

**The New York Public Library  
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Guide to the  
**Bigelow family papers**  
ca. 1843-1950 (bulk 1870-1920)  
MssCol 299

Compiled by John D. Stinson, September 1982

## **Summary**

**Creator:** Bigelow family

**Title:** Bigelow family papers, ca. 1843-1950 (bulk 1870-1920)

**Size:** 64.72 linear feet (113 boxes)

**Source:** Received in 1963 and 1964 from Bryan Conrad

**Abstract:** The Bigelow family papers include correspondence, diaries, notebooks, scrapbooks of memorabilia, photographs, and printed matter belonging to John Bigelow and various relatives, particularly his granddaughter, Charlotte Kenner Harding.

**Access:** Apply to Manuscripts and Archives Division for access at <http://www.nypl.org/mssref>.

**Preferred citation:** Bigelow family papers, Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library

## **Related collections**

John Bigelow letters. Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library

John Bigelow papers. Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library

Poultney Bigelow papers, 1855-1954. Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library

## **Creator history**

Bigelow family consists of the relatives of John Bigelow (1817-1911), author, editor and diplomat. They include his wife, Jane Poultney; daughters, Annie (Mrs. Butler Kenner Harding) and Grace; sons, John and Poultney; granddaughter, Charlotte Kenner Harding (Mrs. Bryan Conrad); and other children and grandchildren. The family had residences at Highland Falls, New York, and Gramercy Park in New York City and was one of New York's socially prominent families in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

## **Scope and content note**

The papers include correspondence, diaries, notebooks, scrapbooks of memorabilia, photographs, and printed matter belonging to members of the Bigelow family.

The papers of Grace Bigelow consist of letters (1867-1932) to family and friends; diaries (1865-1932); school notebooks; and financial papers. The papers reflect family and social life, relationships with brothers, sisters, nieces and nephews; her education at The Friends School, Providence, R.I.; travels in Europe; social life in Germany (1873-74); her romance with a Russian officer; and the management of her Father's affairs. Correspondents include John Bigelow, Jr., Poultney Bigelow, Jenny Bigelow (Tracy), Annie Bigelow (Harding), Flora Bigelow (Dodge/Guest), Jane Poultney Bigelow, Lucy Bigelow Dodge, Louisa Cox Benedict, Walter von Etzel, Macintosh Kellogg, and Robert Porter Keep.

The papers of Jane Poultney Bigelow predominantly contain correspondence with prominent persons, including William Cullen Bryant, Roscoe Conkling, Wilkie Collins, Preston King, and others; and correspondence (1840's-1860's) with her mother, Jane Poultney of Baltimore. Her diary (1873-74) and scrapbooks reflect European travels and social life.

The papers of Annie Bigelow Harding include correspondence with her father, mother, and other family members and friends; a diary (1908-20); and her recollections of her father.

The Charlotte Kenner Harding papers consist of letters (c.1898-1950's) from family and friends including her mother, John Bigelow, and her uncles John and Poultney Bigelow, Anne Tracy Eristoff, Philippe Bunau-Varilla, and Bryan Conrad. Her journals, which include photographs and memorabilia, reflect the childhood and early womanhood of a lady of fashionable society in New York. Scrapbooks contain postcards of places visited in Europe, clippings, and photographs. Additionally, there is a small quantity of financial material, and school notebooks kept at Miss Chapin's School for Girls.

John Bigelow's papers include correspondence with family and others, typed transcript copies of his diaries (1843-1911), financial and legal papers, and printed matter containing his published writings and speeches.

Also present in the collection are guide books, photographs, artifacts and miscellaneous papers of various Bigelow family members.

## **Arrangement**

The Bigelow family papers are organized into the following series:

- I. Grace Bigelow
- II. Jane Poultney Bigelow
- III. Annie Bigelow Harding (Mrs. Butler K. Harding)
- IV. Charlotte Kenner Harding (Mrs. Bryan Conrad)
  - I. A. Correspondence
  - I. B. Journals
  - I. C. Scrapbooks
  - I. D. Financial papers
  - I. E. Personal miscellany
- V. John Bigelow
  - V. A. Correspondence
  - V. B. Diaries
  - V. C. Financial and legal material
  - V. D. Printed matter
- VI. Bigelow family

## Key terms

### Subjects

Women -- Education -- United States  
Women -- United States -- Social conditions

### Names

Bigelow family  
Bigelow, Grace, 1852-1932  
Bigelow, Jane Poultney.  
Bigelow, John, 1817-1911  
Bigelow, John, 1854-1936  
Bigelow, Poultney, b. 1855  
Bryant, William Cullen, 1794-1878  
Bunau-Varilla, Philippe, 1859-1940  
Collins, Wilkie, 1824-1889  
Conkling, Roscoe, 1829-1888  
Conrad, Bryan  
Conrad, Charlotte Kenner Harding, 1890-  
Dodge, Lucy Bigelow.  
Eristoff, Anne Tracy.  
Etzel, Walter von, d. 1893.  
Guest, Flora Bigelow, 1869-1964  
Harding, Annie Bigelow, d. 1923.  
Keep, Robert Porter, 1844-1904  
Kellogg, MacIntosh  
Tracy, Jenny Bigelow.

