

# NEW HAVEN COLONY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## LIBRARY

Manuscripts

No. 54

Date processed: Jan. 27, 1977

- I. Title Bigelow Company Papers, 1852--1967
- II. The papers of the Bigelow Company deposited in the Library in 1971 & 1972 , by Mr. Starr H. Barnum In converted the deposit to a gift.
- III. Linear feet of shelf space occupied: 1 ft.  
Approximate number of items: 1,099 & one bound ledger
- IV. Restrictions: none
- V. Literary rights of the unpublished writings of in these papers, and in other collections of papers in the custody of the New Haven Colony Historical Society Library, have been dedicated to the New Haven Colony Historical Society.
- VI. Press release was issued on
- VII. Biographical note: The Bigelow Co. Papers contain material pertaining to Hobart B. Bigelow (May 16, 1834-Oct. 12, 1891), George Starr Barnum (d. 1939?) and the records of the Company itself.  
H.B. Bigelow was born in North Haven, his maternal grandfather was Rev. James Pierpont. When he was ten, the family moved to Mass. After finishing high school, Bigelow was apprenticed as a machinist first to the Guilford Manuf. Co. and then to the New Haven Manuf. Co. Upon finishing his apprenticeship, he joined Ives and Smith, where he became foreman. He bought the establishment in 1861, added a foundry and in 1870 moved to larger quarters (Grape-vine Point). In 1868 he entered into the field of boiler making. In 1875 Henry Elson joined him as partner and in 1877 George S. Barnum joined the partnership. The Bigelow Co. was incorporated by a special legislative act in 1883. H.B. Bigelow was involved in local and state politics and was an active member of the Republican Party. After holding a number of minor city offices, he was elected Mayor of New Haven in 1878 and Governor of Conn. in 1880. In 1857 he had married Eleanor Lewis and had two sons, Walter and Frank, who joined their father's company. Walter (b. 1897?) died on March 7, 1907 and Frank in 1917. Following the death of Frank's son in 1920, the company was reorganized with the Bigelow heirs relinquishing their interest. G.B. Barnum became president and was followed by his son, Starr H. Barnum in 1939, whose son, Starr Barnum III, became vice-president. For a history of the Bigelow Co. see II:B or Bigelow Boilers Serve Industry.
- VIII. Analysis: The collection is divided into three groups: Hobart H. Bigelow and family; George Starr Barnum and family; and the records of the Bigelow Co. Within each group the papers are arranged by subject and chronologically. See content guide.

BIGELOW COMPANY

Content Guide

Box I

- folder A. H.B. Bigelow--personal papers, 1866-1907 [25]
1. letter to wife, May 1866
  2. deed--Evergreen Cemetery, Oct. 1874
  - 3--4. letter from Pres. Rutherford B. Hayes, Dec. 17, 1880  
& envelope
  - 5-13. letters, envelopes, telegrams from wife and anonymous  
person--extortion, Aug.--Sept. 1881
  - 14-15. letter from N.D. Sperry, postmaster general, Feb. 1882
  16. certificate--membership in New Haven Yacht Club, Nov. 1883
  17. will--Eleanor L. Bigelow (wife), June 1885
  18. memorial booklet--H.B. Bigelow, Oct. 12, 1891
  19. will--Walter P. Bigelow (son), March 1907 [7]
  20. envelope addressed to H.B. Bigelow
- B. Speeches by H.B. Bigelow, 1878-1891 [117]
1. letter of transfer to New Haven Colony Historical Society  
from Starr H. Barnum, 1954
  2. speech--25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of LSO, 1878 (temperance volunteer  
fire company--Croton Engine Co. No. 1 on Temple St.--  
organized Jan. 13, 1953) [8]
  3. speech--Grand Army of the Potomac, Hartford, June 1881  
(2 copies) [8]
  4. Governor's Proclamation--assassination of President--and  
envelope, July 1881 [2]
  5. speech in Charleston, Oct. 1881 [2]
  6. speech--adjournment of the State General Assembly in  
Hartford, 1881 (2 copies) [5]
  7. speech prepared for Lincoln Club in Meriden, not delivered,  
Feb. 1882 [4]
  8. speech--LSO, Jan. 1882 [6]
  9. speech--adjournment of State General Assembly, Hartford,  
April 1882 [2]
  10. speech--Silver Wedding Anniversary, May 1882 [2]
  11. speech--Charleston, delivered at Pecks Opera House,  
June 1883 [7]
  12. speech--New Haven National Armory, June 1883 [3]
  13. speech--honoring Gen. Sloat, May 1884 [3]
  14. speech--Merwin Legion, Oct. 1884 [2]
  15. speech--Chamber of Commerce, 1884, not delivered [3]
  16. speech--LSO, Feb. 1885 [8]
  17. speech--Nehemiah Day Sperry's retirement banquet,  
May 1885 [2]
  18. speech--H.S. Holcomb's China Wedding Anniversary, Oct. 1885 [2]
  19. speech--Horse Guards, 1885 [4]
  20. speech--Legislators Reunion, Hartford, May 1886 [4]
  21. speech--North Haven Centennial, 1886 [12]
  22. speech--27<sup>th</sup> CT Veterans at Orange CT, Sep. 1891 (2 copies) [7]
  23. speech?--inauguration of Mayor Sargent, signed "Eleventh  
Ward" (1891 or 1893) [4]
  24. speech--christening of ship, not delivered, n.d. [1]
  25. speech--on Connecticut, not delivered, n.d. (2 copies) [10]
  26. letter--to Miss Florence Alcott Avery upon her birth (188?)  
[4]

Box I (cont)

