TITLE OF COLLECTION:  
Irah Chase Papers

DONOR:  
See collections file for information on gift of Margaret Chase Perry, 1989.

LINEAR SHELF FEET:  
2

NUMBER OF ITEMS:

LOCATION:  
c.s.  
Mss.  
1986-18
Biography

Irah Chase was born in Stratton, Vermont, in 1793, and spent his childhood in that state. He graduated from Middlebury College in 1814, and from Andover Theological Seminary in 1817. After a year of service as a missionary in Virginia, he became associated with a Baptist ministerial training school in Philadelphia. Chase continued his association with that school when, in 1822, it was transferred to Washington, DC, as the theological department of Columbian College (now Georgetown University). In 1825 he moved to Massachusetts to inaugurate the course of study at Newton Theological Institution. At Newton he taught Biblical theology (1825-1838) and church history (1838-1845). After 1845 he engaged in literary work, and published several tracts and articles for religious periodicals. He died in Newton in 1864.

Scope and Content

The Irah Chase Papers, 1814-1864, primarily document the professional work of Chase. The collection is arranged according to the following categories: correspondence, sermons, addresses, lectures, unpublished literary manuscripts, publications, student lecture notes from Andover Theological Seminary, notes on readings, notes on sermons, miscellaneous papers and unidentified committee reports.

Included in the correspondence are several letters which relate to early Baptist educational work in general and to the ministerial training school in Philadelphia and Washington in particular. The sermon notes were transcribed during his student days at Andover, and provide a record of chapel sermons not available elsewhere. The miscellaneous papers primarily relate to Baptist educational work in the early 19th century.

In addition, there is a small number of items related to Cummings family genealogy, collected by William Leverett Cummings, a descendant of Henry Savage Chase, son of Irah and Harriet Savage.
## Box 1
### Correspondence

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Recipient(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>no date</td>
<td>Joseph Grafton to IC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>IC to editors of Reflector and Watchman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>IC to editors of Christian Chronicle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>IC to editors of Watchman and Reflector</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>IC to a minister, author of an article in Christian Chronicle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1815</td>
<td>IC to Rev. Dr. Staughton (fragment)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 3</td>
<td>IC to Rev. Luther Rice; from Andover</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1818</td>
<td>IC to Rev. Thomas Baldwin; from Philadelphia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep 25</td>
<td>IC to Rev. Thomas Baldwin; from Philadelphia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1819</td>
<td>Mar 19 IC to Rev. Thomas Baldwin; from Philadelphia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr 29</td>
<td>IC to Rev. William Staughton; from Baltimore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 10</td>
<td>IC to Rev. Thomas Baldwin; from Philadelphia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1820</td>
<td>Feb 7 IC to Rev. Thomas Baldwin; from Philadelphia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 8</td>
<td>IC to Rev. Thomas Baldwin; from Philadelphia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jun 12</td>
<td>IC to my dear sister; from Philadelphia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1821</td>
<td>Feb 12 IC to Rev. Thomas Baldwin; from Philadelphia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep 26</td>
<td>IC to Rev. D. B. Brown; from Columbian College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 18</td>
<td>D. B. Brown to IC; from Washington, DC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 2</td>
<td>IC to Rev. Dr. Staughton; from Columbian College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 27</td>
<td>IC to Rev. Dr. Staughton; from Columbian College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 24</td>
<td>IC to Rev. Dr. Staughton; from Columbian College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1822</td>
<td>Jan 12 IC to Rev. Thomas Baldwin; from Columbian College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jun 17</td>
<td>IC to Rev. Luther Rice; from Columbian College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 21</td>
<td>IC to Rev. Thomas Baldwin; from Columbian College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1823</td>
<td>Aug 1 Trustees of Columbian College to IC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 5</td>
<td>William Staughton to IC; from Philadelphia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1824</td>
<td>May 7 IC to Dr. Sewall; from Gottingen (summary)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul 2</td>
<td>IC to my very dear brother; from London</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 14</td>
<td>IC to Herr Diaconus Hesekiel; from Liverpool</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 19</td>
<td>IC to my very dear brother; from Liverpool</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 19</td>
<td>IC to [P.] Fotts; from Liverpool</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 20</td>
<td>IC to dear sir; from Liverpool</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 20</td>
<td>IC to Rev. J. H. Hinton; from Liverpool</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Correspondence

