

Lincoln Public Library

Bedford Road,
Lincoln, Massachusetts

Archives/Special Collections

Flint-Chapin family collection II

2023.001

Processed by Matthew Lawrence
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Collection Information

Abstract : Records relating to the Flint and Chapin families, largely consisting of personal papers but also including records related to the Town of Lincoln and the First Parish of Lincoln. Some state government documents owned by James L. Chapin are also included in this collection, which is an accrual to an older collection of records belonging to the Flint and Chapin families.

Finding Aid : Finding Aid in print form is available in the Repository

Preferred Citation : Lincoln Town Archives, Lincoln, Massachusetts.

Provenance :

Materials were collected from the Bertha Chapin Home and the research of Margaret S. Flint. They were given to the library in 2016 by Flint Realty Trust, to whom Bertha Chapin left her home, and Margaret M. Weir. Prior to the family's donation of these items to Lincoln Town Archives (LTA) in 2016, they had been haphazardly stored in an attic and basement on the family homestead. They came to the LTA in poor condition. After an initial basic remediation, completed in-house at the time of donation, the collection was set aside for future processing.

Note: In-Library Use Only.

MARC Access: Collection is catalogued in MARC under the following subject headings (lcsb, aat, gmGPC, etc.)

- Lincoln (Mass.)
- Lincoln (Mass.) -- History.
- Lincoln (Mass.) -- Politics and government.
- Historic buildings -- Massachusetts -- Lincoln (Town).
- Chapin family.
- Chapin, James Lorin, 1824-1902.
- Flint family.
- Flint, Warren, 1911-2001.
- Flint, Margaret, 1913-2007.
- Langton, Jane, 1922-2018.
- DeCordova, Julian, 1851-1945.
- Daguerreotypes.
- Ambrotypes.
- Photograph collections -- Massachusetts -- Lincoln (Town).
- Maps -- Massachusetts -- Lincoln.
- Lincoln (Mass.) -- Social life and customs -- 19th century.
- Lincoln (Mass.) -- Buildings, structures, etc.
- Letters (Correspondence) -- Massachusetts -- Lincoln.
- First Parish in Lincoln (Lincoln, Mass.)

First Church in Lincoln (Congregational) (Lincoln, Mass.)

Historical/Biographical Notes

The Chapin Family

The Chapin Family began their history in Lincoln with brothers, Henry and James Lorin Chapin. The Chapin brothers, originally from Sturbridge, Massachusetts, became prominent Lincoln citizens. James Lorin Chapin (b. 1824 – d. 1902) was the sixth of 10 children.

James L. Chapin attended the Munson Academy and spent his winters teaching. At age 23, James L. Chapin married Emily (Emilie) F. Smith, daughter of Cyrus and Tryphena Smith, at the First Parish Church in Lincoln on 4 April 1848. James moved into his in-laws' home in North Lincoln and worked as a farmer. He began writing a journal of his activities and observations shortly after his move to Lincoln. James also hired speakers for the Lincoln Lyceum and, in his diary, recorded his conversations and thoughts on Henry David Thoreau as a speaker.

James and Emily had five children: Carrie Brooks (b. 15 Oct 1849), Martha Smith (b. 28 March 1855 – d. 7 May 1855 of lung fever), Cyrus Smith (b. 17 June 1856), Emma Francis (b. 26 Feb 1858 – d. 24 Jan 1870 of typhoid fever), and George Lorin (b. 12 Jan 1860).

In 1856, Henry C. Chapin moved to Lincoln from Sturbridge with his wife, Lydia. They acquired the home of Lincoln's previous doctor, George Russell, and Henry subsequently filled Dr. Russell's position as Lincoln's physician.

Both brothers were actively involved in Lincoln civic life. Henry was elected Selectman in 1848 and was Town Clerk until he died in 1878. James served as Selectman for sixteen years, from 1852 to 1875, and succeeded Henry as Town Clerk until his death in 1902. James' son George became the next Town Clerk.

In 1858, James L. Chapin bought the home of wheelwright, Pliny Newhall. After adding another large building to the property, James established this as Lincoln's first grocery store. In one section of the building he also established a Post Office and was appointed Lincoln Postmaster by President Buchanan.

