

William D. Chamberlain Collection

Adams County Historical Society

Accession No: 8477

Home Location: Room 203, Rack 2, Shelf E

PREFACE

The Adams County Historical Society was established to “foster interest in the history of Adams County and vicinity, conduct research, preserve records and objects, mark sites, and pursue such activities as may be related to the history of the community.” The Society’s collections are privately held, maintained, and made available to the public for research purposes at the discretion of the governing authority of the institution and its staff.

INTRODUCTION

The William D. Chamberlain Collection was acquired by the Adams County Historical Society in September 1997 from Glenn Sitterly. The collection was processed by Chris Carter, June 2013. The collection is housed in one box.

This collection contains William and Ruth Chamberlain’s papers. Some of William’s correspondence dates to his service in the Union army and contains accounts of the war and camp life. Other papers offer research possibilities into education from the 1860’s to 1892 and how teachers acquired their certification in the late 1860’s and early 1870’s.

ACCESS

This collection is open for research, and viewing access to the materials is unrestricted. However, restrictions apply concerning the use, duplication, or publication of items. Please consult research room staff for specific information regarding the Society’s policies.

PREFERRED CITATION

William D. Chamberlain Collection, Adams County Historical Society, Gettysburg, PA.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

William Chamberlain (1842-1881), a teacher, served in Co. K of the 87th Pennsylvania Infantry, mustered into service in March 1865 and mustered out June 1865. He married Margaret A. Carpenter (1845-1880), another teacher, in 1869.

Ruth A. Chamberlain (1870-1942), was the daughter of William and Margaret Chamberlain, was an editor for a newspaper in New York.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection is comprised of one series: Correspondence, dating from 1861-1895. Researchers will find letters discussing the Civil War and education in the 1860's to 1892.

SERIES DESCRIPTIONS

Series I –Correspondence.

This series covers the span of the collection of William, Maggie, and Ruth's papers from 1861-1895. The series is composed of their correspondence with each other and other individuals, with some of William's correspondence discussing his service in the Union army and other aspects of the Civil War. It also incorporates papers concerning Maggie's education as a teacher. Other papers included in the series are poems, essays, and dialogues written by William and Ruth.

CONTAINER LISTING

Box #1

- 1-1 Photocopies of: 10 of William Chamberlain correspondence, 1861-1865, 1869, with most to Maggie. Maggie Carpenter's school work, 1863. "Maryland, Fair Maryland," copied by Will from Adams Sentinel, December 30, 1862. A poem: "The Holidays," by Will, Christmas 1865. Entry from Maggie's diary, April 1865. 2 letters from N. L. Biesecker to different unknown recipients, February 8, 1891 and April 28, 1895. One letter, Aunt Lizzie to unknown recipient, unknown date.
- 1-2 8 letters of Will's correspondence, 1864, 1866, 1868, 1869, with most to Maggie, and one to JMC of Ann Arbor, Michigan, December 31, 1866. 2 letters to Maggie from unknown authors, 1863, 1867. 2 letters from unknown authors, December 8, 1863 and unknown date. Note by Samuel Godfrey, pastor, stating that Will was an acceptable member of his church, December 13, 1864. 2 of Maggie's report cards. Provisional teaching certificate for Maggie, September 12, 1863. Example of Will's penmanship submitted for examination. Teacher's Professional Certificate for Maggie, October 9, 1871.
- 1-3 8 letters from Jere W. Sterner to Will and Maggie, 1874, 1876, 1877. 4 letters, Will to Maggie, 1869, 1877. Letter, Will's mother to Will, October 16, 1873. Letter, J. H. Black to Hon. J. Tyson, unknown date.
- 1-4 4 letters of Will's correspondence, March-April 1880, to and from Maggie, and to and from J Cheston. Letter, Ruth to cousin, March 10, 1882. 14 letters to Ruth, 1885, 1888, 1890-1893, from Aunt Lizzie, Clifford, and others. Letter, unknown to Keith, November 28, 1884. Letter, unknown sender or recipient, November 30, 1893.

- 1-5 34 letters to Ruth Chamberlain, from Aunt Lizzie, Aunt Mollie, Ira Biesecher, Mattie Biesecher, Flora, Bertha, Maggie, Aunt Kate, and unknown, 1894-1895.
- 1-6 12 letters not dated or fragmented, some addressed to Will or Ruth.
- 1-7 Dialogue, "The Turned Head." Essay, "Spring" by Will. Dialogue, "The Quaker and the Robber." Essay, "On the Importance of a Well Spent Youth" by Will. Fragment of essay, "The influence of Education upon society." Dialogue, untitled. Granger song, by AED, Poplar Ridge, Ohio. Essay, "The Importance of Good Order in the School Room" by Will.
- 1-8 3 poems by Ruth (Carpenter) Chamberlain, March 21, 1888, 2 others undated.
- 1-9 Chemistry laboratory notes in notebook of Ruth Chamberlain, Dickinson Seminary, 1892.
- 1-10 Ruth Chamberlain's miscellaneous papers and envelopes.