The Shaw Papers consist primarily of letters written to Acenith Shaw in Mareville and York, Washtenaw County, Michigan. Acenith was a school girl of about fourteen in 1864. Many of the letters to her are from school friends and cousins who also lived in Michigan. The girls wrote of family activities, school, planned visits, and current interests. Some of the letters describe their arrangements for teaching school, and in time, marriages and children.

There is also a group of letters of the 1860s between young men, some of whom were on military duty. An 1887 letter is from an Adrian resident discussing an Encampment to be held in Grand Rapids, army acquaintances, their occupations and families. Some of the letters from the war years are to Franklin S. Olds who married Acenith Shaw about 1871.

This collection is arranged in chronological order, and includes several miscellaneous letters without dates.

1-1 Correspondence; 1862-1869, 1887
1-2 Correspondence; 1862-1867
1-3 Correspondence; 1868-1869
1-4 Correspondence; 1870-1874
1-5 Correspondence; n.d.

Greeting cards from this material have been placed with the greeting card collection.