Three of James Lorin Chapin's children remained in Lincoln. Carrie Chapin was unmarried and became Lincoln's elementary school teacher. George Lorin Chapin continued to run the family store. He married Clara Flint and had four children: Louise, Bertha, Arthur, and Marian (who died young). The Chapin family built a house at 5 Sandy Pond Road, and Carrie, who taught in the schoolhouse next door, continued to live in this home. Cyrus married and moved to Newton, Mass.

Louise, Bertha, and Arthur were close with their cousins, George, Edward, and Warren Flint, who also lived in Lincoln.

In 1890, the Classic Revival wooden Town Hall was replaced by Bemis Hall as the new town hall. The Old Town Hall building was then sold to George Lorin Chapin, moved down the hill to Chapin property, and became the Chapin Grocery Store. Several years before his death in 1918, George hired Rollins Bros. to run the store. After he died, Charles Sumner Smith purchased the store and moved it to land he owned opposite the Center School (presently the Lincoln Town Offices). Later, the building was bought by the Old Town Hall Corporation.

The remaining Chapin family member, Bertha, left her Sandy Pond Road property to the Flint Realty Trust (Warren and Margaret Flint, Sr.). They removed the contents of the home prior to renting out the property. In the loft of the garage, they found boxes of old town papers. Many of these papers are in this collection and demonstrate the Chapins' involvement with the town of Lincoln.

Source:

2010.001 Flint-Chapin Collection Finding Aid. Lincoln Town Archives.

The Flint Family

Ephraim Flint (1714-1762) was a founder of the town of Lincoln. He lived in a family home built by his great-uncle, also named Ephraim. The Flints have been a prominent Lincoln family for centuries, and the Flint Homestead was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2003.

Ephraim Flint (1782-1871) had seven children including George Flint (1830-1914) and Susan (Flint) Shedd, whose letters are part of this collection. George married Caroline Amelia Rice (1834-1890) and had five children including Clara Louise (Flint) Chapin (1867-1956) and George Henry Flint (1865-1914). Caroline Rice's older sister Mary Susan Rice (1821-1905) was a missionary and beginning in 1847 spent 22 years in Persia before returning to live with her sister and brother-in-law at the Flint Homestead in Lincoln. George Flint's youngest sibling, Ephraim Bemis Flint (1874-1947) was the father of four children: Edward Whitney Flint (1902-1975), Helen Flint (1905-1905), George Bemis Flint (1906-1986), and Warren Fiske Flint Sr (1911-2001). Warren Flint Sr. married Margaret Steeves MacRae (1913-2007) and they had several children: Ephraim B. Flint, Warren Fiske Flint Jr. (1946-2011) and Margaret M. (Flint) Weir.

Sources:

<https://www.wickedlocal.com/story/concord-journal/2015/10/16/reflecting-on-300-years-family/33250428007/>

<https://lincolnsquirrel.com/2021/12/archivist-family-members-unwrap-a-historic-quilt/>

Jane Langton

Jane (Gillson) Langton (1922-2018) was an American author of children's literature and mystery novels. Langton was born on December 30, 1922 in Boston, Massachusetts, and made the Boston suburb of Lincoln a long-time home. Continually inspired by the environment in which she lives, Langton often incorporated the history, literary tradition, and landscapes of the neighboring town of Concord, Massachusetts in her novels. Langton studied at Wellesley College and completed her Bachelor's degree in Astronomy at the University of Michigan in 1944. In 1945, she completed her Master's degree in Art History from the University of Michigan and earned another M.A. from Radcliffe College in 1948. She continued graduate studies at the Boston Museum School of Art in 1958-1959.

