

# Guide to the John J. Cushing Correspondence

Ms Coll 35



Finding aid by Toby A. Appel and Judit Balassa

2012

Yale University  
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New Haven, CT 06520-8014  
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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Medical Historical Library, Cushing/Whitney Medical Library  
Yale University  
333 Cedar St.  
New Haven, CT 06520-8014  
203-737-1192  
203-785-5636  
historical.library@yale.edu  
<http://historical.medicine.yale.edu/>

**CALL NUMBER:** Ms Coll 35

**CREATOR:** Cushing, John J., 1822-1879

**TITLE:** John J. Cushing Correspondence

**DATES:** 1853-1873

**BULK DATES:** 1853-1857

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 0.25 linear feet (1 box, 33 items)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** John J. Cushing was an early homeopathic physician in San Francisco. The collection consists of letters to his family.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/med.ms.0035>

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## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use on site, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/med.ms.0035>.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box  
f. folder

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Purchased, 2011.

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### Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

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## Conditions Governing Use

This collection is not under copyright.

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## Preferred Citation

John J. Cushing Correspondence, Historical Library, Cushing/Whitney Medical Library, Yale University, New Haven, CT

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## Biographical / Historical

John J. Cushing was born in Providence, Rhode Island on February 14, 1822, the son Daniel Cooke Cushing (1783-1830), a merchant in Providence, and Susan Barrett Cushing (1786-1862). With a medical diploma from an unidentified medical school, he moved to San Francisco in 1853 and began practice as one of the earliest homeopathic physicians in San Francisco. He served as first president of the Pacific Homoeopathic Medical Society in 1874. In 1856 he married Harriet Reed Barlow of Burlington, Vermont, who was a school teacher in San Francisco. In 1873 he moved to Marin County about six miles from Sausalito where he homesteaded property and built a sanatorium which he named Blithedale. He died at Blithedale on September 3, 1879.

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## Scope and Contents

The collection consists of letters written by John J. Cushing from San Francisco to his mother, brother Edward, and sister Susan Cushing Cheney, in Providence, Rhode Island. They contain information on a wide variety of subjects including his homeopathic medical practice, relations with regular physicians, gold and copper mining (he owned a copper mine in Arizona), economic conditions, social life, San Francisco politics, his marriage, and the construction of his house.

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## Arrangement

Arranged by date.

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## Collection Contents

b. 1, f. 1	Letters to family 4 items. Pencil notes written by the manuscript dealer.	1853 May-July
b. 1, f. 2	Letters to family 4 items.	1853 August- November
b. 1, f. 3	Letters to family 4 items.	1854 February- April
b. 1, f. 4	Letters to family 4 items.	1854 September- November
b. 1, f. 5	Letters to family 3 items.	1855 January- May
b. 1, f. 6	Letters to family 3 items.	1856 January- May
b. 1, f. 7	Letters to family 4 items.	1856 June- December
b. 1, f. 8	Letters to family 3 items.	1857 January- February
b. 1, f. 9	Letters to family 1 letter to Edward urging him to come to California.	1873
b. 1, f. 10	Letters to family 3 undated items, one to "Dear Folks" and one each to Edward and his mother.	n.d.

## **Selected Search Terms**

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

### **Subjects**

Copper mines and mining -- Arizona  
Gold mines and mining -- California  
Homeopathy -- California  
Politics and culture -- California -- San Francisco

### **Geographic Names**

California -- Economic conditions

### **Genres / Formats**

Letters (correspondence)

### **Occupations**

Homeopathic physicians -- California -- San Francisco

### **Names**

Cheney, Susan Jarvis Cushing, 1827-  
Cushing, Edward Jarvis, 1824-1905  
Cushing, John J., 1822-1879  
Cushing, Susan Barrett, 1786-1862

### **Corporate Body**

San Francisco Medical Society