



Guide to the John B. Bachelder Papers, 1863-1894

Administrative Information

Title and Dates:

John B. Bachelder Papers, 1863-1894

Repository:

New Hampshire Historical Society

30 Park Street

Concord, NH 03301

603-228-6688

<http://www.nhhistory.org/>

Collection Number:

1921.001

Author of Finding Aid:

Unidentified; revised and reformatted by Nancy J. Keane.

Creator:

Bachelder, John Badger, 1825-1894

Language:

The materials in this collection are in English.

Extent:

10 boxes and 7 volumes ; 7.26 linear feet

Abstract:

The John B. Bachelder Papers, 1863-1894, consist of Bachelder's research and materials related to his extensive study of the Battle of Gettysburg, including his correspondence, maps, reports, published articles, and photographs.

Access and Use

Acquisition Information and Provenance:

The John B. Bachelder Papers were a gift of the estate of John Badger Bachelder on July 5, 1921. Two letter books were gifted on January 29, 1930. Additional letters were purchased in 1996 and added to the collection.

Processing Information:

This collection was processed by an unknown person at an unknown date. The finding aid was written by an unknown person at an unknown date and revised and reformatted by Nancy J. Keane in February 2020. This finding aid follows the standards set forth by *Describing Archives: A Content Standard*.

Access Restrictions:

Available for research.

Location:

The collection is housed at the New Hampshire Historical Society in Concord, New Hampshire.

Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements:

The materials in this collection are paper based and have no special technical requirements for use.

Copyright/Conditions Governing Use:

For permission to reproduce or publish materials from this collection, please contact the New Hampshire Historical Society. Users are responsible for following all copyright and intellectual property laws.

Preferred Citation:

Item title, John B. Bachelder Papers, 1921.001. New Hampshire Historical Society, Concord, NH. Date accessed.

Collection Overview

Biographical Information:

John Badger Bachelder was born on September 29, 1825 at Gilmanton, NH, son of Moses and Sally (Gilman) Bachelder. He was a portrait and landscape painter, lithographer, and photographer. He is best known as the preeminent 19th-century historian of the Battle of Gettysburg in the American Civil War. He was a dominant factor in the preservation and memorialization of the Gettysburg Battlefield in the latter part of the century.

In 1853 he married Elizabeth Stevens, born August 5, 1825 at Nottingham, NH, daughter of Daniel B. and Betsey (Butler) Stevens. John died on December 22, 1894 at Hyde Park, MA. Elizabeth died there on February 1, 1914. Both are buried at Nottingham.

Collection Scope and Content Note:

The John B. Bachelder Papers consist of copies of official reports by both Confederate and Union officers, a substantial amount of correspondence with battle participants, notes, and miscellaneous material taken from a variety of sources such as memoirs, magazines, and newspapers covering the Battle of Gettysburg. Bachelder collected this information for a history of the Battle of Gettysburg that was never completed. The collection also contains a photograph album of memorials related to the Battle of Gettysburg.

Arrangement:

The materials in this collection are organized into the following series:

Series 1. Correspondence, 1863-1894

Series 2. Gettysburg correspondence, 1863-1886

Series 3. Gettysburg Campaign, 1863-1864

Series 4. Letter copybooks, 1875-1893

Series 5. Union reports of the Battle of Gettysburg, 1863-1870

Series 6. Confederate reports of the Battle of Gettysburg, 1863-1864

Series 7. Photograph album of memorials at Gettysburg

Contents List**Series 1. Correspondence, 1863-1894**

Extent: 4 boxes

Scope and Content: Primarily letters written to Bachelder from officers and men in answer to his inquiries concerning individual experiences and troop movements during the Battle of Gettysburg. There are also maps made by Bachelder that were used by his correspondents to mark troop positions and movements and printed invitations to view "The Last Hours of Lincoln."

