

American Antiquarian Society

Manuscript Collections

NAME OF COLLECTION:

Chase Family, Papers, c. 1787-c. 1915

LOCATION:

Mss. boxes "C"
Octavo vols. "C"
Folio vols. "C"
Oversize mss. boxes "C"

SIZE OF COLLECTION:

5 manuscript boxes; 26 octavo volumes; 1 folio volume; 1 oversize folder

SOURCES OF INFORMATION ON COLLECTION:

See accompanying sheet for additional information.

SOURCE OF COLLECTION:

Gifts of Mrs. J. Russell Marble, 1918; Caroline Chase, 1937; Thomas Hovey Gage, 1937; Mary Gage Rice, 1941 and 1963; and Helen Chase Marble, 1946 and 1958.

COLLECTION DESCRIPTION:

Anthony Chase (1791-1879), son of Israel and Matilda (Butterworth) Chase, was a man of varied interests—a Worcester merchant, part-owner of the Massachusetts Spy, official in a Worcester insurance company and in various banks, and an active member of the Quaker church. He married, on 2 June 1819, Lydia Earle (1798-1852), the daughter of Pliny Earle, who developed the manufacture of machine-card cloth in the United States, and of Patience Buffum Earle, sister of Arnold Buffum, the anti-slavery lecturer. Anthony and Lydia had six children: Pliny Earle (1820-1886), scientist and professor at Haverford College; Lucy; Thomas; Eliza Earle (1829-1896); Charles Augustus; and Sarah Earle (1836-1915), teacher with her sister Lucy. All three sons graduated from Harvard College.

Anthony married second, on 19 April 1854 Hannah Greene (1824-1918), daughter of Daniel and Phebe Greene, of East Greenwich, R.I. They had two children: Emily Greene (1855-1930), who married Joseph Russel Marble (1852-1920); and Frederick Anthony (1858-1862).

Lucy Chase (1822-1909), second child and oldest daughter of Anthony and Lydia, was an intelligent and well-educated woman, as well as an accomplished artist and sculptor. She attended the Friends' Boarding School in Providence, R.I., from 1837 to 1841. For the period 1863 to 1869, Lucy taught in contraband camps and freedmen schools in the South. She and her sister, Sarah, traveled in Europe during the years 1870 to 1875. They returned to Worcester and Lucy remained there until her death in 1909.

Thomas Chase (1827-1892), third child and second son of Anthony and Lydia, was a classical scholar and college president. After graduating Harvard with high honors in 1848, Thomas became master of the Cambridge High School. He held the position until 1850 when he returned to Harvard, as interim professor of Latin for one year. He remained at Harvard, until 1853, as an instructor in history and chemistry, then as a tutor in Latin. During the years 1853 to 1855, he traveled and studied throughout Europe. Upon his return to the United States he accepted the

(cont.)

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chair of philology and classic literature at Haverford College. He was elected president of the College in 1875, resigning in 1886. Thomas eventually settled in Providence, R.I., where he died of Bright's disease in 1892.

Thomas married, on 8 February 1860, Alice Underhill Cromwell (1836-1882), of New York. They had five children: Caroline (1861-); William Cromwell (1862-); Thomas Herbert (1864-); Alfred (1868-); and Ralph Stanley (1879-).

Charles Augustus Chase (1833-1911), fifth child and youngest son of Anthony and Lydia, was a banker, scholar, historian, antiquarian, and office holder. After graduating Harvard in 1855, Charles was a reporter, then office editor, for the Boston Daily Advertiser until 1862. Charles returned to Worcester where he was elected treasurer of Worcester County, serving from 1864 to 1875. He served as Register of Deeds for the year 1876, and served as secretary of the Worcester Board of Trade. In 1879, he was elected treasurer of the Worcester County Institution for Savings, serving in that position until 1904, when he was elected its president. He resigned that office in 1908, due to bad health, and died in Worcester in 1911.

Charles married, on 29 April 1863, Mary Teresa Clark (-1884), of Boston, Mass. They had two children: Mary Alice (1865-1940), who married Thomas Hovey Gage (1865-1938); and Maud Eliza (1867-1950).