Langton wrote, illustrated, and published numerous books and novels in the Picture Book, Children's Literature, and Mystery genres. Among her works include two series of novels: a children's fantasy series about the Hall Family of Concord, Massachusetts (1962-2008), and a murder mystery series known as the Homer Kelly novels (1964-2005). Langton was recognized for her accomplishments in writing. In 1962 she was nominated for the Mystery Writers of America Edgar Award for *The Diamond in the Window*. In 1980 she received a Newbery Honor Book Award for her book, *The Fledgling*. She went on to receive the Nero Wolfe Award (1984) and another Edgar Award nomination (1985) for her mystery novel, *Emily Dickinson Is Dead*. In addition to being a writer and illustrator, Langton taught at the Graduate Center for the Study of Children's Literature, Simmons College (1979-80) and the Eastern Writers' Conference, Salem State College. She died on December 22, 2018, eight days before her 96th birthday.

Sources:

Wosnock, Marie. "Fonds 2006.002 - Jane Langton Papers." Lincoln Town Archives.
<https://www.lincolnpl.org/Documents/Langton%20Papers%20Information%20Scope%20Abstract.pdf>

Seelye, Katharine Q. "Jane Langton, Author of New England Mysteries, Is Dead at 95". *The New York Times*. December 26, 2018. <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/12/26/obituaries/jane-langton-dead.html>

Scope and Content

This collection includes letters, personal papers, bound publications, photographs, newspaper clippings and ephemera, as well as a small number of cassette tapes and other audiovisual materials, and a few items of winter clothing (socks, mittens, a hat) representing the family history, social life and customs, business, property, religious life, and interests of several generations of the Flint and Chapin families.

The collection includes materials related to members of the Flint and Chapin families of Lincoln, Massachusetts, in particular James L. Chapin (b. 1824 – d. 1902), his daughter-in-law Clara Flint Chapin (1867-1956), and Clara's daughter Bertha L. Chapin (1902-1990), the last owner of the Chapin family homestead before it was given to Flint Realty Trust. Other significant holdings include papers of Warren Fiske Flint Sr. (1911-2001) and his wife Margaret Steeves Flint (1913-2007). Other materials include research into James L. Chapin that was conducted by historian Jane Langdon in the 2000s for *Strong Hands and a Willing Heart*, an edited and annotated online publication of James L. Chapin's diary entries that was published by Lincoln Historical Society in 2013.

These materials were donated gradually over the course of several years by Flint Realty Trust (Margaret S. Flint).

The collection is arranged by series. Series 9 (Oversized Items) is located in Drawer 4 of Flat File 2, represented in the finding aid as Box 22. Series 9 encompasses a small number of items tied to the Flint and Chapin families and the Town of Lincoln.

Series Descriptions

Series 1: Chapin and Flint family papers, 1776-2002 [bulk 1857-2002]

Sub-series:

- James L. Chapin
- Chapin Family
- Flint Family
- Other Family

Series 2: Jane Langton papers, 2007-2012

Series 3: Miscellaneous Photographs, 1915 and undated.

Sub-series:

- Photographs
- Cased photographs (Daguerreotypes & Ambrotypes)
- Glass plate negatives
- Negatives

Series 4: Lincoln town history, 1757-2007 [bulk 1884-2007]

Sub-Series:

- Town of Lincoln records
- First Parish of Lincoln (FPL) records

Series 5: News clippings, 1890-2000

Series 6: Bound materials, 1840-1907 and undated

Sub-Series:

- Bibles
- Publications with unknown owners

Series 7: Audiovisual materials, undated [c. 1960-1980]

Series 8: Objects and ephemera, undated

Series 9: Oversized items

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Series 1, Family Papers

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Identification #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	1	2023.001.1.1	Personal correspondence of James L. Chapin, 1859-1871
1	2	2023.001.1.1	James L. Chapin's papers about his work with Overseers of the Poor, 1858-1873
1	3	2023.001.1.1	Reports about Hoosac tunnel consolidation, 1873
1	4	2023.001.1.1	Reports about Hoosac tunnel consolidation, 1873
1	5	2023.001.1.1	Reports about Hoosac tunnel consolidation, 1873
1	6	2023.001.1.1	Volumes related to the Greenfield / Troy railroads and Hoosac Tunnel, 1864

