

WORCESTER HISTORICAL MUSEUM

30 Elm Street
Worcester, Massachusetts

ARCHIVES

1969.24

Bigelow-Barton Family Papers 1840-1911

Processed by Veronica Corcoran
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Collection Information

Abstract : The collection contains personal papers of and related to the Bigelow-Barton family who originated from Worcester, Massachusetts.

Finding Aid : Finding Aid in print form is available in the Repository.

Preferred Citation : Worcester Historical Museum, Worcester, Massachusetts.

Provenance : Gift of the American Antiquarian Society.

MARC Access : Collection is cataloged in MARC under the following subject headings

Historical/Biographical Notes

Samuel Lee Bigelow (1826-1862) was born in Templeton, Massachusetts, a son of John Bigelow and his wife Abigail (Richardson) Bigelow. He studied medicine at Harvard University and completed his doctoral education in Paris, France. Before leaving for Paris he got married to Lucy (Barton) Bigelow (1834-), daughter of Honorable Ira Moore Barton a prominent judicial figure in Worcester, on May 1, 1857. While in Paris, they had two children, Samuel Lee Bigelow Jr. (1858-1941) and Abigail (1860). Abigail only lived for five days following her birth. Samuel and family were called back to the United States at the outbreak of the Civil War. Samuel Sr. entered military service as a brigade surgeon under General William B. Franklin. Dr. Bigelow died in Hagerstown, Maryland from disease in November 1862 and was buried in the rural cemetery in Worcester.

Scope and Content

This collection contains personal papers of the Bigelow-Barton Family, specifically Dr. Samuel Lee Bigelow, his wife Lucy (Barton) Bigelow, and their son Samuel Lee Jr. Documents range from personal correspondence to passports, diplomas, and poetry. All documentation falls between 1840 and 1911. The papers are arranged in chronological order within each subject series.

Series Descriptions

Series 1: Correspondence
Bigelow-Barton Family Collection
1969.24
Series 1, Correspondence

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	1	1969.24.1.1	Contain 1840's correspondence, including 8 letters from Dr. Bigelow to his parents while he was in Europe. They describe his studies, his medical practice, and the events of daily life.
1	2	1969.24.1.2	Contains 1850's correspondence, including 9 letters from Dr. Bigelow to his family, 2 letters to Lucy Barton, and 1 letter from Ira Moore Barton to Dr. Bigelow. Also contains a letter from Rev. Horace James on the receipt of \$10 dollars for performing the marriage of Samuel and Lucy.
1	3	1969.24.1.3	Contains 1860's correspondence, including written orders from Union Army, 2 letters addressed to Lucy Bigelow, and a statement of Dr. Bigelow's death written by his servant Michael Murray.
1	4	1969.24.1.4	Correspondences

Series 2: Documentation
 Bigelow-Barton Family Collection
 1969.24
 Series 2, Documentation

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	5	1969.24.2.1	Certificates, dated from 1840-1860's, of marriage, birth, and education. Diploma from Harvard 1848, 2 Diplomas from University of France in Paris, birth certificate of Samuel Lee Jr. in Paris 1858, and marriage license of Dr. Bigelow and Lucy Barton in Worcester, MA.
1	6	1969.24.2.2	Contract, between A. Alice Bigelow and S.L. Bigelow.
1	7	1969.24.2.3	Passports and copy book belonging to Samuel L. Bigelow.
1	8	1969.24.2.4	Sheet of music and various poems.

Series 3: Autograph Books
Bigelow-Barton Family Collection
1969.24
Series 3, Autograph Books

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	9	1969.24.3.1	Two autographs book

Series 4: Inventories
Bigelow-Barton Family Collection
1969.24
Series 4, Inventories

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	10	1969.24.4.1	Inventory