

Guide to the Champion Spalding Chase Papers

MS 133



compiled by Barbara Mathews

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Table of Contents

Collection Overview	3
Requesting Instructions	3
Administrative Information	3
Immediate Source of Acquisition	3
Conditions Governing Access	4
Conditions Governing Use	4
Preferred Citation	4
Biographical / Historical	4
Scope and Contents	4
Arrangement	5
Collection Contents	6
Series I: Correspondence, 1837, 1840-1842 1844-1859, 1861-(1863-1864)-1871, 1874-1875, 1877-1881, 1899	6
Series II: Special Files, 1843-1894	13
Selected Search Terms	14

Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Manuscripts and Archives
Yale University Library
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CALL NUMBER: MS 133

CREATOR: Chase, Champion Spalding, 1820-1898

TITLE: Champion Spalding Chase papers

DATES: 1837-1899

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 7 linear feet (16 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: Correspondence and other papers of Champion Spalding Chase, Civil War veteran, lawyer, and politician. The papers are comprised primarily of personal correspondence between Chase and members of the family, although there is some material related to his Civil War experiences and to his work with the Whig Party and the Republican Party.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0133>

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Manuscripts and Archives reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0133>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please go to http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr_copy_order.html. The information you will need to submit an order includes: the collection call number, collection title, series or accession number, box number, and folder number or name.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Sherret Chase, 1966.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

Unpublished materials authored or otherwise produced by the creator(s) of this collection are in the public domain. There are no restrictions on use. Copyright status for other collection materials is unknown. Transmission or reproduction of materials protected by U.S. Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S.C.) beyond that allowed by fair use requires the written permission of the copyright owners. Works not in the public domain cannot be commercially exploited without permission of the copyright owners. Responsibility for any use rests exclusively with the user.

Preferred Citation

Champion Spalding Chase Papers (MS 133). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

Biographical / Historical

Champion Spalding Chase was born March 20, 1820, in Cornish, New Hampshire, the son of Clement and Olive (Spalding) Chase. He studied law in Buffalo, New York, and was admitted to the New York Bar in 1847. In that year, Chase moved to the Territory of Wisconsin. He married Mary Sophrina Butterfield, daughter of a prominent lawyer, in 1848, and in the same year opened a law office in Racine, where he remained until entering the Union Army in 1862. Chase also gave public lectures on phrenology and mesmerism.

Chase held a variety of public offices in the ante-bellum years. He served on the Board of Education of Racine from 1853-1857, including two years as president. In 1856, following the breakup of the Whig Party, which he had supported, Chase served as a delegate to the first National Republican Convention in Philadelphia. The same year, he was elected to a two-year term in the Wisconsin State Senate, where he spoke against the further extension of slavery. In 1859, Chase was appointed District Attorney of the First Judicial District.

In 1862, at the recommendation of his cousin, Salmon P. Chase, he was commissioned paymaster in the Union Army with the rank of major. Chase served in the army nearly four years, spending much of that time in the west and south-west. He witnessed the sieges of Knoxville, Mobile, and Vicksburg and for more than two years was stationed in New Orleans. Owing in part, at least, to the influence of William H. Seward, Chase was breveted Lieutenant Colonel by President Andrew Johnson. In January of 1866, he was honorably discharged and in the same year he moved to Omaha in the Territory of Nebraska. The following year, he became the first Attorney General of the new State of Nebraska.

In 1874, Chase was elected mayor of Omaha. He was re-elected in 1875, 1879, and 1883, serving a total of seven years in that office.

During his later years, Chase spent much of his time acting as delegate to various conventions called to consider current public issues. He died about 1898.

Scope and Contents

The Champion Spalding Chase Papers comprise a total of 16 boxes of papers and are divided into two series: CORRESPONDENCE, which makes up the bulk of the papers, and a small SPECIAL FILES series. CORRESPONDENCE is divided into three subsections: "Correspondence of C.S. Chase", "Correspondence of M.S. Chase," his wife, and "Correspondence of Others." The first two subsections comprise the bulk of the Correspondence and consist primarily of letters exchanged between Chase and his wife. This correspondence covers the years 1845-1881, with a particularly large number of letters from 1863 to 1864.

