



The Historical
Society of
Pennsylvania

Collection #2050

**Chew Family
Papers**

1659-1986

848 boxes, 311 flat files, 36 rolls, 288.5 lin. feet

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Chew Family Papers

**Creators: Chew Family of Pennsylvania and Maryland
1659-1986 (bulk 1740-1930)**

848 boxes, 311 flat files, 36 rolls, 288.5 linear feet

Collection 2050

Abstract

This extensive collection documents the lives of the Maryland and Pennsylvania branches of the Chew family through seven generations. In addition to the collection's emphasis on the Chew family and their connections within Philadelphia's elite, the papers provide a perspective on the lives of many of the Chews' slaves and servants, and offer insights into family relationships, women's history, health, religion, legal history, the Revolutionary and Civil wars, politics, trade, land management and settlement, surveying, industrialization, and the growth and development of the city of Philadelphia. The focus of the collection revolves around Benjamin Chew, his son Benjamin Jr. and his offspring. Both father and son were influential lawyers, and together amassed large quantities of land in Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware, and New Jersey. Benjamin Chew Jr.'s land holdings and estate became a major point of contention within the family after his death in 1844. This dispute, which continued for over forty years, was devastating to the Chews' family relationships and fortune, and is a central focus of the collection.

The collection is divided into twenty-nine series, with over half of these dedicated to individual family members or family groups. Other series document the family's land holdings, Cliveden, their home in Germantown; the family's genealogical research; and their substantial map collection. The materials range in date from the seventeenth through the twentieth century, but the richest documentation is on nineteenth century life in the mid-Atlantic region. The collection contains business and financial records, cartographic material, correspondence, ephemera, legal documents, personal papers, and other materials created and collected by the Chews during the eighteenth, nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

Background note

The history of the Chew family in America goes back to 1622, when John Chew arrived in Jamestown, Virginia aboard the *Charitie*. Dr. Samuel Chew (1693-1744), three generations removed from John, was born and lived in Maryland much of his life, residing at the family estate of Maidstone in Herring Bay, Maryland; and afterward at Whitehall, in Duck Creek, Delaware. He and his family also lived in Dover and the Lower Counties (now Delaware), as well as in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Dr. Chew received training in law and medicine, eventually acting as a doctor in Kent County, Delaware, and later as the chief justice of the Supreme Court of the Lower Counties. In 1715, he married Mary Galloway (1697-1734) and after her death, he married Mary Paca Galloway (d. 1746), the widow of his brother-in-law.

The two marriages resulted in five children who lived to adulthood: Elizabeth; Ann; Benjamin; Samuel, who lived in Chestertown, Maryland, administering the family's farms and plantations; and John, who also lived in Chestertown, working as a merchant. Both of these men kept up with the Philadelphia branch of the family through frequent correspondence and occasional visits.

Dr. Samuel Chew is perhaps best known for his challenge of the Quaker meeting in Duck Creek. Refusing to accept the meeting's criticism of his daughter's 1740 marriage to a non-Quaker, and their censure of his grand jury charge encouraging the taking up of arms as a means of defense, Chew was eventually expelled in 1742. In response, he authored an advertisement sent to the *Pennsylvania Gazette* but never published, in which he admonished the Quakers for denying him the same liberty of conscience that they clamored for. As a result of this rift with the Duck Creek Meeting, Samuel Chew and his descendents broke from the Quaker faith, joining the Anglican and, later, the Episcopal Church.

Chief Justice Benjamin Chew (1722-1810) was the only surviving son of Dr. Samuel Chew and his first wife, Mary Galloway. Born in Anne Arundel County, Maryland, he would eventually serve as recorder of Philadelphia, attorney general, recorder-general, and chief justice of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania under the colonial government. After the Revolution, he was selected as the president of the High Court of Errors and Appeals. His 1747 marriage to Mary Galloway (1729-1755), produced four surviving children: Mary, Anna Maria, Elizabeth, and Sarah. His second marriage, in 1757, to Elizabeth Oswald (1734-1819), brought forth eight more children: Benjamin Jr., Margaret (Peggy), Juliana, Henrietta, Sophia, Maria, Harriet, and Catherine (Kitty). Chew's children increased the social status of the family through marriages to members of the Banning, Carroll, Galloway, Howard, Nicklin, Phillips, Tilghman and Wilcocks families.

Tutored in the classics during his early years by Francis Alison, the elder Benjamin began his law studies at the age of fifteen, under the guidance of Andrew Hamilton, and concluded his formal education in 1744 at Middle Temple in London. Returning home upon the death of his father, he moved to Delaware, where he quickly became enmeshed in the political and legal affairs of Pennsylvania and the Lower Counties. His first appointment was as a representative to the Lower Counties' Assembly. Soon thereafter, he was chosen to act as a representative of the Penn family, assigned as secretary to the commission charged with settling the long-standing border dispute between Pennsylvania and Maryland. Thus Chew became intimately involved in legal proceedings that eventually resulted in Mason and Dixon's survey of the boundary line. In addition, Benjamin Chew represented the colonial government in negotiating Indian treaties at Easton. In the mid-1750s, he was granted the post of attorney general for both Pennsylvania and Lower Counties, while also serving as the latter's speaker of the Assembly. Chew moved to Philadelphia in 1754 and built a successful private law practice to augment his public service career. As his various employments and enterprises flourished, Chew prospered, rising to the upper class in his adopted city. Chew owned an elegant town house on South 3rd Street. Here, he attended St. Peter's Church and associated with many influential people in the city. He became involved in other business interests, including iron works and land speculation.

As a result of his close relationship with the Penn family, in 1774, Benjamin Chew was chosen to succeed his friend William Allen as chief justice of Pennsylvania. With the growth of tensions between the colonies and Great Britain, Chew at first supported the colonial cause but as the conflict became more intense, he did not advocate separation from England. His close ties to the proprietors and his unwillingness to support the revolution led to the loss of his government positions and banishment, with Governor John Penn, to Union Forge in New Jersey from 1777 to 1778. During this time, he kept up regular correspondence with his family. In 1777, the British occupied Cliveden, Chew's country house, which became a main stage of the Battle of Germantown in October of 1777. Cliveden had been sold before the revolution, but was repurchased by the family in 1797, later becoming the center of the Chew family's activities. Upon Benjamin Chew's return to Philadelphia, he increased his land purchases, ultimately acquiring extensive property holdings in Pennsylvania, adding to inherited properties in Maryland, New Jersey, and Delaware. In 1791 he was appointed by Governor Thomas Mifflin to head the High Court of Errors and Appeals for the state of Pennsylvania, a position he held until 1806. At the end of his life, in 1810, Benjamin Chew had amassed a sizable fortune from land speculation and his legal practice.

