

ESTHER CLARK WRIGHT ARCHIVES

ACADIA UNIVERSITY

## Chipman Family fonds

Accession 1923.001



Compiled by Rhianna H. Edwards

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**Chipman Family fonds. – [textual records]. – 1838-1918. – 5cm of textual records**

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**1. Alice Chipman (nee Shaw) series. – 1838 – 1918. – 3 cm of textual records**

Series contains records created or received by Alice (Shaw) Chipman, including letters, essays, and scrapbooks

**Note:**

Supplied title based on contents of series  
File list included

**File List**

**1/1 *An Interesting Dialogue Supposed to have Passed Between Death and a Fine Young Lady.* – 17 March 1838. – 2 leaves of textual records**

File contains a holograph 'dialogue' written for Alice Shaw by Samuel Elder. At the end of the piece Elder wrote: "To Miss Alice Shaw, with Mr. Elder's most respectful compliments. March 17<sup>th</sup> 1838". The dialogue reminds the young lady that Death comes to all, rich or poor. At a later date, Alice added a note to the bottom of the paper which stated: "I was born June 21<sup>st</sup> 1832. I well remember when this was written for me by Reverend Samuel Elder. He kissed me; and this made me very angry. He was then a young unconverted school teacher, but a very fine character."

**Note:** Title transcribed from item

**Note:** Extremely fragile

**1/2 *The Souvenir Scrapbook.* – 1842 – 1852. – 1 v of textual records**

Item is the scrapbook book of Alice Shaw, in which she and her friends wrote poetry and prose. Most are signed and dated and include the location in which they were written. In the case of material written by another, at a later date Alice added a note that explained who the author was.

**Note:** Scrapbook is in very fragile condition

**Note:** Title transcribed from item

**1/3 *Essays.* – 1852 – 1860. – 0.5 cm of textual records**

File contains essays. Some are written by Shaw herself, but others are written by others – probably her students.

**Note:** Supplied title based on contents of file

**1/4 *Correspondence.* – 1854 – 1861. – 4 leaves of textual records**

File contains letters, all of which are addressed to Alice Shaw except one. The latter is a note from Alice Shaw to Mary Cramp, in which Shaw accepts an invitation to visit.

**Note:** Supplied title based on contents of file

**1/5 Note Book. – 1857. – 1 v of textual records**

File contains a small notebook in which Shaw recorded her expenses, as well as the accounts of students; a timetable of which courses occurred at which times during the day; a list of her music students and the time of their lessons; and other notations.

**Note:** Supplied title based on contents of item

**1/ 6 Scrapbook. – 1892. – 1 v of textual records**

Item is a scrapbook compiled by Alice Shaw. In a printed, hardbound book published by the Burdett Business College, Shaw pasted news clippings, Holyoke and Seminary memorabilia, her own handwritten account of the history of the Berwick School and the Grand Pre Seminary, and other material.

**Note:** Some pages are loose

**Note:** Supplied title based on contents of item

**1/7 Letter to Editor. – May 1918. – 1 leaf of textual records**

File contains a news clipping from the Berwick Register. Upon the death of her husband Alfred, 24 April 1918, Alice wrote to the editor of his passing and included a poem that she had written.

**Note:** Supplied title based on contents of item

**2. Rev. Alfred Chipman series. – [1860] – 1867. – 0.5 cm of textual records**

Series contains records created or received by Alfred Chipman

**Note:**

Supplied title based on contents of series

File list included

**File List**

**2/1 Correspondence. – [1860] – 1861. – 2 leaves of textual records**

File contains two letters addressed to Alfred Chipman. The first is undated but is probably 1860. It was written by Alice Shaw and in it she expresses her confused feelings upon being asked to become Principal of the new school for young ladies at Horton Academy, Wolfville, NS. The second letter was written to 'my very dear Brother' by William Chipman, 23 January 1861. Among other topics, the author expresses his views on the opening of the new school at Wolfville.

**Note:** Supplied title based on contents of file

**2/2 Circular Letter. – 1867. – 8 leaves of textual records**

File contains an offprint from the Eastern Baptist Association of Nova Scotia minutes. Chipman was invited to present that year's *Circular Letter* and chose as his topic "The Duty of Christian Women in Social Religious Meetings".

**Note:** Supplied title based on contents of item

**2/3 Essays.** – 1854. – 10 leaves of textual records

File contains two essays apparently written by Chipman when he was a student at Acadia College. The first is entitled *The Advantages of Mental Culture* and the second is entitled *The Ruins of Ancient Cities*.

**Note:** Supplied title based on contents of file

**3. Isaac Chipman series.** – 1836 – 1838. – **1.5 cm of textual records**

Series contains a diary kept by Isaac Chipman, beginning when he was 19 years old and running for two years. During part of this time Chipman was attending Waterville College in Maine.

**Note:**

Supplied title based on contents of series

File list included

**File List**

**3/1 Diary.** – 1836 – 1838. – **1 v of textual records**

File contains a diary kept by Isaac Chipman in which he recorded some biographical information, as well as an outline of the religious influences upon his life.

**Note:** Supplied title based on contents of item

## Biographical Information

**Rev. Alfred Chipman** was born in 1834 at Pleasant Valley (now Berwick), Nova Scotia, the son of Rev. William Chipman and his second wife Eliza Ann. He was educated at Horton Academy, Wolfville, Nova Scotia where he received a BA in 1855 and a MA in 1858. He was ordained as a Baptist minister in November 1862 at River Philip, Nova Scotia and held charges at many places in Nova Scotia, as well as in New England, throughout his life.

