



Chamberlain family papers, 1851-1910
SCHS 1131.00
Container 11/507

Creator: Chamberlain family.

Description: 138 items.

Biographical/historical note: In 1851 Joseph Chamberlain arrived in Charleston, S.C. from England accompanied by his brother, William, and sister, Amelia. His wife, Eliza, and children remained behind until the money could be saved for their passage. In 1853, Eliza and the children made the journey to Charleston. After twelve changes of residence the family purchased 30 Anson Street in 1888. The family were members of the Cumberland Street (Methodist) Church in Charleston until 1861 when that church was destroyed by fire. They then joined Trinity Methodist Church. Through marriage the Chamberlain family became associated with the Speissegger and Masterman families.

Scope and content: The collection consists mainly of letters exchanged between the Joseph Chamberlain and Eliza, his wife, during their separation. The final letters from this period concern the arrangements for the passage of Eliza and the children to the United States during the Spring of 1853.

The collection also includes some family letters written during the 1860s and three letters of Joseph, Jr. in New Jersey to his father during the 1870s describing his work as a lathe operator in New York City, the death of Joseph, Jr.'s brother-in-law, Albert Speissegger (husband of Emma Chamberlain, his oldest sister), and his marriage to Mary Emma Rose.

Also included are Emily Speissegger Chamberlain's poetry album, legal and financial papers (1852-1865), poems, Bennett and Memminger school report cards, report on the Sunday School at the Cumberland Street Methodist Church, and certificates of the church, family history notes, and lace valentines.

Preferred citation: Chamberlain family. Chamberlain family papers, 1851-1910. (1131.00) South Carolina Historical Society.

Search terms:

Chamberlain, Eliza, d. 1865.
Chamberlain, Emily Speissegger, ca. 1841-1914.
Chamberlain, Joseph, 1805-1887.
Chamberlain, Joseph, fl. 1870s.
Chamberlain, Mary Emma Rose -- Marriage.
Speissegger, Albert, ca. 1837-1872.
Chamberlain family.

Cumberland Street Methodist Church (Charleston, S.C.)
Immigrants -- South Carolina -- Charleston.
Charleston (S.C.) -- History -- Sources.
Charleston (S.C.) -- Social conditions.
South Carolina -- History -- Sources.
Albums.
Genealogies.
Letters (correspondence).
Poems.
Valentines.

Container list:

11/507/1-13

Correspondence (1851-1853) of Joseph Chamberlain in Charleston and Woodstock Hills, FL and his wife, Eliza in Britain, regarding Joseph Chamberlain's attempts to earn money, health, their separation, financial matters, mention of Joseph Chamberlain teaching Sunday school for blacks, and family matters. Also letters (1861-1902) of Joseph Chamberlain family regarding personal , Civil War, and family matters. Also included are legal and financial papers (1852-1865), poems copied by William Chamberlain, school report cards, report on the Sunday school at the Cumberland St. Church, and certificates of the Church, family history notes, and lace valentines. Poetry album (1864-1874) of Emily Spessiegger Chamberlain.