Benjamin Chew's son Benjamin Jr. (1758-1844) had become increasingly involved in his father's affairs, practicing law with him, and managing the elder Benjamin's land holdings, ultimately taking responsibility for the family's plantations and the purchase and sale of slaves. In many ways, Benjamin Chew Jr. followed firmly in his father's footsteps, studying law at the Middle Temple in London from 1784 to 1786, where he cultivated a relationship with the Penn family, before returning to practice law with his father and brother-in-law, Alexander Wilcocks. Within the law practice, Benjamin Jr. was brought into his father's extensive financial affairs. It was at this time that Benjamin Chew and his son began to speculate in large quantities of land on the western Pennsylvania frontier. As time passed, the younger Chew gained more authority over the family's financial endeavors. He increasingly acquired the primary responsibility for the legal work necessary to purchase and administer the burgeoning family land holdings. After his father's death in 1810, Benjamin Jr. took over primary control of the family's business interests. He also managed the personal, financial, and legal affairs of his three unwed sisters, Henrietta (1767-1848), Maria (1771-1840), and Catherine (1779-1831), as well as assisting his sister Harriet (1775-1861) with her estrangement from her husband, Charles Carroll, Jr. In addition, he served for a time as president of the Germantown and Perkiomen Turnpike Company. Reflecting his interest in education, Benjamin Jr. acted as a trustee for both the Germantown Academy and the University of Pennsylvania for a number of decades in the first half of the nineteenth century.

Benjamin Chew, Jr. married Katherine Banning (1770-1855) in 1789. Katherine Banning Chew was the daughter of Anthony Banning and Martha Spencer, of Kent County, Maryland. The couple had nine children who survived childhood: Benjamin III, Samuel, John, Eliza Margareta, Henry Banning, William White, Anne Sophia Penn, Joseph Turner, and Anthony Banning. The family lived at the Chew town house in Philadelphia and Cliveden, which Benjamin Jr. inherited upon his father's death in 1810. Through the years, the family was active in the Episcopal congregations of both St. Peter's Church in Philadelphia and St. Luke's Church in Germantown. Benjamin Jr. expanded the Cliveden

property and turned it into a working farm during his tenure of ownership. Labor was provided by servants, both free and slave into the 1820s. In 1810, Chew commissioned a new family town house to be built on 4th Street. His death in 1844 ignited a contentious and lengthy family quarrel surrounding the distribution of his estate. The family's disagreements had a great impact on the relationships between Benjamin Chew Jr.'s children and their mother.

The two oldest sons, Benjamin Chew III (1793-1864) and Samuel (1795-1841), practiced law together. The older of the two, Benjamin III served in the War of 1812 and married Elizabeth Tilghman (1796-1817) in 1816. Elizabeth died shortly after the marriage due to complications associated with child birth; the couple's son William died at the age of three. Benjamin III never remarried. He managed his father's land holdings in western Pennsylvania, and travelled a great deal throughout the state during the 1820s and 1830s. He was involved in the planning of the Pennsylvania and Ohio canal, and sometimes stayed at the family's Horseshoe farm, in where his brothers Anthony and Joseph lived. Benjamin III moved to Pittsburgh for a time but spent the latter part of his life at Cliveden, and in the Philadelphia area. After his father's death, Benjamin III was named as an executor of his father's estate, but disputes with the other executors led to his dismissal from that position. He managed Katherine B. Chew's affairs for a number of years after his father's death; Benjamin III's persuasion over his mother was strong, and he succeeded in turning her against the other executors, causing a major family rift that eventually resulted in his exile from the family. His brother Samuel led a quieter life, but developed a successful legal career in Philadelphia. He worked as solicitor for the Spring Garden district, represented the Kensington Bank, and acted as a trustee for the Wayne County Land Trust. In addition to his legal career, Samuel Chew was involved in the construction of a ship for the Mexican government called the *Kensington* (or *Tepeyac*); this venture ended with a legal battle, which lasted past Samuel's death in 1841.

Benjamin Chew Jr.'s next son, John Chew (1797-1815), served aboard the USS *Constellation* as a midshipman and later on the USS *Epervier*, from which he was lost at sea. His sister Elizabeth (Eliza) Margaretta Chew (1798-1874) married James Murray Mason (1798-1871) of Virginia. Mason soon became an integral part of the Chew family and was chosen by Benjamin Chew Jr. as one of several executors of his will. James and Eliza had eight children: Anna, Benjamin, Catherine, George, Virginia, Ida, James, and John. The Chew family in Philadelphia maintained a close connection to the Masons and their children, even though the distance between them was significant. James M. Mason served as U.S. representative and senator but broke from the Union during the Civil War. Several of the Mason's sons served in the Civil War; a number of the children remained in the South even after their parents and family exiled themselves in Canada at the end of the war. James M. Mason faced a possible charge of treason for his service to the Confederacy, and the others refused to take an oath of allegiance to the United States. They remained in Canada until after President Andrew Johnson granted unconditional amnesty to all Confederate loyalists on December 25, 1868. The family returned to Virginia and kept up their close relationship with Eliza's siblings in Philadelphia and Maryland.

Henry Banning Chew (1800-1866) spent the majority of his life in Maryland on the family's farm Epsom. Henry married twice, first to Harriet Ridgely (1803-1835), daughter of a Maryland governor, Charles Ridgely, and then to Elizabeth Ann Ralston (1793-1862). The first marriage produced eight offspring, of whom only Charles, Benjamin, and Samuel lived past twenty years of age. The family lived first at the Ridgely estate known as Hampton and then at Epsom, in Towson, Maryland, where Henry kept slaves and operated a farm on the property. In addition to farming, he had a small venture shipping goods between mid-Atlantic and Caribbean ports on his schooner the *Morgiana*. He established the firm of Luke and Chew with William Luke in the 1820s, but the business did not succeed, and ended with a legal dispute between the two former partners. Around the same time, Henry B. Chew was vice-consul to Mexico, and invested money with his brother Samuel in the construction of a ship for the Mexican government. After his father's death in 1844, Henry B. Chew became one of the principal administrators of his father's estate, managing the family's property holdings in western Pennsylvania, along with James M. Mason and Henry's brother William.

