



BHC-MSS 0027  
Guide to the Papers of John and Maggie Lathrop  
By Meg Rinn  
September 2018

**Descriptive Summary**

**Creator:** John W. and Maggie Lathrop

**Title:** Papers of John and Maggie Lathrop

**Dates:** 1852-1874 [Bulk 1853-1855]

**Quantity:** 1 and ½ manuscript box

**Abstract:** John and Maggie Lathrop were a married couple living in Bridgeport in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. The correspondence between the two, sent when the two were dealing with health issues and were forced apart, offer insight into the everyday on goings of Bridgeport in its early history.

**Language:** English

**Repository:** Bridgeport History Center

**Biographical History**

Unfortunately research has yielded precious little about the lives of the Lathrops outside of what is in the correspondence. No death of birth or death has been located for either. What is known is that Maggie was originally from New Jersey, likely Westfield, and John was from Bridgeport and lovingly called himself a Yankee in contrast to Maggie's mid-Atlantic family members. The two did have health problems that forced them apart from each other, and they were likely married sometime in the 1850s. They had three children by the time of Maggie's illness in the 1870s.

This biography will be updated as new information is found.

**Scope and Content Note**

The collection focuses on the mid 1850s and the very early 1870s, with no coverage of intervening years. However, they contain a great deal of information on local Bridgeport history with regards to the 1850s - a time of great development in the city - with minute details about businesses, fires, and churches. Wrapped up in this are insights in New England at the time.

Due to the medical issues both Maggie and John were dealing with, as well as those of family members, the letters also shed light into medicine and medical practice at the time.

The details in the correspondence are intimate, allowing for a solid view into private 19th century lives.

**Arrangement note:**

Upon purchase, the letters were already divided between the correspondence John sent to Maggie in the 1850s and the correspondence she sent to him in the 1870s. The calling cards and other material separated the two. All correspondence is grouped together now, then followed by the additional information instead. Split between the letters from John to Maggie, 1852-1855 with

Maggie living in Westfield; Maggie to John while Maggie seeks a cure for her lung infection (they had 3 children at this point); additional material at the end.

**Administrative information:**

**Provenance:** 2011 acquisition [#2011.22]

**Preferred Citation:**

Papers of John and Maggie Lathrop (BHC-MSS 0026), Bridgeport History Center.

**Names and Subject Tracings**

*Subjects*

Bridgeport, Conn.

History of medicine--19th century--United States

*Genre*

Personal correspondence.

**Detailed box and folder listing**

Box 1

1. Letters, October 31, 1852-May 30, 1853
2. Letters, June 13, 1853-August 29, 1853
3. Letters, September 7, 1853-29,1853
4. Letters, October 6, 1853-November 15, 1853
5. Letters, December 1, 1853-January 30, 1854
6. Letters, February 2, 1854-April 19, 1854
7. Letters, May 1-30, 1854
8. Letters, June 2, 1854-July 12, 1854
9. Letters, July 17, 1854-August 29, 1854
10. Letters, September 1, 1954-October 26, 1854
11. Letters, November 2, 1864-December 28, 1854
12. Letters, January 3, 41855-February 2, 1855
13. Letters, March 8, 1855-April 23, 1855
14. Letters, May 3, 1855-June 25, 1855
15. Letters, July 4, 1855-August 29, 1855
16. Letters, September 11, 1855-October 31, 1855
17. Letters, November 3, 1855-November 27, 1855
18. Letters, June 1870-September 1, 1871

Box 2

1. Letters, September 14, 1871-October 31, 1871
2. Letters, November 2, 1871-December 26, 1871
3. Letters, January 1, 1872-April 12, 1872
4. Letters, April 19, 1872-January 13, 1874
5. Returned letters, other material, photo of John Lathrop, undated
6. Calling cards for John and Maggie Lathrop, undated
7. Booklet, "Rambles about Bridgeport and Vicinity[...]" by John Lathrop, 187
8. Letter inventory, c. 2011