**Alice Theodosia Shaw**<sup>1</sup> was born 21 June 1832, the daughter of Isaiah Shaw and Sarah Lyons. At the age of 22 years she traveled to Massachusetts to attend the Mount Holyoke Seminary and after three years of study graduated in August 1857 with a MA degree. She then taught for one year at the Ladies Collegiate Institute of Worcester, MA, returning to Nova Scotia in 1858. She next taught a term at the Chase school for young ladies in Wolfville, NS, but in June 1859 she opened her own School for Young Ladies in Berwick, NS. It was patterned after the Mount Holyoke scheme. In 1860, Alice was approached by the Horton Academy in Wolfville, NS to become the first principal of the new Female Department of Horton Academy. After much soul searching, she closed her Berwick School and moved to Wolfville where she organized the school in the former Chase School. She began with fifty students, 24 of whom boarded in. Once again, this school was modeled on the Mount Holyoke plan. In June 1861, Shaw took the suggestion of one of her students and renamed the school; it became the Grand Pre Seminary. After one and a half years, Shaw was forced to resign due to ill health and due to her impending marriage to Alfred Chipman. She resigned in June 1862.

Alfred and Alice were married at River Philip, Nova Scotia on 28 October 1862. They had three children: Fred McCulloch who was born in 1865 at Pictou, Nova Scotia and who died in Florida in 1892; Alvah Hovey who was born in 1867 in Stewiacke, Nova Scotia (donor of these records); and Chaloner Oaken, born 1871 at Sydney, Nova Scotia.

Alice and Alfred retired to Berwick, NS in 1899. Alfred died 24 April 1918, at Berwick, while Alice died at the age of 88, on 18 January 1921, also at Berwick.

**Isaac Chipman**<sup>2</sup> was a half-brother of Rev. Alfred Chipman and was born at Cornwallis, Nova Scotia on 17 July 1817 son of Rev. William Chipman and his first wife. At age twelve, he began studies at Horton Academy, later becoming an assistant teacher. In 1837 he entered the Junior year at Waterville College in Maine (now Colby College). After completing his degree, he returned to Acadia College where, in January 1840, he assumed the position of instructor of Mathematics and Natural Philosophy. In addition, Chipman collected hundreds of specimens for

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<sup>1</sup> For a more complete biography of Alice T. Shaw, see James Davison Doyle, *Alice of Grand Pre*, Wolfville: Acadia University printers, 1981.

<sup>2</sup> This information was taken from Ronald Stewart Longley, *Acadia University, 1838 – 1938*, Wolfville: Kentville Publishing Company, 1939.

a museum, was a founder of the college library, initiated a Baptist Historical Collection and found time for church and community activities. He had taught for twelve years when, during a geology field trip to Cape Blomidon on 7 June 1852, Chipman and several others were drowned when a storm came up and swamped the boat in which they were returning to Wolfville. Chipman was buried in the Old Burying Ground, Wolfville, NS. He was not married.

### Custodial History

The 1923 report of the Baptist Historical Committee states the following:

The first important gift to this Collection since we presented our last report was from Mr. A. H. Chipman. He brought us various records, both printed and in manuscript, that had belonged to his mother, the late Mrs. Alice Shaw Chipman of Berwick, Nova Scotia. Many of these refer to the Ladies' School kept at Berwick by Mrs. Chipman before her marriage, and give important data concerning the education of Baptist young woman before the establishment of Acadia Seminary. There are manuscript letters and essays written by Mrs. Chipman during the 1850s that are most charming in their revelation of the modesty and grace that marked the intellectual woman of the time. But perhaps the most valuable of these records from the viewpoint of the student interested in Baptist history is the manuscript diary of the late Professor Isaac Chipman in whom fervent piety and sound sense were most happily blended. Another important document in Professor Chipman's handwriting is a letter dated from Acadia College, April 28<sup>th</sup> 1846 and addressed to Dr. Harding, Windsor. It concerns the gathering of books for the College Library.

### Scope and Content

The fonds consists of three series, made up of essays, diaries, scrapbooks and other related material:

1. Alice Chipman (nee Shaw) series
2. Rev. Alfred Chipman series
3. Isaac Chipman series

The material extends in date from 1838-1918.

### Notes

Supplied title based on contents of fonds

File level finding aid available

See also artifacts attributed to Isaac Chipman held by the Esther Clark Wright Archives: G2001.040.1 (moss agate found in his pocket upon the recovery of his body), G2001.040.2 (piece of linen sheet taken from his bed), and G2001.040.3 (academic hood).

See also an article about Isaac Chipman written by Dr. H. T. DeWolfe and published in the Maritime Baptist, 22 November 1939 (also filed in accession file).

See also archival material of Rev. William Chipman, father of Alfred and Isaac, presently held in the Atlantic Baptist Collection at D1900.337

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#### Citation for this electronic finding aid:

This finding aid should be cited as a website. Relevant information is as follows:

Title: Chipman Family fonds

Date: 2001

Author: Esther Clark Wright Archives, Acadia University

#### Access Points

Chipman, Alice Shaw (1832-1921)

Chipman, Alfred (1834-1918)

Chipman, Isaac (1817-1852)

Elder, Samuel