



Beers Family  
Papers, 1777-1925;  
30 inches.

Jonathan Sturges Beers came from New Orleans to Galveston in 1850. He served as secretary of the Union Marine & Fire Insurance Company, the first insurance company in the state of Texas. This firm was chartered in 1848 and began operation in 1854. His papers comprise the bulk of this collection and include letters from such notable Galvestonians as Albert and George Ball, Benjamin Eaton, John Grant Tod, and Sidney Sherman.

His son, William Francis Beers (1852-1935), succeeded him upon his death in 1871. The company was liquidated in 1879. William Francis Beers then reorganized it with Alphonse Kenison and Isadore Dyer under the new name of Dyer, Beers & Kenison and later as Beers, Kenison & Company.

William Francis Beers also was appointed agent of Lloyd's of England and served as correspondent of the board of underwriters of New York. He was a member of the Galveston Deep Water Committee and had extensive land holdings throughout Texas. He married twice, first to Iola Barns of New Orleans, and then to Edith McDowell of Bowling Green, Ohio.

His papers include a small amount of records of the Galveston Seamen's Home Association, which he helped to provide a meeting place by renting a two-story building near Twenty-Seventh and Strand in the early 1870s.

Iola Barns Beers (1852-1925), the daughter of Thomas and Antoinette Barns, founded the Girl's Musical Club in Galveston in 1890. She represented Texas at the Chicago World's Fair in 1893 and later served on the Texas Committee to the St. Louis World's Fair. She was also active in the Galveston Art League and the Red Cross. She is said to have organized the Women's Health Protective Association for the purpose of aiding Galveston's recovery after the 1900 Storm, but her papers do not reflect her contribution.

William Francis Beers and Iola Barns Beers had one son, William Francis Beers, Jr., who attended law school at Columbia University in New York.



<u>Box</u>	<u>FF</u>	<u>Subgroups</u>	<u>Items</u>	<u>Dates</u>
1		ANTOINETTE BARNS PAPERS		
		General Correspondence		
	1	Beers, William Francis Jr. (grandson) (re: Chicago World's Fair; lynching)	2	1893
		THOMAS BARNS PAPERS		
		General Correspondence		
	2	Beers, William Francis (son-in-law)	1	1878
	3-11	Beers, William Francis Jr. (grandson) (re: Galveston; Erie Canal; John Howard Payne; Mary E. Beers; pneumonia; vanilla flavoring; Brooklyn Bridge; "moonstruck" behavior; Chicago World's Fair; William Frederick "Buffalo Bill" Cody; glass- blowing; Robert E. Peary; Illinois; Sino-Japanese War; Hawaii; French and English colonial possessions; Afro- American farm laborers; Ballinger Mills; _____ Blair; Sunday school; Mrs. William H. Sinclair; Oregon; John Jacob Astor; Daniel Webster; total eclipse of moon; _____ Palmer; Goldbeck Music School; Bellingham, Massachusetts; Corbett-Fitzsimmons prize fight; photography; music; sports injuries; Portland, Maine; New York City; Echo Club; _____ Willard; _____ Pennybacker)	50	1890-1904, nd
		Subject Series		
	12	History of Galveston	1	1895
		THOMAS BARNS & IOLA BARNS BEERS PAPERS		
		General Correspondence		
	13	Beers, William Francis Jr. (re: bar exams)	1	1904
		THOMAS BARN & WILLIAM FRANCIS BEERS PAPERS		
		General Correspondence		
	14	Beers, William Francis Jr. (re: Grand Gorge, New York; Boston, Massachusetts)	2	1896-97
15-16		BEERS (JONATHAN STURGES) & PREVOST RECORDS	13	1834-36



