**BOX 1 BORAX Related Materials**

Stephen Mather is credited with creating the marketing phrase “20 Mule Team Borax” for his employer at the time, Pacific Coast Borax. Stephen left PCB and with a partner created the Thorkildsen-Mather Company and Sterling Borax. His success in the borax business enabled him to move on to his position in Washington DC and to becoming the first director of the National Park Service. This box contains

materials related to the Sterling Borax Company and other historical remembrances of the industry.

1. Two Volume Corporate Records of Sterling Borax Company
2. Volume One: November 1923-May 1929
3. Volume Two: January 1930-August 1961
4. History of Sterling Borax Companies by Bob Weaver 7 pages, with cover letter to Edward McPherson 23 September 1980
5. Photographs of Sterling Borax Company
6. Sterling Borax Advertising Calendar 1920-1921 from

Thorkildsen-Mather Company

1. Letter from Pacific Coast Borax Company to Ruth Woodman

20 October 1953 with xeroxed photos/site plan sketches of

Sterling Borax Plant.

1. Photocopy of excerpts of *The Tincal Trail: A History of Borax* by N.J. Travis and E.J. Cocks
2. *The Story of the Pacific Coast Borax Company*
3. *Pioneer* September-October 1972, published by employees of United States Borax Co. with business card of Paul Rodriguez, editor and note “Stephen bought this copy for Anne.”

**Box 2 Materials Related to Specific National Parks**

This box contains materials that relate to specific National Parks and, in most instances, include reference to Stephen Mather and to the Mather Plaque which can be found at several—but not all—of the National Parks today.

1. **Lewis & Clark National Historical Park**
2. Photograph of Ft. Clatsop Mather Plaque
3. **Harpers Ferry National Historical Park**
4. Stephen T. Mather Interpretative Training and Research Center guide
5. 40th Anniversary Celebration Schedule
6. Photographs from 40th anniversary (3)
7. Darien News-Review clippings 12/8/83 re: transfer of Mather plaque from Mather Junior H.S. to Harpers Ferry NHP (3 copies)
8. Letter from Donald Campbell Harpers Ferry NHP to Bertha Mather McPherson 12/30/83 (w/2 photos)
9. Program (4 copies) of dedication of Mather Memorial at Stephen Mather Training Center 11/13/83 with a photo
10. Harpers Ferry NPS Guide
11. Clippings (3) of closing of Mather Junior High
12. Stephen T Mather Training Center History of Facilities
13. NPS Courier Special Issue Fall 1982
14. Envelope marked “S.T.M. Training Center Harpers Ferry” 4/17/64 includes dedication remarks by D. Otis Beasley and Ronald Lee, and identified photos
15. **Yellowstone National Park**
16. “Yellowstone Unbound” article by Bob Anderson in National Parks Nov/Dec 1985
17. **Indiana Dunes**
18. Newspaper articles (4) re: signing of Indiana Dunes bill (only 3 are different)
19. **Mount Rainier**
20. Letter from Horace Albright re markers on Mather Parkway 7/7/54
21. articles re Mather Plaque (3, incl. duplicate)
22. Horace Albright letter to Jane Floy Mather 5/5/31 with map of Mather Parkway (3 copies)
23. portion of Bulletin of The Garden Club of America 5/53 re Mather Memorial Parkway
24. **Bryce Canyon**
25. Envelope “Dedication of Plaque in Bryce June 1960.”
26. Loose photo marked on back: “Bryce National Park”
27. **North Cascades**
28. Washington Park Wilderness Act of 1988
29. Correspondence between Stephen Mather McPherson, John Reynolds, manager Denver Service Center of NPS, with letters from Bertha McPherson, Marian Schenk re creation of North Cascades National Park
30. **Petrified Forest**
31. Photo of Mather Plaque and letter from PFNM Superintendent Fred Fagergren
32. **Glacier National Park**
33. Envelope containing photos of plaque
34. Video “Glacier National Park ‘Going to the Sun Road’” by Superintendent Bob Haraden
35. Letter to Horace Albright from Keith Neilson, Superintendent re restoration of plaque and copy of Hungry Horse News 7/19/68
36. photo of Dr. and Mrs. Buckley at Mather Plaque
37. **Mammoth Cave**
38. Letter from Perry Brown Superintendent 7/18/61 with photos of plaque
39. **Death Valley National Monument**
40. Envelope to Bertha McPherson with letter from Granville Liles Superintendent and photos including plaque
41. **Yosemite National Park**
42. Centennial Edition Guide 1864-1964
43. photo of Mariposa Grove
44. photo of photo on Ahwahnee Hotel wall showing Stephen Mather
45. Yosemite Guide Newspaper 3/25-6/23/1991
46. USN&WR Diversions 5/12/2003 re hotels at national parks
47. newspaper clipping of Yosemite Nature plaque
48. article re Tioga Road 100 years old
49. NYT 8/8/82 “Yosemite: A Kind of Cathedral (2 copies)
50. Program of Dedication of Chalices, Paten, and Linens for Celebration of Lord’s Supper in the National Parks [Note: program shows Yosemite; event took place in NYC]
51. Envelope with letter from Fran Kowski, Supervisor Training Center, Yosemite National Park with Training Center Program 1957-1958.