1	7	2023.001.1.1	Miscellaneous railroad reports, 1860-1869
1	8	2023.001.1.1	Map of Boston and Maine Railroads, no date
1	9	2023.001.1.1	Speech by Charles Train about states rights, 1862
1	10	2023.001.1.1	Speeches of Charles Sumner, 1861-1866
1	11	2023.001.1.1	Town of Concord annual reports, 1868-1871
1	12	2023.001.1.1	Two volumes of medical journals (1863-1879)
2	1	2023.001.1.2	Bound volumes of resolutions from the Massachusetts House of Representatives, 1865
2	2	2023.001.1.2	The Agriculturist magazine, 1857
3	1	2023.001.1.3	Papers belonging to Bertha Chapin, undated
3	2	2023.001.1.3	One letter and one postcard belonging to Carrie Chapin, 1893-1942
3	3	2023.001.1.3	Papers belonging to Clara Flint-Chapin, 1945 and undated (see also Box 7)
3	4	2023.001.1.3	School work belonging to Emma Chapin, undated
3	5	2023.001.1.3	Papers belonging to George Chapin, 1927-1941
3	6	2023.001.1.3	Papers belonging to Emily Chapin, 1871
3	7	2023.001.1.3	Folk dancing scrapbook belonging to Louise Chapin, c. 1902
3	8	2023.001.1.3	Booklet about folk dancing school where Louise Chapin taught, c. 1902
3	9	2023.001.1.3	School exercise book belonging to Marion Chapin, undated
3	10	2023.001.1.3	Handwritten and typed notes belonging to Edward Whitney Flint, 1947-1971
3	11	2023.001.1.3	Papers belonging to Ephraim Flint, 1947-1954
3	12	2023.001.1.3	<i>People of Different Nations</i> , an 1834 children's book owned by Margaret S. Flint
3	13	2023.001.1.3	Planning report for Town of Lincoln and song about Flint Fields, 1958-1968 and undated
4	1	2023.001.1.4	Papers including photocopies of records related to Flint Family and Town of Lincoln, 1989-2002
4	2	2023.001.1.4	One issue of New England quarterly, 1895

4	3	2023.001.1.4	Warren F. Flint Sr. papers, 1958-1967
4	4	2023.001.1.4	Warren F. Flint Sr. papers, 1970-1979
4	5	2023.001.1.4	Warren F. Flint Sr. papers, 1980-1989
4	6	2023.001.1.4	Warren F. Flint Sr. papers, 1990-1999
4	7	2023.001.1.4	Warren F. Flint Sr. papers, undated
4	8	2023.001.1.4	Warren F. Flint Sr. papers about "Lincoln Church", 1971 and undated
4	9	2023.001.1.4	Warren F. Flint Sr. papers about gravestones, 1965-1982 and undated
4	10	2023.001.1.4	Warren F. Flint Sr. papers related to Julian De Cordova and the De Cordova Museum, 1900-2000
4	11	2023.001.1.4	Warren F. Flint Jr., handwritten and typed notes, 1997
4	12	2023.001.1.4	Letters to George Flint from his sister Susan (Flint) Shedd, 1897-1899
5	1	2023.001.1.5	Mary Susan Rice papers, correspondence and note cards, 1887-1903, with undated map of the Moslem (Muslim) world
5	2	2023.001.1.5	Edgerly family papers, postcards, holiday cards, receipt, letter, "Lucy Lebocage" stationery, 1920-1939
5	3	2023.001.1.5	Susan Flint Shedd letters from her brother George Flint, 1896-1906
5	4	2023.001.1.5	Miscellaneous family papers: correspondence, deeds, photocopied cartoon, books about members of the Brooks family, etc. , undated
5	5	2023.001.1.5	Letters with unknown or unclear recipients, c. 1872
6	1	2023.001.1.6	Facsimiles of two regiment lists including Ephraim Flint, 1776
7	1	2023.001.1.7	Clara F Chapin's scrapbook, 1879-1889

