Chapin Family Letters, 1881-1943
MSA 179

Introduction

This collection consists of letters written by members of the Chapin family of East Calais and North Montpelier, Vermont, between 1881 and 1943. Most of the letters were written by family members to Emma May Chapin (called May) of East Calais between 1927 and 1943.

The letters were found in Howard and Edith Bloom's East Calais house in 1978 and were given to the Aldrich Public Library in Barre. The latter gave them to the Vermont Historical Society in 1979 (ms. acc. no. 79.16) where they occupy .5 linear feet of shelving. The Humphrey and Smith papers (Doc 434) were part of the same gift from the Aldrich Library but there is no apparent connection between the two collections.

Family Information

Walter A. Chapin (March 27, 1874 - January 18, 1925) was born in Calais, the son of Henry A. and Emma Davidson Chapin. His great grandfather, John A. Chapin, born in Belchertown, Massachusetts, in 1790, settled in Calais in 1832.

Walter Chapin married Emma May Wheeler September 17, 1895. Their children were:

Pearl (August 30, 1896 - October 9, 1921) married Glenn Martin in 1914.
Emma (b. 1906)
Dorothy or Dora (b. 1909) married Elmer C. Celley, November 20, 1926.
Anna O. (b. 1917) married Jesse Gibbs and had a daughter, Donna.
Merle W. (b. 1902) married Mildred Quinn, January 16, 1924.
John A. (b. 1904) married Gladys J. Lapan, December 16, 1926.
Bernice E. (b. November 20, 1907).
Bruce (b. November 16, 1915).

Walter's brother, Alvin M. Chapin, married Diana Goodell. They lived in North Montpelier between 1881 and 1895.

The collection includes photocopied obituaries for Walter Chapin and his daughter, Pearl, as well as a handwritten 1943 list of May Chapin's children and their birth years. (Folder 5)

Scope and Content

The majority of the letters in the collection were written to May Chapin between 1927 and 1943 by members of her family, many of whom lived in central Vermont. The letters are chatty and full of family news.

The two oldest letters in the collection (1881 and 1895) are those written to Diane Goodell Chapin in North Montpelier by her sister and one of her children.

Organization

The letters are organized in three series:

I. Diana G. Chapin, Letters to (1881 and 1895)
II. May Chapin, Letters to (1927 - 1943)
III. Chapin family information

Inventory

I. Diana G. Chapin

MSA 179:1	Letters to, 1881 and 1895

II. May Chapin

2	Letters to, 1927 – April 1942
3	_____, June 1942 – 1943
4	Letters from, to Anna Chapin Gibbs, 1942

III. Chapin Family Information

5	Obituaries, etc.

Priscilla Page
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