drawing by Lewis C. Gregg, 1906  |
| 4          | 3             | Unidentified photographs, ca. 1920-1940  |
| OP1        | -             | Pen and ink drawings: 2 of Stanton by Lewis C. Gregg, 1903, n.d. [includes Lewis Gregg pen and ink sketch (1903) – photographic reproductions in Box 5: folder 1]; 1 of Br'er Dickey by Lewis C. Gregg, 1903; 1 of Stanton by Vance Cotter, 1923 |

**Subseries 1.4**  
**Clippings and printed material**  
**Box 4, OP 3-4**

| <b>Box</b> | <b>Folder</b> | <b>Content</b>  |
|------------|---------------|---|
| OP1        | -             | Broadside: Georgia's First Poet Laureate," 1925 ("The Empire State" - Georgia Railway and Power Co.)  |
| OP1        | -             | Clippings: Atlanta <i>Constitution</i> pages, 1900, 1906, 1925, 1927  |
| 4          | 4             | Clippings: General and biographical: 1894-1925  |
| 4          | 5             | Clippings: General and biographical: 1928, 1961, 1973, n.d.   |
| 4          | 6             | Clippings: Lecture tour, 1895   |
| 4          | 7             | Clippings: Poet laureate of Georgia, 1925, 1938   |
| 4          | 8             | Clippings: Book reviews, ca. 1890   |
| 4          | 9             | Clippings: Obituaries, 1927   |
| 4          | 10            | Clippings: Stanton family, 1893-1925  |
| 4          | 11            | Clippings: Stanton homes, 1949, 1968, 1975  |
| 4          | 12            | Clippings: Miscellaneous Stanton-related items, ca. 1915 - ca. 1975   |
| 4          | 13            | Printed materials: Programs: 1905-1906  |
| 4          | 14            | Printed materials: <i>Emory Alumnus</i> , July 1929, vol. 5, #4   |
| 4          | 15            | Printed materials: "Frank L. Stanton's Contribution to the Health of America" by Robert Bryan Harrison, 1922  |
| 4          | 16            | Printed materials: "Frank Leiby Stanton, Georgia's First Poet Laureate," issued by Georgia State Dept. of Education, edited by Wightman F. Melton, 1938 |
| 4          | 17            | Printed materials: Frank L. Stanton, Jr. Organization (advertisement), ca. 1920   |
| 4          | 18            | Printed materials: "The First Poet Laureate" by Wayne W. Daniel, <i>Georgia Journal</i> , 1991 Summer   |

**Series 2*****Atlanta Constitution* / Julian Larose Harris papers, 1894-1928; 1948****Box 5 (folders 1-6), OP 5****Scope and Content Note**

The provenance of this material is unclear. Though possibly included in the original group of Stanton papers donated to Emory University, it appears that this material was kept on file at the *Atlanta Constitution*, and was originally collected by Julian L Harris. Harris had contemplated doing a biography of Stanton and had taken notes, which he called "Stantonia," on Stanton's life and activities while both men were employed with the *Atlanta Constitution* (ca. 1892-1907). Harris also preserved miscellaneous notes written by Stanton to Harris and other *Constitution* staff members.

Correspondence consists of letters of sympathy and poems sent to the *Constitution* after Stanton's death. Clippings are *Atlanta Constitution* related and may have been originally collected by Stanton. Unidentified drafts are of short stories, articles and speeches found with the "Stantonia" material but not related to it. A large portion of these drafts are probably Julian Harris's.

| <b>Box</b> | <b>Folder</b> | <b>Content</b>  |
|------------|---------------|---|
| 5          | 1             | Correspondence, January 1927, 1948, n.d.  |
| 5          | 2             | Notes to <i>Atlanta Constitution</i> staff members from Frank L. Stanton collected by Julian L. Harris, ca. 1903-1915 |
| 5          | 3             | "Stantonia" - Harris' biographical notes on Stanton, 1894-1900  |
| OP1        | -             | "Stantonia," 1901   |
| 5          | 4             | Clippings, 1925, 1928, n.d.   |
| 5          | 5             | Unidentified drafts, n.d.   |
| 5          | 6             | Unidentified drafts, n.d.   |

**Series 3**  
**Frank L. Stanton, Jr. papers, 1909-1931**  
**Box 5 (folders 7-13), OP 6-7**

**Biographical Note**

Frank Stanton Jr., second son of Frank L. Stanton and Leona Josey Stanton, was born May 5, 1895 in Atlanta, Georgia. He was illustrating his father's "Just From Georgia" column by the time he was fifteen. Educated in Atlanta public schools and at the Chicago Art Institute (ca. 1912-1915), he edited Atlanta's *Hearst Hustler* (ca. 1919), created advertisements for Atlanta products and publications, and headed the Frank Stanton, Jr. Organization and the Frank Stanton, Jr. Publishing Company (ca. 1920-1921), which concentrated on syndicating and publishing his father's work. He became advertising manager and a vice-president for George Muse Clothing Company, ca. 1925, and created the logo the company has continued to use. Both he and his wife Dorothy Popham Stanton, whom he married in 1925, were killed in an automobile accident on January 17, 1932.

**Scope and Content Note**

This series consists of correspondence, cartoons, short stories, and a photograph. Personal correspondence is with family, friends, and business associates. Stanton's earlier published cartoons are included in a scrapbook he kept (1909-1912), and issues of the *Hearst Hustler* (1919), and *Baltimore Trolley Topics*. An advertisement done for Muse's (1928), and a Christmas card (1931) drawn for Lucian Harris are examples of Stanton's later work.

| <b>Box</b> | <b>Folder</b> | <b>Content</b>  |
|------------|---------------|---|
| 5          | 7             | Correspondence, 1913, 1931, n.d.                            |
| 5          | 8             | Cartoons, 1919, 1928  |
| 5          | 9             | Cartoons, 1931, (Christmas card)                            |
| 5          | 10            | Cartoons, proofs, n.d.                                      |
| 5          | 11            | Cartoons, scrapbook, 1909-1912                              |
| OP1        | -             | Newspaper: The <i>Hearst Hustler</i> , vol. 5, no. 30, 1919 |
| OP1        | -             | Photograph ca. 1919   |
| 5          | 12-13         | Short stories, n.d.   |

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