

Finding Aid for Frank Stephens letter to Estella Hillersohn Frankel, April 12, 1935

Date range: 1935 April 12

Finding aid created by: Elizabeth Jones-Minsinger, August 2018

Extent: 2 items

Abstract:

This collection consists of a letter written by Arden founder, Frank Stephens, to Estella Frankel, a musician and resident of Arden, on April 12, 1935.

Accession number: 2018.019

Language: Materials entirely in English

Acquisition Information: Gift of Sonia Sloan

Access Restrictions: The collection is open for research.

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Cite as: Frank Stephens letter to Estella Hillersohn Frankel, Arden Craft Shop Museum

Biographical Note:

George Francis "Frank" Stephens (1859-1935) was a sculptor and founder of the single-tax utopian community of Arden, Delaware. He was born on December 28, 1859, in Rahway, New Jersey. Stephens studied at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts. Influenced by the theories of economist Henry George, Stephens began advocating for the adoption of a single tax levied on the actual value of land to create a more equitable distribution of wealth. Between 1895 and 1896, Stephens and Philadelphia-area architect Will Price mounted a single-tax campaign to win political control of the state of Delaware. Although the campaign failed, and many of the single-taxers were jailed, Stephens and Price pressed on with their dream of founding a utopian community based on single-tax principles. With financial support from Philadelphia soap magnate Joseph Fels, Stephens and Price founded the community of Arden, just north of

Wilmington, Delaware, in 1900. Stephens continued to live in and lead Arden for the next three decades, and was instrumental in the founding of the community of Ardentown in 1922. He died on June 16, 1935, in Gilpin Point, Maryland, another utopian community he helped found.

Estella Hillersohn Frankel (1902-2001), was a musician and teacher who lived in Arden, Delaware. Frankel, who was born on December 20, 1902, was the child of Russian immigrants who owned a cigar store on Market Street in Wilmington. She attended the Peabody Conservatory in Baltimore, Maryland, and taught music in Delaware public schools for 35 years. Frankel arranged the music for "Grubb's Corner, or, the Dutch on the Delaware," a libretto written by Frank Stephens, in the late 1920s. In the 1930s, she performed seven days a week on WILM radio for one hour a day. Following her retirement from teaching in the Delaware Public Schools system, Frankel continued to teach music students out of her home into the 1990s. The Delaware School of Music established a scholarship in her honor in 1983. Estella Frankel died on March 16, 2001.

Scope and Content:

This collection consists of a letter written by Arden founder, Frank Stephens, to Estella Frankel, a musician and resident of Arden, on April 12, 1935.

The letter, which is written on Stephens's letterhead, is addressed to "My dear Estelle." The text of the letter reads "I will be as near to you in your success this evening as tho' I were standing under your baton frightened out of my wits and singing off pitch and out of time - as usual" and is signed "Frank S." The letter is accompanied by an enveloped addressed to "Estella Hillersohn/ Kindress of Ann Ross." This collection also includes a small printed copy of an ink drawing of the Arden Gild Hall.

Subjects:

Stephens, Frank, 1859-1935

Frankel, Estella Hillersohn, 1902-2001