This collection includes correspondence to and from all the members of the Chase family, but the majority of the items were generated by Anthony Chase and three of his children, Lucy, Thomas, and Charles Augustus. Much of the Anthony Chase material consists of legal documents and records pertaining to his estate. There is a very small amount of personal correspondence, brief journals for the years 1815 and 1816, and several Justice of the Peace commissions. His papers also contain three phrenological studies of himself made by Mr. S. Fisher (n.d.), Lorenzo Niles Fowler (1841?), and Orson Squire Fowler (1842).

Much of the correspondence to Lucy Chase is from her siblings, cousins, and school friends. There are also school compositions, notebooks, and fragmented diary excerpts kept by Lucy. The activities of Lucy as seen through her diary fragments span the years 1841 to 1846 and encompass several geographic locations including Massachusetts, Maryland, Virginia, Rhode Island, and Pennsylvania. The diary fragments read in their entirety give an excellent overview of antebellum America. Lucy's gregariousness along with her social awareness and critical sense provide both description and understanding of the religious and reform movements of the day.

Reared as a Quaker and strongly influenced by Unitarianism, Lucy demonstrates the liberal and rationalist doctrines of the faiths by her eclectic church attendance and discerning remarks. Her involvement in Unitarianism brought her into contact with a network of notable Unitarian ministers primarily from Boston and Philadelphia. She either met personally or attended the lectures of George Washington Burnap (1802-1859), James Freeman Clarke (1810-1888), Ezra Stiles Gannett (1801-1871), and Samuel Joseph May (1797-1871).

The relentless thrust for improvement and reform, so characteristic of Jacksonian America, is especially evident in Lucy's diary entries. She is influenced strongly by women's suffrage, temperance, abolitionism, and is interested in Millerism, mesmerism, Grahamism, and phrenology. These interests brought her into contact with another network of luminaries. Among them were the abolitionist/reformer Wendell Phillips (1811-1884), Charles C. Burleigh (1810-1878), Alvan Stewart (1790-1849),

(cont.)

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NAME OF COLLECTION:

Chase Family, Papers, c. 1787-c. 1915

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Joshua Leavitt (1794-1873), John Anderson Collins (1810-1879), John Greenleaf Whittier (1807-1892), La Roy Sunderland (1802-1885), John Gorham Palfrey (1796-1881), William Wells Brown (1815-1884), women's rights advocates Abby Kelley Foster (1811-1887), Lucretia Mott (1793-1880), educator Horace Mann (1796-1859), humorist/journalist Joseph C. Neal (1807-1847), and phrenologist Orson Squire Fowler (1809-1887).

The influence of women's suffrage facilitated Lucy's sensitivity toward the precarious position of women in nineteenth-century America. She comments disapprovingly upon women's unequal status, whether it be within a religious context or the separation of men and women at abolition and temperance meetings.

On the lighter side, Fowler the phrenologist told her that she must not study because her brain was already too large. Distressed, Lucy writes, "I shall be obliged to lay aside my course of study and try to be a character that has always been unpleasant to me to contemplate, a very common character." With perception, however, she also writes, "I took Lucy Hind's place in the kitchen today—I presume Fowler would say that is the place for me."

Lucy's intermittent visits to Philadelphia, c. 1842-1845, provide glimpses into a city experiencing an almost schizophrenic transformation. Underscoring a general Jacksonian thrust for improvement and social reform, Philadelphia also witnessed its bloodiest ethnic riots of the century. The Kensington Riots of May 1844 were Nativist attacks on Irish Catholic immigrants that resulted in dozens of burnt homes and two burnt churches. She writes of soldiers in the city protecting the Catholic churches and the dispersal of all meetings by the powers of authority. This marked the first time in Philadelphia's history that martial law was instituted.

Included in Lucy's diary are comments on the beneficial aspects of the Eastern State Penitentiary (which she calls "one of the wonders of America"), the Deaf and Dumb Asylum, and the city's numerous almshouses. On a more, personal level, the diary provides a wealth of information detailing Lucy's emotional and intellectual growth. As her understanding of the world around her increases, she comments extensively and keenly upon slavery, inequality in general, the factory system, and the laboring classes. Her inspirations coincide with her growing interests as she comments, "Oh! how I wish I could go to college!" However, she experiences frustration upon realization that college is inaccessible to her after an evening of social discourse with her brother Pliny's friends, Edward Everett Hale (1822-1909) and William F. Channing (1820-1901).

