

# WORCESTER HISTORICAL MUSEUM

30 Elm Street  
Worcester, Massachusetts

## ARCHIVES

2012.FIA.15

Bigelow, Horace H., Letters  
(1861 – 1872)

Processed by Robyn Christensen  
October 2012

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### **Collection Information**

Abstract : The 77 letters of Horace H. Bigelow span the years 1861 – 1872 and are concerned with the shoe manufacturing business. Many of the letters are from his uncle, Charles D. Bigelow, and his brother Lambert Bigelow and concern employees, personnel and managerial problems and prison labor. There are several letters fro customers about shoe prices and quality and about the heeling machines made by Bigelow.

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

Preferred Citation : Worcester Historical Museum, Worcester, Massachusetts.

Provenance : Found in Archives 2012

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

### **Historical/Biographical Notes**

Horace H. Bigelow (1827 – 1911) was born in Marlborough, Massachusetts, a son of Levi and Nancy Bigelow. He learned to make shoes on his father's farm and later opened a shoe manufacturing business with his uncle, Lambert Bigelow. In 1850, Bigelow and his uncle, Charles D. began manufacturing shoes in New York. After a brief return to Marlborough, Bigelow went to Albany, New York to manufacture shoes using prison labor. His system proved so successful that he set up similar programs in Providence, Rhode Island and Trenton, New Jersey. In 1864 Bigelow moved to Worcester as superintendent of the shoe manufacturing firm of Bigelow and Trask. The following year that company was absorbed by the Bay State Shoe and Leather Company with Bigelow as general manager. Bigelow invented and patented several machines including a heeling machine. To market them he formed the Bigelow Heeling Machine Association in 1873. After much litigation with competitors the association became part of the McKay and Bigelow Heeling Machine Association.

### **Scope and Content**

The 77 letters of Horace H. Bigelow span the years 1861 – 1872 and are concerned with the shoe manufacturing business. Many of the letters are from his uncle, Charles D. Bigelow, and his brother Lambert Bigelow and concern employees, personnel and managerial problems and prison labor. There are several letters from customers about shoe prices and quality and about the heeling machines made by Bigelow.

## **Series Descriptions**

Series 1: Correspondences

Horace Bigelow Letters Collection  
2012.FIA.15  
Series 1, Correspondence

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	1	2012.FIA.15.1.1	To Horace from Charles Bigelow – New York (March 2, 1861)
1	1	2012.FIA.15.1.2	To Horace from W.B. Bigelow – Providence (April 6, 1861)
1	1	2012.FIA.15.1.3	To Horace from Charles Bigelow – New York (July 17, 1861)
1	1	2012.FIA.15.1.4	To Horace from W.B. Bigelow – Providence (July 29, 1861)
1	1	2012.FIA.15.1.5	To Horace from W.B. Bigelow – New York (April 21, 1862)
1	1	2012.FIA.15.1.6	To Horace from Charles Bigelow – New York (June 20, 1862)
1	1	2012.FIA.15.1.7	To Horace from Charles Bigelow – New York (July 28, 1862)
1	1	2012.FIA.15.1.8	To Horace from W.B. Bigelow – New York (August 14, 1862)
1	1	2012.FIA.15.1.9	To Horace from unknown – New York (August 23, 1862)
1	1	2012.FIA.15.1.10	To Horace from W.B. Bigelow – New York (September 19, 1862)
1	1	2012.FIA.15.1.11	To Horace from Charles Bigelow – Trenton (October 22, 1862)
1	1	2012.FIA.15.1.12	To Horace from L. Bigelow – Albany (July 8, 1864)
1	1	2012.FIA.15.1.13	To Horace from Charles Bigelow – New York (May 2, 1866)

Series 1, Correspondence

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	1	2012.FIA.15.1.14	To Horace from Charles Bigelow – New York (May 8, 1866)
1	1	2012.FIA.15.1.15	To Horace from Bigelow and Trask – New York (May 11, 1866)
1	2	2012.FIA.15.1.16	To Horace from Charles Bigelow – New York (May 28, 1867)
1	2	2012.FIA.15.1.17	To Horace from Charles Bigelow – New York (January 29, 1868)
1	2	2012.FIA.15.1.18	To Horace from Charles Bigelow – New York (January 29, 1868)
1	2	2012.FIA.15.1.19	To Horace from Charles Bigelow – New York (May 7, 1868)
1	2	2012.FIA.15.1.20	To Horace from Charles Bigelow – New York (October 12, 1869)
1	2	2012.FIA.15.1.21	To Horace from J. Blealton – Worcester (December 7, 1869)
1	2	2012.FIA.15.1.22	To Horace from Charles Bigelow – New York (December 8, 1869)
1	2	2012.FIA.15.1.23	To Charles Bigelow from Board of Directors Virginia State Penitentiary (December 28, 1869)
1	2	2012.FIA.15.1.24	To Horace from unknown – New York (January 8, 1870)
1	2	2012.FIA.15.1.25	To Horace from R. Stoll – Trenton (February 16, 1870)
1	2	2012.FIA.15.1.26	To Horace from Charles Bigelow – New York (February 17, 1870)
1	2	2012.FIA.15.1.27	To Horace from L. Bigelow – New York (February 17, 1870)

