

## Coleman-Cutting Family Photograph Collection

Cambridge Historical Commission  
831 Massachusetts Avenue  
Cambridge, MA 02139

**Collection ID:** P023

**Provenance:** The collection was donated by Elisabeth Hughes, a descendant of the Coleman-Cutting family, in 2018.

**Dates:** ca. 1850s-1930

**Extent:** 6 print photographs, 1 photocopy newspaper image, and 2 tintypes

**Processed by:** Brittany Fox, March 2019

**Access:** Collection is available for research under the CHC rules of use

### **Collection Description:**

The Coleman-Cutting Family Photograph Collection consists of print photographs, tintypes, and one photocopy of a newspaper image. The images date from the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

### **Historical Context and Biographical Note:**

The Coleman family owned a coal and wood business known as Coleman Brothers, located at the corner of Broadway and Sixth Street in Cambridge. The business was started by John Coleman (1827-1883) who emigrated from Birmingham, England with his wife, Elizabeth Harper Whitehouse (1827-1906), in about 1847. Initially assuming a job as a policeman, John changed his career to the coal and wood industry, which he developed with his two sons, Walter (1857-1912) and James. The business obtained its namesake in 1883 and conducted business at 428 Massachusetts Avenue until 1923 when it merged with the Massachusetts Wharf Coal Company.

Coleman also had a daughter, Fannie (1853-1889), who married Charles H. Cutting (1856-1920), a Boston native. Cutting was initially an iron molder but he volunteered with the Cambridge Fire Department for 37 years until 1915. He also later owned his own provisions store that sold fish, oysters, and canned goods. The store was located at 885 Main Street (now on Mass Ave near Harvard Square) and it may have previously been The Old Rockport Market owned by E.A. Burroughs. They had four children: Elizabeth Swanton (b.1881), Henry Arthur (1883-1963), Herbert Harper (1885-1982), and Ida May (1887-1978). The provisions store became a family business. In 1889, Fannie died due to complications in childbirth.

In 1920, Cutting died, and his son Henry took over the business. He also volunteered for the Cambridge Fire Department between 1920-1942. In 1901, Cutting's daughter Elizabeth married Bowman Nowell (b. ca. 1878), the son of Lucy Ann Kemp (1848-1931) and Charles Frederick Nowell (1839-1906) and the grandson of Lysander Kemp (1821-1905). Lysander Kemp owned a soap manufacturing company in Cambridge that was initially called Kemp & Sargent and later renamed Lysander Kemp & Sons. Kemp was the brother-in-law to Curtis Davis of the Curtis Davis Company, another soap manufacturer that later merged with Lever Brothers.

## Related Resources:

See “An Eyewitness Account by John Coleman of Events in Cambridge” located on CHC share drive.

## Items:

1. Tintype of [possibly] John Coleman, ca. 1850s.
2. Tintype of [possibly] Charles H. Cutting. The image is undated.
3. A photocopy newspaper image of the Coleman Brothers coal factory obtained from the Cambridge Chronicle, July 22, 1893.
4. Carte-de-visite of Fanny Coleman Cutting. L.W. Cook photographer. The image is undated.
5. Cabinet card of four Cutting children, 1889. Verso: “The year - 1889. Elizabeth Swanton Cutting, 6/21/81; Ida May, 8/24/87; Herbert Harper, 7/31/85; Henry Arthur, 11/27/83. Children of Fannie Coleman & Charles H. Cutting.”
6. Cabinet card of Henry Cutting. Image is undated. Verso: “Henry Arthur Cutting.”
7. Photograph mounted on cardstock of Charles Cutting and his children in front of the family’s provision store. Bolter Bro’s photographer. Image is undated. Verso: “Grandpa & Uncle Henry & Aunt Ida Cutting. Grandpa grocery fish & meat store.”
8. Photograph mounted on cardstock of Charles Cutting and three of his children in the family’s provision store. Bolter Bro’s photographer. Image is undated. Verso: “Grandpa, Uncle Henry & Aunt Ida Cutting. Grandpa’s grocery fish & meat store.”
9. Photograph of Lucy Ann Kemp sitting on a chair in a yard, 1930. Verso: “Grandma Howell. 1930. (Lucy Ann Kemp).”

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