Included in the collection are lengthy, articulate letters home to Worcester written by Sarah and Lucy Chase while they were teachers in the South (beginning in January 1863 in Virginia) describing their experiences and observations. Sarah, who was in poor health, stopped teaching in 1866, but Lucy continued in Virginia and Florida until 1869. After teaching they traveled in Europe, writing home letters and keeping fragmented journals. In 1902, Lucy visited Cuba and wrote several articles based on her observation of Cuban life and social customs.

As Northern troops moved into the South toward the end of the Civil War, Lucy and Sarah were able to secure numerous documents and papers from the offices of recently vacated buildings. These papers (from the office of a Richmond slave dealer, the office of Jefferson Davis, the plantation of Governor Henry A. Wise, and the headquarters of General Ulysses S. Grant at City Point, Va., have been separated from this collection. The papers of the slave dealer, R. H. Dickinson and Brother,

(cont.)

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Manuscript Collections

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have been placed in the Slavery in the U.S. collection. The Grant and Davis items have been placed in the Civil War Papers collection. The correspondence to Governor Wise is now filed with miscellaneous manuscripts collection (Misc. mss. boxes "W").

There is a small amount of material for Thomas Chase including a monthly report from the Latin School he attended in 1844, accounts and a term bill during his attendance at Harvard, and a Massachusetts Teachers' Association circular letter. The collection also contains five volumes belonging to Thomas. These include notebooks containing Latin and Bible exercises, themes and etymologies, memoranda, Greek verbs, trigonometry, mechanics, and surveying; an account book of Harvard expenses; and a class book from the Cambridge High School.

For Charles Augustus Chase there are personal and business papers, including correspondence he had with his two nephews, Alfred Chase (1868-), son of Thomas and Alice Underhill (Cromwell) Chase; and Arthur Hazen Chase (-), son of George H. and Eliza Earle (Chase) Chase. Both looked to their uncle when they ran into financial trouble. Alfred, it seems, left good jobs to purchase land near the growing town of North Yakima, Wash., in the hopes of becoming rich. His plans were thwarted, however, by a panic in 1893 that was followed by years of hard times, and also by the fact that he was not cut out to be a farmer and preferred to be in town. In 1904, he sold out to his uncle and tried his hand at gold mining in Greenhorn, Ore., which he declared is the life he loves. Arthur found himself impoverished following his divorce ca. 1898

Other business papers include deeds, leases, and commissions, and materials concerning the Worcester Telephone Company and the Uxbridge Monthly Meeting of Friends. There is a large collection of school essays, scattered issues of his publications The Bee and The Humble-Bee, as well as valentines and newspaper articles that are believed to have been written by Charles and published in the Boston Daily Advertiser. The collection also contains a diary for the period 1842 to 1843, a composition book, and a notebook, as well as three journals with accounts and brief diary entries (1854, 1864, 1865).

See Contents List.

31 March 1975
revised 10 March 1977
revised 3 September 1982
revised 16 February 2010

American Antiquarian Society

Manuscript Collections

Chase Family, Papers, c. 1787-c. 1915

Sources of Information on Collection

For genealogical information on the Chase family, see Pliny Earle, comp., *The Earle Family* ... (Worcester, Charles Hamilton, 1888), p. 215-220.

For biographical information on Lucy Chase, see Henry L. Swint, *Dear Ones at Home*, Nashville: Vanderbilt University Press, 1966. The volume also contains a selection of the letters Lucy and Sarah E. Chase wrote home from the contraband camps.

For an obituary of Lucy Chase, see the AAS Clippings File.

For biographical information on Thomas Chase, see the *DAB*.

For biographical information on Charles Augustus Chase, see *PAAS*, 21 (1911), 146-152.