Box 1

Folder 1	Correspondence, 1863 January 5-1864 January 8
Folder 2	Correspondence, 1864 January 8-March 22
Folder 3	Correspondence, 1864 March 23-March 28
Folder 4	Correspondence, 1864 March 30-October 1
Folder 5	Correspondence, 1865 January 28-May 20
Folder 6	Correspondence, 1865 July 6-December 8
Folder 7	Correspondence, 1866 January 6-March 31
Folder 8	Correspondence, 1866 April 2-August 4
Folder 9	Correspondence, 1866 August 6-December 20
Folder 10	Correspondence, 1867 January 23-February 24
Folder 11	Correspondence, 1867 March 15-1868 February 28
Folder 12	Correspondence, 1868 March 2-May 14
Folder 13	Correspondence, 1868 June 22-1869 January 5
Folder 14	Correspondence, 1869 January 20-August 14
Folder 15	Correspondence, 1869 August 16-25
Folder 16	Correspondence, 1869 August 28-December 29
Folder 17	Correspondence, 1870 February 8-September 20
Folder 18	Correspondence, 1870 September 21-1871 December 22

Folder 19 Correspondence, 1873 January 7-1875 January 20
Folder 20 Correspondence, 1875 February 8-1876 March 21
Folder 21 Correspondence, 1876 March 23-April 3
Folder 22 Correspondence, 1876 April 10-June 13
Folder 23 Correspondence, 1876 August 14-1877 December 27

Box 2

Folder 1 Correspondence, 1878 January 23-May 7
Folder 2 Correspondence, 1878 May 7-May 8
Folder 3 Correspondence, 1878 May 8-9
Folder 4 Correspondence, 1878 May 9-11
Folder 5 Correspondence, 1878 May 11-14
Folder 6 Correspondence, 1878 May 14-16
Folder 7 Correspondence, 1878 May 17-21
Folder 8 Correspondence, 1878 May 22-25
Folder 9 Correspondence, 1878 May 26-June 8
Folder 10 Correspondence, 1878 June 10-July 30
Folder 11 Correspondence, 1878 October 1-December 23
Folder 12 Correspondence, 1879 June 18-November 14
Folder 13 Correspondence, 1880 February 10-September 6
Folder 14 Correspondence, 1881 February 9-May 8
Folder 15 Correspondence, 1881 July 25-December 29
Folder 16 Correspondence, 1882 January 20- February
Folder 17 Correspondence, 1882 February 9-May 3
Folder 18 Correspondence, 1882 May 5-16
Folder 19 Correspondence, 1882 May 17-29
Folder 20 Correspondence, 1882 June 5-September 19
Folder 21 Correspondence, 1882 October 31-1883 February 20
Folder 22 Correspondence, 1883 March 23-June 11
Folder 23 Correspondence, 1883 August 6-1884 January 21
Folder 24 Correspondence, 1884 January 24-February 8
Folder 25 Correspondence, 1884 February 11-April 4

Box 3

Folder 1 Correspondence, 1884 May 14-July 9
Folder 2 Correspondence, 1884 August 15-September 23
Folder 3 Correspondence, 1884 October 15-1885 April 15
Folder 4 Correspondence, 1885 April 20-October 20
Folder 5 Correspondence, 1885 November 7-24
Folder 6 Correspondence, 1885 November 25-December 17
Folder 7 Correspondence, 1885 December 22-1886 January 21
Folder 8 Correspondence, 1886 February 3-March 3
Folder 9 Correspondence, 1886 March 5-19
Folder 10 Correspondence, 1886 March 22-24
Folder 11 Correspondence, 1886 March 26-31
Folder 12 Correspondence, 1886 April 1-16

Folder 13	Correspondence, 1886 April 18-24
Folder 14	Correspondence, 1886 May 8-18
Folder 15	Correspondence, 1886 May 24
Folder 16	Correspondence, 1886 May 25-June 18
Folder 17	Correspondence, 1886 June 20-July 3
Folder 18	Correspondence, 1886 July 16-September 14
Folder 19	Correspondence, 1886 September 29-1887 January 31
Folder 20	Correspondence, 1887 February 12-May 31
Folder 21	Correspondence, 1887 June 11-July 8
Folder 22	Correspondence, 1887 July 9-December 27
Folder 23	Correspondence, 1888 January 9-May 7
Folder 24	Correspondence, 1888 May 10-19
Folder 25	Correspondence, 1888 May 21-September 22