William White Chew (1803-1851) led a more public life than most of his brothers, serving as Vice-Consul of Colombia in Philadelphia during the early 1830s, and later as secretary to the American Legation in St. Petersburg, Russia when George Mifflin Dallas held the post of chargé d'affaires. Upon Dallas' return to the United States, Chew was appointed as chargé d'affaires. After his departure from Russia, William spent a brief time working on Dallas' political campaign. The two men had developed a close relationship during their service in Russia, and remained close throughout their lives. William White Chew never married, but he maintained an active social life until the last few years of his life, when he was in ill health. Throughout his life, William was a prolific writer, documenting many of his thoughts, beliefs, desires and disappointments. He co-authored the *Vocabulary of Tuscarora*.

Joseph Turner Chew (1806-1835) attended Princeton briefly, and then, in the 1820s, he settled in western Pennsylvania where he practiced law for a short period, and eventually married Sarah Ann Kirker, a union that yielded significant disapproval and distance from his family. Benjamin Chew Jr. allowed Joseph to rent Horseshoe Farm, but prohibited him from visiting the family in Philadelphia. Anthony Banning Chew (1809-1854) also lived in western Pennsylvania during the 1820s and 1830s. Like his brother, Anthony also worked at Horseshoe Farm. During this period, Anthony had power of attorney over the family's lands in Butler and Beaver counties, acting as agent for his father. After problems caused by Anthony's alcohol dependence, Benjamin Chew III took over the management of the lands, alleging mismanagement on Anthony's part.

Anne Sophia Penn Chew (1805-1892), the youngest surviving daughter of Benjamin Chew Jr., lived at Cliveden for most of her life, and was an important figure in the history of the family estate. Anne was a devoted daughter, caring for her parents in their later years, and then becoming the caretaker of the Cliveden property after her mother's death in 1855. During the bitter family dispute surrounding her father's estate administration, Anne moved out of Cliveden, along with her brother William. The rights to Cliveden originally rested with her mother, Katherine Banning Chew, but Benjamin III soon created discord when he tried to deny other family members access to their father's papers and made efforts to disinherit his siblings. During this dispute, Benjamin III removed some of the family's furnishings and papers from the house. After he left Cliveden, Anne returned and began to

maintain the property on her own, eventually welcoming her nephew Samuel, his wife Mary, and their children to the residence.

Samuel Chew (1832-1887) was one of eight offspring born to Henry B. and Harriet (Ridgely) Chew, Samuel studied law at the University of Pennsylvania. After his father's death, he became the primary executor of the Chew estate. Samuel spent a considerable amount of time at Cliveden with his aunt Anne, developing a close relationship with her and a devotion to the family's home. He married Mary Johnson Brown in 1861, daughter of textile manufacturer David Sands Brown (1800-1877), who moved to Philadelphia from Dover, New Hampshire in 1817, and married Elizabeth Jones Johnson in 1831. Brown was in great part responsible for the industrial development of Camden County, New Jersey during the second part of the nineteenth century.

Samuel Chew and his wife Mary split their time between Vanor (the Brown family mansion in Radnor), the family's townhouse at 1716 Walnut, and Cliveden. Samuel worked for his father-in-law administering the family textile operations in Gloucester City, New Jersey. He used the occasion of the 1876 Centennial celebration to recast the family's Revolutionary War credentials and re-establish the Chews in their role as colonial elites. In this endeavor, he began to emphasize the family genealogy, safeguarding the family documents that make up this collection more as a means to affirm the Chew's heritage than as legal records. This concentration in preserving the family story continued through the gifting of the records to the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. At the same time that Samuel was working on his Centennial project, his wife Mary became very active in the restoration of Independence Hall and Stenton.

Samuel and Mary had six children; Anne, Elizabeth, David, Samuel, Benjamin, and Oswald. The close bonds between these children and their great aunt Anne helped soothe the tensions between their mother and Anne. As the children reached adulthood, most began to go their separate ways. Anne (1862-1930) married Vere Speke Alston in 1898. Alston worked for the British government in Court of Appeals of the Native Tribunal in Egypt, and the couple split their time between Cairo and England. David (1866-1934), the eldest son and namesake of his grandfather, attended law school at the University of Pennsylvania and managed the family's real estate ventures in Radnor Township and Camden County. He was also actively involved in Philadelphia politics, served in the National Guard and the First Troop of Philadelphia Cavalry, and was a member of various associations, including the University Barge Club, Philadelphia Gun Club, and the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. His marriage to Bertha (Daisy) Walton produced two children, David Jr. and Mary Evelyn. Both Samuel (1871-1919) and Oswald (1880-1950) attended Harvard as undergraduates and studied law at the University of Pennsylvania. They served in the Red Cross Ambulance Corps in France during World War I, along with Oswald's wife Ada Knowlton Chew. Oswald received the Croix de Guerre award for his service in France, and when he returned to Philadelphia, he managed the family's trust and worked in the real estate business. Following his military service, Samuel practiced law in Philadelphia, acting as an assistant city solicitor. He inherited the Cliveden estate after his Aunt Anne's death, but chose not to live there, instead residing near Boston and renting the home to his siblings. After Anne Sophia Penn Chew's death in 1892, Mary Johnson Brown Chew and her daughter, Elizabeth Brown Chew (1863-1958), became the primary guardians of the Germantown mansion.

Elizabeth acted as a custodian for the Cliveden property, living there for most of her adult life. After her mother's death, she advocated for Cliveden's historic preservation and undertook renovations to the property at her own expense. She acted as one of the agents for the Chew Family Trust and managed Cliveden's affairs until her nephew Samuel (1915-1989), who was heir to the property, reached legal age. Elizabeth never married, but she maintained an active social life, traveling extensively overseas throughout her life and entertaining at Cliveden. After her death, Samuel moved in to Cliveden with his family, and maintained the property until its donation to the National Trust for Historic Preservation in 1972.