American Antiquarian Society

Manuscript Collections

Chase Family, Papers, c. 1787-c. 1915

Contents List

Manuscript Box

1 Correspondence, A - D

Folder 1 A (except Maria Allen)
Folder 2 Maria Allen (1826-1845)
Folder 3 B
Folder 4 C (except Eliza Earle Chase; Ellen Chase; Israel Chase and
Matilda Butterworth Chase Earle; Pliny Earle Chase; Sarah
Earle Chase; and Thomas Chase)
Folder 5 Eliza Earle Chase (1829-1896)
Folder 6 Ellen Chase (from Salem, Mass.)
Folder 7 Israel Chase (1760-1797);
Matilda Butterworth Chase Earle (1765-1843)
Folder 8 Pliny Earle Chase (1820-1886)
Folder 9 Sarah Earle Chase (1836-1915), including some correspondence
with Lucy Chase (1822-1909)
Folder 10 Thomas Chase (1827-1892)
Folder 11 D

2 Correspondence, E - W

(includes Earle Family documents and unidentified letters)

Folder 1 E (except Earle Family)
Folder 2 Earle Family Correspondence
Folder 3 Earle Family Documents
Folder 4 F
Folder 5 G
Folder 6 H
Folder 7 J, L
Folder 8 M, N
Folder 9 O, P
Folder 10 R
Folder 11 S, T (except Hannah E. Stevenson)
Folder 12 Hannah E. Stevenson (-)
Folder 13 U, V, & W (except Mary C. Todd Washburn)
Folder 14 Mary C. Todd Washburn (-)
Folder 15 unidentified

3 Papers of Anthony Chase and Lydia Earle Chase, 1798-1907

(see also oversize folder)

Papers of Thomas Chase, 1844-1855

Folder 1 Personal papers, n.d.; 1813; 1838-1879 [19 items]
--correspondence; transcribed poem; phrenological study; will; papers
concerning Anthony Chase's death
Folder 2 Business and legal documents, 1816-1879 [50 items]
--order; receipted bills (taxes, books); appointment; membership
certificates; agreements; correspondence; assignments; promissory
notes; marriage certificate; stock certificate; loan; bank check;
note; papers concerning James G. Arnold
Folder 3 Deeds, n.d.; 1798; 1834-1875 [16 items]
Folder 4 Papers of Anthony Chase Estate, 1879-1907 [156 items]
Folder 5 Papers of Thomas Chase, 1844-1855
--monthly school report; accounts; school term bill; circular letter

4 Papers of Lucy Chase, 1838-1870s

- Folder 1 Personal correspondence, 1838-1870
 Folder 2 Personal correspondence, trip to Europe, 1870s
 Folder 3 Diary fragments, n.d.; 1841-1847 [9 items]
 4-17 October; [15th]-21st; 1841 October 19-1842 March 3; 1842 March 4-
 May 14 and August 16-October 1; 1843 August 19-November 4; 1843
 November 5-1844 May 14; 1844 May 14-June [?]; 1845 December 30-1846
 January 15; 1846 October 5-1847 June 5
 Folder 4 Letters from students, n.d.; 1864-1870 [22 items]
 Folder 5 Miscellaneous papers, n.d.; 1839-1865 [34 items]
 --coffee from U. S. Grant's tent; "names of scholars"; poems (including
 a valentine poem); envelopes; invitations; "order of examinations";
 notes of a lecture; "my experience in getting signers to anti-cap pun
 petitions in Philia 1847," correspondence; military passes; receipt;
 receipted class tax bill; "Special Orders"; Gov. H. Reed's autograph
 (governor of Florida); newsclippings (originals and copies);
 biographical notes on Lucy Chase by A. G. Waite

5 Papers of Charles Augustus Chase, 1842-1912

(see also oversize folder)

- Folder 1 Papers, n.d., 1842-1887 [44 items]
 --lot plan; phrenological study; monthly school reports; school term
 report; order of service orders of performances; receipted bills;
 Cave of the Winds certificate; bill of fare; summons (in French);
 memorandum; correspondence; agreement; "title of Grout land";
 assignment of patent; mortgage; British Museum (Printed Book
 Department) receipt;
 Folder 2 Papers, 1890-1911 [41 items]
 --promissory notes; NEHGS form; correspondence; Vatican Mass admittance
 (in Italian); power of attorney; Harvard Gold Mining Co. stock
 certificates; telegram
 Folder 3 Papers re: Alfred Chase, 1895-1907 [17 items]
 Folder 4 Papers re: Arthur Hazen Chase, 1898-1908 [15 items]
 Folder 5 School essays, n.d.; 1847-1850 [33 items]
 Folder 6 School papers (Harvard University), 1851-1855 [45 items]
 Folder 7 Amateur newspapers, 1846 [19 items]
 includes The Bee -- vol. 1, no. 1, 9 July 1846 [7 copies]; vol. 1,
 no. 8, 12 November 1846 [1 copy]; vol. 1, no. 10, 12 December 1846 [3
 copies] and The Humble-Bee - vol. 2, no. 1, whole no. 5, 29 January
 1846 [2 copies]; vol. 2, no. 4, whole no. 8, 19 February 1846 [1
 copy]; vol. 3, no. 2, whole no. 10, 5 March 1846 [1 copy]; vol. 5,
 no. 3, whole no. 19, 14 May 1846 [1 copy]; vol. 5, no. 4, whole no.
 20, 28 May 1846 [1 copy]
 Folder 8 Valentines, ca. 1850 [22 items]
 Folder 9 Deeds, etc., 1860-1912 [41 items]
 Folder 10 Papers re: Worcester Telephone Company, 1879 [9 items]
 Folder 11 Papers re: Uxbridge Monthly Meeting of Friends, 1881-1907
 [12 items]
 Folder 12 Newspaper articles from the Boston Daily Advertiser (thought
 to have been written by Charles A. Chase) [7 articles]
 Folder 13 Untitled essay, n.d. [17 leaves]