<u>Box</u>	<u>FF</u>	<u>Subgroups</u>	<u>Items</u>	<u>Dates</u>
1		BEERS FAMILY RELATIVES PAPERS		
		General Correspondence		
	17	Beers, William Francis Jr. (re: Chicago World's Fair)	2	1893
		ELEANOR BEERS PAPERS		
	18	Grade Report	1	1882
		GEORGE W. BEERS PAPERS		
	19	Grade Reports	4	1877-78
		IOLA BARNS BEERS PAPERS		
	20	Biographical Features		
		General Correspondence		
	21-26	Barns, Thomas (father) (re: weather; food; fire--1885; Chicago World's Fair; Mrs. Charles G. Clifford; New York City; Gulf of Mexico; Galveston--water supply; fire fighting equipment; <u>McClure's</u> ; <u>Cosmopolitan</u> ; Boston, Mass- achusetts; Goldbeck Music School; St. Mary's University; music education; trees--spraying; <u>Godey's</u> ; <u>Harper's</u> ; <u>Munsey's</u> )	24	1884-95, nd
	27	Beers, William Francis (husband) (re: World War I; steamship <u>Neckar</u> ; cotton; quarantine)	14	1894, 1913-16, nd
	28-30	Beers, William Francis Jr. (son) (re: Columbia University)	34	1900-02, 1904, nd
	31	Rose, _____	3	1884
	32	Miscellaneous (re: piano she donated to San Jacinto School; Galveston Typographical Union resolution passed upon death of Thomas Barns; Pittsfield, Massachusetts; her appointment to the Texas World's Fair Commission)	13	1878-1916
		Subject Series		
	33	Programs--Children's Musicale	2	1893
	34	Miscellany	2	1917, nd
		<u>Subgroup</u>		
	35	Girl's Musical Club	2	1912, nd



<u>Box</u>	<u>FF</u>	<u>Subgroups</u>	<u>Items</u>	<u>Dates</u>
1		IOLA BARNS BEERS & WILLIAM FRANCIS BEERS, JR., PAPERS General Correspondence		
	36-38	Barns, Thomas (re: weather; West Texas--climate; women; Benjamin F. Flanders; La Porte, Texas; <u>Harper's Weekly</u> article re Galveston)	13	1892-96, nd
		JONATHAN STURGES BEERS PAPERS Biographical Features		
	39	Family Tree	1	
		General Correspondence		
	40	Adriance, John	1	1863
	41	Austin, Edward Taylor (re: weather; cattle; orange trees; agriculture; military service; Galveston)	9	1863-65
	42	Ball, Albert (re: fire engines which the military took over in Galveston)	2	1862-63
	43	Ball, George (re: Mutual Aid Society)	3	1864-65
	44	Ballinger, William Pitt	1	1864
	45	Beaton, Alex (re: John C. Dodds estate)	3	1853, 1855
2	1	Beers, Amelia E. (daughter) (re: Augustine Prevost Beers)	2	nd
	2	Beers, Augustine Prevost (son)	3	1863-64
	3	Beers, C. M. (brother) (re: Augustine Prevost Beers; yellow fever; Civil War)	1	1867
	4-5	Beers, Fannie A. (daughter) (re: Mobile, Alabama, during Civil War; Sturges _____; Western Press Association)	7	1868-70, nd
	6	Beers, Jonathan Sturges Jr. (son) (re: Peninsular Campaign; John Bankhead Magruder; relatives who served in Civil War; Vicksburg, Mississippi; Louisiana; Richmond, Virginia; Charles Illsley; Wilson's Raid; slavery; Afro-Americans; yellow fever; and wool cuttings)	8	1863-69
	7	Beers, Robert W. (grandson)	4	1863-64, 1866
	8	Black, Robert (re: Sydnors; prices)	4	1863, 1867
	9	Boisclair, Ellen E. (niece) (re: food; freedmen; cotton; drought; poverty in Georgia)	5	1869, nd
		Campbell & Rickarby <u>see</u> Campbell, William P.		



<u>Box</u>	<u>FF</u>	<u>Subgroups</u>	<u>Items</u>	<u>Dates</u>
2		JONATHAN STURGES BEERS PAPERS (cont.)		
		General Correspondence (cont.)		
	10	Campbell, William P. (re: cotton; bois d'arc seed)	13	1854-71
11-13		Davis, John M. (re: land in Collin County; defeat of Confederacy; crops; bois d'arc seed)	26	1860, 1865, 1866, 1869-71, nd
	14	de Cordova, Jacob <u>see also</u> Peck, Marius K.: "Deeds" and "Receipts--Miscellaneous" under Financial Records	5	1849-50
	15	Eaton, Benjamin	2	1865
	16	Hamilton, Mary S. (granddaughter) (re: death of Soultter Campbell; Union soldiers in Mobile, Alabama; George Waring Smith; yellow fever; Berkeley Springs, West Virginia)	3	1865, 1867
	17	Hamilton, P.	4	1863, 1868, nd
	18	Harris, J. O.	5	1866, 1868
	19	Hart, David (re: sale of land on behalf of heirs of Augustine Prevost; power of attorney to Theodore L. Prevost)	2	1840
	20	Hill & Hill (attorneys)	8	1867-68
	21	Hill, E. P. (attorney)	4	1871
	22	Ilsley, John H. (re: Civil War; Louisiana; Abraham Lincoln)	1	1861
	23	Johns (Clement Read) & Company	8	1866-67, 1870, nd
	24	Jones, O. C. (re: yellow fever; Mexico; Galveston; New Orleans, Louisiana)	7	1855-59, 1865-66
25-32		McLeod, Rebecca J. (re: evacuation and capture of Galveston; Captain _____ Kearney; blankets for Confederate troops in Virginia; John M. Baldwin; prices; slaves; Battle of Fredericksburg; Hugh McLeod; John Bankhead Magruder; blockade; prices; Charleston,		