**Box 3 Anniversary Events of the National Park Service and Other Organizations**

From its founding in 1916, the National Park Service has commemorated anniversaries of its beginnings. This box includes materials relating to the twenty-fifth, fiftieth, sixty-fifth, and seventy-fifth as well as other commemorative events.

1. Program of NPS 25th Anniversary August 29, 1941
2. Correspondence, Program, and clippings related to

NPS 50th Anniversary August 25, 1966

1. Correspondence and Programs for NPS 65th Anniversary August 25, 1981, including letter from Conrad Wirth
2. Correspondence and Program related to NPS 75th Anniversary August 25, 1991
3. National Conference on State Parks Golden Anniversary Meeting September 19-23, 1971 with STM Commemorative Coin
4. Invitation to National Park Centennial Banquet for Yellowstone March 1, 1972

**Box 4 Materials Signed by Stephen T. Mather with Will and**

**photos from 1912 Kern trip**

The major portion of materials originated and signed by Stephen Mather are at the Bancroft Library at the University of California Berkeley. Other reside with the National Park Service. However, we are fortunate to have several that date back as far as Stephen’s high school years through his final will.

1. Copy of STM’s admission to freshman class at University of California
2. Letter from Interior Department 11/8/29 regarding disposition of paintings and photographs in STM’s office
3. Approximately 32 letters from STM to JWM (his father)
4. STM’s Last Will and Probate Materials (Homestead file not included)
5. Photos from 1912 Kern Canyon Trip
6. Copies of 3 letters sent to Hal Evarts in 1923
7. Two different Christmas cards sent by STM and JTFM
8. 1895 and 1896 Darien dog licenses
9. STM’s translation of Book I of the Iliad as Senior at B.H.S.
10. STM’s Special Passport 1926 for trip to Mexico, Guatemala and El Salvador
11. STM Letter to his mother 1893
12. STM letter to JTFM 1893
13. 11 checks signed by STM
14. Receipt to JWM for stock shares

**Box 5 Miscellaneous Newspapers including NPS Courier**

For a period of time the NPS newspaper was known as Stephen Mather’s Family Newspaper, reflecting how the Park Service considered the importance of the first director to its heritage. Several issues are included as well as other published works.

1. NPS Couriers (also known as Stephen Mather’s Family Newspaper)

Issues dated: 5/1/1958; 7/3/1959; 11/27/1959; April 1967; January 1968; December 1968; November 1974; August 1976; 10/11/1976; May 1980 (partial);

September 1981; October 1981; October 1982; one undated pages 3-6 only

1. New York Times Travel Section 5/8/1966
2. Quinnehtukqut (CT Chapter of the Sierra Club) Oct/Nov 1991.

**Box 6 *Steve Mather of the National Parks* Book by Robert Shankland**

The definitive biography of Stephen Mather was written by Robert Shankland. In this box is the original manuscript as well as letters received by Stephen’s daughter after the publication of the book.

1. Original typed manuscript unabridged
2. Release by Alfred Knopf promoting *Steve Mather of the National Parks* and *The National Parks* by Freeman Tilden
3. Clippings of newspaper and magazine reviews
4. Approximately 40 letters of congratulation to Bertha Mather McPherson
5. Also includes Bertha Mather McPherson’s list of those to whom books were given
6. NOTE: The letters were rubber-banded and have not been individually read.)
7. Copy of *Steve Mather of the National Parks* with Bertha Mather McPherson’s bookplate and title page inscribed by the author and by Horace M. Albright
8. within the book are miscellaneous letters and clippings

**Box 7 Specific Individuals with ties to the National Park Service**

This box contains materials saved by Stephen Mather’s daughter that relates to men whom

Stephen met and/or succeeded him in service to the National Park Service.

