



BHC-MSS 0148  
Guide to the Charles Marsh Collection  
By Meg Rinn

**Descriptive Summary**

**Creator:** Marsh, Charles

**Title:** Charles Marsh Collection

**Dates:** 1880-1959

**Quantity:** 2 manuscript boxes

**Abstract:** This collection reflects the interests of Charles Marsh as collector himself. As a Bridgeport resident in the early 20th Century, he had a keen interest in P.T. Barnum and the circus, Bridgeport as a town, and his family's history. Most important are the family photographs located in series I, as many photographs contain lengthy descriptions on the back and identify streets as well as those pictured.

**Language:** English

**Repository:** Bridgeport History Center

**Biographical History:**

[E – I don't know what to do with this one. It looks like he was in New Mexico by the time this was donated, but I can't find any other info?]

**Scope and Content note:**

This collection reflects the interests of Charles Marsh as collector himself. As a Bridgeport resident in the early 20th Century, he had a keen interest in P.T. Barnum and the circus, reflected in the accumulated material. This includes cabinet cards of 19th Century circus performers along with clippings and his thesis at Perdue University regarding Barnum. His Bridgeport material includes city directories, early street car timetables, and the receipts and bills from various Bridgeport businesses. Most important though are the family photographs located in series I, which date from 1903-1904 almost exclusively. Almost all of the photographs contain lengthy descriptions on the back and identify streets as well as those pictured.

**Arrangement Note:**

The collection is arranged in three series: Marsh and related families, collected Bridgeport material and collected Barnum and Circus material. The first series regarding Charles Marsh and his family places the Marshes first, followed by other families arranged alphabetically, and then photographs. Series II is arranged by alphabetical subject files, and series III places original material first before clipping files.

**Administrative information:**

**Provenance:** 1989.01, gift of Charles Marsh

**Preferred Citation:**

Charles Marsh Collection (BHC-MSS 0148), Bridgeport History Center, Bridgeport Public Library.

## **Names and Subject Tracings**

### *Personal names*

Corbusier family  
Hubbell family  
Marsh, Charles  
Marsh, Buckingham  
Marsh, Charlette  
Marsh family

### *Subject tracings*

Bridgeport, Conn.  
Trolleys  
Circus

## **Detailed box and folder listing**

### Box 1

#### Series I, Marsh and related families

1. Buckingham Marsh correspondence and papers, 1874-1936
2. Charlette Marsh correspondence, 1928-1948
3. Funeral for Charlette Marsh, 1959
4. Charles Marsh correspondence, 1950
5. Other correspondence, 1885
6. Corbusier family material, 1861-1950
7. Hubbell family material, 1922-1934
8. Photographs, Buckingham Marsh, 1904-1933
9. Photographs, Marsh family and home, 1903
10. Photographs, streets and events, 1903-1904
11. Photographs, Blizzard of 1888

#### Series II, Collected Bridgeport material

12. Bridgeport almanacs and directories, 1897-1916
13. Bridgeport business ephemera. 1880s-1930s

### Box 2

1. Bridgeport High School and public schools, 1885-1912
2. Bridgeport maps, guides, and timetables, 1890s-1920s
3. Bridgeport tourist books, 1888 and undated
4. Land values, undated
5. Miscellaneous, 1880s-1920s
6. Programs, 1880s-1920s
7. Universalist church, undated

Series III, Collected Barnum and circus material

8. Thesis, "P.T. Barnum: the greatest showman", 1950
9. Circus programs and memorial, 1944 and undated
10. Circus performer photographs, 1855-1920s
11. Circus stamp, 1966
12. P.T. Barnum and Barnum Festival clippings, 1910s-1950s
13. Circus clippings, 1920s-1950s

Found in collection

Box 3

1. Postcards and correspondence, 1904, undated
2. Bills, 1919-1920
3. Corbusier dance items, 1883, 1910
4. Amos Hubbell probate court records, 1944
5. Lace supposedly belonging to Wordin family, undated
6. Small books owned by Mary Worden, 1812-1821
7. Bridgeport ephemera, 1912-1938
8. Connecticut ephemera, 1874-1910
9. Photographs, undated

Box 4

1. Clippings about Corbusier house being torn down, 1902
2. Clippings about Old Stratfield cemetery, 1914
3. Clippings, 1920s-1940s
4. Clippings, Barnum and circus, 1920s-1950s

Flat file D, drawer 5

21. Industrial and Commercial Review, Bridgeport special, undated
22. Photographs, 1912, undated