

**Hepburn Family Papers**  
**Ms. 72**  
**1 linear foot**

**BIOGRAPHICAL**

Alonzo Barton Hepburn was born on a farm at Colton, NY, on July 24, 1846 the son of Beulah (Gray) Hepburn and Zina Earl Hepburn who traced his ancestry through several generations of New Englanders to an old Scotch family. His mother was from Salisbury Vermont and one of her brothers was the founder of the Cleveland Plain Dealer in 1862. Hepburn had three elder brothers.

He attended the St. Lawrence Academy and Fuller Academy at Oswego. He borrowed \$1,000 to take a course at Middlebury College. By teaching school in the Winters and working on the farm in the Summer he stayed in college and upon graduation in 1871 he returned to the St. Lawrence Academy as Professor of Mathematics and Physical Science. He became Principal of Ogdensburg Educational Institute and was elected school commissioner and in the meantime studied law. Hepburn received honorary degrees from Middlebury, Columbia, Williams and St. Lawrence University. Commerce elected him president of the Chamber of Commerce. Finance made him Chairman of the currency Commission of the American Bankers Association. "Bart" Hepburn was president of the NY Clearing House and National Currency Association as well as chairman of two State Commissions to Revise the Banking Law. He held the presidency of the St. Andrew's Society, the New England Society, the Bankers' Club and other social organizations. France made him an Officer of the Legion of Honor.

He practiced law for just a little while and then saw his opportunity to acquire large tracts of timber lands and started lumbering. Sold his lumber business for \$200,000 and turned to banking. Hepburn authored History of Coinage and Currency, "A History of Currency in the United States," "Artificial Waterways and Commercial Development," Artificial Waterways of the World: and "story of an Outing." He was one of the founders of the Academy of Political Science.

In 1875 he was elected to the Assembly as a Republican where he chaired a committee that investigated the abuses alleged to exist in the management practices of the Erie and NY Central lines and by 1883 Hepburn's recommendation of a regulatory commission was voted into operation.

His first banking position was in New York as United States bank examiner. In 1880 he was appointed Superintendent of the State Banking Department of the State of NY. Hepburn was appointed a national bank examiner in New York City and in 1892 was called to the Treasury Department of Controller of the Currency. After a year at this post he received an offer to become President of the Third National Bank of New York City. He left the Third National in 1897 to become Vice President of the National City Bank. In 1899 he became President of the Chase National Bank and served continuously in that office until 1911 when he became Chairman of the Board of Directors. He resigned that post in 1917, but remained as Chairman of an Advisory Board until his death.

Mr. Hepburn also was a Director in several other banks and corporations, including the Columbia Trust Company, New York Life Insurance Company, American Agricultural Chemical Company, American Car and Foundry Company, Safety Car Heating and Lighting Company, Sears, Roebuck & Co., the Studebaker Corporation, the Texas Company, the Woolworth Company, and the Great Northern Railway Company. In a resolution of the directors of the Chase National Bank it was said "Alonzo Barton Hepburn was renowned as an economist, a banker, a sportsman, and in all these spheres he was a master."

Hepburn had a great interest in education and out of listed benefactions of about \$3,000,000, schools, colleges, and libraries received about \$2,000,000. Some benefactors included: A. Barton Hepburn Hospital, endowment of chair of American History and Government at the Imperial University in Tokyo Japan, libraries at towns in his native St. Lawrence County, Tuskegee Institute, Princeton University, Middlebury college, Wellesley College, Williams College, NY University School of Commerce, St. Lawrence University, Chamber of Commerce of the State of New York, and Columbia University School of Business.

By his first wife Hattie A. Fisher of St. Albans, VT. Mr. Hepburn had one son, Charles Fisher Hepburn. He married Emily L. Eaton (SLU Class of 1886) of Montpelier Vermont in 1887 and they had two children Cordelia and Mrs. Robert (Beulah Eaton) Emmet. One brother H.M. Hepburn of Colton survived him at the time of his death.

Mr. Hepburn, handicapped by failing eyesight, was struck by a bus in New York's Madison Square. This was January 20, 1922. A paralytic stroke weakened him further and he passed away on January 25, 1922.

## SCOPE and CONTENTS

The collection consists of magazine and newspaper clippings pertaining to A.B. Hepburn and the Hepburn family; writings and speeches given by Hepburn; correspondence, including letters between SLU Professor Henry Priest and President Almon Gunnison; photographs of his wife Emily Eaton Hepburn; biographical information on Mrs. Hepburn; documents related to the establishment of the Hepburn Libraries in St. Lawrence County and a number of bound formal resolutions passed by organizations A. B. Hepburn was affiliated with, passed at the time of his death in 1922.

