

Irah Chase Papers

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Irah Chase Papers

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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 The collection is arranged according to the following categories: correspondence, sermons, addresses, lectures, unpublished literary manuscripts, publications, student lecture notes from Andover Theological Seminary, notes on readings, notes on sermons, miscellaneous papers and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

no date Joseph Grafton to IC
 IC to editors of Reflector and Watchman
 IC to editors of Christian Chronicle
 IC to editors of Watchman and Reflector
 IC to a minister, author of an article in
 Christian Chronicle
 IC to Rev. Dr. Staughton (fragment)

1815
 Mar 3 IC to Rev. Luther Rice; from Andover

1818
 Sep 25 IC to Rev. Thomas Baldwin; from Philadelphia

1819
 Mar 19 IC to Rev. Thomas Baldwin; from Philadelphia
 Apr 29 IC to Rev. William Staughton; from Baltimore
 Nov 10 IC to Rev. Thomas Baldwin; from Philadelphia

1820
 Feb 7 IC to Rev. Thomas Baldwin; from Philadelphia
 Mar 8 IC to Rev. Thomas Baldwin; from Philadelphia
 Jun 12 IC to my dear sister; from Philadelphia

1821
 Feb 12 IC to Rev. Thomas Baldwin; from Philadelphia
 Sep 26 IC to Rev. D. B. Brown; from Columbian College
 Oct 18 D. B. Brown to IC; from Washington, DC
 Nov 2 IC to Rev. Dr. Staughton; from Columbian College
 Nov 27 IC to Rev. Dr. Staughton; from Columbian College
 Dec 24 IC to Rev. Dr. Staughton; from Columbian College

1822
 Jan 12 IC to Rev. Thomas Baldwin; from Columbian College
 Jun 17 IC to Rev. Luther Rice; from Columbian College
 Oct 21 IC to Rev. Thomas Baldwin; from Columbian College

1823
 Aug 1 Trustees of Columbian College to IC
 Aug 5 William Staughton to IC; from Philadelphia

1824
 May 7 IC to Dr. Sewall; from Gottingen (summary)
 Jul 2 IC to my very dear brother; from London
 Aug 14 IC to Herr Diaconus Hesekeiel; from Liverpool
 Aug 19 IC to my very dear brother; from Liverpool
 Aug 19 IC to [P.] Potts; from Liverpool
 Aug 20 IC to dear sir; from Liverpool
 Aug 20 IC to Rev. J. H. Hinton; from Liverpool

Correspondence1824 (cont.)

Aug 25 IC to Rev. and dear sir; from Liverpool
 Dec 13 IC to Dr. Baldwin; from College Hill

1826

Dec 12 IC and H. J. Ripley to Rev. E. Nelson; from Newton
 (included is undated letter of IC to Rev. E. Nelson)

1827

Nov 21 IC and Henry Ripley to Rev. Henry Jackson and Rev. James D. Knowles; from Newton
 Nov 24 IC and H. J. Ripley to Rev. Henry Jackson and Rev. James D. Knowles; from Newton

1828

Feb 11 IC and H. J. Ripley to editor of Christian Watchman; from Newton

1830

Jan 27 L. Wayland to IC; from Providence
 Feb 8 J. Johnson to IC; from Georgetown, KY
 Mar 7 R. M. Johnson to IC; from Washington
 Mar 13 IC to Rev. Dr. S. M. Noel; from Newton
 May 22 IC to Rev. Dr. Chaplin; from Newton
 Jul 26 IC to whom it may concern, re Joel Smith Bacon

1832

Jan 9 Rev. Peter Chase to IC; from Franklin
 Feb 3 IC to very dear sir; from Newton
 May 10 IC to President Bates; from Newton

1833

Aug 6 IC to Samuel B. Swain; from Newton
 (includes draft of Aug 8 letter)

1836

Aug 24 IC to President of Board of Trustees; also addendum of Aug 26
 May 19 IC to Albert Day, Henry Burgess and James Burt; from Newton
 Sep 17 IC to Nicholas Brown; from Newton

1837

Mar 2 Silas Ilsley to IC; from South Berwick, ME

1839

[Jan] Summary of a letter "in reply to inquiries made by a dear brother"

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

SermonsUndated (arranged by biblical text)

Genesis 12:7

Numbers 32:23

1 Samuel 3:10

1 Chronicles 16:25

2 Chronicles 32:25

Psalms 9:10, 19:12, 58:11, 68, 73:28, 75:6-7, 95:7-8, 119:105,
119:141, 147:11, 148:8Proverbs 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

Matthew 4:1-11, 5:8 (2), 5:22 (2), 11:19, 11:28, 13:43 (2),
17:1-9, 18:14, 19:19

Mark 6:12 (2), 8:2, 16:15

Luke 2:49, 5:31, 11:9, 13:24, 14:15-24, 19:10, 23:40

SermonsUndated (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

AddressesUndated

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

ChargesUndated (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 ManuscriptsEssays

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 PublicationsBook

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 Sermons1816

- 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. Luke 11:9 (Morse)
- Jun n.d. 1 Timothy 2:8 (Rockwood)
- Jun 18 Ezekiel 33:11 (Taylor)
- Jun 20 Hebrews 12:15 (Emerson)

Notes on Sermons1817 (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 (Holbrook)I
 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

"Rev. Irah Chase, D.D." In BAPTIST MEMORIAL & MONTHLY RECORD. ed. Rev. Enoch Hutchinson, 5-82. New York: Z.P. Hatch, 1850.

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

CHRISTIAN GREATNESS IN THE SCHOLAR, A DISCOURSE ON THE LIFE AND CHARACTER OF REV. IRAH CHASE, D.D...delivered before the Society of Inquiry at Newton, June 27, 1865 by William Hague, D.D. Boston: Gould and Lincoln, 1866.

"Ira Chase, the Missionary, the Scholar and the Saint." in CHRISTIAN REPOSITORY AND HOME CIRCLE. ed. S.R. Ford, (August, 1884): 95-102.

Chase Family Papers

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

Letters: Ellen Chase (1925/Oct; 1925/Oct 16; 1925/Oct 21)

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