

Collection ID: WCT003

Collection Name: Bates-Weston-Chapman Collection

Dates: 1790 - 1917

Size: One half- size document box, 0.25 li.ft.

Creator: Bates - Weston - Chapman Family

Biographical / Historical Note: Joshua Bates (1755-1804) was a native of Weymouth. He served five years in the American Revolution and was known as Captain Bates. He married Tizrah Pratt who, after Bates' death married Ebenezer Hunt, also of Weymouth.

Joshua and Tizrah Pratt Bates' eldest child, Ann Nancy Bates (1785-1878), married Warren Weston (1780-1855) in 1805. The Westons had eight children, the eldest being Maria Ann Weston. Mrs. Weston's brother, Joshua Bates (1788-1864) was a banker and financier, first in Boston and then London where he became the senior partner of Baring Brothers and Company. In 1852 he founded the Boston Public Library, giving money and then 30,000 volumes to the organization. Its main hall is named after him. Bates was a noted expatriate supporting the Union cause during the Civil War. He provided financial support to his sister and other family members.

Maria Weston at the age of 19 accompanied her uncle Joshua Bates and his wife, Lucretia Sturgis Bates, to London where she attended Mrs. Elwell's School and, after finishing her studies, served as governess to her uncle and aunt's children, returning to the U.S. in 1828. Her cultural and education credentials landed her a job with the new Young Ladies High School, an experiment in female education associated with the newly established private Boston Academy. She married Henry Grafton Chapman (1804-1842), a Boston merchant and abolitionist, in 1830.

In 1832 Maria Weston Chapman and other women founded the Boston Female Anti-Slavery Society. They raised funds by organizing the annual Boston Anti-Slavery Bazaar, an event she ran from 1835 to 1858. She also edited from 1838 to 1858 the *Liberty Bell*, an annual anti-slavery gift book sold at the Boston Bazaar. Several of her sisters also were active participants in the anti-slavery movement -- Caroline, Anne, Debora, Lucia and Emma.

Weston Chapman became chief assistant to William Lloyd Garrison, helping him to run the Massachusetts Anti-Slavery Society and to edit *The Liberator*, a widely-circulated abolitionist newspaper. She wrote the annual reports of the Boston Female Anti-slavery Society and served on the executive and business committees of the Massachusetts Anti-Slavery, New England Anti-Slavery Society, and American Anti-Slavery Society.

In 1836 she published a collection entitled *Songs of the Free and Hymns of Christian Freedom*. In 1838 she addressed the Anti-Slavery Convention of American Women in Philadelphia's Pennsylvania Hall which a mob destroyed the next day. In 1839 she wrote

Right and Wrong in Massachusetts, a pamphlet about the dissensions among abolitionists, some of which stemmed from their disagreements over women's rights.

In 1848, after her husband's death and anti-abolitionist riots in Boston, she took her children to Europe for their education and social needs. She returned to Boston and Weymouth in 1855. She remained active in American abolitionist efforts and in garnering support and funds from English and European society for the anti-slavery efforts.

In 1877 Weston Chapman edited the autobiography of Harriet Martineau, an old friend and English essayist, novelist, journalist and prominent intellectual who promoted the abolition movement. She appended a lengthy memoir to the posthumous book.

John Jay Chapman (1862-1933), Weston Chapman's grandson, became a noted author of his day for fiction, non-fiction, translations, and essays.

Ann Greene Chapman (1837-1877), a daughter of Maria Weston and Henry Grafton Chapman, spent much of her life in Europe and married Edward James Steven Dicey, an English journalist.

Sources:

A Memorial of Joshua Bates, Boston City Council, Boston Public Library, 1865 available on Google Books.

Lee V. Chambers, *The Weston Sisters: An American Abolitionist Family*, Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press, 2015

Encyclopaedia Britannica for Martineau ; also Wikipedia entries for Bates and Chapman.

Scope and Contents: This small artificial collection is divided into three series: Correspondence and Writings; Ephemera; and Photographs.

