Mapping Antislavery Women’s Correspondence: A Test Project

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Methods (or best laid plans...)  

- Metadata from 1500 letters from the Boston Public Library Antislavery Collection scraped from the DPLA API.  
  - Locations and exact dates hand-entered  

- Network Analysis using Gephi  

- Mapping program specifically for project (javascript)  
  - Interactive Map at [http://sr.ttavenner.com/map](http://sr.ttavenner.com/map)
Background

- Maria Weston Chapman (1806-1885) was an abolitionist and the organizer of the National Anti-Slavery Bazaar which was held in Boston every December from 1834 to 1858.
  - Her sisters Caroline, Anne, Deborah, Lucia and Emma were also very active in antislavery work

- The Boston Public Library holds the majority of her correspondence and has digitized the majority of it on the Internet Archive and the DPLA has made the metadata available through its API

Maria Weston Chapman, c. 1846. Rare Books Division, Boston Public Library.
HASTE, HAPPY DAY! THE TIME WE LONG TO SEE.

Parker Pillsbury Esq.
Concord,
New Hampshire.

Every Son of Adam shall be Free.

Maria Weston Chapman to Parker Pillsbury, Nov. 10th
Antislavery Collection, Boston Public Library
https://archive.org/details/lettertodearmrpi00chap
Network of Correspondence

The darker the color and the thicker the line, the more letters were written between the two individuals.
Directional Network Analysis

Shows if the majority of letters went to or from MWC.

Skewed by the way the documents were collected.
Map of all correspondence
http://sr.ttavenner.com/map
Closeup of Boston Area
http://sr.ttavenner.com/map
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Brief Bibliography


