

Curtis Mellen Photograph Collection

Cambridge Historical Commission
831 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02139

Provenance: Donated by Curtis Mellen, 1983

Collection ID: P010

Dates: ca. 1890-1910

Extent: 1 flat box

Finding aid by: Meta Partenheimer, September 2017 and updated June 2018

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

Collection Description:

Family photographs as well as photographs of both the interior and exterior of Mellen family homes in Cambridge. Also included are documents related to one of the homes. Many of the photographs have been attributed to Edwin D. Mellen. Listed below are the addresses and sites that have been documented in the collection. Some images are from unknown locations.

The Mellens were a very prominent family in Cambridge, and their soap business, Curtis Davis & Co., became the American branch of Lever Brothers, the largest soap manufacturer in the world at the time.

List of Locations:

180 Broadway, Cambridge (Curtis and Davis Co.)

293-295 Broadway, Cambridge

305-307 Broadway, Cambridge

1 Chauncy Street, Cambridge

9 Forest Street, Cambridge

11-15 Hampshire Street

52 Linnean Street, Cambridge (Peabody School)

1590 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge

1600 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge

33 Washington Avenue, Cambridge

Central Square, Cambridge

Lanesville (outlying neighborhood of Gloucester)

Washington Elm, Cambridge Common

65 Chatham Street

167 Washington Street

Oversize photographs stored with Oversize Photographs and Documents Collection (CHC015):

Group portrait: men with Curtis Davis Co. (65 Chatham Street) wagon, nd

House at 167 Washington Street, nd