Octavo Volume

- 1 Anthony Chase, Journal, 1815-1816 (17 leaves, 3 blank)
 2 Anthony Chase, Journal of a trip to New York, 1815-1816 (26 leaves)
 3 Anthony Chase, Phrenological Study, 1842 February 2 (24 p.)
 --Fowler, O. S., Synopsis of Phrenology; and the Phrenological
 Developments ... Twentieth Edition. (Philadelphia: O.S. Fowler,
 [1841?])
 4 Thomas Chase, Latin and Bible Exercises, 1842 (24 leaves)
 5 Thomas Chase, Account Book of Harvard Expenses, 1845-1848 (22 leaves)
 6 Thomas Chase, "Themes and Etymologies ..." and Memoranda, 1849 (40
 leaves)
 7 Thomas Chase, Class Book of Cambridge High School, 1849-1850 (23 leaves)

Octavo Volume (cont)

- 8 Charles A. Chase, *Diary*, 1842-1843 (8 leaves)
- 9 Charles A. Chase, *Composition Book*, [1844?] (12 leaves, 5 blank)
- 10 Charles A. Chase, *Notebook*, 1853 (16 leaves, 8 blank)
--"Abstracts of Hallam's Middle Ages"
- 11 Charles A. Chase, *Diary*, 1854
--Diary Memorandum Book, and Almanac for 1854 ... (Concord, N.H., Rufus Merrill, [1853])
- 12 Charles A. Chase, *Diary*, 1864
--Diary and Memorandum Book for 1864 ... (Boston: N. Little & Co., [1863])
- 13 Charles A. Chase, *Diary*, 1865
--Daily Pocket Remembrancer for 1865. (n.p., s.n., n.d.)
- 14 E.L.H., *Notebook*, 1878-1879 (37 leaves, 15 blank)
--contains the poem "Three Lives"
- 15 Miss Chase of Atlantic City, N.J. and Salem, Mass., *Notebook*, n.d. (62 leaves)
- 16 unidentified owner, tan "Exercises" notebook (36 leaves, 26 blank)
--Hawaii references; 1897
- 17 Lucy Chase, *Composition Book*, n.d. (20 leaves)
--contains twenty compositions and a table of contents
- 18 Lucy Chase, *Composition Book*, n.d. (16 leaves)
--marbled paper wrapper
--contains eleven numbered compositions [no. 6 - no. 16], a story beginning at the end of the volume and finishing at the beginning of the volume, and a table of contents [for the compositions in the previous volume]
- 19 Lucy Chase, *Composition Book*, n.d. (18 leaves)
--yellow, printed paper wrapper: has a ship vignette printed on the front cover; "Manufactured and sold, wholesale and retail by Isaac H. Cady, at the R.I. School Book Depository, No. 19, Market Street ..." -- printed on back cover
--contains seven compositions and a table of contents
- 20 Lucy Chase, *Composition Book*, 1837-1838 (17 leaves, 3 blank)
--printed paper wrapper: has woodland scene and other small vignettes, and "Worcester: made and sold by Dorr, Howland & Co. Printed by Henry J. Howland" printed on the front cover; multiplication table printed on the back cover
--includes compositions and a table of contents
- 21 Lucy Chase, *Notebook*, 1837-1838 (20 leaves, 4 blank)
--green paper wrapper
--includes "signification of names, a little smattering of everything, except Hebrew and Hog Latin, schoolmates at Prov, puzzles, historical facts + people, astronomical facts"
- 22 Lucy Chase, *Notebook*, 1838-1839 (20 leaves, 6 blank)
--includes compositions, poetry, and "Prophecies relating to the coming of Christ"
- 23 Lucy Chase, Album. [New York]: Published by J.C. Riker New York., [not after 1841]. (60 leaves)
--inscribed on inside front cover "L. and S. E. Chase"; inscribed on third leaf "Lucy Chase from her brother Pliny E. Chase 1st Mo. 1st 1841."
--includes inscribed verses from various people for the year 1841, all are inscribed from Providence, R.I.
--includes inscribed verses from various people for the year 1842, all are inscribed from Uxbridge, Mass.
- 24 Lucy Chase, *Notebook*, 1843; 1845 (60 leaves, 14 blank)
--inscribed on first leaf, "Lucy Chase Philia Oct. 2d 1843"
- 25 Lucy Chase, *Notebook*, 1843; 1855 (60 leaves, 29 blank)
- 26 Lucy Chase, *Notebook*, 1845-1881 (66 leaves, 26 blank)