**1824 (cont.)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>To</th>
<th>From</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aug 25</td>
<td>IC</td>
<td>Rev. and dear sir; Liverpool</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 13</td>
<td>IC</td>
<td>Dr. Baldwin; College Hill</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**1826**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>To</th>
<th>From</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dec 12</td>
<td>IC and H. J. Ripley to Rev. E. Nelson</td>
<td>from Newton (included is undated letter of IC to Rev. E. Nelson)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**1827**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>To</th>
<th>From</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nov 21</td>
<td>IC and Henry Ripley to Rev. Henry Jackson and Rev. James D. Knowles</td>
<td>from Newton</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**1828**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>To</th>
<th>From</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feb 11</td>
<td>IC and H. J. Ripley to editor of Christian Watchman</td>
<td>from Newton</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**1830**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>To</th>
<th>From</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan 27</td>
<td>L. Wayland to IC</td>
<td>from Providence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 8</td>
<td>J. Johnson to IC</td>
<td>from Georgetown, KY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 7</td>
<td>R. M. Johnson to IC</td>
<td>from Washington</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 13</td>
<td>IC to Rev. Dr. S. M. Noel</td>
<td>from Newton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 22</td>
<td>IC to Rev. Dr. Chaplin</td>
<td>from Newton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul 26</td>
<td>IC to whom it may concern, re Joel Smith Bacon</td>
<td>from Newton</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**1832**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>To</th>
<th>From</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan 9</td>
<td>Rev. Peter Chase to IC</td>
<td>from Franklin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 3</td>
<td>IC to very dear sir</td>
<td>from Newton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 10</td>
<td>IC to President Bates</td>
<td>from Newton</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**1833**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>To</th>
<th>From</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aug 6</td>
<td>IC to Samuel B. Swain</td>
<td>from Newton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(includes draft of Aug 8 letter)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**1836**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>To</th>
<th>From</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aug 24</td>
<td>IC to President of Board of Trustees</td>
<td>also addendum of Aug 26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 19</td>
<td>IC to Albert Day, Henry Burgess and James Burt</td>
<td>from Newton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep 17</td>
<td>IC to Nicholas Brown</td>
<td>from Newton</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**1837**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>To</th>
<th>From</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mar 2</td>
<td>Silas Ilsley to IC</td>
<td>from South Berwick, ME</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**1839**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>To</th>
<th>From</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>[Jan]</td>
<td>Summary of a letter &quot;in reply to inquiries made by a dear brother&quot;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Correspondence (cont.)

1844
Jun 20  Rev. Dr. Dagg to IC; from Mercer University

1848
Nov 24  IC to dear sir; from Boston

1853
Oct 5  Charles Sumner to IC; from Boston

1855
Mar 10  IC to Brother Henry

1856
May 5  W. B. Hackett to IC; from Newton Centre

1858
Aug 27  IC to Rev. Dr. Wood; from Boston

1860
Jan 30  IC to Rev. Dr. Huntington; from Newton Centre

1861
Apr 15  IC to Rev. James Chrystal; from Newton Centre
Apr 30  IC to Rev. and dear sir; from Newton Centre

1864
May 4  IC to son; from Newton Centre
Jun 9  IC to Rev. Dr. Hansel; from Newton Centre

Sermons

Undated (arranged by biblical text)

Genesis 12:7
Numbers 32:23
1 Samuel 3:10
1 Chronicles 16:25
2 Chronicles 32:25
Proverbs 1:10, 1:17, 6:6, 13:15, 14:32, 22:6, 28:1, 28:26, 29:1, 30:8
Ecclesiastes 7:2, 7:14, 9:10, 12:13
Isaiah 11:31, 40:31 (2)
Jeremiah 3:4, 29:13
Ezekiel 3:18, 33:11
Mark 6:12 (2), 8:2, 16:15
Sermons
Undated (cont.)
John 3:7, 5:39, 7:37, 8:36, 10:11, 16:9, 21:22
Acts 7:59-60, 24:25, 26:25
Romans 1:11, 1:19-20, 2:11, 3:25, 6:3, 6:23, 8:14, 14:12 (2), 15:29
1 Corinthians 7:29-31, 11:26, 14:20
2 Corinthians 10:4
Ephesians 6:4
Philippians 2:21
Colossians 3:12 (3)
1 Thessalonians 5:8, 5:19, 5:25
1 Timothy 1:15
2 Timothy 1:7, 3:15
Box 2
Hebrews 3:7-8, 4:1, 10:10, 10:24-25, 12:11 (2)
James 1:3, 4:8
1 Peter 2:7, 4:6 (3)
2 Peter 2:19 (2)
1 John 3:12
Revelation 2:4, 2:10, 2:17, 22:17