<u>Box</u>	<u>FF</u>	<u>Subgroups</u>	<u>Items</u>	<u>Dates</u>
2		JONATHAN STURGES BEERS PAPERS (cont.)		
		General Correspondence (cont.)		
25-32		McLeod, Rebecca J. (cont.)		
		South Carolina; Savannah, Georgia; servants; Buffalo Bayou, Brazos & Colorado Railroad; McLeod Cotton Compress; Galveston Seaman's Home; poor economies of Galveston and Savannah, Georgia; Galveston Port Society; seed; yellow fever; proposed hotel for Galveston; immigration; commercial rivalry between Galveston and New York City)	49	1862-70
33		Mather, T. (re: government control of railroads; corn and wood shipments to Galveston)	3	1863
34		Osterman, Rosanna Dyer	1	1862
35		Owen, J. L. (re: Mutual Aid Society; Willard Richardson)	3	1863
36		Peck, D. W. C. (re: taxes)	7	1866-67
37		Peck Family (includes letter from Jacob de Cordova)	5	1845-46, 1865
38		Peck, Marius K. (re: poor economy of New Orleans, Louisiana)	11	1866-71
39		Peek, E. B. (re: Henry Coit; land in Collin County)	7	1868-71
40		Prevost, Theodore L.	2	1865, 1869
41		Reid (Charles H.) & Company (re: cotton prices; claim against Ebenezer B. Nichols)	11	1865-69, nd
42		Robinson, Anna T. (cousin)	1	1866
43		Roper, C. D.	3	1869-71
44		Roper, E. A. (re: taxes)	4	1868-69, 1871
45		Rose, John N. (re: Battle of Galveston; ravaging of Virginia; slavery; Charles Vidor; Richmond, Virginia; Union and Confederate morale; Ambrose Burnside; Abraham Lincoln)	8	1862-64
46		Sherman, Sidney	1	1864
		Starr, James Harper <u>see</u> Starr (James Harper) & <u>Son</u>		



<u>Box</u>	<u>FF</u>	<u>Subgroups</u>	<u>Items</u>	<u>Dates</u>
2		JONATHAN STURGES BEERS PAPERS (cont.)		
		General Correspondence (cont.)		
	47	Starr (James Harper) & Son (real estate agency)	11	1863-71
	48	Sturges, Lucretia B. (cousin)	1	1870
	49	Tod, John Grant	1	1863
	50	Trueheart, Henry Martin (re: taxes)	2	1868-69
3	1	Tucker, Philip Crosby ( <u>see also</u> "Deeds" under Financial Records)	1	1863
	2	Watson, B. M. (cousin)	2	1868-69
	3	West, George (re: Daniel Harvey Hill)	2	1866-67
	4	Williams, J. H. (nephew)	1	1868
	5	A-B, Miscellaneous	12	1863-69
	6	C-D, Miscellaneous	7	1840, 1866-71, nd
	7	F-I, Miscellaneous	8	1864-70, 187-
	8	K-N, Miscellaneous (re: William Monaghan; meat-processing business)	8	1860-70
	9	P, Miscellaneous	3	1840, 1848, 1869
	10	R, Miscellaneous (re: Ebenezer B. Nichols)	3	1857-66
	11	S-W, Miscellaneous	12	1845, 1858, 1864-70, nd
	12	Unidentified	10	1858, 1867-71, nd
13-15		Envelopes	41	
		Legal Documents		
	16	Deeds	5	1855-71
17-18		Indentures	12	1843-68
	19	Powers of Attorney	2	1870
	20	Miscellaneous	6	1843-71
		Legal Documents (of others)		
	21	Deeds	3	1847-56
	22	Land Records	3	1857, 1869, nd
		Financial Records		
	23	Balance Sheets	7	1865-70
24-25		Cash Books	2	1856-68 & 1868-74
	26	Cash Note Book	1	1860-63
	27	Certificates of Purchase (Edward Taylor Austin)	6	1869



