

Marshall University

## Marshall Digital Scholar

---

Guides to Manuscript Collections

Library Special Collections

---

1987

### 0467: Berlin Basil Chapman Papers, 1942-1980

Marshall University Special Collections

Follow this and additional works at: [https://mds.marshall.edu/sc\\_finding\\_aids](https://mds.marshall.edu/sc_finding_aids)



Part of the [Genealogy Commons](#), and the [Public History Commons](#)

---

**Berlin Basil Chapman Papers, 1942-1991**

ACC 1987/11.0467



Special Collections Department  
James E. Morrow Library  
Marshall University  
Huntington, West Virginia  
2019

## Berlin Basil Chapman Papers, 1942-1991

---

### Summary:

Title: Berlin Basil Chapman Papers

Span Dates: 1942-1991

Creator: Berlin Basil Chapman

Repository: Marshall University Special Collections, Morrow Library (Huntington, WV)

Processed by: Elizabeth James, 2019

Accession Number: 1987/11.0467

This collection also includes 1988/09.486

Date Completed: October, 2019

Access to Collection: Open

Extent: 1 foot

Donor: Berlin Basil Chapman

### Search Terms:

Oklahoma history

Oklahoma A&M history

West Virginia history

Webster Springs history

### Biographical Notes:

"The son of George W. and Alice Anderson Chapman, Berlin Basil Chapman entered the world near Webster Springs, West Virginia, on July 23, 1900. After attending and teaching in public schools in Marion County, West Virginia, he received a bachelor's degree from the University of West Virginia in 1924 and a master's degree in history from Harvard University in 1927. From 1927 to 1930 he served on the history faculty at Oklahoma A&M College (now Oklahoma State University, OSU) and then attended the University of Wisconsin, earning a doctorate in history in 1931. His dissertation, titled "Federal Management of Lands of Oklahoma Territory, 1865–1907," a seminal study, was published in 1979.

In the 1930s he taught economics at State Teachers' College, Fairmont, West Virginia, but he returned to OSU in 1941 and remained there through 1966. After retiring from OSU, he taught briefly at Florida State University. Chapman's lengthy publishing career extended through the early 1990s and included sixteen books and more than sixty articles. As he once wrote, "Oklahoma is a historian's paradise." His Oklahoma studies, published under the name B. B. Chapman, centered on Indian land allotment and reservations, the 1889, 1892, and 1893 land runs, and the development of Oklahoma City, Stillwater, Guthrie, and other territorial towns. Titles include *The Founding of Stillwater* (1948), *Oklahoma City: From Public Land to Private Property* (1960), *The Otoes and Missourias: A Study of Indian Removal and the Legal Aftermath* (1965), and *Oklahoma State University, Pioneers on the Prairie* (1992).

Chapman served on the Oklahoma Historical Society Board of Directors from 1951 to 1966. A Mason and a Baptist, he was a member of the American Historical Association, Phi Alpha Theta, and the Society of American Historians. He was inducted into the

Oklahoma Historical Society's Oklahoma Historians Hall of Fame in 1993. B. B. Chapman died on February 6, 1995, in Orlando, Florida.”

Bob L. Blackburn, "Chapman, Berlin Basil," The Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture, <https://www.okhistory.org/publications/enc/entry.php?entry=CH005>.

### **Scope and Content:**

This collection primarily consists of publications by or contributed to by Berlin Basil Chapman. These publications relate to his interests in West Virginia and Oklahoma history, as well as Chapman genealogy. Also included are photographs of Webster Springs High School Alumni and newsclippings about various speeches given by Chapman. Notable in the collection is a microfilm copy of a manuscript titled “Teaching Soldiers American History Under Direction of the War Department, 1943-1944” Secret Papers Revealed, 1978.

### **Processing Notes:**

This collection was already processed at the time the finding aid was created. No changes in folder content or name were made.

### **Preferred Citation:**

Berlin Basil Chapman Papers, Accession No. 1987/11.0467, Special Collections Department, Marshall University, Huntington, WV.

### **Access and Use:**

For more information or to use any collection, contact:  
Special Collections, Morrow Library  
Marshall University  
One John Marshall Drive  
Huntington, WV 25755  
(304) 696-2343  
[speccoll@marshall.edu](mailto:speccoll@marshall.edu)

<b>Container</b>	<b>Contents</b>
<b>Box 1</b>	
Microfilm	55-Year Echo of a Ph.D degree in History, Conferred on Berlin Basil Chapman by the University of Wisconsin (1931-1986)
Microfilm	“Teaching Soldiers American History Under Direction of the War Department, 1943-1944” Secret Papers Revealed, 1978
Microfilm	“Teaching Soldiers American History Under Direction of the War Department, 1943-1944” Secret Papers Revealed, 1978
Volume	Factors in the Ruin of Antiquity: A Criticism of Ancient Civilization by

James Paton Isaac

- Volume Adventures in Education by Charles Evans, LL.D
- Volume Adventures in Education by Charles Evans, LL.D
- Volume Old Central in the Crisis of 1955: A Chapter in the History of Oklahoma State University, edited by Berlin Basil Chapman, Ph.D.
- Volume Oklahoma City, From Public Land to Private Property by Berlin Basil Chapman
- Volume Oklahoma City, From Public Land to Private Property by Berlin Basil Chapman
- Volume The Sigma Literary Society, 1893-1897: A Chapter in the History of the Oklahoma A. and M. College by Willa Adams Dusch
- Volume Dr. Henry G. Bennett As I Knew Him, by Berlin B. Chapman
- Stapled Papers One Family in the Twentieth Century: The Chapmans of Webster County, West Virginia: A Case Study by Berlin Basil Chapman
- Volume Four Principles that Portray the Pattern of All History, Applied to the War Against the States, 1861-1865 by Berlin B. Chapman
- Volume West Virginia and Regional History Collection, Class Pin of Webster Springs High School, placed by Berlin B. Chapman
- Volume What They Did Here by Berlin B. Chapman (about the Civil War)
- Volume Inside the Jury Room, A Study of Justice in Orange County, Florida by Berlin B. Chapman
- Volume Benjamin Franklin, A Bicentennial Look at his Two Countries by Berlin Basil Chapman
- Volume Benjamin Franklin, A Bicentennial Look at his Two Countries by Berlin Basil Chapman
- Volume Grafton High School: A Memoir by Berlin Basil Chapman
- Volume West Virginia University: A Memoir by Berlin Basil Chapman
- Volume West Virginia University: A Memoir by Berlin Basil Chapman
- Folder Webster High School Alumni (photographs and letter)
- Folder (Originally Accession 0486) Berlin Chapman Clippings

**Box 2**

- Microfilm Microfilm reads: "B.B. Chapman, Education in West Virginia, A high school, West Virginia University, Fairmont State College, Log-Cabin Scrapbook, A Teacher's Tale, Glenville State College" (commas are the transcriber's best guess at content on the microfilm)

- Microfilm Robert H. Ferguson, History of Mason County, West Virginia
- Microfilm One Room Schools of Mannington District, Coal Lick, Marion County [WV], 1920-1922
- Microfilm Robert H. Ferguson, History of Mason County, West Virginia, 1961. Presented by Colonel Charles Lewis Chapter, NSDAR, Point Pleasant, WV, 1961.
- Microfilm One Family in the Twentieth Century: A Case Study by B. B. Chapman
- Microfilm One Family in the Twentieth Century: A Case Study by B. B. Chapman