

**PROVIDENCE PUBLIC LIBRARY**  
**Special Collections**  
**087-02**  
**John Edwin Brown letter to G. & C. Merriam**  
1834 September 3

**OVERVIEW OF THE COLLECTION**

Number: 087-02

Title: John Edwin Brown letter to G. & C. Merriam

Creator: Brown, John Edwin, 1804 or 1805-1839

Dates: 1834 September 3

Quantity: 1 folder (.8 linear feet)

**ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**

Acquisition: Purchase, date unknown.

Accruals: No accruals are expected.

Custodial history: Material was acquired from bookseller.

Processed by: The item was processed by Janaya Kizzie in 2012 as part of the RI Manuscript Collection. Reprocessed as distinct collection by Kate Wells in 2019.

Conservation: Not applicable.

Language: Materials are in English.

**RIGHTS AND ACCESS**

Access: This collection is open under the rules and regulations of the Providence Public Library, Special Collections department.

Preferred Citation: Researchers are requested to use the following citation format:  
*John Edwin Brown letter to C. & G. Merriam, Special Collections, Providence Public Library*

Property Rights: Property rights have been assigned to Providence Public Library.

**INFORMATION FOR RESEARCHERS**

Separated material Not applicable.

Published description Not applicable.

Location of originals	Not applicable.
Location of copies	Not applicable.
Publication note	Not applicable.
Subject headings	Booksellers and bookselling - Rhode Island - History Printing - Rhode Island - History G. & C. Merriam Co. Marshall, Brown & Co.

**SEE ALSO**

004, Updike Collection on the History of Printing

**HISTORICAL NOTE**

In 1830, William Marshall opened a bookstore, printing office and bindery at 21 Westminster Street near Market Square in Providence, Rhode Island. By 1834 he had taken on John Edwin Brown as a partner in the firm. Marshall retired in 1837 and a year later Brown sold the firm to Isaac H. Cady. John Edwin Brown (1804 or 1805-1839) was the son of John Brown and Mary Hodges. He married Abby Carey Field of Providence and died December 20, 1839 in East Greenwich, Rhode Island.

George and Charles Merriam were printers and booksellers in Springfield, Massachusetts in the 18th century. In 1832 they established a publishing house and early publications included law and school books as well as editions of the Bible. After the death of Noah Webster in 1843, they bought the rights to publish Webster's American Dictionary of the English Language.

**SCOPE AND CONTENTS OF THE COLLECTION**

Included is a priced trade catalog of Marshall, Brown and Co. and letter from Brown to G. & C. Merriam dated 3 September 1834. The trade list includes the works offered by Marshall, Brown & Co including children's books, school books and miscellaneous books. Brown's letter refers to book exchanges and includes criticism of the practice of "trade sales".

**ORGANIZATION OF THE COLLECTION**

The collection includes a single manuscript.