

**American Antiquarian Society  
Manuscript Collections**

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**NAME OF COLLECTION:**

Brigham, Peter Bent, Papers, 1827-1876

**LOCATION(S):**

Misc. mss. boxes "B"  
Octavo vols. "S"

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**SIZE OF COLLECTION:**

one folder (36 items); one octavo volume (44 leaves, 19 blank)

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**SOURCES OF INFORMATION ON COLLECTION:**

For a biographical sketch of Peter Bent Brigham, see W. I. Tyler Brigham, *The History of the Brigham Family*, (New York: The Grafton Press, 1907), p. 295-296.

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**SOURCE OF COLLECTION:**

Gift of Charles H. Taylor

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**COLLECTION DESCRIPTION:**

Peter Bent Brigham (1807-1877), restaurateur and real estate magnate, was born in Bakersfield, Vt., on 4 February 1807, the son of Uriah and Elizabeth Fay Brigham. He removed to Boston, Mass., as a young man and made his fortune, first operating a restaurant, apparently called Concert Hall, on Court Street and then through real estate dealings. He was a respected civic leader and his considerable estate was the basis for the founding of Peter Bent Brigham Hospital in Boston. He died, unmarried, on 24 May 1877 in Boston.

The items in this collection, which covers the period 1827 to 1876, suggest the main outlines of Brigham's career. There are three licenses from the United States Internal Revenue; two "...to carry on the business ... of [an] eating house ..." and one "... to carry on the business ... of [a] retail liquor dealer ...", as well as a liquor license from the city of Boston. Included also are bills of fare for various events (e.g., the Massachusetts Charitable Mechanics Association dinner, a ball for Prince de Joinville - this also includes a table plan for Faneuil Hall), and a Fourth of July dinner, and a proposal for five "cotillion parties" to be held at Concert Hall.

On 20 May 1869, Sam'l Hatch & Co. held a "Sale of Furniture at Concert Hall ... on a/c of Peter Brigham Esq." The sale grossed \$1,200.58, and netted Brigham \$831.83; a fully accounting of which is included in the collection.

There is an undated draft, or copy, of a letter sent to the mayor and alderman of the city of Boston asking them to revoke the license of lobster vendors who "... stand with their barrows in front of Concert Hall ...". There is also a draft, or copy, of a petition sent to the Senate and House of Representatives "... in aid of the petition of Ed[ward] A. Raymond & others for a Horse Railroad between Boston Brighton and Brookline." Included also are two copies of a draft, or copy, of a vote of the directors of the Nashua, Acton and Boston Rail Road Company, 21 December 1875.

There is a personal and poll tax bill, as well as an income, etc. tax bill from the United States Internal Revenue. There are two indentures (leases) and a mortgage from the Cochituate Fire Insurance Company.

On 5 August 1851, Brigham paid the lodging bill of Dr. Richard Sharpe Young ( -1877). On 27 September 1851, Dr. Young then received five dollars from Brigham for "Jenny Lind's Concert."

Of a personal nature is a character reference from Robert Clarke ( - ) for whom Brigham had tended a grocery store, a certificate from the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts for Master Mason, a military pass, and a letter from Joel Powers ( - ), of Lowell, Mass., thanking Brigham for a "truly noble gift."

The collection also includes a bill for his mother's funeral expenses, an account of goods and estate of Elizabeth Brigham, and a bill from John Peak, Funeral Undertaker, to Mary Weisse for funeral expenses.

Other items in the collection include bills, correspondence, and various miscellaneous items.

The volume contains inventories and accounts with William Bonner ( - ) for the period 1838 to 1857.

**American Antiquarian Society  
MANUSCRIPTS DEPARTMENT**

PETER BENT BRIGHAM, PAPERS, 1827-1876  
CONTENTS LIST

DATE	ITEM
n.d.	Letter to the mayor and aldermen of the city of Boston --re: to revoke a license given to a lobster vendor
n.d.	[Stagecoach?] schedule
n.d.	List of stockholders of over \$400
1827 April 25	Character reference from Robert Clarke
1829 September 7	Bill of fare for the Massachusetts Charitable Mechanics Association dinner
1834 July 29	Indenture (lease of room)
1836 May 16	Bill from the Democratic Country Society --re: uses of room(s)
1837 November 14	Bill from the Health Office to Henry Davis, Funeral Undertaker --re: PBB's mother's funeral expenses
[1838?]	Receipted bill from the Cambridge Ice Company
1840 April 27	Liquor license from the City of Boston
1840 June 3	Dinner invitation from the National Lancers
1840 August 8	Letter from Mark Gage --re: the "Winchester case"
1840 November	Proposal for "five cotillion parties at Concert Hall"
1841	Bill of fare and plan for tables at Faneuil Hall --re: ball for Prince de Joinville
1842 June 13	Bill of fare for the Fourth of July dinner
1843 January 16	Certificate of Master Mason from the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts
1846 June	Account of goods and estate of Elizabeth Brigham
1847 May 12	Indenture (lease of an estate)
1851 August 5	Receipted bill from Mrs. G. H. Seddons to Dr. Richard S. Young, paid by PBB
1851 September 27	Receipt from Richard Sharpe Young, M.D. --re: Jenny Lind's concert
1855 March 20	Mortgage w/The Cochituate Fire Insurance Company
1857 October 27	Notice of eviction to Michael Cahill
1858 August 23	Bill from John Peak, Funeral Undertaker to Mary Weisse --re: funeral expenses
1858 October 1	Tax (personal and poll) bill
1860 August 8	Receipted bill from the Boston & Providence Rail Rail Company
1861 June 8	Military pass
1861 October	Petition to the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court --re: the petition by Edward A. Raymond to build a horse railroad between Boston, Brookline, and Brighton
1864 May 1	License from the United States Internal Revenue --"... to carry on the business ... of eating house ..."
DATE	ITEM
1864 Augsut 5	Tax bill (income, etc.) from the United States Internal Revenue
1865 May 1	License from the United States Internal Revenue

	--“... to carry on the business ... of retail liquor dealer ...”
1865 May 1	License from the United States Internal Revenue
	--“... to carry on the business ... of eating house ...”
1869 May 28	Account of “sale of furniture at Concert Hall by Sam’l Hatch & Co., May 20 <sup>th</sup> 1869 on a/c of Peter Brigham Esq.”
1875 December 21	“Copy of vote of Directors of the Nashua Acton & Boston RR Co” [2 copies]
1876 May 12	Letter from Joel Powers, of Lowell, Mass. --re: gratitude for a gift of kindness