Series 2, Jane Langton Papers

8	1	2023.001.2.8	James L. Chapin diary with Jane Langton's notes (1 of 2), c. 2007
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8	2	2023.001.2.8	James L. Chapin diary with Jane Langton's notes (2 of 2), c. 2007
8	3	2023.001.2.8	James L. Chapin diary with Jane Langton's notes, c. 2007
8	4	2023.001.2.8	James L. Chapin diary with Jane Langton's notes (1 of 2), c. 2007
8	5	2023.001.2.8	James L. Chapin diary with Jane Langton's notes, c. 2007
8	6	2023.001.2.8	Papers related to Chapin diary (1 of 2), c. 2007
8	7	2023.001.2.8	Papers related to Chapin diary (2 of 2) , c. 2007
8	8	2023.001.2.8	Papers from disassembled binder of research for Strong Hands and a Willing Heart (1 of 2), 2007
8	9	2023.001.2.8	Papers from disassembled binder of research for Strong Hands and a Willing Heart (2 of 2), 2007
9	1	2023.001.2.9	Papers from disassembled binder of research for Strong Hands and a Willing Heart, c. 2008
9	2	2023.001.2.9	Papers from disassembled binder of research for Strong Hands and a Willing Heart, c. 2008
9	3	2023.001.2.9	Draft of Strong Hands and a Willing Heart with handwritten notes and related correspondence (1 of 2), 2008
9	4	2023.001.2.9	Draft of Strong Hands and a Willing Heart with handwritten notes and related correspondence (2 of 2), 2008
9	5	2023.001.2.9	Draft of Strong Hands and a Willing Heart with handwritten notes and related correspondence (2 of 2), c. 2008
9	6	2023.001.2.9	Draft of Strong Hands and a Willing Heart with handwritten notes and related correspondence, c. 2008
9	7	2023.001.2.9	Draft of Strong Hands and a Willing Heart with handwritten notes and related correspondence, 2008-2010
9	8	2023.001.2.9	Draft of Strong Hands and a Willing Heart with handwritten notes and related correspondence (1 of 2), 2008-2009
9	9	2023.001.2.9	Draft of Strong Hands and a Willing Heart with handwritten notes and related correspondence (2 of 2), 2008-2009

10	1	2023.001.2.10	Draft of Strong Hands and a Willing Heart with handwritten notes and related correspondence, 2008-2009
10	2	2023.001.2.10	Draft of Strong Hands and a Willing Heart with handwritten notes and related correspondence, 2008-2010
10	3	2023.001.2.10	Draft of Strong Hands and a Willing Heart with handwritten notes and related correspondence, c. 2010
10	4	2023.001.2.10	Draft of Strong Hands and a Willing Heart with handwritten notes and related correspondence, c. 2010
10	5	2023.001.2.10	Drafts and correspondence related to the bibliography of Strong Hands and a Willing Heart, 2010
10	6	2023.001.2.10	Drafts and correspondence related to the bibliography of Strong Hands and a Willing Heart, 2012
10	7	2023.001.2.10	Drafts and correspondence related to the bibliography of Strong Hands and a Willing Heart, 2012
10	8	2023.001.2.10	CD with audio lecture given by Langton at Lincoln Public Library on 11/8/2008

Series 3, Miscellaneous Photographs

11	1	2023.001.3.11	Labeled photographs (3), undated
11	2	2023.001.3.11	Photographs of Edgerly family, undated
11	3	2023.001.3.11	Damaged (split) photo of unknown house, undated
11	4	2023.001.3.11	Photographs (unknown children), undated
11	5	2023.001.3.11	Photographs (unknown), 1915 and undated
11	6	2023.001.3.11	Photographs (unknown), undated
11	7	2023.001.3.11	Photographs (unknown), undated
11	8	2023.001.3.11	Photographs (unknown), undated
11	9	2023.001.3.11	Photographs (unknown), undated
11	10	2023.001.3.11	Three glass negatives, undated

11	11	2023.001.3.11	Two glass negatives with paperwork that may or may not relate to it, undated
11	12	2023.001.3.11	Negatives in sleeves, undated
12	1	2023.001.3.12	Three cased photos, one possibly of James Rice and two of unknown people, undated
12	2	2023.001.3.12	Three cased photos of unknown individuals, undated
12	3	2023.001.3.12	Three cased photos of unknown individuals, undated
12	4	2023.001.3.12	Three cased photos of unknown individuals, undated
12	5	2023.001.3.12	Three cased photos of unknown individuals, undated
12	6	2023.001.3.12	Three cased photos of unknown individuals, undated
12	7	2023.001.3.12	Three cased photos of unknown individuals, undated
13	1	2023.001.3.12	11' x 14" photograph of Pierce House, Lincoln, 1971
13	2	2023.001.3.12	9" x 11" framed photo of farmhouse, undated