Although these letters are mostly of a personal nature, there is some discussion of Civil War matters, including a description of the surrender of Vicksburg. Also included in the "Correspondence of C.S. Chase" is a small number of letters from J.R. Doolittle, William H. Seward, and Fitz H. Warren, discussing the Whig Party's attempt to elect General Winfield Scott to the Presidency in 1852. There is, however, very little correspondence covering the years during which Chase was mayor of Omaha.

SPECIAL FILES contains a variety of items, the most important of which are Chase's military appointments and orders. Also included is a genealogy of the Chase family printed in 1894.

Arrangement

Arranged in two series: I. Correspondence. II. Special Files.

Collection Contents

Series I: Correspondence, 1837, 1840–1842 1844–1859, 1861–(1863–1864)–1871, 1874–1875, 1877–1881, 1899

6'3" - 15 boxes

CORRESPONDENCE contains three subsections. The first, "Correspondence of C.S. Chase", is divided into a large group of letters received by Chase, primarily from his wife, and a small group of letters written by Chase to others (except his wife). Letters received by Chase are arranged alphabetically by the name of the writer and chronologically within each folder. Letters written by Chase are arranged alphabetically by the name of the person to whom they are addressed.

The second subsection, "Correspondence of M.S. Chase", is divided between a large group of letters received by M.S. Chase, primarily from her husband, followed by a small group of letters written by M.S. Chase to others (except her husband). Letters received by M.S. Chase are arranged alphabetically by the name of the writer and chronologically within each folder; letters written by M.S. Chase are arranged alphabetically by the name of the person to whom they are addressed.

The third subsection, "Correspondence of Others", is arranged alphabetically by the name of the writer. It consists primarily of Butterfield family correspondence and also includes several letters endorsing C.S. Chase for various military and political positions.

Correspondence of Champion Spalding Chase From:

b. 1, f. 1	A	1865
	Chase, Mary S.	
b. 1, f. 2	Be - Bus	1863, undated
b. 1, f. 3	Butterfield, Elizabeth	1858-1866
b. 1, f. 4	Butterfield, Emily	1858-1866, undated
b. 1, f. 5	Butterfield, M.B. and M.D.	1843-1865
b. 1, f. 6	Butterfield, Mellie	1880
b. 1, f. 7	C (except Chase, George and Chase, M. S.)	1843-1867, 1879, undated
b. 1, f. 8	Chase, George M.	1849-1864
b. 1, f. 9	1845, Jul 13 - Nov 10	
b. 1, f. 18	1848, Jan 3 - Jan 30	
b. 2, f. 19-21	1848, Jan 3 - Jan 30, Feb 2 - Feb 18, Mar 6 - Apr 1, Dec 18 - Dec 29	
b. 1, f. 10-11	1846, Jan 4 - Sep 19, Oct 4 - Dec 21	
b. 1, f. 12-17	1847, Jan 3 - Feb 8, Feb 27 - Jun 3, Jul 13 - Aug 11, Aug 20 - Sep 18, Sep 27 - Dec 8, Dec 11 - Dec 31	
b. 2, f. 22-26	1849, Jan 10 - Jan 30, Feb 22 - Feb 28, Mar 3 - Mar 20, Mar 22 - Apr 2, Apr 11 - Oct 6	