Scope & content

The Chew Family Papers is a remarkable collection due to its range, depth, and scope. Nearly every major subject in early American history is touched upon in these papers; the date span of the collection allows for a study of the trajectory of American social, political, and economic development through the lens of one prominent family. This collection is the product of seven generations of the Chew family's professional and personal lives. Many of the papers were created during the late eighteenth through mid-nineteenth centuries, but they continued to be used over the course of the next one hundred years by the family as they settled estates, sold off land, and sought to settle debts. While the papers were an integral part of the management of the family's financial affairs, the Chews also prized the papers as part of their heritage.

Around the time of the Centennial celebration in the United States, the Chews began to recognize the legacy of their family in the early history of Philadelphia and Pennsylvania, and spent a great deal of time inventorying and describing the contents of the papers. The Chew family became archivists of their own records, maintaining the collection as a whole, and retrieving portions of the papers that had been lost or sold during the nineteenth century. They stored some records in safe deposit boxes, and other portions of the collection were arranged methodically throughout Cliveden. They created extensive descriptions of where groups of materials were stored and arranged them by family member, an arrangement that has largely been maintained. Some of these inventories can be found within the collection; others are housed in the collection files, which may be accessed by asking an archivist for permission to view these files.

The materials in this collection cover a wide range of topics, reflecting the Chew family's involvement in legal, business, political, private, and social spheres. A large portion of the documents in the Chew Family Papers are related to legal work done by many of the Chews. Benjamin Sr., Benjamin Jr., Benjamin III, Samuel (d. 1841), Samuel (d. 1887), Samuel (d. 1919), and David S. B. Chew all worked as attorneys, litigating varied case loads, both public and private. In addition to their case records, there are legal papers throughout the collection; especially significant are those that document the dispute over Benjamin Chew Jr.'s estate. These materials appear in series 4-10, and in Series 19 (Pennsylvania Land Papers). The legal records in this collection reflect the development of law in the United States, from the colonial period through the early twentieth century. Benjamin Chew Sr.'s

work in the early court system is well represented, documenting his connection to the Penn family, his participation in the Pennsylvania-Maryland boundary commission, and his role as secretary at treaty hearings with the Delaware Indians. Benjamin Chew Jr. worked on a number of significant cases that are highlighted in Series 4, Ingram and Bridger Lands, Nicklin and Griffith, Penn Family Papers, and *Pike v. Hoare* subseries. He also litigated many smaller cases that are included in the Legal subseries of Series 4.

Other business activities that generated the materials in the Chew Family Papers include land speculation and management, agriculture and plantation operation, mercantile trade and industrial development, and politics. Politics played an important role in many of the Chews' lives, with nearly all of the men in the family participating in local, national, or international politics in some way. Benjamin Chew Sr. and Benjamin Chew Jr. were involved with political figures through their legal work; Benjamin Chew III attempted a run for a local political post; Henry B. Chew served as vice-consul of Mexico in Philadelphia; William W. Chew served in several consular positions. The family had close connections with George M. Dallas and James M. Mason, among other national figures. Later generations of the Chew family served as city solicitors and city council members, in addition to their involvement with real estate development.

Records of the Chews' land purchases and the management of these properties are distributed through nearly every series in the collection, but are concentrated in series 19-23. Because of their use over the course of one hundred and fifty years, papers that originally documented a purchase of property might have ended up with legal files related to Benjamin Chew Jr.'s estate, or surveys drawn by Henry B. Chew may have come to rest in the Pennsylvania Land Papers. The relationships between these materials are best reconstructed by review of Series 4, Estate Administration—Benjamin Chew Jr., Series 7, Henry B. Chew, and series 19-23, Land Papers. While every attempt was made to understand the materials and return them to their creator's series, the land papers are so extensive as to make this impractical. These papers are rich in detail, and contain information about land speculation; settlement; landlord-tenant relationships; mineral rights; canal, railroad, and road construction; early county histories; laws governing speculation and land use; and relationships between agents and land owners. In addition to the correspondence, agreements, and account records documenting land purchases and management, there are many maps and manuscript surveys associated with the land papers. These papers also contain many legal documents, which outline ejectment cases, trespassing claims, negotiation of agreements, and disputes with agents over payment and terms of service.

Negotiations between the Chews and the overseers of their plantations in Maryland and Delaware are detailed in the Maryland and Delaware Land Papers (series 20 and 22), as well as in the correspondence of Benjamin Chew Sr. (Series 2), Samuel Chew (d. 1809) (Series 3), Benjamin Chew Jr. (Series 4), and Henry B. Chew (Series 7). These records contain significant evidence of the enslaved people who worked on the Chews' plantations, and include discussions and agreements for sale and transfer of individuals and family groups, allowing researchers to track the movement of people from one area to another and surmise whether families were kept together or separated. Estate inventories in series 1 through 7 are also good sources for this information. The letters, agreements, lists, and notes throughout the first seven series and in the land papers provide a picture of the Chews'

management of their plantations and their treatment of the workers, whether hired or enslaved. These same materials document the practice of agriculture during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, offering itemized descriptions of the crops cultivated, how weather patterns impacted crop yields, prices of sale, and losses.

Later in the collection, the Chew family's business interests shifted from land management to industrial and real estate development. Beginning with the records of David Sands Brown and Company (Series 13), the papers document the development of Camden County during the mid-to-late nineteenth century with blueprints, maps, plans, surveys and business records pertaining to Brown's business ventures in Gloucester City, New Jersey. Brown's textile mills, along with the associated Manufacturer's Land and Improvement and the Gloucester Land companies, greatly influenced the development of the Delaware River waterfront. The Brown and Johnson Families series documents the development of the shipping industry and the construction and extension of wharves on the Philadelphia side of the Delaware River, extending south to Greenwich Island. Descendants of the Brown and Chew families also developed areas of Radnor Township, forming the Radnor Realty Company, which remained viable into the twentieth century. With the union of the Brown and Chew families, the Chews' fortunes began to shift after the draining estate dispute over Benjamin Chew Jr.'s property. David Sands Brown's focus on creating an industrial economy enlivened the financial prospects of the Chew family, and offered them new social connections.