Box 4

Folder 1	Correspondence, 1888 October 16-1889 April 9
Folder 2	Correspondence, 1889 April 10-May 29
Folder 3	Correspondence, 1889 June 1-July 9
Folder 4	Correspondence, 1889 July 17-August 7
Folder 5	Correspondence, 1889 August 9-September 20
Folder 6	Correspondence, 1889 September 23-October 21
Folder 7	Correspondence, 1889 October 24-November 5
Folder 8	Correspondence, 1889 November 6-December 25
Folder 9	Correspondence, 1890 January 3-March 23
Folder 10	Correspondence, 1890 March 27-April 30
Folder 11	Correspondence, 1890 May 6-June 21
Folder 12	Correspondence, 1890 June 25-July 9
Folder 13	Correspondence, 1890 July 10-August 27
Folder 14	Correspondence, 1890 August 29-September 28
Folder 15	Correspondence, 1890 October 4-1891 January 9
Folder 16	Correspondence, 1891 January 10-February 16
Folder 17	Correspondence, 1891 February 23-March 19
Folder 18	Correspondence, 1891 March 25-June 28
Folder 19	Correspondence, 1891 July 24-December 29
Folder 20	Correspondence, 1892 January 14-March 10
Folder 21	Correspondence, 1892 March 11-November 15
Folder 22	Correspondence, 1893 March 3-1894 February 3
Folder 23	Correspondence, 1894 September 27-December 22
Folder 24	Correspondence, undated
Folder 25	Printed matter, undated

Series 2. Gettysburg correspondence, 1863-1886

Extent: 3 volumes

Scope and Content: Correspondence and copies of letters to Bachelder and between officers and men who participated in the Battle of Gettysburg dealing primarily with experiences and

troop movements in the field. The letters are not in chronological order. Each volume contains an index.

Volume 1 Correspondence, typescripts, 1864-1883

Volume 2 Correspondence, typescripts, 1863-1886

Volume 3 Correspondence, typescripts, 1864-1882

Series 3. Gettysburg Campaign, 1863-1864

Extent: 1 box plus 3 volumes

Scope and Content: Copies of reports, published articles, and miscellaneous data concerning individual experiences and troop movements and positions during the Battle of Gettysburg.

These volumes are divided into the following: Volume 4: Advance into Pennsylvania; Volume 5: 1st Day's Battle; Volume 6: 2nd Day's Battle; Volume 7: 3rd Day's Battle. Volumes 5-7 contain an index.

Box 5

Folders 1-24 Volume 4 (disbound), Advance into Pennsylvania, 1863-1864

Volume 5 1st Day's Battle, 1863

Volume 6 2nd Day's Battle, 1863

Volume 7 3rd Day's Battle, 1863

Series 4. Letter copybooks, 1875-1893

Extent: 1 box

Scope and Content: Copies of letters of inquiry addressed by Bachelder to officers and men who participated in the Battle of Gettysburg. Each volume contains an index.

Box 6

Volume 8 Correspondence, outgoing, 1875-1893

Volume 9 Correspondence, outgoing, 1879-1891

Series 5. Union reports of the Battle of Gettysburg, 1863-1870

Extent: 2 boxes

Scope and Content: Manuscript copies, by Bachelder, of reports made by officers in the Union Army from the Battle of Gettysburg. Volume 14 contains an index to the reports.

Box 7

Volume 10 Reports, 1863-1870

Volume 11 Reports, 1863-1868

Box 8

Volume 12 Reports, 1863

Volume 13 Reports, 1863

Volume 14 Index to volumes 10-13

Series 6. Confederate reports of the Battle of Gettysburg, 1863-1864

Extent: 2 boxes

Scope and Content: Manuscript copies, by Bachelder, of reports made by officers of the Confederate Army from the Battle of Gettysburg. Volume 17 is typed. Volume 18 has an index.

