

## **Hepburn Family Papers**

**Mss. 72**

**1 linear foot**

### **BIOGRAPICAL**

Alonzo Barton Hepburn was born in Colton, NY in 1846, the son of Zina Earl and Beulah (Gray) Hepburn. "Bart" Hepburn (who added the name Alonzo himself), attended St. Lawrence Academy in Potsdam and Fuller Academy in Oswego. Hepburn worked as a teacher and spent summers farming, and upon graduation from Middlebury College in 1871, returned to Potsdam to teach math and science at St. Lawrence Academy. He later became a principal in Ogdensburg and a St. Lawrence County school commissioner. Hepburn also practiced law briefly before acquiring timber land and starting a lumbering business.

Hepburn had a long and distinguished career in public service and in the world of banking and business. In 1875, A.B. Hepburn was elected to the New York State Assembly, where he served five terms. Following elective service, Hepburn was appointed to head the New York State Banking Department. He then served as National Bank Examiner until being appointed Comptroller of the Currency by President Benjamin Harrison. Hepburn left public service in 1893 to become president of the Third National Bank in New York. Four years later he was named president of National City Bank then president of Chase National Bank in 1899, where he served 11 years.

Hepburn was a respected authority on currency matters and the author of a number of books. He also served on several corporation boards, including New York Life Insurance Company, Columbia Trust Company, Sears & Roebuck and many others.

While the majority of his career was spent outside Northern New York, Hepburn's ties to home were strong. His second wife, Emily (Eaton) Hepburn, was an 1886 graduate of St. Lawrence University. Consequently, St. Lawrence benefitted from the couple's generosity. A. B. Hepburn served as a University trustee from 1887 to 1894. Hepburn also became a benefactor to libraries in several rural towns in St. Lawrence County. Libraries in Colton, Norfolk, Waddington, Lisbon and elsewhere bear the Hepburn name. Mr. Hepburn was also the major contributor toward construction of a hospital in the city of Ogdensburg.

A. Barton Hepburn died in 1922 several days after being hit by a bus in New York City.

### **SCOPE and CONTENTS**

The collection consists of materials to A.B. Hepburn and the Hepburn family. Amongst these materials are speeches given by Hepburn, correspondence, communications with Professor Henry Priest and President Almon Gunnison regarding gifts to St. Lawrence, photographs, biographical information on Mrs. Hepburn, documents on the establishment of the Hepburn Libraries in St. Lawrence County, and a number of bound formal resolutions honoring A.B. Hepburn passed at the time of his death in 1922.

Box Folder Contents

- 1 1 "The Call of the Red Gods" article from *Adirondack Life* magazine Jan.-Feb. 1978 by Edward Blankman  
"Men Who Are Making America" Article from *Leslie's Weekly*, Oct. 12, 1916 (clipping and photocopy)  
Series of Hepburn obituaries (news clippings and photocopies)  
Article from Middlebury College magazine "The Middlebury Campus"—profile of Hepburn by Irving Bachellor (original and copy)  
Picture of Hepburn from a magazine article *The November Alcolm*  
Dow Jones & Co. New Bulletin, Dec. 7, 1901—"Interview with Mr. Hepburn"
- 2 **Correspondence from/to A.B. Hepburn**  
Nov. 20 1880—to Albert Dailey (orig & photocopy)  
June 20 1880(?)—to Hon. George B. Sloan  
Oct. 5, 1895—to Hon. (Senator) George B. Sloan  
Mar. 9, 1915—to Harold S. Sutton at St. Lawrence University  
July 24, 1918—to Mr. Charles P. Howe  
April 21, 1918—to Mrs. Ehrich (sympathy note)  
  
Series of letters to/from Henry Priest and Almon Gunnison concerning Hepburn's donation toward scientific equipment for Carnegie Hall Jan.-Dec. 1905
- 3 **Emily Eaton Hepburn Material**  
Hand written narrative (Hepburn 1925 at top of paper)  
Typewritten bio of Mrs. Hepburn  
Hand written bio of Mrs. Hepburn  
Citation for Emily Eaton Hepburn (by Dr. Irving Bachellor)  
Mrs. Hepburn's handwritten notes for dedication of Dean-Eaton Hall  
Copy of news clipping "Mrs. Hepburn Presides at Luncheon"  
Undated ticket for a benefit recital at Mrs. Hepburn's home  
Correspondence concerning SLU Homecoming Weekend memorial service-1956  
Photo of Mrs. Hepburn's portrait unveiled in Dean-Eaton hall, 1941  
Copy of New York Times article
- 4 Photographs of Mrs. Hepburn; college portraits, photo of painted portrait;  
Photograph in SLU regalia
- 1 5 Photos of other people; campus aerial view, 1930; Chapel bells before installation
- 6 Obituaries of various Hepburn family members (clippings and copies)  
Last Will and Testament of Mabel Hepburn Matthews
- 7 **Material on Hepburn Libraries in St. Lawrence County**  
\*Copy of legal documentation relating to donation of \$35,000 from A.B. Hepburn to Town of Colton for library  
\*Thesis paper (113 pgs.) *The Hepburn Libraries of the St. Lawrence Valley* by Otilie H. Rollins, School of Library Science, Western Reserve University, September 1960 (photocopy)  
Copy of remarks given at Mrs. Hepburn's memorial service in 1956 at SLU concerning Libraries
- 8 **\*Published speeches of A.B. Hepburn (photocopies)**  
*The Currency Problem and the Present Financial Situation*, Columbia University, 1907-08

*Morals in Modern Business*, Yale University Sheffield Scientific School, 1909  
*Financing the War*, Princeton University, Jan. 11, 1918

Box Folder Contents

- 2 -- \*Note—the following materials were donated to the collection by Mary Jane Watson of South Colton  
Resolution in honor of A.B. Hepburn by Chase National Bank, 1911, when Hepburn resigned as Board President and was elected Chairman
- Memorial Resolution by the council of the University Club
- Memorial resolution passed by Board of Directors of Chase National Bank
- Memorial Resolution, A. Barton Hepburn Hospital Board of Directors
- Memorial Resolution, New York Life Insurance Co.
- Memorial Resolution, Board of Trustees, St. Andrews Society of New York
- Memorial Resolution, Chase Bank Club
- Memorial Resolution, Columbia Trust Company
- Memorial Resolution, Chamber of Commerce of the State of New York
- Copy of book—“The Story of an Outing” by A. B. Hepburn (SK255.B8 H5 1913)
- 3 copy of *A Barton Hepburn: His Life and Service to His Time* signed by Emily Hepburn, dated 1923
- Ephemera associated with signed copy:
- Photo card from A. Barton showing him and his daughter Cordelia
  - 3 page letter from A. Barton to Milford Howe (to whom the book is inscribed), the letter is reprinted on page 399 of the book.
  - A two page note to Milford on Milford’s taking photographs of the different St. Lawrence County Libraries Hepburn sponsored. In the note Hepburn writes “don’t bother with Lisbon.”
  - An article published on A Barton Hepburn published in *Adirondack Life* in 1978.