1. Harold Fabian
2. Clippings of event honoring Fabian
3. Obituary
4. Letter to Anne McPherson from Fabian
5. Fred Fagergren
6. Obituary
7. Charles Goethe
8. Obituary
9. National Recognition Day Booklet
10. John Muir
11. NYT article March 30, 1969 regarding restoration of Muir’s California home
12. Conrad Wirth
13. Clipping and Testimonial Dinner Program

**Box 8 Dedications and related materials for: Potomac Gorge, Bear Mountain Park, Redwood Grove, Mather Junior High**

**School, Mather High School, and Tree Planting at Homestead**

Following his death many events took place to honor Stephen Mather, from a tree planting at the Homestead in the year of his death to both a high school and junior high named for him. This box contains materials from some of those events.

1. **Homestead Tree Planting** October 1930
2. Invitation (3 copies)
3. Photo from 1954 showing tree
4. Two photographs from the planting ceremony
5. **Mather Junior High School**
6. Plaque Presentation Assembly program 3/9/64 (3 copies)
7. Letter from Interior Department to BMM regarding purchase of plaque
8. Mather Closing Program 6/12/1983
9. *Profiles II* August 1983 with article regarding closing
10. **Redwood Grove**
11. Dedication Invitation 1976
12. Photos of dedication with letter from John Boyce Smith
13. Correspondence with Marjorie R. Gray, UC Berkeley regarding dedication and letter from Edward McPherson regarding invitees
14. Letter from Robert Ornduff 1976 regarding further plans for the Mather Grove
15. Initial plans and sketch for Grove 7/31/1973 with letter from Richard Erickson Asst. Chancellor
16. Trail Guide to STM Redwood Grove with enclosures (2 copies)
17. Stephen Mather Redwood Grove University of California Botanical Garden Berkeley (3 copies with enclosures)
18. Dedication Program 4/2/1976 (2 copies)
19. Pamphlet “The Redwood Family (Taxodiaceae)”
20. Fall 1975 Bulletin Save-The-Redwood League
21. “The Quieting Effect of Redwoods” San Francisco Chronicle 5/7/78
22. **Mather High School**
23. Letter from Conrad Wirth 1/2/1958
24. Copy of Stephen Mather McPherson’s speech at dedication
25. Envelope containing “Material Relative to the Stephen Tyng Mather High School…” [Contains program, Albright Speech, correspondence, and Chicago Sunday Star 5/15/1960]
26. **Bear Mountain Park**
27. Copy of NYT article 5/28/33
28. Acceptance from Eleanor Roosevelt
29. Inability to Accept from President Roosevelt
30. invitation to Dedication to Mrs. STM
31. NYT Photo of Dedication 6/4/33
32. Invitation to Grace Floy
33. **Mather Gorge**
34. Copy of remarks by Stephen Mather McPherson
35. Copy of letter from George Hartzog Jr.
36. NPS Press Release 5/19/68 with n/p clipping
37. Invitation to dedication
38. Dedication program (3 copies)
39. Four Dedication Folders with several enclosures, photographs and correspondence
40. Miscellaneous newspaper articles

**Box 9 1977 Annual Meeting Board of National Park Foundation and NPF 1978 Spring Meeting**

This box contains material and memorabilia from a trip taken by Bertha and Ed McPherson to the NPF Annual meeting which included a trip to Yosemite

1. Scrapbook by Anne McPherson Tracy for parents Christmas 1977 with itinerary and memorabilia from trip to NPF Annual Meeting in San Francisco and Yosemite 9/28-10/2/1977. Includes materials related to Spring meeting which included visit to the Mather Homestead.
2. National Park Service Information Folder containing materials related to Yosemite including “Yosemite Valley an Intimate Guide” inscribed to Stephen Mather from Ansel Hall, Berkeley Cal July 26, 1929 [Hall was chief naturalist of the NPS and author of the guide];includes letter to Stephen Mather McPherson, book on The Ahwahnee by Shirley Sargent (First edition July 14, 1977)
3. National Park Service Information Folder with itineraries, schedule of events, The Bracebridge Dinner program and other items.
4. Manila envelope marked “Yosemite & San Francisco” includes several tourist guides (Alcatraz, Muir Woods), *The Tioga Road A History 1883-1961* (contains cartoon [p. 19] of Stephen Mather’s ‘First Dedication of Tioga Road.’

**Box 10 Stephen Mather in Local (Darien) Reporting**

1. Copies (11) and originals (3) of Darien News-Review August 29, 1991 article: “Darien’s Mather fathered national parks.”
2. Clippings (3) re: photo exhibit of 1913 Jubilee including Stamford Advocate 8/25/73, Bridgeport Sunday Post 7/27/75, portion of Darien Historical Society newsletter Summer 2010 re: pageant of Darien.
3. “Creating A Legacy” August 25, 2002, monograph by Marian Castell, Darien Town Historian.