<u>Box</u>	<u>FF</u>	<u>Subgroups</u>	<u>Items</u>	<u>Dates</u>
3		JONATHAN STURGES BEERS PAPERS (cont.)		
		Financial Records (cont.)		
	28	Journal	1	1868-73
4	1	Ledger	1	1868-71
		Receipts		
	2	New Orleans, Jackson & Great Northern Railroad	7	1852-54
3-6		Tax	94	1855, 1860-71
	7	Miscellaneous	21	1839-68
	8	Miscellaneous	9	1843-70
		Subject Series		
	9	Funeral	1	1871
	10	Galveston Mercantile Library	6	1871
	11	Clippings	5	1862, 1865, 1869, nd
	12	Printed Matter (re: Daniel Harvey Hill; James Harper Starr & Son)	6	1864-69, nd
13-14		Miscellany	6	nd
		<u>Subgroups</u>		
15-16		Buffalo Bayou, Brazos & Colorado Railroad	24	1860-70, nd
	17	Galveston. _____. Clerk	1	1865
	18	Galveston Port Society	8	1860
	19	Union Marine & Fire Insurance Company	1	nd
		JONATHAN STURGES BEERS & WILLIAM FRANCIS BEERS PAPERS		
	20	Letter Press Book	1	1867-71
	21	MABELLE BEERS PAPERS	9	1905, nd
	22	MARY E. BEERS PAPERS	20	1871-79, 1893
		WILLIAM FRANCIS BEERS PAPERS		
	23	Biographical Features		
		General Correspondence		
	24	Barrett, Jonathan F. (re: Buffalo Bayou, Brazos & Colorado Railroad)	5	1874
	25	Beers, E. G. (niece)	1	nd
26-29		Beers, Iola Barns (wife)	30	(187-)-1884



<u>Box</u>	<u>FF</u>	<u>Subgroups</u>	<u>Items</u>	<u>Dates</u>
		WILLIAM FRANCIS BEERS PAPERS (cont.)		
		General Correspondence (cont.)		
	30	Beers, Jonathan Sturges Jr. (brother) (re: Jonathan Sturges Beers)	1	1871
	31	Beers, Mary E.	1	1881
	32	Beers, Oliver Jr. (re: Braxton Bragg)	13	1874-78
	33-36	Beers, William Francis Jr. (son) (re: hurricane--1900; Columbia University; oil drilling in Gulf of Mexico; Spindletop Oil Field; Rutger Miller; George Sealy; New York City)	38	1890, 1897, 1900-04, nd
5	1	Bingham, John H.	5	1872
	2	Campbell, William P. (re: yellow fever; Lancashire Insurance Company)	11	1876-79
	3	Claghorn, Joseph S.	6	1874-78
	4	Davis, John M. (re: timber cutting; agriculture)	15	1871-75
	5-7	De Armond, R. (re: Mardi Gras)	25	1873-79
	8-12	Dyer, Isadore (re: Chicago Fire: Moritz O. Kopperl; William Lewis Moody; Henry Ward Beecher; Cornelius Jeremiah Vanderbilt; Amelia Lewis Dyer (wife); Niagara Falls; Galveston Wharf Company; Charles Morgan; Montreal, Canada; Samuel W. Allen, Poole & Company; Joseph J. Hendley; Lake George, New York; resort visitors, including Charles L. Beissner; Sam Edgerly, and John L. Darragh; Hot Springs, Arkansas; Dallas, Texas; Trinity River; Marcus F. Mott)	21	1869, 1874, 1877
	13	Harris, Otis	4	1872, 1874
	14	Hunter, William	3	1880, 1882, 1885
	15	Kones, Lizzie L. (cousin) (re: yellow fever)	7	1878-80
	16	Kones, Louise (cousin)	1	1878
	17	Kones, Louise H. (aunt)	4	1873, 1876, 1878
	18	McLeod, Rebecca J.	3	1871, nd