Box 9

Volume 15 Reports, 1863-1864
Volume 16 Reports, 1863

Box 10

Volume 17 Reports, 1863
Volume 18 Reports, and names and statistics of the missing, wounded, and killed, 1863

Series 7. Photograph album of memorials at Gettysburg

Extent: 1 album

Scope and Content: Photograph album of memorials at Gettysburg, PA, kept by John B. Bachelder.

Volume 19 Photographs of memorials

Subject Terms**People:**

Bachelder, John Badger, 1825-1894

Organizations:

Confederate States of America. Army

United States. Army

Subjects:

Correspondence

Gettysburg, Battle of, Gettysburg, Pa., 1863

Letter books

Maps

Memorials

Photographs

United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865

Locations:

Gettysburg, PA

Occupations:

Historians

Soldiers

Related Materials

The New Hampshire Historical Society has numerous items on or by John Badger Bachelder. A sample of which is listed below. See the online catalog for more information.

Archives

John B. Bachelder Papers microfilm, 102264

John B. Bachelder Gettysburg map set, 912.787 G394 1996

Maps of the battlefield of Gettysburg July 1-3, 1863, 1st-3rd days battle compiled and added for the government by John B. Bachelder, 912.787 G394 1896

Library

Bachelder, John B. *Gettysburg: what to see, and how to see it*. Boston: John B. Bachelder, n.d.
Call number: 973.7349 B119g

Bachelder, John B. *Popular resorts, and how to reach them, combining a brief description of the principal summer retreats in the United States, and the routes to travel to them*. Boston: John B. Bachelder, 1875. Call number: 917.3 B1104p3

Ladd, David L. and Audrey J. *The Bachelder Papers: Gettysburg in their own words*. Dayton, OH: Morningside, 1994-1995. Call number: 973.7349 B119p

Pittet, Marcel. "Manuscripts: The John Badger Bachelder Collection." *Historical New Hampshire* 38, no. 1 (April 1963): 35-40. Call number: 977.8 N5321h

Sauers, Richard A. *John Badger Bachelder: his life and work*. University Park, PA: 1981. Call number: 920 B119s

Museum

- 1921.004.02 *Battle of Gettysburg*, oil on canvas, c. 1870 (artist, James Walker)
- 1961.062 *Army of the Potomac*, lithograph, 1863
- 1969.079.01 *Battle of Gettysburg*, engraving after Walker, 1876; framed
- 1993.008 Collection of 111 drawings (89 watercolor, 7 ink, 15 pencil) and 15 prints of scenes in northeast U.S. (mostly New Hampshire)
- 1995.573.06 *Review of the Massachusetts Volunteer Militia*, colored lithograph, 1860; framed
- 1995.573.08 *Gettysburg Battlefield*, colored lithograph, 1863; framed
- 1995.573.13 *Battle of Gettysburg*, engraving after Walker, 1876; framed
- 1995.591.05 *Army of the Potomac*, colored lithograph
- 1995.591.06 *Army of the Potomac*, lithograph, 1863
- 1995.594.01 *Firemen's Muster, Manchester*, lithograph, 1861

Town Views (lithographs):

- Amoskeag Falls, Manchester, 1856, colored; framed (1989.502)
- Amoskeag Falls, Manchester, 1856 (1993.008)
- Beverly, MA, 1856 (1993.008)
- Claremont, 1857 (1995.592.02)
- Dover, 1855 (1995.592.16)
- Great Falls, Somersworth, 1856 (1993.008)
- Great Falls, Somersworth, 1856 (1998.501.01)
- Manchester, 1855, colored; framed (1975.527)
- Manchester, 1855 (1993.008)
- Manchester 1855, colored, (1998.501.02)
- Pittsfield, 1856 (1993.008)
- Pittsfield, 1856 (1998.501.03)