

Guide to the Papers of Charlotte Alice Baker

Born in 1833 in Springfield, Mass., C. Alice Baker (as she preferred), worked as a teacher, historian, and writer until her death in Boston in 1909. Her mother's family had ties to Deerfield, and after her father's death, Miss Baker began to spend time in Deerfield. In the early 1840s she attended Deerfield Academy, but also attended private schools in Greenfield and Charlestown, Mass. In 1851 she traveled to Illinois where she taught school, returning to teach at Deerfield Academy in 1853. She again went west, and with her life companion, Susan Minot Lane, opened a school in Chicago in 1856. The women ran their school until 1864 when they moved to Cambridge, Mass., to be with Miss Baker's sickly mother. Another school was opened in Boston which operated into the 1890s.

Miss Baker's interest in history led to a number of articles and books; she also turned her hand to historic preservation when she purchased the Frary House, her ancestral home in Deerfield, and restored it. Spending her summers in Deerfield, she pursued antiquarian interests and became a principal member of the Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association (PVMA). Her papers consist of letters written to George Sheldon, one of the founders of the PVMA, and others, principally Sister St. Damian of Montreal. Other papers consist of research notes on Indian raids and captivity during the early colonial period in New England, writings of an autobiographical nature, notes for lectures, travel diaries, manuscripts of several articles and her books, *A Summer in the Azores* (1882) and *True Stories of New England Captives* (1897); research notes on various subjects; newspapers and clippings; and her collection of Civil War envelopes.

Container List

Box 1 Biographical Material

Folder 1: Will, obituaries, etc.

Folder 2: MSS., "Deerfield Academy Reminiscences" – CAB, "The Doctor's Little Girl" – CAB
Charlotte Alice Baker – by Mary W. Fuller

Folder 3: Miscellaneous – Envelopes containing small notebooks, some pertaining to Frary House; *A Tribute* by J.M. Arms Sheldon; *In Memoriam, C. Alice Baker, 22 May 1909.*

Box 2 Correspondence

Folder 1: St. Regis Bell

Folder 2: CAB to Geo. Sheldon – Undated, 1868-1880 [Transferred in May 1986 to G. Sheldon Papers, Box 6, Fol. 4]

Folder 3: CAB to Geo. Sheldon – 1881-1890 [Trans. to G. Sheldon Papers, Box 6, Fol. 5]

Folder 4: CAB to G. Sheldon – 1891-1894 [Trans. to G. Sheldon Papers, Box 6, Fol. 5]

Folder 5: CAB to Geo. Sheldon – 1896-1900 [Trans. to G. Sheldon Papers, Box 6, Fol. 6]

Folder 6: CAB to Geo. Sheldon – 1901-1909 [Trans. to G. Sheldon Papers, Box 6, Fol. 6]

Folder 7: CAB to miscellaneous recipients – Undated

Folder 8: Letters from Gerald Kelly re: letters written by CAB that he found in Quebec.

Folder 9: correspondence, A-N

Folder 10: correspondence, O-W

Box 3 Correspondence

Folder 1: Sister St. Croix, Ursuline Convent, Quebec city

Folder 2: J.A. Cuoq, Oka and Montreal

Folder 3: Sister St. Damian, Order of the Congregation de Notre Dame, Montreal – Undated & Misc.

Folder 4: Sister St. Damian – 1889-1891

Folder 5: Sister St. Damian – 1892-1893

Folder 6: Sister St. Damian – 1894-1895

Folder 7: Sister St. Damian – 1896-1899

Folder 8: Sister St. Damian – Account of the Siege of 1759 at Quebec (copy)

Folder 9: Sister St. Damian – Typed copies & translations of some of Sister St. Damian's letters to CAB

Folder 10: Sister St. Paula

Folder 11: Negative photostats of correspondence with Sister St. Damian

Box 4 *True Stories of New England Captives* (1897)

Bound volume with working manuscript of “True Stories”; two gatherings of research notes; copies of *Notes Historique sur l'Origine de la Famille Gill* (1887), and *Murray's Illustrated Guide to Montreal* (1886?); two folders of notes on captives and their families; notebook of clipped reviews of *True Stories* with a list of subscribers and copies given and sold; copies of a printed promotional brochure; manuscript of “My Hunt for the Captives,” printed in Vol. 2 of the *History and Proceedings of the PVMA* (1888).

Box 5 Diaries and notebook: Diary of a voyage from Fayal (i.e., Faial), Azores Islands, to New Bedford, Mass., on the steamer *Mississippi*, June 1879; diary kept in the Azores Islands; two-volume special edition of *A Summer in the Azores* (Boston, 1882), illustrated with numerous original photographs; manuscript of *A Summer in the Azores*; notebook on Roman history.

Box 6 Stories, articles, notes: “Charlotte Corday” (including typescript), “Ensign John Sheldon,” “The Doctor’s Little Girl,” (including pages removed from *Merry’s Museum* where the story was serialized in 1870); notes on Marie Antoinette’s correspondence, the Thirty Years War, and other French history (3 notebooks); notes on Eunice Stebbins Doggett; manuscript of “Joseph Fry of Kittery Maine,” published in the Vol.4 of the *History and Proceedings of the PVMA* (1902); manuscript of “Historical Sketch of Christina Otis,” published in the Vol.1 of the *History and Proceedings of the PVMA* (1879).

Box 7 Notes, proofs, and printed copies of *Old Abe, the War Eagle of Wisconsin* (Deerfield, 1904); Notebooks on witchcraft, French history.

Box 8 Various lecture notes: bound volume of notes on the early history of America from 1492; numerous unsorted notes mostly on historical topics.

Box 9 Notebooks on botany, English history.

Box 10 Notebooks on the Mound Builders, geology, archaeology, and colonial settlements; MSS.: European History, Geology; untitled manuscript on the ‘geological history of the earth’ (note in J.M.A. Sheldon’s hand) manuscripts titled “Notes on History” (18 pp.), “Richelieu” (27 pp.), and “Simon de Montfort” (49 pp.) – 2 copies of each; microfilm of letters from de Vaudreuil and Beauharnois de Beaumont; proof sheets of “Ethan Allen and his Daughter” by C. Alice Baker.

Boxes 11-13 Newspapers and newspaper clippings (many relating to Deerfield’s history)

Box 14 MSS.: “From the Letters of The Two New England Teachers,” typescript arranged by Emma L. Coleman; scrapbook of Civil War envelopes; one issue of *The Little Corporal* (Chicago, June 1866) owned by C. Alice Baker.

Box 15 Scrapbook of Civil War envelopes

Box 16 Miscellaneous

Folder 1: Manuscript copies of inventories

Folder 2: Manuscript copies of letters

Folder 3: Autograph tracings

Folder 4: Newspaper clippings relating to Northampton, Mass.

Folder 5: Miscellaneous (typed transcripts of a few letters, newspaper clippings, printed course offerings at Lowell Institute, announcement of golden jubilee of Mother St. Charles in Oka); *The Roman Empire of the Second Century* (London, 1876) and *Roman History, the Early Empire* (London, 1879) owned by Miss Baker.

Folder 6: Photos of Two Mountains, Quebec (originals transferred to Memorial Hall)