Folio Volume

- 1 Thomas Chase, Notebook (40 leaves, 8 blank)
 --includes "Greek Verbs. Compiled from the best authorities by Thomas Chase. First Edition. Worcester Latin Grammar School; Elbridge Smith, A.M., Instructor. 1845." (12 leaves); "Plane Trigonometry" (5 leaves); "Spherical Trigonometry" (3 leaves); "Problems in Olmstead's Mechanics" (4 leaves); "Surveying" (6 leaves); "Extracts relating to Classical Subjects" (2 leaves)

Oversize Folder

- n.d., "Phrenological Character of Mr. Anthony Chase, by Mr. S. Fisher, Practical Phrenologist."
 1833 November 22, Commission (Justice of the Peace), Anthony Chase
 1840 October 1, Commission (Justice of the Peace), Anthony Chase
 1846 February 13, Deed, Gilbert & Roxana McKnight to Worcester County Institution for Savings
 1847 August 26, Commission (Justice of the Peace), Anthony Chase
 1854 July 21, Commission (Justice of the Peace), Anthony Chase
 1855 July, Document, re: the embankment at Nobility Hill
 1858 May 1, Deed, Ebenezer Estabrook to Anthony Chase & William D. Peck
 1860 March 5, Deed, Edward W. Lincoln to Mary H. Woodward
 1860 March 5, Deed, Henry & Mary H. Woodward to Edward W. Lincoln
 1861 July 16, Commission (Justice of the Peace), Anthony Chase
 1863 April 17, Commission (Justice of the Peace), Charles A. Chase
 1867 July 1, Lease, David S. Messinger to Charles A. Chase
 1868 August 22, Commission (Justice of the Peace), Anthony Chase
 1870 March 22, Commission (Justice of the Peace), Charles A. Chase
 1871 February 3, Commission (to qualify civil officers), Charles A. Chase
 1872 May 4, Agreement, between W. H. Dexter & Franklin Whipple and Anthony Chase
 1872 May 4, Memorandum of an Agreement, between Anthony Chase and Franklin Whipple & William H. Dexter
 1875 August 24, Commission (Justice of the Peace), Anthony Chase
 1877 March 7, Commission (Justice of the Peace), Charles A. Chase
 1879 July 1, Bill, R. H. Chase to Anthony Chase (for painting Chatham Street house)
 1884 January 1, Release, Pliny E. Chase, et al to Francis B. Knowles
 1889 March 21, Bill, J. E. Spaulding to Anthony Chase estate
 1891 February 18, Commission (Justice of the Peace), Charles A. Chase
 1896 April 8, Release, Katharine Allen to Mary Alice Chase & Maud E. Chase
 1900 July 11, Bill of Sale of Personal Property, Arthur H. Chase to Charles A. Chase
 1905 February 15, Commission (Justice of the Peace), Charles A. Chase
 1908 November 9, Deed, Norman P. Woodward, et al to Alice C. Gage & Maud E. Chase
 1908 November 30, Release, Jennie W. Sherman, et al to Alice C. Gage & Maud E. Chase