1818
Jan 4 Psalm 90:12

1822
Sep 15 Psalm 100
Dec 8 no text given

1825
Dec 28 Matthew 16:26

1828
Sep 17 Matthew 28

1840
Thanksgiving Psalm 65:11

1846
n.d. Psalm 90:12

Addresses
Undated

Untitled (6)
Communion meditation
Address to graduating class
Farewell to colleagues [Columbian College]
How a theological student is to prosecute his studies
Addresses (cont.)
1830
Sep 9 Address to a class by the Senior Professor at the anniversary

Charges
Undated (3)

1821
May 13 to Jonathan Price, on his designation as a missionary to Burma

1834
Apr 30 to Isaac M. Willmarth

1839
May 26 at the installation of Rev. Mr. Nott
Dec 8 at the ordination of Rev.Prof. Hackett

Lectures (arranged by subject)

Bible
Untitled/on the beast in the book of Revelation
On the authority of the scriptures (13 lectures)
Malachi "about 410 years before Christ"

Theology
Untitled/on Christ as an example
Articles of Christian doctrine
Doctrines
Summary of Christian doctrines

Church History
Untitled/general lecture

Miscellaneous
On the history of the pulpit, as it is to be derived from the choice of subjects for sermons

Lecture Notes
Theology (21 folders)
[Box 3 begins folder 6 of Theology lecture notes]
Church history (3 folders)
Unpublished Literary Manuscripts

Essays

- Untitled (4)
- Acts 8:37
- The acts of Pilate
- The announcement which Jesus made of himself as the Messiah
- Articles of Christian doctrine
- Baptismal tracts for the times
- The canons of the apostles
- Dr. Hackett's revision of the Epistle to Philemon
- Editorial comment (2)
- The meaning of Irenaeus
- The miracles of Christ
- Remarks on the personality and divinity of the holy ghost
- The savior's prospective arrangements

Box 4

Drafts of Publications

Book

- Infant Baptism an Invention of Men; or Dr. Bushnell's Arguments Reviewed. Philadelphia: American Baptist Publication Society, 1863. [Incomplete manuscript, missing most of section 2 on "The testimony of Origen respecting the baptism of infants."]

Articles (periodical source unknown)

- incomplete fragments (2 folders)
- The baptism of Basil the Great: was it in his infancy?
- Basil the Great, an important witness respecting baptism in the fourth century
- Dr. Robinson and Dr. Ripley
- Faith and works
- The meaning of Irenaeus in the phrase, "regenerated unto God"
- Gesenius' Hebrew Grammar
- Neander
- The new reformation in Germany
- Our duty, in view of man's increasing dominion over nature
- Principles of exposition
- Punishment in the future state (2)
- [Review of] A commentary on the epistle to the Hebrews by Moses Stuart
- Review of Fuller on Communion
- The spirit of the Mohammedan religions perceptible pre-eminently in the traditions
- Tholuck
- Unfounded claims to spiritual illuminations (3 drafts)
- A voice from the second century
- Who is awake?
Student Lecture Notes
(notes taken while Chase was a student at Andover Theological Seminary)

incomplete fragments (1 folder)
untitled (2)
Psalm 49
Hints on public prayer
The resurrection
Subjects in theology
Booklet/November 24, 1814-October 16, 1816:
Leonard Woods' lectures on theology
Booklet/January 3-February 7, 1815:
Prefaces to the gospels, The doctrine of accommodation,
Syllabus of Quintilian on the human voice
Booklet/November 14, 1815:
Dick on Inspiration of the holy scriptures
2nd year--Dr. Woods' department
Booklet/November 20, 1815:
The immutability of God