Series 1, Correspondence

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	2	2012.FIA.15.1.28	To Horace from Charles Bigelow – New York (March 4, 1870)
1	2	2012.FIA.15.1.29	To Horace from Charles Bigelow – New York (February 16, 1870)
1	2	2012.FIA.15.1.30	To Horace from unknown – New York (February 15, 1870)
1	3	2012.FIA.15.1.31	To Horace from Robert Stoll – Trenton (January 13, 1870)
1	3	2012.FIA.15.1.32	To Horace from L. Bigelow – New York (March 4, 1870)
1	3	2012.FIA.15.1.33	To Horace from J.K. Kindley – Trenton (March 22, 1870)
1	3	2012.FIA.15.1.34	To Bay State Company from L. Hower – New York (March 23, 1870)
1	3	2012.FIA.15.1.35	To Horace from L. Howe – New York (March 23, 1870)
1	3	2012.FIA.15.1.36	To Horace from unknown – Trenton (March 30, 1870)
1	3	2012.FIA.15.1.37	To Horace from Charles Bigelow – New York (April 15, 1870)
1	3	2012.FIA.15.1.38	To Horace from Robert Stoll – Trenton (April 22, 1870)
1	3	2012.FIA.15.1.39	To Horace from J.K. Kindley – Trenton (April 28, 1870)
1	3	2012.FIA.15.1.40	To Horace from Charles Bigelow – New York (May 25, 1870)
1	3	2012.FIA.15.1.41	To Horace from Charles Bigelow – New York (June 6, 1870)



Series 1, Correspondence

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	3	2012.FIA.15.1.42	To Horace from L.B. Howe – New York (June 10, 1870)
1	3	2012.FIA.15.1.43	To Horace from Charles Bigelow – New York (July 21, 1870)
1	3	2012.FIA.15.1.44	To Horace From L.B. Howe – New York (July 28, 1870)
1	3	2012.FIA.15.1.45	To Horace from Charles Bigelow – New York (August 19, 1870)
1	4	2012.FIA.15.1.46	To Horace from D. Robinson – Boston (September 3, 1870)
1	4	2012.FIA.15.1.47	To Bay State Shoe and Leather Company – Trenton (September 5, 1870)
1	4	2012.FIA.15.1.48	To Bay State Shoe and Leather Company – New York (September 22, 1870)
1	4	2012.FIA.15.1.49	To Horace from unknown – Trenton (September 18, 1870)
1	4	2012.FIA.15.1.50	To Horace from unknown – (September 28, 1870)
1	4	2012.FIA.15.1.51	To Horace from Charles Bigelow – New York (October 10, 1870)
1	4	2012.FIA.15.1.52	To Horace from William Dittrick – Trenton (December 28, 1870)
1	4	2012.FIA.15.1.53	To Mr. Dittrick from Horace – Worcester (December 30, 1870)
1	4	2012.FIA.15.1.54	To Horace from Charles Bigelow – New York (March 15, 1871)
1	4	2012.FIA.15.1.55	To Horace from Charles Bigelow – New York (April 20, 1871)

Series 1, Correspondence

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	4	2012.FIA.15.1.56	To Horace from Charles Bigelow – New York (April 27, 1871)
1	4	2012.FIA.15.1.57	To Horace from Charles Bigelow – New York (May 2, 1871)
1	4	2012.FIA.15.1.58	To Horace from L. Howe – New York (May 4, 1871)
1	4	2012.FIA.15.1.59	To Horace from Charles Bigelow – New York (July 1, 1871)
1	4	2012.FIA.15.1.60	To Horace from Charles Bigelow – New York (November 2, 1871)
1	5	2012.FIA.15.1.61	To Horace from Charles Bigelow – New York (November 28, 1871)
1	5	2012.FIA.15.1.62	To Horace from Charles Bigelow – New York (December 2, 1871)
1	5	2012.FIA.15.1.63	To Horace from Charles Bigelow – New York (December 13, 1871)
1	5	2012.FIA.15.1.64	To Horace from Charles Bigelow – New York (December 16, 1871)
1	5	2012.FIA.15.1.65	To Adelaide from unknown – Worcester (February 18, 1872)
1	5	2012.FIA.15.1.66	To Horace from Charles Bigelow – New York (May 9, 1872)
1	5	2012.FIA.15.1.67	To Horace from Charles Bigelow – New York (May 11, 1872)
1	5	2012.FIA.15.1.68	To Brother Horace from L. Bigelow – New York (August 20, 1872)
1	5	2012.FIA.15.1.69	To Brother Horace from L. Bigelow – New York (August 17, 1872)

Series 1, Correspondence

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	5	2012.FIA.15.1.70	To Brother Horace from L. Bigelow – New York (September 5, 1872)
1	5	2012.FIA.15.1.71	To Brother Horace from L. Bigelow – New York (September 18, 1872)
1	5	2012.FIA.15.1.72	To Brother Horace from L. Bigelow – New York (October 3, 1872)
1	5	2012.FIA.15.1.73	To Brother Horace from L. Bigelow – New York (October 14, 1872)
1	5	2012.FIA.15.1.74	To Brother Horace from L. Bigelow – New York (October 16, 1872)
1	5	2012.FIA.15.1.75	To Brother Horace from L. Bigelow – New York (October 15, 1872)
1	5	2012.FIA.15.1.76	To Brother Horace from L. Bigelow – New York (October 18, 1872)
1	5	2012.FIA.15.1.77	To Brother Horace from L. Bigelow – New York (December 11, 1872)