- folder C. H.B.Bigelow--Estate of Alice S. McKee, 1887-1889 [15]
  - 1. bill
  - 2. stock dividend certificates [7]
  - 3. bills--Ogontz School for Young Ladies [3]
  - 4. distribution of A.S.McKee's estate [4]
- D. H.B.Bigelow--deeds, 1852-1889 [19]
- E. H.B.Bigelow--stock certificates ( ownership other than H.B.Bigelow given in parenthesis) [20]
  - 1. envelope
  - 2--5. Bigelow Manufacturing Co. (E.S.Bigelow, H. Trowbridge, W. Jaym)
  - 6. CT Arms Co.
  - 7. CT Iron Works
  - 8. Elm City Oil Co.
  - 9. Home Insurance Co. of New Haven (E.S.Bigelow)
  - 10. Mackenzie Range Co.
  - 11-12. Mutual Security Insurance Co. (E.S.Bigelow)
  - 13. New Haven Carriage Co.
  - 14-15. New Haven Electric Lighting Co.
  - 16. New Haven Horse Nail Co.
  - 17. Opera House Co.
  - 18-19. Yale Clock Co.
  - 20. Water Front Forge Company
- F. H.B.Bigelow--Business papers, 1865-1891 [46]
- G. H.B.Bigelow--Business papers, 1866-1891 [16]
  - 1-10. J.W.Bishop, corr., 1866-1885
  - 11-16. Henry Ebson, corr., 1887-1891
- H. H.B.Bigelow--The Hogel Fertilizing Machine Co., 1870-1873 [11] (corr., bills, patent deeds, stock certificates)
- I. H.B.Bigelow--Merchants' Electric Light & Power Co., 1885-1886 [29]
- J. Frank L. Bigelow--Autograph collection [42] (autographs of prominent political figures of the late 19th century) & xeroxed copy
- K. Bigelow--Misc.: newspaper clippings, notes, prayer cards, poem, business card)
- L. Bigelow--photographs [6]
- M. George S. Barnum and Starr H. Barnum, 1879-1947 [32] (corr., passport)
- N. Barnum--Misc.: memorials, Church bulletin, blueprint of Manufacturers of Street Railway [4]

Box II

- folder A. G.S.Barnum--scrapbook, xeroxed copy [~~31~~]
- B. Bigelow Co.--history [24]
  - 1-5. business cards
  - 6-10. history--draft
  - 11-12. CT Industry--printed history
  - 13-24. Incorporation Act & By-Laws, 1883

Box II (cont)

folder C. Assets & Balance Sheets, 1908-1922	[18]
D. Loose documents removed from back of record book, 1915-1923	[16]
E. Company stock--corr., list of stockholders, 1921-1928	[37]
F. Company business	[21]
1-4. Release from contract with J.O.Lombard of Cuba, 1924	
5-7. Deeds, 1883-1887	
G. Patents--corr., printed material, 1939-1960	[13]
H. Patents, 1914-1966	[102]
1-22. U.S.Patents (printed) & corr.	
23-24. British Patents (printed)	
I. Patents, 1899-1933	[36]
1--9. original & corr.	
J. Patents--Richard Hornsby & Sons, Limited, 1903-1919	[52]
1-26.patents, corr., notarized statements, transcript of court case.	
K. Transfer of patent rights, 1921-1923	[40]
L. Salesmen--field office, 1919-1925	[122]
1--2. Elliott H. Barton, Trenton, N.J., 1925	[5]
3-49. Fred W. Duemler, Philadelphia, PA & New York City, 1919-1926	[117]
M. Salesmen--field office	
1-24. Charles J. Govern, New York City, 1920-1925	[33]

Box III

folder A. Salesmen--field office, 1917-1926	[42]
1-12. Elliot Green, Boston MA, 1923-1925	[19]
13-14. Will Star, New York City, 1925	[8]
15-17. George Stetson, Boston MA, 1920	[4]
18-19. T.C.Vincent, Jr. New York, 1925-1926	[4]
20-24. Thomas B. Whitted, Southern office, 1917-1920	[7]
B. Misc.--corr., death notices, 1907-1967	[4]
C. Photographs--workers (poor condition)	[3]
D. Photographs--workers, boilers (removed from photo album, cover retained)	[87]
E. Cover from Photo Album	
F. Ledger--records of the Bigelow Co., July 11, 1883-- March 4. 1923: minutes of directors and stockholders meetings	

## MSS #54 Bigelow Company Papers - 2002 Additions

<u>Box/Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>		
	<u>Patent Books</u>		
4/A	1892-1925		
4/B	1982-1937		
4/C	1899-1937		
4/D	1933-1943		
4/E	1935-1945		
5/A	1922-1937	Box "X"	Index and Section "A"
5/B	"	"	Section "B"
5/C	"	"	Section "C"
5/D	"	"	Section "D"
	<u>Business Records, Ledgers and Correspondence</u>		
6/A	1882-1885	Barnum & Root	
7/A	1885	S.H. Barnum	
7/B	1895	S.H. Barnum	
8/A	1871-1884	Cash Book	
8/B	1878-1882	"	
8/C	1895-1899	"	
9/A	1889-1894	New York Accounts	
9/B	1894-1901	"	
10/A	1879-1883	Order Book	
10/B	1895-1902	Ledger	

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<u>Box/Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>
11/A	1891-1893 Letter Copy Book
11/B	1893-1898 “
11/C	1899-1902 “
11/D	1900 “
12/A	1860-1873 Ledger
12/B	1865-1870 “
12/C	1870-1873 “
12/D	1873-1883 “
13/A	1882-1883 Ledger “B”
13/B	1883-1885 Ledger “E” with index
13/C	1889-1896 Ledger “D”
13/D	1895-1897 Ledger “F” with index