Correspondence of Champion Spalding Chase From: > Chase, George M. (continued)

b. 2, f. 27-28	1850, Feb 18 - Feb 29, Dec 21 - Dec 30	
b. 2, f. 29-33	1851, Jan 2 - Jan 14, Jan 18 - Jan 31, Feb 5 - Feb 20, Mar 3 - Mar 26, May 14 - Dec 21	
b. 2, f. 34	1852, May 11 - May 25	
b. 2, f. 35-36	1857, Jan 12 - Jan 28, Feb 2 - Mar 7	
b. 2, f. 37-40	1858, Jan 11 - Mar 17	
b. 3, f. 41-43	1858, Mar 18 - Mar 29, Apr 9 - Apr 19, May 5 - May 12	
b. 3, f. 44-46	1861, Mar 19 - Mar 29, Apr 1 - Jul 2, Jul 14 - Jul 31	
b. 3, f. 47-64	1863, Jan 1 - Feb 10, Feb 12 - Feb 27, Mar 1 - Mar 29, Apr 2 - May 7, Jun 2 - Jun 26, Jul 1 - Jul 30, Sep 8 - Sep 20, Sep 22 - Oct 4, Oct 6 - Oct 30, Nov 1 - Nov 12, Nov 15 - Nov 26, Dec 2 - Dec 13, Dec 15 - Dec 30	
b. 4, f. 65-83	1864, Jan 8 - Feb 27, Mar 5 - Mar 14, Mar 16 - Mar 31, Apr 3 - Apr 21, May 9 - May 16, May 19 - May 31, Jun 2 - Jun 15, Jun 17 - Jun 30, Jul 3 - Jul 15, Jul 17 - Jul 31, Aug 3 - Aug 14, Aug 16 - Aug 29, Sep 1 - Sep 15, Sep 18 - Sep 29, Oct 2 - Nov 2	
b. 4, f. 84	1865, Aug 27 - Sep 26	
b. 5, f. 85	1866, Sep 23 - Dec 30	
b. 5, f. 86-93	1867, Jan 2 - Jan 13, Jan 15 - Jan 31, Feb 2 - Feb 19, Mar 5 - Mar 16, Mar 19 - Mar 31, Apr 1 - Apr 14, Apr 16 - Apr 28, May 1 - May 14	
b. 5, f. 94	1869, Feb 4 - Feb 7	
b. 5, f. 95-96	no year, no date	
b. 5, f. 97	D (except Doolittle)	1863, 1867
b. 5, f. 98	Doolittle, James R.	1861
b. 5, f. 99	E	1866
b. 5, f. 100	F (except Fillmore)	1865, 1878, 1883, undated
b. 5, f. 101	Fillmore, M. P.	1851-1852
b. 5, f. 102	G	1863
b. 5, f. 103	H	1861-1864, undated
b. 5, f. 104	J	1853, 1863-1867, 1873, undated
b. 5, f. 105	K	1852, 1863
b. 5, f. 106	L	1848-1853, 1863-1866

Correspondence of Champion Spalding Chase From: (continued)

b. 5, f. 107	M	1850, 1857, 1863, 1864
b. 5, f. 108	N	1859, 1863, 1865
b. 5, f. 109	P	1865
b. 5, f. 110	R	1863
b. 6, f. 111	S (except Seward)	1851, 1853, 1863, 1865, 1880, undated
b. 6, f. 112	Seward, William H.	1852, 1866, undated
b. 6, f. 113	T	1863-1865
b. 6, f. 114	W (except Warren)	1852, undated
b. 6, f. 115	Warren, Fitz H.	1852
b. 6, f. 116	First Name Only	1849, 1863
b. 6, f. 117	Unidentified	1863, undated

Correspondence of Mary S. Chase From:

b. 6, f. 118	B	1849, 1865
b. 6, f. 119	Chase, C. Clement (son)	1863-1865, 1870-1871, 1875, undated
b. 6, f. 120	Chase, Clement (father)	1863
b. 6, f. 121	G	1863
b. 6, f. 122	P	1866
b. 6, f. 123	S	1866
b. 6, f. 124	First Name Only	1863
b. 6, f. 125	Unidentified	1849, 1861, 1865