Series 4, Lincoln Town History and Records

14	1	2023.001.4.14	Facsimiles of founding documents of the Town of Lincoln, 1757
14	2	2023.001.4.14	Proceedings of the dedication of the library, 1884
14	3	2023.001.4.14	Instructions to Voters (signs), 1891
14	4	2023.001.4.14	History of Lincoln town clerks, 1968
14	6	2023.001.4.14	Misc. papers related to Town of Lincoln history, 2007 and undated
14	7	2023.001.4.14	Pamphlets about Patriot's Day and a guide to Lincoln town government, 1954-2007
14	8	2023.001.4.14	Map of Lincoln, undated
14	9	2023.001.4.14	First Parish in Lincoln church programs and

			files related to the church, including George Chapin's copy of the pamphlet "150 Years of the First Church in Lincoln", 1899-2001
15	1	2023.001.4.15	Framed list of town settlers

Series 5, News Clippings

16	1	2023.001.5.16	News clippings specific to the Flint Family, 1890-2000
16	2	2023.001.5.16	News clippings specific to the Town of Lincoln, 1958-2000 and undated
16	3	2023.001.5.16	News clippings - miscellaneous, 1946-1996
16	4	2023.001.5.16	News clippings - miscellaneous, 1923-1944 and undated

Series 6, Bound Materials

17	1	2023.001.6.17	New testament, 1874
17	2	2023.001.6.17	New testament, 1874
17	3	2023.001.6.17	Bible, 1889
17	4	2023.001.6.17	Bible possibly belonging to Clara Chapin, 1889
17	5	2023.001.6.17	New testament, 1904
17	6	2023.001.6.17	New testament, undated
17	7	2023.001.6.17	New testament, undated
18	1	2023.001.6.18	Roycroft Press Publications, 1899-1904
18	2	2023.001.6.18	Roycroft Press Publications, 1905-1906
18	3	2023.001.6.18	Roycroft Press Publications, 1907
18	4	2023.001.6.18	Music from World Peace Jubilee, 1872
18	5	2023.001.6.18	Guide to the White Mountains, 1896
18	6	2023.001.6.18	1840 physiology guide with no cover

Series 7, Audiovisual Materials

19	1	2023.001.7.19	Reel of unmarked tape in a box, undated
19	2	2023.001.7.19	Audio reels, undated
19	3	2023.001.7.19	2 audio cassette tapes with cases, c. 1970
19	4	2023.001.7.19	4 uncased audio cassette tapes, c. 1970

Series 8, Ephemera

20	1	2023.001.8.20	Socks, unknown origin, undated
20	2	2023.001.8.20	Knit hat, unknown origin, undated
20	3	2023.001.8.20	Sterling silver frame, unknown origin, undated
20	4	2023.001.8.20	Gorham Manufacturing Co. pencil case with pencil, unknown origin, undated
20	5	2023.001.8.20	Letter opener, possibly also made by Gorham Manufacturing Co., undated
20	6	2023.001.8.20	Box of Superfine brand mourning pins, undated
21	1	2023.001.8.21	Mittens, unknown origin, undated

Series 9, Oversized Items

22	1	2023.001.9.22	Architectural drawings of First Parish Church, 1952
22	2	2023.001.9.22	Beer's Maps of Lincoln, South Lincoln and Sudbury, 1875; aerial view, undated; Fourth of July poster, 1998;
22	3	2023.001.9.22	Flint family records: rolled facsimiles of regiment lists, 1776; Warren F. Flint citation from the State Senate of Massachusetts, 2000
22	4	2023.001.9.22	James L. Chapin records: mathematical workbook and survey book, undated
22	5	2023.001.9.22	Clippings: Christian Science Monitor clipping

			of Hartwell House, Lincoln, undated
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