The Chews' social and personal lives make up another significant focus of the collection. Correspondence, diaries, notes and telegrams illuminate the Chews' family relationships and their personal views and beliefs. The letters in Series 2, Benjamin Chew Sr., document Benjamin Chew's confinement at the Union Forge in New Jersey during the Revolutionary War. During this separation from his family, his correspondence focuses on his desire to see his wife and children and describes his often-delicate health. Letters between Benjamin and his brother Samuel touch on health concerns, as well as discussions of their mutual interest in the family's Maryland plantations. Business matters mix with personal throughout the collection, as many of the Chews worked together in some capacity. This is especially true in the correspondence of both Benjamin Chew Jr. and Henry B. Chew. Benjamin Chew Jr.'s correspondence is voluminous, and covers nearly every subject relevant to the Chew family, as he wrote to family, friends, political figures, and business associates. Benjamin Jr. wrote at great length to his children, many of whom settled outside of Philadelphia. Henry B. Chew's papers are rich with details about slavery in Maryland, but also describe in great detail his health problems, his religious views, and his loneliness after his first wife's death (and during the illness of his second wife). William White Chew's letters and journals are deeply revealing of his personal views and state of mind, and offer a perspective on the bachelor culture of the early nineteenth century that is unique in this collection. His correspondence is particularly detailed during his service in Russia from 1837 through 1841.

Later in the collection, correspondence between Anne Sophia Penn Chew and her friends and relatives offer a different perspective on the Chew family. These letters are intimate portrayals of female relationships in the nineteenth century, with deep discussions of health, love, marriage, childrearing, and loss. Similarly, Mary Johnson Brown Chew's letters illuminate the nature of her friendships and family relationships, especially highlighting her relationship with her children after the death of her husband Samuel in 1887. Her journals

reveal her political beliefs and her personal doubts, fears, and joys. Samuel Chew's correspondence with his Aunt Anne and his wife and children are highly emotional, and provide a perspective on the jealousy that sometimes plagued their family interactions. Samuel, Mary, and Anne also kept up a lively correspondence with their family in Maryland and Virginia. The letters between the Philadelphia Chews, Henry B. Chew, and James M. and Eliza Mason (as well as their children Virginia, Ida, George, and James Mason's sister "Teaco") is detailed, lengthy, and provides great insight into the schism that formed between North and South before, during, and after the Civil War. Their letters detail the devastation of the South's economy during the Civil War, and discuss heatedly the belief systems that separate southerners from northerners. Though the Philadelphia Chews disagreed with the Masons' stance on the war, they maintained a close connection, even when the Mason family moved to Canada after the end of the war.

The Chew family's letters and journals offer insights into the shifting cultural views in the developing United States, and reveal a great deal about the structure of their family, the changing roles of men and women in society and the family, relationships between parents and children, developments in health care and disease treatment, religious views, love and romance in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, shifts in emotional expression, among other topics. These papers may also be useful in the study of mental health, as some of the family's journals, correspondence, memos, and notes suggest that there were issues with depression and alcoholism. The papers of Benjamin III (Series 5), Henry (Series 7), William (Series 8), Anne (Series 9), Anthony, Joseph (both in Series 17), and Samuel (Series 12) are worthy of study. Box 330, folder 10 contains drafts and revisions of suicide notes William White Chew wrote over the course of a decade. Anne and William frequently discuss Anthony's intemperance in their correspondence, journals, and notes. Henry's letters contain many discussions of his depressed state. Samuel's papers document his treatment by a psychiatrist and contain allusions to an automobile accident that occurred while he was drinking. Other information about the Chews' personal and family lives may be gained from a study of their account records. These receipts, ledgers, day books, balance sheets and notes document the Chew family's expenditures in great detail, offering insights into what they ate and drank, how they dressed and traveled, how much they paid to their servants and the laborers who built and maintained Cliveden, money they gained from their purchase and employment of slaves, and funds derived from, or diminished by, their real estate holdings.

Studies of material culture can be made from the Chew family's purchases for their daughters' dowries (Series 2), furnishings and other household items (present in nearly every series), ephemera (Series 26, and throughout), and their extensive map collection. This group of materials, which makes up Series 25, Maps and Surveys, is impressive in its scope. There are manuscript maps of early Philadelphia streets and printed maps of early Pennsylvania, including Thomas Holme's *Portraiture of the City of Philadelphia* and Nicholas Scull's *Map of the Improved Part of the Province of Pennsylvania*. Also included in their collection are a series of maps of the world's continents, which range in date from circa 1820 to the 1840s. The maps in this collection represent well-known cartographers, as well as the Chews' own work as surveyors of their land holdings. Their collection of books was donated to the Library Company of Philadelphia, but copies of some title pages are included in Series 29, Miscellaneous. The Chew family genealogy can be traced in a series of

reproductions of birth, marriage and death records listed on pages of family bibles. These items are included in Series 27. The photographs in Series 28 provide a visual record of the Chew family and their homes in Philadelphia and Maryland.

Overview of arrangement

This collection is divided into twenty-nine series. Unless otherwise noted, the date spans in the overview of arrangement refer to the dates of the materials included in each series. The correspondence in each series is arranged by correspondent and then chronologically. Correspondence is generally grouped with the papers of the recipient, but some letters may also be housed in the papers of the author. In cases where there are one to three letters from an individual, that correspondence is generally filed under “Miscellaneous,” alphabetically by the last name of the author. The box and folder listings for each series provide the most detailed account of a series’ contents; please consult these lists for a comprehensive understanding of the materials in the Chew Family Papers. A note on terminology: in documents that comprise this collection, the word “negro” is often used to describe individuals; similarly, the word “slave” is used to denote individuals bought and sold by the Chew family. We have retained this wording for the sake of simplicity, and because favored terminology changes rapidly, but we firmly acknowledge the problematic nature of these terms.