Series I. Correspondence and Writings, 1790-1917 (bulk 1825 - 1848), 12 items. The contents are in chronological order. Broadside and newspaper are stored separately. The very limited correspondence is Bates family. Some information about the anti-slavery movement can be found in the following:

- lines written in memory of Charles B. Storrs by John Greenleaf Whittier and published in *The Liberator*, 1833. Manuscript transcription of the Whittier verses may be by Maria Weston Chapman
- recipes from 1840 "probably" contributed to an Anti-slavery Fair
- the 1842 *Ten Years of Experience* (cover title) a 46 page book by Maria Weston Chapman. The title page is *Ninth Annual Report of the Boston Female Anti-Slavery Society presented October 12, 1842*
- two broadside prints of Chapman's 1842 temperance poem "Drink of this Cup"
- a copy of *The Liberator* newspaper for July 3, 1846

Series II. Ephemera, 1840, 1880, 4 items. One is a c. 1840 admittance card to a Massachusetts Anti-slavery Society event; another Tufts Library application cards for

Weston family members. Two broadsides of unknown origin have also been placed here. They are *Hymns and Songs for the Anti-Slavery Celebration of the Declaration of Independence at Abington*, 1850. Later such events at Abington were sponsored by the Massachusetts Anti-Slavery Society; and *Order of Services at the First Anniversary of the Kidnaping of Thomas Sims*, 1852. Rev. Theodore Parker was among the participants at this service.

Series III. Photographs, c. 1835, 1885, 2 photographs and 1 plaster plaque. The photograph of Maria Weston Chapman is a modern copy print of a frequently published photograph of her in a bonnet with flowers. The Library does not have the original. The familial relationship of the other photograph has not been determined. The c. 1900 plaque is of Maria Weston Chapman and is based upon a sculpture of her by Charles-Auguste Lebourg in 1855.

Conditions governing access: Open to researchers.

Language: English

Source: Unknown

Subjects:

Bates, Joshua (1755-1804)

Bates, Joshua (1788-1864)

Bates, Lebbeus (1760-1844)

Chapman, Ann Greene (1837-1877)

Chapman, John Jay (1862-1933)

Chapman, Maria Weston (1806-1885)

Location: Tufts Library, Weymouth, MA

Related Archival Materials:

See WCT001 Fifield Family Collection for additional correspondence with Weston family members and other materials relating to anti-slavery movement.

See WCT004 Liberty Bell Collection for additional writings by Weston sisters.

See WCT006 Fifield Anti-slavery Book Collection for copy of Martineau autobiography.

See WCT014 Newspaper Collection for additional copies of *The Liberator* owned by Tufts, Fifield, and Cowing families.

Preparer: C.G. Swank, March 2016

Container List

Box	Folder	Title / Description	Dates	Notes
Correspondence & Writings				
1	1	Letter to Capt. Joshua Bates (1755-1804) Weymouth from Lebbeus Bates (1760-1844), Cumington MA (brother)	1790 Jan 19	Death of brother John. Note: This Joshua Bates is the father of the financier Joshua Bates.
1	2	Letter to Capt. Joshua Bates, Weymouth from Lebbeus Bates, Cumington MA. Note: encapsulated; fragile	1792 Mar 30	Responses to Joshua re seeking horse/horses
1	3	Receipt signed by financier Joshua Bates (1788-1864), London to J. Howard March and Co., Madeira, a mercantile firm	1825 Oct 13	
1	4	Lines by John Greenleaf Whittier to the memory of Charles B. Storrs published in <i>The Liberator</i>	1833 Nov	Manuscript copy possibly written by Maria Weston Chapman
1	5	Paper wrapper, three folded sheets, manuscript. Cover entitled <i>Weymouth Recipes in 1840 contributed (probably) to an Anti-Slavery Fair</i>	1840	Contains home remedies and recipes. Conserved by NEDCC in 2015
1	6	<i>Ten Years of Experience</i> (cover title). 46 pg. book by Maria Weston Chapman. Title page <i>Ninth Annual Report of the Boston Female Anti-Slavery Society presented October 12, 1842</i> . Boston: Oliver Johnson, Court-Street.	1842	Inscribed Miss Converse with the regards of M.W. Chapman. Also Chapman's signature on title page. Cataloged in 1896 as W.C. 090. Cover has lettering and Liberty Bell image in gold.
3	1	"Drink of this Cup" - poem by Maria Weston Chapman [2 copies]. See box 3, folder 1 (14 x 18 gray drop front box)	1842	Dedicated to Samuel F. Holbrook, 1st President of the Boston - Washington Total Abstinence Society, appeared in <i>Cold Water Melodies and Washington Songster</i> (Boston: Theodore Abbot) Conserved by NEDCC in 2015
		Issue of <i>The Liberator</i> in WCT015 Newspaper Collection, Box 1, folder 8.	1846 Jul 3	Vol XVI., No 27. Maria Chapman name written in ink at top. Left hand