Correspondence of Champion Spalding Chase To:

b. 6, f. 126	A-B	1873
b. 6, f. 127	C - E	1873
b. 6, f. 128	F - M	1873
b. 6, f. 129	P - Y	1873

Correspondence of Mary S. Chase From: (re Anniversary and Silver Wedding)

Correspondence of Mary S. Chase From: (re Anniversary and Silver [...]) (continued)

b. 6, f. 130	B (except Butterfield)	1836, 1845, 1848, 1852, 1853, 1863, 1875-1877, 1880, undated
	Chase, C. S.	
b. 7, f. 131	Butterfield, Elizabeth	1847, 1849, 1863-1864
b. 7, f. 132	Butterfield, Emily	1847, 1849
b. 7, f. 133	1837, Jan 6 - Apr 10	
b. 7, f. 134	1840, Aug 24 - Nov 29	
b. 7, f. 135	1841-1842	
b. 7, f. 136-138	1844, Jan 29 - Aug 19, Sep 3 - Nov 24, Nov 29 - Dec 29	
b. 7, f. 139-142	1845, Jan 21 - Mar 23, Apr 6 - Apr 27, May 11 - Jun 22, Jul 10 - Aug 1	
b. 7, f. 143	1847, May 3 - Dec 10	
b. 7, f. 144	1848, Jan 20 - Mar 16	
b. 7, f. 145	1849, May 31 - Jun 23	
b. 7, f. 146	1858, Nov 8	
b. 7, f. 147	undated	
	Butterfield, M.B. and M.D.	
b. 7, f. 148	Butterfield, Mellie	1880
b. 7, f. 149	C (except Chase)	1846, 1875, undated
b. 7, f. 150	1845, Jun 17 - Dec 15	
b. 8, f. 163-168	1848, Jan 1 - Jan 18, Jan 19 - Jan 30, Feb 2 - Feb 15, Mar 17 - Mar 21, Mar 23 - Mar 28, Dec 18 - Dec 27	
b. 7, f. 151-152	1846, Jan 26 - Aug 15, Aug 24 - Nov 2	
b. 8, f. 158	1846, Nov 11 - Dec 29	
b. 8, f. 154-162	1847, Jan 16 - Feb 25, Mar 8 - Apr 28, May 8 - June 17, Jul 1 - Aug 6, Aug 13 - Aug 30, Sep 5 - Sep 25, Oct 2 - Oct 28, Dec 9 - Dec 14, Dec 16 - Dec 31	
b. 8, f. 169-173	1849, Jan 9 - Jan 30, Feb 21 - Feb 27, Mar 1 - Mar 11, Mar 14 - Mar 30, Apr 8 - Nov 12	
b. 8, f. 174-175	1850, Jan 1 - Jan 30, Feb 1 - Feb 28	
b. 9, f. 176	1850, Apr 8 - Dec 27	

Correspondence of Mary S. Chase From: (re Anniversary and Silver [...] > C (except Chase) (continued)