Series 1	Samuel Chew, 1724-1753, undated	.5 lf
Series 2	Benjamin Chew Sr., 1659-1819, undated	14 lf
	a. Accounts, 1744-1812, undated	
	b. Bonds and agreements, 1750-1815, undated	
	c. Correspondence, 1735-1809, undated	
	d. Estate, 1770-1819, undated	
	e. Legal and political, 1683-1802, undated	
	f. Miscellaneous, 1743-1811, undated	
	g. Pennsylvania/Maryland Boundary dispute, 1659-1788, undated	
	h. Treaty at Easton, 1737-1762, undated	
	i. Turner Estate, 1703-1810, undated	
Series 3	Samuel Chew, 1742-1819, undated	5.75 lf
	a. Accounts, 1758-1811, undated	
	b. Bonds and agreements, 1775-1812, undated	
	c. Correspondence, 1767-1809, undated	
	d. Estate, 1786-1819, undated	
	e. Miscellaneous, 1742-1803, undated	
Series 4	Benjamin Chew Jr., 1676-1886, undated	55 lf
	a. Accounts, 1766-1846, undated	

	b. Affiliations and service, 1779-1839, undated	
	c. Bonds and agreements, 1770-1839, undated	
	d. Correspondence, 1779-1844, undated	
	e. Family Estates, 1747-1886, undated	
	f. Germantown and Perkiomen Turnpike, 1792-1838, undated	
	g. Ingram and Bridger lands, 1716-1833, undated	
	h. Legal, 1759-1854, undated	
	i. Miscellaneous, 1783-1840, undated	
	j. Nicklin and Griffith, 1786-1844, undated	
	k. Penn family papers, 1676-1843, undated	
	l. <i>Pike v. Hoare</i> , 1762-1816, undated	
	m. Property, 1782-1843, undated	
	n. Slaves and servants, 1772-1833, undated	
Series 5	Benjamin Chew III, 1794-1865, undated	7 lf
	a. Accounts, 1816-1857, undated	
	b. Correspondence, 1795-1862, undated	
	c. Estate administration, 1796-1862, undated	
	d. Lands, 1794-1849, undated	
	e. Legal, 1822-1865, undated	
	f. Miscellaneous, 1810-1854, undated	
	g. Pennsylvania and Ohio Canal Co., 1827-1850, undated	
Series 6	Samuel Chew, 1751-1845, undated	12.25 lf
	a. Accounts, 1812-1841, undated	
	b. Correspondence, 1818-1841, undated	
	c. Legal, 1751-1845, undated	
	d. Miscellaneous, 1810-1843, undated	
	e. <i>Ship Kensington</i> , 1816-1831, undated	
Series 7	Henry Banning Chew, 1800-1871, undated	8 lf
	a. Accounts, 1818-1867, undated	
	b. Correspondence, 1819-1866, undated	
	c. Diaries and journals, 1827-1866, undated	
	d. Lands, 1800-1865, undated	
	e. Legal, 1821-1871, undated	
	f. Miscellaneous, 1852-1868, undated	

Series 8	William White Chew, 1820-1851, undated	13 lf
	a. Accounts, 1820-1851, undated	
	b. Correspondence, 1820-1851, undated	
	c. Diplomatic service, 1828-1841, undated	
	d. Education, 1808-1820, undated	
	e. Ephemera and printed materials, 1817-1850, undated	
	f. Estate administration, 1831-1850, undated	
	g. Journals and writing, 1820-1835, undated	
	h. Miscellaneous, 1823-1851, undated	
	i. Organizations, 1826-1849, undated	
Series 9	Anne Sophia Penn Chew, 1819-1893, undated	18 lf
	a. Accounts, 1823-1892, undated	
	b. Correspondence, 1819-1893, undated	
	c. Estates, 1836-1892, undated	
	d. Memos and notes, 1840-1892, undated	
	e. Miscellaneous, 1825-1886, undated	
Series 10	Samuel Chew, 1797-1889, undated	12 lf
	a. Accounts, 1852-1889, undated	
	b. Correspondence, 1797-1886, undated	
	c. Estates, 1853-1886, undated	
	d. Genealogy, 1855-1884, undated	
	e. Legal and Business, 1852-1886, undated	
	f. Miscellaneous, 1845-1885, undated	
Series 11	Brown and Johnson Families, 1791-1926, undated	19 lf
	a. Mary J.B. Chew, 1851-1926, undated	
	b. Martha Morris Brown, 1885-1921, undated	
	c. Joseph Johnson, 1791-1883, undated	
	d. Elizabeth Garret, 1802-1833, undated	
	e. Martha (Morris) Johnson, 1801-1863, undated	
	f. Mary Morris Johnson, 1865-1887, undated	
	g. Joseph Johnson Brown, 1848-1877, undated	
	h. Elizabeth (Johnson) Brown, 1821-1895, undated	

	i. Jones Family, 1748-1823, undated	
	j. Morgan Family, 1709-1854, undated	
	k. Miscellaneous, 1715-1882, undated	
	l. Properties, 1673-1927, undated	
Series 12	Samuel Chew, 1876-1929, undated	8 lf
Series 13	David Sands Brown & Co., 1685-1960, undated	20 lf
Series 14	Elizabeth Brown Chew, 1867-1958, undated	6 lf
	a. Accounts, 1886-1956, undated	
	b. Chew Trust, 1922-1944	
	c. Cliveden, 1913-1960, undated	
	d. Correspondence, 1871-1953, undated	
	e. Diaries, calendars, scrapbooks, 1867-1958, undated	
	f. Miscellaneous, 1867-1958, undated	
Series 15	Oswald Chew, 1887-1953, undated	4.5 lf
	a. Accounts, 1939-1951	
	b. Cliveden property, 1910-1953, undated	
	c. Correspondence and miscellaneous, 1887-1947, undated	
	d. Estate, 1920-1946, undated	
Series 16	David Sands Brown Chew, 1800-1953, undated	3.5 lf
Series 17	Other family members, 1734-1983, undated	14 lf
	a. Benjamin Chew of Epsom (d.1885), 1857-1885, undated	
	b. Benjamin Chew Jr. (d.1972), 1894-1972, undated	
	c. Katherine (Banning) Chew, 1788-1863, undated	
	d. Anthony Banning Chew, 1825-1854, undated	
	e. John Chew (d.1807), 1767-1818, undated	
	f. Joseph Turner Chew (d.1835), 1823-1840, undated	
	g. Anne Sophia Penn Chew Alston, 1875-1928, undated	
	h. Samuel Chew (d.1989), 1952-1983, undated	
	i. Catherine Chew, 1809-1829, undated	
	j. Charles Ridgely Chew, 1854-1886, undated	

