

**American Antiquarian Society
Manuscript Collections**

NAME OF COLLECTION:

Endicott Family, Papers, 1822-1930

LOCATION(S):

Mss. boxes "E"

SIZE OF COLLECTION:

four manuscript boxes

SOURCES OF INFORMATION ON COLLECTION:

SOURCE OF COLLECTION:

Gift of Katherine Endicott, 2005

COLLECTION DESCRIPTION:

James Endicott (1766-1834), of Canton, Mass., was the son of James and Abigail (Puffer) Endicott. He married, in 1801, Betsy Crane (-1865), the daughter of Peter and Abigail Crane and the granddaughter of Henry and Abigail (Puffer) Crane. James and Betsy had eleven children: George (1802-1848), who married Sarah Lee Munroe (1809-1885); Betsy [referred to as Eliza] (1804-), who married first a Mr. Bradley, and second, Zenas Wheeler; Francis (1805-); John (1807-1855); Clara (1809-1833); Harriet (1810-); Jane (1812-), who married William Ellis (-); Hannah (1814-); William (1816-1851), who married Mary Munroe (-1847); Abigail (1818-); and Edmund (1821-).

The Endicott family papers are most notable for the letters which illuminate the careers of brothers George and William Endicott. George was a successful lithographer, at first in partnership with Moses Swett (1804-1838) in Baltimore, Md., and New York City, and after the dissolution of that partnership in 1834, with his brother William in 1845. Despite the deaths of both brothers, Endicott & Company continued until 1886.

There are approximately twenty letters which specifically refer to the lithography business. The subjects are varied including: George's complaints about Moses Swett; his pleas to his sisters to come to New York - "We have oceans of coloring to do ..."; his pleasure in getting a contract from the state of New York; and his difficulty in getting payment from the legislature for his work. During his trip to Europe in 1847, in addition to describing the sights, George wrote of his search for artisans to return with him to work for the company.

On occasion the Endicott sisters worked in New York City for the lithography company or helped family members with their domestic concerns. When they were in Canton they worked as seamstresses and milliners. Betsey ("Eliza"), after her marriage, lived in New York City for many years.

The principal correspondents, in addition to George and William, were Betsey Crane Endicott and her children Betsey ("Eliza"), John, Jane, Hannah, and Abigail. More than twenty letters were written by Martha [known as "Patty"] Crane Olney (1793-), Betsey Crane Endicott's sister. By 1854 she had moved to Alton with her married daughter, Elizabeth S. Olney Billings (1824-). She wrote entertainingly of her spiritualist "circle" [19 November 1854], her pride in having earned enough money to put a "stone" to her husband's grave—and not finding the grave site in Chicago, thought it all the same to put the marker in Alton [21 February 1858]; and even though her hens were hateful to each other, "they treated me as their best friend" [24 January 1869].

Margaret Crane Fuller (1789-1859), the mother of Margaret Fuller Ossoli (1810-1850) was also a sister of Betsey and Martha. Her visits to Canton are noted, as well as her presence at dinner with Margaret, at George Endicott's on June 22, 1845.

Mary Alice Endicott (1847-), the orphaned daughter of William and Mary Munroe Endicott who eventually came back to Canton to be cared for by her grandmother and aunts, was the author of many of the later letters.

Nearly all of the approximately three hundred fifty letters, more than half of them composed between 1840 and 1870, were written by family members. The correspondent was usually writing from Canton or New York City to someone in Canton or New York City. Since there was a good deal of movement between the two locales there was much of mutual interest to write about. Among the subjects were the current fashions, the activities of their respective churches, and the foibles of their friends.

AMERICAN ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY
MANUSCRIPTS DEPARTMENT

ENDICOTT FAMILY, PAPERS, 1822-1930
CONTENTS LIST

BOX	FOLDER	CONTENTS
		Correspondence, n.d. [arranged alphabetically by correspondent]
1	1	Billings, Eliz. – Endicott, Betsey
1	2	Endicott, Eliza – Endicott, Geo. Jr. (?)
1	3	Endicott, Hannah – Endicott, Jane
1	4	Endicott, Mary Munroe – Fuller, Margaret Crane
		Correspondence, 1822-1930 [arranged chronologically]
1	5	1822 December 13 – 1829 March 20
1	6	1829 May 9 – 1831 July 29
1	7	1832 February 10 – 1833 October 8
1	8	1834/5?; 1834 January 17 – July 29
1	9	1834 August 20 – 1836 October 12
1	10	1837 May 4 – 1839 April 13
1	11	1839 May 15 – December 7
1	12	1840s?
1	13	1840 January 26 – 1841 September 29
1	14	1842 January 27 – June 8
1	15	1842 July 3 – 1843 February 12
1	16	1843 February 13 – 1844 July 26
1	17	1844 August 14 – 1845 June 11
1	18	1845 June 22 – December 11
1	19	1846 January 14 – 1847 May 21
1	20	1847 June 7 – September 14
2	1	1847 September 15 – October 8
2	2	1847 October 15 – 1848 September 11
2	3	1848 October 14 – 1849 August 8
2	4	1849 August 23 – 1850 October 7
2	5	1850 October 27 – 1851 January 30
2	6	1851 April 4 – 1853 June 7
2	7	1854 April 17 – June 25
2	8	1854 November 19 – 1855 June 26
2	9	1855 June 28 – October 19
2	10	1855 October 22 – 1856 April 27
2	11	1856 May 5 – 1857 April 7
2	12	1857 October 6 – 1858 October 10
2	13	1858 November 7 – 1859 December 14
2	14	186-?; 1860 February 5 – 1860 March 22
2	15	1860 March 28 – October 7
		Correspondence, 1822-1930 (cont.)

BOX	FOLDER	CONTENTS
		[arranged chronologically]
2	16	1860 December 6 – 1861 June 17
2	17	1861 December 22 – 1862 May 3
2	18	1862 July 6 – 1862 November 17
2	19	1863 January 6 – August 26
2	20	1863 October 9 – 1864 April 22
2	21	1864 May 11 – December 23
2	22	1865 January 5 – May 21
2	23	1865 November 19 – 1868 February 9
2	24	1868 April 9 – 1871 April 16
3	1	1871 September 9 – 1872 August 16
3	2	1873 February 16 – 1876 November 22
3	3	1877 November 14 – 1878 January 10
3	4	1878 February 17 – May 29
3	5	1878 June 14 – 1879 March 16
3	6	1879 March 24 – July 11
3	7	1880 January 11 – February 27
3	8	1880 March 7 – April 30
3	9	1881 February 25 – 1882 June 5
3	10	1884 February 25 – 1893 December 17
3	11	1899 June 9 – 1930 September 30
3	12	partial
		Papers, 1838-1926
3	13	Legal documents and papers, 1838 – 1926 re: property in Canton
3	14	Legal documents, 1845; 1851
3	15	Miscellaneous papers, 1825-1851 --receipts, poetry, petition, ad
3	16	Genealogical materials
3	17	Empty envelopes
3	18	Processor's notes
4	1-29	Transcriptions of correspondence