b. 9, f. 177-186	1851, Jan 5 - Jan 18, Jan 22 - Jan 28, Feb 2 - Feb 11, Feb 12 - Feb 28, Mar 2 - Mar 15, Mar 17 - Mar 28, Apr 1 - Apr 7, May 10 - May 18, May 21 - May 31, Sep 22 - Dec 29
b. 9, f. 187	1852, Oct 29
b. 9, f. 188	1853, Jan 19 - Jul 12
b. 9, f. 189	1854, Feb 15
b. 9, f. 190	1855, Mar 30
b. 9, f. 191	1856, Jan 2 - Jan 22
b. 9, f. 192-194	1857, Jan 1 - Jan 24, Jan 25 - Jan 29, Feb 2 - Sep 1
b. 9, f. 195-200	1858, Jan 12 - Jan 16, Jan 17 - Jan 30, Feb 1 - Feb 12, Feb 14 - Feb 28, Mar 1 - Mar 14, Mar 15 - Mar 28
b. 10, f. 201-202	1858, Apr 9 - Apr 20, May 4 - May 16
b. 10, f. 203	1859, Feb 7 - Feb 9
b. 10, f. 204-209	1861, Mar 18 - Mar 31, Apr 2 - Apr 14, Jun 11 - Jun 15, Jun 23 - Jun 27, Jul 1 - Jul 18, Jul 20 - Aug 14
b. 10, f. 210	1862, Jan 28 - Dec 31
b. 10, f. 211-220	1863, Jan 1 - Jan 18, Jan 19 - Jan 23, Jan 24 - Jan 30, Feb 1 - Feb 9, Feb 12 - Feb 27, Mar 1 - Mar 9, Mar 11 - Mar 18, Mar 19 - Mar 31, Apr 2 - Apr 19
b. 11, f. 221-233	1863, Apr 20 - Apr 29, May 1 - May 7, Jun 3 - Jun 8, Jun 11 - Jun 27, Jul 4 - Jul 31, Aug 2 - Sep 29, Oct 2 - Oct 19, Oct 21 - Oct 30, Nov 3 - Nov 10, Nov 12 - Nov 22, Dec 1 - Dec 15, Dec 16 - Dec 19, Dec 20 - Dec 26
b. 11, f. 234-239	1864, Jan 7 - Jan 18, Jan 20 - Jan 30, Feb 1 - Feb 15, Feb 16 - Feb 26, Mar 5 - Mar 31, Apr 3 - Apr 20
b. 12, f. 240-253	1864, May 10 - May 16, May 18 - Jul 8, Jul 10 - Jul 31, Aug 3 - Aug 13, Aug 17 - Aug 30, Sep 2 - Sep 10, Sep 15 - Sep 29, Oct 2 - Oct 16, Oct 20 - Nov 5
b. 12, f. 254-255	1865, Jul 25 - Aug 30, Sep 1 - Sep 14
b. 13, f. 256	1865, Sep 19 - Sep 25
b. 13, f. 257-258	1866, Jan 3 - Dec 31
b. 13, f. 259-266	1867, Jan 4 - Jan 31, Feb 4 - Feb 17, Mar 5 - Mar 31, Apr 2 - Apr 15, Apr 18 - Apr 30, May 1 - May 10
b. 13, f. 267	1868, Mar 3 - Mar 5
b. 13, f. 268	1869, Feb 4 - Sep 21
b. 13, f. 269	1870, Jul 4 - Dec 23
b. 13, f. 270-272	1871, Jan 5 - Jan 13, Jan 15 - Feb 25, Mar 2 - Sep 24
b. 13, f. 273	1874, Apr 13

Correspondence of Mary S. Chase From: (re Anniversary and Silver [...] > C (except Chase) (continued)

b. 13, f. 274		1875, Aug 12 - Aug 20	
b. 14, f. 275-277		1875, Aug 21 - Sep 12, Sep 14 - Sep 29	
b. 14, f. 278		1877, Oct 24 - Nov 17	
b. 14, f. 279		1878, Jun 9 - Sep 25	
b. 14, f. 280		1879, Jan 13 - Jun 10	
b. 14, f. 281		1880, Nov 13	
b. 14, f. 282		1881, Nov 29 - Nov 30	
b. 14, f. 283-284		no year	
b. 14, f. 285-286		no date	
b. 14, f. 287	E		1873
b. 14, f. 288	F		1861, 1863
b. 14, f. 289	G		1853
b. 14, f. 290	H		1845, 1876-1877, 1880-1881
b. 14, f. 291	J		1845, 1864, 1878, 1880-1881
b. 14, f. 292	K		1846
b. 14, f. 293	L		1844
b. 14, f. 294	M		1843, 1845-1847, 1875-1880
b. 14, f. 295	P		undated
b. 14, f. 296	R		1845-1846
b. 14, f. 297	S		1845, 1847, 1851, 1878-1881, undated
b. 14, f. 298	T		undated
b. 14, f. 299	W		1879
b. 14, f. 300	First Name Only, A - H		1843, 1845- 1846, 1851, 1853, undated
b. 14, f. 301	First Name Only, J - L		1843, 1845-1847, undated
b. 15, f. 302	First Name Only, M		1846-1847, undated