	k. Elizabeth A. (Ralston) Chew, 1812-1861, undated	
	l. Elizabeth Oswald Chew, 1757-1819, undated	
	m. Harriet Chew Carroll, 1797-1836, undated	
	n. Henrietta Chew, 1800-1847, undated	
	o. Anna Maria Chew, 1812-1872, undated	
	p. Benjamin Chew (d.1938), 1884-1919, undated	
	q. Henry B. Chew [son of Charles Ridgely Chew], 1876-1888, undated	
	r. Maria Chew, 1788-1838, undated	
	s. John Chew (d.1815), 1812-1817, undated	
	t. Henry B. Chew Jr., 1847-1855, undated	
	u. Anne Chew Barringer, 1959, 1972, undated	
	v. Barbara Dale Williams, 1959-1962	
	w. Banning Family, 1762-1806, undated	
	x. Mason Family, 1817-1881, undated	
	y. Maxcy Family, 1815-1828, undated	
	z. Nicklin Family, 1791-1840, undated	
	aa. Galloway Family, 1734-1831, undated	
	bb. Phillips Family, 1792-1831, undated	
	cc. Frisby Family, 1753-1808, undated	
	dd. Tilghman Family, 1741-1821, undated	
	ee. Miscellaneous, 1788-1884, undated	
Series 18	Cliveden, 1639-1960, undated	3 lf
Series 19	Pennsylvania land papers, 1681-1904, undated	21 lf
	a. Allegheny county, 1787-1866, undated	
	b. Beaver, Lawrence, and Washington counties, 1792-1865, undated	
	c. Bedford and Fulton counties, 1762-1874, undated	
	d. Bedford, Fayette, Somerset, and Westmoreland counties, 1773-1878, undated	
	e. Butler county, 1794-1867, undated	
	f. Centre county, 1798-1814, undated	
	g. Chester county, 1681-1802, undated	
	h. Clinton county, 1774-1853, undated	
	i. Columbia and Northumberland counties, 1773-1858, undated	

	j. Crawford county, 1795-1867, undated	
	k. Fayette county, 1784-1904, undated	
	l. Lycoming county, 1794-1871, undated	
	m. Mifflin, Huntingdon, and Cumberland counties, 1761-1837, undated	
	n. Northampton county, 1792-1795	
	o. Philadelphia county, 1684-1873, undated	
	p. Somerset [formerly Bedford] county, 1774-1874, undated	
	q. Warren county, 1794-1847, undated	
	r. Wayne and Luzerne counties, 1793-1855, undated	
	s. Westmoreland county, 1776-1850, undated	
	t. Other counties, 1732-1873, undated	
	u. Miscellaneous, 1683-1874, undated	
Series 20	Maryland land papers, 1677-1858, undated	1.5 lf
	a. Baltimore county, 1736-1867, undated	
	b. Cecil county, 1682-1858, undated	
	c. Kent county, 1677-1833, undated	
	d. Kent county [Swan Point], 1809-1839, undated	
Series 21	New Jersey land papers, 1677-1864, undated	4.5 lf
	a. Miscellaneous, 1677-1864, undated	
	b. Hunterdon county, 1731-1839, undated	
	c. Sussex county, 1679-1847, undated	
Series 22	Delaware land papers, 1678-1855, undated	2 lf
	a. Kent county, 1678-1825, undated	
	b. New Castle county, 1679-1826, undated	
	c. Sussex county, 1684-1855, undated	
Series 23	Other states land papers, 1794-1901, undated	.5 lf
Series 24	Chew estate office, 1848-1964, undated	10 lf
Series 25	Maps and surveys, 1683-1961, undated	9 lf
Series 26	Ephemera and printed material, 1732-1977, undated	7 lf
Series 27	Family Genealogy, 1715-1976, undated	1 lf
Series 28	Photographs, 1860-1986, undated	6 lf
Series 29	Miscellaneous, 1700-circa 1950, undated	2.5 lf

Separation report

Fifty-six issues of the *Princeton Alumni Weekly* (1946-1948), two reports from Princeton (1948), and seventeen issues of the *Germantown Crier* (1957-1970) were separated from the collection and added to the library holdings (add call numbers).

Related materials

Brown Family Papers (1617)
David Sands Brown Receipt Book (108)
David Sands Brown & Co. Records (1586)
Benjamin Chew Plans for Cliveden (no collection number, on deposit)
Cadwalader Family Papers (1454)
George M. Dallas Papers (1460A)
Gilpin Family Papers (238)
Indian Papers (310)
James Logan Papers (2011)
Logan Family Papers (2023)
Mason and Dixon Line Papers (Am.233)
Morris Family Papers (2000B)
Penn Family Papers (485A)
Richard Peters Papers (498)
Rawle Family Papers (536)
William Tilghman Papers (659)

Burd Family Papers, University of Delaware
Benjamin Chew letters, Rare Books and Manuscripts, Cornell University
Benjamin and Samuel Chew Papers, Historical Society of Delaware
Mary Johnson Brown Chew Collection, Independence National Historic Park
Custis-Lee-Mason Family Papers, Library of Virginia
Female Association of Philadelphia...Records, Haverford College
Galloway-Maxy-Markoe Family Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Margaret Izard Manigault Papers, Hagley Museum and Library
Miscellaneous Manuscripts Collection, Library Company of Philadelphia
James Murray Mason Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Mason Family Papers, Alderman Library, University of Virginia
Morris Family Papers, Hagley Museum and Library
Edward Shippen letters and papers, American Philosophical Society
Frederick Smyth papers, American Philosophical Society

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Administration of estates.
Agriculture--Delaware--History.
Agriculture--Maryland--History.
Agriculture--Economic aspects--United States--History.
Architecture--Pennsylvania--Philadelphia.
Camden County (N.J.)
Canals -- Pennsylvania.
Cartography--United States--History.
Child rearing--United States--History.
City planning--Pennsylvania.
Civil war, U.S., 1861-1865.
Delaware and Raritan Canal (N.J.)--History.
Delaware Indians--Treaties.
Delaware--History.
Economic development--Pennsylvania.
Germantown, Battle of Philadelphia, PA, 1777.
Health--United States--19th century.
Household accounts.
Industrialization--New Jersey--19th century.
International relations--History.
Land settlement--Law and legislation.
Land settlement--Pennsylvania.
Land speculation--Pennsylvania.
Law--United States--History.
Maryland--Boundaries--Delaware.
Maryland--Boundaries--Pennsylvania.
Maryland--History.
Mason-Dixon Line.