<i>Box</i>	<i>Folder</i>	<i>Contents</i>
1	1	<p><i>The Call of the Red Gods</i> article from <i>Adirondack Life</i> magazine Jan.-Feb. 1978 by Edward Blankman</p> <p><i>Men Who Are Making America</i> Article from <i>Leslie's Weekly</i>, Oct. 12, 1916 (clipping and photocopy)</p> <p>Series of Hepburn obituaries (news clippings and photocopies)</p> <p>Article from Middlebury College magazine <i>The Middlebury Campus</i>—profile of Hepburn by Irving Bachellor (original and copy)</p> <p>Picture of Hepburn from a magazine article <i>The November Alcolm</i> Dow Jones &amp; Co. New Bulliten, Dec. 7, 1901—<i>Interview with Mr. Hepburn</i></p>
	2	<p><b>Correspondence from/to Hepburn</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nov. 20 1880—to Albert Dailey (orig &amp; photocopy)</li> <li>• June 20 1880(?)—to Hon. George B. Sloan</li> <li>• Oct. 5, 1895—to Hon. (Senator) George B. Sloan</li> <li>• July 24, 1918—to Mr. Charles P. Howe</li> <li>• April 21, 1918—to Mrs. Ehrich (sympathy note)</li> <li>• Series of letters to/from Henry Priest and Almon Gunnison concerning Hepburn's donation toward scientific equipment for Carnegie Hall Jan.-Dec. 1905</li> </ul>
	3	<p><b>Emily Eaton Hepburn Material</b></p> <p>Hand written narrative (Hepburn 1925 at top of paper)</p> <p>Typewritten bio of Mrs. Hepburn</p> <p>Hand written bio of Mrs. Hepburn</p> <p>Citation for Emily Eaton Hepburn (by Dr. Irving Bachellor)</p> <p>Mrs. Hepburn's handwritten notes for dedication of Dean-Eaton Hall</p> <p>Copy of news clipping "Mrs. Hepburn Presides at Luncheon"</p> <p>Undated ticket for a benefit recital at Mrs. Hepburn's home</p> <p>Correspondence concerning SLU Homecoming Weekend memorial service-1956</p> <p>Photo of Mrs. Hepburn's portrait unveiled in Dean-Eaton hall, 1941</p> <p>Copy of New York Times article</p>
	4	<p>Photographs of Mrs. Hepburn; college portraits, photo of painted portrait; Photograph in SLU regalia</p>
	5	<p>Photos of other people; campus aerial view, 1930; Chapel bells before installation</p>
	6	<p>Obituaries of various Hepburn family members (clippings and copies)</p> <p>Last Will and Testament of Mabel Hepburn Matthews</p>

<i>Box</i>	<i>Folder</i>	<i>Contents</i>
1	7	<p><b>Material on Hepburn Libraries in St. Lawrence County</b></p> <p>*Copy of legal documentation relating to donation of \$35,000 from A.B. Hepburn to Town of Colton for library</p> <p>*Thesis paper (113 pgs.) <i>The Hepburn Libraries of the St. Lawrence Valley</i> by Otilie H. Rollins, School of Library Science, Western Reserve University, September 1960 (photocopy)</p> <p>Copy of remarks given at Mrs. Hepburn's memorial service in 1956 at SLU concerning Libraries</p>
	8	<p><b>Published speeches of A.B. Hepburn (photocopies)</b></p> <p><i>The Currency Problem and the Present Financial Situation</i> Columbia University, 1907-08</p> <p><i>Morals in Modern Business</i> Yale University Sheffield Scientific School, 1909</p> <p><i>Financing the War</i> Princeton University, Jan. 11, 1918</p>
<p>*Note—these materials were donated to the collection by Mary Jane Watson of South Colton</p>		
	Unfoldered	<p>Resolution in honor of A.B. Hepburn by Chase National Bank, 1911, when Hepburn resigned as Board President and was elected Chairman</p> <p>Memorial Resolution by the council of the University Club</p> <p>Memorial resolution passed by Board of Directors of Chase National Bank</p>
2	Unfoldered	<p>Memorial Resolution, A. Barton Hepburn Hospital Board of Directors</p> <p>Memorial Resolution, New York Life Insurance Co.</p> <p>Memorial Resolution, Board of Trustees, St. Andrews Society of New York</p> <p>Memorial Resolution, Chase Bank Club</p> <p>Memorial Resolution, Columbia Trust Company</p> <p>Memorial Resolution, Chamber of Commerce of the State of New York</p>