### Special formats

Diaries  
Photographs

### Places

Europe -- Description and travel  
New York (N.Y.) -- Social life and customs  
United States -- Social life and customs -- 19th  
century  
United States -- Social life and customs -- 20th  
century

## Container list

### I. Grace Bigelow

#### I. A. Letters

- b.1 1867-1874
- b.2 1868-1927
- b.3 1870s-1880s
- b.4 1874-1884
- b.5 1875-1919
- b.6 1882-1883, 1902-1910
- b.7 1883-1924
- b.8 1905-1912
- b.9 1906-1921 (Letters sent to Annie Bigelow Harding)
- b.10 1912-1914
- b.11 1913-1915
- b.12 1916-1917
- b.13 1918-1920
- b.14 1920-1921
- b.15 1921-1922
- b.16 1922-1928
- b.17 1923-1925
- b.18 1923-1927
- b.19 1927-1928
- b.20 1929-1932
- b.21 1930-1931
- b.22 1932
- b.23 Unsorted

#### I. B. Diaries

- b.24 1865-1875
- b.25 1881-1904
- b.26 1905-1932
- b.27 1905-1932

#### I. C. Notebooks

#### I. D. Financial papers

- b.29 c .1884-1932
- b.30 c .1884-1932
- b.31 Unsorted

### II. Jane Poultney Bigelow

- b.32 Letters other than family, 1860s-1880s
- b.33 Letters to family, 1840s-1860s
- b.34 Diary, 1873-1874, 1850-1851

**II. Jane Poultney Bigelow** (cont.)

- b.34 Notebooks and scrapbooks, undated

**III. Annie Bigelow Harding (Mrs. Butler K. Harding)**

Letters

- b.35 1870s-1900  
Letters to her father and mother; letters from her father; financial papers
- b.36 1900-1920
- b.37 ca.1908-1911; undated
- b.38 1904, 1917-1918
- b.39 Diary, 1908-920 (Includes notes on readings; clippings)
- b.40 Personal miscellany  
Notes on her recollections of her father; clippings; family photographs

**IV. Charlotte Kenner Harding (Mrs. Bryan Conrad)**

**I. A. Correspondence**

I. A. i. General correspondence

- b.41 ca. 1898-1905
- b.42 1904-1907
- b.43 1907-1909
- b.44 1909-1911
- b.45 1911-1913
- b.46 1914-1916
- b.47 1916-1918
- b.48 1918-1920
- b.49 1920-1921
- b.50 1922-1923
- b.51 1923-1924
- b.52 1924-1925
- b.53 1926-1927
- b.54 1928-1929
- b.55 1929-1930
- b.56 1930-1932
- b.57 1931-1932
- b.58 1933
- b.59 1934
- b.60 1935-1936
- b.61 1936
- b.62 1937

#### **IV. Charlotte Kenner Harding (Mrs. Bryan Contr...** (cont.)

##### **I. A. Correspondence** (cont.)

###### I. A. i. General correspondence (cont.)

- b.63 1938-1939 A-O
- b.64 1938-1939 P-Z; 1940
- b.65 1940-1941
- b.66 1941-1944
- b.67 1942-1945
- b.68 1945-1947
- b.69 1946-1950
- b.70 Unsorted
- b.75 Unsorted

###### I. A. ii. Correspondence with Annie Bigelow Harding Annie Bigelow Harding was Charlotte Kenner Harding's mother

###### Letters to Annie Bigelow Harding

- b.71 1900-1908
- b.72 1909-1915
- b.73 1916-1921
- b.74 Letters from Annie Bigelow Harding, c.1906-1921

###### I. A. iii. Invitations

- b.84 1907-1909
- b.85 1909-1911
- b.86 1911-1913
- b.87 1914-1918
- b.88 1918-ca. 1927

##### **I. B. Journals**

- b.76 Unsorted, ca. 1890-1912
- b.77 Unsorted, ca. 1890-1912
- b.78 Unsorted, ca. 1890-1912

##### **I. C. Scrapbooks**

##### **I. D. Financial papers**

###### Household bills paid

- b.80 1928-1934
- b.81 1931-1939
- b.82 1940-1948
- b.83 Income tax returns, bank statements and unsorted financial papers

##### **I. E. Personal miscellany**

- b.89 School notebooks  
Includes exercise and examination books kept at Miss Chapin's School for Girls (c.19001-1908)

#### **IV. Charlotte Kenner Harding (Mrs. Bryan Contr... (cont.)**

##### **I. E. Personal miscellany (cont.)**

- b.90 School notebooks
- b.91 Unsorted correspondence and papers

#### **V. John Bigelow**

##### **V. A. Correspondence**

- b.96 1850s  
Letters from his wife and sons, John and Poultney
- b.97 1864-1911  
Includes letters by him to various family members; correspondence relating to Highland falls and his estate; and correspondence relating to Peacedale Cemetery.
- b.98 1896-1911  
Mainly letters from Flora Bigelow Dodge (Guest) and her family
- b.99 1896-1911  
Mainly letters from Flora Bigelow Dodge (Guest) and her family
- b.100 Unsorted letters and papers
- b.101 Unsorted letters and papers

##### **V. B. Diaries (Typed transcript copies)**

- b.102 1843-1860; Index
- b.103 1861-1871
- b.104 1872-1881
- b.105 1881-1911

##### **V. C. Financial and legal material**

- b.106 Bills paid, 1846-1901 (Personal and household expenses)
- b.107 Bills paid, 1846-1901 (Personal and household expenses)
- b.108 Unsorted legal, financial, and miscellaneous papers
- b.109 Unsorted legal, financial, and miscellaneous papers

##### **V. D. Printed matter**

Includes books, speeches, magazine articles by Bigelow; unsorted pamphlets; and periodicals

- b.110 Unsorted material
- b.111 Unsorted material

#### **VI. Bigelow family**

- b.92a Photographs
- b.92b Photographs
- b.92c Photographs
- b.93 Miscellaneous papers
- b.94 Artifacts  
Including medallions, souvenirs, medals, and other personal effects belonging to various members of the Bigelow family

**VI. Bigelow family** (cont.)

b.95 Guide books and pocket maps