Maternal and infant welfare--History.
Medical care--United States--History.
New Jersey--History.
Pennsylvania--History.
Pennsylvania--Politics and government--1775-1865.
Pennsylvania. Militia. Troop of Philadelphia Horse, 2nd.
Philadelphia (Pa.)--Social life and customs.
Plantations--Delaware.
Plantations--Maryland.
Real estate development--United States.
Russia -- Description and travel.
Slavery--United States--History.
Slavery--United States--Legal status of slaves in free states.
Slaves--Emancipation.
Surveys Plotting.
Toll roads -- Pennsylvania.
United States -- History -- Revolution, 1775-1783.
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United States--History--Revolution, 1775-1783.
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Allen, William, 1704-1780.
Banning, Katherine, 1770-1855.
Bridger, John, Sir.
Brown, David Sands, 1800-1877.
Chew, Anne Sophia Penn, 1805-1892.
Chew, Anthony Banning, 1809-1854.
Chew, Benjamin, 1722-1810.
Chew, Benjamin, 1758-1844.
Chew, Benjamin, 1793-1864.
Chew, Benjamin, 1830-1885.
Chew, Catherine.
Chew, Charles Ridgely, 1827-1875.
Chew, David S. B. (David Sands Brown).
Chew, Elizabeth Ann Ralston.
Chew, Elizabeth Brown, 1863-1958.
Chew, Elizabeth Oswald.
Chew, Henrietta.
Chew, Henry Banning, 1800-1866.
Chew, John, 1739-1807.
Chew, John, 1797-1815.
Chew, Joseph Turner, 1806-1835.
Chew, Katherine Banning, 1770-1855.
Chew, Margaret.
Chew, Maria.
Chew, Mary Johnson Brown, 1839-1927.

Chew, Oswald, 1880-1949.
Chew, Samuel, 1693-1744.
Chew, Samuel, 1737-1809.
Chew, Samuel, 1795-1841.
Chew, Samuel, 1832-1887.
Chew, William White, 1803-1851.
Dallas, George M. (George Mifflin), 1839-1917.
De Krafft, Charles.
Galloway, John, d. 1810.
Hamilton, Andrew, ca. 1676-1741.
Heap, George E.
Hills, John, surveyor.
Hoare, Samuel.
Holme, Thomas, d. 1695.
Howard, John Eager, 1752-1827.
Howell, Reading, 1743-1827.
Ingram, Thomas.
Mason, Elizabeth Margaretta Chew, 1798-1874.
Mason, J. M. (James Murray), 1798-1871
Mills, Robert, 1781-1855.
Penn, John, 1700-1746.
Penn, Richard, ca. 1736-1811.
Penn, Thomas, 1702-1775.
Penn, William, 1644-1718.
Peters, Richard, 1704-1776.
Pike family.
Scull, Nicholas, 1686?-1761?
Tilghman, Edward, 1750-1815.
Turner, Joseph.
Wilcocks, Alexander, 1741-1801.
Wilcocks, Mary Chew, 1747/8-1794.

Allen & Turner (Philadelphia, Pa.)
Andover Iron-Works (Andover, N.J.)
Cliveden of the National Trust (Philadelphia, Pa.)
Germantown (Philadelphia, Pa.)
Gloucester Iron Works (Atlantic County, N.J.)
Gloucester Land Company (Gloucester, N.J.)
Radnor (PA: Township)
Union Iron Works
Washington Manufacturing Company

Administrative Information

Restrictions

The collection is open for research.

Acquisition information

Gift of the Chew family, 1982 and 1985 (no accession numbers); gift of Ellen Ballard, 2007 (2007.055); transfers from Cliveden, 1990, 1998, 2005-2008 (no accession numbers); transfer from Cliveden, 2006 (2006.017).

Purchases made by the Historical Society of Pennsylvania 1956 (no accession number), 2008, from Ronald Lieberman (2008.065).

One group of these papers, formerly called the “Oswald Chew Papers,” was put on deposit at the Historical Society in 1947. A second group of papers was collected at Cliveden, and was brought to HSP in 1974. Another group remained at Cliveden, or with other family members, until the major donation of the papers in 1982. Later accessions from Cliveden occurred in 1990, 1998, 2005, 2006, 2007, and 2008. While the first two sections of the papers were housed at HSP, the Chew family maintained the right to remove any section of the collection for any period of time they saw fit, so long as at least two of the heirs made the request. In 1981, the family removed all of the papers from the Society in the hopes of sorting out the final destination of the entire collection. After some deliberation, the family donated the full collection to HSP. As part of the original agreement, the family removed some of the most valuable materials in the collection, which they sold in an auction at Christie’s; HSP purchased some of the documents that were put up for bid. (See *Colonial American Documents...from the Chew Family Papers* for more information.)

The following collections, which used to be housed separately, have been integrated into this collection: Benjamin Chew Papers (125), David Sands Brown Chew Papers (126), and Samuel Chew Papers (1746). There are a series of architectural drawings of additions and modifications to Cliveden that were done by Cope and Stewardson and Louis Rush (dating from the early 20th century), which are still listed as “on deposit” at the Historical Society. These materials may be integrated into the collection at a later date, once the ownership of these drawings is determined.

Preferred citation

Cite as: [Indicate cited item or series here], Chew Family Papers (Collection 2050), The Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

Processing note

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A significant number of documents in this collection were cleaned for mold. There are a large number of oversize maps that are stored on rolls. These items are not easily accessed, and will require assistance for viewing. A significant portion of this collection was minimally processed in 1982-1983, and a small finding aid was created to describe the materials. That finding aid has been superseded; old box numbers have been changed; and multiple later accessions have been incorporated into this collection. There were numerous inventories created by the Chew family prior to the donation of this collection to the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. While some of these inventories can be found in the collection, many of them are available by asking an archivist for permission to view the collection files.

Many people provided help during the processing of this collection, from unfolding bundles to writing series descriptions; much gratitude is due to Cary Majewicz, Heather Willever-Farr, Dean Williams, Heather Thomas, Jennifer Barr, Megan DiStefano, Kate Jacobs, Christina Elia, and Titus Moolathara.

Many thanks are also due to the conservation and preservation staff who washed, mended, humidified, flattened, cleaned, and rehoused items in this collection: Leah Mackin, Tara O'Brien, Anni Altshuler, Watsuki Harrington, and many interns.