

WORCESTER HISTORICAL MUSEUM

30 Elm Street
Worcester, Massachusetts

ARCHIVES

2013 FIA 05

Chase Family Papers and Collection

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Collection Information

Abstract : This collection contains three volumes of handwritten business ledgers of Anthony Chase (two personal dated 1829-1834 and 1834-1874 respectively, and a third from his time as county treasurer, dated 1830-1850), one handwritten poetry book and journal belonging to Maud Eliza Chase (dated 1848-1850), and various business documents, clippings and biographical information relating to Anthony Chase, his son Charles A. Chase, and other members of the Chase family.

Finding Aid : Finding Aid in print form is available in the Repository. Item level description.

Preferred Citation : Worcester Historical Museum, Worcester, Massachusetts.

Provenance : Materials found in archives with the exception of his ledger as Worcester County Treasurer, donated by John Pigaga of Worcester.

MARC Access : Collection is cataloged in MARC under the following subject headings

Historical/Biographical Notes

Anthony Chase (1791-1879), born in Paxton, MA to Israel and Matilda Chase, spent his early years working on farms and attending both public schools and Leicester Academy. He moved to Worcester in 1816, where he was an early proprietor of the newspaper, "The Massachusetts Spy" from 1823-1835. When the Blackstone Canal Company opened in 1828, he served as a local agent before being elected County Treasurer in 1831, a position he served until his resignation in 1865. His son Charles A. Chase succeeded him as County Treasurer. He served the Worcester Mutual Fire Insurance Company as a secretary 1832-1852, and later was president of the same institution until his death in 1879. He also acted as director of the Citizen's National Bank (beginning in 1840), AS director and vice president of Worcester County Institution of Savings, as a corporator of Citizen's Bank, and as first president of Worcester Lyceum. He was active within the Worcester County Mechanics Association, for which he wrote a constitution in 1841, and the Worcester Agricultural Society as well. He married Lydia Earle, a daughter of Pliny and Patience Earle of Worcester in 1819. Together they had six children: Charles, Pliny, Thomas, Lucy, and Sarah. After Lydia's death, he married Hannah Greene of East Greenwich, RI in 1854.

Charles Augustus Chase, son of Anthony and Lydia Chase, was educated at the Classical and English High School and later Harvard University, from which earned a Master of the Arts Degree in 1855. In his teen days, he worked for the "Massachusetts Spy", where he earned the distinction of being "Worcester's First Paperboy". In High School he self-published his own newspaper, "The Humble Bee". Beginning during his graduate studies, he worked as a reporter for the "Boston Advertiser" for seven years. He is noted during time as the Advertiser for being the first Boston reporter to cover Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, and having personally met Lincoln. In 1864, he succeeded his father as elected County Treasurer, a position he held until 1875. He served also as the County Register of Deeds, secretary of the Worcester Board of Trade, treasurer and manager of the Worcester Telephone Company, treasurer of the Worcester County Institution of Savings, director of Citizen's National Bank (1880-1889), director of Worcester National Bank and Merchants' and Farmers' Mutual Insurance Company, president of the North End Street Railway Company, director of the Free Public Library (1866-1874), treasurer of Memorial Hospital, vice-president of the Home for Aged Men, secretary and vice president of the Worcester Lyceum Association, vice president of the Art Society, and member of the School Board. He was also associated with the Worcester Society of Antiquity, New England Historic-Genealogical Society, and the Massachusetts Society of the Colonial Wars. In 1879 he published a history of Worcester, and several other works with the Worcester Antiquarian Society. On April 29, 1863, he married Mary Theresa Clark of Boston with whom he had two daughters, Mary Alice and Maud Eliza Clark.

Scope and Content

This collection contains materials primarily related to Anthony Chase and his son Charles Augustus. Of Anthony Chase's materials, it contains three handwritten business ledgers belonging to Anthony Chase. Two personal ledgers span the years 1829-1874. The first volume, 1829-1834, contains 96 pages of entries for the sale of farm products, food, clothes, and building materials. Some of the goods mentioned may have been shipped on the Blackstone Canal. The second volume, 1834-1874, contains 100 pages of entries. There are accounts of soap, oil, spices, household materials, records of the estate of William S. Goodwin, and a carpenter's accounts for repairs to Chase's house and the construction of a new house. A third ledger containing 90 pages spans 1830-1850 and documents Anthony Chase's accounts paid and received as County Treasurer, mostly for printer services and municipal work. Also contained in is a large size vow of marriage between Anthony Chase and Lydia Earle, and a poetry book and journal book belonging to Maud Eliza Chase. The vow is dated June 2, 1819 and was signed by Anthony, Lydia, and 49 witnesses in Uxbridge, MA. Anthony Chase's obituary and various deeds, bonds and business documents dated (1799-1900) are included as well.

Of the materials relating to his Charles Augustus Chase and family is a poetry book and journal belonging to Maud Eliza Chase, one of his daughters, dated 1848-1850. It contains various transcriptions of poems including some written by Henry Wordsworth Longfellow, as well original poetry and journal entries. Inside of the journal is pasted a newspaper clipping of a poem, "Parody of the Raven". Also included is a second-hand account of Charles Chases reporting on Gettysburg and his meeting with Abraham Lincoln, a news clipping of his work as 'Worcester's First Paperboy', and a biographical entry.

Series Descriptions

Series 1: Chase Family Collection

Chase Family Papers
2013 FIA 05
Series 1, Chase Family Collection

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| 1 | 2 | 2013.FIA.05.1.2 | Personal Ledger (1834-1874) |
| 1 | 3 | 2013.FIA.05.1.3 | Maud Eliza Clark's Poetry Book (1848-1850) |
| 1 | 3 | 2013.FIA.05.1.4 | Bonds, Deeds, Misc. Docs. (1799-1900) |
| 1 | 4 | 2013.FIA.05.1.5.1 | Anthony Chase's Obituary (1879) |
| 1 | 2 | 2013.FIA.05.1.5.2 | Misc. Clippings and Accounts |
| OVS BND | | 2013.FIA.05.1.6 | Treasurer's Ledger (1830-1850) |
| OVS C | | 2013.FIA.05.1.7 | Marriage Vow (1819) |