Correspondence of Mary S. Chase From: (re Anniversary and Silver [...]) (continued)

b. 15, f. 303	First Name Only, N - Z	1845-1846, undated
b. 15, f. 304	Unidentified	1845, 1880, undated
To:		
b. 15, f. 305-306	Butterfield, M.B. and M.D.	1838-1851
b. 15, f. 307	Butterfield, M.B. and M.D.	undated
b. 15, f. 308	G- S	1845, undated
b. 15, f. 309	Unidentified	1881, undated
Correspondence of Others From:		
b. 15, f. 310	A	1861, 1899
b. 15, f. 311	Burr	1844-1845, 1847
b. 15, f. 312	Butterfield, E. and M.B.	1842, 1845, 1854, 1854, 1871
b. 15, f. 313	Butterfield, M.D.	1842, 1845, 1849, 1852, 1853, undated
b. 15, f. 314	C (except Canby)	1845, 1847, 1861-1863, 1867
b. 15, f. 315	Canby	1866
b. 15, f. 316	D	1844, 1861, 1863
b. 15, f. 317	G	1845
b. 15, f. 318	M	1843, 1845, 1863
b. 15, f. 319	N	1854, 1861, undated
b. 15, f. 320	P	1864
b. 15, f. 321	S	1844
b. 15, f. 322	T	1850
b. 15, f. 323	W	1836
b. 15, f. 324	Y	1845
b. 15, f. 325	Unidentified Fragments	undated

Series II: Special Files, 1843-1894*0.25 linear feet (1 box)*

SPECIAL FILES are arranged alphabetically by category or subject.

b. 16, f. 1	Advertisements and Announcements	1848, 1857, 1863, undated
b. 16, f. 2	Bills and Documents: Butterfield	1821, 1845
b. 16, f. 3	Bills and Receipts: Chase, C. S.	1849, 1860, 1864, undated
b. 16, f. 4	Cards: Business	1863, undated
b. 16, f. 5	Cards: New Year's	1872, 1879
b. 16, f. 6	Cards: Visiting	undated
b. 16, f. 7	Floor Plans	undated
b. 16, f. 8	Genealogy	1894
b. 16, f. 9	Invitations	1848, 1865, 1868, 1873, undated
b. 16, f. 10	Menus A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at beinecke.library@yale.edu to request access to the digital copy.	1848, 1851, 1861, 1863, 1867
b. 16, f. 11	Military: Appointments and Orders	1862-1866
b. 16, f. 12	Military: Financial Papers	1863-1867
b. 16, f. 13	Military: Passes	1863-1866
b. 16, f. 14	Notes and Writings: C. S. Chase	1843, undated
b. 16, f. 15	Notes and Writings: M. S. Chase	1846, undated
b. 16, f. 16	Photos and Drawings	undated
b. 16, f. 17	Printed Matter	1882, 1889, 1893, undated
b. 16, f. 18	Railroad Passes	1856, 1866-1868
b. 16, f. 19	Souvenirs	1845, 1865, 1866, 1880, undated

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Subjects

Families
Law
Lawyers
Popular culture

Geographic Names

Middle West
Nebraska -- Politics and government
United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865
United States -- Politics and government
West (U.S.)
Wisconsin -- Politics and government

Occupations

Politicians

Names

Chase, Champion Spalding, 1820-1898
Doolittle, James R. (James Rood), 1815-1897
Seward, William H. (William Henry), 1801-1872
Warren, Fitz Henry, 1816-1878

Corporate Bodies

Republican Party (U.S. : 1854-)
Whig Party (U.S.)