

1989-002

CHASE, BENJAMIN JR. (1832-1912)
PAPERS, 1821-1895
44 items, 3 Boxes

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE:

Benjamin Chase Sr., son of Benjamin Pike Chase and Anna Blaisdell, was born July 7, 1799 in the part of Chester, NH now known as Auburn. His early formal school was limited but he taught himself trigonometry and astronomy with borrowed books and became proficient enough as a land surveyor to succeed Stephen Chase as surveyor in Chester. He also became a mechanic and millwright who constructed mills in twenty-eight towns in southeastern NH and northeastern Massachusetts introducing improvements in the construction and building one of the earliest circular sawmills. In 1864 he was asked to write a history of Chester which was published in 1869. He was very vocal on the subject of temperance and slavery working hard for the former and against the latter. He married Hannah Hall in 1825. They had several children including Benjamin Jr. Benjamin Sr. died May 5, 1889.

Benjamin Chase Jr. was also born in Chester/Auburn August 18, 1832. His formal schooling was extensive and concurrently learned mechanical skills from his father. In his early teens he went to sea on a trip which took him down the U.S. east coast and to England. On his return he worked with his father and in 1855 became a master mechanic in a textile mill. In 1867 he settled in Derry, NH and manufactured wood specialties for use in textile mills throughout the country. He incorporated the Benjamin Chase Company in 1907 and was its first President. He married Harriet Fuller and they had one daughter. He died in Derry Sept. 17, 1912.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE:

This collection is a series of daily account books kept by Benjamin Chase, millwright and his son Benjamin Chase Jr., manufacturer. The five books kept by the father record his activities from age 23 to 84 in the making of tools, chains, sleds, sleighs, and parts for various mills. There are details of lumber used and labor hired while constructing numerous mills in NH and MA, notably the Amoskeag Manufacturing Co. and the Exeter Water Power Co. There is some information relevant to the publishing of the history of Chester and one manuscript book of genealogical information compiled by Chase.

The account books kept by Benjamin Jr. follow his career as a mechanic and successful manufacturer of wooden parts for textile mills and plant stakes. It is an excellent source for names of mills across the country and nurseries and private gardens from London to California including the Vanderbilt Biltmore estate.

NOTE: Loose items from the pockets of the diaries have been removed to folders in the back of the boxes and labelled in pencil with the number of the book in which they were found.

Series I: Benjamin Chase Sr.

- Box 1, fld 1 Genealogical notes including material from diaries, family papers, interviews, gravestone.
- fld 2 Day book, 1821-34 records surveying, chopping, sawing jobs, coal purchases, work on various mills-Hooksett Manufacturing Co.
- fld 3 Day book, 1834-1843 records work & materials for Underhill, Merrill Co., Ft. Underhill Co., Alanson Tucker and other individuals; notes collection of dues for Antislavery Society and distribution of the Herald of Freedom.
- fld 4 not all in chronological order, earliest date 1822, personal accounts listing of promissory notes, references to Derry bank (1839), fragment of poem.
- fld 5 Daybook, 1853-1868 records of materials and foodstuffs purchased & sold, work done, people hired. not all in chronological order.
- fld 6 Day book 1866-1884 records of hours worked, work done, people hired etc. sales of history of Chester and its costs of printing and other expenses; bill for printing.

SERIES II: BENJAMIN CHASE JR.

- Box 2, fld 1 1854 receipts, expenses, & accounts of work 1854-55
- fld 2 1859-1860 receipts & expenses, receipts for whitewash, paint, glue, work log; newspaper clipping re: promotion of B. Chase Jr.

fld 20 1895 account book, orders only, business
cards for plant stakes

CARDS MADE FOR CATALOG:

Occ-manufacturer	Antislavery
Occ-millwright	Hampstead, NH-church
Mills	Genealogy-Chase
Chester, NH	Gardens
Amoskeag Manufacturing Co.	Account Books
Exeter Water Power Co.	