Box	Folder	Title / Description	Dates	Notes
				column of last page has been cut out. Another article marked w/ blue lines. Samuel J. May
1	7a	National Anti-Slavery Bazaar Gazette, Vol. I, No. II. Note: Conserved by NEDCC in 2015.	1846	Folded sheet of four pages. Maria Chapman Weston listed first in list of Committee of the Thirteenth National Anti-Slavery Bazaar.
1	7b	Poem (no title) by Anne Greene Chapman	1848	
1	7c	Poem entitled <i>Alphabet of Slavery</i> , Leeds, England. J. Kershaw and Son. Printers. Children's anti-slavery poem. Conserved in 2105 by NEDCC.	1856	There is no indication that owned by Weston family but several sisters were teachers.
1	8	Letter from Joshua Bates, London to William B. Rogers, Boston	1862 Oct 18	Bates contributing to Boston Society of Natural History a cast of a megatherium fossil; reference to Civil War
1	9	Biography of Joshua Bates, reprint of Weymouth Gazette article of 17 Nov 1893	1893	
1	10	<i>Ode on the Sailing of Our Troops for France</i> by John Jay Chapman (reprints from The North American Review for Nov 1917)	1917	Inscribed "Mrs. King with kind regards from John Jay Chapman". Chapman was grandson of Maria Weston Chapman.
Ephemera				
1	11	Admittance ticket to Massachusetts Anti-slavery Society event	c. 1840	Annotated on reverse "Mrs. Chapman sold these tickets"
3	2	<i>Hymns and Songs for the Anti-Slavery Celebration of the Declaration of Independence at Abington</i> . Conserved by NEDCC in 2015. See Box 3, folder 2 (DFB)	1850	July 4 event which may have been sponsored by the Massachusetts Anti-Slavery Society. No indication that owned by Weston family.
3	3	<i>Order of Services at the First Anniversary of the Kidnaping of Thomas Sims</i> . Participants were Re. T.W. Higginson, Re. Daniel Foster,	1852	April 12 service. Notable fugitive slave case. No indication that owned by Weston family.

Box	Folder	Title / Description	Dates	Notes
		Rev. Theodore Parker, Rev. William Croswell. Prentiss & Sawyer, Printers, Boston. Conserved in 2015 by NEDCC. <i>See Box 3, folder 3 DFB)</i>		
1	12	Tufts Library card applications by Weston family members -- D., Caroline, Emma, Louise P. Frary, [Rev.] Lucien H. Frary	c. 1880	Relationship of Westons to Frary not known; may have been considered a notable, and worth keeping application
Images				
1	13	Copy print of photo of Maria Weston Chapman (1806-1885)	c. 1835	
1	14	Photo on board of Residence of Stephen G. Earl Kalamazoo, Mich.	1885	On reverse: "Mrs. Bates Xmas 1885" Photo depicts house w/ man and woman near front walk and an older women sitting on porch. Horse and carriage parked on road. No relationship determined; not Joshua Bates' widow.
2		Plaster plaque of Maria Weston Chapman (head only) based on sculpture by Charles-Auguste Lebourg, 1855. Plaster cast by PP Caproni and Brother, Boston, c. 1900. 8 1/4 inch diameter. Beige drop front box 12 x 15.	1855 / 1900	If 1855 date is correct, a very early work by Lebourg.