<u>Box</u>	<u>FF</u>	<u>Subgroups</u>	<u>Items</u>	<u>Dates</u>
5		WILLIAM FRANCIS BEERS PAPERS (cont.)		
		General Correspondence (cont.)		
	19	Monroe, L. (re: South)	5	1876, 1878
	20	Pearson, W. (re: bois d'arc timber)	5	1874-75
	21	Peck, Marius K.	10	1871-74
	22	Pooley, Ellen	3	1881, nd
	23	Prevost, Theodore L.	3	1871-72, 1876
	24	Starr, Amory R. (real estate agent)	14	1873-82
	25	Sturges, Lucretia B. (cousin)	12	1871-79
	26	Sturges, Mary B.	3	1880
	27	Throckmorton, Brown & De Armond (re: bois d'arc timber)	3	1871
	28	Trueheart (H. M.) & Company (re: land in Collin County)	9	1871-75, 1885
	29	Watson, B. M. (cousin)	4	1872-73
	30	West, George (re: Asheville, North Carolina--insurance business; fires)	3	1876-77, 1880
	31	Wheeling?, W. S. (re: Toronto, Canada; Samuel W. Allen, Poole & Company)	7	1874-75
	32	A-C, Miscellaneous (re: land in Collin County; stenotype)	13	1872-1915
	33	E-Ha, Miscellaneous	10	1874-97
	34	Hi-L, Miscellaneous (re: orange trees)	12	1871-78, 1925
	35	M-N, Miscellaneous	6	1871-77
	36	P-Q, Miscellaneous	7	1874-81
	37	R-T, Miscellaneous	5	1871, 1875
	38	Unidentified	8	1872-1904
	39	Envelopes	5	
	40	Legal Documents	2	1871-72
		Financial Records		
	41	Tax Receipts	19	1871-78
	42	Miscellaneous	12	1874-82
	43	Scrapbook (re: insurance)	1	1872-74
6	1	Printed Matter (includes <u>Masonic News</u> re thirtieth semi-annual reunion of Scottish rite in Galveston, October 11-15, 1915)	2	1915, 1921
	2	Miscellany	5	1915, nd
		<u>Subgroups</u>		
	3	Galveston Mercantile Library	7	1871-77
	4	Galveston Seamen's Home Association	15	1873, 1876-78



<u>Box</u>	<u>FF</u>	<u>Subgroups</u>	<u>Items</u>	<u>Dates</u>
6		WILLIAM FRANCIS BEERS PAPERS (cont.)		
		<u>Subgroups</u> (cont.)		
	5	Galveston Underwriters Board	1	1874
	6	Second Ward Club	1	1876
		Union Marine & Fire Insurance Company		
		General Correspondence		
	7	Jenkins (James H,) & Wilson (attorneys)	14	1876-80
	8	Rickarby & Laffon (general commission merchants)	13	1871-74
	9	Starr (James Harper) & Son (real estate brokers)	7	1871-72
		Inter-Departmental Correspondence		
	10	UMFIC. Austin Office (E. T. Eggleston)	10	1874-76
	11	UMFIC. Houston Office	4	1870-77
		WILLIAM FRANCIS BEERS & IOLA BARNS BEERS PAPERS		
		General Correspondence		
	12-13	Beers, William Francis Jr. (re: New York City; Seawall)	17	1902-04, nd
	14	Miscellaneous	2	1880, 1912
		Subject Series		
	15	Musicales	3	1889, 1891
		WILLIAM FRANCIS BEERS, JR, PAPERS		
	16-17	General Correspondence (re: Prospect Park; quarantine; Woodstock, Maryland)	10	1895-1916, nd
		Subject Series		
	18	Grade Reports--St. Mary's University	2	1897-98
	19	Merit Cards--St. Mary's University	14	1897-98
	20	New York City Bar Association	2	1914, nd
	21	Programs--Children's Musicales	3	1895-96
	22	ANNA PREVOST PAPERS	3	1834, 1840
		AUGUSTINE PREVOST PAPERS		
		Legal Documents		
	23-26	Land Grants	12	1777-1836
	27	THEODORE L. PREVOST PAPERS	1	1837



<u>Box</u>	<u>FF</u>	<u>Subgroups</u>	<u>Items</u>	<u>Dates</u>
6	28	PREVOST FAMILY PAPERS	10	1840
	29	STOWE & WILMERDING (commission merchants)	1	1875
		MISCELLANEOUS UNIDENTIFIED RECORDS		
	30	Financial Records	10	1835-37, nd
	31	Land Records	7	1804, 1857,
	32	Artwork--"Gentleman Croquet Player"	1	nd
	33	Treasurer's Book--First Presbyterian Church	1	nd
	34	Legal Documents	4	1842-48, nd
35-36		Miscellany	12	1863, 1865, nd



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