Box 5
Notes on Readings (12 folders)
(folder 1 includes list of books by subject)

Notes on Sermons

1816
Dec 27 Matthew 18:24 (Holbrook)
Dec 31 Ecclesiastes 20:5 (Parkhurst)

1817
n.d. Hosea 13:9 (Aiken)
n.d. Psalm 122:1 (Fitch)
n.d. Luke 17 (Wilson)
n.d. Romans 12:1 (Prof. Stuart)
Jan 3 Amos 4:12 (Hooks)
Jan 7 Malachi 3:6 (Taylor)
Jan 10 Matthew 5:16 (Wright)
Jan 12 Luke 22:19 (Prof. Stuart)
Jan 13 Romans 7:12 (Parkhurst)
Jan 17 Psalm 73:28 (Parsons)
Jan 21 Hebrews 7:25 (Calhoun)
Feb 16 Luke 13:3 (Stratton)
Feb 24 1 Peter 4:18 (Dr. Woods)
Jun n.d. 1 Timothy 2:8 (Rockwood)
Jun 18 Ezekiel 33:11 (Taylor)
Jun 20 Hebrews 12:15 (Emerson)
Notes on Sermons
1817 (cont.)
Jul 4 Psalm 80:14 (Parsons)
Jul 6 Acts 20:24 (Hawes)
Jul 8 John 5:22 (Wilcox)
Jul 11 John 17:17 (Parkhurst)
Jul 20 James 1:13 (Dr. Woods)
Jul 25 John 15:22 (Harris)
Jul 29 Hebrews 2:8 (Aiken)
Aug n.d. Ezekiel 33:11 (Stratton)
Aug 3 Acts 13:39 (Mr. Chaplin at Danvers)
Aug 10 Luke 14:22 (Mr. Emerson)
Aug 12 John 17:24 (Ely)
Aug 15 Mark 6:12 (Emerson)
Sep 5 Ezekiel 33:11 (Holbrooki)
Sep 7 no text (Prof. Stuart)
Sep 9 Jeremiah 17:9 (Ely)
Sep 29 1 Thessalonians 5:22 (Wilson)

Miscellaneous Notes (8 folders)

Miscellaneous Papers (3 folders)
Untitled, on theological education
Plan of a theological institution to be connected with Brown University. Recommended by the trustees of the Education Societies of the Warren and Boston Associations, Sept. 1817.

Institution for pious young men called to the gospel ministry, Aug. 10, 1818 (incomplete)

A brief statement of what occurred in the Philadelphia Association, on Tuesday and Wednesday, the 6th and 7th of Oct. 1818, relative to the First Baptist Church in Philadelphia

Circular letter: The elders and messengers of the Fairfield Baptist Association, convened at Milton, on the 25th and 26th days of August, AD 1819, to the churches which they represent

Newton Theological Institution--Report on semi-annual examination, no date

Newton Theological Institution--Response to statements in the Watchman and Reflector on Dr. Hackett's absence

Committee reports:
[On religious tracts]
[On missions]
[On missions to the Indians]
[On a memorial of Dr. Chapin]
[Report to the trustees of Newton Theological Institution on the subject of a preparatory department] (incomplete)
[Report to the executive committee of the Missionary Union on Gammel's History of the American Baptist Missions], April 21, 1849
Miscellaneous Papers (continued)

On the Book of Job (booklet in German script)

Publications on Life of Irah Chase


IN MEMORIAM, TRIBUTE OF AFFECTION TO THE MEMORY OF PROFESSOR IRAH CHASE. Boston: Geo. C. Rand & Avery, Printers, 1865.


Chase Family Papers

Cummings family genealogy - William Leverett Cummings descended from Henry Savage Chase, son of Irah and Harriet Savage


Box 6
Photographs of the Middle East
Box 7
Correspondence and writings 1834-1836
Correspondence 1838-1843
Correspondence 1847
Correspondence 1854-1858
Published writings:

Bunsen's View of Baptism 1853
The Design of Baptism Viewed in Its Relation to Christian Life 1851

Handwritten notes
Manuscripts, letters to editors
Manuscript: The Life of Bunyan
Manuscript: The Prayers for Infants in the Apostolical Constitutions